

Sapelo laid in her rented one room house looking at Ephraim softly snoring beside her.

No man.

Ae!

A whole thirty five years old man, a Senior Manager at one of the best paying companies in the country, with the salary he earns, still living like this?

No place of his own. His car was old and always troubling him, and would you look at his underwear! Seriously, a thirty five years old Manager still wearing bene ya Pep? And he got this new three set because she complained about his torn ones.

Ephraim doesn't drink. He doesn't smoke or chase after slay queens. He is an homebody whose entertainment is football on TV.

They met him six months ago when he gave her a ride, and his gentlemanly personality just got her.

But seriously, how long more could a girl do this?

She was no gold digger, but come on.

Halfway through the month he is broke and borrowing from her. And no, he is not one of those guys who love using women..

But come on, a man should be a provider, not take from his woman, ao.

And Ephraim IS a provider, just goes about it the wrong way.

She gently shook him awake.

SAPELO: Eph, I can't do this anymore

EPHRAIM: What is that supposed to mean?

SAPELO: We have no direction Ephraim! We are not moving forward and nna rra I am not getting any younger. For a woman, twenty six is no longer young. I want a life, a family.

EPHRAIM: Sapelo, you know I am taking care of my family right now.

SAPELO: Until when, Ephraim, huh! Until when do I

have to wait while you ‘take care of your family’? I will even be old waiting on you.

EPHRAIM: Sasa please just give me time.

SAPELO: Until when? Those people are not going to start working, they will always mooch on you, and nna I just can’t live like that. I think its time we start seeing other people.

He sat up, surprised.

EPHRAIM: Babe, please... you can’t say that... please, Sapelo, I love you... please.

SAPELO: I’m sorry... I can’t... I want more than what you can give right now Ephraim. And I don’t think you will be able to give it anytime soon. I can’t just go on with a relationship without direction. I’m sorry. I think you should leave.

EPHRAIM: Babe, please...

SAPELO: Please, Ephraim. Lets not make this more difficult than it has to be. I love you with all my heart, but this won’t do. I’ll go to Olebile’s room for a bit so you can pack your stuff and leave.

Ephraim arrived at his family's home with his small bag of clothes he had left at Sapelo's clothes.

His extended family of twenty three people lived in the eight bedroom house he had built the first few years he started working.

As he entered, his sister came from the kitchen.

HER: Ne rra didn't you bring meat? Today we only have cabbage.

EPHRAIM: Meat with what money Salu, you know my salary only comes tomorrow.

His niece came from bedrooms.

NIECE: Malome, electricity is finishing, uncle Letang got angry at me when I told him.

His brother Letang came from the bedroom looking frustrated, angry about something.

LETANG: I can't even have a life because of this family! You know I'm just a private, you people think when someone is a soldier it means they earn a lot? I don't earn much, and I give everything I earn yet

you still want more. No man. This is enough. I don't even live here! These girls need to get jobs, not just make babies. Eph and I are struggling with kids we didn't make!

SISTER: Maybe if you didn't drink all your money...

LETANG: Maybe if you made any money at all! You have four kids, nxla! And drink were. Biri tse pedi a month? Nxla.

He left angrily and Ephraim sighed and went to his bedroom. Letang was still young and had dreams. He was just twenty five years old, and this responsibility for the family was weighing heavy on him. Ephraim sighed thinking how much he used to be like his younger brother.

He got inside his room and his sister's eighteen years old son was in his bedroom applying his cologne.

EPHRAIM: What on earth are you doing? And is that my t – shirt?

HIM: Chill uncle, there is this party and...

He had not even intended to, but he slapped him hard across the face, then pulled off his belt and went off on the boy, releasing all his frustration.

EPHRAIM: How many times must I tell you my things aren't yours? Huh? Are we age mates that you can wear my clothes?

The boy cried and screamed, his mother, Ephraim's sister coming running in.

HER: What are you doing! Stop it, o bolaa ngwana!

EPHRAIM: I told him not to touch my stuff! He is wearing my t shirt...

HER: Mxim, o ka beletsa ngwana t- shirt e thunts eng le cologne e cheap! Mme! Come see what your son is doing!

Ephraim cussed loudly and walked out angrily. Letang and Sapelo were right. He could not go on living like this.

He drove off to his friend Bolokang's house.

He found his brother already there as Bolokang came with plates of food and some beer.

BOLOKANG: My man, let me serve you too, rona bo single kana we cook for yourself, wena you have Sapelo.

Ephraim sighed and sat down.

LETANG: Ok, what is that face?

BOLOKANG: Don't tell me you fucked it up already.

EPHRAIM: I just never thought she was like that. She complained about me helping at home and then dumped me.

LETANG: Can you blame her? How is she supposed to hang on to a man who shows her no future? Our family is a bunch of vipers, man. They suck the life out of you. I dream of having my own family, and it's never gonna happen unless I start focusing on me. I'll be 35 and have nothing like you.

EPHRAIM: Ouch...

BOLOKANG: It's not shade man, it's the truth. Someone earning what you earn should not be living the sad way you live.

In the morning Sapelo arrived at the house she was to do for the American family that was moving in.

She spent the whole day working and keeping busy, trying to distract herself from the breakup.

She felt so bad, but it had to be done.

When she got home she kept busy cleaning as she sang along some gospel music.

After cleaning up everything she took a bath and sat down watching television when there was a knock.

She looked through the curtain and saw Ephraim.

SAPELO: Ephraim, please, can you just...

EPHRAIM: Please Sasa, give me just a minute. Please.

She sighed and opened, Ephraim walking in and handing her his bank card.

EPHRAIM: That's where my salary comes. It came in today and I also just got my bonus, which is six months salary. Help me... you always tell me I can be better... show me how.

SAPELO: Ephraim...I can't take this...

EPHRAIM: I want a family with you, to get married, Sapelo. I have nothing, but wena I know you can take what I earn and make our dreams come true. Please Sasa. Whatever you decide to help my family with, it's good enough for me, le nna o ta mpha a petrol and manage the rest. Find us a house to rent together and save for magadi and all. Please babe...

SAPELO: Ok, I'll show you receipts of what I...

EPHRAIM: No need, babe, I know you will do the best for us.

SAPELO: Ok, so monthly salary plus 6 months bonus. Ok... we have a really good start. Debt you have dife kana?

EPHRAIM: Akere there is that one I took to build a house, then the furniture debt, and I once took a loan Masalu saying she wants to go back to school. Owaii.

SAPELO: If you consolidate the debts with lower interest then service just one loan, it will be easy. Ok,

let me write down everything we need to spend on.

He laid on the bed and slept as she got in her budgeting app and started planning.

The next day after work Ephraim drove to Sapelo's house, finding her with a bunch of bulk food on the floor.

SAPELO: Hey babe, dinner is on top of the stove. Ok, I found a way to help your family. Heela, do you know how much cheaper food can be on bulk? Ke kopants'e with two of my friends and we bought bulk. Instead of giving grocery money to your family, buy the food. They never buy anyway, they just use the money, afterwards they look at you when there is no food.

EPHRAIM: Owaii, they will finish it in a week.

SAPELO: That's why you are giving them a week's supply. Weekend you will come and get more here. I talked to a friend about consolidating your debt and she says you qualify, and it's lower interest. And I also found a BHC house for rent. Affordable and

three bedroom. We can go see it.

EPHRAIM: If you like it, then lets get it.

SAPELO: Ok, I'll put deposit in the morning. Ba re we can move in immediately. Furniture I already have most of it, so we don't need to buy except for sofas.

EPHRAIM: Shit, I can't believe this is actually happening. I'm finally starting my own life. It's exciting.

SAPELO: It's great to see you excited. Go pack your bags and just bring them here so that when the moving truck comes it will just take everything once. Here, load this food and toiletry on the car at take it to them.

Ephraim arrived with the groceries and his sister started packing them in the fridge.

HER: You could have just given me the money, I would have bought, I know you are busy.

EPHRAIM: It's ok, I found time.

HER: Alright, let me hold a seshabo so we don't

bother you.

EPHRAIM: Seshabo is included. There is many vegetables, spinach, cabbage, a lot. And two braai packs, and mince. Everything is there, enough for a week. You finish it, there is no way I can help.

She sulked and went to the kitchen as their mother walked in.

MOTHER: Your cousin kana is writing his form five again, he said they have to pay BOCODOL.

EPHRAIM: Didn't Letang give him money for that?

MOTHER: Kana Letang o bogale rra. When we told him what he gave is not enough he got angry.

EPHRAIM: Let me see the receipt of what needs to be paid and how much he gave, because I know for sure Letang will never give money that is short.

MOTHER: Nnyaa akere I took a little of it and gave to your sister to go to Gaborone and see that Pastor, maybe she can help with this bad luck of not finding a job. Plus a P100 went missing, kana kids your useless sisters filled the house with steal.

So it's short now.

EPHRAIM: And nna where will I get it then? He will have to do piece work like bana ba bangwe and save the money. Nna I have nothing.

MOTHER: But your salary came in today...

EPHRAIM: You forget the debt I'm in because of this family? Nna I'm moving out end of this week. I need to start my life, and you need to talk to your daughters to start fending for themselves and their children.

MOTHER: Nnyaa ba taa ipona I long talked to them, ba ja madi a maintenance and never help. J ust think of your poor nieces and nephews though... they need tour help, bone ga ba na molato.

His sister came from the kitchen sulking.

HER: Ahh, waits e people who act like they are God because they helped you.

MOTHER: Don't say that rubbish when you are stopping my son's life. He could be married and happy by now.

HER: How am I stopping him? Him not being married is his fault, kana o tshaba basadi! You always take him and Letang's side just because they work.

Ephraim sighed and walked to his bedroom.

Just a few more days now, and he will have a brand new life.

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BREADWINNER'S WIFE ↑ ↑ ↑ 2

A week later Ephraim walked into their new home and looked around amazed. It was an empty house just two days ago. Now it actually looked like a home.

She was in the kitchen finishing up cooking the food for the house warming party with her friend Olebile.

Ephraim walked over and hugged her from the back,

kissing her neck.

EPHRAIM: You are a miracle worker. How you can turn a house into a home in a matter of days...

She laughed and handed him a bowl of marinated meat.

SAPELO: Go start the braai. When is Lesang coming so he can help you?

EPHRAIM: He said he wanted to pass by his baby mama's place and drop some snacks.

SAPELO: Did you invite your other siblings? It would be nice to meet them.

EPHRAIM: (sighing) Yes

Letang parked his car and walked into his girlfriend's family home.

The girlfriend's mother was seating under a tree drinking tea as the kids played about.

He looked at his daughter wearing just a dirty t-shirt and no diaper or pants, flies all over her as she

crawled about in in the sand.

LETANG: Dumelang...o kae Charity?

HER: Ah-ah, didn't she say she was meeting you?
She long left around 2pm.

It was around 5pm now. Wow.

LETANG: Oh, I see. I wanted to pass by and bring
diapers and some snacks for the Opene.

He went and picked up his daughter and kissed her
as the little girl smiled with a gummy smile and four
teeth and said 'dada'.

He smiled as he went to the hut to fetch some
warm water in a basin and sat bathing his daughter,
then put her on a clean diaper and new clothes, and
fed her yogurt, give the other kids snacks too.

LETANG: Mme, let me rush, my brother has a small
even, I promised I will help.

HER: Bogolo ga o ntogele ka twenti pula wa sukiri?
Ne ke lathela lerole la bohelo tee e, e bosula hela.
(At least leave me with a P20 to buy sugar, I just
uswd my last bit on my tea)

He sighed and handed her a P50. It was so irritating that the old woman always acted like he had to pay for his daughter to live here despite that he regularly bought them things and gave Charity money for the baby even though he ended up buying everything anyway. Between these people and his family, he was seriously gonna end up bankrupt.

Charity's brother walked in tipsy.

HIM: Ao sbare! Give me P1 for a cigarette.

LETANG: Owaii, I don't have a single thebe my man.

He said his goodbyes and got in his car driving off.

As he was about to make a corner, he saw Charity with some guy holding her hand, trying to pull her in the other direction.

He stopped the car and got out, walking over to them as Charity tried to desperately pull away from the guy.

LETANG: She said let go...

HIM: Nxla, who do you think you are, coming to tell

me what to do with my girlfriend.

CHARITY: Letang, I can explain.

LETANG: Get in the car Charity.

The guy pulled Charity behind him.

HIM: She is not going anywhere.

Letang punched him in the face and the guy staggered back with a bleeding lip.

LETANG: Wena Charity get in the car before you piss me off!

He grabbed her hand and dragged her in the car, slapping her hard across the face.

LETANG: Charity, you want to make me a bad person akere? You want to start saying hewee Letang beats girls? What the hell is that?

CHARITY: He was asking me out, how can you beat me for a man asking me out and I turned him down? I just saw him coming from the tuck-shop just now.

LETANG: It takes you three ours to walk to the tuckshop? I know you left home at 2pm.

CHARITY: I... I...I found Lebo doing hair and I helped her.

LETANG: I'm not a fool Charity, that guy was too cosy for someone you just met. Did you fuck him? I asked you, damnit!

CHARITY: (sobbing) I didn't, he just... I...

LETANG: You want me to beat you? Nxla! I swear if I find out you fucked that guy...

CHARITY: I swear I didn't...ask Lebo right now or the girl whose hair we did, she stays over there, or anyone who came to their tuck-shop will tell you I was there all this while. That guy has been asking me out for a long time now, when he sees me he harasses me.

LETANG: J ust keep on with your lies, one day I will catch you. Legone you go do hair leaving your eight months old roaming about in a dirty diaper? The state I found Opene in is heart-breaking Charity, ke taa go beletsa go sota ngwanake while o gana ka ene. Nxla!

Letang arrived at the party and went straight for the beer, drinking two in minutes.

EPHRAIM: Hey, hey now! Enough! What's gotten into you?

LETANG: Eish, nna the monna I have too much stress in life

EPHRAIM: What happened now?

LETANG: That whore is cheating on me I think... and ngwanake wa sotlega golo kwa. You should have seen her... a mokanetswe ke dintsi, I think one of the kids felt pity seeing her with a full diaper, so she took it out but couldn't wipe her well because she is just a little girl herself. Flies were all over her... my baby is neglected in that place.

A tear fell down his face as he drank another beer.

EPHRAIM: Eish, take heart bro. It will be ok. Ba pala ka custody?

LETANG: Akere my job gatwe its too demanding to have custody. Sometimes I spend weeks camping in the forest, no judge will ever give me cuatody ke

le les ole. You know they favour women anyway. And Charity refuses to let me take her because then I would not give her money. I have even tried to say I will still give her money, wa gana, she thinks once I have her I will stop paying. Nna the monna all I want is my baby safe.

EPHRAIM: It will be ok bro...

They watched as their sisters walked in.

LETANG: Why the hell would you invite them?

EPHRAIM: Sapelo. She says she wants to know my family. She said I should invite them. Let me go introduce them to her.

LETANG: Good luck

He said, taking one more beer in frustration.

Sapelo served plates of pap, chakalaka and braai in the kitchen when Ephraim's friend walked in eatinh.

BOLOKANG: Mh, mh, mh! This food is delicious. My friend is blessed. A beautiful, thick, smart, financial savvy, wife material woman who can cook! Tota

gatwe why didn't I meet you first? This food is delicious.

SAPELO: You are inappropriate. Take these plates and give out to more people.

Ephraim walked in with his three other sisters.

EPHRAIM: Babe, these are my sisters, Masalu comes after me, then there are two others sisters who couldn't make it, then Mishingo here, and this one is Omphile, they come after Letang. Ladies, this is my girlfriend, Sapelo.

Sapelo smiled brightly and stuck her hand out to Masalu.

SAPELO: So nice to finally meet you all.

Masalu ignored her and looked away.

MASALU: Mxim...

OMPHILE: Now it all makes sense, this sudden moving, refusing to help at home... I see.

EPHRAIM: Mphi, that's enough!

MISHINGO: Nna mma I'm asking for myself, which

muti are you using to make a man abandon his own family like this?

EPHRAIM: Can you guys stop!

Letang walked in holding a beer. He smiled and waved at Sapelo who smiled back

LETANG: Food is delicious as usual Sasa. Nna I came to beg for more meat, they gave me stokinyana hela. And ignore these jaded bitches. Lona if you came here to harass Eph's girl, you might as well fuck off because I'm not going to allow that. Let's go, out... leave her alone.

He pushed them outside the kitchen.

EPHRAIM: I am so sorry about that babe. They can be a handful.

SAPELO: (sighing) This is going to be hard, isn't it?

Letang walked back in alone.

LETANG: Please don't let them turn you off from my brother. You are the best thing to ever happen to Ephraim, the man loves you. When he talks about you, you will even think the man is preaching.

Please promise me you won't leave my brother because he comes from a shitty family?

SAPELO: Okay

LETANG: Good! So what were you saying ka stokinyana sele, can I have more?

Sapelo laughed and took his plate, serving him more meat, then served Ephraim too.

Letang was such a naturally pleasant guy who was always looking out for his elder brother, because where Ephraim was the introvert, he was the lively extrovert nit afraid to tell anyone where to get off.

When the party was over and people had left, Sapelo walked to their bedroom, hearing some noise in the other bedroom where she had put a double bed in case they had guests.

She went to open the door and looked inside to find Ephraim's youngest sister laying on the bed.

SAPELO: Oh, hi. Mphi, right? You didn't say you were staying over?

OMPFILE: Who are you for me to tell you when I want to stay in my brother's house?

SAPELO: Come on, it's common courtesy to tell someone if you are spending a night in their house.

Omphile laughed.

OMPFILE: (laughing) Your house? Bitch, you are the girl he is sleeping with. This house is not yours.

SAPELO: You know what? You might be in your brother's house, but you are in my bed. And you need to vacate before I drag your scrawny ass off it. Nvla. Nka ta ka tallwa ke ngwana o monnye mo go my lastborn sister?

OMPFILE: (laughing) O brave waitress. You should be serving me o rapele nyalo.

Sapelo pulled the bedsheet off, sending the girl tumbling to the floor.

SAPELO: You are a rude little bitch, and it will be a cold day in hell before I let you spend the night here, nvla.

Ephraim walked in hearing the commotion.

EPHRAIM: What's going on?

OMPHILE: (sobbing) Your girlfriend is beating me for wanting to spend the night.

EPHRAIM: Did you tell her prior that you are spending the night?

OMPHILE: Kana I want to go for the early church service tomorrow, so it's best I spend the night.

SAPELO: You couldn't say that? Had to insult me just for that.

EPHRAIM: (sighing) Just let her stay one night.

SAPELO: Never. Your sister comes and insults and disrespect me in my own home and you reward her? Bogolo you can go drop her off in Matsiloje if you are feeling generous, but she is not spending the night here.

She angrily walked off and into the shower, wondering what the hell she was getting into. What kind of people were these!

LIKE,. COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:05] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 3

Ephraim arrived back from dropping his sister off and found Sapelo busy arranging things in the bedroom.

EPHRAIM: Please don't be angry at me

SAPELO: What makes you think I'm angry?

EPHRAIM: Because you are cleaning and already clean house at 1am. You clean when you are angry
He said, kissing her forehead.

SAPELO: (sighing) You can't do this Ephraim. You can't let your sisters think they can just walk all over me.

EPHRAIM: Kana those girls are just like that. Very difficult.

SAPELO: I'm sorry but that's not acceptable. You teach people how to treat you. You have taught your family to trample over you, and they think it extends

to me. No sir, nuh-uhh! I'm not the type to ever start issues, but I sure as hell will not be bullied.

EPHRAIM: So what do you want me to do Sasa, I can't change people's personalities.

SAPELO: Put your foot down Ephraim! Ahh!

In the morning Sapelo went to visit her mom. Her younger sister came to bring their mother breakfast. She smiled seeing how her sister served her. She was almost nineteen, and waiting to go to university in a month, and that eighteen year old who was already a teen mother wanted to disrespect her?

SAPELO: Thanks girl. Ready for tertiary?

HER: I'm a bit scared, going all the way to Gaborone, but I will manage.

SAPELO: Why are you worried when our brother is already studying there? He will look after you. Let me know when you leave, I will accompany you. Hopefully my truck will be here, they said it will arrive tomorrow, I bought it three months ago.

After a bit of chat, the younger girl left and her mother turned to look at her.

MOTHER: I know this is not a social visit my girl, what is troubling your soul?

Their mother had raised them with such transparency, but she didn't wanna worry her.

SAPELO: Ao mama, nothing! Can't I visit my mother?

MOTHER: Owaii, girl, you can't lie to me. You visit when you know your father has already set off to the fields? I know you want to talk woman to woman.

SAPELO: Eish... kana mama, it's just... rre o ke tshedisayang nae wants to get married. In six months he plans to come ask for my hand.

Her mother smiled happily.

MOTHER: That's good news, so why are you sad?

SAPELO: His family, mama. I don't understand those people. They are rude, ill mannered and believe I am just using their brother. That hurts me tota because nna I am a hard worker. I do my

projects and earn my money, I have never depended on a man.

MOTHER: You don't need to tell me, look at the big house you built for me, with electricity and all. You work hard labour like a man and you earn your own money. Never let those people bully you.

SAPELO: It's hurting me tota because nna kana I thought I will be gaining family. I can't understand what type of people they are. I can never see myself treating my brother's girlfriend like that. And the most hurtful thing is that he is just nonchalant about it.

MOTHER: Families are not the same Sasa. We are different, respect is part of our life. Some just see you as coming to take their brother away. But it's a good thing they showed you what kind of people they are.

SAPELO: How do you mean?

MOTHER: Blood really is thicker than water, Sapelo. When you have a small argument, he may start thinking they are right. That's when women end up

finding themselves out in the streets with nothing. I am happy you are building your house in your late grandma's land. I am an only child, so its mine and no one can fight you for it as I will write in my will that it goes to you. Just don't change the names, so you don't go into marriage with it. And a woman always has her own personal savings account apart from the ones with her husband. You can go open on my name, nna I don't even need a bank account. Save on the side money you don't declare in marriage.

SAPELO: Mama, you want me to lie to my husband?

MOTHER: I want you to be safe. Those kind of families can take even the clothes on your back, we have seen it too many times.

SAPELO: I hear you... anyway, let me head off. Here is a P200, buy yourself a drink.

MOTHER: What do I need a P200 for? You bought us food and toiletry, and paid all our bills. If you are getting married, you must save up. Keep it, you'll buy me a drink month end.

Ephraim's sister sat in the living room talking to her mother.

MASALU: Yes, it's a three bedroom house. I was thinking my son could move there so he can do BOCODOL well.

MOTHER: Ee, it will be better that way to reduce transport money

Mphi walked in rubbing her eyes.

OMPHILE: (laughing) Good luck with that. Madam doesn't want us there. She threw me out yesterday night.

MOTHER: Who is madam?

MASALU: The new girl I was telling you about. O lebega makgakga gore. You can just tell she doesn't want us there.

MOTHER: Not want us in my son's house?

OMPHILE: Like I said. Good luck. Nna ebile she almost beat me up just because I asked to spend the night. Le nna I want to move there and start

hustling in Francistown. Will you talk to Ephraim for me mme?

MOTHER: I will talk to him. Who does she think she is, trying to control my son's money?

Letang walked into Charity's mom's home and ran over as his daughter was screaming and some school girl in FSS uniform held her.

LETANG: (taking the baby) What's wrong?

HER: I don't know, I was coming from school and she was here by herself crying unusually. Her leg is swelling here. I think something bit her.

LETANG: Charity! Charity...mma Kgomots o...

There was no answer.

HER: There is no one. The smaller kids are playing at our home next door. I saw mma Kgomots o at that drinking spot...

LETANG: Shit! I don't have a car seat. Can you help me hold her while I drive?

HER: Ok

She followed him to the car and took the baby, ripping the bottom of her school shirt and tying the baby's leg around the swelling.

HER: I remember from a first aid lesson I did, it might be a poisonous bite so I'm trying to stop the poison from spreading.

LETANG: Thanks, that's good.

Sapelo stood in the car dealership with a smile as she signed the final papers of her truck.

ASSISTANT: A woman buying a truck? You run businesses?

SAPELO: Yes, I'm an interior decorator and landscaper. Fountains, garden décor...

ASSISTANT: Hee? O raa gore o duba semente? Kgarebe e tshwana nao? (you mean you work with cement? A beauty like you?)

SAPELO: (laughing) It's rough out here. What's a girl to do? I also deliver planned meals food boxes.

Banyana ba slima but have no idea what to cook. I buy veggies, fruits, herbs, fresh meat etc, and deliver in dry ice with a meal plan.

ASSISTANT: Ba reka? (is business good?)

SAPELO: Yes! People want to eat healthy but don't know how. And I offer affordable fruits and veggies right to the doorstep. I have someone doing it in Gaborone, they have my first truck. Nna I do it here in a small scale. Here is a flyer, there is a Facebook pages ebile o mpapats e.

She took her keys and got in her new truck happily.

When she got home she found Ephraim in the living room with his mother two teens.

SAPELO: Dumelang...

EPHRAIM: Hey babe... mme, this is Sapelo, the woman I was telling you about. The woman I intend to marry. Babe, this is my mother, mma Ephraim.

SAPELO: It's a pleasure to meet you.

MOTHER: It's my pleasure my girl. I heard what my daughters did and I apologise.

SAPELO: (smiling happily) Thank you ma'am.

MOTHER: You can call me mme, my son wants to marry you, we are family.

SAPELO: Thank you.

MOTHER: Ngwanaka, I wanted to beg from you. As you can see, our family is not well to do, and he has been helping us. I thank you that you still allow him to help.

SAPELO: It's my pleasure, ma'am.

MOTHER: As I was saying, I want to beg from you. This is my last born, Oratile. She failed form three and ene tota she is not gifted academically. So I was wondering if she can be here with you and help out and you'll give her the little you can. Your husband tells me you have businesses?

SAPELO: Owaii nothing big, so I am not really hiring right now.

MOTHER: She can do anything, cleaning, running errands, please use her. I am begging you my daughter. You know how much it pains a mother to

see her kids do nothing with their life? This one will soon bring a baby home too if she is just idle, akere the same happened with her sister Omphile. After she failed form three soon a baby followed. Please, I'm begging ngwanaka, my heart is breaking seeing them like this (sobbing)

SAPELO: (sighing) Ok, I will see what I can do.

MOTHER: Ok, thank you. Let me head back. The boy will be here for a bit also as he rewrites form five. Ephraim, drop me home, these two are remaining then.

She stood up and walked to the car as Sapelo looked at her confused.

She had only agreed to give the girl a job, what the hell!

Letang finally talked to the nurse.

HER: Looks like she was stung by a scorpion. Good call on localising the poison. They have managed to suction it, and she will have to be admitted

overnight as she is having difficulty breathing.

LETANG: Can I see her?

NURSE: Of course...

He followed her to the rooms, where his little baby laid peacefully on the bed.

NURSE: So, who is being admitted with her, preferably her mom because most kids are admitted with women and it will be awkward to share a room with a man. Let me know who is coming.

He tried to call Charity who wasn't picking up. His sisters all of a sudden all had something they were doing, and his mother said she was too old to do it. The girl he was with looked at him and smiled.

HER: I'll stay with her if its just overnight. She knows me.

LETANG: Really? Are you serious?

HER: Yes, tomorrow I have no school akere. And my mom is at the fields, so she can do drama about it.

LETANG: Thank you. What's your name?

HER: Boitumelo

The nurse came back.

NURSE: Is the mother on the way?

LETANG: No, but my... uhm... my girlfriend here will stay with me.

The nurse gave her a look.

BOITUMELO: What? I'm 19 you want my ID? Just a back to school party is why I'm wearing a uniform.

Sapelo served dinner and called the teens to come collect their food just as Ephraim walked in.

SAPELO: Ratie, I heard Ephraim come in. Take warm water and go wash his hands and give him food.

RATIE: He'll come get it.

SAPELO: It's not how we do things here. Take warm water and a clean cloth, and go wash his hands and then give him his food. Who is doing the dishes first today? Kabo.

Ratie sulked and went to wash Ephraim's hands and brought him food.

They ate watching TV, the Sapelo went to shower and retired to bed.

Ephraim followed her in a bit.

SAPELO: Ephraim, how can you let your mother ambush me like that!

EPHRAIM: I had no idea she was gonna do that! I though they were only visiting. But we can help, right? We do have a three bedroom house and it's just us. Kabo will leave immediately after he writes his exams, and Ratie can be a help around the house until she finds a job or something. Please babe... please. For me?

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:05] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 4

Ephraim sat in his office unable to concentrate.

All he could think of was Sapelo's call with Olebile in the morning as she was in the kitchen thinking he was still sleeping. He had woken up and stooped in the corridor to the kitchen when he heard his name mentioned in the phone.

'I can't take much more of this wena Lebi. These kids are so rude, the whole family is rude, now I have to live with them? I can't take it tota. You know nna I hate conflict, and them living here I just know is gonna cause a lot of it. Soon gotaabo gotwe ke a ba tshwenya... I don't know friend, Ephraim is not ready to start a family, he is clinging on to them. Maybe I should let him go continue ke itsamaele, because nna ke a baballwa tota, and they just moved in.'

He tried to focus but his mind just kept going to that Sasa was going to leave him, and it was all because of his family.

Around lunchtime he rushed back home from work

to grab a file he needed for the meeting.

He was met with loud noise as his nephews sat with three other boys in the living room, while his sister was in the bedroom putting on Sapelo's makeup.

EPHRAIM: What the hell is this?

KABI: Uncle...I met up with my friends after class and I thought...

EPHRAIM: This is not going to work! Go pack your bag. I will leave madi a khombi ha. Lona fots eke! Out before you leave with bloody noses.

They ran out and left

KABO: Ah, malome! We were just chilling!

EPHRAIM: Don't try me, you ungrateful little bastard! How do you expect Sasa to feel finding this rubbish in her house? And you, is Sasa your age mate that you can play with her stuff like that? Are you guys friends? Pack fast, I am locking this door when I leave.

He walked to the bedrooms, and both their bags were not unpacked yet.

EPHRAIM: Good! Now I can just put these out.

RATIE: Ephraim, you can't do this...we...

EPHRAIM: You are ungrateful. Nna I thought I was feeling pity, kante le mpona seso? My fiancée's house is not going to become a meeting of delinquent teens!

RATIE: I didn't bring anyone!

EPHRAIM: Do I look like I'm in the mood right now? What was I even thinking ka I know you two? And wena weren't you supposed to be working with Sasa?

RATIE: Ah, she does hard things, she expected me to move furniture and all. I can't do that.

EPHRAIM: Well, good luck finding a job where you don't do anything, lets go.

RATIE: Are you serious?

EPHRAIM: How do you want to understand it, with my belt? Nxla! You people don't know how to appreciate compassion.

When he started to take his belt out, they ran

outside and he locked the door, then padlocked the gate.

EPHRAIM: Here is the money for the taxi to the bus rank and the combi home.

He got in his car, surprised at how relieved he felt about this.

Like a weight had just been removed from his shoulders.

Letang walked to his car holding his baby as Boitumelo held her diaper bag after the baby was released.

He helped them into the car and drove off, dropping Boitumelo.

LETANG: (handing her a P100) I don't have a lot, but a little token of appreciation for what you did for us.

BOITUMELO: No, keep your money. I wasn't doing it expecting anything, I just wanted to help.

LETANG: And I want to appreciate that good heart. Seriously, take it.

She smiled shyly and put it in her pocket.

BOITUMELO: Thanks

He took the baby and when he walked in Charity ran over to him fuming.

CHARITY: How dare you just take my child and then all you tell me is you have her when I asked?

LETANG: The child you were not concerned about until 11pm when you called me? What type of mother are you?

CHARITY: Mxim, akere I left her with my mother. Where did you take her?

LETANG: She was admitted to the hospital, stung by a scorpion...had I not turned up when I did

CHARITY: Oh my God! Are you serious?

LETANG: Charity the mma let me take her. I won't take her to my family, I'll find a maid for her.

CHARITY: So that they can abuse my child! Never!

LETANG: If I go to court with this scorpion story, they will give me custody.

CHARITY: (laughing) Go re bone ee. You are always away, who do you think will give you custody of a baby under one?

LETANG: I'm begging the mma. Charity please. What do you want me to do? Do down on my knees?

He knelt in front of her, begging.

LETANG: Please, please the mma. I will continue giving you the money ee. J ust let me take her.

CHARITY: Nope...

He followed her in the house and put the sleeping baby down, the choked Charity.

LETANG: Charity wee, I will kill you before I let my baby die at your negligence. Ka re I'm taking Opene today. Pack her bags.

He pushed her and slapped her when she didn't move.

LETANG: Pack her goddamn bags! Nxla!

When she tried to scream he covered her mouth with his hand and slapped her again.

LETANG: I tried to be civil with you, begging respectfully. But I forget that you are a donkey, you never learn unless I beat you. I'm taking my daughter, and that's it.

CHARITY: I will report you.

LETANG: Go try Charity, I will kill you and make it look like an accident. Just try me hela wena, nxla!

In the evening Sapelo arrived home as the house was quiet, with Ephraim in the kitchen cooking.

SAPELO: Dumelang... batho ba kae?

EPHRAIM: It was never gonna work. How will we start our life with my family hanging onto us like that? I sent them back.

SAPELO: Really?

He nodded with a smile.

SAPELO: Thank you, and don't get me wrong, I don't hate your family...

EPHRAIM: Sometimes I think I do. But enough

about them. I made dinner.

She came over and hugged him, giving him a kiss.

SAPELO: Ija, ebile this friend of mine was in Indonesia and she came across factory that makes these branded clothes, bo Ralph Lauren and all. Gatwe those that fail quality assurance, maybe thale e sa tsamaa sentle, they sell it at such discount you can find Tom Ford shirt at an equivalent of bi P600. I gave her money to buy some for us and they have arrived. Go get them in the truck.

EPHRAIM: Babe, I don't need bo...

SAPELO: Kana mo gongwe the reason the promotion you have been waiting on and it never comes even though they tell you you are the best, is because of your presentation. As a senior manager you will be meeting international clients and all. Makgoa ba makgakga kana, when you come looking dull, they look down on you. Even bone bo Zuckerberg ba di t shirt. The dress like that because they already made it, when you are trying to make it,

you need to look sharp. Your bosses at work right now when they look at you they just shake heads saying this one will embarrass us. Go get the clothes rra.

He came with the large bag and tried the many clothes as she looked over and told him how to match them.

EPHRAIM: I don't know how to thank you.

SAPELO: (smiling) Thank me when you are a Senior Manager. I wanna see you succeed babe. Here is a cologne also.

In the morning Sapelo woke up early and ironed Ephraim's clothes, then fixed them both lunch boxes before going to wake him up.

After he left for work, Sapelo was packing the food boxes she needed to deliver when she heard a loud banging knock.

She went to open and mma Ephraim stood at the door furious.

MMA EPHRAIM: Ee goriana you are like this! I wanted to accept you as a daughter, but wena you are looking down on us, huh? My children are not good enough for your fancy house? Remember everything here is my son's, so I don't understand where you get the nerve to kick the kids out.

SAPELO: Bathong, I wasn't even here when Ephraim did.

MMA EPHRAIM: what did you say to him to make him do something like that?

SAPELO: Nothing, I...

MMA EPHRAIM: Ee, when he knocks off you must tell him le tle go tsaa bana.

SAPELO: I'm afraid I'm not gonna do that.

MMA EPHRAIM: What? Are you talking back? Hee!
(clapping hands)

SAPELO: No ma'am. I was just saying they will not be coming to stay here.

MMA EPHRAIM: O tshwanets e wa bo o ikutusa nto ya sekgoa, keeng e go bela thata yaana (It must be

your first time in a modern house, why is it making you so full of yourself)

Sapelo just kept quiet.

MMA EPHRAIM: Don't forget that everything here is my son's, I just need to say the word and he will throw you out o tswa ka penti hela.

‘ Actually only the house is technically his, even though rented in my name. And furniture is all mine. I've long had my businesses before I met Ephraim. So your statement is wrong’

She said in her head, but outward she just kept quiet and looked down.

MMA EPGRAIM: Girly, you made a mistake by angering me. You will never be accepted in my family. Not even by our extended family. Legone you have no manners, go make me some tea.

She sighed and went to make the old lady some tea, relieved when she finally left.

She went to work and all day all she could think if was ‘did she really want to marry into this family?’

But she really did love Ephraim, and didn't want to lose him. He was a good, loving respectful man.

After work Ephraim met with his friend and his brother.

BOLOKANG: Damn! You look sharp! Is that Tom Ford?

LETANG: Damn man, okare o slay king sa ko CBD. Niice!

He laughed, thinking how the company CEO had complimented him also today. Sasa was right, his bosses attitudes towards him were much better today

EPHRAIM: (laughing) I'll pass the compliments to Sasa.

BOLOKANG: Waitse nna if I met a Sasa, I marry her the next day. A sexy, thick, hot business woman who is still submissive and treats you like a man? Nna rra if she wasn't yours nkabo ke mo tsaa on whoever she would be with.

LETANG: Dude, that's inappropriate, you can't talk like that about someone you call a friend's woman. Especially to their face.

BOLOKANG: Calm down, I was just saying.

EPHRAIM: Well, she is mine and remember that. And that I have a mean left hook.

BOLOKANG: You are literally my brother, ao. But ke beile leitho her friend, Olebile. Invite me to lunch on Saturday and invite her so I can talk to her, I didn't get a chance to get her number last time.

EPHRAIM: Ok, I'll ask Sasa if we can do that...

BOLOKANG: Shit, bona the monna gore go tsene eng? (look what just walked in)

He turned to look and a thick girl wearing short tights that showed her fat camel toe, and a boob tube walked in.

EPHRAIM: That attracts you?

BOLOKANG: Not to keep, eww. Just to hit, she is hot, look at that fat pussy. O lebega monate.

LETANG: Nna while you are still talking, I'm going to

make a move. I'm hitting that tonight!

BOLOKANG: Lets, ae, I saw her first...

LAUGHING: (laughing) what is this, primary school playground? There is no such thing as I saw her first. Bye loser.

He laughed and walked over to the girl and chatted her up, leading her to a table.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:05] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 5

Sapelo sat in her warehouse with her two employees sorting food boxed when there was a knock.

A girl walked in and she could immediately recognize the face. Mmathapelo, one of the sisters she had not met yet.

What the hell did she want now?

HER: Dumelang

SAPELO: Hi, Mmathapelo, right?

From the get go she could see she was the one most like Ephraim. Introverted, humble and shy.

SAPELO: Come to the back, let's chat.

She followed Sapelo shyly.

SAPELO: Hey girl, was up. I'm Sapelo, Ephraim told me about you. How can I help you...

HER: I... I... I found a job...

She said nervously.

SAPELO: Oh yea? Congrats! That is so goof.

Ephraim tells me you have been looking since you graduated. Praise God!

HER: I don't have any formal clothes. I had bought some when I was on internship, but Masalu wore them when I moved back home and they are all old and washed out. I was wondering if you had any clothes you don't wear. I didn't want to be rude and ask Ephraim and I also know he is struggling helping the family and you are saving for the

wedding. I am so sorry to bother you.

She strung her sentences together quickly like she was trying to say everything she had to say before she lost her guts.

SAPELO: (smiling) Girl, despite what your sisters may have told you about me, I don't bite. At least not good people. And yes, you can come by later and have some things that can work for an office. Nna kana this is my office akere, I am either always wearing leggings or jeans.

Letang woke up in a hotel room with the girl she met yesterday at the bar.

He quickly got dressed and went to the bus rank to pick up Boitumelo and her cousin who had failed form three last year and was staying at the fields with her mother.

Gosh, how did she look older than Boitumelo when she was seventeen and Boitumelo was eighteen.

He drove to the house he had just bought after his

bitcoin did well, he had been planning to rent it and stay in the barrack.

LETANG: Thanks for finding me someone in such short notice.

BOITUMELO: Don't mention. I am happy Opene will have someone who is really good and caring.

LETANG: Me too. So, I need someone to take care of my daughter, she is nine months old, you must have seen her when you visited Boitumelo. Also, cleaning, cooking, laundry, grocery. You know, the average. I also sometimes travel for extended periods, I am a soldier and I could be gone for 30 days sometimes and you will be alone with her. Is that ok?

MASEDI: Yes sir

LETANG: Under no circumstance are you allowed male visitors in my house, and you are not allowed to beat her. Is that ok?

MASEDI: Yes

LETANG: Cool. Pay is P1200, and the job is yours if

you want it.

MASEDI: I want it. I already brought my bag, its at
mma Boitumelo's house.

LETANG: Ok, I'll drop you there so you can see them
and pick you up tomorrow to start.

He drove them to Boitumelo's home and as he
parked, he looked at Boitumelo.

LESANG: Boity can I speak to you for a minute?

BOITUMELO: Sure

After the other girl had left he started driving.

LETANG: Let's go to my place, visit me...

BOITUMELO: I don't think...

LETANG: Boity, nna tota I love you. I can tellnyou
are such a sweet, humble, hood hearted person, and
you are so beautiful too. I want to get to know you.
Please spend the afternoon with me? Please?

BOITUMELO: (sighing) Fine. I'll text mme and tell
her I went to study.

Ephraim walked into his parent's home, hearing his sisters argue.

'Mmathapelo how can you go buy such expensive looking things when you know its hard at home, Ephraim is under that girl's spell, and you know Letang o bogale.'

'Kana Mas alu I didn't buy them, I...'

'I know your clothes, you didn't have all these. These look new and expensive.'

'I didn't buy them. I asked Sapelo if she had anything, and she had a lot of formal clothes, she said she worked in an office for a week and realized it was not for her and quit, so she never wore them again, some she never even wore, so she gave them to me. She wears expensive stuff'

'Mxim, that girl thinks highly of herself mme e le ntja hela. O ka lathela ngwana makgasa, does she think we are her dumping site! Tendencies of someone who is only learning to have money. '

She said as she went through the clothes, picking out things for herself.

Ephraim shook his head and walked in.

‘Masalu, those are Mmathapelo’s work clothes, leave them, akere ke makgasa. And if you really must know, Sasa has built her mom a big house and bought her father a van, and she runs two successful companies, all of which she had already before she even met me. You have a nerve calling her names when you can’t even afford to feed your own children. She is really trying to accommodate you people, but all you do is insult her. Sapelo is going to become my wife, we become one, so know that if you are rejecting her, you reject me and everything of mine. Where is Opene, nna I just came to pick up Letang’s child.

As he walked out some girl walking in started smiling.

HER: No way! Ephraim? Is this you? How long has it been?

EPHRAIM: Years! Last I saw you, you were going to hustle in South Africa.

HER: (laughing) Yeah, and I heard you have some

fancy job now, you are a big boss and all. Hire me the rra, I'm looking for a job.

EPHRAIM: (laughing) Owaii, I'm just an employee.

HER: Anyway, I wanted to borrow cooking oil from Mas alu. Let me take your number so we can catch up.

EPHRAIM: I don't think so. I'm getting married soon. So the last thing we need is to 'catch up', you know what that always means to you. Bye.

Letang parked in front of his house and walked in holding Boitumelo's hand.

He led her to the bedroom and laid in bed.

LETANG: Come and lie down with me the mma I don't bite.

She shyly laid down in the bed beside him.

LETANG: So tell me, who is Boity?

BOITUMELO: (shy) I don't know how to talk about myself, tell me about you.

LETANG: (laughing) Well played. Eish, what can I say. Lets is just Lets, you already know I'm a soldier, but I had always wanted to do business.. My brother was struggling to take care of the family, so after form five I chose to enlist so I can help him. Eventually I learnt some finance with an online university, and now I mine bitcoin on the side.

BOUTUMELO: Ok

LETANG: Nna mma I'm jealous tota Boity, when I love you I get jealous.

He said caressing her cheek, then got on top of her and started kissing her.

He undid her shirt and started kissing down her body.

BBOITUMELO: Wait... I'm not ready...

LETANG: Come on babe... you see what you do to me?

He took her hand and rubbed it on his bulging crotch and moved her bra cup to the side, taking her nipple in his mouth, sucking with a satisfaction as she moaned in pleasure.

BOITUMELO: I'm scared, I heard it hurts the first time.

LESANG: I'll be gentle...

BOITUMELO: I don't know... I...

He covered her mouth with a kiss as his hands caressed her...

{EXPLICIT}

Sapelo finished cooking while Ephraim put more beer on the fridge.

SAPELO: This was a great idea, life is so busy we don't hang often, ka house warming we were busy playing guest. Now its just our very close friends.

EPHRAIM: Yea, it will be more relaxed.

Bolokang arrived, fist pumping Ephraim, then tried to hug Sapelo, who ignored him.

BOLOKANG: It smells nice already. And you look lovely as always Sasa. Even simple jeans and a t shirt suit you! Tota God takes his time creating

some people.

SAPELO: Mxim...

She left to the kitchen annoyed.

EPHRAIM: Kante ne monna, do you have a crush on my fiancée?

BOLOKANG: Huh? What? No! Come on, you are like my brother, I'd never...

EPHRAIM: Well, I don't like how you compliment her.. Let's just cut that shit out. There is Lebi, go shoot your shot.

Later Letang arrived at Ephraim's with Boitumelo.

BOITUMELO: I'm shy to meet your friends, I...and I still feel a bit sore...it feels like everyone will just know that we...

LETANG: (laughing) And if they do? They fuck too, we didn't do anything out of the norm.

He pulled her closer and kissed her forehead, then held her hand as they walked in.

LETANG: Hey everyone, this is my girl, Boitumelo.

Boity, that's my brother Ephraim, his wife to be Sapelo, Sapelo's friend Olebile, and our friends Bolokang and Paphani, and Paphani's wife Lorraine.

She waved shyly as she held on to Letang's hand.

Sapelo came over and shook her hand.

SAPELO: Welcome, come in, make yourself at home. What shall I bring you, there is wine and apple juice and beer.

BOITUMELO: apple juice please.

SAPELO: Actually, why don't you come in and help me out. If you want

As they left, the guys looked at Letang.

EPHRAIM: O romancer toronko akere?

LETANG: (laughing) Relax, she is eighteen. I have seen her ID. Where is my little lady? Thanks for getting her.

EPHRAIM: Owaii, after Sasa fed and bathed her, she passed out.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:05] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 6

Sapelo entered the kitchen with Boitumelo.

SAPELO: You don't talk much, do you?

BOITUMELO: Nnyaa mma

SAPELO: Owaii, bo Sasa we are chatterboxes. So, what grade are you in?

BOITUMELO: Maa?

SAPELO: Skolo?

She looked down embarrassed.

SAPELO: I know it's not my place dear, but finish school and get your own first, you can have a boyfriend, but don't let him distract you, autwa?

BOITUMELO: Ee mma

SAPELO: Letang is a grown man with a life. He has a job, a house...love him, but don't forget that your

life is just starting wena, ok?

BOITUMELO: Ee mma

SAPELO: Alright get yourself a juice in the fridge, the guys drink beer, I think Ephraim took it out, take the glasses to the ladies, I will bring wine and your juice.

The guys sat talking

LETANG: So, I have decided to move to my house, got a maid for Penelope. She starts tomorrow.

EPHRAIM: Charity agreed?

LETANG: Fuck that bitch, she no longer got a choice after my child almost died. I just took her.

BOLOKANG: I'm with you there. Bitches like Charity do not deserve respect. Kwee okare go na le basadi bo Sasa...

EPHRAIM: Yea, say something at all about my woman again, wa n**la. Your stupid little compliments are annoying me.

He stood up and walked away angrily.

BOLOKANG: What did I do?

LETANG: Honestly, just stop, you are gonna piss Eph off eventually and you know he is not a man of many words, he talks with his fists.

BOLOKANG: Ijo

He walked off and found Sapelo's friend Olebile.

BOLOKANG: Wena you dodged me last week

OLEBILE: (laughing) Dodged you?

BOLOKANG: I wanted to talk to you...

OLEBILE: Ok, talk then, here I am.

BOLOKANG: (laughing) Ao mma, in private. O bata batho ba utwa ha o nkgana? Let me get your number and I will call you later tonight.

She gave him her number then went back to the ladies.

Ephraim walked back into the house angry. He met

Sasa coming from the kitchen, bringing another bottle of wine.

SAPELO: Paphani's wife can drink, ijo! Babe, are you ok?

EPHRAIM: I'm ok

SAPELO: Riight. What is it, spit it out.

EPHRAIM: It's nothing, don't worry.

SAPELO: Hiding things from me now?

EPHRAIM: Bolokang is annoying. Not to bother yourself with, I'll sort it out.

SAPELO: Aww now, don't let that nasty asshole get to you. I know its about him perving about me, and if you are this furious, I'm sure he got the message now. You have my permission to punch him if he keeps it up.

EPHRAIM: (laughing) Thank you, I have wanted to do that for hours now. I love the guy like a brother, but this days wa hetella. But I don't blame the guy. Who wouldn't be jealous of me? I have you!

He pulled her closer and kissed her.

Later Letang dropped Boitumelo off.

He kissed her and then handed her P200

BOITUMELO: Where am I going to tell mama I got the money?

LETANG: (laughing) Why would you show her? When am I seeing you again?

BOITUMELO: I'm busy preparing for my exams.

LETANG: But we can talk on the phone akere.

BOITUMELO: When I'm done studying, yes...

LETANG: I love you Boity, I'm gonna miss you. At least send me a goodnight text. I'll top up your phone.

She laughed and gave him a shy kiss before running in. When he was sure she was safe inside, he drove off smiling from ear to ear. She was such good energy he could spend every single moment with her.

The next day Ephraim sat in the pantry having his lunch at the office when one of his junior colleagues walked.

HER: You look so nice nowadays, you are even bringing well balanced meals for lunch, did you marry in secret ne rra?

EPHRAIM: (laughing) Are you suggesting I looked shabby before?

HER: (laughing) Don't put words in my mouth rra. All I'm saying is all of a sudden you are all fresh. You are coming to the office bash right?

EPHRAIN: It's not a bash, it's a award ceremony, and yes, it's mandatory for all stuff.

She laughed and patted him on the shoulder.

HER: Nna I'm just excited for free alcohol. Do you think they will have champagne? They are rich mos. Anyway, see you later.

She winked at him and walked off.

Sapelo sat going over her friend's laundry business

books.

SAPELO: This looks good. I have ordered that dry clean thing you wanted too.

OLEBILE: Thank you the mma. Ija, kana that guy has been after me. Bolokang...

SAPELO: Mxim, there is just something I don't like about him.

OLEBILE: Wena kana Sasa wa jola, you are even getting married, why can't you be happy that I found someone too?

SAPELO: Ijo! I wasn't fighting mma. I was just saying he isn't a guy I'd want to be with...

OLEBILE: Nobody is asking you to be with him, are they? J ust be happy for me.

SAPELO: You know what, you are right. I'm happy for you friend.

OLEBILE: (annoyed) I have to go

She left annoyed, thinking of how much Bolokang kept complimenting everything about Sapelo all night at the party.

Letang went home around lunch to check on his new nanny and daughter.

He smiled as he got in and the house was thoroughly cleaned, and Opene was bathed and in a beautiful dress, sleeping in her cot as the nanny cooked in the kitchen.

MASEDI: Rragwe Penelope. You are home.

LETANG: And it seem just in time too. Smells nice! When did you get the chance to clean up, this little lady never gives me time to do anything when I'm with her! And getting her to nap? Wow!

MASEDI: (laughing) The secret is to tire her out, I let her chase me around until she finished her energy then I just feed her, bath her, and she slept.

LETANG: Well, whatever you are doing, keep at it. You keep my baby girl happy and healthy, and we will be friends.

She watched him go to the bedroom, wearing a t-shirt that showed his muscles well and he was a

well built man with big biceps.

Boitumelo had said he split with his baby mama, so he was single... he looked like a responsible man who provided well and took care of his.

He came out changed into grey sweatpants and topless, going to clean inside the car, then installed a carseat for his daughter.

Masedi came to stand at the door and watched him for a bit, admiring how his muscle flexed as he moved.

MASEDI: Food is ready. You are not going back to work?

LETANG: Nah, I am off the rest of the day, I wanted to take Opene shopping, she has outgrown most of her stuff.

MASEDI: I can come if you want. I am done cleaning.

LETANG: That would be nice, she is a handful out there, always fighting me to put her down.

He sat down in the sofa and turned on the news as

Mas edi brought warm water and a cloth to wash his hands, then brought his food.

Later Ephraim arrived home as Sasa was doing her makeup.

EPHRAIM: Wow! Not that you need makeup, but you are gonna be the most beautiful girl in the room.

SAPELO: (laughing) Some may say you are a little biased Mr Thebe. What do you think of this dress?

She took out and wore beautiful, long sequined silver dress that clung to her curvy body so beautifully.

EPHRAIM: Damn, you intend to make every woman in there look like a wallflower?

He looked over smiling with appreciation.

SAPELO: (laughing) Le o mpona ke le mma di truck jaana the rra ke a te ke thape le nna ke tshwane le banyana (I may drive a truck around, but I clean up well) Here are your clothes, this grey suit is nice.

They finished getting dressed and headed to the

award ceremony where Ephraim was commended and give best employer award.

Sapelo watched as Bolokang danced and was too touchy with some girls at the after awards party. God, that was the man Lebi wanted to be with?

As Ephraim was talking to his boss, a younger girl walked over and shook Sapelo's hand.

HER: So, you are the woman responsible for this awesome transformation?

SAPELO: Maa?

HER: Ephy, he looks so nice these days. All the ladies are noticing, we were talking about him just now. Wow!

SAPELO: Uh... thanks?

HER: I'm Cristal. Like the champagne, you know... you look awesome, look at that dress! Wow!

Sapelo smiled trying to be nice, but she was just getting bad vibes from the girl.

As Ephraim walked over, Cristal quickly walked to him and hugged him.

HER: Wow! Congrats Ephy. You deserve the awards you got. And why didn't you tell me you had such a beautiful woman?

Ephraim pushed her off of him.

EPHRAIM: Because we are not friends like that, what the hell.

Sapelo just stood there with a smile on her face but she was angry. Why was that girl that comfortable with Ephraim?

As they finally got in the car to leave, she saw Bolokang leaving with some girl.

EPHRAIM: Babe, I know you are angry...

SAPELO: You reckon, 'Ephy'?

EPHRAIM: I swear we are not even close. She is my junior and she likes to talk to me sometimes.. I am casual and nice enough, but that's about it

SAPELO: So from that she thought she could be all over you like that, squishing her boobs all over you?

EPHRAIM: I'm so sorry. But I swear it's nothing. She is not even a friend.

SAPELO: It better be nothing Ephraim. Nna I have no time for drama, gatwe stress is not good for early pregnancy and...

EPHRAIM: (happily) Wait, what? Pregnancy?

SAPELO: I was gonna tell you tonight... I found out in the morning...

EPHRAIM: (hugging her) Oh my God! I'm gonna be a dad? For real? We need to hasten the wedding babe... I could get a loan and we...

SAPELO: No, we are not getting married on loan, and there is no rush.

EPHRAIM: But still, I'm sending my uncles to ask for your hand.. I bet by the time the whole process is over, we will have the money for a wedding anyway. And I might finally be getting that promotion. Mr Ledimo said some favourable things that hinted at a promotion today. Wow! I am so happy babe.

3 Month later...

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE for a weekend bonus

[05/29, 14:05] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 7

Ephraim sat on the bed folding clothes as Sapelo packed them on the suitcase.

EPHRAIM: I hate that I have to travel right now.

SAPELO: (laughing) Will you calm down, I am out of the first trimester, much safer now. I'll be fine.

EPHRAIM: Promise me you won't be lifting heaving things.

SAPELO: I hired two temporary guys to come. Move furniture around for me when I have interior décor jobs, and to help loading and unloading fruits and veggies. I am hiring one to do deliveries tomorrow. Go enjoy mahatshe's burg.

EPHRAIM: Maybe I should ask mma-Sapelo to come.

SAPELO: (laughing) Don't you dare! Mme tries to

force feed me kana, I don't want to gain a thousand kilos with this pregnancy. He kissed her head and she continued packing.

After they finished, he drove to the airport with her, and she drove back home with the car.

Boitumelo rinsed her mouth after throwing up again, and when she came out of the toilet her mom stood at the door.

MOTHER: Boitumelo, are you pregnant?

BOITUMELO: What? No!

MOTHER: Girl, I'm a nurse. I would know.

BOITUMELO: (laughing nervously) You always call me a heathen for not going to church often, I am sure if we the world is getting another virgin birth, it won't be through me.

MOTHER: So, you are just gonna hope the pregnancy away? Mxim. Here, take the test.

BOITUMELO: Kana I'm not...

MOTHER: Then take the test, what are you afraid of?

She reluctantly went in the bathroom and took the test, seating down crying as it came out positive.

MOTHER: J aanong what are you crying for ka wena you are a woman, you can go about opening your legs to men, nxla! Stand up monna before I get angry. And if you think you are quitting school Boitumelo, you better think again. You will go to school ka mpa ba te ba go tshege bankanaago, akere wena ha go iwa skolong wena o busy ka bobelele. Nxla! When did you last see your period?

BOITUMELO: Three months ago.

MOTHER: Mxim, go get dress so we can go register the pregnancy. Do you even know who the father is?

BOITUMELO: Mama!

MOTHER: Koore wa ntena Boitumelo, I raised you alone struggling to give you a good life and you do this? Mxim

After arriving in the US, Ephraim went with his boss

to meet with their new clients.

Miranda made the proposal of the Marula oil and wine, and potential of more future project the Ledimo wanted to partner with the large health company for. At the end of the meeting the hosts set another meeting in a few days to discuss the verdict.

They left the meeting and went back to their hotel, where they sat at dinner talking.

MIRANDA: Looks like Mrs Hayes likes you...she just kept eye fucking you through the meeting.

EPHRAIM: First of all, I'm getting married. And secondly, isn't she like 70!

MIRANDA: Come now, she is only 66.

EPHRAIM: That's older than my mom!

,MIRANDA: Age is just a number. Come now, don't be a baby. Just... you know, pay her attention, show her love... and maybe a little more. She is the heiress to her family legacy and heads the department we are dealing with. She is making this

decision, and we need her liking us. So, give her a night of her life. You look like a man who can do that.

EPHRAIM: Excuse me!

MIRANDA: Ephraim, darling... people who succeed are those who are willing to do what needs done to get what they need done. I heard Mr Ledimo mention you to his brother for consideration for a directorial position. A massive promotion like that within three months from the one you just got is unheard of! Look how long it took you to get to this one. It can take you another ten years to get there! And this project is what can seal the deal for you directly.

EPHRAIM: Miranda... I am getting married.

MIRANDA: I see I was wrong about you...I thought you were a man with vision. A man who wanted more...

EPHRAIM: Of course I do, but...

He phone rang.

MIRANDA: Oh, Alleys a dearie, how are you? I hope we did not forget anything.

HER: You friend is quiet the looker... so manly...

MIRANDA: He is, isn't he?

HER: Does he play chess?

MIRANDA: If I remember well, he was champion in my country at a younger age.

HER: Oh my.. Would he care for a game with me? I just booked into the same hotel with you guys. Luxury suite.

MIRANDA: Who wouldn't want to indulge a graceful lady like you. Let me let him rest his feet, then I will extend the invitation.

HER: You are such a darling.

She hung up and smiled at Ephraim.

MIRANDA: You are 'playing chess' with her at 8pm.

EPHRAIM: No, I'm not.

MIRANDA: You are not gonna lose me a chance of being CMO Ephy darling.

EPHRAIM: Now it comes out... this has nothing to do with me, it's just...

MIRANDA: It has everything to do with you. You get us this project, I become CMO, you become director, and we all live happily ever after. You know how much I earn as a director?

She wrote a number on the napkin and pushed it to him with a smile as Ephraim gasped with shock.

MIRANDA: Comes with full on medical coverage for spouse and kids, company car, house, subsidized private schools. Chances at international holidays abroad. Ephraim, everyone who is someone has had to do something they are not proud of at some point, Oprah, Bill Gates, Zuckerberg...how do you think a rural girl from Bokspits like me got where I am now? Where do you think Kaedi got the money to bring back the company when it was sinking just before he took over? I know you know at some point LID was in trouble financially. He did what he had to do and here we are.

EPHRAIM: Maybe him, but I am not him. I'm not like

that.

MIRANDA: You are not costing me my CMO promotion Ephraim. If we lose this contract, I will put it on you and say you blew it deliberately. I hope your little girlfriend will be happy supporting a grown man when you lose your job. Interior decoration can't be making much in dead old Francistown. Or you can do this, get another promotion, have your future kids go to school with the rich, get the best of everything. She is in the luxury suite. Good night.

Sapelo sat in the living room watching television when MmaThapelo knocked and walked in, her eyes red like she had been crying.

SAPELO: Mmat, are you ok?

MMATHAPELO: (sobbing) Kana mme has forced Mphi and Ratie to move into my place, and I can't live with them...you know how mme is, even Ephraim can't get to her...they use up everything wastefully, steal money from my wallet so much

that sometimes I have no money to go to work or pay my rent... and it's a bachelor pad... I can't sleep well with two other noisy people. They are not looking for jobs like they are supposed to be doing. I'm sorry (sobbing) I just needed to vent and I don't have friends.

The girl was such a sweet little thing she didn't even know how to stand up for herself. She was never gonna have her own life at this rate and she deserved it.

SAPELO: MmaT, first of all, you don't need to contribute anything to the family, you don't earn much, Eph and Letang buy everything and also give your mother money. Wena you can just give her P50 here and then when you can, but your brothers want you to start your own life, not be held up like they were. And about your sisters, come, let's go, I think I can help.

She drove to her place and found the two other girls frying liver and just eating it as a snack.

SAPELO: Ladies, I'm gonna need you to get the fuck

out of the house I'm paying for.

MPHI: Waitse wena you think highly of yourself.
This is my sister's house...

SAPELO: I'm paying for it soo... tell them MmaT

MMATHAPELO: (biting her nails) She is... uhm...
she is paying.

SAPELO: So, you see, you are trespassing, and you need to get out before I get the police. What? I have tried to play nice for too long, but you must realize that if you push someone too hard, eventually they push back. Akere you said I am a witch, so now aren't you afraid of being bewitched staying in my house? Let's get packing.

They packes angrily as Mphi went outside on the phone. A few minutes later Sapelo got several call backs.

She sighed and called her mother in law.

MMA EPHRAIM: Kante wena o ntse jang, don't you know your husband's siblings are your siblings?
Where do you expect them to go when you throw

them out, threatening to call the police on them?
What kind of people do you come from who don't understand family?

SAPELO: How can I see them as my sisters when they don't see me that way? See, Letang and Mmathapelo know I am their sister, if they want any help and if we can, we help, and if we need help too, they help.

MMA EPHRAIM: Wa re wa go rata the go rapelwa, mxim! Now you have even bewitched my son, he doesn't even listen to me. You don't even care that I am sick, since my son is not around you don't come to check on me. But if it was your mother, you'd be running.

SAPELO: Mme how would I know you are sick when you don't tell me? I topped your phone akere.

MMA EPHRAIM: Mxim, you think airtime lasts forever?

SAPELO: P100 finished in three days? Ijo. Anyway, what did the doctor say?

MMA EPHRAIM: What doctor, did you take me to

one? All you know how to do is drive my son's car around.

SAPELO: Akere there are five other adults in that house. Why didn't Masalu take you? Or your niece, or Mishingo, or anyone?

MMA EPHRAIM: Masalu where? Since knowing her, have you ever seen her do anything productive, mxim, tota ithela o bua eng o kae ga wa tala jaana? Akere her children's fathers have paid maintenance, she has gone to enjoy with her new boyfriend. I will die here and then you will see you could have taken better care of me. Good daughter in laws take their mother in laws and live with them.

SAPELO: (sighing) You know that is not happening. I'll come to take you to the clinic in the morning.

MMA EPHRAIM: Bring me a big coke when you do. And stop chasing the kids away.

SAPELO: Owaii, these ones are coming back there. They are leaving now, there is no other way around it.

Masedi finished doing the baby's hair. She bathed her and bathed too, fixing herself up. Letang was coming back from his trip after being gone for a week.

She'd seen him several times with Boitumelo, but it didn't look serious, and Boitumelo always got all the good things anyway. She was the smart one who got good grades, with a mom who was working. Whereas Masedi mom long quit school before even finishing standard seven and her father had didn't even have formal education, they lived in a small settlement working for people in the fields.

When she started to do form one she had come to live with Boitumelo and her mom, and it was always obvious who the child of the family was. When she failed form three, mma Boitumelo sent her back saying there is no reason to support a failure anymore.

Marrying Letang was her chance to a better life. He acted like he was oblivious to her, but she just needed to show him she was the woman for him, that Boitumelo was just spoilt and immature.

Ephraim sat in the room thinking. No way Mr Ledimo. would sack him for that... there were laws...

But then again, they were Ledimo, they could get around laws and he could end up unemployed.

He couldn't expect Sasa to take care of him and his family, and he wasn't gonna find a job that paid him what he earned if he list this one.

And to be honest being Director in a conglomerate wouldn't hurt.

Not only was the pay and benefits sweet, but it opened doors too... interaction with people in power... opportunities.

He showered and put on cologne, then went downstairs to request elevator to luxury suite. They called her and she accepted him coming over.

The lift opened straight into the humongous suite.

He cleared his voice and put on his best smile.

EPHRAIM: I heard you play chess?

He said with a wink and watched the older lady blush.

Yup.

They were gonna get this contract. One of the biggest the company would have. And he would have brought it in.

And he was gonna be director.

It would be sweet to give Sasa the life she deserved, to have enough money to invest in her business so she could hire more and didn't have to work so hard... to have their future kids in the best schools, with all the opportunities kids of the rich got...

HER: I do... I heard you got... ehm... skills.

EPHRAIM: (smiling) Was champion in juniour school. It's so hot in here, do you mind cranking the A. C?

He said as he took off his t shirt and smiled as the old lady gasped and blushed.

HER: Oh my...

EPHRAIM: Well, are we playing or what?

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[05/29, 14:05] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 8

Letang parked a distance from the senior secondary school and Boitumelo got in the car. She had called him crying and she was still sobbing.

LETANG: Hey babe, what's wrong?

BOITUMELO: I just had a bad day...

LETANG: Boitumelo, you called me in the middle of the day crying at school! I had to fake an emergency with my daughter. You have been all moody the past few weeks, what's going on?

She covered her face with her hands and sobbed.

Letang put his hand around her shoulder and kissed her hair.

LETANG: I promise you, whatever it is, we can handle it. Are you sick?

BOITUMELO: (sobbing) I'm pregnant Letang.

LETANG: (sighing with relief) Thank God! My mind was going to crazy things like some incurable disease.

He pulled her closer and kissed her.

BOITUMELO: (angry) How can you be so calm Letang, I'm pregnant.

LETANG: Unexpected, but not the end of the world. You'll finish your exams and then have the baby and I can take him while you go to university. It's ok.

BOITUMELO: People are going to laugh at me when I start showing, by the time I finish exams I will be seven months! My uniform will get tight and all... Maybe I'll just do form five next year and drop out now. My mom will probably throw me out, so I can come live with you... yea, I should drop out and...

LETANG: Nope... we can buy you new uniforms, and you'll be fine. I'm not saying this to be hard on you babe... education is important, akere nna I'm just a soldier, you get a PhD and be the Dr. of our family. You are smart.

BOITUMELO: But...

He pulled her closer and kissed her.

LETANG: A baby is a blessing my love! I'm excited. You will be too in time. Come on, what do you want to eat?

BOITUMELO: pizza. Debonairs...and some chocolate.

LETANG: Pizza it is then... don't worry babe, we got this.

Sapelo arrived at her business and found her employees just looking in shock as mma Ephraim and her sister were picking up vegetables and fruits, putting them. In a crate.

MMA EPHRAIM: I was telling mma Pelonomi that we can never suffer while my son has a fruits and vegetables business. O tsee le ditapole mmaP. This girl will go drop us with my son's truck. Boy, lift this crate to the truck...

SAPELO: (angry) Your son does not have a damn

business! Jesus! Akere you sucked him near bankruptcy taking everything from him like the leeches you are, mxim! My son my son, when my business had been operating for a year before I even met your son? This time you have gone too far, not only to steal from my business, but also bringing others with you? This is too much, nsla! You touch even a single fruit or veggies in there you better be ready to pay or be reported for theft.

She walked off angrily as a single tear ran down her cheek. Her business? This was her child's future and they wanted to rob her? No man, this was enough! It had made her so angry, and her pregnancy hormones blew away every little bit of composure she had.

Ephraim nervously walked towards the company CFO's office. It had been a week since they came back, with the deal secured at a better value than had been anticipated, on a longer term.

He stood in front of the door and rubbed his hands

together nervously, deep breath... then knocked.

‘Come in...‘

The man had always been fair and more relaxed, a calm introverted person, a whole lot more approachable than his CEO brother in Ephraim’s opinion.

EPHRAIM: You wanted to see me, Mr Ledimo?

HIM: (smiling) The man of the moment. Come in, seat down.

He sat on the chair opposite the man’s table.

HIM: I heard you were quit the star in the Heyes negotiation? Mira cannot stop raving about how you negotiated a better deal.

Ephraim looked down.

HIM’ Ah, a man like myself, not too good with compliments, ey? But best believe, I took notice of your work. You have been duo for promotion for a long long time. But you weren’t taking initiative man, applying yourself. We have only started sewing this in the past year...

Ah, just around the time he met Sapelo.

HIM: I wanted to watch, observe. And the past few months you totally shocked me. Started looking the part too, more confident, coming out of your shell. That's when I decided you could do senior manager. Whoever she is, cuff her, fast.

EPHRAIM: (laughing) Her?

HIM: (laughing) Now, my man. You know damn well that no man just switches to a 100 like this on his own. You start seeing a man thinking straight, dressing nice, bringing a little lunch box to work... ahhh, you know the lucky bastard snagged himself a keeper.

EPHRAIM: She is a keeper...we are getting married in two months.

HIM: That's a good man. I heard about that. And you finally deciding to man up, but especially the Heyes deal confirms my thought that you are ready. You are a big fish in a small pond in that senior manager position, you should have passed it a long time ago!

He pushed an envelope to him. Ephraim paged through it wide eyed. Director of Finance.

For the whole fucking conglomerate, not just its branches.

EPHRAIM: Wow...

HIM: (smiling) We love happy employees. Happy employees mean quality work, and quality work means big checks in our pockets. Welcome to the big boy league. It's hard as hell, but I believe you got this

EPHRAIM: Thank you sir.

HIM: You will report directly to me now. So, please don't disappoint me.

EPHRAIM: I won't, I promise. Thank you, sir...

HIM: Good. Now go to HR, they will give you everything that is part of your package with this position. Now, I hear you are expecting.

EPHRAIM: (smiling) Yes Sir. Our first.

HIM: Congrats. Fatherhood is the best experience a man can have in my opinion. I have four little

rascals and my life has never been better. That said, a congratulatory slash sympathy gift (laughing)
Take your girl out on a nice holiday, enjoy your life... sleep. Because once the baby is here, you are never gonna sleep again. Ever. May the odds forever be in your favor.

They both laughed.

HIM: But you look sad. For a man who is scoring so many wins right now...getting married, child on the way, just became director...it's none of my business, but if you need an ear...

EPHRAIM: I did something wrong...I just...I feel like I don't deserve all this. The position, my girl...

He looked at him with sympathy.

HIM: Alleysa Heyes?

Ephraim nodded, scared. Yup, he was about to lose the position before he even really had it. But this was eating him up and he didn't want to live in fear of the company finding out and firing him.

But instead his boss smiled at him.

HIM: Ephraim, my man, I am gonna be straight with you. You are a good looking well built young man. You are just some jungle fever snack to these super wealthy white westerner women. Trust me, I know that all too well. From experience. We have all had to do something unsavory at a point. I still remember my own version Alleysa Heyes. Made me question my morals. But at the end of the day I realized I'd rather we didn't lose LID industries. My brother and I secured funds however way we needed to, got to keep our company, and we kept going. Licked our wounds and held our heads high. It's a small price to pay for a better life. Stop worrying and enjoy your good life.

EPHRAIM: Thank you.

Mas edi prepared lunch and then got cleaned up with the baby, waiting for Letang.

He was noticing what a good woman she was. He was always complimenting her cooking, how clean her house was, and how healthy, happy and clean

his daughter was. Soon he will realize she was the missing piece in his life.

His car parked and he walked out with Boitumelo? What was she doing here, it was still school time.

They walked in hand in hand as he held a big box.

LETANG: Sedi! We brought you guys pizza, or you already cooked?

MASEDI: We did...

LETANG: No problem, we can warm up the pizza later or something. Boity, come lie down. I'll wake you up in time to take you home, do you want a foot rub or something?

Masedi watched annoyed as he led Boitumelo to his bedroom and she could see her feet that she was laying in bed as he massaged her feet.

She took her phone and went out, calling her aunt.

MASEDI: Hello, mma Boitu, I know this is none of my business, but I am worried about her.

HER: What has she done now?

MASESI: I just think it's wrong of her to be in the bedroom of a grown man's house during school hours, especial when her exams are coming close.

HER: A what... what man?

MASEDI: Please don't say I was the one who told you, I could lose my job, but Boitumelo is here in rragwe Penelope's bedroom right now.

Ephraim sat drinking with his friend and brother.

PAPHANI: Where is Blu? He said he'll come.

EPHRAIM: (laughing) New pussy. There is a new receptionist at work he has been chatting. And here I was thinking he and Olebile were serious.

He took another large swig of his drink.

PAPHANI: Ngng Eph, that's enough monna. You don't even really drink. What's eating you up?

EPHRAIM: Nothing, I'm celebrating.

Paphani: Boy, I have known you since junior school. I know when you are not ok. Speak.

EPHRAIM: Seriously! I just became director. I am celebrating.

LETANG: I agree with Paps... what is it?

EPHRAIM: Fine, fine! I'm nervous about my new position...

LETANG: Bullshit!

EPHRAIM: I cheated on Sasa!

LETANG: What? Are you insane or something?

PAPHANI: Oh come on Lets, don't act like some saint when you fuck around the most. Cut the man slack, he already looks in pain.

LETANG: She is gonna leave you, you know Sapelo aint the type.

PAPHANI: Who is gonna tell Sasa?

LETANG: The side bitch?

EPHRAIM: There is no side bitch, it was in the US trip. A one night stand.

PAPHANI: (laughing) O jele kuku ya mahatshe!
Laitiaka! More reason to shut the fuck up about it.

LETANG: Yea, American girls aint like ours, they can do casual sex. Here you hit once motho setse a batla to call your main. Nxla. So it done and dusted. Forget about it and move on.

In the evening Sapelo finished cooking dinner she waited for a bit and Ephraim was still not home. By 9pm she ate her dinner and got in bed.

She heard him arrive around 2am smelling of alcohol.

She ignored him and just pretended she was sleeping as he passed out beside her.

In the morning she woke up and made breakfast.

He woke up with a thundering hangover and went to the kitchen.

EPHRAIM: Mma-Thebe, do we have any tablets? I have a bad headache... we stayed up finishing something last night. I ddid't want to wake you up when I got in.

SAPELO: So you are a liar now? Ephraim, since

when do you drink hela mo thapelwang? And then drive?

EPHRAIM: Babe, I can explain.

SAPELO: Ok, go ahead... I'm listening...

He opened his laptop bag and handed her his promotion letter.

EPHRAIM: Double my current salary babe! Plus a house near the office, and I get a company car tomorrow. And if I stay with the company another five years with productive results, I get to keep the car... see the medical benefits? Isn't this awesome?

SAPELO: It still doesn't explain why you were out drinking late. Since when did you even start drinking? Last night wasn't even the first, since you came back from your US trip you have been withdrawn and twice already you went out drinking. What is going on, Ephraim? Are you nervous about the wedding, or the baby?

EPHRAIM: No, no, please! I'm so excited about both...

SAPELO: Then? Is it the new promotion?

He rubbed his head nervously and looked down.

EPHRAIM: Yea... it's uhm... yea... work stress.

SAPELO: You are lying. Why are you lying?

She sat down, holding his hand and kissing the palm.

SAPELO: Babe, whatever it is, we can get through it together. But you gotta let me know what it is first. When you are not ok, I'm not ok, so please, let me help you...

He sighed and paced a put for a bit, then came to seat down with her.

EPHRAIM: Well, the thing is... you see... it's just... I had no choice Sapelo.

SAPELO: Choice?

EPHRAIM: Something happened during the US trip...

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:05] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 9

Ephraim sat talking with Sapelo when there was a knock.

EPHRAIM: Well, the thing is, I had no choice, I had to do it...

SAPELO: Choice about what kante? Who is that now, arg.

She went to open the door to her friend Olebile crying.

SAPELO: Lebi, baby are you ok? What happened?

OLEBILE: He cheated on me again. This time I caught him, I went to his place without telling him this morning, and caught him with some skinny little bitch. Kante why is Bolokang doing this?

SAPELO: Because you let him. You have been dating this man for three months and he started making you cry the very first month. O go bone o sematla akere, he cheats you forgive, hela jalo.

OLEBILE: What do you want me to do Sasa...

SAPELO: Leave, girl! Dump him.

OLEBILE: (sobbing) He was all hewee kana this girl was throwing herself at me, then we were drunk and I didn't know what I was doing

SAPELO: Nonsense! He knew what he was doing, cheating is always intentional, I have never heard of anyone who was just walking minding his business and fell on pussy! Nothing can justify cheating, you give that dog too many chances, and I don't understand. Nna I could never forgive a cheat, that is such disrespect! You are financially stable, beautiful, smart, run your own business, sis, you don't need him for anything at all...I don't even think a dick you know you are sharing can be that good. You can do better.

Bolokang's car packed at their gate and he came in running.

BOLOKANG: Lebi can we talk please... Olebile kana you don't understand, that girl o nts e jalo, she throws herself at men and...

OLEBILE: And you are just some defenceless baby who just had to fuck her? Nxla. Don't annoy me please. This time I'm done Bolokang. I can't, not anymore. Sasa, I will call you.

She stood up to leave and Bolokang held her hand.

Olebile slapped him hard and got in her car, driving off.

BOLOKANG: Sasa, you have to speak to her... please. I love Lebi, she is the perfect woman for me and...

SAPELO: The only thing I'm gonna be saying to her is to leave your ungrateful ass. Don't involve me in your rubbish, mxim. Get out of my house.

BOLOKANG: Is Eph in?

He said looking at her cleavage, swallowing with a leer, going down her body in a body hugging maxi dress.

SAPELO: No, leave... Now, asshole! And stop looking at me like that, it's disgusting, and you say you love my friend and Eph is like your brother?

Ephraim came in from the room.

EPHRAIM: Everything ok?

SAPELO: Tell this pervert to get out of my house before I splash hot oil on his face.

EPHRAIM: What did he di?

BOLOKANG: Literally nothing, she is just butting in on my issues with my girlfriend.

EPHRAIM: Bona, I will see you later. You are making the lady of the house uncomfortable, so you gotta hit it bro. No hard feelings.

Boitumelo's phone rang and she ignored it seeing her mum's number. Afters several attempts she got a message.

'Ee keep bunking school hela jalo lebelete kweena. You are going to amount to nothing like your father, my good brains were wasted on you, you are book smart for nothing, wa go palelwa ke go itirela sepe mo bots helong and be one of those people you always heard others saying 'kana she was so smart

at school'. I would have been surprised if you finished school o sa ima, wa go sotlega with that fatherless bastard of yours. Go to school now, or o nnele ruri gone koo.'

She read the message and laid of the bed sobbing.

LETANG: Babe, what's wrong?

She handed him a phone as she broke down crying.

BOITUMELO: My mom is nice and raises me well most of the time, but whenever I do wrong she always says these things to me.

He hugged and kisses her.

LETANG: I'm so sorry babe... maybe you should introduce me so I can tell her I intend to marry you.

BOITUMELO: Ijo she will kill me... it's ok, I'm used to her.

LETANG: How did she even find out?

BOITUMELO: Maybe she saw us at the mall.

LETANG: I'm so sorry babe...

Ephraim sat in the living room thinking about what Sasa had said.

‘I could never forgive a cheat’.

Sarona came back in the room.

SARONA: Ija, what a disturbance.

She said as she washed his hands before handing him a plate of food

SAPELO: Ehee, where were we? What were you about to tell me?

EPHRAIM: It’s nothing, don’t worry about it.

SAPELO: No Ephraim. You don’t start all this odd behaviour, drinking, staying out late, withdrawn, and tell me its nothing. You said something happened in the US. What was it?

EPHRAIM: Well... I... uhm...I did something wrong to get a contract signed.

SAPELO: What did you do?

EPHRAIM: I... I...I blackmailed the client.

SAPELO: Ephraim!

EPHRAIM: We were worried we would lose the contract, and it was the big break I needed. Senior managers aren't taken to negotiate big deals like that one, but Miranda said I had potential, so they gave me the opportunity and I used it. Now I'm director.

SAPELO: You have to tell your bosses Ephraim. Blackmail is illegal.

EPHRAIM: It really wasn't a big deal, I am probably overreacting. And I did tell my boss and he understood why I did what I had to do.

SAPELO: Still, this is not good, climbing up by hurting others?

EPHRAIM: If it's any consolation, I talked to the client and we are good now.

SAPELO: Ok, that's better.

Sapelo's phone rang and she answered.

SAPELO: Mama?

MOTHER: Sapelo, your in laws were her, gatwe you insulted your mother in law? Ao ngwanaka, when

did you start being that person?

SAPELO: Me? Insult her? When did I even... oh.. I didn't insult that woman, I told her to stop stealing from me.

MOTHER: Ee mma mme they want a disciplinary meeting. . They said they will come in the evening, you should be there.

SAPELO: (sighing) Fine.

Masedi watched as Letang came from the bedroom in his uniform pants and a t-shirt. He looked so good, his biceps stretching the t shirt.

LETANG: Sedis, I'm gonna go back to work, please watch over your cousin for me. Make sure she takes that medicine on the table, we just got gatwe it helps nausea, and her vitamins. And make sure she eats.

MASEDI: Ee rra

He went to kiss his sleeping baby and headed off.

An hour after she left Boitumelo came into the

kitchen.

BOITUMELO: I don't feel like pizza anymore, what had you made for lunch?

MASEDI: I don't work for you Boitumelo, employing is not dick transferable. Why should I get you food?

BOITUMELO: And then wena? When did I say you should get me anything? Ka you can just say I made pap and nna I will take it and warm for myself? Sorry mma if asking what someone cooked is offensive. So touchy! One would think you are the one pregnant?

Masedi looked at her annoyed. Pregnant? Why did she have to be pregnant, argg.

MASEDI: You are pregnant?

BOITUMELO: (giggling) Unbelievable, I know, right? I was so scared, but Letang is so excited that I have warmed up to this little thing too. I bought such cute teeny weenie things at the shops! Some socks and shoes and white vests to be neutral! It's actually exciting. Sedi, are you ok?

MASEDI: I am just annoyed Boitumelo. You are so smart. You could do even better than even your mom! To see you gambling your life away for a man like him...

BOITUMELO: What do you mean 'a man like him'

MASEDI: Nothing

BOITUMELO: Come on Masedi. Does he bring other girls here? What is it?

MASEDI: Ijo, nnyaa mma,. O batla go nkgolega. I know nothing and please don't say anything about him to me, I will lose my job.

Boitumelo went to seat on the bed sulking. What else could it be, that was what Masedi meant, he was bringing some other girl to the house. He was cheating on her.

She sat on the bed crying, then picked up her school bag and took a taxi home, blocking Letang on the way. Gosh, she was so stupid to think this silly little fairy tale was real, now here she was pregnant with a cheater's child o ext. Maybe all her mother said was right, she was only book smart but stupid in

everything else.

Sapelo sat in front of her mother's house with Ephraim's family and her aunts and uncles.

EPHRAIM'S AUNTS: Ok, since we are all here, lets start. Batho ba Modimo, we are here because my sister is being abused by this girl before she is even a daughter in law. She insults her like a child, I witnessed it myself first hand.

SAPELO'S AUNT: We heard you, and we would like to hear her response because she was not raised like that, and is not that person. Sasa, what happened?

SAPELO: Mmangwane, these people have never accepted me. They call me a witch, a prostitute, all sorts of names. But I just let them...

MMA EPHRAIM: She is a liar, I tried to accept her and she threw my grandkids out when I had begged her to help them with a place to stay.

SAPELO'S AUNT: Let the child finish her story, you

have told us your side.

SAPELO: (sobbing) I tried aunty... I never talk back, even when her kids that are younger than me insult me. And I didn't chase those kids out, Ephraim did. He came home to them bringing friends in and banging loud music, using mine and his personal stuff. I wasn't even home when he threw them out, he didn't even discuss it with me. And I don't blame him. They are rude and disrespectful and would have made our house a living hell.

MMA EPHRAIM: You see? She thinks she is better than us! She looks down on us.

MMA SAPELO: Not to interrupt, but Sapelo is not that person, she will never look down on someone.

MMA EPHRAIM: Are you calling me a liar? Oh, so you are the one teaching her such bad manners! I didn't know we were coming here to be disrespected! Let's go. It's a waste here, these people have no manners.

SAPELO'S AUNT: (sigh) We weren't saying that at all, we are just shocked because we didn't raise her

like that. Seat down bagolo, let's talk it out, the kids can't marry when there is discord between our families. Sasa, is that all you had to say?

SAPELO: No. These 'insulting' incident happened yesterday. I got to my workshop and found mma Ephraim and mma Pelonomi taking veggies and fruits from there with crates. I am a small business, I can allow family to come take my product whenever they feel like it. I told them to stop, and apparently that as an insult. Mma Ephraim started going on a rant about how everything was her son's, the business I have owned before I even knew that man, the truck that is on my name, payment fully made by me... everything. I am human too, and I have taken a lot from that woman, so I snapped and told her if she didn't stop I will call the police. Then I left. I never for once insulted her.

SAPELO'S AUNT: She says you were telling them how you found them poor and improved their lives.

SAPELO: I have never said that, God is my witness.

MMA EPHRAIM: You hear her, just like her mother

calling me a liar? Tota bo Ephraim ba selasela, what kind of family is he marrying into, bring us such nonsense.

MMA SAPELO: Heela, mosadi, don't come insult me in my own yard, even if my daughter said that, was she lying? Your son didn't even have a house of his own and still wouldn't at his age if it wasn't for my daughter. We treat Ephraim right but you people treat my daughter less than a dog! Don't you dare try insult us in my home! How does a man like Ephraim come from a woman like you?

SAPELO: It's ok mama, let her be.

MMA EPHRAIM: Nxla, nonsense! So it's like mother like daughter I see. Forget it, my son will never marry you! Forget us asking for her hand, we cancel that now! Ephraim won't marry this rude thing, I know that child you are carrying is not even his. Let's go lona.

She walked out angrily and her entourage followed.

Ephraim sat drinking with his friends.

LETANG: Are you ok?

EPHRAIM: I am worried. Mme and some aunts and uncles went to Sasa's parents this evening on some silly bullshit. I wanted to come, but mma Sapelo said it's better if I didn't so I didn't get caught up in it. You know how mme is.

PAPHANI: So how did it go with Sasa ka issue ele?

BOLOKANG: What issue?

EPHRAIM: Nothing. It didn't go. How are things with Lebi, Blu? She seemed pissed this morning.

BOLOKANG: Lebi is tripping. These 'got my own thing' bitches are annoying because ba rata go laola. It always easier when she depends on you financially, Paphi is lucky Lorraine is a housewife.

EPHRAIM: How is getting caught cheating go laolwa, Blu? If you lose that girl, trust me, you are never gonna find one like her.

BOLOKANG: Eish...I know my man. I know. I love her. And my mom loves her too, kana she no longer even calls me, she just calls Lebi. And it has been

only three months. She met her at my place by mistake when mme showed up unannounced. From there they have been friends.

PAPHANI: And that's the woman you want to lose? Naare wena you think we don't eat on the side Blu? I have been happily married for three years now. I still keep my side, but she knows her place and she knows ga go tsamekelwe near wifey. You need to give your girl serite monna, let her feel like the only girl in the world, do whatever you do kgakala le ene.

EPHRAIM: How about you just marry the woman you love and stay with her alone, that happily ever after shit, you know?

They all laughed.

LETANG: Bro, look at it like this. What's your favourite food? Dumplings akere? Can you eat dumplings everyday? No. Once in a while you want variety... but it doesn't mean you stop loving dumplings.

EPHRAIM: Yea, well, women are not food. Nna I'm happy with my one. We are having a baby and

getting married, what more can a man want?

LETANG: Talking about that, baby number two on the way for me. Boity is expecting.

EPHRAIM: Not only do you fuck a child, you make sure everyone knows by impregnating her? You really fancy jail, don't you?

LETANG: Dude, the age difference between me and her is seven. The age difference between you and Sasa is nine!

EPHRAIM: Sasa is an adult!

LETANG: Boitumelo is eighteen.

PAPHANI: Eph is tripping, I met Lorraine at seventeen, and married her at twenty one. Tlogela Lets le lekgela la gagwe. Ke ema ha tafoleng ele and I need a wing man...

He said pointing at a table of skimpily dressed girls.

BOLOKANG: I volunteer as tribute! You guys?

EPHRAIM: No thank you, I'm gonna seat here and drink.

LETANG: I gotta head home and talk to Boity, she is in a mood for some reason and I have no idea why.

EPHRAIM: (laughing) They stopped showing her favourite cartoons on TV.

PAPHANI: No, her mama bought vanilla Danone but she loves the strawberry one. Eish, ma 2000.

LETANG: (laughing) Fuck you both. I hope everything goes well with the Sasa issue Eph. I'll call you in the morning.

LIKE, SHARE, COMMENT

[05/29, 14:05] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 10

Ephraim arrived home around 8pm and found Sapelo just finishing dinner.

He hugged her from the back and kissed her.

EPHRAIM: Leave it I'll do the dishes and clean up.
How did it go?

SAPELO: Ijo...you don't wanna know

EPHRAIM: Oh God! What did she do now?

SARONA: She told my family your family is cancelling asking for my hand in marriage.

EPHRAIM: What? You can't be serious.

SARINA: Gatwe the baby is not yours ebile.

He angrily threw the dishcloth down and grabbed his car keys.

SAPELO: Ephraim, don't stress yourself, you know how your mother is. Let her be.

EPHRAIM: No, this time she has gone too far Sasa. Don't worry about the dishes, I'll do them when I come back. Go rest.

Olebile sat in her house with her daughter doing homework when Bolokang parked in front of her house and knocked.

OLEBILE: What do you want?

BOLOKANG: To apologise.. Lebi, please, give me a

chance.

OLEBILE: My child lives here! You can't just show up, mxim.

BOLOKANG: Then come to the car...please Lebi hear me out and then you can chase me away if you want but I am not leaving until we talk.

She sighed and tied her gown, then walked out, following him to the car.

BOLOKANG: Lebi, I'm sorry, ok? You are right, me being with that girl was nobody's fault but my own. I don't know why I am like that, and I want to do better... I love you, I want us to get married, koore hela I am still saving for bogadi and all.

Ephraim walked into his mother's house and found her in the living room.

EPHRAIM: Mme, kante what do you want from me? I take care of you, for a long time I halted my life, if it wasn't for that woman you hate, I would still just have nothing at all. She comes helps me be better

and you hate her for it? Caring parents want to see their children do better, and a loving mother would be happy her son found a woman who makes a real man out of him.

MMA EPHRAIM: So now she told you to insult me? Le a bona akere, you see what I mean when I say that girl bewitched my son? I have never heard an angry word from Ephraim towards me until now. Since he met that girl, he's changed.

EPHRAIM: Mme, you told my in laws we are rescinding asking for Sapelo's hand! A month before magadi and three months before the wedding! How can you do that!

MMA EPHRAIM: She will never be my daughter in law! Never.

EPHRAIM: Too bad, because Sapelo and I are getting married. You don't have to be in my life mme, I chose to help you because I am responsible. But maybe if I acted like your daughters and never do anything for you, you'll be happy. Until you can accept Sasa as my wife, then I am afraid we will

have to stay away from you.

MMA EPHRAIM: (sobbing) You see, mma Pelonomi? My poor son. My poor son! I will take you to people who can help you.

EPHRAIM: (shaking his head) You are impossible. He left the house angry, stopping at a bar and got some beer.

Letang parked in front of mma Boitumelo's house and texted Boitumelo.

'If you don't come out in thirty minutes, I'm coming in.'

Five minutes later she came out and got in the car.

BOITUMELO: What do you want? Make it quick, mama went for a night shift, but the neighbours are watching.

LETANG: I want to know how I offended you babe. When I left it was all good, and when I come back you had left and not taking my calls or replying my texts.

BOITUMELO: Mxim, why don't you ask your girlfriend to reply me?

LETANG: (laughing) I just did, she is not making sense in her answer though.

BOITUMELO: I am not stupid Letang I know you are all over your other girls while I'm at school.

LETANG: And what time do I work then? Or spend time with Opene?

BOITUMELI: Mxim...

LETANG: I don't know where you got that silly idea that I got other girls. If I'm not at work, I'm at home or with the boys drinking. Babe... I love you, ok? I wanna spend the rest of my life with you, there are no other girls. You need to trust me. Please?

BOITUMELO: (still sulking) fine... please don't cheat on me Letang.

LETANG: Wena babe you are crazy. Who would cheat on this? Look at how beautiful you are!

He pulled her closer and kissed her, then reached over at the back hand her a bag of snacks.

As Ephraim got in his car after getting some beer, his phone rang.

EPHRAIM: Miranda?

HER: Dude, where the hell are you? How do you miss your own celebration?

EPHRAIM: Huh?

HER: Shit, I didn't add you to the top management group, did I?

EPHRAIM: Nope.

HER: Ok, adding you. We are having a little celebration of acquiring the Hayes account, and you and I's promotion. So, get your ass over here, the LID ranch. Now. All the big bosses are here.

She hung up and Ephraim sighed and called Sapelo to tell her, then drove to the party.

Ephraim walked into the party as people drank and danced about, Miranda walked over to him and

handed him a beer.

HER: Drink up and be initiated to top management. Everyone here is an alcoholic anyway, job stress and shit. Say bye bye to any form of work life balance you had. Ky, over here, this is the guy of the day.

The CEO came over holding a beer and made a toast to Ephraim.

HIM: Congrats my man. My brother and Mimi over here speak highly of you. Glad to have you in the top team.

EPHRAIM: Thank you, sir.

HIM: (laughing) Sir? Dude...I know I'm old, but not 'sir' kind if old yet. Have fun.

He walked over to two ladies sitting together.

Ephraim sat on a table with Miranda drinking.

After a few beers Miranda wanted to go sleep in one of the rooms in the ranch.

MIRANDA: Walk me over, the rooms are that side. I wanna talk to you anyway

He sighed and followed her.

MIRANDA: What's up with you? You are quieter than usual. Is it about that thing in the US?

EPHRAIM: (sighing) Yea... and I just... I have a lot going on right now.

MIRANDA: Talk to aunty Mimi. What's up?

EPHRAIM: I just... I feel bad, you know. I cheated, and I know my fiancée will never forgive me if I told her. But I hate starting our marriage on a lie.

MIRANDA: What happened, happened. It's not like it was with some slay queen who is going to start being dramatic. It's done and dusted? More vodka?

EPHRAIM: Yes please. And it's just...were you scared before you got married? I am so freaking scared of this new life I am starting. Husband, father...director... it's a lot.

MIRANDA: I was terrified when I first got married. I am an independent girl, I didn't want to be put in some box... didn't want to be controlled! Plus my mother in law hates me.

EPHRAIM: Oh my God! That is what's stressing me the most, my mom is so fucking annoying, she will take every opportunity to fight Sapelo, and it's just stresses me up. I feel like I'm being torn two way. I love my mom and she tried her hardest for us growing up. I can never abandon her, but the stress is going to kill me, man.

MIRANDA: Oh, you poor thing. You don't have to abandon your mother, but sometimes you just have to keep a distance a bit, help her financially, but just distance yourself and your wife. I have mushrooms I got in Thailand last month, want some?

In the morning Ephraim woke up on the sofa still fully clothed.

He panicked and ran to find his car as Miranda was on the phone arguing with her husband.

He drove home fast and found Sapelo getting ready to go to church.

EPHRAIM: Sasa, I'm so sorry, but the CEO didn't want us driving after drinking, so he insisted we

stay over at the ranch.

SAPELO: Eheee... jaanong ne a le tshela le perfume ts a basadi ne CEO?

EPHRAIM: I work with women Sapelo, I would have hugged someone or another at some point and their perfume lingered.

SAPELO: Must have been a very long hug. So telling me you were spending the night? Too busy 'hugging' to remember?

EPHRAIM: Don't be like this Sasa. I was drunk. We did some mushrooms. I forgot. I'm sorry.

SAPELO: Since when are you this person Ephraim? This guy who drinks too much and does mushrooms and stay out all night, showing up smelling if women perfume? Huh?

EPHRAIM: Kana you think I'm lying.

SAPELO: I'm not the one saying that, it's your conscience, love. I'm off to church.

He came over and hugged her from the back, kissing her neck.

EPHRAIM: I love you...

SAPELO: Ya go thapa rra o nkekgela perfume tse di turang, nna ke its hote gela jaana.

EPHRAIM: Ijo. I'll go talk to my uncle so they can apologies to your family. I'm not lying to you Sapelo.

SAPELO: I choose to believe you because I have nothing else to prove otherwise. J ust know that lies are adductive, Ephraim. It becomes a habit, and nna I'm not the type to stand for such nonsense.

1 Year later

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

1000/100/10

BREADWINNER'S WIFE † † † 11

Ephraim finally stood up from his office and checked the time.

A little past eight at night. His boss was still on his office, so was the CEO, and pretty much most of the top management.

He popped into the marketing department where Miranda was yelling at the marketing team.

When she saw him, she came out to speak to him.

EPHRAIM: Go easy on them, it's 9pm, people are tired.

MIRANDA: (sighing) They are annoying. Heading off?

EPHRAIM: Yup

MIRANDA: Wait for me so I can hitch a ride, my car is at the garage, my husband dropped me off this morning.

Since Ephraim was moved into top management houses, Miranda was just a few houses away from their houses, so they hitched rides with each other often.

She came back with her Prada bag and a box of print work. Ephraim too in from her and they walked

downstairs and into his car.

MIRANDA: How is Aedirwe, he must be a big boy now.

He smiled and took out his phone to show her a picture of his son.

EPHRAIM: Teething now... Lord knows, that boy never sleeps!

MIRANDA: Lord, I remember that stage! My kids wouldn't sleep too! We went when they were little! We went a year without sex, staying in the same house, sleeping in the same bed!

EPHRAIM: (laughing) What is sex? The little cockblocker literally starts screaming, anytime I try to get it on with my wife.

The both laughed as he parked in front of her house and carries the box for her to their door.

She watched him walk back to his car. Ephraim was the kind of guy that made her salivate. Tall, dark, well built and very handsome.

But the biggest bonus was his loyalty, she

remembered how even when he was high one time when they did mushrooms, he somehow ended up pushing her away when they kissed.

At top management parties, they were girls, but he never indulged.

She sighed and opened the door to her husband who was seating on the couch cradling his belly, with tomato sauce stains on his old t shirt.

And that small dick asshole still had the guts to cheat on her.

Why on earth did that plain girl get to have a man like Eph and she got stuck with... this?

Ephraim got home and found Sapelo seated in the living room, breastfeeding their six months old son.

He went over and kissed his cheek.

EPHRAIM: Hey babe...how was the brat today?

SAPELO: (laughing) Worse than other days.
Teething.

She handed him the baby and he played about with him.

EPHRAIM: Hey boy...hey big man! You were a good boy, right? Mommy is just being a hater. Babe, you didn't forget that I'm meeting the boys for Blu's bachelor party, right?

SAPELO: Nah, it's cool. Olebile and her daughter are coming over any minute now. Still can't believe she is marrying that asshole.

EPHRAIM: (laughing) The man is my friend and all, but I gotta agree with you. This marriage is such a mistake on her part! Bolokang is a piece of shit. Alright babes, let me get changed.

He went to changed and came back dressed casually.

EPHRAIM: Call me if you need anything at all. I love you.

SAPELO: Love you more.

Letang sat in his bedroom chatting with Boitumelo.

He had just come back yesterday, he had gone with her to Gaborone, to help Boitumelo settle in as she started university.

LETANG: Boity the mma o ska jesa magogajasenyana kuku ya me.

BOITUMELO: (laughing) You are so crass. Ok, I am so tired from my first class.

LETANG: Alright... send nudes the mma bogolo ke e bone ka matho. I have to head on to Blu's bachelor party. Love you.

He hung up and went into the kids bedroom where Masedi had just put down Penelope and was holding his four months old son Phineas, singing him a lullaby. She motioned for Letang to keep quiet, then put the sleeping baby on the cot and came out.

MASEDI: Phew! Finally down.

LETANG: You work too much.

MASEDI: (laughing) It's my job.

LETANG: I have decided to increase your salary to P2800.

MASEDI: Oh my God, seriously? Thank you so much!
But I enjoy taking care of these little rascals

LETANG: They are lucky to have you. To be honest I
am still a little disappointed in Boitumelo choosing
to go to University when Boycie is still so little.

MASESI: (sighing) Can I speak honestly?

LETANG: Sedi, we are friends, of course you can be
honest with me.

MASEDI: I don't think she even wanted this child.
When did Boity ever take care of Boycie, ka the
moment she popped him she came here a re her
mom won't help, and then she spent all day on her
phone and I had to care for him. He missed
important nutrients on the first breastmilk because
she refused to breastfeed.

LETANG: She said she didn't want him getting used
to the breast when she knew she was leaving.

MASEDI: Rubbish. Women breastfeed three month
all the time and have no problem weaning. She just
didn't want her boobs to sag and everyone in the big
city knowing she has a child. Legale tota she is my

cousin, I shouldn't be talking about her business. I'm just the maid.

LETANG: Don't say that. You are not just the maid. My kids are so lucky to have you. The man who is going to marry you is so lucky.

She blushed and looked down smiling.

LETANG: Anyway, let me rush out. Kamoso if you guys wanna go buy some new clothes for my friend's wedding, just let me know, I will come with you. You should get something for yourself too. On me. A little thank you for being a mother to my babies.

He went to his car and drove to the party, finding a lot of guys sitting and drinking.

LETANG: What the fuck kind of party is this? Where are the girls?

EPHRAIM: Girls in a stag party? And don't you have a girlfriend?

PHADZA: Wa bo a batla go letsa Teenage Dreams akere, soon she will be posting Taylor Swift songs

and sharing sublime memes about not trusting anyone.

The all laughed

EPHRAIM: But seriously though, you have a girl, what do you want girls for, you asshole.

LETANG: (laughing) I do have a girlfriend, but she doesn't keep my balls, unlike your wife. And she gone, anyway. I can have a little fun.

PHADZA: Girls should be here right now...

As he spoke one of the guys arrived with a dozen of skimpy dressed girls and the guys started dancing about with them. Ephraim sighed as Letang disappeared to a room with one of the girls, while Bolokang was making out with two at a sofa.

His eyes momentarily caught one of the girls. Thick thighs, small waist... absolutely his type.

He quickly looked away.

That's how shit started. Looking wasn't good.

He felt a tap on the shoulder as the girl he had been looking at came to stand in front of him, straddling

his lap and whispering in his ear.

HER: Hey daddy... I saw you looking...you can have all of this if you want.

He shoved her off and stood up.

EPHRAIM: No thank you. Not interested.

He walked off to get a beer as the girl moved away annoyed.

Olebile arrived at Sapelo's house and after they had put the kids to sleep, they sat to a glass of wine.

OLEBILE: I can't believe I'm getting married! Wow!

LORRAINE: You are paying your own bride price dear, why are you acting surprised?

SAPELO: Lorraine! Ahhh!

OLEBILE: No, it's ok. I don't care about people's opinions. So what if I am helping my man a little in order to get married?

LORRAINE: It just seems a little desperate to me. Plus that man cheats on you.

OLEBILE: Says the woman married to Phadza the whore. Mxim. You live your life fighting girls, and you wanna talk?

SAPELO: But honestly, Lebi... are you sure ka Bolokang? Don't just marry because he proposed, le gone proposing out of guilt for cheating on you.. again...

OLEBILE: What are you trying to say? That a man can't propise to me because ehe loves me?

SAPELO: Wasn't saying that at all. J ust that... I mean... Bolokng isn't a good man.

OLEBILE: What is this, some silly intervention? Ok Mrs Perfect, we can't all have Ephraim the fucking saint, can we...

LORRAINE: Damn... not so saintly after all.

She said as she scrolled on Facebook, showing them photos.

There was a picture if some thick barely legal girl straddling Ephraim, kissing his neck or something... and more pictures of the bachelor party.

LORRAINE: What the fuck... Phadza o tlo go ny*la waitse today.

She said as she grabbed her car keys.

Olebile looked at the pictures, seeing Bolokang kissing some girl. As Lorraine walked out, she ran after her.

Sapelo shook her head sadly and just went to the bedroom and slept.

Why would Ephraim do something so silly and thrown away everything they had like that?

Ephraim finished peeing on a tree at the back of the house as Letang had been busy with some girl in the bathroom.

He could see one of the girls on the phone at a distance.

He walked towards the house fixing his pants when he saw Padzha's wife.

Shit.

Lorraine parked in front of the homestay rental and they hurried towards the house.

They stopped on their tracks and Lorraine looked at him in disgust.

LORRAINE: I thought you were better, you know!

EPHRAIM: Huh?

The girl who had straddled him earlier passed them and waved at him coyly as she went back inside.

Lorraine's phone rang.

LORRAINE: Sasa? Yes... ke yo ebile I caught his red handed, coming back into the house fixing his pants with the same whore right behind him ka ebile ba cheap mabelete ba jelwa ko morago ga mantlo.

He snatched the phone.

EPHRAIM: Sapelo, it's not like that at all.

All he could hear was her sobbing before she hung up.

He tried to call her as he ran to his car, but she just ignored his call.

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[05/29, 14:06] Lynne: BREADWINNWE'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 12

Sapelo wiped her tears and went to wash her face, then put the her son and her friends' kids in her car and drove to her mother's house. She dropped off the kids and came back home, seating at her laptop looking at their wedding pictures as tears streamed down her cheeks.

How the hell could Ephraim do this damn!

Lorraine and Olebile walked into the house and Olebile ran straight to her husband, pulling a girl off from him and slapping her

LORRAINE: Have you no shame? Having your filthy mouth all over a man with a ring?

HER: I don't owe you anything, leash your dog.

Lorraine attacked the girl, punching her as she fell

down. Lorraine sat on her chest and punched her more as Phadza tried to pull her away.

LORRAIN: Keep that same energy in court. I am suing you for marriage wrecking, bitch! Phadza let go home, I am going to pour hot oil on you today when you sleep, nxla, ntja kweena!

PHADZA: Lo, can we talk?

LORRAINE: (sobbing) Fuck you, I'm no talking about shit with you! Kante keeng o ntwatsa mabelete going around showing everyone what pathetic shit I settled for, freaking baby dick nigga.

PHADZA: Wa simolla akere keep that shit up and I'll slap the hell out of you.

He grabbed her hand and dragged her to the car.

In the other side Olebile looked at Bolokang with tears in her eyes.

He quickly pushed the girls off of him, one of the girls falling to the floor.

BOLOKANG: Babe, I swear I can explain...

OLEBILE: I can't do this anymore, Bolokang.

BOLOKANG: Babe, kana it was this dare...a game we were playing and then they boys said...

OLEBILE: So you can't make up your own mind? When you are told to kiss some girls, you just do it? Nxla.

BOLOKANG: Babe, please... Olebile, you know I love you. I don't know why I do things that I do... maybe this whole concept of marriage scares me... I just... I'm sorry. I have nothing for say for myself except that I am sorry. I know if you leave me I will deserve it, but I am begging you... please... I'll do better... I swear on my mother.

Ephraim parked in front of his house at a panicked run and got inside the house, finding Sapelo in the bedroom on her laptop.

EPHRAIM: Babe, I swear it's not like that at all.

SAPELO: So someone photoshopped some barely dresses bitch on your lap?

EPHRAIM: No, she was on my lap, but...

SAPELO: (sniffing) You know, I waited here only so I can see you look into my eyes and lie. Gosh, who knew you were such a pro at it? Is she the reason you come home so late nowadays?

EPHRAIM: You know I come home late because I am at work! Being director is demanding, there is much more work...

SAPELO: With those hips, I bet there is. I feel like I don't even know you right now. First it was the drinking, then you start coming home late, and now you are all over social media with girls? Legone do you not have an ounce of self respect, fucking bitches behind houses like some teenager!

EPHRAIM: Will you shut the fuck up and at least judge me after you heard my version of things!

SAPELO: Don't assume a tone with me.

EPHRAIM: I'm sorry, but right now it's what you need. I didn't fuck anyone! Yes, she was on my lap. Briefly. She came over and sat on my lap, I pushed her off and told her no.

SAPELO: And I bet you have an explanation for

being caught with your zipper down with her behind the house?

EPHRAIM: I went to pee! Letang was getting it on in the bathroom. So I went to a tree behind. She was on the phone or whatever.

SAPELO: (laughing) You know, you have become so good at lies that it's actually convincing!

EPHRAIM: It's convincing because it's the truth.

SAPELO: You are unbelievable!

She snatched both their car keys and headed to her car.

Ephraim grabbed her hand to try to stop her.

Sapelo raised her knee and kneed him hard on the groin, making him fall back screaming in pain.

SAPELO: That's for wasting my time! Nxla. I told you if you wanted to fuck around, don't waste time marrying me. I told you that day you showed up smelling of women's perfume akere. But stupid Sapelo decides to ignore. Ke ha I am laughing stock, my husband is all over Facebook with little whores.

EPHRAIM: (In pain) You kicked me on the balls!

SAPELO: You are lucky I didn't cut the off. Nxla.

She cussed loudly as she got in her car and drove off.

Letang arrived home and found Masedi laying on the sofa on Facebook.

MASEDI: Back so soon?

LETANG: (tipsy) Lorraine crushed the party.

They both laughed.

MASEDI: Hei, that crazy one! What happened?

LETANG: Ke go le fucken, she was slapping Phadza and shit! Ijo! Blu got caught red handed too.

MASEDI: Ijoo! Will the wedding even happen?

LETANG: Owaii, Lebi is desperate for marriage, and Bolokang knows it. As long as he stays respectful, himbling himself, a ipona phos o she will always forgive. I don't know why women don't get this, never let a man see you are desperate for him, he

will take advantage so much.

His phone rang and he picked up.

LETANG: Ao, kwatla...

VOICE: Checka WhatsApp

LETANG: Was s up?

VOICE: There was some fresher's thing and your baby mama and some chicks got wasted, mathaka ne ba re ba ijela hela, if they haven't already. I took her home and she blacked out.

LETANG: Fucking hell! Waits e Boity ene I'm going to kill her. Alright, keep her there for the night. Thanks mate.

He hung up and paced about hyperventilating.

MASEDI: You ok?

LETANG: Nxla, I swear I'll kill that bitch. Boitumelo o ntwatswa keeng? I'll fucking kill her.

He kicked the decorative reed basket hard as he looked at the picture of a skimpily dressed, visibly drunk Boitumelo, with a guy squeezing her ass.

LETANG: See the shit your cousin does.

MASEDI: Kana nna I just don't want to seem like I want to come between you two, but I saw this happening. Boitumelo is going to start living the college girl lifestyle, gape I know my cousin, she likes things too much that one. She likes to be the top girl. You were sufficient when she was just an FSS student, you were buying her phones and stuff while her age mates didn't even get airtime from their school boyfriend. Now it's serious competition with Gaborone girls. Our other cousin, Mosetsana, who goes to uni there is one of these fast girls with foreign men. You saw the car she drives, right? Boity has always converted her life.

LETANG: You are not helping.

MASEDI: You want me to lie to you and tell you she will be loyal? When you can see the picture yourself?

LETANG: Fine, fine, I get it Masedi, she is gonna cheat on me! I love that girl... I love her so much... fuck!

He sat down rubbing his now red eyes.

LETANG: Why the hell can't she be more like you?
Down to earth and love being home.

MASEDI: Owaii, you men never want us the boring
girls akere, you want those who crush your hearts,
enjoy. I'm off to bed.

She came over and hugged him.

MASEDI: You'll be ok, buddy.

She said as she patted him on the back... then gave
him a quick peck on the lips.

Letang looked at her confused. Then shook his
head laughing, then pulled her back, kissing her fast
and rough, their hands all over each other as he
pushed her towards his bedroom.

Ephraim stood around the road not even knowing
where to go. He finally caught a cab and went to her
parents' house.

Nope

She wasn't there.

Not at Lebi or Lorraine's either. Nor was she at Mmathapelo's.

He sighed and asked the cab driver to send him back home. He stopped at the bar to grab some beers, finding his boss there.

HIM: Dude, you look worse for wear.

EPHRAIM: I'm good.

HIM: Oookie... but if you need to talk. I can listen.. Lebakwe is bitching about something, so I am sitting it our here until she is asleep, so I got time.

Ephraim paid the cab guy and sat drinking with his boss.

EPHRAIM: I just...can you believe I just got kneed on the nuts for something I didn't even do?

HIM: Ouch!

EPHRAIM: Yup, hence the limp. I went to a stag party and some girl sat on my lap, somehow someone took a picture and uploaded it to social media. Now I'm in the doghouse.

HIM: (laughing) I can imagine being kicked in the

nuts for pussy I didn't even get. I swear I'd go get some, eseng go swela lehela..

EPHRAIM: (laughing) You are not helping.

HIM: So, now what the hell are you doing here drinking when you should be on your knees begging?

EPHRAIM: I would, if I knew where she is. Checked everywhere.

HIM: I know a guy... give me her phone number.

A few minutes later he got a message back from his correspondent.

HIM: Parked somewhere in Tatisiding.

EPHRAIM: Thanks man. Shit. I should have taken that cabbie's number. She took my car keys.

HIM: You are in luck. I'm having a boring day. So, let's go.

He drove off to Tatisiding, her car parked off the road, empty.

His boss traced the phone and they went to a yard, knocking.

A guy came to open, and immediately he could hear Sapelo sobbing inside.

EPHRAIM: What the fuck? Sapelo? Who the fuck is this?

She came to the door wiping tears.

SAPELO: What the hell are you doing here?

EPHRAIM: You got the nerve waitse! Let's go.

SAPELO: First of all, who the hell do you think you are talking to with that tone? And my car stopped when I was going to my late grandma's plot here in Tatisiding, I wanted to be alone, and the house is complete and just got furnished to rent out so I knew I would get a chance to be alone. I ran out of fuel where you must have passed my car. I tried to get help, couldn't, I waited almost an hour before Dan passed by and recognized me. We used go to university together. He called his brother to bring some petrol so they can fuel for me, and he told me to come wait at his place as it could be dangerous out there this late.

EPHRAIM: Fine, we are leaving.

He said, grabbing her hand.

SAPELO: (pulling her hand back) I'm not going anywhere with you Ephraim. You need to leave.

EPHRAIM: Sapelo, I said...

The guy Sapelo was with got between them.

HIM: The lady doesn't wanna go. So leave.

EPHRAIM: This is my wife, fucker.

HIM: She is her own person, unless she wants to leave...

EPHRAIM: Move, before I make you. All I want is my wife so we can leave.

As he tried to get to Sapelo, the guy shoved him back hard.

HIM: I said no. Sapelo can leave this house at will if she wants, you are not dragging her out of here.

EPHRAIM: What the fuck? Wa lwa jaanong? When I just wanna talk to my wife? Wa lwa?

Ephraim punched him in the nose, and the guy punched back, they went down punching each other

as Sapelo screamed.

A car stopped at the gate and the guy's two brothers came out running as Ephraim got the upper hand and was beating up the guy.

They tried to pull him off, but he kept going at their brother, and eventually they both started punching Ephraim. His boss got out of the car and came running, just going with Ephraim, throwing punches as they went off on the much smaller stature guys, beating the hell out of them.

Someone must have called the police, because the Special Constables arrived a bit. They tried to arrest the whole group. Ephraim and his boss resisted and ended up fighting them too.

Sapelo sat on the floor crying as the actual police by some miracle arrived and Ephraim and his boss were calm enough to actually stay put as they were handcuffed and arrested.

In the morning Ephraim and his boss walked out and they found the boss's elder brother, who was

also the CEO waiting and laughing

BOSS'S BROTHER: (laughing), Eph, I didn't think you had it in you. I just saw the other guys. What did they do?

BOSS: (laughing) You don't mess with a man's wife. I just handed a helping hand when they were trying to gang up. You sorted this out?

BOSS'S BROTHER: Yup. Misdemeanour that was dismissed with a warning on both sides.

EPHRAIM: So, they are not pressing charges?

BOSS'S BROTHER: I told them you'll press charges too if they do. But the difference is you'll have Ledimo money and lawyers behind you. That backed them the fuck up real quick. The Special Constables got settled with a little something under the table, no biggie. Let me drop you fools to your homes. We, I had someone pick up your car, so it's home. And your wife is mad mad. She gonna beat your ass us when you get home.

Ephraim arrived and found Sapelo getting ready to go to the police station.

She ran over and hugged him.

SAPELO: Oh my God, are you ok?

EPHRAIM: (smiling) Ao, does all this mean I'm forgiven?

SAPELO: No, Ephraim. I feel like I just don't know the man you are anymore. You drink, you stay out late, you admitted to doing mushrooms...

EPHRAIM: That was only once!

SAPELO: Once too many times! And now you also fight? And you cheated on me, embarrassed me with your photos with that girl all over social media. I told you nna I don't stand for nonsense. I'm done.

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[05/29, 14:06] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

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Ephraim held Sapelo's hand.

EPHRAIM: No. No Sapelo, this can't be it. Nobody is done with shit! No!

SAPELO: (pulling her hand away) You are hurting me Ephraim

EPHRAIM: You are not leaving me for shit I didn't do!

SAPELO: Do you think I want this you idiot?
(sobbing) Ephraim, I love you, ok? I love you with everything I got, I'm vulnerable to you.

EPHRAIM: Babe, you know I love you too...I...

SAPELO: No, let me say my piece please. I know I can easily be one of those women who stay in a relationship that's hurting them just because they are in love. When it comes to you, I am afraid I can be that. So I need to protect myself...

EPHRAIM: Kana I didn't sleep with that girl!

SAPELO: It's not just that, Eph, and you know it. This has been a long time coming. Since you started all this drinking. I know you Ephraim, I know something is eating you up. But you won't talk to

me. It's affecting our relationship. Everything is just cold, we try to smile and love through it, but it's not the same. At first I thought it was pre wedding jitters... we got married and it still didn't go away. I rationale myself that you were nervous and adjusting to a new position at work and fatherhood. It's been a year and things are the same. I try to talk to you, but you just brush me away and tell me its nothing. This whole girls straddling you shit is just the last straw. I love you Eph, but I think I deserve better... I want better... and this is not it. Not at all. I'm sorry. So, unless you are prepared to tell me what is eating you up...

She stood up and took out her ring, putting it in his hand and closing his hand over the ring, then started packing an overnight bag, tears rolling down her face.

Ephraim wiped the lone tear that ran down his cheek, then came and hugged her from the back, his tears wetting her back

EPHRAIM: I fucked up, Sapelo. I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry, I could never intentionally hurt you... please

don't leave me. There is nothing in the world I fear more than losing you..

She turned around and kissed him, then lead him to seat in the bed.

SAPELO: Talk to me, my love. Please... be honest, you know I'll know if you lie.

EPHRAIM: I...I... I slept with someone to get a contract.

SAPELO: Excuse me?

EPHRAIM: And I might have slept with another, I am not sure.

SAPELO: Huh? What the hell do you mean you are not sure?

EPHRAIM: We did mushrooms! The last thing I remember was us kissing. I don't know what else happened.

SAPELO: You are unbelievable!

EPHRAIM: Sasa, please let me explain! The client was a 66 years old woman we were trying to get a contract from. She wanted to sleep with me in order

to give us the contract. My boss made it clear that if I didn't do it I would lose my job.

SAPELO: Wow. 'My boss made me do it'. Really?

EPHRAIM: Sasa, I had no choice! Please!

SAPELO: You had every single fucking choice! You could have walked away!

EPHRAIM: And lose my job? Yea maybe we would be fine with what you make, but what about my family?

SAPELO: Wow, so again, it's about them.

EPHRAIM: What would you have me do, let my family starve?

SAPELO: I made it clear that I won't stand being cheated on, Ephraim. I told you that if you cheat on me I leave.

EPHRAIM: What would you have had me do! I was going to lose my job!

SAPELO: I would have you prioritize us! Respect me as your wife. Cheating never happen once, you see, you already did it again, what was your excuse with

that one?

EPHRAIM: (looking down ashamed) I was high...
It's possible I didn't even sleep with her... I just...

SAPELO: (shaking her head) You are truly
unbelievable. Next one it will be you were lonely, I
made you do it, right?

EPHRAIM: Sasa, please forgive me this time... I will
never do it again, no matter what.

SAPELO: (sobbing) Ephraim, if I came to you and I
told you I slept with a sixty six years old man
because we needed the money, and then also with
another because I was high. If you saw me all over
social media with a half naked man kissing on me,
would you just take my word and forgive me when I
say I'll never do it again? Answer that to yourself
and see why I need to leave.

EPHRAIM: Sasa... please... please...

SAPELO: I don't even recognise the man I fell for
anymore. You are an alcoholic... you beat people up
for no reason, o lala mo di celleng ko police.

Ephraim, you lied to me and told me what happened

in the US was you did drugs. You sold it so well I believed it. You lied about kissing that woman that day when you did mushrooms. You stood in church taking vows of honesty and fidelity when you knew all too well there was no truth to any of that. Our marriage is based on a lie! How do you expect me to believe you are not lying about the girl from the bachelor party when you have lied so much to me already. Please put yourself in my shoes, see this in my eyes Ephraim. Would you believe anything I say if situations were reversed?

He looked down sadly as a tear fell from his eyes.

SAPELO: Would you?

EPHRAIM: No

SAPELO: I'm sorry Eph... I really am. I love you. But before I become the woman you cheat on and then come back with another lie over and over again, I must leave.

She kissed him and picked up her bag and walked out.

SAPELO: My lawyer will contact you.

Bolokang knealt in front of Olebile, crying.

BOLOKANG: Babe, you can't leave me. Please. You make me a better man... see how much my life has improved since I met you.

OLEBILE: So, why can't you appreciate that Bolokang? Why?

BOLOKANG: I do. I really do... this will never happen again.

OLEBILE: (sobbing) You always say that.

BOLOKANG: This time I mean it.

OLEBILE: I can't, Bolokang. I just... I'm sorry.

BOLOKANG: I just don't see any reason to keep going without you... why keep living when I don't have my heart... I love you, Olebile. Anyway, thanks for giving me the best days of my life.

He picked up his car keys and walked away as tears welled down his face.

OLEBILE: Where are you going? Bolokang! Wait!

Don't say shit like that, what is wrong with you?

BOLOKANG: It's the truth. You are my reason to want to be better. What is the point when I don't have you? Bye. Have a good life. I love you.

OLEBILE: What are you going to do? Bolokang! I am asking you a question, damnit! Bolokang!

She ran over to him and stopped him from getting inside his car, hugging him as they both cried.

Phadza and Lorraine got inside their house with her still yelling at him and slapping him.

PHADZA: Cut that shit out! You are hurting me.

LORRAINE: You think? You think, you piece of shit? How about the way you hurt me? Running around with all these little whores

PHADZA: I didn't even fuck her!

LORRAINE: You think that makes a difference? Huh?

She slapped him hard across the face. Phadza grabbed her and hugged her tightly, then started

kissing her roughly as he spoke against her lips.

PHADZA: I am so sorry babe... I'm sorry, I love you...

He pushed her against the sofa and pulled her leggings and panties down, Lorraine gasping and screaming his name as his tongue hit her nether lips.

In the morning Masedi tried to sneak out of bed as Letang's hand was draped over her.

LETANG: (groggily) Hit and run, huh?

MASEDI: (laughing) I got what I wanted, why hang around?

LETANG: (laughing) I feel so used. Come on, stay a minute more.

He pulled her on top of him and kissed her, sliding her into his morning wood, both moaning as she gyrated her thighs front and back on him.

His phone flashed with a call from the side.

Masedi snuck up and slid to answer, then gyrated

on him as she moaned and called out his name until they both got their release and stayed in bed hugging a few minutes more before the baby started crying.

MASEDI: Oops. My master calls.

LETANG: (laughing) Jealous little bugger. You know what, I'll make breakfast today.

MASEDI: (laughing) I appreciate the offer. And I am not saying you can't cook and all, but... uhmm. Nope.

LETANG: (laughing) Wow... I'm so insulted... seriously. Am I that bad?

MASEDI: The last thing you cooked gave me heart palpitations from all that salt. Let me fix Boycie his bottle and you can feed him while I make breakfast.

She sashayed into her clothes and smiled at him before rushing off to get the baby.

Letang smiled watching her rocking the baby on her shoulder as she made the bottle. It felt so nice to have a woman that made him feel like a man. A

woman who loved his kids and took care of them so well.

Boitumelo woke up in a strange room. The first thing she noticed was that her pants weren't buttoned right.

She went outside the room and saw some guy...

Oh, Letang's friend, Kgosi.

HIM: The bathroom is in that side. There is bread and Oros in the fridge.. Wash up and eat. Then I'll go drop you off.

She went in the bathroom, and when she took off her clothes, she realised her panty was inside out.

What the hell.. Ok, the pants could have been she didn't button them well even though she had not been that drunk. She had literally had one cider that she held on to the whole night. Or at least what she remembered of the night.

But panties? Why would she wear her panties inside out, they had not been in any hurry when they left

home last night.

She got under the shower, realising her thighs were sticky.

Tears welled down her face as recognition dawned on her.

She washed and scrubbed at herself until she was red all over sitting on the shower floor crying.

Finally she dried up and got to the bedroom she had slept in, and took out her phone calling Letang.

Nope.

Nothing.

He wasn't picking up.

Then eventually it was picked up with moaning and grunting. She held her breath and listened as her cousin moaned out her man's name Letang's voice coming in too, the sounds of their bodies against each other... She hung up the call and curled into a ball on the bed, crying.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:06] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 14

Ephraim woke up in the sofa with a beer can and his laptop beside him. The past two weeks had been hell since Sapelo left.

She had made up her mind, and the first week he had gone to see her everyday and tried to beg, but she wouldn't budge.

Finally he had given up, throwing himself at his work, and when he got home, drinking himself to sleep. He had not even told his friends that his marriage was breaking.

Life was so unfair, all his friends who were actually fucking up at the party were now playing happy family with their wives, even Letang, he could tell something was going on with him and his maid.

While he, the one who did nothing, was getting divorced?

His stomach rumbled and he went to check the kitchen for something to eat.

Damn, old as hell leftovers in the fridge. All in Sasa's cute Tupperware's. Some fruits spoiled.

Nothing really to eat. Wasn't there a tuck-shop just outside the LID top management houses?

Ephraim walked over to the tuck shop to buy bread.

He stood behind a woman who was pleading with the tuck shop owner.

HER: The mma I promise I will pay you back. Kana they laid us off ko namola leuba and I haven't been able to find a piece work. Please. My kids will go to bed on an empty stomach, and how will my daughter go to school tomorrow, she just started her period and I have no pads for her.

SHOPKEEPER: Nnyaa Malebogo. You think I don't know you didn't go to the tucks hop near you because you owe them?

HER: I always pay when I find money, you can go ask. It's just that I haven't found anything. Please.

SHOPKEEPER: Move mma, you are wasting my customer's time.

The girl sighed and moved to the side.

Ephraim took out P200 and handed it to her.

EPHRAIM: Get what you need.

HER: Really?

EPHRAIM: Yup

He paid for his bread and as he was walking back the girl ran after him.

HER: Here is the change.

EPHRAIM: Is ok, keep it.

HER: Really?

EPHRAIM: Yup.

HER: I guess now is when I give you my number.

EPHRAIM: For...

HER: I mean... you didn't just give me the money... men aren't like that. At least not in Botswana.

EPHRAIM: It's so sad that we have made our

women believe they have to trade us their bodies just to get help. Chivalry really is dead.

HER: Wa re who died? I'm sorry, was he a relative?

EPHRAIM: (laughing) Never mind. But no, I don't want anything from you. I was raised by a single mom who hustled. We were very poor, but we always went to bed with a full stomach. All eight of us her kids

HER: Eish, men. Koore you people have been ditching us with kids even back then!

EPHRAIM: A man who denies his own child is not a man. My siblings father didn't have much, but he provided. He passed just after my mom gave birth to the last born. The asshole who fathered me apparently was married. I guess he denied me and I vowed to be a better man. Ok, too much sharing.

HER: (laughing) It's ok. I totally can relate, my father ran away when my mom was pregnant apparently. Unfortunately my mom was not like yours, she never cared about me, all she cared about was getting drunk at shebeens.

EPHRAIM: I'm sorry.

HER: Owaii ke life. Are you sure there is anything I can do to show gratitude? I can do anything, washing clothes, cutting grass... I am not lazy. I feel bad just taking your money. And maybe your wife will be impressed and hire me as a maid if she doesn't have one already (she said, looking at his ring)

He thought of the laundry that had piled up since Sapelo left two weeks back.

EPHRAIM: Fine, you can come clean and do laundry. But I will pay you for it.

HER: A piece work? Oh my God, thank you! I will be so grateful. I can come now.

EPHRAIM: Tomorrow morning is fine. I live over there at the LID industry gated houses.

HER: At those big houses?

EPHRAIM: Yea, house 17.

HER: Thank you so much.

Boitumelo sat in her room crying. The past two weeks had been the worst of her life, she hadn't gone to class or out anywhere really, and she barely ate.

Both Letang and her mother had called several times, but she had not answered her phones either.

How could Letang and Masedi do this!

And at the worst moment of her life too.

What was the least painful way to kill yourself, she wondered. She didn't have any pills she could take, could anyone overdose and die on a Grandpa or Panado?

Her room mate walked in and pulled her blankets off.

HER: Something is wrong with you and I am not leaving you alone until you tell me what. This can't go on.

Boitumelo broke down crying and her friend hugged her until she calmed down.

BOITUMELO: My baby daddy is cheating on me...

with my cousin.

HER: Oh my God, Boity I am so sorry babe. I...

BOITUMELO: And I think I was raped...

HER: What? Oh my God, Boity... what how... I mean, you've been home...

BOITUMELO: At the fresher's party

HER: We need to go report it.

BOITUMELO: (sobbing) I don't even know if I was, or by who. I just woke up at Kgosi's place and I knew I had sex. Sex I never consented to.

HER: Boity, you still need to report...the police can find that out. Come on.

Boitumelo stood in the police station alone. She had insisted on it.

OFFICER: Hey beautiful, are you looking for something?

BOITUMELO: I... I... I think I was raped.

OFFICER: Huh? How do you mean? Were you raped or not?

BOITUMELO: I don't know. I woke up feeling like I had sex, my thighs all sticky...

OFFICER: When was this?

BOITUMELO: Two weeks ago.

OFFICER: Two weeks? Nxe nxe nxe nxe! J aanong what were you waiting for not reporting all this while? Who were you with on that day?

BOITUMELO: I woke up at a male friend's house, but before that I was at a party.

OFFICER: Were you drinking?

BOITUMELO: J ust one... I... but I don't remember the rest of the night.

OFFICER: So it's possible you just had a one night stand after getting drunk...

BOITUMELO: (sobbing) No! I was raped. I have a boyfriend, I would never consent to sex with another, I...

OFFICER: Was drunk and things got a little out of hand?

A man in plain cloth walked.

HIM: Ae gents, is that how we treat victims? No man.

OFFICER: Detective...

HIM: Ma'am.. I'm sorry about this. And I will like to listen to your ordeal. He handed her a coke he had in his hand, and led her into his office.

She recounted everything for him.

HIM: I see. I will need to talk to this friend whose place you woke up at, the friend you went to the party with, and the guy you were dancing with who got inappropriate. I totally understand why you would delay reporting, the uncertainty of it, the fear...but the timeline now rules out detecting any date rape drug. Did you take PEP and morning after pill?

BOITUMELO: (crying) Oh my God! No... oh God... what if... oh my God! I just... I was paralyzed for two whole weeks. I just couldn't believe it happened

to me.

HIM: Hopefully you are ok. I can give you a ride and get a doctor friend to attend to you ASAP.

BOITUMELO: Yes please

Masedi woke up and made breakfast, then went over to Letang who was bent over his laptop working on his bitcoin.

MASEDI: What are you up to?

LETANG: I am trading and withdrawing my cryptocurrency. It has picked really well. Now I am putting down some money on this investment here...

She looked away disinterested.

MASEDI: Come eat, breakfast is ready.

He stood up and as he went to seat at the sofa and wait for his food, tried Boitumelo's number again. Kgosi had said she was ok. So she was just ignoring him them.

Well, fuck her. She was a brat anyway, it was never his habit to beg a girl. If Boitumelo wanted to whore it out in Gaborone. Then fuck her. Didn't even have a bother to call and ask about her own son? Just another Charity then. Boy could he pick them! At least Masedi was a real woman. Responsible, loving, caring, submissive, respectful, and took care of his kids so well.

The next day Ephraim was passed out on the sofa with a lot of beer cans around. He must have blacked out last night after all the beer and vodka he drunk.

He was roused by a knock and ran to the door hoping it was Sapelo, then sighed with disappointment when he saw only the girl he had asked to come to clean.

EPHRAIM: Hey.. you...

HER: Malebogo

EPHRAIM: Come in. I think the cleaning stuff is in the bathroom.

She got inside and started at the bedroom, looking at all that mess and pile of laundry. She cleaned everything as she hummed to herself, then when she was done, she cooked and came to serve him.

MALEBOGO: If your wife staying in another place?

EPHRAIM: Yea... I... uhm... we are getting a divorce.

This was the first time he said it out loud, and it hurt so much to hear those words that his eyes misted.

MALEBOGO: I'm sorry.

EPHRAIM: It is what it is.

There was a knock at the door, and when he went to open, he was handed an envelope and asked to sigh for the delivery.

After he sighed, he sat down and opened it.

Oh God, this was serious! The divorce papers. Sapelo was really done.

He tore them apart as he felt his heart break all over again, tears running down his cheeks unabashed until he was on a full on melt down, curled up to himself sobbing mess.

This can't be it, he couldn't lose the live of his life...

He wasn't even aware of Malebogo's presence until he felt her hug him.

She patted his shoulders and repeatedly told him it would be ok.

He wiped his tears and grabbed the bottle of vodka, taking a large swig dry.

EPHRAIM: You drink? Grab a beer. I need a distraction.

Two hours later and several beer cans and an empty vodka bottle, he pulled her into his arms as he kissed her, with Malebogo kissing him back. It took them a few seconds to make quick work of their clothes and he had her naked, on her back in the carpet.

Sapelo sat in her bedroom crying as she looked at their wedding photos.

Her grandmother came in, annoyed.

GRANDMA: Kante jaanong ne mma what are you

crying about ka you are the one divorcing?

SAPELO: Nkoko, just because I'm the one who filed, doesn't mean I don't hurt. The man I love cheated on me.

GRANDMA: Sapelo, kante do you think you are the first woman to be cheated on?

SAPELO: So because other women get cheated on too, I should stay and just tolerate nonsense?

GRANDMA: You are being selfish! You have a child... why do you want to raise him in a broken family?

SAPELO: I want to raise him in a happy family! And I am not happy right now.

GRANDMA: Where ars you gonna find a man who gives you his bank card and tells you to manage his money. Know that when you divorce, there is no mote bank card

SAPELO: I work so hard to be financially dependant because I never meant to have to stay because a man maintains my life. I gave him his card back

anyway.

GRANDMA: Akere mme ke ha you are crying for him. Where is all that money of yours now? You will die lonely.

Her mother stood at the door.

MOTHER: Mme, that's enough. Go water your plants.

The old lady left, and her mother came to hug her.

MOTHER: I am so sorry about her my baby. She is old school.

SAPELO: (wiping tears) It's ok... it's just... today they will serve him divorce papers, and it's hitting me hard. Am I doing the right thing mme?

MOTHER: Sasa, I want you to never stop putting yourself first, before a marriage or a man or what people will say. If you are not happy, you don't force yourself, you hear me? Never. No man is worth sacrificing yourself.

SAPELO: Ee mma

MOTHER: But baby, you are breaking apart. You haven't stopped crying since you came here two

weeks ago. You have even lost weight. Maybe this too shall pass. Maybe it's a stage of grief and you will get over it, I don't know.

SAPELO: (sobbing) I hope so, because it hurts mme... it hurts so bad I feel the pain physically. I can't believe it's over. That I'm losing him... Lost him.

MOTHER: Maybe your heart knows where it belongs. Follow your heart. Don't be afraid to do what it tells you because it goes against your ideals. You are an independent woman who does not stand for nonsense, and I love that. I love the woman I raised. But is this decision in this situation what you really want? Or are you just following a guidebook of the rules you made for yourself? Maybe engaged the heart a little too, this brilliant brain of yours has been ruling on its own over this situation for too long listen to the heart now.

SAPELO: Mme, if I go by that, I will always accept his rubbish because all I really want is to be with him.

MOTHER: I don't see that ever happening. Not my stubborn girl. If your heart allows, give him a second chance. He wronged you, and things may never be the same between you two. But there is nothing that hurts quiet like regret. If you are sure you will never regret this decision. That you will never wonder what could have been... the go ahead, my girl.

In the morning Sapelo woke up and showered. She wondered about Ephraim.

He must be broken. God, the number of times she had hovered over his number wanting to call and check on him...

On a whim, she grabbed the car keys and drove back home, opening the door and walked in.

He laid on the bed with his eyes red and puffy, looking so broken and desolate it made her cry.

SAPELO: Ephraim...

EPHRAIM: Babe, I swear I can be better... I know.

My drinking is a problem, I can get help for it...

SAPELO: Babe, I'm scared... I am so terrified because there is nothing I want more than being in your arms right now. There is nothing I want more than believing everything you say. I don't wanna be another Olebile, held hostage by the love for a man who only ever hurts me.

EPHRAIM: You know I'm not like that... seeing you hurt, hurts me. One last chance, babe... our love is worth that much... please... we are both hurting. If I fuck up even just a little bit... I would not ask anything of you then.

He held his hands open for her and she sighed and sat on the bed as he pulled her closer and snuggled her into a bear hug.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:06] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 15

Ephraim sat in bed looking down ashamed.

SAPELO: Tell me Ephraim, wena koore hela when a beer hits your throat, your zipper goes down?

EPHRAIM: (looking down) Nnyaa mma

SAPELO: Mxim, wa re nnyaa, akere here you are, sleeping with a random you met at a tuck-shop. You know they have a word for that. Slut. You are such a fucking slut Ephraim.

EPHRAIM: Please don't leave me. I'm being honest with everything. I didn't think you were coming back. I'm so sorry.

SAPELO: Le gone to be hitting raw Ephraim! That's just dumb. You are a dumb slut and to be honest I am more amazed at how stupid you are than I am angry. You need to fix this.

EPHRAIM: I have no intentions of seeing her again.

SAPELO: Oh honey, you will do more than that. We are going to go to a pharmacy to get a morning after pill and you are going to make sure she takes it.

EPHRAIM: How will I...

SAPELO: If you can get a random girl to open her legs, you can get her to take a pill. I don't care how you get it done Ephraim, you will do it and make sure it's done. I already have too much baby mama drama with your mother, I don't need any more.

EPHRAIM: (laughing) Are you calling my mother a baby mama?

SAPELO: Well, she acts like one. And I am not laughing Ephraim, ija, so I don't wanna see you kikiki about, you think this is funny? The only thing that should be coming out of your mouth right now is 'yes queen' to anything I say.

EPHRAIM: (trying not to laugh) Yes queen.

SAPELO: (smiling) Good boy. And we are also getting your dumb ass tested for STTs. But on a serious note though, Eph, please don't hurt me again, I'm begging you.. I choose to trust you... please. I know you are the great man I think you are.

EPHRAIM: Never again! I swear.. I am gonna get help with my alcohol issues.

Boitumelo rode in the car with the detective, going to get her results.

When they arrived at the doctor, she looked at him, scared.

BOITUMELO: I know its asking too much, but I am all alone and scared and you are the one person who has been kind so far so will you come in with me?

HIM: Of course.

When her name was called they walked in together and he explained that they were together.

DR: From the results, you are not pregnant, bit you did catch chlamydia...

She started sobbing and the detective squeezed her hand in reassurance.

DR: It is very common and easily treatable. So I have prescribed you medication that can clear it off.

After they were done with the doctor he drove her back.

HIM: So, I will go talk to your friends...find out who did this to you. It's not my case, but these people are not taking it seriously...

BOITUMELO: Can we not talk about this?

Him: I understand. So... I haven't told you my name, have I? Oteng Monthe.

BOITUMELO: Is being a police officer what you've always wanted to do.?

She asked, to distract herself. What if she was HIV positive? Pregnant?

Oh God!

HIM: (laughing) Yup. My grandpa was a detective, now he is the big guy. Othata Monthe.

BOITUMELO: I have heard that name before. Ke ramapodise or something.

HIM: Yup, my father Legacy Monthe, another big guy. I always knew I'd follow their footsteps. What do you study?

For the first time in two weeks she was not thinking of killing herself, he was such an easy guy to talk to.

Ephraim jogged over to where Maleboga had said she stayed. It was a one room that was not plastered and the corrugated iron roofing looked bad.

MALEBOGO: (smiling) Hey...nice seeing you.

EPHRAIM: Malebogo, there is no easy way to say this. What happened yesterday was a mistake.

MALEBOGO: (sadly) I see

EPHRAIM: Great. So, I'm gonna need you to take this pill here to make sure you don't get pregnant.. we both don't need all that.

MALEBOGO: Ke tsa abortion? No thank you. Every life is a blessing.

EPHRAIM: Its not abortion, you are not pregnant. You literally cannot get pregnant a day after having sex. These are to make sure you don't.

MALEBOGO: Ae rra wena you want to trick me with English so I commit abortion. I might not be educated, but I have never heard about pills that

makes sure you don't get pregnant. It's abortion pills and I'm not taking them.

EPHRAIM: Oh my God! Are you serious right now? Take the damn pill!

MALEBOGO: No. I am a Christian. If God is blessing me with another child...

EPHRAIM: You are struggling to care for the three you have! Why burden yourself with another?

MALEBOGO: God will never give me more than I can handle.

EPHRAIM: You already can't handle what you got damnit. Take the damn pill, you are starting to irritate me.

MALEBOGO: No.

He grabbed her and pinned her on the bed, forcing the pill in her mouth and grabbed a cup of water on a nearby table, pouring a little bit in her mouth, then presses her nose together, forcing her to swallow, then stayed there for a bit until he was sure it had gone down.

She laid on the bed crying as he got his car keys and stood up to leave.

EPHRAIM: Well, it was nice knowing you. I really wish you well.

On second thought he stopped and ewalleted her a P2000.

EPHRAIM: I hope that can help you start a little hustle for yourself. Magwinya le di bonzi at a school or something.. Of some food and come sell at LID, there aren't much food options at the farms and factories.

MALEBOGO: (crying) God will punish you for this! I don't want to have an abortion. You are forcing one on me.

He just shook his head and walked off, going home to pick Sapelo off for a date.

Masedi finished washing Letang's clothes. He was taking a nap, and the kids were also asleep.

He's left his phone in the coffee table.

She snuck it off and took it into the toilet, going into his WhatsApp.

He was chatting with several girls in very explicit conversations and a lot of nudes. Very explicit nudes.

Then his messages in the group chat with his boys.

‘Yea, to be honest I think Masedi is it. I enjoy her company, sex is good, she is respectful, beautiful, and she is mature, and loves my kids. I wanna see how she is for a bit, and if she acts right, Imma wife her up‘

‘So why you fucking around’ Ephraim had asked.

‘dude, a man needs variety. Gape nna that’s just who I am. I am a ho I accept myself for who I am.’

She beamed with a smile from ear to ear. Oh my God! He wanted to marry her? Oh my God!

Wow

She needed to be on her best behaviour so he could see she really as wife material.

Ephraim walked back onto their home.

SAPELO: She took the pill?

EPHRAIM: Yup. Done. Dusted. That chapter closed.

SAPELO: It better be, ija

EPHRAIM: (laughing) Yes queen. Come on, let me get you fed, you are in much better mood after you eat... and then I can take you home and feed you proper... two weeks without getting some banna! For a married man, o less!

SAPELO: (laughing) Mxim, two weeks wa eng ka you were busy o fantisa dilo ts a me, slut.

She said, slapping and squeezing his butt as they got out of the car.

After eating when they got home, Special Constables walked in.

EPHRAIM: And then?

OFFICER: Ephraim Thebe?

EPHRAIM: Depends... what's up?

OFFICER: We need you to come to the station. You have been accused of rape.

EPHRAIM: What? By who?

OFFICER: Ms Malebogo Batsile says she was cleaning your place and you got drunk and raped her. Then tried to pay her off with P2000..

EPHRAIM: What the fuck? Seriously? I had sex with her, yes. Consensual sex!

OFFICER: We are gonna need you to come in.

SAPELO: Uh huh! Wa bona akere! They don't say if you lie with dogs you get fleas for no reason. Maybe this will teach you to keep your pants up.

Ephraim shook his head in disbelief as he went to the police station with the officers.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:06] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 16

Ephraim had gone to the police station to hear the development of the rape accusations.

Sapelo sighed thinking about it, then took her umbrella and walked out of the LID staff housing, and into the village, where she found the place Ephraim had said Malebogo stayed.

God, had she really become this woman. Running about fixing an irresponsible man's messes?

But one thing she knew for sure was that Ephraim did not rape that girl, and she'd defend him even if they weren't together.

She walked into the yard as an emaciated mongrel walked past her.

A pre teen girl was doing laundry at the corner of the home, while kids about seven and three played around.

She knocked on the door, and Malebogo opened, her face immediately going sour. She had seen her pictures at Ephraim's house.

MALEBOGI: If you are here to tell me to drop the case, you wasted your time.

SAPELO: Nah...I don't go around cleaning up Ephraim's shit. But I just wanted to thank for finally letting me know the whore that's been fucking my husband. Now I know who to sue for marriage wrecking.

MALEBOGO: Sue me for what, being raped by your husband?

SAPELO: So, you really think that story will stick? Have you ever watched a rape trial? They are gonna grill you like braai. Poke holes in your story until you break and admit it was, consensual. Why are people so silly. You think you just report someone for rape and they get sent to prison? Investigations are carried out. Trials. We engaged the very best of lawyers, they will show that you are lying. You think a just God will ever let you get away with this?

MALEBOGO: (sobbing) You don't know what he did to me. He pinned me down and forced an abortion pill on me.

SAPELO: J es us, girl! You can't have an abortion before you are pregnant! Those were not abortion pills. But what he did was horrible on his part. Still you chose to commit a crime on retaliation. Reporting a false crime is against the law, you are gonna go to jail. Wa itse tota?

Malebogo sobbed sadly.

MALEBOGO: Why does he get to treat me like that and then I am at fault!

SAPELO: Life sucks. Buckle up buttercup. Deal with it. You are going to tell the police that you thought it was rape initially because you were so drunk you didn't remember much. But now you remember consenting. Nobody can send you to jail for having a bad memory, and you clear the name of an innocent man. Now be a good little girl and say thank you. Because I don't have to help you. But you have kids who need you here.

MALEBOGO: I'm not a bad person you know. But your husband had no right to do what he did. I just felt so angry that I wanted to hurt him. But I felt

horrible about the lie.

After talking for a bit, Malebogo watched her leave.

She got ready to go to the police. These were vile people she did not want to associate with again.

She had made herself vomit the pills out the moment Ephraim had left, she would never commit abortion, she said to herself. She was already dumped with three kids and here they were, surviving, what's one more if God decided to bless her?

Masedi washed Letang's hands and brought him food, then sat down feeding Penelope as Phineas slept in his cot near her.

LETANG: (smiling) I must be hitting it right if I am getting my favourites everyday nowadays. You've outdone yourself today, this looks delicious. And I smelt some fresh baking?

MASEDI: I tried a cheesecake, I remember that you loved it the other day at a restaurant.

LETANG: Damn... waitse koore you never know what you are missing in life until its in front of you. I never knew life could be this good. A woman who doesn't stress me, I come home to be treated like a king? You are everything I wanted, you know.

She blushed and looked down.

LETANG: No, seriously Sedi, you are every man's dream woman. And I'm the one who get's to keep you. I can't wait to make you Mrs Thebe. Soon.

She beamed with a smile.

MASEDI: (smiling) Letang, it's only been three weeks.

LETANG: Sweetheart, when you know, you know. We might have been together for only three weeks, but the whole year that I have known you has been a blessing in my life. Nna I know I want a life with you. Kana mma wena you are not sure about me?

MASEDI: No no. Ga ke rialo.. I want that more than anything. I love you. Cheesecake?

LWTANG: Ee, mpha kuku mogats aka...

MASEDI: (laughing) Kids Letang, there are kids here!

LETANG: (laughing) And what did I say ka nna ke raa cake? But I am serious Sedi, tell your family to be expecting people.

He pulled her on his lap and kissed her as Masedi couldn't stop smiling.

After coming from the station where Malebogo had said she was starting to remember things at it was all consensual, he met with Miranda for a work lunch.

As them sat eating and talking about a project, they looked up as they heard his mother.

MMA EPHRAIM: Look at him out here having a good life while I suffer... heela, motho yo ke ngwanyana wa ga Shelby? Gatwe mang kana, I remember that birthmark on your face you were born with... mma-Lebadi, we used to call you that. Shelby's daughter! Shelby who moved here from Bokspits?!

MIRANDA: (smiling) Ee mma

MMA EPHRAIM: You look just like her! She was my very best friend, we worked people's kitchens together and helped each other! Ah! You have grown, you were so little when I last saw you as she moved back home to take care of her mother. You know my son?

EPHRAIM: Miranda is my boss, mme. And we are working here. I will come see you later.

MMA EPHRAIM: Ijo sorry, I didn't know talking to my son was disturbing.

MIRANDA: Not at all, take a seat and order something please. We are almost done anyway.

MMA EPHRAIM: You see a girl with manners. Kana my son has been bewitched by that girl. He no longer has respect for me at all, lets that gold digger walk all over me. He has even stopped caring for me. I don't know how he could be working with beautiful women like you and go for that thing...

EPHRAIM: That's enough mme. We are leaving.

MMA EPGRAIM: Nna rra I am not seating with you, I'm seating with my friend's daughter. Mira mira! Ijoo! You are a big woman now. Last I saw you, your mother was the one who was around your age now. She never left my heart, Shelby. When I saw your face I remembered her immediately. You must tell me all about yourself, kana am I taking your time?

MIRANDA: (smiling) Not at all, It will be a pleasure.

MMA EPHRAIM: K a re le lentswe le le bonolonyana ke Shelby tota! Bontlenya jo bo kana, she could have given me beautiful light skin grandkids kana.

Ephraim sighed and stood up.

EPHRAIM: Mme when you are done text me, I'll drop you home.

MIRANDA: Don't worry, I'll go drop her so we don't keep you waiting. See you on Monday.

After meeting with Malebogo, Sapelo went to meet with Olebile and Lorraine for the wedding preparations.

She watched Olebile try on her wedding dress again and prance about happily.

Sapelo just shook her head and kept quiet. If Olebile wanted to be stupid, there wasn't much she could do anymore.

Olebile's phone rang and she went outside to answers.

They listened in with shock.

OLEBILE: (other phone) But babe, I already gave you half the bride price le madi a dilwana, and I bought my dress and all. Plus the ceremony. What do you need P3000 for? Babe, I understand, but you can't just randomly ask for money when you don't tell me what it is for... a surprise, for me? Awww... babe... you don't have to... ok, I'll transfer something.

She came back in the house smiling and giggling.

LORRAINE: Girl, you know that man is never gonna respect you? What kind of woman pats her own magadi?

OLEBILE: Phadza paid your magadi and he still

doesn't respect you. You are just hating because you are a housewife, o hiwa allowance when I make my own money.

There was a knock and Masedi walked in pushing the kids on a double stroller.

LORRAINE: Wow, now we are doing evil bitches too?

OLEBILE: Sedi is actually nice, we have been talking. I asked her to be here.

MASEDI: I mean, if there is unhappy, washed up, alcoholic bitches like you Lorraine...

SAPELO: Enough, girls! Lorraine, you have had enough, put the wine down. If Olebile wants her here that's all that matters.

LORRAINE: She is sleeping with her cousin's man! And that little girl Boity is very nice, how the hell can you do that to your cousin? The karma that's coming your way.

MASEDI: I don't have time for this shit, my fiancée and I need to go to the tailors.

SAPELO: Fiancée?

MASEDI: (smiling) Yes! Letang asked me to marry him! Lebi, I am sorry I have to go, I can't have my kids around this vile drunkard.

LORRAINE: (laughing) Gatwe my kids! They are not yours, maybe you are even barren. Gape you are the maid! I honestly hate women like you. You need to be your sister's keeper. Don't join a man in doing wrong when you know very well he is being wrong.

MASEDI: Save your motivational speeches for your failing marriage. My fiancée and I are happy, was I supposed to deny our love because he was in a relationship where he was not respected? Bye.

She walked off and loaded the kids in their car seats and drove off.

SAPELO: Ebile she drives now? That girl is so delusional, it's actually sad.

OLEBILE: But you don't know her relationship Sasa, let's not judge, wasn't your man just dealing with a rape case? At least Letang is whoring consensually, and who is to say he won't change when they marry? Look at Bolokang changing his ways...

SAPELO: (laughing) You caught him cheating a month ago! Changing were? Nnyaa, I give up ka wena my friend. Women love to be blind waits e, afterwards when he breaks your heart, you act surpris ed.

In the evening Sapelo got home to Ephraim cooking in the kitchen. Mma Ephraim came from the bathroom and sat on the sofa.

MMA EPHRAIM: So, this is the time to come home?

SAPELO: Dumelang.

MMA EPHRAIM: My poor son, so he is the family provider and also does all the house work and cares for the baby while you go gallivant?

SAPELO: Ija...

She shook her head and went to the kitchen.

EPHTAIM: Hey babe... I was going to call you just now when I finished cooking. She just arrived here and she has a doctor's appointment in Francistown tomorrow, so she will spend the night if it's ok with

you.

MMA EPHRAIM: Ee madam, I'm spending the night. Kana you will chase me out ke itjoboge and call Shelby's daughter, she can give me accommodation. Heela, that girl is beautiful wena! And such a beautiful heart! I wonder how my son passed such a beauty.

EPHRAIM: Mme can you stop! Seriously, this is irritating. You are not gonna come here and insult my wife in her home.

MMA EPHRAIM: Am I wrong to comment on how good a couple you looked having lunch with mma Lebadi?

EPHRAIM: That's it. Come on, I'll drop you home now.

Mma Ephraim took her phone and made a call back to Miranda's number. She called immediately.

MMA EPHRAIM: (sobbing) Mma Lebadi, my friend's daughter. Please come give me accommodation, this witch has told my son to throw me out... I...

Ephraim snatched the phone.

EPHRAIM: I am so sorry about this Mira. She is fine, just dramatic.

He hung up as mma Ephraim sobbed.

A few minutes later there was a knock and Miranda stood at the door.

EPHRAIM: I said she is fine.

MIRANDA: I just... mogolo o ka lla hela Ephraim? I wanted to check if she was ok.

MMA EPHRAIM: I'm not... I am coming with you. You can't stop me wena Ephraim. I will not spend another night here, so that that witch you married can finish me off? Why do you think I am sick? She hates that you take care if me, and wants to get rid of me.

She went to the bedroom and came with her small back, which Miranda carried to the car for her as Ephraim looked in disbelief.

Miranda came back.

MIRANDA: I am so so sorry Eph, I mean no

disrespect to you, but sometimes bagolo you just have to indulge them o hets e kgang.

She smiled and winked at him, then walked to the car.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:06] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 17

Mma Ephraim followed Miranda in the house, and looked around as she went to fix her a room.

She sighed sadly looking at a wedding photo with some fat white man, and there were other photos with two blonde little girls.

Miranda went to the kitchen and fixed the old lady dinner, then came to wash her hands and give her food sitting down with her.

MMA EPHRAIM: Ee you are married?

MIRANDA: (sadly) getting a divorce. I filed a week

back when he cheated again.

MMA EPHRAIM: Ao shem, you poor child. It's his loss. Heela mme nta you gave birth to makgoanyane?

MIRANDA: They are not mine. I met him when they were only two weeks old, twins. Their junkie mother dumped him with them and ran back to the South Africa. I helped him raise them from then on when he was all alone. Eventually we married and I am the only mother they know. I thought we were happy, but he cheated for the first time and things just went downhill from there. Our marriage was never happy, but I tried to be the good wife even when he cheated again. A few week back he told me he was getting back with the mother of his kids. Then just took the kids and left. I've cried myself to sleep for so long. I haven't even told anyone I'm divorcing. Thankfully I finally found the strength to file for divorce.

MMA EPHRAIM: Aww, don't cry my girl. You are still young and beautiful. Your husband is out there. Maybe right in front of your eyes... maybe he too

made wrong choice.

She looked at her with a smile.

Ephraim came to seat near Sapelo.

EPHRAIM: I'm so sorry about that Sasa...

SAPELO: I am way past blaming you for your mother's behaviour. But who was that girl?

Ephraim looked down.

SAPELO: Ephraim! Is she an ex or something?

SAPELO: No, she is a colleague.

SAPPELO: And? How does she know your mother?

EPGRAIM: Seems like her mother and my mother used to be best friends back in the day. They just met yesterday and spent hours talking.

SAPPELO: There is more, isn't there? You were so uncomfortable when she showed up. What's up?

EPHRAIM: (sighing) She is the girl I did mushrooms with that time...

SAPELO: Wow, so your evil witch of a mother who happens to hate me is playing buddy-buddy with a girl you probably shagged. Wow.

EPHRAIM: Sapelo, kana I...

SAPELO: Don't take it the wrong way, I don't blame you for anything, I'm just frustrated. Come here...

Boitumelo laid in he room when she got a text from detective Oteng.

'Hey, how are you doing.'

'Not bad, you found the person who assaulted me?'

'Not yet, there are a lot of missing links, and I got a pile of work, my bosses want me to leave this case to the uniforms and focus on my cases. But I know they won't take this seriously. I promise you I'll find the person who did this to you.'

'Thank you... have you uhm.. eaten? And I am totally not hitting on you I just want to go to eat and don't want to be alone. My roommate is at her boyfriend's, so if you want to go out and get

something to eat...

'I'd be delighted. Haven't eaten in a bit. Picking you up in a few. Decide where we are going.'

She hung up and her mother was calling.

What on earth did she want now?

BOITUMELO: (sighing) Mommy dearest?

MOTHER: Boitumelo, Letang's family have called our family saying they wanna come ask for Masedi's hand in marriage, what the hell is going on?

A tear ran down Boitumelo's face as she heard that.

BOITUMELO: Ahh, nna mama I don't know.

MOTHER: Koore I took that snake into my home trying to give her dumb ass an education, and she still failed, then you find her a job o mo ntsha mo morakeng and what does she do, steal the father of your child!

BOITUMELO: (sadly) It's ok mama. I uhm... I have to go.

She hung up and curled into a little ball on her bed,

crying hysterically. How could Letang do this?

She'd given her very best to the man, her love, her heart, her virginity... hell, she didn't do as well as she would have in her exams if she hadn't been distracted by him...

No this couldn't be true.

She took out her phone and called him several times without it being answered.

Finally she sent a text.

'Babe, I don't understand. They say you are marrying Masedi? I know I have been quiet, I was going through a lot, and you ignoring me, especially after I called and heard you sleeping with my cousin. That morning... When I called. Babe, I was drugged and raped. I pretty much have been shutting everyone out because I am so depressed I have been thinking about suicide. But I am sorry I didn't tell you earlier. Just sulking was immature of me. We can start over again. I forgive you. Please answer my call. I love you Letang.'

After thirty minutes, she received a message back.

‘Raped, really? You sleep around and call it rape? I feel sorry for the poor guy you are going to lie about saying he raped you. To be honest, you are not what I am looking for, you are just a little kid that I wanted to have fun with, but you tried to trap me with a child, I never even loved you if I’m honest. I found a good wife in your cousin, she is a real woman, that’s why I am even marrying her so fast. Please respect my decision and stay away from my family and I.’

She read the message over and over again, breaking down crying anew. So she had been just a toy to Letang? He uses her, oh God!

Masedi was cleaning when Letang’s phone kept vibrating. When she finally picked it up, a message came from Boitumelo.

She cussed angrily and went to the toilet, locking herself in and sat there replying with Letang’s phone. Boitumelo needed to learn her place, she was just a useless baby mama while Masedi was becoming wife.

After replying, she deleted both messages and cleared the log of calls from Boitumelo.

When she came out Letang was coming out from the bedroom.

LETANG: Babe, have you seen my phone?

MASEDI: Oh, you let it in the bathroom counter, I was just about to come give it to you. Here you go.

LETANG: Thanks babe. Let me go check on the guys ke a boa hela jaana. Love you.

In the morning Miranda served mma Ephraim breakfast and drove her to the hospital.

MMA EPHRAIM: Hee, you are taking me to the expensive one? I can't afford that.

MIRANDA: You will never see a specialist at Nyangabgwe. Don't worry, it won't come to much, and I know how to manipulate it to claim if from my medical aid ka nna I never get sick.

MMA EPHRAIM: Wow! Waitse men are stupid, how did Ephraim pass you by?

Miranda blushed and looked down.

Miranda sat with her as the doctor booked her for an afternoon CT scan, and Miranda stayed with her until she was admitted for immediate removal surgery in the morning as the doctors said they were big and a risk.

After she helped her settle in her room, Miranda called Ephraim.

EPHRAIM: Mira?

MIRANDA: Your mom has been hospitalised.

EPHRAIM: What?

MIRANDA: Wait e the way you told me this woman struggled to take care of you a ka teng, I can't believe you let your wife estrange you from her so much that she has been living with excruciating pain for weeks and you never even knew. She says she was afraid to call in case she caused trouble in your marriage. Ga o dire sentle Ephraim.

EPHRAIM: My mother is a drama queen.
Nyangabgwe?

MIRANDA: No, I went private...

EPHRAIM: Miranda, why would you...

MIRANDA: You can afford it and you know that too. What are you afraid of, Hitler will refuse with your money ka gatwe she holds your cards? Ke taa duela ee. But just ask yourself whether she would have her mom wait for a six month appointment or she will take her to private? I will text you the details.

She hung up and went to buy mma Ephraim some food.

MMA EPHRAIM: Is my son coming?

MIRANDA: Ah, nna I don't know, I told him. I hope he will come.

MMA EPHRAIM: You are an angel, you know. I would have died still waiting for an appointment in Nyangabgwe. See, these people just say, ok, tomorrow.

MIRANDA: It shouldn't be like that Ephraim earns a lot tota...

MMA EPHRAIM: Hae he is bewitched! You should

see the big fancy house at that girl's parents. The nice car her father drive, they live like kings on my son's expense, while I suffer.

MIRANDA: It's not right. On brighter news, my mom was so excited to hear that I met you, she wanted to surprise you and come here, she arrives tomorrow. Maybe that will cheer you up.

MMA EPHRAIM: Oh my dear old friend! I can't wait to see her, you keep blessing me! God will bless you richly.

Ephraim ran in.

EPGRAIM: Mme, why didn't you yell me you were having pains.

MMA EPHRAIM: Because you care? Mxim? Thank God mmaLebadi was there, otherwise I would have fallen on the toad and died or something. She is a blessing this girl, she really is. Did you know she is leaving that good for nothing man? She is practically single. And those kids aren't even hers! How lucky a man will be to have a woman like her!

Finally when visiting hours were over, Ephraim

walked Miranda to her car.

EPHRAIM: Thanks... don't worry about the bill, I'll settle it and pay you whatever you've already spent.

MIRANDA: It's ok... I know people who managed to have it put on my medical aid.

EPHRAIM: (laughing) You sneaky one. You know that's illegal, right? But honestly thanks.

She smiled and squeezed his palm.

MIRANDA: What are friends for. Alright. See you at work.

She got in her car with a smile on her face. She deserved a good like Ephraim.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:06] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 18

On Monday after office hours Ephraim was collecting his stuff to head home when Miranda

stood at the door.

EPHRAIM: Hey... I was just leaving.

MIRANDA: You didn't go see mma Ephraim today.

EPHRAIM: Miranda, I am being as polite as I can be here when I say this. Can you get the fuck out of my family's shit? Seriously, it's irritating.

MIRANDA: (laughing) Well, you are in a mood.

EPHRAIM: I'm serious, Miranda!

MIRANDA: I was only trying to help. And I can see my mother's friend if I want.

EPHRAIM: As long as you don't get any ideas. Do you think I didn't get what my mom was hinting at last night? I am married and happily so. I am sorry I have to be blunt here. I have no interest in you. At all. You are just not my type even if I wasn't married.

He picked up his things and walked off stopping at a Spar to pick up some chocolate for Sapelo.

After dinner Letang sat on the table working on his

laptop while Mas edi browsed on he phone for wedding things.

MASEDI: Babe, what about these rings?

LETANG: Seriously? They are too expensive.

MASEDI: But you can afford them, I know you make a lot of money with whatever thing you do on your computer.

LETANG: Sedi just because we can afford something doesn't mean we should get it.

MASEDI: But have you seen Sapelo's ring...

LETANG: (sighing) Sapelo has two businesses. That's three incomes into their household! And the way my uncle was talking it looks like your family wants to charge me a lot. I don't want debt, I wanna pay for everything cash.

She sulked and laid on the sofa looking sad.

LETANG: Fine, Mas edi. I know women value these type of things. We will get those rings. But you are gonna have to find a less expensive dress. Aww, babe, don't sulk. Ga ke omane, I just want to give

you and the kids a good life, you know? And that means saving. Come here, let me show you our money.

She reluctantly went and sat on his lap.

LETANG: You see, this is my salary. I use it to pay for things around the house. Then here is my cryptowallet. I mine bitcoin here and...

MASEDI: Oh, so you also work in a mine?

LETANG: (laughing) No... mining cryptocurrency is... ah, never mind. But I was thinking babe, maybe you want to start you own little thing? I see banyana ba rekisa dilo on Facebook. You like kids, I can buy kids products and you can sell.

MASEDI: But we are not poor Letang, we have money, you just showed me your account, why will I do that...

LETANG: Not because you have to Sedi... I just thought...

MASEDI: I don't want to be like these women whose husbands can't take care of them ba tsamaya ba

rekisa diaparo mo. Mma Ephraim kana ne ba re ba kopa P500.

LETANG: P500 for what Sedi, I gave her money. She is using you because she knows if she comes directly to me I will say no.

MASEDI: Babe, how can you let your mom suffer when you make so much... you have a lot in your account.

He just shook his head annoyed. Her concept of money was so annoying. She believed using any money they have. She had what his mentor called ‘a poor man’s mentality’. Whenever she had money she wanted to use it.

He used to put a lump sum on her account to use for the household, and they would run out in days, she’d buy useless things. Now he put on small amounts weekly instead.

He sighed and went back to his work. Her lack of ambition was seriously frustrating. Yes they did not need her financial input, but come on, didn’t she want more than just bathing kids?

Sapelo was closing down her workshop when she felt Ephraim hug her from the back and kiss her.

SAPELO: (smiling) What are you doing here?

EPHRAIM: I can't pick my wife up? I love you.

He said as he handed her some chocolate.

SAPELO: (smiling) Ok... is it my birthday or something?

EPHRAIM: It's just... I love you. From now on I only want to see you happy!

His phone rang. It was Miranda.

He just looked at it and ignored it, continuing to kiss Sapelo, opening the workshop door and leading her inside.

SAPELO: It could be work...

EPHRAIM: Fuck her... Miranda annoys me sometimes.

SAPELO: Why? Did something happen between you to? Did you sleep with her again?

EPHRAIM: No, Sasa... I'm not letting you do that. You are not that kind of woman.

SAPELO: (sobbing) I wouldn't be if you didn't bring me to this place Ephraim. Now I find myself questioning you... us, so constantly.

He took both her hands and kissed them, then held them as he looked in her eyes.

EPHRAIM: And I don't blame you, my love. I did this to us. I got us here. You have every right to not trust me. Thank you for giving us a chance to fix things. And I promise I am going to. I will earn your trust again.

He pulled her closer and kisses her, then lead her to the car.

In the morning Masedi walked into mma Ephraim's hospital room with a lot of snacks.

MASEDI: Mme, how are you?

MMA EPHRAIM: Sedi! My girl! What do you have for me in there my girl? Hee? All my favorite le KFC

tota?

MASEDI: (smiling) We want you to get well fast. And the kids wanted to come see their grandma.

MMA EPHRAIM: Thank you... heela, dis you manage with that little help I asked for? Kana Letang o bogale wee! Monna wa gago Masedi! Hei! (laughing) Nna ebile I'm afraid of asking for anything from him.

Masedi handed her the P500

MASEDI: (laughing) Ao, mme kana he will not say no.

MMA EPHRAIM: Nnyaa wena wa mo kgona akere. Hei! My son a ta a bona mosadi tota! O mongwe o le not even to come check on me!

Ephraim walked in the office and went to the pantry to get some coffee.

Miranda walked in and just passed him without saying hi.

Oh well. Less shit on her day, she was annoying just

kept ignoring her until she spoke.

MIRANDA: I'm ignoring you

EPHTAIM: I am so grateful. Can it go on for several years?

She laughed and squeezed his shoulder as he sat at the table having his coffee.

MIRANDA: Ephraim, am I wrong to help a friend's mother? Why are you treating me like I'm a bad person?

EPHRAIM: I'm not saying you are a bad person Mira. I just don't want you getting ideas, I love my wife. Don't let my mother make you think otherwise.

MIRANDA: Mxim... nna rra it's not like I want you. I was just trying to help.

She fumed and walked back to her office angrily. What the hell did that bitch of a wife say to him when he got home that night after the hospital. They were getting on well one minute, and the next he was treating her like she was the plague.

Boitumelo stood in front of the university's counselling department with detective Oteng.

BOITUMELO: I changed my mind, I don't want to do this.

OTENG: Boi, come on... you can do this. I look at you and I see a strong brave girl... what happened to you...

BOITUMELI: I don't even know what happened to me!

OTENG: It doesn't make it any less painful. You were assaulted. You need help to process it. You are strong enough to get that help

BOITUMELO: So all you see is a victim? A stupid little girl's case that you just have to solve?

OTENG: No, please. Don't think like that. I am here with you because I want to be. Not because you are a case.

He squeezed her hand with a smile.

OTENG: You can do this. I believe in you. Come on.

After work Sapelo went straight to Spar to get a few groceries. She she noticed the Miranda girl. The bitch looked at her and started laughing as she talked to her friend

MIRANDA: I am not kidding, that's Ephraim's wife.

FRIEND: Shem, o mo rona jang! O setswananyana hela. Eph is hot, I had expected his woman to be like Wetsho's wife or something. A proper slay mama.

Sapelo looked at her clothes and almost laughed. She had gone to the farms today to get fruits and vegetables, and negotiate with the struggling farmer about buying the land he had and turn it into an events garden. The guy had said someone had already bought it.

She focused back on the fancy looking girls Ephraim worked with. They were all skinny and made up and in business suits.

She was wearing her old leggings, an old t shirt and a headscarf with flip flop. She laughed to herself. No wonder that plain looking flat ass bitch was

laughing she looked a mess.

Not that she was looking to compete. She knew her man, and that just wasn't his type...

Gosh, since they had a child and her business grew, she was always ever so busy that her husband was neglected sometimes.

She texted her mom that she won't be picking the baby up today, then got home and started cooking Ephraim's favourite food, then changed into lingerie and sat seductively at the dining table when she heard his car park.

Ephraim opened the door and walked in holding a flower bouquet.

EPHRAIM: (smiling) Damn... niiiice... and the food smells nice too.

She stood up and came to kiss him.

Ephraim handed her the bouquet with a card.

SAPELO: Chocolate yesterday... flowers today. Who are you and what have you done with my husband.

EPHRAIM: (laughing) New and improved babe...

read the card.

She opened the envelope and screamed in excitement.

SAPELO: Oh my God babe! You bought the land! Oh my God babe, where did you get the money, it says it's fully paid for.

EPHRAIM: Bonuses. I guess the CEO likes me.. I got a whole year's worth in bonuses!

SAPELO: But it's in my name... Ephraim...

EPHRAIM: Because it's yours babe... I want you to have everything you desire. Now that that's out of the way...and I take li'l man is not here... shall I get what I desire?

He pinned her to the wall, kissing her...

SAPELO: (moaning) Babe... dinner...I...

EPHRAIM: Let's start with dessert...

He said as he opened her front clasp bra and...

{EXPLICIT}

1 year later...

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1000/100/10

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NB: Explicit content is posted at 9PM. MOKWADI
WA MOTSWANA EXTRAS

[05/29, 14:06] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 19

Sapelo nervously looked at herself in the mirror. She wore an off shoulder black and silver dress that hugged her curves nicely.

SAPELO: Babe, you sure this is ok?

EPHRAIM: You are literally gonna be the most beautiful woman in the garden...look at you!

SAPELO: What if people don't like the garden...I am

so nervous...what if something goes wrong... the food could be...

EPHRAIM: That place is paradise babe! And the setup demos for how different kind of parties and picnics will look is just breathtaking. Everything will be fine. He kissed her and looked at himself in the mirror as she fixed her tie.

As they walked out to their car, a little skinny girl about twelve or thirteen stood at their gate.

HER: Dumelang...I'm looking for a piece job.

Sapelo looked at the kid, wondering where she had seen her before.

EPHRAIM: Kids these days, what does she know about piece jobs? Gatwe they start drugs early. Go home, kid.

HER: I swear I am not on drugs sir. Please. I can clean and wash clothes and do anything. Please, I just need a little money to feed my family. My mother just had a baby three months back and she has been sick since, she can't go work... and my siblings are eight and four. We have no one else...

please. I have knocked in every house here and they chase me away...in the village people don't have piece jobs. Please

Tears ran down her face as she told her story.

HER: Ma'am, please. If you don't help we will go to bed hungry again.

Sapelo opened her purse and handed her everything she had in it, then took Ephraim's, wallet and gave her the money from it.

SAPELO: It's P321 altogether. I don't have any piece job, but take this and go home, it's late and dangerous..

HER: Thank you so much ma'am. Thank you.

She ran off happily.

EPHRAIM: What if she was lying?

SAPELO: She wasn't. Her eyes tell the story of a child who has known suffering. I wish I had asked where she stays so I can at least speak to a social worker about her.

They got in the car and drove off with Sapelo still

wondering where she had seen the kid.

Letang watched as Masedi got dressed, her bump big in the dress she was wearing.

MASEDI: Babe, kana that Stokke stroller is on sale... it comes with the bassinet thing for when the baby is still small, and a car seat. Sapelo has it for Aedirwe, and it's so nice. People always stop to look at it when she pushes it around.

LETANG: I said no, Masedi. We are not buying a P30 000 stroller set. And Ephraim got it as a gift from his boss Kaedi Ledimo when we threw him a daddy shower. Sapelo would never pay for something so ridiculously priced, imported and all. We have two strollers plus that double one. Penelope is a big girl now, she walks on her own, doesn't need a stroller. You can use the twin one for Boycie and the baby.

MASEDI: (sobbing) why are you yelling at me, I was just asking.

LETANG: Hey, babe... don't cry, ok. I wasn't yelling.

Come on Sedi...

He pulled her into a hug and kissed her.

Boitumelo sat in Oteng's car, reading the park name as they drove on.

BOITUMELO: 'Lush Gardens'...it's breath taking.

OTENG: Wa re ke ya ga mang?

BOITUMELO: This other very sweet lady, married to my baby daddy's brother. I met her a week ago and she invited me to the opening. I'm so nervous...

OTENG: About your baby daddy.

She nodded sadly.

She had not come back to Francistown since she last left to start university... had not seen her baby. But she had been going through such a rough time mentally that it took her this long to get herself together.

They walked into the party holding hands as more people arrived.

Miranda arrived at the park and walked over to the table where the Ledimo brothers sat with their wives. A few more people from the company had come. Ephraim had not given him an invite, but she had come with her friend as a plus one. She wanted to see the disaster that basic looking wife of Ephraim's had cooked up.

For the past year Ephraim had gone to great lengths to avoid her, so they had hardly ever had time alone.

After Sapelo made a welcome speech and people got refreshments, they were all invited to tour the garden.

Mirana walked around with Ephraim and other colleagues as Sapelo approached them.

SAPELO: Thank you so much for coming you guys. Nice to meet you all.

CEO: Our pleasure Mrs Thebe... this place is breath taking. I think we should have the annual LID picnic here. Yes. We'll do it here, Mira, communicate that to events please. They are under your department

akere.

MIRANDA: I don't think it's that good... we can find another.

CEO: No, I want this one. Lock down the dates. Plus I will talk to the training department, they may be looking into something like this for long term, they have continual team building events. And my son will be home for his 18th, my P. A will contact you about it Mrs Thebe.

SAPELO: (smiling happily) my God, thank you so much. Thank you... just let us know your dates and you got it.

Two other employees wanted to book, one for her son's fifth birthday, the other for her wedding.

Letang walked from the toilets when Boitumelo approached him.

BOITUMELI: Hi

LETANG: Hey

The stood in awkward silence for a bit.

BOITUMELO: Ke kopa go ta go thola ngwana.

LETANG: The one you abandoned?

BOITUMELO: I didn't abandon him. I was in a bad space Letang. I know you don't believe I was raped, but...

LETANG: Raped? What? When?

BOITUMELO: Mxim. Don't act please. Akere you said I was a whore that slept around when I told you I was raped.. Whether you believe me or not ga go re sepe. But it really shuttered me.. I actually attempted suicide twice. Afterwards I was scared I was a danger to him... what if I hurt him? I kept to myself while I fought my depression.

LETANG: You literally never told me you were raped, Boi... oh my God. I am so sorry. When did this happen? Sometimes Penelope plays with my phone maybe she deleted the message.

BOITUMELO: It was last year. That night I spent at Kgosi's.

LETANG: He sent me a photo of you with some guy.

BOITUMELO: I danced with that guy and he got a little too touchy, refusing to let me go. Kgosi came and punched him, then took me away. He held my drink while I went to fix myself in the toilet. I came back and took my drink. The last thing I remember was drinking seating with him. I woke up at his house with my clothes all wring and I could feel I had sex. The detective who has been working on the case believes Kgosi raped me, but there no proof as I took two week to report. No DNA evidence, no rape drug proof, and I don't even remember anything. All I had was an 'I think I was raped'. The rape itself hit me hard, especially that in that morning when I woke up in that house, the one pers on I needed to make me feel safe when I called, somehow the called picked up and I got first class ticket to an audio of you fucking the ever living shit out of my cousin...

Tears flowed down her cheeks as she spoke.

Letang reached out and brushed them away.

LETANG: Boity... I'm so sorry...

BOITUMELO: I was devastated.. I tried to kill myself, but when I found out you were marrying my cousin, then learnt that the man who raped me was gonna walk free? It destroyed me. Set me back to ground zero with my therapy. I was so depressed I got admitted to a Sbrana and had to drop off a semesters. I didn't abandon my son. (sobbing) I didn't abandon my son.

Letang pulled her into a hug. When he spoke, his voice broke with emotions.

LETANG: I'm gonna kill Kgosì. I am so sorry Boity... I'm so sorry...

He held her tightly and she could feel his tears wet her shoulder.

LETANG: I am so sorry...I had no idea...

Masedi walked over.

MASEDI: Is everything ok?

BOITUMELO: Bye, let me know when I can come to see my son.

She walked off and found Oteng.

Masedi looked at Letang with red eyes.

LETANG: I just... she has been through so much... I just... excuse me. I need to go to the toilet.

He walked off leaving her confused.

MASEDI: Letang! But you just came from the toilet.
Letang! Letang!

After the party, Ephraim and Sapelo drove home chatting excitedly ay how successful the party was. The garden was fully booked for the next four months already.

SAPELO: Oh my God! I still can't believe that! Wow! It went so well.

EPHRAIM: You got the Midas touch, my queen.

He parked his car and came over, blindfolding her and leading her to the garage.

SAPELO: (laughing) And then?

EPHRAIM: I know you need the trucks for stock and all, but babe, you need an actual car that is not

for work.

He said as he removed the blindfold and handed her the key.

SAPELO: Oh my God! Oh my God, Eph, where will I even drive this, when I am. Not working ka di truck you drive me around or borrow me yours...that's why I gave my father my car.

EPHRAIM: And I think my queen should have a car, just because... do ypu like it?

SAPELO: Are you kidding! I love it! But babe...

EPHRAIM: Also, you are looking at the CIO of LID industry.

SAPELO: First of all what is even a CIO

EPHRAIM: (laughing) Hei, mmaditapole ruri. Chief Investment Officer. I manage the company's investments activities. Mr Ledimo is really impressed I guess. The previous CIO retired, and it had taken him ten years to get there...his next in line was retired too because Mr Ledimo wants his own team of fresh minds, not one he inherited from

his late dad. So, yup. C level babe!

SAPELO: Oh my God! Babe, I'm so proud of you!

EPHRAIM: I owe it all to you Sasa. I'd still be a senior manager losing my mind without you. Come on, take me for a spin in your new machine.

They got in the car and drove off. As they passed their gate, Sapelo remembered the little girl from earlier, wondering where she had seen her before.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:06] Lynne: BREADWINNWR'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 20

Sapelo woke up to Ephraim in the kitchen with smoke filling the room.

EPHRAIM: Ouch, ouch, Ouch! Fuuuck!

He looked so sexy wearing just boxer shorts, his well toned chest bare, his biceps flexing nicely as he moved about.

He dropped the pan in the sink yowling as Sapelo bent over with laughter.

SAPELO: (laughing) What on earth are you doing?

EPHRAIM: I was trying to make you a shakshouka... the recipe here in this page says...

SAPELO: (laughing) Looks more like a shak- shouldn't. Seat down my love, I'll make you some breakfast o tlogele tsa Google. Then afterwards I am driving you to work on my new car.

He pulled her closer and kissed her.

EPHRAIM: How does a man this lucky? Waitse nna toga ke a go ikopela go ntsha bogadi la bo bedi ke re nnyaa the borra Mmopi ga ke a le leboga sentle.

There was a knock at the door and Ephraim sighed.

EPHRAIM: The fuck do people want this early.

Seriously?

He went to open to his uncle.

EPHRAIM: Malome...

HIM: Hee monna, ke go ntsha mo go yone ne o sa

apara jaana.

Ephraim had always thought his uncle was a preview of what his life would have ended like if he had not met Sapelo. As first born, the man had worked the South African mines, sending back almost all he earned to his mother and alcoholic father to take care of his siblings. Because he had so much responsibilities, he never married until he was retired and came back home, then did odd jobs to help raise his sisters children until he was too old to work and Ephraim was working and took over. It was a vicious circle.

The old man had cried when both Ephraim and Letang married, he had told them that was all he ever wanted for them. To have a life better than his.

EPHRAIM: (laughing) Ao, malome. You are here early.

MALOME: I caught the first combi. I wanted to talk to you. You know I am not too good with these cellphone thing.

EPHRAIM: Come in uncle...

Sapelo came from the bedroom changed from her pajamas and went to make tea.

SAPELO: Malome... dumelang.

MALOME: Oh, ngwetsi yame! You are taking good care of this boy, look at him, he is now starting to gain weight.

EPHRAIM: (laughing) That is so not a compliment malome! I dedicate my life to the gym!

MALOME: (laughing) Okho, o nonne monna tsamaela koo.

He sat down and thanked Sapelo for the tea.

MALOME: Seat with us makoti. I have come to beg you two to talk to Letang to reconsider. Kana mmago has convinced mogatsa Letang to take her a te go baa botsetsi. I don't think I need to outline why that is a bad idea.

EPHRAIM: Eish...

UNCLE: Yes, you know how your mother is. Within a few days when things don't go her way, she will start fighting Letang's wife, causing problems in his

marriage. Nothing made me happier than seeing you boys marry and start your own life, I was scared you will be trapped helping at home. Akere your sisters children ba tshwana hela le mmago they don't want to involve the fathers just like her, wena mme kana rrago ke mohumi. Ija, old mind trailing again. What I wanted to say is, she will ruin Letang's marriage. I think he just gave in to his wife, tell him it's a bad idea.

EPHRAIM: I will talk to him.

MALOME: Oh, and MmaThapelo is expecting and she says the baby's father accepted. On the weekend you two le mpate with your aunt from Serule and her husband re ise mahoko. I better not hold your day.

Ephraim smile at how the old man always involved Sapelo in the family things, never treating her like an outsider the way the rest of his family except for Letang and MmaThapelo did.

SAPELO: Uncle, let me pack some buns I baked yesterday so you can just have tea and not cook for

lunch. And some other food I made and froze. You remember how the microwave works akere?

MALOME: (laughing) Hei, mogatsa Ephraim batho! Nna ha ke lekgoa jaaka lona. Those microwave things I heard they explode. I just warm food in the stove, at least that one I'm not afraid to use.

SAPELO: Is electricity still there?

MALOME: Ee, akere nna it only works for the fridge and the light and that stove, unless when your husband's nieces and nephews come and they will waste it. Thank you my children.

SAPELO: I will go drop you off. The girl who comes to clean, does she still come? I already paid her, she better come.

She said as she went to pack some cooked food for him, she had meant to drop off several tumblers of cooked frozen food later so he would just keep warming it up and not have to cook.

MALOME: Hale o bone mosadi, my boy. Eseng tjatjaraga e le ya ga Lesang. Lesang's wife, even when she tries to act humble you can just see that

she is just like my sister, that's why they get on so well. This one is a woman. You better hold on to her.

Letang spent the whole day at work just thinking of Boitumelo. Oh God, what she must have been through!

And to hear that... on the morning she had been raped. God, he'd promised her to take care of her... and all he did was hurt and betray her.

He smiled thinking of her gentle smile and soft voice... seriously what possessed him to believe rumors about her when he knew just how out of character going to parties and flirting with men was for her. Boitumelo was a nerd and an introvert. Her fun was books, she spent all her free time with her nose to her phone reading those Facebook diaries or some novel.

When he knocked off, he drove to her mother's place and called her when he was outside.

She came outside and he begged her to seat with him in the car.

LETANG: Come on Boity, I won't even drive off. I just want to talk.

BOITUMELO: Ok...

LETANG: Boity, I am so sorry. About everything. About believing rubbish about you... that I introduced you to the man who... I'm gonna kill that bastard. About the whole Masedi thing...

BOITUMELO: It's ok, I have forgiven. I needed to forgive to heal and move on.

LETANG: Please give me a chance to explain. I was angry. I love you Boity... thinking of you betraying me like that... it hurt so much... I wanted to hurt you back. So I slept with your cousin. I thought if I ignored you, you'd come back begging... but you also ignored me.

BOITUMELO: (tearing up) I heard you fuck my cousin Letang... I was hurt... and I was dealing with a lot...

LETANG: I know... lack of communication, and our egos... well, my ego and your hurt got in the way... when you didn't contact me or our son it hurt. And I

went on a 'ga ke rapele ngwanyana' tip, and that's when I decided to marry Masedi. If I could not be with the woman I am in love with, at least the one I loved would do. I'm really sorry... I had so much hope for us... I am not perfect, but for you I wanted to be better. I wanted to marry you and be faithful to you... have our little happily ever after.

Tears welled down her eyes as she started sobbing. He pulled her to his chest and hugged her.

There was a knock at the window, and Oteng stood there.

Boitumelo pulled away from Letang and got out of the car.

BOITUMELI: He just came to apologies... I swear that's all.

OTENG: Hey, it's ok. You don't have to explain anything to me. I trust you.

LETANG: She is telling the truth. You got a good girl. Take care of her.

OTENG: Sure man.

LETANG: Thanks for the chat Boity, let me head off.

BOITUMELO: When can I see Boycie?

LETANG: I'll drop him off tomorrow evening.

At the office Ephraim sat in the conference room waiting as Miranda walked in.

MIRANDA: Do you know what this is about?

He just shrugged and continued looking at his phone.

MIRANDA: Why do I get a feeling you have been avoiding me?

EPHRAIM: Because I have...

MIRANDA: I don't understand... I helped your mother and you got mad at me for it? We were fine before that.

The CEO walked in.

CEO: Hey guys, I will be brief, I have another meeting with lower management, I am confident you guys can sort the detail of this one on your own.

I am sending you two to a vineyard in France... they are a potential partner for our marula wine.

Miranda, as CMO, I want you to see and study their marketing, market share, and brand presence, do they command enough market to give our product a chance. Eph, I need you to go through their books, they agreed to open them to us. See if it's an investment we want. You know the drill, be in contact with Wetsho and his team about the finances of this merge, Los' people will set you up on stable video calls and shit.

EPHRAIM: It says two weeks in the dossier! You can't make me go with her for two weeks.

CEO: Ephraim, I have my own wives at home bitching when I go on trips with people they don't like. I refuse to be involved in your shit with your wife and mistress.

EPHRAIM: She is not my mistress!

CEO: Mistress, ex side chick, whatever, I don't care man. We all have a job to do. Bye now. I got another meeting, out.

They left the boardroom. With Ephraim sulking while Miranda smiled from ear to ear.

MIRANDA: Oh well, it says we are to leave immediately. I will go talk to HR about the trip logistics! City of Love here we come!

Letang arrived home and sat staring into space as Masedi tried to wash his hands and bring dinner.

LETANG: I'm good, I'm not hungry. Masedi, did you ever delete an sms from my phone. Sms from Boitumelo specifically?

MASEDI: Isn't your phone locked always? How would I delete things? Ne e le sms ya eng?

LETANG: Never mind... tomorrow I'll take Boycie to Boitumelo.

MASEDI: How could you! She abandoned him!

LETANG: She is his mother... and she didn't abandon him. Boitumelo was not well... I'm surprised you didn't know

MASEDI: How would I know, akere both she and her

mom don't talk to me. Anyway, mme is moving in tomorrow as I am so near...

LETANG: (sighing) If that's what you want.

MASEDI: I need someone to help me around Letang, how will I take care of Penelope and Boycie ke le motsetsi?

LETANG: I wanted to hire you a maid, you refused.

MASEDI: I don't want a maid... a lot of homes got ruined by maid.

LETANG: Then your mother?

MASEDI: She is still sulking about the whole you were with Boitumelo first thing. Akere ba rapela mma Boitumelo like she is God just because she is a nurse.

He sighed and walked off outside to smoke.

The next day Boitumelo got a text from Letang.

'held up at office. If possible, just go pick up Boycie from home. I've already told Masedi you'll come. '

She bathed and caught a taxi to his place.

Boitumelo knocked in Letang's home, and Masedi came to open.

MASEDI: Yes?

BOITUMELO: Letang said I can come pick Boycie up.

MASEDI: Now that o tswa go hetswa ke banna ba Gaborone and ba go thobogile, you decided to come back for my husband, and you think wa go mo tsena ka ngwana?

BOITUMELO: Ijo...mma, can I have my son please?

MASEDI: What's going on between you and my husband?

BOITUMELO: I am not you Masedi. I don't snatch my cousin's man. Mpha ngwanake mma.

MASEDI: What's going on between you and my husband? Ska batla go nkgakgahalla. I know he was with you yesterday.

BOITUMELO: Why are you so scared? Afraid he will know you deleted my message when I told him I

was raped, and replied with a nasty one? And I know it was you. Don't worry, I didn't dwell much on the reply, so he is just assuming Penelope deleted the message. I really just want my child.

MASEDI: So, that is the rubbish you were telling my husband? That he we I deleted his messages? Did you fuck him? Ke a go botsa!

She prodded her on the forehead with a finger.

MASEDI: (prodding her) I'm asking you the lebelele kweena, tomorrow you will be saying he raped you akere. They should have locked you up in Sbarana forever setsenwa kweena. Sies, you think my husband will want a mental patient?

BOITUMELO: Stop prodding me, you are hurting me. If I want Letang, I can take him, mxim.

Masedi slapped her hard across the face.

MASEDI: How dare you come to say such rubbish in my house! Nxla

She hit her again, attacking her with fists as Boitumelo covered her face from the attack.

BOITUMELO: Masedi, stop it! I don't wanna fight you, you are heavily pregnant! Stop!

She ducked and moved back, but Masedi lost balance and stepped on one of Penelope's toys, sliding down and falling on her belly.

BOITUMELO: Oh my God, Sedi! Oh my God... are you ok... we have to take you to a hospital...

A taxi stopped at the gate and mma Ephraim got out and walked in with a bag. Boitumelo ran over and stopped the taxi, instructing him to come in.

MMA EPHRAIM: Oh Modimo wa me. Sedi, you are bleeding... Oh God, what happened?

MASEDI: (sobbing) She came to fight me, and pushed me down saying I can't have Letang's baby.

BOITUMELO: Sedi, that's not what happened at all, I...

Mma Ephraim smacked Boitumelo with her handbag repeatedly.

MMA EPHRAIM: Moloji, you want to kill my grandchild! Help me get her in this taxi you witch.

Quickly! If anything happens to the baby, you will explain it to Letang! Nxla!

BOITUMELO: (sobbing) I swear I didn't push her... I just wanted to stop her from hitting me.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:06] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 21

Ephraim kissed his wife and tried to calm his 22 months old son who was screaming up a storm, wiggling out of Sapelo's hand and banging his head against the walls, rolling on the floor and throwing things.

God, sometimes the boy was such a handful!

His boss who was also flying off to New York walked over to them.

CEO: He ok?

SAPELO: (struggling with a wiggling and screaming

Aedirwe) He is fine, just dramatic...

CEO: We thought my boy was dramatic as a baby too. Quietest most behaved boy one minute... straight up menace the next... as a teenager he was trouble, underage driving and drinking, fights... also school president and best performing student... he uhm... he has issues. Thinks dead people talk to him, even now at twenty. My father was the same... not the dead people part, but Ledimo could be a good loving man one minute, and a cold blooded animal the next... sometimes they say I'm a little like that too, haha. What I'm trying to say is... something is tainted in our blood... get your son checked he might have issues too. Oh, that's my flight. Safe journey...

Ephraim and Miranda's flight was called too. He kissed Sapelo again and walked off as Aedirwe threw a bigger tantrum.

Miranda sighed as they sat down to wait their flight.

MIRANDA: Phew! I can imagine how relieved you must be for this trip, to get away from all that.

Having to live with that hell child would be so draining!

She said, putting her hand on his knee and squeezing it.

EPHRAIM: (moving her hand off his knee) Don't ever call my child a hell child again.

MIRANDA: Like the boss said, he probably has issues.

EPHRAIM: He does not have issues, and my life is none of your business.

He put on his headsets and leaned back, closing his eyes.

Letang ran into the hospital and mma-Ephraim walked over to him.

MMA EPHRAIM: Oh poor Sedi...oh my poor daughter in law, I hope she and the baby are ok.

Letang approached a doctor and asked her. The doctor went to find him someone who had attended to Masedi.

DR: Hi, Mr Thebe, your wife suffered a severe placenta abruption and lost a lot of blood on the way here... that caused a long time of restricted oxygen to the baby...

LETANG: Tell me my baby is ok... please... please!

DR: We managed to save the baby, but he is in NICU. I will be honest with you, he is looking at a possibility of lifelong health complications at best. We are doing the best we can, and right now all we can do is wait and pray. You can go see your wife now.

They were directed to Masedi's room, and he found her sobbing.

MASEDI: Wa bona wena Letang your side chick tried to kill my child, mxim!

LETANG: What side chick? Are you ok?

MASEDI: Boitumelo she said the only thing in the way of you two being together was my child... then she pushed me.

LETANG: What?

MMA EPHRAIM: I was there, I witnessed it. Ebile gatwe o setseno motho yoo wa lona she was in Sbrana. She is dangerous. What kind of person attacks a heavily pregnant woman. Masedi should report her.

MASEDI: (sobbing) They said my child may be disabled! I had a healthy baby and Boitumelo stole him from me, now I will be stuck with some disabled...

LETANG: Masedi! No matter the outcome, he is still our child and we will love and care for him. Let me see if I am allowed to go see him.

When the doctor said he could go see the baby, Masedi refused to come with him.

He walked into the NICU unit looking at his baby so small, looking so fragile with all those tubes connected to him.

A tear ran down his cheek.

LETANG: Please God... please... he is just a baby... please save my baby.

After visiting hour was over, Letang drove home with mma Ephraim and the kids.

He locked himself in the bedroom and broke down crying as he thought of his little baby. Eventually he washed his face and came out to the living room.

As his mother washed the kids and put them to bed, there was a knock.

He opened it to a crying Boitumelo.

Letang slapped her hard.

LEYANG: You fucking stupid bitch! All I told you was come pick up my son. Masedi probably provoked you, but what the fuck where you thinking? Pushing a pregnant woman? You hurt my baby... and for that, your crazy ass is never seeing Boycie again!

BOITUMELO: (crying) Letang please... I swear I didn't...

LETANG: Didn't what? Didn't mean to kill my son? Well, you almost did, and now he maybe be affected for life! You are a danger, they need to lock you up

again.

BOITUMELO: I want my son... I just... Letang please... you don't know what she said on the way to the hospital... she said I hurt her child... now she was going to return the favor... Boycie is not safe here. She will hurt my baby Letang... she'll...

LETANG: The woman who raised him from birth when your mental ass zombied out and ignored him? Ran away from him? The woman who begged me not to take him to you? The only mother he has ever known? The only person likely to hurt him here is you, you have already hurt another child

BOITUMELO: (crying) I didn't hurt him! I didn't even push her, that's a lie! I want my son Letang.

She pushed past him and ran inside, grabbing at his son who was on mma Ephraim's lap. As she tried to run out with him, she knocked on to the large solid wood cupboard, bumping the baby's head against it and the child screaming.

Letang grabbed her by the braids and pulled her back in, forcibly taking his son away and soothing

him, handing him to his mother who calmed him as Letang dragged Boitumelo outside and started beating her up.

LETANG: So you wanna disable another one of my kids, huh?

He kicked and punched her to a pulp, taking out all his stress, fear and frustration about his baby in NICU on her.

Ephraim and Miranda arrived in the Charles de Gaulle airport and took an car to the small town near the vineyard they were visiting. They walked to the hotel and Miranda talked to reception for a bit before walking back to Ephraim.

MIRANDA: Oh my God, for some reason HR only booked my room. And it's Mardi Gras... hotels around town are fully booked. The only available ones are in Paris, two hours from here!

EPHRAIM: (sarcastic) Wow, what a surprise.

MIRANDA: I know, right! It's ok, we can share the

room.

EPHRAIM: Fuck you, Miranda, you desperate bitch.

He cussed as he dragged his bag up to their shared room.

After settling in he took out his phone and called Sapelo.

SAPELO: Bonjour Monsieur Thebe, arrived already?

EPHRAIM: Yup... and you can't believe what shit this desperate trick pulled out of her bag. Booked one room. When she knew there is a big festival and hotels will be fully booked.

SAPELO: That is actually so pathetic, it's sad... there is throwing yourself at a man, and then there is pulling a Miranda. Like really?

EPHRAIM: I swear the first thing I am doing in the morning is finding accommodation. Even if its in a boarding hostel or some cheap chalet. Otherwise I will choke the fuck out of her.

MIRANDA: (in the background) Mhhh, choking. Yes, please daddy.. Oopsie... forgot I am supposed to

be a quiet little girl while you make her believe this was a mistake.

SAPELO: Put me on speaker...

EPHRAIM: Sasa, don't bother yourself...

SAPELO: Put. Me. On. Speaker!

He sighed and put her on speaker.

SAPELO: Seriously Miranda. Yours is mental illness now. The man doesn't want you.

MIRANDA: Whatever helps you sleep at night sis...

SAPELO: I swear now all that is left is for me to put hands on you since Eph is too gentleman to hit a bitch.

MIRANDA: (laughing) I knew there was some ghetto trash in you, you fat bitch...

Ephraim too the phone off speaker and walked out, with Miranda screaming behind him.

MIRANDA: I'm gonna fuck him good, while your silly ass is out there believing he is just some unfortunate guy stuck with a woman obsessed

about him. You are stupid if you buy that shit, I actually didn't believe him when he said it would work.

Ephraim closed the door on her face and talked to Sapelo in from of the room

EPHRAIM: Babe.. Please tell me you know that is not true. Sapelo, you know I am scared of losing you so much... and I can't stand that bitch, I...

SAPELO: Hey, calm down. I know a desperate bitch when I hear one. I'm not phased.

EPHRAIM: I swear the first thing I'm doing in the morning is find any sort of accommodation, even if its some boarding hostel...

SAPELO: Hey... stop. Don't stress yourself, I'm not stressing. As much as I am worried about your virtue with that skank in the same room, don't let her inconvenience you like that. I trust you babe. Just put your name around several hotels and hope a room opens. And also there is this girl I know called Lerothodi who married in France. We lost contact, so I am not sure where she is, but I will find

her on Facebook and ask her if she is near where you are and can offer you accommodation.

The next morning Boity laid in her hospital bed with Oteng holding and kissing her hand.

After Letang had beat her up, he had left her there and drove off. She called Oteng and he picked her up, bringing her to the hospital.

He had sat with her through the stitches she needed... through the evil eyes the nurses gave him thinking he was the one who did this to her as they obviously refused to buy the 'attacked by thugs' story.

OTENG: I don't understand why you aren't laying an assault charge on him Boity look at what he did to you!

BOITUMELO: Letang is not like that. He was scared and frustrated, his baby is in ICU...

OTENG: Don't! Don't fucking make excuses for him!

Letang walked in with a bouquet of flowers and a

card written 'I'm sorry'.

He looked at her all bandaged and bruised, and his heart broke. No matter what she did, how could he do this to her.

BOITUMELO: What the hell do you want? How did you even know I'm here...

Oteng turned around and saw his, immediately punching him on the face and went at him again. Letang punched back and they tumbled down punching at each other. Nurses screamed in panic as things fell over.

Security ran in and it took some people to separate the two men of equal strength.

OTENG: Don't let me catch you, asshole! I'm gonna fuck you up so bad you won't recognize your own face.

LETANG: Bring it on bitch... you think you are scaring anybody?

They were both thrown out of the hospital, and Boitumelo laid in her hospital bed crying.

Ephraim laid in bed going through business documents.

Miranda came out of the shower completely naked and sat at the dressing table, continuing to do her nightly facial routine.

EPHRAIM: For fuck sake Miranda! Don't you have any dignity?

MIRANDA: (laughing) Oh get of it, you have seen me naked before! Just pretend I am not here.

She put on her skimpy pajamas and came and laid on the bed beside him.

EPHRAIM: For fuck sake, Miranda! Jesus, have some self respect! Nvla!

He pulled a blanket and a pillow, laying down in the floor angrily as Miranda laughed.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:06] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

The morning after talking to Ephraim about him and Miranda in the same room, Sapelo woke up very early and dropped her son at her mother's place, then drove off to Gaborone. By the time she reached, it was around 9AM, and she drove straight to the Embassy to apply for a tourist VISA.

After submitting everything, she received her VISA the next day, and immediately booked a flight, leaving Gaborone at 4pm and caught a flight to Paris at OR. Tambo International Airport.

After their second meeting, Ephraim went about looking for a room again, not being able to find one. They had been here for three days now and every day he was getting more impatient with Miranda. One of these days he was gonna snap and beat the shit out of her.

He went to the hotel pool and sat drinking as the CEO called.

EPHRAIM: Boss...

CEO: How is it going?

EPHRAIM: So far interesting, I am looking to see more, before I draw conclusion. I have emailed you some things so far.

CEO: Good man.. And are you enjoying France? Why didn't you bring the wife? You have that nice suite and all. It's a city of love after all.

EPHRAIM: Sapelo runs her own business...she can't just leave...

CEO: well, you arw in a mood. Ok out with it. What's bugging you?

EPHRAIM: How the fuck was only one room booked for us! For real!

CEO: What? That can't be, HR wouldn't do something so silly.

EPHRAIM: Well, they did. And I am stuck in a room with this deranged bitch. I swear I'm gonna kill her.

CEO: (laughing) as long as she does her job first. What did she do?

EPHRAIM: What didn't she do? I am filing for sexual harassment.

CEO: (laughing) Seriously? A scrawny five foot five on a good day girl sexually harassed you?

EPHRAIM: It's not funny!

CEO: (laughing) Trust me, I'm not the only one whose gonna laugh at you when you tell your waah waah story. The fuck you gonna let some skinny girl bully you? I'm gonna tell you something that's gonna offend you, Eph.

EPHRAIM: Then don't tell me.

CEO: (laughing) Nah, I'm gonna. You need it. The problem with you Eph, is that you are too fucking soft. Whatever is happening she knows she can get away with it when it come to you. Like, for real you wanna waah waah to HR about a girl having a silly crush on you? Man the fuck up and draw boundaries.

EPHRAIM: Kana you don't understand...

CEO: No, there is nothing to understand, whatever

is happening, it's because she feels like it can happen. Even if I wasn't CEO, do you see her pulling that shit on me? Look man, I gotta go. My son's degree graduation ceremony is tomorrow.

He hung up and Ephraim sighed. He always appreciated his boss' brutal honesty. Mr Ledimo was a friendly type of CEO to those who knew not to take advantage. And they had particularly developed a sort of friendship especially since he became CIO, with Mr Ledimo giving him advice sometime even on personal matters, and they could talk to each other in a relaxed way.

He went back in the room and laid in bed reading.

Miranda came from the gym and got in the shower, then came back naked and sat on the bed applying lotion when the doorbell rang. Ephraim went to open and Sapelo pushed him in with a kiss.

EPHRAIM: (smiling happily) Babe? Wow... what are you doing here... never mind...I am. So happy to see you.

MIRANDA: Oh my god, what the fuck!

She said as she grabbed a towel and covered herself.

Sapelo laughed and pushed Ephraim on the bed, straddling him and kissing him as she undid his zipper.

MIRANDA: Oh my God, what's wrong with you?

SAPELO: Bitch, you don't exist to me...

MIRANDA: Get out of my room before I call security...

SAPELO: (laughing) Your room? Girl, is you stupid? Really? A big company like LID would book top management in the same room? That blunder just doesn't happen, no HR person would risk their job like that, I am certain they check and re check bookings. One of the booked rooms has to have been cancelled. And since you can't cancel a room that's not on your own name, I bet you cancelled yours.

Miranda rolled her eyes and picked up the phone to call reception.

Sapelo grabbed the phone from her and banged the receiver down, then grabbed her by the hair and dragged her out, locking her out of the room.

She came back to bed stripping on the way, straddling Ephraim.

SAPELO: Well, now that I took out the trash... shall we get on to lovin', in the city of love?

Miranda banged the door and yelled for them to open as she was just in a towel.

Ephraim just laughed and focused on his wife...

After Boitumelo was released from the hospital, she arrived home with some material.

MOTHER: Ok, what's with the wire rolls and ropes and all? You building a chicken coop or something?

BOITUMELO: Or something. When are you leaving for your trip, mother?

MOTHER: Ready to get rid of me so fast? What happened to us princess Tutu? We used to be so closed.

BOITUMELO: Until I started to resemble you a little too much... killer looks, can stop a man on his track with a smile... can make a holly man sin... isn't what they say... it scared you, didn't it mama? Reminded you of how you got pregnant by a two bit good for nothing. You didn't want me to turn out like you, so you pushed me away... if we aren't close... you won't be an influence on me... history won't repeat itself... am I right or am I right?

MOTHER: Tutu, it wasn't like that... I just...

BOITUMELO: Well, you failed mama. I got pregnant by a two bit piece of shit too... unlike you, I'm not gonna only leave after my child has seen me battered and bleeding on the floor though.

MOTHER: Tutu, are you ok? I can cancel my trip.

BOITUMELO: Oh no, mama. Please... do go. Have fun... you have had this trip planned for a year. And happy birthday mama...

After her mother got in the taxi and left for the airport, Boitumelo took out her phone and called Letang.

LETANG: Boity..

BOITUMELO: Hey babe... I know you are married and all. But I just want to talk Letang. You hurt me... both physically and emotionally...you owe me at least a chat.

LETANG: Of course. J ust tell me where.

BOITUMELO: My mother's place this evening. I'll make us dinner. My mom is gone for a week on holiday.

LETANG: I'll be there...

Boitumelo heard the knock and went to open.

Letang looked at her and licked his lips. Gosh, she looked so hot... one of those girls that just exuded an undeniable sensuality without even doing anything.

She opened for him and kissed him on the cheek.

LETANG: You should have told me it's a dress up kind of thing... you look stunning.

BOITUMELO: (smiling) You like it? It's green... green is the color of praying mantis... I like praying mantis.

She wore a little green silk dress that was more lingerie than dress really, the soft material gliding over her soft, smooth skin like a spring breeze.

He licked his lips again looking at her.

BOITUMELO: You seem thirsty... Have some wine...

She handed him a glass and watched him drink.

Miranda sat in front of the room tired after almost banging the door to no avail and having to listen to Ephraim and Sapelo fucking. Finally the door opened and they came out freshly showered. As she tried to get inside, Sapelo pulled her back.

SAPELO: No you don't! This is our private space!

MIRANDA: Mxim, move your fat ass. I am on a towel I need to get dressed.

SAPELO: Not in my room you don't.

MIRANDA: Gatwe my room..

SAPELO: My husband... what's his? All mine.

Miranda tried to push past her and Sapelo grabbed her by the hair and dragged her out, Miranda's towel falling.

EPHRAIM: Babe, maybe we should let her.. .

SAPELO: You stay the fuck out if this, you failed to set boundaries for this bitch. Miranda, don't fucking slap me! Miranda wee, wa mpolaa, don't hit me, ke toga ke go bets a kana, don't scratch me.

As Miranda continued to kick and scratch her, Sapelo dragged her back in the room and locked Ephraim outside, then slapped Miranda, pushing her on the floor and putting a towel over Miranda's mouth to muffle her screams, then sat on top of her and pummeled her with slaps.

SAPELO: I told you soon I was gonna put hands on you akere (slap) I told you akere (slap, slap) Miranda, ke rile ke taa go bets a (punch) you take advantage of my husband's good nature, (punch, punch) o nthoga mo di phone calling me a fat bitch... (slap, slap, slap)

She finally got off her, still fuming as she kicked her.

SAPELO: You are a disgrace to women. How can you throw yourself at a married man like that without even an ounce of shame. Nxla!

She went over to the mirror and fixed herself.

SAPELO: We are going to dinner, you better find a room. While we are gone because otherwise I'm gonna toss your screwy ass out the window if I find you here. And in case you get some smart ideas about going to the police? Bitch, you attacked my husband and I in OUR room.. We defended ourselves. You lose.

She re-applied her lipstick and fixed her hair, then opened the door and closed it behind her with a smile and took Ephraim's hand.

SAPELO: Shall we explore the city of love, husband?

EPHRAIM: Is she ok?

SAPELO: Who cares...

EPHRAIM: Sasa, I could get in trouble at work for this.

SAPELO: Because that bitch is gonna report that she cancelled her room so she can try to sleep with her married colleague? Let's go find some French food babe, I'm starving.

Letang wiped his mouth after he finished his meal.

LETANG: Damn girl, that was delicious. I ate so much ebile I am feeling sleepy.

BOITUMELO: (laughing) Least it thought I am some chef, this is literally the only dish I can cook. More wine?

She asked as she poured him another glass.

LETANG: Well, you do it well.

He reached across the table and caressed her cheek.

LETANG: Babe, I'm so sorry... about everything, but most importantly about ever laying my hands on you. I was so scared and frustrated. I wanted someone to blame, and I took it out on you. I feel really terrible. Gosh I feel so sleepy... but for real

baby... I'm sorry.

BOITUMELO: Meh... what happened, happened.. All we can do from here on is move on

His head kept lolling back and fourth, hitting the dining table as his eyes closed despite him trying to fight sleep.

LETANG: (groggy) Boity...what's going on?

BOITUMELO: (smiling) shhhhh... did you know that female praying mantis bite the male's head off after mating...I mean, all the poor nigga done was fuck her...imagine if he'd beat her up...what she'd do...shhh...just sleep, it's ok. I love you...

He looked up through his heavy lid and watched her drag him to a beam that separated the living room and the kitchen in the open plan home. She sat him against the beam and pulled his hands to the back, handcuffing him to the beam, then shackled his legs too. He was so groggy he couldn't even scream as he watched her strut back from bedroom in her impossibly high green heels and her green lingerie dress, a green baseball bat on her shoulder

BOITUMELO: (Smiling) Tell me babe... why do you think I'm your playground?

LETANG: (Weakly) babe... please... please...

BOITUMELO: So you find some naïve little girl... you get me pregnant... then cheat on me. Yes, I knew you were cheating while I was pregnant. I used to find all sorts of ways to explain it to myself, how it was my fault you were cheating on me. Anyway, that's strike one. You introduce me to a rapist, and then scorn me after he drugs rapes me?

LETANG: (weak) Babe... I didn't know.. I didn't...

BOUTIMELO: Shut up! Anyway, when I try to run to the one person who was supposed to comfort me in such a tragic time of my life? I find you fucking my cousin. My cousin! Strike two! And then you have the nerv to beat me when all I wanted was my son? You are out of counts boy, strike three. You pay! And I don't trust the justice system, they already failed me, let a rapist walk. I am sure they will even congratulate for battery. So you pay my way. Tell me, why do you take me for a fool? Answers me!

She hit him hard on the shinbone with the baseball bat and laughed as he weakly cried out in pain.

BOITUMELO: Answer me! Oh well... we have a whole week babe. You'll answer me...

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[05/29, 14:06] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 23

Ephraim and Sapelo found a restaurant and sat down eating to light banter. Then then took a stroll hand in hand before returning to their hotel.

Miranda was still in the room, in bed, now dressed though.

SAPELO: Seriously? You are still here?

MIRANDA: Where do you want me to go, there are no rooms, I've been calling around.

SAPELO: Not my problem, you should have thought about that before you cancelled your room. Out!

MIRANDA: Where do you want me to go Sapelo.

SAPELO: I see you need help again.

She started to drag her out but Ephraim stopped them.

EPHRAIM: Babe... I know she was wrong in doing what she did and she deserve everything she is getting. But it's late... in a racist foreign land.

SAPELO: And it's my problem how?

EPHRAIM: You want a woman out there alone at this time, without accomodation?

SAPELO: J aanong what do you expect to happen Ephraim? Re dira jang, re go tsenye ha gare re robale?

EPHRAIM: She can sleep on the floor...

SAPELO: No! She brought this on herself. Out she goes.

EPHRAIM: You are being unnecessarily cruel Sapelo... I don't like Miranda any more than you do, but come on...

SAPELO: (yelling) I don't care! She leaves. Now!

EPHRAIM: I'm sorry, but that is not gonna happen.

Miranda looked at Sapelo with a smug smile.

SAPELO: You know what Ephraim? Fine.. If she stays, I will leave, sala le nyatsi ya gago.

EPHRAIM: Now you are just being dramatic. Do you want the guilty that will come if she turns up killed somewhere?

She just picked her bag and walked off, pulling her hand away from Ephraim as he tried to hold her.

SAPELO: Leave me along Ephraim. You made a choice! Mxim. A matsapa a me a mogolo coming all the way here. Pardon me for barging in to your honeymoon!

She checked her phone again and her friend had sent a WhatsApp message saying a car was picking her up in front of the hotel.

EPHRAIM: Sapelo stop, for fuck sake! Do you think this is being mature and reasonable right now? Huh? Where are you going?

She saw the car and got in. Ephraim held the door and also got in.

EPHRAIM: Fine, if you are leaving, we are going together.

He got in the car and the driver drove off, taking them to Sapelo's friend.

Boitumelo walked around Letang, holding her baseball bat.

BOITUMELO: Tell me Letang, did you think of what you did to me after you beat me up and left me half dead? Did you? Huh? Was I that of no significance to you that you didn't even think maybe I was still alive and needed medical help?

She hit him hard across the legs, then on the back... then on the back

BOITUMELO: When you were fucking my cousin? Did you ever think about how you were breaking my heart?

Tears welled down her eyes as she completely lost

it and went ham on him, beating him all over with the baseball bat.

Sapelo got out of the car and her friend was waiting outside.

They hugged happily.

HER: Oh my God Sasa, it has been a minute! Come in, come in meet my family... ohh, this must be Ephraim. Hello.

SAPELO: Don't talk to him, he isn't with me...

EPHRAIM: Oh, she is just crazy and unreasonable... nice to meet you, ma'am. You have a lovely home.

Her: (laughing) Nice to meet you too, person who isn't with my friend. Sasa darling, come in, I had a room fixed for you.

Ephraim followed them into the bedroom. Sapelo shut the door on his face.

Their host laughed and fixed him the room next to Sapelo's.

After their host went off to her bedroom as it was late Ephraim stood at Sapelo's door knocking gently.

EPHRAIM: Babe please don't do this... please

SAPELO: You see why she thinks she can do shit like this Ephraim? You see? You totally embarrassed me in front of her! How will she even respect me as your wife?

EPHRAIM: You wanted to throw her out on the streets at night Sapelo...is this how we solve our problems? By pushing the other away? Let's talk, please, my love... please... don't we deserve better than this?

He heard a sigh, and a few seconds later the door was opened and he walked in.

Masedi laid on the hospital bed wondering where Letang was, mma Ephraim had said he had not come home last night, and he was still not home now. Didn't come to see her either.

She tried his number again. It was off. His friend said he had not show up for work...he didn't go to his mom's place and Libby said there was no one at Ephraim's place, Sasa had gone to surprise him in France.

She texted Boitumelo.

'tell my husband to go home, you shameless slut. He is married! I know he is with you.'

Boitumelo replied a few moments later.

'No hun I'm at my bae's.'

Then a picture of her with Oteng was attached.

'But then again Letang is a cheap whore incapable of monogamy. Check a pool of his whores... he is probably there.'

In the morning, even after talking, Ephraim could see Sapelo was still sulking.

EPHRAIM: Babe, I'm gonna head to the hotel to change clothes and go to my meeting, then I'll come right back, and we will drive to Paris and explore,

your friend's husband said I could borrow his car.

SAPELO: Whatever...

EPHRAIM: Sasa...

She picked up her coffee mug and walked out to the balcony.

Ephraim came over and kissed her neck, then went off to his taxi.

When he got to the hotel, Miranda was already dresses and ready for work.

MIRANDA: (smiling at him) Thanks for having my back last night.. it's so nice to know you care.

EPHRAIM: Don't you fucking start... don't! Get the fuck out and let me get dresses. You better have found a room. Miranda I am not gonna tell you again, fuck off. I am not in the mood.

MIRANDA: Who would be, married to that awful witch...you poor thing.

EPHRAIM: Miranda! Out, now!

His voice thundered, startling her before he pushed

her out and locked the door.

He quickly got dressed and found her waiting at their rented car to go to the vineyard.

After they were done with work, Ephraim immediately took a taxi to their new lodging.

He stood in the balcony listening in as Sapelo talked to her friend.

SAPELO: (sobbing) I just feel like I always have to compete with everything in his life at all times sis Letty...Ephraim never makes me priority, nkare I am the one always fighting for us.

HER: Baby girl, I am sure it's not like that...from what you say, he sounds like he loves you.

SAPELO: Yea well, is love supposed to hurt? And yesterday I felt so humiliated when he just basically told me that my opinion doesn't matter, he had decided the woman throwing herself at him was to stay with us. Had you not been here I would have been forced to spend the night with that woman...

She sobbed and the other woman handed her

another tissue.

SAPELO: I am tired of being strong sis Lerothodi, I am so tired... I think our son may have ADHD or something, he is so difficult to handle that I break down several times a day while taking care of him nowadays... and Ephraim doesn't even notice that I am not ok...he gets to have only the fun parts of playing with him because half his life he is at that damn office... sometimes I get insecure... I wonder if he is really working. But I won't even allow myself to voice those thoughts out. And on top of that I think I am pregnant again... and I am terrified of giving birth to another difficult child like Aedirwe...I am just so overwhelmed...I thought this incidental trip here could be a little refresher... but it's all ruined now... how could he embarrass me like that in front of her? I'm just so tired...

She broke down crying as her friend hugged her.

SAPELO: (crying) I am tired... I'm just so tired, between my businesses and his never ending family drama, and Aedirwe and always some shit with his side whatever's... I am suffocating... and I

don't even know how to help myself because I am supposed to be this strong superwoman...how can he not see I'm not ok?

Ephraim walked onto the balcony and hugged her as she cried. The friend left them alone in the balcony.

EPHRAIM: I hate that this has become my theme song now... but I am so sorry babe...I didn't realize I was offending you yesterday. I didn't realize how hard you were having it. I have been just so wrapped up in my work that I forgot my number one priority... you.

By the fourth day, with no trace of Letang anywhere, mma Ephraim walked into the police station with her nephew.

HIM: We'd like to file a missing person report... Mr Lesang Thebe. No one has seen him in the last four days, his phone is off...

OFFICER: Maybe o ile mosading?

HIM: His wife just gave birth, she is in the hospital. Letang would want to be by her side...his newborn is in ICU, there is no way Letang would go four days without checking on him...my cousin loves his children like that...

They filed a report and went home.

Boitumelo laid on the sofa humming to Taylor Swift's 'Look What You Made Me Do', as she went through Facebook.

She saw a missing person about Letang and laughed.

She looked at him, satisfied with her handy work.

His left eye was completely swollen shut, visible bruises all over his face, his lip badly swollen... A gash on the shoulder that looked pretty nasty... and she was sure at least one of his legs was broken.

BOITUMELO: Look babe, they are looking for you...

LETANG: Boitumelo please... please... you need help...

BOITUMELO: Of course I need help, you piece of shit. You see how battered and broken you are right now? That's how I feel. And you did that.

LETANG: So, what's the plan... you are gonna kill me?

BOITUMELO: Why would I do that? You didn't kill me, you just hurt me real bad. And I wanted you to feel it too.

LETANG: I do... I have... Boity, you gotta take me to the hospital, I think my wound is infected...if I don't get medical help... I could die... then you'll go to jail and Boycie won't have any parents...

She put on some brass knuckles and punched him hard on the face.

BOITUMELO: Shut up! I said keep my son's name out of your mouth!

LETANG: Remember when he was born... I was so terrified

She hit him with the bat again

BOITUMELO: Shut up!

Boitumelo's neighbor heard that scream again, even with music covering it up. Someone was definitely not just being beaten, but tortured in that house.

First she had thought it were just kids playing... but now... did mma Boitumelo have a new man who was abusive maybe?

None of her business.

Wasn't mma Boitumelo even gone for holiday? Maybe Boitumelo's boyfriend...

She shrugged and went into Facebook... seeing a post for a missing person...

That was that girl Masedi's husband... wait, didn't she see him park into mma Boitumelo's yard a few days back?

His car was not there now...but it had to be him.

Her hands shook as she called the police.

HER:, Yea... I think I have information on a missing person... Letang Thebe. I just saw a post on Facebook...yea... I think he is holding a girl hostage and torturing her...ok... yes, I'll give you the

address... please hurry. It has been going on for days now. I can only imagine what he did to the poor girl.

Boitumelo was about to feed Letang his evening meal when the door was burst open and police ran in.

BOITUMELI: Shit!

OFFICER: What the fuck? What... oh God! Stand where you are and no sudden movements, ma'am, don't make me shoot you.

One officer ran over and cuffed Boitumelo.

OFFICER: Looks like we got this all wrong, look at this guy... he looks like he is rotting alive... where is the ambulance?

Letang weakly tried to speak as they pushed Boitumelo to the car in cuffs.

LETANG: (inaudible) she needs... she needs a doctor... not cuffs...

OFFICER: Huh...

LETANG: doctor...

OFFICER: Yea buddy, doctor will see you soon, there is an ambulance.

He tried to speak again, but he was too weak...he desperately pointed towards Boi, but the were not understanding him. A tear ran down his cheek as Boitumelo looked back at him one last time before an officer pushed her into the car and Letang passed out.

LIKE, COMN&WNT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:06] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 24

It had been two weeks since Letang was admitted into the hospital, and he had only started to be strong enough to seat up and speak well a few days back.

He laid on the bed with his leg on a cast. His brother sat beside him very angry as Letang refused to talk

to the police.

EPHRAIM: Seriously Lets, why the fuck aren't you talking to the police! That bitch almost killed you!

LETANG: Kana your problem is that you people are trying to tell me what happened when only I was there. The truth is I have been having an affair with her, and we are into some kinky shit, that's why she had the rope and cuffs and all. But she is not mentally healthy, you have already confirmed she has been admitted to Sbrana before, so while we were at our thing, she got a trigger and her mental health started deteriorating and she took it too far...

POLICE: So you are saying there was no intent to harm... those ropes and handcuffs were never meant for harm?

LETANG: (laughing) Nope... only some sweet, sweet, loving. Got any more questions for me officers? I'm kinda tired and would like to rest.

OFFICER: The baseball bat?

LETANG: Boity went to private school when she was young. They had baseball, she plays.

OFFICER: Mr Thebe. You are in the military. I am sure you know that lying to police officers and withholding information is a crime.

EPHRAIM: Letang! For God's sake!

LETANG: A crime is trying to force someone to give incorrect information. You are coaching me to give misleading information against an innocent, mentally unstable twenty year old girl. Shame on you. There is no case here. Get the fuck out of here and let me rest.

The police gave a collective sigh and left.

EPHRAIM: I swear I could punch you right now!

LETANG: You are so funny. O sure ka story se se diragetseng when you were not even in the country! Give it a rest Eph. I am alright. Have you heard anything about her? Where is she? How is she doing?

EPHRAIM: Fuck you. And fuck that mental bitch, she could rot in hell for all I care, she tried to kill my baby brother.

LETANG: Eph, please... can you just...

EPHRAIM: No.

He was desperately trying to get any information about Boitumelo and no one was telling him anything. He sighed in frustration. God, she must be so scared.

Masedi sat in her bed crying. Letang had looked so bad and so swollen up it broke her heart. That now he was protecting that crazy cousin of hers made Masedi so angry, Boitumelo should be charged with attempted murder or something.

Boycie walked in and trotted to the cot where the newborn slept.

He reached inside to try and touch his baby brother.

Masedi angrily threw a stuffed toy and him, knocking the little tot to the ground.

MASEDI: What are you doing! Nxla!

When he started crying Masedi went over to him and started beating him with a flip flop.

MASEDI: (beating him) You are waking the baby, you are waking the baby you stupid little shit! You should go back to your mentally insane mother!

That her baby had a mental disability because of Boitumelo, while she got to have a perfectly healthy baby made her so angry.

She beat up the little one year old, then pushed him out of the room before mma Ephraim came in.

The old lady ran in from hanging the baby's laundry outside.

MMA EPHRAIM: What happened? Di Boys wa me? What's wrong? Did you fall?

MASEDI: I heard a thud, he must have fallen. I was just about to come get him. Oh my poor baby!

MMA EPHRAIM: Go lie down my girl, C section ga go bate ntse o tsamaa tsamaa thata, I got him. Heard any news about the witch who tried to kill my son?

MMA EPHRAIM: She is still pretending to be mental to avoid jail, gatwe she is in Nuangabgwe, they have

a small facility there, she will be transferred to Sbrana soon. But a police officer told me that she will still have to face charges if they can prove that she was in the right mental frame when she bought all those things she used, and had intended to harm him. Bare if they can prove that, then she would face trial when she is deemed sound of mind.

Ephraim got back to the office for the first time since their trip. When he got home, he had taken off some personal time to deal with the whole Letang thing.

Just as he sat down, Miranda walked into his office and sat at the corner of his table.

EPHRAIM: I'm really not in the mood, Miranda. And don't mistake me letting you stay in my hotel room in France as any form of favour to you. I was being humane.

MIRANDA: (laughing) I liked how you checked that bitch though. You were all 'fall in line bitch'. She gotta know she is just a wife. Stupidass fat bitch.

She had not even seen the slap coming. It sent her staggering back, hot tears pricking her eyes from the impact.

She rubbed her cheek, still shocked.

EPHRAIM: You ever talk shit like that about my wife again, I'll beat the shit out of you. O ntwwaetswa keeng kante Miranda?

MIRANDA: I can't believe you hit me!

EPHRAIM: Next time I will actually fucking beat you up! Bitches like you don't know how to appreciate someone actually trying to be a civil human, huh? You get in my personal life again, Miranda, trust me, you are gonna regret it. Now fuck off.

MIRANDA: I'm gonna report this to HR.

EPHRAIM: Why don't you run along?

MIRANDA: You think just because you are all buddy biddy with Kaedi, you are exempt from...

EPHRAIM: I'm giving you five seconds to be out of here.

MIRANDA: You ungrateful little shit! I made you.

You'd still be just a manager had I not insisted you come on that Hayes account with me.

EPHRAIM: Three cheers for you. Hip hip hooray. Where do you want the cookie sent? I said get out!

He stood up and advanced towards her...Miranda ran off from his office still rubbing her cheek.

A week later Letang was released from the hospital.

Ephraim came to pick him up. As they walked out they saw mma Boitumelo on duty.

LETANG: Dumelang...

MMA BOITUMELO: Mxim...

LETANG: Please... can you tell me where Boity is?

MMA BOITUMELO: You stay away from my daughter! You stay away from her, you did this to her... right now my baby could go to prison...

LETANG: She is not going to prison! Boitumelo needs mental health help... please. We all know government facilities don't really do much. A few

months back I read about a private mental health ranch that had recently opened.

MMA BOITUMELO: You think I haven't considered that? It's P18 000 per month! I don't have that kind of money, they are gonna send my baby to Sbrana again, and that place does nothing for patients!

LETANG: I'll pay...

EPHRAIM: Excuse you?

LETANG: I trade Forex and mine bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies. I easily make more than that in a month without even touching my salary or savings. Please ma'am, just give me her medical records and I will go straight to that ranch and get her a place there.

MMA BOITUMELO: Really? It's run by Dr Liam, he is brilliant.. He even has features on international journals. Oh my God, you'd do that for my baby... after everything?

EPGRAIM: Exactly! She tried to kill you!

LETANG: Can everyone just fucking stop saying

Boitumelo tried to kill me? Damn! Boitumelo is sick and that's where the story ends. Now we get her the help she needs.

Mma Boitumelo hugged him with teary eyes.

MMA BOITUMELO: Oh my God! Thank you, thank you! I have her papers in my desk, let me go take them now.

She ran to her desk as they followed her.

EPHRAIM: Are you crazy?

LETANG: You know... when I thought I was actually going to die? I actually prayed that if I did die, she would get away with it.

EPHRAIM: I think she knocked those three brain cells of yours a little too much. She kidnapped, drugged, and beat your ass up, moron! Broke your damn leg and fractured two ribs! Now you wanna pay her looney bin bills? Letang, what is wrong with you?

LETANG: (smiling) I love her...

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[05/29, 14:06] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 25

Mma Ephraim talked to Masedi as she packed a small bag.

MMA EPHRAIM: I will be back Sunday afternoon, I just want to go to the wake today, and the funeral tomorrow morning, then stay and help clean up. Are you sure you will be ok? Letang said he will be home all day when I'm gone.

MASEDI: We will be fine mme. Have a safe trip.

After she left, Masedi laid in bed still fuming about Letang refusing to get Boitumelo arrested.

Letang's oldest, Penelope pushed the door open.

PENELOPE: Mama, we are hungry, and I think Boycie pooped his diaper.

MASEDI: Can't you see I'm sleeping? Get out.

PENELOPE: But mama...

MASEDI: (yelling) Get out!

She threw the tumbler that was on the dressing table at the little girl and Penelope ducked out crying.

Masedi went to the kitchen and got herself an assortment of snacks, then locked herself in the room and ate, watching movies on her laptop.

After hours of crying with her little brother who was complaining of an itchy diaper, four years old Penelope took him to the bedroom and found a clean diaper and wipes, taking out the dirty one and cleaned him up with wipes like she had seen her grandmother do, then put on diaper cream and the diaper on and dressed him in clean clothes. She also changed from her pajamas and took her brother's hand and went to the kitchen. She took a chair and used it to climb on top of the counter, getting cornflakes and milk, filling a bowl and spilling a lot all over the counter, then took the bowl to the living room and sat down, feeding her brother and herself.

Letang drove through the gates of the Serene Minds Resort, looking at how immaculate the place looked with its trimmed hedges, long trees, vines and crawler that disguised the high wall, pristine with marble flooring, and a green expanse at the back. It was some distance from the Francistown, and on the outskirts of the nearest village, so the serene quietness with birds chirping was so relaxing. The price was totally warranted, and he had no regrets whatsoever.

He walked to reception and was told he could go see her.

He was led to the head doctor of the place's office.

DR: Welcome, Mr Thebe. Ms Mokgware put you on the list of Tutu's visitors.

LETANG: How is she doing?

DR: Honestly, right now not great. Sometimes when we suffer trauma, the brain can get to shut down or go to a place the person felt most safe. The beatings...

LETANG: What beatings?

DR: According to information provided to doctors at Nyangabgwe Hospital by Mr Oteng Monthe, when Boitumelo was arrested, they had her in a holding cell for a few days only, but because the cells are just a temporary measure, they sent her to prison awaiting trial for some reason. She really should have headed straight to the psyche ward. They wanted to charge her with attempted murder. And when she was in prison, she was assaulted by five girls when she refused the gang leader's advances. Then she was sexually assaulted. The regression highly likely happened there. Mr Monthe fought for her to be transferred to a mental institution, and that is how she ended up in Nyangabgwe waiting to go to Sbrana. Follow me, she will be in her room.

He followed the doctor and found Boitumelo sitting at a table coloring in some princess book.

DR: Tutu, I have a visitor for you.

BOITUMELO: No doctor, I have to finish my homework. When did you say I can go back to

school again? I feel ok.

DR: Soon. You want to talk to your friend?

She looked up at Letang with her head cocked to the side like a little girl.

BOITUMELO: Who is he?

DR: A friend of yours.

BOITUMELO: (looking at Letang) Do you know how to draw a cat? I don't know how to, but I have to. For my homework.

The doctor indicated for Letang to go forward.

He sat down with her and helped her draw and color, then after some time her medicine was brought in, and after she took it, she slept.

As he walked out, he found the doctor again.

LETANG: How long will she be like that?

DR: I honestly can't say. It could be a day, it could be a year, or it could be lifelong. That is a coping mechanism, she regressed to a time she was happy and felt safe. This is one of the most difficult

mental disorders because the person genuinely does not want to come back to reality, so they totally block it out.

As he walked out, he tried to not think about it but the moment he was in his car he broke down crying thinking about that spaced look on her face... God, she was beaten up and sexually assaulted again!

Letang wiped his tears away and looked up when he heard a knock in his car window.

A literal bombshell stood at his window trying to look less bored.

Dark skin, high cheekbones, full lips with blood red lipstick...teeth so white, so even, she looked unreal.

She had on an ombre black and blonde short wig and a spaghetti strap red dress that clung to her generous curves, making her tall and willowy physique a thing to marvel at.

Her eyes were hazel...maybe contact lenses...her cleavage peeking at the top of that dress in perfect

round peaks. Nobody's boobs looked that good naturally, she probably had a boob job.

She knocked again, impatient. Letang rolled down the window.

LETANG: Yes?

HER: You wouldn't happen to know anything about cars?

Good Lord! Her voice was the kind you heard on bedrooms between lust filled trysts. Raspy like she was getting over a sore throat, but low and just the right level of deep to sound like a wanton moan, with her words drawled out slowly, like she was seducing even when she wasn't.

LETANG: A bit.. what's wrong?

HER: Won't start for whatever reason. I think it's overheating.

He went and looked through her car, but it still wouldn't start.

HER: Thanks for trying, I'll just leave it here and call my service guys to come handle it.

LETANG: Where are you going. I'll give you a ride.

HER: There is actually a traditional stuff place right around the corner, they do basket weaving and shit. They have food. I'll wait there.

LETANG: I'll drop you off.

At her direction, he drove to the place and parked, following her in.

LETANG: I could use a meal myself.

HER: Oh, by the way, are you ok?

LETANG: Huh?

HER: You were bawling your eyes off in the parking lot. Is it bad? Who ever you are seeing in there?

LETANG: Uhm... yea...my uhm... my sister... she is bad. Lost touch with reality, they don't know when she will be ok.

HER: It gets better. For me it's my mother. I have been coming her since the place opened. And beforehand she was in South Africa at a facility much like this. Dealing with all of it... caring for a mentally unfit...it gets better with time.

LETANG: What happened to her... your mother?

HER: Dementia... stayed for too long with a piece of shit that paid no regards to her.

LETANG: Your father?

HER: He did sire me, yes... but that's where it ends. My mother raised me single handedly when she had a husband. She was that type that believes you can pray away a man's infidelity. How silly.

LETANG: Prayer is not silly... some women can actually strengthen their homes by praying for their family. I've heard my uhm... baby mama and her friends talk about a War Room...

He smiled thankfully that he never really wore a ring. Who on earth wanted a girl like her knowing he was married?

HER: Yea, I know the war room. It's the room where you lock his cheating ass up, starve him for days, and beat him up before you leave him.

Letang both laughed and winced, remembering his recent ordeal.

LETANG: (laughing) I know someone who would agree with you. But I doubt that's the kind of war room the Christian women talk of.

HER: Oh, you wanted the Christian version? Well then, the war room is the room where you check your self worth, self respect, dignity and everything that makes you feel worthy, then get on your knees and make excuses for a piece of shit.

LETANG: (laughing) You are hilarious.

She flashed those dazzling white teeth.

HER: I have my moments. Oh, there is my service guy. Gotta go.

LETANG: Come on... at least tell me your name.

HER: Mara...

LETANG: Number?

HER: (laughing) You wish.

Ephraim was walking out of the office when his boss caught up with him.

CEO: Sup'? You up for football this Saturday? You haven't put your name up on the WhatsApp group.

EPHRAIM: Eish... we are expecting, first trimester is hard on her.. Sometimes me just going out gets the waterworks.

CEO: (laughing) I don't envy you, kind sir. My youngest is five and I am done!

EPHRAIM: I'd be done too if I were you, you have an entire football team!

They both laughed.

CEO: My football team is all out of diapers and sleeps through the night, so who is laughing now.

EPHRAIM: Brutal! Ruin a man's life while he trying to enjoy the last few months before dirty diapers and sleepless nights, why don't you?

CEO: I heard Miranda reported you to HR for assault.

EPHRAIM: I can explain.

CEO: No need to. I am sure she deserved it after the shit she pulled in France.

EPHRAIM: She just won't back off! Seriously, how can someone so not get it?

CEO: Want me to fire her?

EPHRAIM: Huh?

CEO: She is starting to be irritating, to be honest. It was funny at the beginning, My brother and I used to laugh and bet on how long it was before you checked her. But what she is doing now is borderline harassment, and it's grounds for termination.

EPHRAIM: I just... she has worked so hard to be where she is... she does her job well... firing her is a bit harsh...

CEO: You know what, I'm leaving this in your court. If you want her gone. She will be.

When she knew Letang was about to get home, Masedi rush about bathing and feeding the kids, then sat in the living room watching cartoons with them as they ate snacks. Letang walked in to a

perfect little family.

After they had put the kids go bed, he sat at his laptop, doing whatever it was he did in his laptop.

By midnight, Masedi came over and kissed him on the neck.

MASEDI: Babe, come sleep please...

LETANG: J ust a bit more...

MASEDI: Come on... I miss you. And I wanna talk. My mother said mma Boitumelo told her you are paying P18 000 per month for Boitumelo?

LETANG: Yup

MASEDI: Seriously! Are you crazy Letang? What has that girl done to you? What married man goes out and pays bills of random people!

LETANG: She is not random, she is the mother of my child.

MASEDI: I refuse to let that happen. You will go tell them you won't pay anymore!

LETANG: Masedi wee, can you tell me something?

MASESI: What?

LETANG: Do you make any money? Do you bring any money into this marriage?

MASEDI: I mean, it's our...

LETANG: No, you don't. So shut the fuck up and leave me in peace so I can actually make money.

Ephraim walked home and found Sapelo laying on the couch, reading, while Aedirwe was climbing and jumping all over furniture.

EPHRAIM: Hey babe... and hey baby...

He said as he kissed her on the cheek, then kissed her stomach.

EPHRAIM: And hi big man! High five!

His son came and high fived him before running off to jump from a sofa.

Ephraim went over and gave the little boy his juice, then handed Sapelo things she had been craving.

SAPELO: How was your day my love?

EPHRAIM: You know... work. Boring. Yours?

SAPELO: Didn't even go out. Whoever called this morning sickness is stupid. This is all day sickness.

Ephraim came over and cuddled and kissed her hair.

EPHRAIM: I'm so sorry you have to go through this babe... I wish I could help.

SAPELO: (smiling) Just be the awesome husband you are and keep getting me ginger biscuits. Let me go get your food and...

EPHRAIM: No, seat. I will get it my love.

SAPELO: By the way, I went to see Ae's pediatrician today.

EPHRAIM: What's wrong, is he sick?

SAPELO: Not really... for a long time I suspected he is ADHD. They have a chart and he scored really high on that possibility. They will refer us to the right doctors and when he is diagnosed, they will start him on medication and...

EPHRAIM: Nope

SAPELO: What do you mean ‘nope’?

EPHRAIM: You wanna turn my baby in a into drab zombie? That’s what the medication does. Turn him into a zombie. Those doctors are wrong...

SAPELO: And your medical license you got when?

EPHRAIM: So he has a little more personality than an average child! That does not mean pump him up with pills.

SAPELO: But the doctors think...

EPHRAIM: Of course they do, all they want is money. Nothing is wrong with my baby, and nobody is pumping him with pills.

SAPELO: But...

EPHRAIM: Not up for discussion. No. End of story.

He picked up his son and hugged him to his chest, kissing his head.

There was a knock at the door and Sapelo went to open with a sigh.

SAPELO: Ohhh... hello... you...

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[05/29, 14:10] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 26

Sapelo opened the door to Malebogo holding a baby.

She thrust the baby on Sapelo hands.

MALEBOGO: There is your husband's child.

SAPELO: Huh?

MALEBOGO: How can a man live in a big house like this, driving a big car, when his child is suffering?

SAPELO: Ijo... Ephraim! Come handle your mess rra nna a ke di tsene waitse.

Ephraim walked out confused, and Sapelo handed him the baby, then went inside.

EPHRAIM: And then?

MALEBOGO: O bua bo 'and then', akere ne o sa re

and then ha o mo dira. I need money for the child.
Ebile gatwe at the magistrate court bahumi pay a lot.

EPHRAIM: How are you... I mean... the pills...

MALEBOGO: Nna I serve a living God papa. No weapons formed against me...you tried to abort my child, here she is. God will never let you harm his own.

EPHRAIM: Ok so the pill didn't work. But I am still gonna test to make sure the child is mine.

MALEBOGO: Do what you must. I know I am telling the truth. Let's see if you are a man or an animal that will deny it's own child even when she is in your face. Right now I need money. She has no milk, I have no food, so I cannot make enough milk, she has no clothes, no diapers...

He went inside and found Sapelo watching TV.

EPHRAIM: Babe, what do I do?

SAPELO: Keep your zipper closed, that's what! See what you have done now!

EPHRAIM: But babe... we are past that...you

forgave me...

SAPELO: There was no baby mama in the picture then was there!

EPHRAIM: I am so sorry... I wish I could go back in time and change things. I would...

SAPELO: No, you can't fucking change things Ephraim! And your carelessness got an innocent little baby caught in this mess.

EPHRAIM: I don't want to create an even bigger mess. What do I do?

Sapelo sighed and went to their storage room, calling Ephraim to come help take out a box of Aedirwe's baby clothes.

She took the baby from him and changed her into a romper.

SAPELO: This romper she is wearing is too small, it's constricting her and will give her a yeast infection.

MALEBOGO: Are you judging my parenting? You think you are better than me?

SAPELO: You think I have time for you? Girl bye, I'm just concerned for the welfare of this poor little soul.

MALEBOGO: Se se salang that man is still my baby daddy too.

SAPELO: (dryly) What an achievement. Congrats. So, here is what is gonna happen. I will buy all the baby's needs and deliver them to you. You will contact me when the baby needs anything or there is an emergency. You will not contact my husband for any reason.

MALEBOGO: Ke na le ngwana le wena nna that I should contact you?

SAPELO: Either that or an express train to court. Right here is proof you slept with my husband.

MALEBOGO: Mxim, you think you are all that. Life will humble you.

In the morning Letang Letang woke up to make breakfast, his kids came out from their bedroom.

They ran to him and hugged him.

LETANG: Lona malaitiaka la ntsietsa, you fell asleep while we were playing snake and ladders yesterday.

PENELOPE: Boycie is too young to play, and you lost daddy. I won.

LETANG: (laughing) You won? When did you even... come here you cheeky little thing! We have to brush our teeth and get out of our pajamas, then I will make us all breakfast!

PENELOPE: I can make breakfast!

LETANG: (laughing) Can you now?

PENELOPE: Yes I can!

LETANG: Riiiiight!

PENELOPE: But daddy you think I am lying, I'm not! I did yesterday I did, I did!

LETANG: (laughing) Well, Ms Thebe, play dough isn't my favorite, so I think let's just stick to what I make, huh? Who wants eggs and russian and bread with orange juice?

Both kids jumped up and down raising their hands and screaming 'me, me, me'.

LETANG: Alright then troops! To the bathroom we march! Let's brush teeth!

He cleaned up the kids and feed them, then took some breakfast to Masedi who was still in bed.

LETANG: Hey..

She turned away and faced the wall.

LETANG: Sedi, what I said yesterday was out of line. I was just stressed and took out my stress on you. There was no reason for that... come on, wake up and eat... please? Pretty please?

She sighed and turned over go talk to him.

LETANG: Look, Sedi. I feel responsible for what happened to Boitumelo. She is in a really bad state, and her mom can't afford private care.

MASEDI: Akere bo Sbrana ba teng?

LETANG: People come from Sbrana worse! Some eventually end up on the streets. Babe, come on, the woman I married is not heartless... you are the woman who took on kids who aren't yours and loved them like your own...I always feared my kids

having a step mum because we hear all these things they do to step children, but you changed my mind on it. Showed me a woman can love kids she didn't birth.

MASEDI: I'm just worried Letang. We take so much to pay for her rubbish, and what are we left with? Percy might need special care all his life...

LETANG: We can afford to help her and take care of our family... please, Sedi. I know you are not cold hearted.

She sulked and kept eating.

LETANG: Thank you. Uhm, is it ok ke boe hale?

MASEDI: You are going to see her, aren't you?

LETANG: Sedi...

MASEDI: Go then... tsamaa motho wa Modimo.

After Letang left, Masedi took the kids to see her grandmother in Tatisiding. She unloaded the grocery she bought for the old lady, and made tea.

GRANDMA: Sedi, what is wrong?

MASEDI: Maa? How do you mean?

GRANDMA: I know you my girl... your soul is not happy. And look at these kids. When has Masedi's kids ever looked this messy? They are always in nice little outfits that match yours. Even the baby has milk stains. What is eating you up?

MASEDI: I just... I...

She broke down crying, and both kids ran to her and hugged her.

She was the only mother they ever knew. Hugs were standard for when someone was sad or crying, she taught them that... to see them still offer her affection after these past few days... but then kids were kids. You stayed their parent no matter how you treated them, they always yearn for your love.

PENELOPE: Mama why are you crying? Please don't cry... we won't be naughty and won't make you beat us.

More tears fell down.

MASEDI: Uhm... Opene baby...her, go buy Simba chips with Boycie at the tuck-shop.

She called one of her younger cousins to accompany them.

After they left her grandma looked at her.

GRANDMA: Now you beat them too? Where is that woman who said white people stuff like 'beating children is abuse'? The way they are always looking nice, today okare ga se bone. Look at Opene's hair now, it's all a mess.

She just kept sobbing.

MASEDI: (sobbing) I literally attacked Boycie with a slipper. I was just so mad at his mother... and I let them starve...

GRANDMA: I remember your cousin reading me a story about a woman who killed her own children because their father was hurting her. Don't be that woman Masedi. O mma bana, even your young siblings you always took care of. Whether you feel Boitumelo or Letang, wronged you, this little souls did nothing to you. All they know is their loving

mother, imagine their shock when you treat them otherwise, you hurt them emotionally more than physically. Ke masiela a gago, bo mmabone ba ba ts habetse akere. Remember how Boitumelo was just always on her phone with that Facebook thing ya lona from the day Boycie came from the hospital... Boycie o tswa go rweswa khujwana sitting on your lap, you are the only mother they know. The mother who has always treated them so well.

MASEDI: (sighing) I just don't get why God would give me a disabled child when I have loved those that aren't mine with all my heart.

GRANDMA: Segole ga se motho Masedi? Shall we look down on the disabled? That child came to you because God knew you can handle it. Do you see someone like your cousin Tutu being able to handle it? She can't even handle her normal child. God knows who are able to carry heavier loads. How is your husband?

MASEDI: Nkoko, le raa gore its ok that Letang take money from home and pay for Boitumelo's things?

And when I ask about it he gets angry and says I don't bring money home.

GRANDMA: That's men for you. He forgets the last time you drew a salary was a long time ago. Now you have been loving and caring for his children at no pay... cooking, cleaning, supporting him. To him it will always be nothing.

MASEDI: It's not fair.

GRANDMA: When have you ever known life to be fair? Anyway, that is what I called you here for.. Of all my grandchildren, you are the one who always remembers me, even when you had nothing, you would come here to sweep and do my washing. That is why I want us to go change names of this plot to you.

MASEDI: Maa? All of it?

She looked at the expanse of the large olden days homestead. It could span four of modern day yards. Most of it was empty space, with just her grandma's traditional hut and the two and half Masedi convinced Letang to build for the old

woman after they got married.

GRANDMA: Yes. You can extend this house and have it as your home, and then divide up that side and sell.

MASEDI: Uhm... ok...

GRANDMA: Sedi, don't tell your husband about this. A woman must always have a fail safe. A man can not be trusted, o utwa a setse a bua bo ga o tise sepe jaana. Next thing he will be throwing you out. Have a way to help yourself if that ever happens.

After talking to her grandmother, she got the kids and drove back.

Letang walked into the resort and went to see Boitumelo. He sat playing dollies with her, then as he was leaving, saw Mara also walking out.

LETANG: Hey Ms mystery.

MARA: (laughing) Seriously? That's so weak man! Anyway, how are you? How is your sister?

LETANG: No change, I really wish there was

something I could do. How is your mother?

MARA: Still cuckoo bananas.

LETANG: I checked your Facebook profile out. You been to every exotic location one can think of. Wow.

MARA: Stalker...

LETANG: Financial analyst, huh? I always wanted to do finance. But because of the financial situation at home I became a soldier.

MARA: How do you drive that on a soldier salary?

LETANG: Cryptocurrency... Forex. I took several classes online and turned out to be good at it.

MARA: Interesting... I do crypto too...

LETANG: Hey, what are you doing after this?

MARA: I'm open... what do you have in mind?

LETANG: Lunch? I am sure I can learn a thing or two about trading from you.

MARA: Disappointing. I thought you were gonna suggest a steamy romp in some hotel.

He laughed and shook his head. This one was a handful.

She was like a matured, grown Boitumelo. Witty, gorgeous, and funny.

LETANG: Who said that's off the table? But isn't the gentleman rule to wine and dine a lady first?

MARA: (smiling) Ah, but I am no lady, and you sir, aren't a gentleman either. Ok, meet at Thapama in twenty? They have lunch... and rooms.

LETANG: (laughing) Ok... see you there.

Masedi stopped at the mall and walked to a salon where she got Penelope's hair washed and braided, and Boycie got a haircut.

As they were waiting for their turn, Charity walked in and Penelope recognized her and tried to talk to her.

CHARITY: Hi Opene...ng ng, don't touch me wena, your fingers are sticky, these pants are white.

The little girl's face fell in sadness.

MASEDI: Ao mma! She is just a kid.

CHARITY: Re a tswa and I don't wanna go home to change, she will make me dirty. Penelope, damnit! Look at your greasy little fingerprints on my jeans!

Masedi stared daggers at her and called Penelope over, soothing the crying little girl and wiped her hands with baby wipes.

This was why she had vowed to care for this little babies whose mothers were too much of selfish bitches to step up. One was a blithering drunk who only thought of her next drink and club visit, while the other was a felon who was playing mad to avoid jail. Man could Letang pick 'em!

But these babies were innocent.

She hated Boitumelo with all her heart for causing her child to be disabled, and when that bitch came out, she was gonna take revenge. Not on an innocent baby, but on Boitumelo.

No, never on Boycie again. She'd be damned if she let Boitumelo make her cause emotional damage to another child.

A man walked in for a barber and kept looking at her. Finally he talked to Penelope.

HIM: Is your mom a supermodel?

PENELOPE: What's a supermodel?

HIM: Those tall beautiful girls they put in magazines and fashion shows.

Masedi blushed and looked down with a smile.

MASEDI: Penny, we don't talk to strangers.

HIM: Ao, ok then tell me your name so I won't be a stranger the mmagwe Penny.

The barber finished with Boycie and she took him and paid, then walked off as the guy watched with a smile.

HIM: (laughing) Ao, the mma ra itse o modelara, but we mere mortals deserve a chance too.

MASEDI: (laughing) Married! Bye

HIM: Shit... dintja di a ja. You look nice, my type. I'm Gabriel.

MASEDI: (laughing) And I'm not interested!

She flashed her ring on his face and strapped all the three kids into their car seats and drove off.

Letang and Mara fell back in the hotel bed, both panting and sweaty. He draped his hand around her waist and kissed her neck.

LETANG: That was awesome!

MARA: Damn boy, you is a beast...

His phone flashed ringing as Masedi called.

He ignored it and kissed her neck.

MARA: Dude, answer it, will you? It's irritating. Who is it?

LETANG: My uhm... maid. It doesn't matter.

MARA: Maid. Right. You are married, aren't you?

LETANG: No, I'm...

MARA: Dude, you don't have to lie. I'm not looking to date you or some shit. We are just fucking. Hopefully we will do it again. Your life outside this room is none of my business. That said, I gotta rush.

I have a meeting with a client who is looking to invest on my business.

LETANG: You going to fuck him too?

MARA: (laughing) Duuude! What did you think this was? We were literally just fucking, what I do out of this room is none of your business either. But no, I'm not gonna fuck him. I only fuck hot random strangers who don't have much to offer me. Rich men I dangle a carrot in front of them and they will keep chasing. Give me money, buy me gifts, everything with the hope of being the one to boast to their circle about finally nailing me. Men like a challenge. I give them one.

LETANG: Wow... just... wow.

MARA: I am sure you have bought a girl a few things and took her out with the hope of hitting, right? I just happen to choose men whose 'a few things' can be P50 000 or a Cartier bracelet or something

LETANG: You are disgusting. That's prostitution!

MARA: Prostitution is when you trade body for

money. They literally don't get my body, so?
Anyway, gotta go! Here is my business card, please
call my assistant to arrange a 'meeting' if you
wanna do this again.

She got dressed and just like that strutted out with
the confidence of a goddess.

He shook his head in surprise and drove out, giving
some girl a ride as he passes by her.

6 Months later...

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

1000/100/10

[05/29, 14:10] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 27

Sapelo sat in her office at her garden going through
her books and thinking of Aedirwe. School notes
were mounting up on how he was disrupting the

classes and the teachers begging for him to be disciplined at home. But Ephraim was not budging, they fought about it almost every day.

She heard a commotion before her door burst open and Malebogo stormed in.

SAPELO: Uhhh... ok?

MALEBOGO: Koore who do you think you are? I talked to rragwe ngwanake asking for madi a maid so I can go work like you... gatwe o ganne!

SAPELO: (laughing) Are you drunk or something?

MALEBOGO: Your child goes to white people day care centers and has a maid, why doesn't mine? Ke bana ba monna akere, they need to be treated equally.

SAPELO: My child goes to a school his MOTHER can afford. Can you afford the school Aedirwe goes to? I pay my maid too.. And what did I tell you about contacting my husband?

MALEBOGO: You really think you scare anyone? Go report me then, let's see if Ephraim will allow you to

take a mother away from his child, mxim...

Sapelo called the garden workers.

SAPELO: Can you escort this lady out of my premises? If she refuses, call the police.

She sighed in relief seeing her walk off, but that was not long lived as Ephraim's cousin walked in.

HIM: Ao, mmagwe moshimane!

SAPELO: (fake smile) Hey

HIM: Le teng?

SAPELO: Yes, very busy though. Were you looking for something?

HIM: I have been meaning to come here, but so afraid... eish. Kana wena o bogale blind.

SAPELO: What do you want, Thuso? I am very busy.

HIM: I was just asking for P200, my son's mother is yelling at me to give her money for the baby.

She sighed in annoyance. He was one of the few family members who never gave her any hard time,

but the man was lazy as hell. He had no shame living life begging.

HIM: Mmagwe Ae, have pity please...just a P200. For my child.

SAPELO: Thuso, not even a 'Mmagwe Aedirwe, let me cut grass and earn P200' don't you feel ashamed, always begging?

HIM: (laughing) Mathata ke mokwata...

SAPELO: Never deters you from dancing at shebeens though.

HIM: Ao, mmagwe Ae... please.

She went inside annoyed and looked in her handbag and found P110.

SAPELO: I don't have money, that's all I got.

HIM: Thank you... thank you lekgoa la me. I will come get the rest ko lwapeng akere?

Sapelo just shook her head and went back inside her office. This family was always taking... taking!

*** **

Letang laid in bed with Mara as they had wine.

MARA: I am telling you, this is such a worthy investment. I am putting all my savings into it because I know returns are gonna be big.

LETANG: It's risky Mara... I have kids... and to be honest the market has been bad, with bitcoin falling. I had to take out of my savings to pay for my sister's stay at the resort. It's almost depleted.

MARA: Which is why you need this. Trust me, I'm a financial analyst. This is a good move. You can struggle with the little you have or multiply it tenfold and have reserves to start again when Bitcoin picks.

LETANG: (sighing) I'm scared...

MARA: If it doesn't scare you, is it even worth it? This is big! The company teaches small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs worldwide how to digital market and run an online business, so there is an endless supply of clients. The clients pay USD50 to access the 49 step programs.. And to attend a seminar is USD 50 000 per person.

LETANG: What? Where will people get all that

money?

MARA: I've been to one seminar, most are Americans. They want to learn and improve their businesses. So it's a small price to pay. They take from savings, pension funds, some sell or refinance their businesses. You should know our third partner, and the founder, Cullum Chase has made quite a name for himself in the digital selling world. So people are willing to pay big. As a partner, we are gonna need to travel a lot... the first seminar is in Costa Rica. Cullum owns a resort there. We split profits according to how much you put in, so be wise. He is 75% owner and offered me 25%. I told him I wanted to bring a friend as a 12.5% owner and he agreed. Just look at his track record so far... OUB bank statement... everything is transparent and we will go to lawyers and all when we complete the agreement.

LETANG: It's all I been thinking about this past month Mara... (sigh) ok... I'll put in 12.5%. This better work because that's my livelihood...

MARA: I put in my all too. That's the mark of a true

entrepreneur...I'm so excited! Next month we will have to travel to Costa Rica for the seminar...

LETANG: Eish... mathata tiro...

MARA: Why are you still holding on to that? Bosole? Nigga, we about to be multi millionaire. This insignificant shit is holding you back.

She straddled him and started kissing him.

Ephraim sat in his office staring into space when his boss walked in.

BOSS: Penny for your thought?

EPHRAIM: (sighing) Had a little argument with the wife again yesterday.

BOSS: Still about the ADHD?

EPHRAIM: Yup... she is getting adamant about it. Said she is gonna take him without my consent...

BOSS: Maybe just hear them out. You know I was in ADHD meds when I was around four or five? Wasn't helping much, just made me drowsy all the time,

so they tried traditional. Apparently that worked.

EPHRAIM: See, that's what I don't want! Ae is such a bright little boy it would break his spirit to always be conked up with medication like we don't like his personality. But Sapelo may not agree with traditional. She is not staunch Christian, but she was raised in the church and all.

BOSS: Eish... good luck my man. Whatever you decide, I hope it works out. I'm gonna head off.

As he walked out, Miranda was at the door.

BOSS: Try not to molest the man please. He has enough in his plate already.

Miranda rolled her eyes and walked in.

MIRANDA: I wanna go through the new portfolio you are looking at to see if it suits our brand.

He pulled out some files and emailed her something. She went through it for a while quietly.

MIRANDA: You look worse for wear. Everything ok? and no, I am not in your personal shit. I am just asking as colleague, you don't have to answer me.

EPHRAIM: Good. Because I was not planning to.
Now, can we get back to business?

Masedi was on the kitchen cooking when Penelope ran in with her school bag.

PENELOPE: Mama! Mama, I forgot I have homework.

MASEDI: (laughing) Eish, this standard one thing is hard, eh, my baby? They give homework!

PENELOPE: Yes! And I am the only one who is five in class!

MASEDI: We should have waited. But you are so smart... ok, a ke bone. Alright, subtraction.

PENELOPE: It's a bit hard.

MASEDI: Ok, let's use these fat cakes. If I put ten in a bowl and daddy comes and eats 4. How many are left?

Letang walked in and actually took four fat cakes.

MASEDI: (swathing his hand) Heela wena! That was

not permission to eat them, just an example.

He laughed at stuffed them. In his mouth.

LETANG: You said, 'daddy, take four fatcakes'

MASEDI: (laughing) You are such a liar. Ok. Penny come count them. (she counted)

PENELOPE: Six! There are six left!

MASEDI: Good! Write six at the 10-4. Subtract means 'take away'. Go use Boycie's blocks. You count the first number, then take away the second number, and then count what is remaining. I'll come check when I'm done.

She ran off to her bedroom.

LETANG: (kissing her neck) You are so good with her.

MASEDI: (laughing) You are gonna need to take over soon, I can only do these simple ones. Kana bo Masedi ke bo dum-dum hela.

LETANG: Stop, I hate when you say shit like that about yourself. Soooo... I quit the military.

MASEDI: You what? Can you even do that?

LETANG: Ok, not quit, sort of early retired.

MASEDI: Letang, are you crazy? What the hell! Seriously! We have two kids who go to private school and one special needs child who constantly need private medical care. Please tell me this is a joke!

LETANG: (laughing) Relax babe! I invested in this amazing business. I'm gonna be travelling a lot, but I'll be making millions babe! Per seminar with just ten attendants, I make USD 6300. That's P63000! One seminar. And that's before factoring all the web content and mentorship we sell. Relax, ok? Have I not always handled our finances and made sure we are comfortable?

MASEDI: You have, but...

LETANG: Trust me babe, I got this.

She sighed and went to get the baby as he started crying while went to the bathroom.

She was sitting on a sofa breastfeeding the baby

when his phone vibrated on the table with
'Debonairs'

Since when did Debonairs call people at 8pm?

He thought she didn't know his password, but she had snooped while he was entering it, and saw it.

She copied the phone number quickly and went through the phone book looking at more food shop. Most of the people saved she already knew. Only a handful were not familiar.

One was saved as 'Mara' and they talked often according to their WhatsApp thread, but it looked mostly business. Talking about their Bitcoin thing, Forex, and in the past month and a half, some investment whatever she did not understand, but got bad vibes about. Especially the last few messages which said.

'Yea, I put everything in my savings in there, business is risk mos.'

She felt herself go cold... he did what?

Ephraim walked in to the living room as she helped make dinner and Sapelo watched TV, rubbing her bump

EPHRAIM: Hey...

SAPELO: Mxim

EPHRAIM: Oookay... what did I do now?

SAPELO: Ephraim, why would you tell your baby mama I'm refusing to let you pay a helper for her child?

EPHRAIM: What? I literally told her that like everything else, she needed to ask from you, she and I have nothing to talk about.

SAPELO: Well, she was at my office a nthoga. Ephraim, I just got over the Miranda drama, which for your sake I hope its over, I am not starting a Maleboga saga, I swear. Control batho ba gago motho wa Modimo, I can't stand for such nonsense. And I am taking Aedirwe to a pediatric psychiatrist, gatwe they have one at that Serene Minds place.

EPHRAIM: The hell you are... my child won't be a

pill zombie. I heard of someone who had a child like Ae and the took him to a traditional doctor, and it helped.

Sapelo burst out laughing.

SAPELO: What? You are serious? I swear next you are gonna tell me to take him to one of those celebrity pastor! Sir. I said, I am taking my child to a PROFESSIONAL! Informing. Not asking for permission. I have entertained your drama for too long and my boy needs help. Traditional doctor indeed.

She laughed and shook her head as she walked off to the bedroom, rubbing her bump and praying this one was not like Aedirwe.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

1000/100/10

[05/29, 14:10] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 28

Sapelo arrived home from the paediatric

psychiatrist with medication. She sat to give Aedirwe.

Ephraim snatched the whole packet and all the others and went to flush them down the toilet.

EPHRAIM: I told you we are not giving my son that shit!

SAPELO: Wow! You are unbelievable. Ephraim, if you stand on the way of my son getting the treatment he so very much need, I will divorce your ass and get sole custody since you can't be adult enough to make decisions for him.

EPHRAIM: Wow! There it goes! 'Ephraim, I will leave you', every time you don't get your way. Do you know how much it fucking sucks to be told by someone you love that you are irreplaceable? Wow. He took his car key and walked off.

SAPELO: Ephraim... wait... I didn't mean...

EPHRAIM: No, fuck you, Sapelo. I can't believe your disrespectful ass was actually gonna give my child than shit. And again you throw the divorce word?

I'm tired of this shit. If you want a divorce so much, why don't you just say so.

He got in his car and drove off angrily.

Masedi sat in the bedroom looking at the Debonairs number.

She finally dialled and the voice that answered was a younger girl.

HER: Hello? Hello? Ijo...

MASEDI: You know the man you are messing with is married right?

HER: (laughing) Which one would that be?

MASEDI: Ebile they are many? Hae you are called Debonairs kwa! That's how he views you. Something he gets from time to time when he is bored.

HER: (laughing) So, why you worked up hun? Don't be blaming me for you not being able to keep a man. I mean, I don't get how a woman that looks like you would have a problem keeping a man, you must

suck in bed. (she laughed and hung up)

Masedi called her again.

MASEDI: Little girl, I said leave my man alone don't think I can't find you...

MASEDI: Oh hun, you don't have to look too far. The name is Khethiwe. You can call me Kitty, Khitty Khett on Facebook and Insta. I stay in Bluetown. Should I WhatsApp you a picture too?

Masedi hung up angrily and went to check on the kids. She gave them snacks and put cartoons on for them then locked herself in the bathroom, running the shower to cover her cries.

The next day in the evening Letang walked into the resort with a smile. About two months ago Boitumelo had started to be aware of reality, and had been progressing so well she was actually being discharged today.

She sat on the lobby waiting and ran over and hugged him.

The Cuban junior psychologist who had been her primary doctor since the psychiatrist who owned this place transferred her to him a month ago approached them and sat in the lobby with them chatting.

DR: Young lady, I expect to see you here outpatient every Wednesday for now. Collect all your prescriptions and you are free to go.

She hugged the doctor happily.

BOITUMELO: Thank you Dr. Jordan! See you next Wednesday!

Letang took her bag and they went to the car.

BOITUMELO: Gosh! It feels like a brand new world! Eight months in there! Wow...

LETANG: I'm just glad you are all good. I am so happy to see the real you. So, ko ga mmaBoitumelo?

She looked down and bit her jersey sleeve nervously.

LETANG: What is it Boity?

BOUTUMELO: Mama got transferred to Mahalapye

last month. I sort of don't have a place to stay in Francistown and I have to see Dr. Jordan every Wednesday, soo... maybe if I call my friend...

LETANG: Hey, my place is your place. Come on.

BOITUMELO: Thank you. I am really sorry about when I...

LETANG: Hey, we talked about that. You were not well. It's all forgotten.

Mas edi finally wiped her tears and went to the kitchen when Letang walked in with Boitumelo.

MASEDI: So, Boitumelo is gonna be crushing here. She needs a place to stay...

Mas edi just shook her head sadly.

MASEDI: It's your house monna wa Modimo. Do as you please.

LETANG: She can move into the guest bedroom. Can you fix her a bed.

MASEDI: No. I can't.

She walked off to the kitchen.

LETANG: Boity, look how big Boycie is! Don't you wanna hold him?

BOITUMELO: Do I have to?

LETANG: I thought you would have missed him.

BOITUMELO: I don't know him.

LETANG: Come. On, I know it's weird... but try.. Pick him up.

Boitumelo tried to pick up Boycie and he ran off and hid behind Masedi.

LETANG: Come on, let me go get you settled. Clean bedding is in the wardrobe.

BOITUMELO: I'll move out as soon as I can.

LETANG: No please... Stay as long as you want.

She hugged him and then gave him a shy kiss.

Masedi fed the kids and bathed them, then tucked into bed before she showered and laid in bed.

Letang was still in Boitumelo's bedroom and only came to their room around midnight.

LETANG: Sedi? O robets e.

She ignored him.

LETANG: What was I supposed to do Masedi, she had nowhere to go.

MASEDI: I said do what you like monna wa Modimo. It doesn't even matter anymore. Anyway, I called Debonairs maabane. From your phone.

LETANG: You went through my phone? What the fuck, Masedi?

MASEDI: Is that what's important right now? You are cheating on me Letang! And you brought your baby mama to live with us! All you are worried about is me going through your phone?

LETANG: You violated my privacy! You pull that shit again I'm gonna beat your ass.

MASEDI: Then beat me Letang, because I can't keep quiet when you are doing all this rubbish!

LETANG: I'm going to sleep in Boycie's room. Nxla!

Boitumelo laid in her bed talking to her mother.

MOTHER: Tutu, are you sure about this? What if you regress?

BOITUMELO: I won't. I acted on emotions last time mama. I have learnt to put my emotions aside now.

MOTHER: Tutu...

BOITUMELO: Seriously mama. I am good. But this girl ene she is going to suffer, autwa! These next few months are gonna be hell for her! Every single fucking thing I went through was because of her... she is gonna suffer.

MOTHER: I don't disagree. I am just worried.

BOITUMELO: Don't be. I know what I am doing. Masedi did all this to me. I'm gonna make her feel what it's like to lose your mind. I'm gonna take everything away from her, like she took everything away from me. Wa go tswa mo ka mopakwananyana wa gagwe hela. Koore everyone who hurt me. Kgosi... Those girls in prison...

Masedi... Leyang... Anyway, nite nite mumzy. Love you.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:10] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 29

Ephraim woke up early in the morning. It had been two weeks of constant fighting. Sapelo was so angry about him throwing away the medication, and he was mad at her for going behind his back, and that while divorce thing. She had gone back to the doctor and got more pills, but Ephraim had just told Aedirwe to hide them under his tongue and spit them out later.

Sapelo was still sleeping as Ephraim tip toed from their room and went to Aedirwe's room, picking up the sleeping boy and snuck outside where his boss's car was waiting.

BOSS: Are you sure about this?

EPHRAIM: Sapelo will never agree to taking him to a traditional healer. This is the only way.

BOSS: The lady is my wife's aunt and has helped us a lot. I don't really believe in this shit man, but she has helped us in some things. Maybe placebo, I don't know...

EPHRAIM: It's worth a try. Better than him being a zombie in that medication. Let's go.

When Sapelo woke up, she saw Ephraim carrying Aedirwe back into his room.

SAPELO: Where are you two from?

EPHRAIM: Uhm... he must have been sleep walking. I found him sleeping in the carpet.

SAPELO: He sleepwalks? Damn. We should never leave the key on the door, otherwise he will go out. Babe, can we talk? I hate the situation between us right now.

EPHRAIM: (sighing) Ok

She took his hand and led him to the sofa, then

went to make them some coffee and brought scones.

SAPELO: Firstly, I want to apologies for saying I will divorce you. It's a bad habit of mine and I know it must hurt. I know I will be hurt if you said the same to me. I will do my best to never say it again.

EPHRAIM: I hope you really mean that babe... it sucks, I feel like I don't matter to you.

SAPELO: Aw, I'm so sorry. You do matter to me. And also... I don't know. The medicine seems to not be working...at this point I am willing to try anything. So if you know any of those people... we can take him.

EPHRAIM: Oh...

SAPELO: Isn't this what you wanted? And I am really willing to try anything. I want my son to be ok.

EPHRAIM: (looking down) Uhm... ok... yea... I will find a person we will go to. I have to see my mother about something.

It had been a about two weeks since Boitumelo moved in.

Masedi came back from church and found Boitumelo sleeping in the couch.

Boycie picked up a condom wrapper from the floor.

BOYCIE: Mama, candy! I want candy.

He held it up to Masedi.

MASEDI: (snatching it away) Oh my God, what the hell is wrong with you people? Children live here for fuck's sake! Boycie, come, let me wash your hands and I will give you a lolly.

She gave the kids snacks and picked up all the empty snack wrappers around Boitumelo. So typical of her cousin. They always had to pick up after her.

Letang walked in very excited.

LETANG: I told you this was the real deal Masedi! Check this out! First seminar Cullum did. I just got my P63 000! Not what we had, but damn! That much in two weeks! This is just the beginning.

BOITUMELO: Oh, that's awesome! You should take me somewhere nice and sunny! Dr J says a holiday should do me good, after being cooped up for all that long. I heard Mozambique has beautiful beaches.

LETANG: Awesome, we could leave by...

MASEDI: Are you serious right now? The kids' school fees is due! We need to order Percy's medicine. And you have no job!

LETANG: Would you relax? More money is coming in on Tuesday. Kids school fees is only due on Wednesday, and Percy still have medication for a month. Right now the goal is to get Boity back to her best self, and if a doctor say a holiday is what she needs, then that's what she gets.

MASEDI: That money is all we have between us and poverty. A holiday is the last thing we need!

BOITUMELO: (laughing) We? Oh, you are not coming, darling. Also, maybe you should get a job? Oh wait. You have no qualifications post the form three you failed.

MASEDI: Shut the hell up looney. You don't get a say. Letang, there will be no holiday.

LETANG: Well, it's a good thing you don't get a say because you don't make any money. Boity, go pack. I'm going out to meet with the boys.

Masedi went to fix the kids lunch, leaving Boycie watching Peppa Pig on her phone.

Ah, since that bitch loved sending texts so much...

Boitumelo snatched the phone away from Boycie and swapped it with hers, they went through Masedi's phone.

No incriminating messages or anything...

She went to the photos and kept scrolling.

Oh my

Jackpot.

Nudes.

It must have been for when Letang had gone for a trip or something.

On one she only wore red stilettos, sitting on a

bench with her legs wide open.

How on earth did this dummy not know she was drop dead gorgeous? But then Masedi was stupid like that.

Boitumelo found Masedi's Facebook app. Her Facebook as logged in, with all the pristine little life she liked to pretend she had. Matching outfits with the kids, Instagram type of meals...family holidays...

Boitumelo uploaded the nude photo and typed random letters with it, then posted it, trying not to laugh. She quickly swapped the phone back, giving Boycie Masedi's phone.

Let the games begin.

Letang sat with Ephraim drinking as they waited for their friends.

LETANG: Masalu says you and mme got into it this morning? What did she do now?

EPHRAIM: (sighing) Mme is annoying. I need info from her about me... for my son's benefit. And she

just won't tell me.

LETANG: Cryptic... do I wanna know what the info is about?

Phadza arrived before Ephraim could answer, then Bolokang.

They sat drinking and making idle talk for a bit.

Bolokang laughed and exclaimed loudly.

BOLOKANG: Oh damn! Fuck, Lets, you lucky bastard! Damn!

LETANG: What is it?

He handed him the phone.

LETANG: Oh fuck, fuck, fuck!

He took his phone and started calling Masedi. After a few rings she finally picked up.

MASEDI: Hey... sorry I took long. Boycie had my phone.

LETANG: Don't give the child your phone when you have not deleted photos like that, for fuck's sake Masedi! I told you to always delete after you send

them. God!

MASEDI: What are you talking about?

LETANG: The photo you sent when I was in a trip last year! Red stiletto...chair... check your Facebook.

MASEDI: What? That photo? Facebook? Oh my God! Please say you are joking!

LETANG: I told you to stop giving him the phone!

MASEDI: Some of us don't have anything to hide, so if the child wants to watch Ben and Holly, then I give him the phone. Oh my God, Letang! Wait...but that photo is probably two thousand photos from being the first, how would he skip all those and get to that one?

She hung up the phone and went to her profile and deleted the photo. But people were already tagging her in other profiles where someone had downloaded it and uploaded again.

It could only be Boitumelo's doing.

She ran to the living room and grabbed her by the t-shirt, slapping her hard.

MASEDI: What have you done you crazy bitch! Oh my God, Boitumelo!

BOITUMELO: (laughing) Nice shot...the world is loving it! I have already been tagged in eleven accounts that reposted it. This is just the beginning, bitch. By the time I am done with you, ypu'll have nothing. Be nothing... and you will know exactly what is like to lose your mind.

When Letang got home, Masedi was in their bedroom crying.

LETANG: I don't even know what you are fucking crying about when all this is your fault!

MASEDI: It was NOT Boycie! He knows he is not allowed to touch anything but the YouTube app.

LETANG: And two years olds are so famous for following rules, right?

MASEDI: I am telling you it was not him. He skipped all these photos and went for the most damning one? It was Boitumelo.

LETANG: That's your move. Boitumelo is not like you.

MASEDI: I bet if I told you she'll kidnap and beat the shit out of you, you'd have say she'd never do that, but it happened, didn't it?

LETANG: Shut the fuck up, your fucking pussy is out there for the world to see, how do you think I feel as your husband?

MASEDI: Seriously Letang, I don't know how she got the doctors to let her out, but Boitumelo is not ok. I am worried about the kids.... what if she loses it and hurts them?

LETANG: The highest qualification you have is a form three certificate with a bunch of 'E's, and you wanna argue with doctors who actually went to school for this shit? I don't know how long I can fucking do this Masedi! I really don't.

MASEDI: Do what?

LETANG: All of this shit! Nxla! Every fucking body told me I was wrong about you. And I didn't listen.

MASEDI: I don't even get how any of this is my fault!
Why are you angry ay me?

He cussed loudly and his phone rang with 'MARA'
on the screen.

LETANG: Hey babe...

MARA: I saw your wife making the rounds... hoooot!

LETANG: I am so fucking stressed and
embarrassed right now.

MARA: Why don't you pop by my place and I'll make
it better?

Masedi snatched the phone from him.

MASESI: He is married you cheat shit...

Letang struggled for the phone with her, slapping
her, then punching her on the stomach. When she
doubled over, he punched her again and she fell to
the ground crying. Letang kicked her repeatedly on
the stomach.

Penelope opened the door with Boycie behind him.

PENELOPE: Oh my God, what are you doing daddy!

Mama! Mama! (crying)

She ran over and stood between Masedi to block her from the attack, while Boycie attacked Letang, biting his leg and screaming at him.

Letang angrily shook him off as the boy fell back, then Letang walked off.

Boitumelo met him at the main door.

BOITUMELO: Babe, when are we leavin4

LETANG: Uhm.. In the morning. We can drive to Gaborone and catch a flight. I gotta head somewhere right now.

He went off to the car and drove to Mara's place.

Masedi came out of their room dragging herself, with the kids crying after her as she had bruises in her face and blood trickled down her leg.

MASEDI: Boity, can you watch the babies while I drive to the hospital?

BOITUMELO: Did you help me in anyway at all when I was laying in front of this house after Letang beat me up? Fuck you.

MASEDI: Boitumelo, please...

BOITUMELO: Aww, sorry cuz love. Ke a tswa.

She walked off to the road and caught a taxi.

Masedi sighed and loaded the kids in the car, wincing at every move, then drove herself to the hospital.

Boitumelo arrived back home after two hours. She sat in her room thinking about earlier. Wow! That had turned out so much better than she had expected!

Yea, bitch, how does it feel to have a man you trusted and love beat you to a pulp?

This bitch was getting tenfold of everything Boitumelo went through.

Wow... ok...time to switch this thing up.

She had no plan initially, but it was coming to her... Masedi had to feel everything she felt... go through everything she went through.

Mhhh...

The bitch had called her a liar when she tried to tell Letang she was raped.

A naughty smile came across her face as she thought of how Oteng told her about the dark web and how it was accessed.

After several trials, she managed to access it.

She went to a chat room that talked about sexual fantasies.

Gosh, people were vulgar.

Hopefully she could find something here.

She entered a chat room talking about sexual fantasies.

She read through then types.

'I'm totally into rape fantasy, but can't find anyone to do it. Share your experience.'

She got a lot of 'where are you's and 'I can do it'.

I am in a tiny African country called Botswana.

This was along shot anyway. Meh there would be other things.

Then someone private mess aged her.

‘I am touring Bots wana next month. I will be going to a place called Kasane, then Maun, and Gaborone. If you are near any of those, I’ll indulge your fantasies.

‘Wow... awesome. I’m in Francistown. It’s the in between of where you are going. I’ll give you my address when you are here. This is my Skype. J ust drop me a line when you arrive.’

‘Cool...what do you like?’

‘Loads of sadism. Choke, bite, slap, hair pulling, go all out...up your alley?’

‘ Definitely!’

When she concluded the conversation she smiled.

‘let’s see how you like being called a liar after you get raped, bitch.’

Now all she had to do was get Letang and the kids out of the house on that date, and leave a key

where the guy would find it...

Wow... her plan was coming out nicely.

She sat smiling thinking of how the scenario will play out.

Of course after going through the nudes saga and this up coming one...with a deteriorating marriage... Masedi will blame Boitumelo, and take it out on Boitumelo's son...

Boitumelo will make sure there is lots of DNA all over the house... blood... clothes buried somewhere they can be found...

The bitch will go to prison for murder of her stepson... Letang will get his heart broken, and Boitumelo will finally leave and go reunite with that little brat and her lover, and they will be off to island life with the money they were about to get.

Eventually Boycie would learn to love her or whatever... otherwise it would have to be off to boarding school with him.

Yup, this was such a perfect plan.

She rubbed her hands together with a smile. This was exciting.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

1000/100/10

[05/29, 14:10] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 30

Sapelo waked into the resort to consult with the pediatric psychiatrist again.

She passed an office where voices where raised.

‘Seriously Jordan! You consorted with a somewhat stable outpatient to release a totally unstable, should fully be locked up patient in my absence! For what, some pussy!’

‘But doctor, you said she was progressing well when you transferred her to me.’

‘What part of they say ‘release her’ to you! Are you crazy?’

‘Maralee Sanders was helping her, she told me her experience, how being outpatient had actually helped her be stable! I just thought...‘

‘Tutu is not like Maralee! She is a danger to herself and those around her! Don’t you get it? The woman has five personalities, one day she is a sweet five years old, the next she is a psychotic killer femme fatale! You never know who you are gonna get! We need to find her before she hurts someone or herself.

Mas edi tried Letang’s number again, but it wasn’t going through.

NURSE’ Look, Mrs Thebe, we let you keep the children overnight, but they can’t be here. When is your husband coming?

MASEDI: (nervous laugh) You know, soldiers and their work protocols. My mother in law went to the fields, let me check my sister in law.

She dialled Sapelo’s number reluctantly.

SAPELO: Masedi?

MASEDI: Hey, may I ask for a favor?

SAPELO: Sure

MASEDI: Can you come pick my kids up at the hospital right now? I am admitted.

SAPELO: Oh my God, what happened?

MASEDI: Another thing, please don't ask questions. I don't have the strength for it right now. I will text you the details.

SAPELO: Ok, I'll be there soon.

Letang laid in bed as Mara kissed him.

MARA: You see? The P63000 came through. And guess what? Cullum is willing to sell us another 12.5% each.

LETANG: I don't have much money. Just that P63 000.

MARA: Your bitcoins. Sell them all to him for another 12.5% share. Imagine instead of P63 000,

you get a P120 000 with these payments! I already done mine. Next payout is on Tuesday, but the one after that you could be earning P120 000 a seminar!

She said as she straddled him, sliding herself into him and gyrated her hips as they both moaned.

LETANG: That's actually not a bad idea. Ok. Mhhhh, that's so good babe.

Sapelo walked into Masedi's room and gave the kids some snacks.

SAPELO: I brought you mageu.

Sapelo watched her as she tried to sip, wincing in pain.

SAPELO: Letang did this didn't he?

MASEDI: No, I bumped into the wall.

SAPELO: Then the wall beat you up for it?

PENELOPE: No, aunty, it was daddy. He was kicking her and I tried to protect her.

MASEDI: Penny eat your snacks and watch your

siblings. You guys be good for aunty Sasa, ok?
Sapelo, please pick up a few of their clothes from home. Here is the key. Thanks. I owe you.

After dropping the kids at home, Sapelo drove to Letang's house.

She found Letang and Boitumelo packing a bag.

SAPELO: You know Letang, I used to like you. I thought o motho! What you did to Masedi...

BOITUMELO: Can we help you?

SAPELO: Your wife is in the hospital battered up. Your kids spent a night in a mattress in a hospital room. Legale they are with me now. I just came for their clothes.

She went past them and got the kids clothes and drove off.

LETANG: Babe maybe I should go see the kids...

BOITUMELO: (whining) But we will miss our flight. We need to get to Gaborone soon.

LETANG: I'll just...

BOITUMELO: If something was wrong, Sapelo would have told you.

LETANG: But...

BOITUMELO: Legale go...it's just... Dr J said the sooner I can get in a relaxed place the better I will start to feel. This house has bad memories anyway, all I remember is you hitting...

LETANG: Ok my love, let's go...

Masedi laid in her bedroom trying Letang's number again. Still not going through. She couldn't believe she had lost this pregnancy before she even knew she was pregnant. A whole four months! She had never got her period back yet after giving birth, so she must have gotten pregnant when the baby was four months old.

And the hardest thing was that the doctors wanted the miscarriage to complete naturally, they feared a D&C could scar her uterus which had already

suffered two placenta abruptions.

So now she was still carrying her dead baby within her body.

She didn't want anyone seeing her crying, so she pulled herself into sitting and hobbled her way to the toilets.

She slammed into the bathroom door and entered, closing it behind her. She just broke down. The sobs punched through, ripping through her muscles, bones, and guts. She pressed her forehead against the grimy stall door and began to let her heart yank in and out of her chest. It pulled back in like a yo yo. Over and over. In and out. She was hollow. Her life crumbled in her fingertips...as much as she was crying for her lost baby, she also mourned the loss of innocence she saw on her little girl as she begged and pleaded with Letang to stop, trying to protect the only mother she ever knew with her little body. The betrayal... the fear...

In that one incident, Letang had damaged that little girl, and it was going to take a lot to undo what was

done.

After a week holidaying in Mozambique, Letang sat in their suite waiting for more money to come as they had ran out of the P63000, what with hotel bills, expensive restaurants and Boitumelo's shopping. But she was in high spirits, laughing and running about in the beach happily. And it warmed his heart so much to see her smile. He watched her in the phone outside in the balcony, her cute little brow frowned.

Boitumelo sat in the balcony talking to Mara.

BOITUMELO: But my plan...I want her to get everything that's coming to her and...

MARA: There is no time. Stupidass Jordan confessed everything to that annoying Dr V, and they are looking for you. Babe. If they find you, you gonna be sent back, and this time it won't be Serene Minds since Letang is broke! It's gonna be fucking Sbrana!

BOITUMELO: Oh my God, no!

MARA: Exactly. So, fuck that. The best revenge is living our best life. I already scored you a sponsorship for your degree and for my masters through a contact. But you need to leave. Now. I am buying you a ticket outside Mozambique and we will meet at O. R Tambo to get our flight.

BOITUMELO: What do I say to Letang?

MARA: Ditch the fucker.

BOITUMELO: Ok.

She hung up and went inside, going to the bedroom and slipping her passport into her yoga pants pockets, then the rest of the cashed money they had left.

BOITUMELO: Hey babe... I wanna go walk along the beach, you know... just to clear my mind.

LETANG: Cool, let me just wear my...

BOUTUMELO: It's ok. I feel like being alone for a bit.

LEYANG: Oh... ok, sure.

She walked off for a bit, when she was out of sight from their hotel room, she detoured and caught a taxi to the airport.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

1000/100/10

[05/29, 14:10] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 31

Seven Months back

Maralee sat in the Serene Minds gardens staring into space.

She did not belong here, she thought.

Even if she was the one who checked herself in

After both her parents died in a car crash Mara had slowly fallen into a pattern of self destructive behavior, to a point she lost her job.

Drugs had provided a way out, but she started losing control of her life to the white substance.

She did not do lose control. So she checked herself in here to help with the addiction. The idiots diagnosed her with Borderline Personality Disorder. And narcissism. Like that was a bad thing.

She looked at the weird girl who usually sat in a corner coloring in kids books.

Today she was not coloring. Neither was she wearing that too much pink and holding a teddy. Oh no.

She wore a white deep cleavage silk blouse that showed her too perfect breasts. They even looked better than Mara's bought ones... she matched it with a red plaid skirt that had a thigh high slit, ankle boots, and very alluring smoky eye makeup, her hair piled into a high bun.

She strolled over and sat at Mara's table.

MARA: This seat is taken.

HER: You probably mistook me for someone who gives a shit. I'm Yenffer.

Mara chuckled.

MARA: Maralee. What are you in here for?

YENFFER: Cause I have a cocktail in my head? One of us seems to think it's a problem though, so here we are.

Ok, this girl was a totally cuckoo banana.

YENFFER: Wanna go get naughty?

She winked at Mara, leaning forwards with her chin resting on her chin. Her arms were squeezing in her cleavage, making her boobs almost spill out of her top.

YENFFER: (laughing) I knew you were into girls!
Come. On.

MARA: We are supposed to be getting some air or whatever.

YENFFER: You don't strike me as someone who follows the rules. Come on. (whispering) I know a way of avoiding all the hallway cameras. Plus I got booze.

MARA: Where the hell did you get that?

YENFFER: I have my ways darlin'.

Mara laughed and followed after the crazy girl with a hypnotizing smile.

They got in her bedroom, and she took out a cellphone.

MARA: What? I thought phones were not allowed here so we don't have any distractions, just focus on our healing blah blah.

YENFFER: (laughing) Like I said, got ways.

She turned on the phone camera and started scanning around.

MARA: What are you looking for?

YENNNFER: You know how when you bring a phone too close to a laptop you sometimes get interference? Same happens with a live surveillance camera. Don't ask. One of us dated a detective. Anyway, no cameras in here. Good.

She reached into a small slash in her mattress and pulled out a bottle of wine.

MARA: Oh, wine! Glorious vino! Beautiful and red. Oh, how I have missed you my love. Let me at it.

YENFFER: (laughing) earn it. Take off an item of clothing and I will give you a sip

MARA laughed.

MARA: You are crazy

YENFFER: (laughing) You don't know the half of it.

Mara sashayed out of her panty under her dress and threw it on Yenffer's face. They both giggled as Yenffer smelled the panty and put it on the bed, then put the wine bottle on Mara's lips for a sip.

YENFFER: Not too much, greedy. Now, my turn.

She maneuvered around until she had pulled out her bra, doing a little dance.

PRESENT DAY

Boitumelo walked across the airport dragging her feet.

Mara reached her and hugged her.

MARA: Our flight is in an hour babe! They just started boarding.

BOITUMELO: (whining) But I don't wanna go. I want my teddy.

MARA: Tutu, let me talk to Yenffer.

BOITUMELO: No. I don't like her. She is mean and does bad things.

MARA: Oh, I don't have time for this, you brat! Ok, let talk to Mello.

BOITUMELO: No

MARA: Listen, you little shit. I need Yenffer.. If you don't get her to me, I will drag your insolent little ass to the bathroom and drown you in the sink.

BOITUMELO: You can't do that!

MARA: Oh?

She dragged her to the disabled toilets, locked it and filled the low sink, then pushed her head in the water and watched her flail until she felt a strong elbow in her gut.

MARA: Owww! Yen!

BOITUMELO: Try not to actually hurt the brat next

time, damnit! Just gently to force her back. Ok. Got me some nice clothes? I have nothing. Left it all on the hotel.

MARA: Yup. All in classic Yen too. And makeup.

BOITUMELO: That's my girl...

Thirty minutes later they walked out in matching sexy tracksuits and sneakers as their flight was getting a last call.

BOITUMELO: Wait... come here.

She kissed her and took a photo of them. Then sent it to Letang before breaking the sim card and throwing it in the trash can, then took Mara's hand and they walked through airport security.

Letang laid in bed starting to think about following Boitumelo. She had been gone for over three hours now.

He tried her phone and it was off.

He ran off to the beach looking for her. She was nowhere to be found.

When he came back, the receptionist reminded him that he had to pay for another night or check out.

God, what was taking Mara so long?

He tried calling Mara and her phone was off. No money in his account still.

Then a message came through his phone.

From Boitumelo.

‘You thought you were playing me? Boy, I been your coach. My girlfriend did a good job, huh? Now you are broke and unemployed. Idiot. Bye. ’

The message was followed by a picture of her and Mara kissing.

What?

No, no! This can't be! No! No!

He paced about panicked as now both Boitumelo and Mara's phones were off.

A few hours later he started calling his friends...

No one was offering him any money. But he didn't want to ask from Ephraim and have to explain the whole story.

Security guards came to escort him out of the room.

He walked outside the hotel not knowing where to go...he had no money at all, he had bought only one way ticket thinking he'd buy the return ticket when he got the money from Mara.

Masedi stood in front of the pawn shop with a sigh. Letang had been ignoring her and enjoying his holiday. Now there was no money, Percy's medication needed to be ordered again, almost no food now, this whole week they had been eating what Sapelo bought them, and the school was on her neck about the kids school fees.

Sapelo had helped enough asking again would be too much.

Zhe felt the dizzy spell again, holding on to the door until she felt strong enough to walk again.

She took out her wedding ring and walked inside the pawn shop.

In the morning Letang woke up in the alley behind the hotel where he had huddled in a corner and fell asleep.

His phone line was cut off from roaming, he didn't even have any way of contacting people.

He sighed and walked into the hotel, finding the receptionist and asking to borrow her phone and pay for its usage. The girl gave it reluctantly after some begging.

He typed a message to his brother.

'Hey Eph, its Lets. Can you front me P5000 quick. I gotta buy a flight ticket, but my money is stuck on fixed, and I used the quick cash I had on me.

Thanks bro'

Ephraim sat in the living room with Sapelo having breakfast when Letang's message arrived.

EPHRAIM: Letang wants to borrow P5000. His money is in fix deposit, so he needs...

SAPELO: Nope

EPGRAIM: But...

SAPELO: I said no. Letang took all the money, leaving Masedi with the kids with nothing, and took his crazy girlfriend on holiday to Mozambique. He is looking for more money to drink, that's all.

EPHRAIM: Lets would never let his kids suffer, he...

SAPELI: Lets killed his own child! Masedi was pregnant and he beat her to a pulp and left her battered and bruised with three young kids, to go to his other mistress. So. No Ephraim. We are not lending that piece of crap nothing. Ha e le sengwe lets take it to his kids ee.

EPHRAIM: Oh my God! Let's would never do that? I can't believe it.

He took out his number and called Letang, but it wasn't going through. He called the number he had messaged with.

After the receptionist answered and passed the phone to Letang

EPHRAIM: What the fuck Lets, you beat your wife to a miscarriage then leave her all bloodied on the floor to go on holiday with a mistress?

LETANG: What?

EPHTAIM: Don't fucking 'what' me Letang. What the hell is up with you?

LETANG: What? Wa re Masedi was...

EPHRAIM: Apparently she only found out she was pregnant at the hospital when it was already lost. I hope that lunatic is worth it. And no, I won't be giving you any money.

LETANG: Ephraim please... wait, wait don't hang up. I uhm... I am stuck...I had to sleep in an alley last night and I have no ticket to return home. Please.

EPHRAIM: So you wasted all the money with that looney and now...

LETANG: Eph please... please bro. I'm begging. If I had any other option, I wouldn't be asking.

EPHRAIM: (sighing) I'll see what I can do.

When he hung up, Sapelo was staring at him.

SAPELO: See what I can do wa eng ka I said no?

EPHRAIM: Babe, I know my brother. Letang has too much pride to ask for help. If he is asking, something is really wrong.

SAPELO: Yea, he ran out of money to impress his looney's with. We won't be supporting that, when innocent kids suffer.

EPHRAIM: He slept in an alley!

SAPELO: Mathata a gago Ephraim, is that you are gullible to those you care about. I bet right now he is sipping champagne, with that girl on his chest and laughing about how his silly older brother is about to send him money. Gape batho ba ga lona ga nke ba busa madi.

EPHRAIM: Oh my god, seriously? 'batho ba ga rona' Do that' show it is?

SAPELO: you know what I mean. Almost everyone in your family owes us money!

EPHRAIM: You can't include lets in that! We have never had to lend him money, he makes his own.

SAPELO: It's still a no.

EPHRAIM: You don't expect me to leave my brother on the streets of a foreign country, do you?

SAPELO: That person is lying!

EPGRAIM: I know Lets... he is not.

SAPELO: Nnyaa rra do as you please. Ke ikopisetsang thogo tota ka you are not interested in discussing this as a couple? Do what you want Ephraim.

EPHRAIM: Don't be like that...

SAPELO: Like what? Don't stop you from being take for a ride? I said no, Ephraim.

EPHRAIM: (yelling) You are being impossible!

SAPELO: (yelling) And you are being gullible!

EPHRAIM: Well. I'm not leaving my brother on the streets!

He picked up his car keys and walked off, driving to

the bank.

Letang finally got the message that Ephraim had transferred the money. He paid the receptionist for using her phone, then caught a cab to the airport.

Letang finally arrived home in the evening. The first thing that caught his attention was the kids screaming.

He ran in to Masedi passed out on the floor, her dress bloodied.

Penelope stood in front of him, blocking him from Masedi as tears ran down her little face.

PENELOPE: (crying) Don't hurt her... don't hit mama, look, she is bleeding... don't hurt her.

LETANG: Penny, baby, I'm not going to hurt her, I just want...

He spoke as he knelt in front of Masedi.

Penelope pushed him back with all her might as

Boycie attacked him, biting.

PENELOPE: (yelling) Leave her alone! Leave her alone, I will tell the police. The nurse said if you hurt her she should tell the police. Leave her alone!

Her little body shook in sobs as she remembered the last time she saw her father...the fists and kicks and her mother's blood as her father continually hit her.

She cried so much she collapsed on Masedi and laid her head on Masedi's chest, her little chest heaving with sobs, her voice weak and begging now.

PENELOPE: (crying) Please daddy... please... I don't want mama to go to heaven, who will take care of us... please don't hit mama.

Letang looked down at her, the fear in her big eyes so great and vivid. He tried to reach out and pick her up, but she flinched and cowered back behind Masedi's limp body on the floor, pulling her brother with her and begging Masedi to wake up and help them.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

BREADWINNER'S † † † WIFE 32

15 years back

Boitumelo found her cousin sitting at the back of the house. Masedi was a big girl, she was twelve and sooo pretty and tall, Boitumelo always thought.

She wondered if Masedi like it... or hated it like Boitumelo did. She should ask her.

BOITUMELO: Sedi?

MASEDI: Hmmm?

BOITUMELO: Can I ask you something?

MASEDI: Ok

BOITUMELO: Do you like... like doing what nice little girls have to do for their daddies?

MASEDI: What do little girls do for their daddies?

BOITUMELO: You know, like when he unzips his

pants and put his boy thing on your mouth and you have to kiss it and lick it? All little girls do it, daddy says that.

Masedi had covered her mouth with her hand in shock.

MASEDI: (her voice shaking) did Rra-Boitumelo do that to you?

BOITUMELO: (nodding her head) yes. But I don't like it... do you like it?

MASEDI: (crying) Tutu! Daddies are not supposed to do that to their kids. My father does not do that! Oh my God!

They saw mma Boitumelo car parking, and Masedi ran to her wiping tears.

MASEDI: Mma Boitumelo! Rra Boitumelo o dire Boitumelo dilo tse di maswe, he put his peepee in her mouth and...

The slap that came across Masedi's face sent her staggering back. Then mma Boitumelo was all over her, beating again.

MMA BOITUMELO: Don't fill my daughter's head with such rubbish, you piece of shit! Golo mo go nts ho mo go rongwa boloi! How can you accuse my boyfriend of such! He is her father for God's sake. Ha o bona o le ledela jaana ko sekolong, nxla! ! Lets go, Boitumelo!

She snatched the little six year old girl and put her in the car, driving off.

Masedi sat on the ground crying. She went to her grandmother's house and told her what Boitumelo had told her.

The next day there was a meeting.

Mma Boitumelo denied it.

Boitumelo denied it.

Masedi was beaten up for making such rumors about adults.

PRESENT:

A few hours earlier.

Masedi sat in the living room chair feeling weak. She should go to the hospital.

But what about her kids?

A message came through her phone. From Boitumelo.

‘I know he’s gonna be safe with you. Don’t under any circumstance give my child to mma Boitumelo, Masedi. You know what happens when she raises a child. If it’s any consolation, I am sorry about the Letang thing. It wasn’t me. No matter what you did to me, I am not a vengeful person, you know that. I forgive you for stealing my boyfriend. I forgive you for deleting my text to Letang, for lying after you attacked me... I forgive you. I know you will raise Boycie well. And you deserve better than Letang. Have a good life. Goodbye.’

What the hell. Why did this sound so finale?

She hated Boitumelo because Boitumelo was the reason everyone in the family except her late grandma hated Masedi.

After Boitumelo lied about rra Boitumelo molesting

her, mma Boitumelo stopped helping out Masedi's mom. Told her she can't help people who are unappreciative and call her boyfriend a child molester.

Things became harder at home. Masedi's dad was not coping taking care of the family on collecting and selling firewood. He became such a bitter man till he just left for years

Masedi's mother reminded her of it everyday. It was Masedi's fault her father left. It was Masedi's fault mma Boitumelo wasn't helping them.

'You see, because of your lies, my sister won't even help me, my kids will go to bed on an empty stomach.'

She would say as she beat up Masedi.

Life had never been easy for Masedi, what with the bullying at school. But now that home was never peace too? She became even more withdrawn and her already bad grades went downhill.

While on the other hand the little liar was living her best life, going to private school, having everything

a kid could ever dream if... nice new clothes every month, lots of toys, big house... nice food. She had destroyed Masedi's relationship with Masedi's mother, yet Boitumelo and her mother always seemed so cozy.

That was when Masedi had started hating Boitumelo even into their adulthood.

But still, that message was scary, it sounded all too finite. What if Boitumelo killed herself?

Masedi tried calling her, but Boitumelo wasn't picking up.

'What the hell is this Boitumelo. Goodbye for what? Where are you going?'

No reply. She tried to call again. Nope. Now the phone wasn't going through..?

Her heart was pumping so fast as she frantically tried to call. Oh my God, Boitumelo was going to kill herself, wasn't she? Oh God...she had to stop her.

As she stood up, her heart still pumping too fast, the world went into a spin and before she knew it,

she was sprawled flat on the floor... then lights out.

PRESENT

Letang parked at the hospital and asked a guy passing to help him hold the baby, as Letang carried Masedi and Penelope and Boycie followed behind.

A nurse saw them and called for a gurney. Masedi was rushed to a room and they were left standing there as Penelope stared at him suspiciously and kept her distance.

LETANG: Opene... Come here...

PENELOPE: You hit mama...

LETANG: I'm sorry... that was bad of me.

PENELOPE: (sobbing) She had blood... did you hit her again? We were playing and then I heard like something fell and I came to the living room and she was just laying like that with blood... you hit her!

LETANG: I swear I didn't. I am so sorry about the other day...

Penelope just looked down sadly, ricking Percy's stroller from time to time.

Ephraim walked in and sat next to Sapelo.

SAPELO: Sutela koo monna o nkgwa bojalwa, mxim.

EPHRAIM: Sasa, I don't like how things are between us. We are always just fighting. I don't like it.

SAPELO: Tough tit, princess. Life sucks, get in with it.

He sighed and laid his head on her lap caressing her baby bump.

EPHRAIM: I'm sorry I gave Letang money against your wishes. Something is wrong, I could feel it. I'm sorry. I couldn't just leave him. I'm sorry... Sasa, please say something.

SAPELO: Do whatever you wish whenever you wish it, Ephraim. You are a grown man, I don't have to tell you shit.

EPHRAIM: Please don't be like that. Sapelo, please, let's try to be better... I love you... I know I can do

better... but please... don't leave me. Every time we argue I can feel you pulling away from me. I know my family and everything else that's been going on took a toll on you...

SAPELO: I'm going to bed.

She picked up her phone and headed to the bedroom.

The next day Letang drove into the hospital after dropping the kids at his mother's place.

Masedi was awake and propped up in a pillow, weakly trying to feed herself.

LETANG: Here, let me.

She handed him a spoon and he sat there feeding her.

MASEDI: Where is Boitumelo? Yesterday she sounded... I am worried... she sounded like she was gonna take her own life...

LETANG: (bitterly) Boitumelo is fine and far from taking her own life, I can guarantee you that.

Whatever she was trying to manipulate you with, don't fall for it. Here, one more spoon.

MASEDI: I can't do this anymore, Letang.

LETANG: Come. On, you haven't ate that much, just one more spoon.

MASEDI: I can't be in this marriage.

He looked at her, panicked.

LETANG: Masedi, you can't say that. Not now, please...

MASEDI: I married you hoping for a better life. This is not a better life. This is no life at all Letang. The doctor says it's a miracle I didn't lose my womb.

LETANG: Sedi, I know I was wrong, but...

MASEDI: (sobbing) You killed my baby, Letang! You killed my baby! Every second I spend looking at you makes me sick!

LETANG: So you are just gonna abandon the kids? What happened to 'I love them like they are my own'. What about Percy? He is special needs and he needs you.

MASEDI: If you love those kids, you will let me go with them.

LETANG: You are not taking my kids away...

MASEDI: Penelope is scared of you! A few days back she was having nightmares screaming that you shouldn't kill me. I think you should take her to therapy. Sapelo says she knows a children psychiatrist or something who charges P2800 a month.

LETANG: Penelope is fine.

MASEDI: Wow! You can pay P18 000 for your girlfriend and refuse to pay P3000 for your own daughter? I know you have money the thing you invested in paid out. Anyway... I can't Letang... I am leaving. With or without the kids. My choosing to stay through the abuse has already damaged Penny (sobbing). Just make sure Boitumelo treats them all well and equally when you bring her to the house. Please leave.

LETANG: Sedi...I..

MASEDI: (crying and yelling) You killed my child

Letang, you killed my baby, get out! Get out! Nurse...
nurse...

The nurse ran in and told Letang he had to leave.

Boitumelo and Mara got out of airport security.

They noticed a guy staring at them.

MARA: Ohhh, he is ogling you. Go say hi. Self made multi millionaire, business tycoon with a clean record. No scandals in local media. Go get you bag, babegirl. I'll tell grandma we will take a cab.

Boitumelo smiled and walked over to the man.

BOITUMELO: (smiling) You were staring. That's rude.

HIM: (blushing) I didn't mean to offend...but damn. How could I not look. Leaving or arriving?

BOITUMELO: Arriving... my first time here actually. Nice place so far of what I have seen. Too bad my friend will be so busy with school she can't show me around.

HIM: I could show you around... I have a meeting I am traveling to but it's a day trip. I could make time tomorrow.

BOITUMELI: Sweet... let me get your number or something, so I can hold you up to that. I'm Yen. Yenffer.

In the morning Sapelo woke up annoyed as Ephraim had not woken her up for work.

How childish. Not waking her up because they had an argument.

He had changed so much! Ephraim used to be a caring man who put effort in their relationship, even as non romantic as he was.

Gosh, she missed the man she fell for so much.

Her assistant had called on the way saying someone wanted to book a side of the garden privately.

Sapelo arrived in the office and put her handbag down, then her assistant came in.

HER: Uhm... Sasa... the client would like to see you.

She sighed, wondering what they wanted now.

She walked in the garden and it was top notch... the flower arrangement, the picnic blanket with a picnic basket... helium balloons saying 'Sorry'. Ephraim came from behind a flower wall and handed her peonies, her favorite flower.

She smiled from ear to ear.

SAPELO: (smiling) Mxim, what are you doing here?

EPHRAIM: Damn, I have missed that smile. Sapelo, I know I am not perfect. I am terrible with emotions, I never learnt to be that open book kind of person. But if there is one thing I am crystal clear about, it's that I love you. So, please teach me how to make you happy. Because your happiness is the most important thing to me. Go on holiday with me before this one here arrives and its diapers and sleepless nights?

Happy tears ran down her cheeks as she smiled.

Ephraim pulled her closer and kissed her forehead.

EPHRAIM: J ust so you know. You come first. I didn't go give Letang the money because your opinion does not matter to me as you think. I went because I knew something was wrong, and if anything happened to him you'd beat yourself up about it. Come on woman, let's do this brunch thing.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:10] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 33

Letang arrived at the hospital the next morning to pick Masedi up. After she was discharged, they got in the car and drove home quietly.

She got in the bedroom and started packing a bag.

MASEDI: Have you thought about what will happen ka bana? I am ready to go with them. I called about and found a small place. And I was talking to Sapelo, she said they were hiring a decorator and I can have the job.

LETANG: Sedi, you can't be serious... I am going through a lot right now and I need your support.

MASEDI: E le gore why doesn't Boitumelo support you? Ene she is only there for holidays?

He rubbed his face and paced around, then came and sat next to her, his face in his hands.

MASEDI: J aanong you are crying? Who cries coming from a holiday? Kana ke tsone di happy tears?

LETANG: (rubbing his tears as more fell) I'm breaking apart Sedi... I am so scared I'm gonna do something stupid.

MASEDI: Mma ke hete hoo rra ke pake dilwana ke tsamae, o taa sala o dira sechupete nna ke ile. What did you say about the kids?

LETANG: Koore you don't even care to ask...

MASEDI: Not at all monna wa Modimo. I read it somewhere being said that if someone shows you who they are, believe them. Taabo ke le seso tota if you showed me you have no regards for at least the

kids...

LETANG: That's not fair Sedi, you know I love those kids... I love you...

MASEDI: Mxim. You beat me up in front of those kids you love. My daughter is damaged for life! Her little hands were covered in my blood, Letang! She had to hold a towel to my head to try and stop the bleeding! She sat alone with two babies in a hospital lobby while I was being tended to! I just thank God nothing happened... she could have been kidnaped, raped, murdered, used for muti... sold to child slavers...and it would have all been on you. I shiver just thinking of all that. That's why you make me sick, Letang. You didn't just hurt me, you hurt the kids too...killed one. One thing I always admired about you was what a great father I thought you were! You hurt those poor babies!

LETANG: (sobbing) I'm sorry... I am so sorry Masedi... please... we can fix this...

MASEDI: Fix this? Fix this, Letang? Like it's a broke pipe, huh? You don't know what seeing your mother

be treated like that by the man she loves does to a girl child! Penny is six, she understands things. And she is hurting, kwa o gana to send her to therapy. God sees you and ya gago punishment Letang I swear you will say God hates you! You paid P18 000 for almost a year for Boitumelo but won't pay P2000 for your daughter? I am not cursing you monna wa Modimo, but yours is coming is big droves, don't do a child... your child jalo. Legale Modimo o mogolo. I will find the money and pay for her.

He broke down in full blown crying in hysteria.

LETANG: (sobbing) I fucked up, Sedi.

MASEDI: Ao? What happened ka nna I know you were out jollyng?

LETANG: Boitumelo was playing me. It turns out she and Mara were working together. That whole investment that I put all the money in was fake.

Masedi burst out laughing.

MASEDI: (laughing) Mara? Mara ene yo ne o mo mpelets a? (laughing) Kana I have a Mara scar in my

forehead. Haiyoo! See my God! Oh God you are good-o! Father God you are too sweet to me! Tsena wena Mara! Serve justice wena leadership (laughing)

Letang sat on the bed crying.

MASEDI: Ema pele, what do you mean it was fake, you got P63 000.

LETANG: It was just to fool me into giving more money. After the P63 000, I sold my bitcoins plus my retirement package and invested all of it.

MASEDI: Ijo. Ke mathata. Waitse issa problem. At least you have di chenchi tsa P63 000.

He looked down sheepishly.

MASEDI: You used it all in the holiday, didn't you? (laughing) Moshimane kwaa! Wa becha akere? Ahh, my friend, I will pray for you. God will open ways. Nte ke tsee my slippers hoo.

LETANG: Sedi please... you can't leave. I have already lost so much, I can't lose you.

MASEDI: Ija, you are sitting on top of tukwi ya merra ere ke e tsee hoo. Why don't you borrow from

Ephraim and do that bitcoin thing? You are good at it and can make money.

LETANG: (sighing) One bitcoin is P85 000. That would be asking for too much, and even then, cryptocurrency is a risk. I could lose the money ke a adimile, then I am broke and in debt and can't even feed my kids.

MASEDI: Nna with the little that I will earn, I can feed them. They will have to adjust from a privileged life, go to public schools and all, but I will do my best to give them a good life.

LETANG : (crying) Sedi please...I don't wanna lose my family too. I don't wanna lose you.

MASEDI: (tearing up) You are being selfish, Letang. Wena ke hoo you are crying crocodile tears tsa gore Boitumelo played you, eseng sepe gape. O llela kuku after killing my child and traumatizing another? Boycie has started to hit little girls... Percy's medicine is finishing, government doesn't have... what will happen when I can't afford his medicine, only God knows. So, please, take your fake tears

and shove them where the sun don't shine, rona ba bangwe we are hurting for real, nyla. Fucking murderer! Ba go bakisitse banyana. Call me if you want me to take the kids.

She dragged her bag out and hailed a taxi.

Sapelo rubbed her eyes and sat up.

She looked at Ephraim still sleeping, his brow drawn together in that serious Ephraim way.

Gosh, she had not even noticed the little worry lines that had come in his forehead the past few years.

The man was a worrier. He constantly worried about not being enough. Not being good enough husband... not being good enough father... son... employee. He worried if he was providing enough working hard enough...

And she hadn't been helping that much, had she?

Granted, she had her reasons. Responsibilities had increases for both of them. She ran two very busy businesses now... he was part of top management

of a freaking conglomerate... an ADHD child...their families on both sides...

Hell, some days all they could do when they got home was a quick perk on the lips and sleep... entire weeks went by without making love... they hardly ever sat and really talked, or just spent time together.

And of course there was the bitterness still. He had hurt her. A lot. He had apologized yes, but the funny thing about apologies was that they were just... words. People expected them to be some miracle that suddenly made everything ok. They were not. Hurt did not vanish just because someone apologizes.

She had so desperately wanted to not have money as a worry. But now that she was there, the sacrifice that came with it really was not worth it. When she was still hustling interior decoration jobs and someone told her 'money isn't everything'. She would laugh and tell them life was nothing without money.

Now she understood. She would trade all their money and properties they had acquired for the happiness their earlier relationship had.

She could stay here and wish. But wish never came to much...and Ephraim was right, the man was emotionally inept. She had to help him.

She smiled with a renewed purpose and took both their phones, downloading a scheduling app and syncing it, taking their daily tasks into consideration, his work schedule in his Google Calendar, her schedule...then planning couple activities around it...relaxation activities, spending time together...making love.

Yea, they could go to therapy, but therapy only worked when it was given a fair chance.

Ephraim woke up to Sapelo curled up in bed with a cute little smile. She must have woken up at some point and ate the cookies and juice they bought for her yesterday on the way here.

He did his workout and then showered. As she

came out of the shower, a 'ping' came to his phone. He picked it up and there was a notification from some 'Couple' app.

'9 am – breakfast together'

And then a little e-sticky note came into the screen, the message was saying 'I'm want my man back, and I'm giving you your girl back '

He went into the app looking through... oh my God!

Everything was arranged so nice and neat. Their photos from the time they met...their first 'date'... magadi... wedding, honeymoon... silly moments he had not even realised she was taking pictures of him... Aedirwe's birth... it was all so nice. Memories written into little notes... and little pop up messages that said such sweet little things like 'You are enough, Eph '

If it wasn't so unmanly, he would have teared up. In the past few months, sometimes he wondered if she still cared. Wondered if he had hurt her too much and she had just gave up on them...

She still cared! God, she still cared! Still loved him.
What a relief!

Now, this was his girl. The proactive thinker who never accepted a situation she didn't like. The girl who had pushed him... believed in him when he himself didn't believe in himself. And if there was one thing he was sure of? They were gonna do all these activities she planned...they were gonna fix their relationship and commit to being better. Because his girl never did anything halfway when she put her mind to it.

He tip toed outside and ordered breakfast to their hotel room, then set in up on the balcony that overlooked all the wild animals grazing and the river.

He heard her yawn and stretch, then made a dash to the bathroom.

He ran over and held her braids back as she threw up, then stood behind her rubbing her back while she brushed her teeth.

When she was done, he handed her a bottle of her papaya enzymes.

SAPELO: Oh my God, I thought I totally ran out of this, where did...

EPHRAIM: (smiling) I know you forget to order them, so I express ordered a bunch and snuck some into our luggage yesterday. Aww now, don't cry babe...

SAPELO: (sobbing) It's just... this is the most thoughtful thing and you are just so good to me and...

She burst out crying and he laughed and just hugged her as she cried.

EPHRAIM: (laughing and wiping her tears) Damn... these pregnancy hormones get you all the time babe... You know I am reminding you of this all your life, right? The time you cried because I bought you some freaking papaya enzymes?

SAPELO: (giggling) If you had morning sickness, you would understand. These are like the holy grail of morning sickness. Thank you so much, I love you.

EPHRAIM: Anything for you babe... and I may not understand morning sickness, but I know one other thing pregnancy hormones be messing with...

He said as he kissed her neck and pulling her pajama blouse off as gently pushed her against the shower wall and he kissed down her body...

{EXPLICIT}

Letang cried until he had no tears left. Now he'd truly lost everything. Never in his life had he ever thought Masedi would leave him. He had always imagined that if their marriage ended, it would be him leaving. And that he didn't care about her.

Now with her gone... it felt...

Empty.

Hurt

He felt more hurt than finding out the woman he loved used and betrayed him, then laughed about it.

God, what had he done! He had a good home... a good life.

Now he had lost it all.

He killed his own child... and if anything happened

to Percy, it would be his fault.

But there was one way he could get money.

Masedi could claim insurance.

No, hanging was too obvious them.

A car accident.

Yes

Car malfunctions could be faked.

It was very late, there wouldn't be any people in the road. And still...he would go in the outskirts of the streets. No need to take some innocent with him on his way out.

He went to his car and drove outside the city...

Then stopped and jammed his breaks, then got back in the car and floored it...

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[05/29, 14:10] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE:

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After reaching the bus rank and waiting for the Tatisiding buses, she started asking herself why she was making herself suffer.

Fine, she was walking away without demanding anything. But it didn't mean she should be empty handed. At least she deserved her car.

She went back and just went straight to her car and drove off.

As she drove off, she got a message from Letang.

'Sedi, please... come back, I heard you drive out. Masedi, I love you. I know I treated you bad... just give me another chance...'

'Wena? Love me? O kae LOML? You love me only because your little girlfriend played you. Would you be loving me right now if things worked out with Boitumelo or Mara? Fuck off Letang, you killed my child. I wish you every bad thing in life'

The radio played Beyoncé's 'Best Thing I Never Had'.

She laughed and found the song in Youtube,
sending him the link, then started singing along with
the song.

There was a time
I thought that you did everything right
No lies, no wrong
Boy I, must've been outta my mind.
So when I think of the time that I almost loved you
You showed your ass and I, I saw the real you
Thank God you blew it
I thank God I dodged a bullet
I'm so over you
So baby good lookin' out
I wanted you bad
I'm so through with that
'Cause honestly you turned out to be the
Best thing I never had

You turned out to be the

Best thing I never had

And I'm gon' always be the best thing you never had

Oh I bet it sucks to be you right now

So sad you're hurt

Boo hoo, oh, did you expect me to care?

You don't deserve my tears

I guess that's why they ain't there

When I think that there was a time that I almost
loved you

You showed your ass and baby yes, I saw the real
you

After some time she got another message.

'Wow. Ok. Message received well and clear mma.
You know longer care about me. You can take the
kids at my mother's. I love you. Bye'

She smiled seeing that message. Good, at least he
came to his senses about the kids.

She went back to the house and talked to their neighbor who had a truck. She parked the kid's beds and clothes only, she didn't want all the drama with Letang saying she took his things and all that. She would buy her own things, look at where depending on a man got her. She was not gonna teach Penny that a girl must depend on a man.

She went to her home left to her by her late grandmother.

After unloading the things outside, she went in to talk to her younger sister who had been living here since their grandma passed.?

MASEDI: Bontle, I need you to move into your kids room, I'm taking grandma's room.

HER: (laughing) What happened? Le padile lenyalo la sekgoa? Kana bo Masedi koore le rata dilo, ne o bona monna yole a go tshwanets e?

MASEDI: You are in my home, my house. You feed your kids off of what I provide. I will literally throw you out this very minute, nxla!

HER: Masedi, how do you expect me to move into

the kids' room when you know rragwe Bena stays here with us?

MASEDI: Do I look like I care? What kind of weak man moves into a woman's home. Tell that idiot to get a job and get you a house if he wants a place to fuck you. By the way, he can't stay here from tonight on.

HER: Masedi, you can't do that! Where should he go jaanong a ta lapeng boaigo?

MASEDI: Girl girl. Read my lips. I. Don't. Care. If that man spends one more night in my house I will call the police. My daughter is moving in, I can't have strange men around her.

She went into the bedroom and started pulling her sister's clothes from the wardrobe and putting them in the kids' room, then removed the bedding and put her own bedding.

The good thing about this house was even though it was only two bedrooms, this room which was the master bedroom was really big. When she had a little money, she could partition it for the kids. She

arranged their little beds and Percy cot well, and put one big wardrobe for all their clothes.

She went into her bathroom and bathed, then laid in bed crunching numbers.

How the hell was she gonna do this? Sapelo said the job paid P3500. Percy's medication was P2600 a month, how was she gonna take care of three kids plus her stupid sister and her two on P900?

She sighed and started going through her jewelry, clothes, shoes and handbags, taking pictures and posted on Facebook for sale.

Her car was a seven seater SUV, Letang had bought it saying he didn't want her struggling to go around with the kids.

She smiled thinking of the day he had bought it for her. She was coming from a women's fellowship meeting on a Saturday. She looked everywhere for her car and she couldn't find it.

When she was at the verge of tears thinking it was stolen, he came and covered her eyes from the back, kissed her neck and turned her around and kissed

her, then handed her a bouquet of flowers... with car keys in the middle.

She'd looked at him confused, and he had made her click the key to find out which ones the car belonged to.

Gosh, she had screamed and jumped up and down so much as the women clapped and cheered happily for her.

Yah, neh...

That insanely handsome dog could be sweet when he wanted to be.

She went outside and told her neighbor that she could take her and her two school going kids to Francistown with her every morning for P600.

She could do this. She was scared as hell, but she had three little people depending on her. She was not gonna be another mama who abandons them. She had no room to seat in her corner and cry.

Boitumelo walked along the beach holding the guy's

hand.

BOITUMELO: Mauritius is such a beautiful place, Fabien. I could live here forever!

FABIEN: You could if you want...with me.

He said as he kissed her cheek.

FABIEN: Yen, I know I have known you only for a week, but I just... it all just feels so real, I have never connected with anyone the way I do with you. I think I am falling for you.

BOUTOMELO: (smiling) I could safely say I feel the same way. But, I just...your family is all over your business. They live in your place for God's sake! I just...I can't trust a man who still lives with his mama...

FABIEN: She lives with me, it's my house.

BOITUMELO: Well, if you and I are to have anything serious. She needs to go. They all need to. You can get them a house. I don't fate mama's boys.

FABIEN: Yen, please... I...

A girl ran over to them and pulled Fabien's hand.

HER: How can you do this to me Fabien! Break up with me over the phone? Fabien, we are engaged...

FABIEN: You know I don't cheat... and I found someone else, so... (shrugging)

The girl roughly pulled Boitumelo by the shoulder, but Boitumelo turned around and slapped her across the face.

BOITUMELO: Don't fucking touch me, you don't know me. I'm not the one to mess with babe girl. I don't owe you anything, talk to your man. Fabien, is this the rubbish I should expect from you? Mxim.

She walked off annoyed and Fabien ran after her, taking her hand. Boitumelo pulled it back.

BOUTUMELO: I don't do drama, so handle your shit before you try to get with me. I gotta go I got assignments.

In the morning Masedi went to pick up the kids from mma Ephraim.

MMA EPHRAIM: Ao Sedi... how are you.

MASEDI: I am good mme.

MMA EPHRAIM: O kae rragwe Opene.

MASEDI: Ah... o teng.

MMA EPHRAIM: I hope you two are working things out.

MASEDI: He beat me up and left me for dead, with three kids, the youngest of which is only eight months. Caused me a miscarriage.

MMA EPHRAIM: J aanong o ta siela kae, ga gona nto e sa neng Masedi, nyalo ya its hokelwa ngwanaka. He is your husband, he will apologise and you two can fix things. You are the best thing that ever happened to him. Letang was such a troubled soul, such an angry man until he married you. Don't give up on him.

MASEDI: Mme, I better go. Come on you guys.

MMA EPHRAIM: At least leave me with P100 for bread.

MASWDI: (sighing) I did not cash mme. Letang will give you. Come on kids.

She drove back to her home with the kids and took them to the bedroom.

MASEDI: Guys, we are gonna have to live here for a bit until mama figures something out. We are gonna have to change schools too. Mama can't afford the ones you go to right now.

PENELOPE: Are we poor now, mama?

MASEDI: (laughing) Girl, what do you know about poor? Come here. Mommy cuddles.

She cuddled the little girl and kissed her head.

MASEDI: We are not poor baby, we got love, and that is the most important thing in the world. Poor people are people without love. We got lots of it, don't we? Don't we Pen-pen?

She said as she tickled her until the little girl started laughing.

PENELOPE: I am glad you came to get us mama. I don't like it at granny's, my aunties are mean.

In the morning Masedi went to register Boycie at a

red cross day care center and transferred Penelope to a public school, then bought then uniforms.

Percy would remain with Masedi's sister, what other choice did she have.

Afterwards she got in the work uniform she had picked up. Sapelo had called saying there was an event happening at the garden and they could use extra hands.

She went in and talked to the Sapelo, then she was assigned her duties for the day.

She was assigned serving drinks, and spent most of the evening serving people who were attending the wedding.

As she was passing by handing out drinks, some guy who was 'obviously gay' reached out and touched her face.

'Oh my God! Poppy, look at her... look at this skin, those long legs... look at those high cheekbones! Nefertiti lips...oh my God! She is gorgeous'

'She is a goddess! Oh my! I can see her as face of Tribe Skin...gosh, Black Tribe Cosmetics too, ... and

that body is on an angel, she would be so good on stage for Tribe Intimates...Darling, who is your agent?’

MASEDI: Agent?

She looked at them confused when Sapelo walked over with a smile and shook the lady’s hand.

SAPELO: She is just entering your crazy world, so she doesn’t have an agent yet.. But don’t worry, I’ll make sure you people take good care of her.

‘Totally! Here is my business card! My office is in Gaborone, but we can do lunch and chat tomorrow.

SAPELO: It’s a date.

She took Masedi by hand and led her to the side.

MASEDI: What on earth was that?

SAPELO: That girl owns one of Africa’s largest Cosmetics and Skin care company. It sells well over many countries, especially ko bo Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana. She also owns a luxury lingerie brand, and a hair company. She wants you to model for her.

MASEDI: will they pay me?

SAPELO: I can make sure they do. I may not be an agent, but I know money and I can find out what is industry rates! Girl, this is your big break! I told you good things would happen if you take yourself out of that dark place. I am proud of you.

Ephraim walked over to them...

EPHRAIM: That, was my friend, he is a doctor. A re he just saw Letang in ICU. Gatwe he had a car accident. A fractured spine, broke three ribs, and broke both legs. Has been there for two days.

SAPELO: Oh my God... come on, let's go...

MASEDI: I better get back to work.

SAPELO: Sedi, you don't have to work, you can go...

MASEDI: I have kids to feed, so yea...I do have to work.

SAPELO: You can come back to work tomorrow!

EPHRAIM: Seriously Masedi! Your husband fractured his spine! He may never walk again.

MASEDI: The woman you are looking for is called Boitumelo. Or Mara. Now, if you'll excuse me.

She walked off with her tray and got more drinks, continuing to serve people as Ephraim looked at her.

EPHRAIM: I can't believe that girl!

SAPELO: (sipping her juice) I can't blame her! When a woman is fed up babe... when a woman is fed up...

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:10] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 35

5 months back

Boitumelo laid in bed in her room at the Serene Minds mental healing ranch, cuddled up on Mara's chest.

MARA: I just want to understand. So, how did the personalities come about? Where they at once? How is it like? I find multiple personalities so fascinating.

BOITUMELO: Don't fetish me. It's annoying, that's

why I don't tell people because they get all exited thinking role play and shit. I am not playing. I am split into five. Every personality born from coping and compartmentalizing situations. And I prefer dissociative identity disorder.

MARA: I didn't mean to offend. I wanna learn because I love you... I want to understand you. All of you. Tell me about the personalities.

BOITUMELO: (sighing) Well, there is me, Boity or Boitumelo. The host. I'm just a girl trying to survive what life threw at her. I love reading and writing and movies. I try to be strong, but I really am not. I am aware of all other four personalities and what they do when they drive... then there is Yen, who you have met. Yen and I fight for dominance all the time. Yen is the protector. Like, when something too painful happens while someone is driving, Yen takes over, because Yen is a psychopath with no emotions. Nothing hurts her. She makes sure we are ok. Yen is aware of the other personalities, and knows what they get to up to. She does not lose track of time. She will know, we are here because

Boity went to this place with this person. There is Mello. She straight up doesn't give a fuck. Mello is the dumping site of all the self blame, regrets, self hate, insecurities others do not want to feel.

Everything is Mello's fault. She is not aware of others at all, and she is the most visibly drastic personality change. Because she hates herself, she is very self destructive. She doesn't come out much unless things get too much to handle and she needs to swoop in and absorb all that dark energy so the rest can be happy. Then there is Tumie.

Tumie is the sad girl of the group. She takes in all the sad emotion, all the hurt, disappointment, betrayals. She spends all her time crying. She is totally not aware of others too. There is Tutu, she is eight years old and she is hope personified. None of those things happened to her, she is pure and clean and is gonna have a good life when she grows. She is vaguely aware of others, but has no understanding of what they get up to when she is in the background.

MARA: I see they are all 'protectors' in a way. Yen

protects from being hurt by others, Mello protects from being hurt by your own self, Tutu sort of protects from reality, and Tumie protects from an emotional weight that could cause mental breakdown. Am I right?

She nodded sadly.

MARA: How long on average does a personality taking over lasts?

BOITUMELO: There is no average. A personality lasts until another is needed. Most of the time, I the host, is in charge until I need to protect myself. A personality can take over for a minute, or for years. Right now I am content with Yen running things, for years possibly. Forever, highly likely. As long as she doesn't hurt those I care for. Nna I can't cope. I am hurting even when I try to be positive.. I miss my son. But I am afraid I will hurt him, if not physical at least mentally. Right now he is with the one person I actually trust, despite what she did. I know he is safer with her than me. Having to make that decision broke my heart. I worry about her, my cousin, Masedi. I worry Yen is gonna kill her or hurt

her somehow. Masedi is broken in her own way, I don't hate her. So, yea... too much pain.

MARA: Can you switch at will?

BOITUMELO: No. I can't 'call' a personality like they do in movies. It just happens. Personalities jump in because they are needed to do their part. My first personality, Tutu, developed the first time my father put his dick in my mouth. I checked out. Left the room mentally. It wasn't happening to me. I was just a girl playing outside and was gonna come in and have dinner and shower and sleep. Yen is the most recent. She happened after my baby daddy beat me. As I laid in that hospital bed crying and not believing he could do that to me, Yen came about and took over, and a plan was forming in my head. How I was gonna make him pay. I left the hospital as Yen and then in prison when I was attacked, Yen was so angry she tried to commit murder. But we couldn't have that, could we? So Tutu jumped in and, well, made us believe it didn't happen. I left the prison as Tutu, and she had been driving science I got here.

MARA: Now I understand. All the colouring and excessive pink and Barbie dolls. It was for Tutu.

BOITUMELO: Yes...it was her until I came to talk to you last month. Then it was all Yen. Tonight when you were asking questions, Yen had no patience for it, so I jumped in because I am better at connecting with people.

MARA: What happens if no personality want to drive?

BOITUMELO: That does not happen. You must think I'm crazy.

MARA: (laughing) You say it like crazy is a bad thing. Beside, I am crazy too. Hey, about that guy, your baby daddy. I say we make that bitch squirm. Babe... babe...

She was rubbing her forehead with her eyes shut as she groaned in pain.

Then she opened her eyes with a smile.

BOITUMELO: Did I hear anyone say revenge? Bitch, I been saying!

MARA: Yen?

BOITUMELO: Yup. Sometimes if personalities fight for dominance, it hurts. Boity wanted to ‘waah waah, I just wanna let go and focus on my healing’. Nna I wanna make that fucker and my bitch of a cousin pay. I want Masedi to suffer like she never knew it. Letang took everything from Boity, so I wanna take everything from him too. His perfect little family... his money... his sanity...and I have a plan. I’m gonna need your help. They said you can leave in another month, right?

MARA: Yup...

BOITUMELO: (smiling) Perfect.

** * ** *****

PRESENT

Finally after work Masedi drove home. At least her sister had fed and bathed the kids, and they looked happy enough, nobody reporting any sort of maltreatment. She ate her dinner and sat with them in bed, Percy sleeping peacefully in his cot, while Boycie was on Masedi’s lap and Penny tucked to Masedi’s side as Masedi read them a bedtime story.

After they had both fallen asleep, she carried them to their beds and laid in her bed stalking Letang's siblings Facebook profiles, hoping someone would have posted something.

Come on, how was he doing? Someone say he was going to be alright please...please...

As she went through her timeline, she came across a shared photo of a car crash...

God...

Oh God, it was Letang's car...on a complete wreck.

She covered her mouth with her hand to stifle the sobs as her tears wet the pillow. God, please let him be ok.

When was the last time she prayed?

When her grandma was still around. Her grandma had always made her believe in the power of prayer

But right now everything felt hopeless, looking at that car. Broken spine...three broken ribs...both legs broken..another sob broke as she went to Google.

‘can you survive a broken spine’

The results were gruesome. Talking things like ‘paralysis’...but it also said it could heal. But right now there was nothing she could do.

She got off the bed and went down on her knees, praying.

‘Lord Jesus, you say that the prayer of a righteous person is powerful. I often pray with little faith because I am thinking about my own unrighteousness. Remind me that my sins have been paid for and I am covered in your perfect blood. I pray based on confidence in your goodness, not my own. Your power is great enough to heal any illness and I bring my husband before you now and ask you to extend your healing hand. Lord, I know he has never really accepted you as his Lord and saviour, but I believe Lord, and I am praying for a miracle. In your mighty name I pray. Amen.’

She tip toed up to wash her face after crying, then stayed in bed tossing and turning, every few minutes check Letang’s siblings and friends

timeline, hoping for any sign of good news.

In the morning after dropping the kids at school Masedi drove to the hospital and parked outside, staying in the car.

She had to see him.

She remembered a weekend just before Boitumelo came back in their lives. Letang was playing football with his colleagues against another barracks.

He loved football so much. She'd fussed about on him, checking if he had his knee guard on and all, and just when he was about to run off into the field, she whispered in his ear 'If you score, I'll blow you in the toilets during halftime.

His eyes went wide as he laughed and kissed her neck, whispering back.

'I'll hold you to that'

She smacked his bottom as he ran off, and started watching, clapping excitedly and when he scored,

he turned to her and mouthed 'you owe me'.

God, what if he could never play football again.

'I didn't mean it when I said I wished him bad, God, I take it back, I take it back!

She repeated to herself as she wiped her tears.

No matter what he had done, she didn't want him to suffer. She just wanted to move on.

Which she needed to be doing right now, going in that hospital would just end up with her trapped in his world again, caring for him, loving him, praying for him. And when he got better, he'd just break her heart again. Loving a man that doesn't love you is so hard, she sighed.

Yea, she needed to leave.

She drove off to meet Sapelo and that lady.

Mas edi parked and walked over to Sapelo, who was waiting with another woman.

SAPELO: Sedi, this is Liza. She is a friend, and an

agent. I have already negotiated to make sure she isn't undercutting you. are in great hands with her.

MASEDI: I don't have money to pay her...you have to pay agents, don't you?

HER: No honey, I get paid when I get you jobs. So you can be sure I will get you a good one. These people we are meeting seem to want you not just as a model, but a brand ambassador. Sometimes brands do that, pick someone not famous because they want relatability. Come, let's hear them about.

SAPELO: Good luck. You got this, you kids need it.

Masedi and the lady went in and sat at a table where the people from the wedding yesterday sat.

Masedi tried to follow their conversation...

'across board... in all countries we exist in... Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, S. A, Uganda... Botswana... Liberia, Congo... yea.. yea... commercial... billboards, TV, online... magazines. She has a look I want... youthful, fresh... natural. Two years contract with preference renewal...'

The bit she understood sounded ok. They would get her someone to teach her to pose. Her eyes widened in surprise when they talked money. That was nice. Really nice! She could give the kids a better life.

After the meeting Mas edi drove back to work and went to Sapelo's office.

SAPELO: How did it go?

MASEDI: Really well, Liza says we got a good contract with them.

SAPELO: Cool

Sapelo said and then went back to her laptop. After Mas edi had been standing there for a few minutes she looked up again.

DAPELI: Did you want something?

MASEDI: I uhm...I... did you go to see Letang?

SAPELO: Yes

MASEDI: And?

SAPELO: If you want to go see him, you can Masedi.

MASEDI: No I just... did they say he will be fine?

SAPELO: Can I give you some advice?

MASESI: Yes please.

SAPELO: Don't get sucked back into the world of a man who beat you to a pulp. You literally looked pulped when I saw you that time. Go see him if you must, but don't let compassion set you back. You have taken such a big step leaving an abuser. Many women never get to take that step. Now don't be sucked in

MASEDI: I won't, thank you. Ok, I'll get back to work now.

She walked back to the garden getting a message from. Mma Ephraim. She had been avoiding the old woman's calls all day.

'You think because you won't answer my calls I can't reach you? My grandchildren can write the message for me. Why aren't you by your husband's side, you ungrateful thing. He found you poor, fed

your whole family, even taught you how to bathe, o
tsile mo o tsibile, now that you think you are
something, you want to leave him when he needs
you? I heard you got a job at my son's garden. You
know I can get him to fire you? Go to the hospital at
once, Letang needs you.'

She shook her head with a sigh. Indeed your
husband's family are never really yours. These
people acted like they loved her, mma Ephraim
called her a daughter and used her to ask for things
from Letang. Would she force her daughters to stay
with a man who beats them the same way Letang
beat her?

1 YEAR LATER

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:10] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 36

Sapelo sat in the living room breastfeeding her daughter Salorato as Ephraim was trying to deal with Aedirwe having a massive, throw himself on the floor tantrum.

SAPELO: (sighing) kante wa re the traditional doctor we took him to a reng, ka pills aren't doing much?

EPHRAIM: (sighing) gatwe they need to know my lineage to help him. But my mother won't tell me who my father is. Koore I have begged that woman to a point of tears, told her ngwanake wa sokola, kamoso ke diagnosis ya ADHD, then gatwe Asperger...kamoso gatwe se gape. Eish. I begged my mom and told her we had a chance of getting help. Nope, she still won't tell me. I can positively say I hate that woman. Nxla.

SAPELO: Sa ikutuse bothoko ka ene my love. Something will come up. Maybe try another traditional doctor ka medical we have changed them a lot, still nothing. Let's keep trying gothe medical doctors and traditional doctors. I hate saying this, but give him the melatonin a robale. Eish...

Ephraim grudgingly went to give Aedirwe the drops, and within ten minutes he was asleep.

Ephraim carried him to his bedroom, then Sapelo also went to put down the sleeping baby.

They both crashed into their bed exhausted.

SAPELO: Whew! Finally asleep. Glorious peace!

EPHRAIM: I'm gonna fix us a strong drink. Wine for you akere?

She nodded, and on a few minutes he came back with the drinks. They laid in bed drinking and chatting.

SAPELO: You still won't go see Letang?

EPHRAIM: Nxla, ekare ke re ke thusa motho abo a nthoga. He's just became bitter since all this. He told me to stop trying to fix him and focus on my weird child. You don't talk about my kids like that, and Aedirwe is not weird! Plus it's expensive babe. Kana gatwe it involves nerve regeneration therapy to fix the tremors, then physio for months to even give him a slight chance of walking. I can't be taking

money from us for him, it wouldn't be fair on you.

SAPELO: (sighing) Ah, what can I say, he is your brother, and we can afford it.

EPHRAIM: That's just the thing. Hae wa gana motho wa teng and we can't make him go through medical procedures without consent. Letang has given up on life.

Masedi sighed as they finished shooting. Some UK singer was recording some song about Africa or whatever, in the CKGR, and Masedi had got to be video's little eye candy

There finished shooting and got in the private chopper that took them back to Gaborone. God, this time it had been long! She had not seen her babies for a whole week. And she only had a week before she had to travel to Abuja for Tribe Intimates' launch of shapewear.

She called her sister to talk to the kids.

PENELOPE: Mama! When are you coming home,

I'm gonna miss my shoot, it's tomorrow.

Oh, Penny had a shoot with a kids boutique.

MASESI: (laughing) hello to you too Miss Penelope.

PENNY: Sorry mama, it's just... I'm so nervous, I never did video ads. Did you finish shooting your video? Can we see it?

MASEDI: (laughing) No, the song has bad words. And don't be nervous. I am hitting the road right now. I will be there by 10pm. Give Boycie and Percy a turn.

PENELOPE: Did you order Percy's medicine? I don't like when so little is left, I am worried...

MASEDI: Girl, you are 7. Stop worrying. And yes boss, I bought the medicine, it has been delivered. Its in my car. Give your brothers a turn please.

She was so proud that she had given them back the life they were used to. Last month she had finally sent them back to private school when the term started, and she had literally high fived herself seeing their happy little faces when she dropped

them off.

She had extended the house so that each had a bedroom, and a room for her sister's kids each, then she bought a honda fit for herself so her sister can use the seven seater SUV to transport the kids around when Masedi was away modeling.

It wasn't like she was making a millions, but she had learnt trades of all this modeling shit fast and made enough to give them a comfortable life.

She picked up the detox tea she had just agreed to promote for a fee, then set up her camera and lights, using the timer to take a few shots holding the tea, edited them and uploaded them to her Instagram with some caption about how it was keeping her healthy.

She'd never even drank that shit, but whatever, it put money in her pocket.

She laid back in the bed, noticing the wrapped birthday present that she was never gonna deliver... why did she even buy it?

Letang sat in his wheelchair in his mother's house. His hands shook with tremors as he turned pages of some random magazine to entertain himself as the kids had come in and changed the channel while he was watching.

He turned the page... and she had a full spread in leopard print lingerie.

God, she looked fierce. And so beautiful. Especially that she had kept her hair short and natural with those blonde highlights that popped against her beautiful, melanin rich, flawless skin.

He closed his eyes thinking of how busy the house would be right now with her baking up a storm for his birthday tomorrow.

Whoever she was dating now was a lucky man. Classic definition of a bad bitch in looks, who was also good in bed, kitchen, and also submissive. And now making money moves too. He wished her well.

He caressed her cheek on the page as a single tear ran down his cheek.

His sister walked in and started screaming at him.

MASALU: Letang! Argg! Kante wena ithela okare ga wa tlala sentle jaana, bona jaaka o tsholots e rice everywhere! Mxim! Are you going to sweep it?

LETANG: Salu... you know my tremors make it hard to feed myself...

MASALU: And who did that to you? Mxim! You lost a beautiful wife for a bitch who played you. O ka mmona goriana Masedi!, kgarebe e tswang le mo di tv! You had a job, everything! And you ruined it all for that bitch. O lela selo mang? Nna you are a burden tota here, taking care of you, le bati re tsenwa ke bati, should I be bathing my grown man of a brother because o seso? Mxim, nna wa ntena, ke ta theola wheelchair eo o te o nne le se o se lelelang.

More tears fell down as he rolled himself to the bedroom he shared with his nephew.

This was a daily for him. His sibling and mother did not make it a secret that he was a burden.

He just wished his death wpuld come faster. The doctor Ephraim had made him see once had said

everything they could try only had a 50/50 percent chance.

So he could be wasting his brother's money and still end up disabled.

Fighting with Ephraim had been the only way to get him to back off. Letang had said quiet a few things... and they were bad enough to get chilled as hell Ephraim angry.

Oh well.

He struggled to get himself in bed as his body itched. The last time he had bath was last weekend when mmaThapelo was here. Now she worked in Gaborone and couldn't come every week.

He tried again but his hands were too shaky. He had forgot to lock the wheelchair wheels, it rolled back, sending his emaciated frame falling to the floor face first.

He screamed for anybody to come help... no one came until he gave up and slept there, his tears wetting the dirty floor.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:10] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 37

Ephraim parked in his mother's home and walked in finding the d lady seating outside.

He greeted her and sat down.

EPHRAIM: Mme, kante why do you refuse to tell me who my father is?

MMA EPHRAIM: I don't know why you want that man's name. You have a precious life. Why not move on!

EPHRAIM: I told you what the traditional doctor said.

MMA EPHRAIM: Those people are lying. You don't need anything from him. Besides, I heard he is dead now. I am not telling you anything.

EPHRAIM: Then don't expect me to be helping the family with anything if you won't help my son.

He angrily walked in and found Letang seating alone looking at a magazine with a big spread of Masedi in lingerie.

EPHRAIM: I don't know why you torture yourself looking at that bitch. She used you for money, and now that you need her, she is nowhere to be seen. Just like the crazy bitch who almost killed you and you still allowed her to rob you. Boy can you pick 'em.

LETANG: Why don't you fuck off, Ephraim.

EPHRAIM: I want to help you Letang. I hate seeing you like this...

LETANG: What is this martyr shit? A coping mechanism because you can't do anything for your autistic little shit?

EPHRAIM: Fuck you, Ae is not autistic. Also, big talk for someone with an actual disabled child. And you know what, you are right. I have been playing martyr for too long. You lot are ungrateful, I am never coming back here. If you ever decide to accept my help, you know where to call me. Nxla.

He drove off angrily. Why wouldn't Letang just accept help? Whatever he was punishing himself for, he needed to get over it.

Masedi parked at a distance and looked at the yard.

It was his birthday today. God, what the hell was she doing here? It was this kind of desperateness that got her life in shit the first time.

Then she saw wheelchair roll outside the house.

Was that him? He was in a wheelchair now?

She had refrained herself from asking about him so much she literally knew nothing of his life. She only guessed he was here because their house got repossessed when he stopped paying the loan, and she knew he was not living at Sapelo's.

Today would be the first time seeing him since she left.

She pulled her hoodie over her face and walked loser, hiding behind the shrubs in the footpath. Oh, this was ridiculous! Just go in already. You came to

wish him a happy birthday and give him a present.

No...no...bad idea.

Maybe everyone was right and she was actually stupid. She thought if that guy Devon who was after her... uber rich, handsome, charming.

Yet she just wasn't feeling him.

Idiocy was seriously the only explanation. She was really stupid.

She watched from a distance as he tried to reach out for the gate to open, failing until the wheelchair fell.

Someone came out...his sister Mishingo. She started yelling at him...and it was just breaking Masedi's heart.. Without a second thought she ran over.

MASEDI: What the hell is wrong with you Mishingo, mxim!

She yelled as she pulled the wheelchair back up and pulled Letang on oy.

LETANG: Sedi...

He looked so thin... so emaciated... his cheeks falling in, those big broad shoulders just a hanger now... a shell of the man he used to be.

She didn't even realise a tear was running down her cheek, or that he had reached with his shaky hand and wiped it.

LETANG: I'm fine, Sedi.

MASEDI: No you are not. Oh my God, what is wrong with this entire family, I have never met people so cold! How can you live with your brother looking like this? The man who gave up his dreams and became a soldier just so she could take care of you ungrateful lot!

MISHINGO: E kae wena mogats e o siile wa re re ka kgona?

MASEDI: (sighing) Letang, wait here. I'll get my car.

LETANG: I don't need your help, Masedi.

MISHINGO: Yes you do. Mo tsee mma, ke wena o rileng in sickness and in health.

MASEDI: Mxim.

She went back to her car and drove back to the gate.

He was so frail that she didn't struggle to get him in the car at all, then put on his wheelchair and drove home.

Letang sat in the car as Masedi drove.

LETANG: I don't need your help.

MASEDI: Trust me, I don't want to help you either.

LETANG: Then why?

MASEDI: Because I am stupid.

LETANG: I really am sorry, Sedi... about everything. Especially about the uhm... the baby.

MASEDI: (tearing up) Don't... just... don't, talk about my child. You tried to kill yourself Letang!

LETANG: (looking down ashamed) I had an accident.

MASEDI: Maybe other people believe that. You told me you were gonna do something stupid! How

could you do this to the kids? Just because you are hurting you end your pain, fuck everyone else? Don't they deserve a father?

LETANG: It wasn't like that. I wanted you to get insurance money.

MASEDI: mxim...

LETANG: You don't have to believe me, but its true. Masedi, please... take me back. I don't want my kids seeing me like this.

She ignored him and kept driving, stopping at the mall to get a few clothes that would fit him as his old one that he wore were dirty and hung to his skeletal frame.

When they arrived home, the kids were at the back playing. Masedi wheeled him to her bedroom and locked it.

She got out a scissor and her shaving razor, shaving his head and fixing his beard then got him in the tub, giving him a bath.

He looked up at her while he washed him, tears falling down her cheeks.

He looked down and tried to hide his own tears, reaching up to caress her cheek.

MASEDI: (pushing his arm off) Don't. You did this to yourself Letang. You did this to us.

LETANG: I'm sorry...

She cleaned his wheelchair and wheeled him back in the bedroom, helping him get dressed in the new clothes, then went to the kitchen and fixed him something to eat. She watched him try to feed himself for a bit, his hand shaking.

He looked down embarrassed as she took the plate and fork, and started feeding him.

LETANG: I uhm... nerve damage... they said it may regenerate. Thanks for all this. I think the last time I had a bath was a week ago.

MASEDI: So, how about other things, what can you manage?

LETANG: The toilet is easy, it's a matter of locking

the wheels and using upper body strength to transfer myself to the toilet bowl and the wheelchair. My legs work it's my spine that can't support my frame well. The bathtub tub is so deep and the walls a little high, I can't manage that. I can feed myself, but it becomes a mess.

MASEDI: (sighing) So I need to get someone to come in to feed and bath you on days I am travelling for work.

LETANG: You don't have to do this Masedi. Just take me back home.

MASEDI: No matter how much you punish yourself Letang, it's not gonna bring back your child that you killed.

He broke down crying, his shoulders shaking with sobs as Masedi came to hug him.

LETANG: (sobbing) I just... I don't get it. How do I get to live when he didn't? It's my fault the baby didn't... I...

He broke down sobbing again.

MASEDI: You get to live because you have three other kids who need you, don't you get it? Two of which their biological mothers abandoned them, as they grow up, how do you think they will feel thinking their father too didn't care enough about them to live?

LETANG: Why are you so kind to me Masedi, I... another woman would not have even bothered with my kids.

MASEDI: They are my kids too. And let me tell you something. When I came to your house... first thing I noticed was how unfaithful you were to Boitumelo. I thought I don't care about him, I should be with him just for security. A roof over my head, money to buy me nice things, you know... then we got together and I had this man who treated me so well, cheating aside. The first person to not only tell me I am beautiful, but make me feel beautiful. Made me feel accepted. For the first time, I didn't feel lesser than or worthless. A man I had fun with, played with, laughed with, raised a family with. It was not intentional. But I fell in love with you and it all

started to hurt, the cheating... I believed I deserved it, and also that I couldn't do better. When you killed my child... I just couldn't look at you anymore. I hated you. But when I heard about your car 'accident', all I wanted to do was come be with you. But I love my kids and you hurt them Letang. I had to force myself to stay away because I knew the very moment I saw you, this very thing happening right now would happen. I'd wanna just make everything right for you. Today I thought enough time had passes. That you'd be ok. That I was over you. When I saw... (she wiped a tear) I couldn't just leave you. I came to give you this. Happy birthday

LETANG: Masedi, you didn't have to...

MASEDI: Open it

He opened it and smiled seeing the watch.

LETANG: Oh my God...

MASEDI: It's the cheapest of the brand, but I know how you always talked about when we had a little money to spare, you'd buy one of these stupid luxury watches.

Boitumelo woke up on her bedroom with as Fabien kissed her cheek.

FABIEN: Gotta rush to the office babe.

BOITUMELO: Come on, you said we will spend today together.

FABIEN: Just checking on something. To prep for the move. I'll be back in a jiffy.

BOITUMELO: (sighing) I don't wanna move back to Botswana, Fabien.

FABIEN: But babe, I can't do a long distance relationship. I am a touchy feely kind of guy. I need you close to me.

BOITUMELO: I am studying here!

FABIEN: There are universities in Botswana.

BOITUMELO: I don't wanna go to those!

FABIEN: Babe, I have put major investment in that business, I need to be there to make sure it's successful. And I need you with me.

He kissed her and brushed his teeth then ran off to the office.

Boitumelo came into the kitchen and found his mother making some breakfast.

MOTHER: Yenffer, I made you and Fabien breakfast.

BOITUMELO: When are you gonna take your daughters and leave? Haven't y'all leached on Fabien enough?

MOTHER: My daughter, you know Fabien has always taken care of us, where will we go?

BOITUMELO: Heela, lady! Your child does not have the responsibility of being your breadwinner. It's the other way around.

MOTHER: Yen I just... my son loves you, so I don't want to impose, but he wants me to be here and...

BOITUMELO: You are imposing! And taking advantage of Fab. Tell him you want him to buy you a house and move out, because I...

Boitumelo pinched her forehead and closed her eyes, moaning in pain.

BOITUMELO: I am so sorry ma... whatever I said... I didn't mean it. Breakfast looks delicious. Thank you. I am sorry about what I just said. I'll... uhm... I'll go eat.

The old lady looked at her confused. That girl could be the sweetest girl she had ever come across one second, and then the meanest in the next.

She really wanted to love her, she really did, despite how she just swooped in and stole Fabien from his lovely fiancée, but the girl made it hard... Hopefully she was a phase and Fabien had no intentions of marrying her.

Boitumelo sat down to eat with a sigh. Sometimes she considered telling Fabien about her disorder, but losing him scared her so much. And who the hell would want a person with five people in her head? And what happens if she got treatment and Yen went away? Fabien was in love with Yen.

She snooped in Masedi's profile with a smile. Masedi had just posted a picture of the kids in swimwear, playing in an inflatable pool.

God, Boycie was so big... so handsome! He looked like his father.

Masedi had also posted a few shots of her modelling. She was so pretty. Boitumelo smiled thinking of how she had always admired Masedi's flawless, melanin rich skin.

And now she was so happy that Masedi was doing well. And from the look of it, left Letang, which was good.

In the morning Masedi took Penelope to her shoot. She sat directing the little girl, while overhearing another mother on the phone.

'I decided we are doing it. Yea... yea... no, they are private... no, they do stem cell matching, my friend from the US actually started walking again after cord blood treatments. I'll take out all my saving, as long as my son can walk again'

Masedi perked up, listening to her conversation.

When she hung up Masedi turned to her.

MASEDI: I am so sorry to be listening in on your conversation, but what you said was interesting. My husband, he got a spinal injury that they said was a 50/50 chance of recovery...

HER: Same as what they told us about my son. We are starting cord blood treatment in Ghana. There is this doctor... he has a contact here. Take your husband for a consultation. Here is a card.

After Penelope's shoot, she called the clinic, which was in Gaborone, and made an appointment.

They drove back home and found the younger kids playing around Letang.

LETANG: Hey girls...

MASEDI: (smiling) Hey boys. I see you are having fun... Penny, your dad said hi.

She said a polite 'hello' and walked off to play with her dolls.

Masedi sighed and looked down.

MASEDI: Give her time... she has a clear recollection of things, you can't blame her.

They heard a commotion outside and Masedi went to look, finding Charity arguing with her sister.

CHARITY: There she is. Bitch, you are using my child to live a fancy life, keeng o sa its holele wa gago... oh wait, you birth digole, now you wanna use my baby.

Masedi rolled her eyes and closed the door on her face as Charity banged the door and shouted again, calling for Penelope

CHARITY: I want my daughter Masedi!

Letang opened the door and rolled his wheelchair out.

LETANG: Wow, she knows she has a daughter now.

CHARITY: If you think I'm gonna let your bitch use my child...

LETANG: First off, don't call my wife a bitch.

CHARITY: Or. What. O tlo nthula ka wheelchair?

(laughing) Mxim. Nigga, please. You can't do shit.

I'll push this wheelchair to the ground. I demand half of what Opene is making being in all those ads.

I will sue you, nyla.

LETANG: Go on and sue. Just do remember to pay maintenance you owe from since she was two. Six whole years of you not knowing what she eats, where she sleeps... we are supposed to share her costs after all.

CHARITY: Mxim, I want my money, tell that charcoal bitch to not let me catch her on the streets.

She huffed off angrily.

Masedi looked out of the window and felt sad as Letang looked down sadly. She knew Charity's comments about him being in a wheelchair and not able to do anything hit hard. Letang had always prided himself on his brute strength and ability to protect his family.

She went outside and hugged him from the back.

MASEDI: We are gonna get you fixed.

Sapelo sat in front of her house with her kids when a taxi stopped in front and mma Ephraim walked in.

What the hell did she want.

She came and Sapelo gave her a chair.

SAPELO: Ephraim left for football with his friends.

MMA EPHRAIM: Good, because I wanted to talk to you.

SAPELO: About?

MMA EPHRAIM: (sighing) What your husband has been asking about.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

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My apologies about missing posts the past few days. I had a mountain of work I just got through. So now we are doing a marathon to catch up. Like, share, comment, and next episode is at 1000/100/10.

Much love.

Sapelo looked at her mother in law, not knowing what to say as the old woman sniffled.

MMA EPHRAIM: I think he may have told you I worked as a maid. I came from nothing and I just wanted to make a life for myself with my own hands. I was so excited when I got a job at these rich people's house. I worked hard and earnestly... I was alone in the house cleaning when the man of the house came. He complimented me, but I ignored him. I did not want to be fired by his wives. It went on for a bit until one day I felt my bedroom door open. He covered my mouth with his hand and...and...

She wiped more tears.

MMA EPRAIM: I told the lady of the house and she told me If I ever seduced her husband again she would sue me for wrecking her marriage. Anyway, it happened so often... and then I was pregnant. I

just... I disappeared, never showed up to work again. Tell me, how do you tell your child they are a product of rape? Because I don't know if I will be able to lie about it if I told him.

She wiped her eyes and stood up.

MMA EPHRAIM: Tell Ephraim he is already working for his father's grandchild.

She picked up her bag and walked off, hailing a taxi.

Sapelo just sat there in shock. What the hell! Why come to her with such information! What was she supposed to do now?

Masedi sat across the doctor in Gaborone.

MASEDI: So, you think it can work?

DR: From his reports here? Totally, even if it has been long. Of course I have to examine him for myself. But from his reports, he just has a slow regeneration of nerves, but cord blood can accelerate it. If we start now, he can be ready for physio in six months, and walking in a year. Tge

longer we wait, the lesser the chance of full recovery. Now he still has a very good chance.

MASEDI: But cord blood you mean like from umbilical blood? Where would we get that?

DR: We source that. We just need to find a match for him, which should not be a problem, looking at his files.

MASEDI: He is not under my medical coverage...

DR: Oh...

MASEDI: How much will it cost?

DR: I'm gonna give you maximum and say P250 000 altogether. The cord blood stem cell infusion, which will be eight, the medication and all that.

Lord, where would she find such money!

Her savings were nowhere near that, what with the kids' school, Percy's medicine, and her sister's kids.

Boitumelo sat in her bedroom packing her bag. She was not fucking doing this shit with Fabien. Move

back to Botswana for what?

Mara walked in and kissed her.

MARA: You ready babe?

BOITUMELO: I am. Fuck this. I tried to make it work.

MARA: Told you this should have been just about securing the bag.

BOITUMELO: Unfortunately one of us fell for the idiot. I was just gonna marry him and walk with half his money, but it's not worth moving back there.

MARA: You know you got a home with me babe

She pulled her closer and kissed her, pushing her on the bed and they started making out.

The door opened and Fabien stood there.

FABIEN: What on earth is going on here?

Ephraim got home and Sapelo brought his dinner, then sat with him as the helper put the kids to sleep.

SAPELO: So, your mother came to see me.

EPHRAIM: I hope you didn't give her any money. Why would we help her when she is refusing to help me.

SAPELO: She uhm... she had her reasons not to.

EPHRAIM: You in her corner now? What did she say?

SAPELO: I uhm... I...

How was she supposed to tell him this without hurting him. Being told something like that could shatter a person's world.

SAPELO: She uhm... she had an affair with her boss. That's who your father is. She never told him because she was afraid of his wife... so she uhm... she quit her job and ran.

She felt so bad lying about this and making the victim look bad, but Ephraim was happy and had a good life. No need to ruin it with all that.

EPHRAIM: That still doesn't tell me who my father is, does it?

SAPELO: All she said was you are working for your father's grandchild.

EPHRAIM: Huh?

Masedi sat in the bedroom calling Letang.

MASEDI: Hey...

LETANG: Hey...how is everything?

MASEDI: I talked to a doctor...

LETANG: Sedi...

MASESI: I am not discussing this with you. We are trying this. It's some stem cell cord blood whatever. It works Letang. People with spinal injuries recovered from this treatment.

LETANG: I bet it's expensive. I'm not gonna bankrupt you with...

MASEDI: It's not.

LETANG: How much?

MASEDI: It's uhm...uhm.. P25 000. I have saving of a little over P45 000. We can use it and then I'll find a way for you to get back your trading and bitcoin whatever so you can make my money back.

LETANG: No. I am not taking money from you and our kids.

MASEDI: Good night.

She hung up with a sigh. Where on earth was she gonna get all that money. All she had saved was P45 000, and Letang's treatment needed P250 000. Hell, she was gonna need at the very least two years to get all that saved up if she was lucky. And the doctor said the longer he stayed without treatment, the lesser the chances. Letang was already a year in.

She went on Facebook and contacted some real estate guy she knew.

Nope, her plot was not gonna get her nowhere near what they needed, but she asked the guy to list it anyway.

She sighed sadly looking at another model's profile. Girls were making so much money with extra curricular. Stuff she had so far stayed away from, not that she didn't get offers. The last was from a guy in Kuwait who had offered her a KD10 000 for a

week 'indulging his fantasies', whatever that meant. She went into Google and searched how much KD 10 000 was in Pula.

Damn.

P394 400.

That would definitely cover what they needed. Her hands shook and tears ran down her cheeks as she typed the message back.

'What does fantasies entail'

'Oh, you finally reply. Whatever sexual act I want.'

'That'll cost you more...double it '

'Nah, aint no pussy worth that. This is Kuwait Dinar, bitch. Highest currency in the world. Take it or I'm gonna find someone who can do it for 5. I just like you because there is an innocence to you, not all these prostitutes online. I'll give you KD15 000. Last offer. '

'Fine. But my condition is no videos, no photos. '

'You think I want this shit coming out? You know

who I am? Definitely no videos.'

'And I am not travelling there. People get sold into prostitution and shit.'

'Smart girl. But that works for me. There are too many eyes here. I'll come there. Which is the most secluded five star hotel? Do you have hotels there?'

'Ha. Ha. Funny. Of course we do.'

'Find one. Private. Then give me the info and I will handle the booking. I want it by end of day. '

'Ok'

'I have pretty sick fetishes, so when I say everything, I mean everything. No pulling out in the last minute. We good?'

'Ok'

'Now delete these messages, and if you ever try to use them to blackmail me or some shit, I will make your life a living hell before I kill you.'

She quickly deleted everything and collapsed to the bed crying. God, was this what she had come to?

For a man who had beat her to a pulp and left her bruised and bloody to go on holiday with another woman? The man who killed her child...

She sighed and wiped her tears. Her kids deserved a father, and if she was gonna forgive, she needed to do it fully. Letang had been punished enough. And she really must be stupid because she loved the asshole. She spent days daydreaming if the life they had. Now imagine a reformed Letang after going through all this. Him minus the cheating. It was gonna be perfect. This was an investment into their future.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:10] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 39

Boitumelo looked up at Fabien and laughed.

BOITUMELO: Hi baby! So, yeah... this.

FABIEN: What the hell, Yenffer! Seriously? You are

cheating on me...with a woman? Your best friend?

BOITUMELO: (laughing) Technically I cheated on her with you. But my babe cool like that. She don't mind sharing. Oh, also, I am leaving you. I have no intentions of going back to Botswana so bye. Babe, let's go...

She pulled one suitcase while Mara pulled the other and headed to her car.

FABIEN: Yen... wait... we can talk about this. I...

BOITUMELO: Bye...

Ephraim walked into his boss' office nervously. How the hell do you tell someone 'my mom had an affair with your grandfather, and now I need your help'

BOSS: Eph... you look down man, was up? Eph, you ok? Take a seat.

He sat down with a sigh

EPHRAIM: I just want you to know I am not looking for anything, at all. I wouldn't even tell you if my son

didn't need it.

BOSS: You are not making sense, man. Talk to me.

EPHRAIM: (nervously) Apparently my uhm... well, remember what that traditional doctor said?

BOSS: Yea, that you needed to find your biological family and introduce your son to your ancestors?

EPHRAIM: Yea... I uhm... I found out who my father is.

BOSS: Yea? Is he being difficult?

EPHRAIM: He passed..

BOSS: Damn... ok, does he have family or something?

EPHRAIM: Well... he was... uhm... we could do DNA testing and all. But according to my mother, he was your grandfather. She worked at your house as a maid a long time ago. Please know that all I want is to get my son help.

He looked down nervously.

BOSS: (laughing) Yoh, Eph, chill man! My father was

a dog, he cheated every chance he got, even though he had multiple wives. I am not surprised at all.

EPHRAIM: Father?

BOSS: (laughing) Turns out he slept with his son's wife too. My 'grandfather' was actually my father. Yup, daddy dearest was something else. Wow, that makes you my baby brother.

EPHRAIM: You are not mad?

BOSS: Mad? Dude, why would I be? I like you Eph. You are a hardworking and honest man. And at least now I got a little brother who listens to me... sometimes. Alright...uhm... my son is the one who knows all this ancestor shit. Good thing he is home for holiday. I'll talk to him tonight and see when he can do that whole introducing to the ancestors shit.

EPHRAIM: Aren't you even gonna wait for a DNA test?

BOSS: I believe you...plus if it's wrong, my son or wife will know.

Ephraim looked at him confused.

BOSS: (laughing) There is a lot of weird shit in this world man. A lot. You'll soon find out. I learned the hard way.

Sapelo parked in front of mma Ephraim's house and unloaded the groceries, then went to seat with the old woman.

MMA EPHRAIM: You told him, didn't you? Sapelo, do you know what that information will do to him? What if he starts hating that family and quits his job? What if...

SAPELO: I told him you had an affair with that man...

MMA EPHRAIM: An... oh. Ok...ok...

SAPELO: And we will keep it that way. You are right, knowing this would hurt him.

MMA EPHRAIM: Thank you my daughter. Thank you very much. My son is very lucky to have you.

SAPELO: (laughing) Lona gape?

MMA EPHRAIM: (Laughing) Mxim, tis a kwano

dipolaseteke tseo monna ke bone gore o rekileng, kana ha rata a rekile diswaswa hela, I eat good brands, my son is a boss. Mxim, jaanong ga gona coke?

SAPELO: (rolling her eyes) And she is back... I was starting to get uncomfortable with a nice you.

MMA EPHRAIM: Look at how she talks to me. Ga ke monkanaago the ngwanyana ke wena o senang botho!

SAPELO: I better go, I have work.

MMA EPHRAIM: J aanong ga o togele madi a seshabo?

She sighed and gave her P200, then walked off to her car.

Boitumelo woke up in Mara's bedroom. She had a vague idea of what happened.

Oh my God. Oh my God, she had left Fabien.

No, no, no!

She liked Mara and all, but as a friend, she wasn't gay!

She had fronted a few times while intimate with Mara and it repulsed her, kissing another woman. That was Yen's thing, not her.

She ran out and got in Mara's car, driving to Fabien's house.

He wasn't home. She drove to his office and just ran upstairs.

She found him finishing a meeting and waited outside nervously. When she was finally locked inside the office with him, she sat on the chair nervously biting her nails.

FABIEN: What the hell do you want now?

BOITUMELO: (sobbing) Fab, I'm so sorry, I didn't mean...

FABIEN: Listen, Boitumelo, I can't do this hot and cold shit anymore. One minute you are like this, the next minute totally different. What bipolar shit is this! Get the hell out of my office

BOITUMELO: (crying) Fab, please... I love you... I just... I... J esus, would you let me talk! You are ruining my life!

FABIEN: I'm running your life? You barged into my office in pajamas!

BOITUMELO: Not you, I'm sorry. (sobbing and bbeggin) Please Yen, please... just five minutes...

FABIEN: What the fuck is this? I don't have time for this shit!

BOITUMELO: I have multiple personality disorder.

FABIEN: Huh?

BOITUMELO: There are five people in my head, I know it's a lot to deal with and you know Yen and all, but the host is me, Boitumelo, and I love you, I just... I am sorry I am not lively and vibrant and sexy like Yen, I am an introvert who likes reading and comics and...

He just came and hugged her until she stopped sobbing.

FABIEN: Babe, I'm not going to pretend I understand

this, but I wanna help you.

BOITUMELO: (Crying hysterically) I just... I can't believe... you know, like he is my father, and he just... oh my God (breaking down crying) Wait, who are you?

FABIEN: It's me, Yen, I...

BOITUMELO: (crying) Who is Yen, what's going on? I need to get home. I just... I am so sick of this waking up with no idea what's going on or where I am. Something is wrong with me. Like, I have so many problems and... and... why do bad things always happen to me...

Fabien tried to hug her and she recoiled back.

BOITUMELO: (sobbing) Just stop, ok? I don't know you. I want to go home.

She ran outside and sat on the floor crying when she couldn't recognize the landscape.

BOITUMELO: (breaking down crying) What is this place? I need to go home, do you know where I can get the taxis to White City?

Fabien sighed and carried her to the car, yelling at employed who had come out to look.

FABIEN: The fuck you looking at? Get back to work if you don't wanna be fired.

BOITUMELO: (crying) Please sir... can you just take me home. Please...

FABIEN: It's ok, I'm taking you home.

BOITUMELO: (sobbing) Thank you...

She rubbed her forehead with her eyes closed, then sat up straight with a mocking smile.

BOITUMELO: Tell me Fabien, are you one of the desperate ones who will chase after someone who doesn't want them? I mean, you are not bad looking, you got money...it's the small size dick, isn't it? You know, Letang's dick is like trice the size of yours? That man got good dick. Might fuck him again when I get home.

FABIEN: I am trying to help you damnit!

BOITUMELO: I. don't. Need. Your. Help! I don't love you. I love Mara.

She got a blank stare in her face before starting to laugh.

Fabien parked and Boitumelo followed him inside laughing sarcastically.

BOITUMELO: Oh, not this shit again! This is ridiculous man. I'm always losing this time. How long has it been nmthia time around? Days? Weeks? Probably months I don't recognize shit here. Where am I even? Who are you? Is that a wine cellar? Shiid! So y'all rich rich, huh? Wine cellar shiid. A bitch could live here. I'll fuck you good in return? (laughing).

She ran to the cellar and took a bottle opening it and drinking straight from the bottle.

FABIEN: Should I call a doctor?

BOITUMELO: It's whateves, do you bro. You look like a nice guy. Did we fuck or something? Of course we did, why else would I be here. Shit, I am such a fucking whore (laughing) got even my daddy (laughing and taking a swig from the bottle) That's me, ho ho ho!

A car stopped outside and Mara walked in.

MARA: Thanks for calling me Fabien.

BOUTUMELO: Mara...hey, what's up? What place is this? I fucking love this wine. This shit taste expensive. Mustn't drink too much though...last time I did.. I ended up getting drugged and raeoes. He pinned me down and slapped me when I tried to use the little energy I had to push him away, them he was just pumping me up as I tried to beg him to stop. Fucking Kgosi, man. That bitch raped me. He is Letang's friend. Well, that's what my stupid ass gets for being such an alcoholic.

She picked a knife from the kitchen counter and started cutting his wrists, but Mara grabbed it.

MARA: Mello then... Mello, dude. Seriously. You are messing shit up.

BOITUMELO: And you think I care? Why don't you take your bourgie ass to your fancy house and snort more coke, you fucking psychopath borderline junkie? I actually hate your ass. I don't even know how we met or how it's possible I hang with you...

MARA: (sighing) Nap time (she injected her with a muscle relaxant) . I hope when you wake up Mara will front.

Boitumelo woke up later and looked around.
Fabien's house.

She was always completely unaware when either Mello or Tumie took over. She was fully aware when Yen or Tutu did. God, at least let it should have been Tumie... because Mello came out then she and Fabien were basically done.

FABIEN: Hey...

BOITUMELO: I'm really sorry about whatever happened.

FABIEN: You don't have to apologies for being sick.

BOITUMELO: I owe you an explanation.

FABIEN: You don't owe me anything you don't wanna share.

BOITUMELO: I want to share. I love you Fabien, I know you only love Yen, but...

FABIEN: Yen is the feisty one according to Mara, right?

BOITUMELO: (Nodding) I am boring and not extraverted like her.

FABIEN: I don't know why you think I love her more. She is great in bed and her sauciness and confidence and all might have pulled me in, but I fell for the you. The sweet one. The one I am talking to right now. The host, is it?

Boitumelo smiled and nodded

FABIEN: I have been reading about this dissociative identity disorder while you slept. I watched videos.

BOITUMELO: Thank you...and I wanna tell you... everything. How it all started.

FABIEN: If it's not comfortable...

BOITUMELO: No I want to get it out now. I was only six when my father... he uhm... my mother was working a night shift. She is a nurse. I was just with my daddy. He told me I was his special little baby.

That I had a special job... that all little girls do it for their daddies. He showed me porn videos of sick bastards like him getting blow jobs from little girls. He said I had to do that too. Then he made me kneel on the bed as he took his d*ck out. Asked me to touch it...to kiss it, lick it, then told me to open my mouth...he puahed it in... it stretches my mouth until I felt pain. It hurt my throat too...(a single tear fell from her eye)

Fabien tried to pull her closer, but she shook her head.

FABIEN: You don't have to continue...

BOITUMELI: Please, let me... it's my reality. And it will make you feel better when you decide to run.

FABIEN: I'm not running.

BOITUMELO: Anyway, he made me cover the rest of his d*ck with my hands and showed me how to move them. He came in my mouth and told me to swallow it. Said it would make me grow. I hated the taste. Somehow I must have known it was wrong because I checked out right there. It wasn't

happening to me..so Tutu appeared. Every time it happened, I would just check out. He had said I could not tell anyone, but I had this cousin I admired so much because she was the sweetest, kindest person ever. So I asked her if she liked doing it. She was so shocked, she told my mother. My mother hit her and denied that my father would do that to me. I tried to convince her he did, but she beat me up too when we got home, and said if I ever said rubbish like that she will beat me more, my father would never do that. I was so sad. I couldn't handle it. My mother's betrayal. I wanted to die. To kill myself. At only six. That's when Tumie appeared. Tumie grows with me, Tutu doesn't, she stays only eight. She is an innocent happy place, Tumie is all the sadness. Anyway, it went on until at twelve when my mom was out, my father came in and said I was a big girl now. I could do more. I argued that it was wrong, and he started crying. He said if I didn't look so sexy, he wouldn't have to do this. That I wore shorts around the house and tempted him. That he was weak, I should not tempt him. He said if I didn't do it he would probably go outside and

rape and go to prison, and then both mama and him would go to prison and I will be a street kid. I didn't want to be a street kid. So I laid down. He pulled my panties off and pushed my legs apart with his knee. I checked out again, and a new persona appeared. Mello. She is all the guilt and self blame. She does not care about anything and she self harms. I totally black out when Mello fronts, I don't remember a thing. I think it's because the trauma if my father's dick inside me is too much. I don't remember it. In my mind, the host's mind, I stayed a virgin and only lost my virginity to my baby daddy. I only found out about the rapes from Mara, Mello told her when she took over. Apparently according to my doctor, bleeding could have been just friction from being too dry due to being nervous. Anyway, that happened and apparently went on until I was sixteen. I have no recollection of it, only Mello does. When I was sixteen apparently my mother caught him on top of me when she came back home unexpected. They fought and she threw him out, but didn't report him. He blamed me for it. That was the last time I saw him. Yenffer is recent. After my baby

daddy beat me up. But she is the one who has been in control most of our relationship with you. She alters with me. She doesn't care much for you, she wanted you for money, she is in love with Mara. I love you. Because of all that, I am incapable of having sex as me. Whenever I am intimate, it's as Yen. Yen or Mello. That's all. And you don't need to apologies about running. I understand. It was great knowing you.

FABIEN: (sighing) I said I'm not running. We'll get you a doctor. Do whatever we need to do.

He pulled her into a hug.

A few days later Mas edi walked into the hotel room and found the guy laying on bed naked, playing with himself.

HIM: Hey... you are even more beautiful in person.

MASEDI: Uhm... thanks?

HIM: I put in the money. You saw? Put it down as a business investment.

MASEDI: Yea... uhm.. thanks. What do you want me to do?

HIM: What do you know about coprophilia?

MASEDI: What is that?

HIM: Take off your clothes and lay on your back on the floor...open your mouth...

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[05/29, 14:10] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 40

Masedi just laid limp as he uncuffed her. When he told her what he wanted to do to her she had refused, tried to back down, promised she would give all his money back. But he had just laughed and told her there was no pulling back now, she'd already agreed. He had covered her mouth with his hands and pinned her to the floor, cuffing her hands to the bedpost, and her feet also somewhere she couldn't tell.

He's sat on her chest with a knife to her throat, demanding she opened her mouth.

God, she couldn't die... her children needed her, especially with Letang as he was right now.

She tried to negotiate with him, but he wasn't interested, just kept threatening to cut her if she didn't comply. realized he meant business, she finally complied and had laid there frozen until he was done.

She couldn't even move after he uncuffed her, he ended up carrying her to the bathtub and used the shower hose to wash her mouth out the he took some toothpaste and brushed her mouth for her, followed by a Listerine she somehow managed to move enough to gurgle, and then gurgled some gin, finally he used a breath spray on her and put some chocolate mint on her mouth.

He emptied the tub and filled it with clean water and some very expensive looking bath gels, salts and oils, then continued to wash her and dried her up, taking her to the bed.

HIM: I'm not a bad person, you know. I just... I get turned on by what I get turned on by. I didn't mean to hurt you.

Tears just welled down and fell to the side of her face as she spoke softly.

MASEDI: (sobbing) I said no. I didn't want to do this... I said...

HIM: But I told you once agreed, you couldn't back off. I really wanted to do this with you... I could easily get one of those Insta girls who would be more than willing for half the price, but I wanted you. Everything about you is just so sensual, so sweet... if I was to picture an African goddess, she'd look like you. Ever since we talked, I have been so excited I even dreamt about it. I couldn't stop myself. Eat your mint.

She had not even realized that the chocolate he had put in her mouth was still there. As she tried to swallow it, all her lunch came hurling back all over the bed.

The guy sighed and called room service, then took

her to the bathrooms again.

HIM: You are being such a baby about this, girls do it all the time.

She just stared into space as tears ran down her face.

MASEDI: I said no... I told you I didn't want to do that.

HIM: I'm sorry... I couldn't stop myself.. I have impulse control issues, when my mind is set on something I can't rest until its done.

He drained the water and filled the tub again, with all the bath salts, then joined her in the tub, laying her his chest and started kissing her.

HIM: J ust stay tonight and you can leave in the morning, you don't need to stay a week. I shouldn't have forced you. It's just... you fascinate me.

Ephraim parked in front if Malebogo's house and knocked.

MALEBOGO: What do you want?

EPHRAIM: My daughter...my family is doing something and I need her there as part of the family.

MALEBOGO: What do you mean something? So she is only convenient as a decorative for family events? You never come for her, you think she is raised by money alone?

EPHRAIM: Why do you think is that, Malebogo. Any time I try to take her you yell at me and refuse, but never refuse my money. Give me my daughter.

MALEBOGO: What kind of event is it? If you are taking my daughter I am coming.

EPHRAIM: The hell you are. It's a family thing. It's private

MALEBOGO: Private for what? You are not taking my daughter to some rubbish witchcraft thing! I am a Christian and I...

EPHRAIM: Really don't have time for your shit right now. I have a right to my child.

He pushed past her and got onside, picking up the baby and walked out.

Malebogo screamed after him and insulted him. She caught up with him and tried to pull the baby away.

MALEBOGO: I am not letting to go do witchcraft on my child! Never!

He shoved her hard and got in his car as she fell down.

MALEBOGO: I am going to report you! You will see!

EPHRAIM: Run right along, why don't you?

Ephraim arrived at the Ledimo estate with his family.

His boss and the wives met him and they chatted for a bit.

A younger version of his boss came over and smiled at them, shaking Ephraim and Sapelo's hands, then took Aedirwe.

HIM: Yup... definitely a Ledimo cub. Come meet your family long sleeping monna. They are troubling you because you were not home. Now you know your family. Everything will be fine.

Sapelo whispered to Ephraim

SAPELO: (whispering) He is the one doing the ceremony? He looks like some young American rapper or something.

EPHRAIM: (laughing) stop, will you? He is also in Harvard.

SAPELO: How on earth does one do both. Like how can he believe in this shit when he is educated and all.

The guy laughed from a distance.

HIM: (laughing) Same way you believe in the white people God despite the fact that it brought slavery to our people, aunty.

He threw a peace sign and got on with his things, smearing some black paste on Aedirwe's forehead and wrists, then went on chanting.

Boitumelo sat eating breakfast with Fabien.

FABIEN: So, I decided to postpone our move to Botswana. You are not ready for it, so I will stay and

we will get you whatever treatment. I talked to a psychiatrist on the phone and she told me there is no cure, but there is medicine that helps and she will teach you coping techniques and help you live with the condition and keep the host dominant most of the time.

BOITUMELO: Thank you... I don't know if I can do it because Yen is the strongest and when she fronts I just...I have a hard time taking over.

FABIEN: She will teach me too how to encourage the host instead of the alters.

BOITUMELO: You know you could do so much better than me...I'm damaged.

FABIEN: What's better than you? I want a life with you... all of you.

Masedi booked into another hotel and stayed a few days to gather herself up.

She did what she had to do and now they had the money to get Letang the treatment he needed.

A call came in. It was the real estate guy.

HIM: I been trying to reach you.

MASEDI: I was busy, what do you want?

HIM: Wow. You are in a mood. I found a buyer for your plot. The price is good.

Wow. This was good. Now not only did she have the money for Letang's treatment, after she sells half her plot that was empty, she could get Letang to start back on his bitcoin thing

Yea, this was a worthy sacrifice.

She finally got in her car and drove home.

As she got in, Letang had Percy on his lap and Boycie closer, listening as he read them a story.

She watched them for sometime with a smile, then helped him put Percy to bed, followed by Boycie and Penelope.

When they were alone in the bedroom, he pulled her into his lap and kissed her.

LETANG: I missed you...

MASEDI: I told you I was working.

LETANG: I tried to call, your phone was off.

MASEDI: It wasn't off. I was in a place where the network was bad. We were shooting in the forest.

LETANG: (sadly) Sedi if there is someone else, I understand. I betrayed you and it has been a year. I will back off.

MASEDI: There is no one...

She looked down and tears just ran down her face.

LETANG: Masedi what happened? Sedi? Please talk to me... is it me?

MASEDI: (wiping tears) It's just...so much has happened... I just, I had to fake it for the kids, now that I know we are gonna fix everything, I am falling apart... I just...

He hugged her tighter, his own tears wetting her shoulder.

LETANG: I can never apologies hard enough Sedi. It's true, you really don't know what you got till you lose it. All of the things, nothing hurt more than not

having you.

MASEDI: Well, we get a second chance. We are gonna get you treated, and I have found money to get you started again on that whole bitcoin and trading thing.

2 years later...

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[05/29, 14:14] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

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Sapelo and Ephraim sat having breakfast with their kids.

AEDIRWE: Mama, uncle said Kai is coming today, can I go spend the weekend with him, he brought me new games.

SAPELO: I don't see why not! Maxine is coming to pick up pick up Salorato later today to braid her hair.

EPHRAIM: (smiling) So we'll have the house to ourselves?

SAPELO: Mhhh... that sounds nice...

Ephraim helped her clear the table and they washed the dishes together.

EPHRAIM: Babe, what do you say about taking Nadia? Not to come live with us, but my brother said his wives has no problem taking her in.

SAPELO: Now you want me to look like I am a bad person, looking like I don't want your daughter, Ephraim? But nna my thing is I don't need drama. You know how Malebogo is. She will come here causing a scene every single day. Legale rra. Now you got your brother's wives thinking I'm a horrible person.

EPHRAIM: Ao, Sasa. Not at all my love. I didn't mean for it to come out like that. It was understandable when she was a baby to live with Malebogo, she is four now... and that she lives in that place really hurts me. Please let's not fight about this.

SAPELO: (sighing) I am not fighting. Tota hela you are right, it is hurtful that she should have a different life from her siblings. Your child is mine, Ephraim, you know I have never treated Nadia different from my own. So, it was not that I don't want her. Like I said, I don't want drama. Ok, bring Nadia to live with us. But you manage your baby mama drama I have enough from your family.

EPHTAIM: You really mean it? She can come stay with us.

SAPELO: (laughing) Yes, silly. I like Nadia, she is a sweet girl.

Ephraim grabbed her and kissed her...

EPHRAIM: Damn, when are those guys getting here to pick up these brats,. I need my time with my wife

In the afternoon Masedi was at a studio shooting a television ad with other models from the agency she was signed as. The photographer finally called a wrap and they all collected their stuff to head out. Letang had taken her little Honda Fit to the garage

in Francistown, her sister still drove the SUV so she could drive the kids around because Masedi travelled a lot for work. So today she either went to catch the Francistown bus now, or laid over at one of her model friends and left back for Francistown tomorrow.

She needed to get back home, next week was a launch of Letang's book on making money with cryptocurrency and trading. He was also holding a fully booked seminar, and she had to help him make sure everything was going well. Today was their five years marriage anniversary, i they had been so busy that they only exchanged messages in the morning.

She smiled looking at his recent Instagram post. 'Kanye has his Kim. I got my Sedi. When you got a real one you know. After I messed up and was literally left broke and in a wheelchair unable to do anything for myself, this woman went above and beyond, emptying her pockets to get me treatment, then started back in business. I literally owe everything to her. Drop a for my light. Today is

five years since I cuffed her. Best decision ever.
Happy anniversary mma-Thebe.'

He accompanied it with a picture of their wedding day, with him putting cake on the tip of her nose.

Aww... that was so sweet.

Outside Letang fixed the kids with a smile. All three were in jeans and white tees, holding balloons that said 'Happy Anniversary', while Letang leaned against a yellow Jeep Wrangler, holding a bouquet of flowers.

Masedi came out chatting with the other girls. She covered her mouth in shocked happiness when he noticed them, Letang walking over to her and kissing her, then handed her the bouquet of yellow roses and a chocolate hamper.

LETANG: Happy anniversary Mrs Thebe.

The people around them cheered and took videos.

The kids came to hug her and give her the balloons.

PENELOPE: Happy anniversary mommy and daddy.

MASEDI: (wiping happy tears). Oh my God, what are

you guys doing here? Oh my God... look at these. When did you even get to Gaborone. Oh my God, all this is so beautiful! Look at the flowers. And they are yellow! My favourite colour.

LETANG: (smiling) There is something else that's yellow and for you.

He handed her brand new car keys.

She looked at the wrangler with a bow on top and started screaming and jumping up and down.

MASEDI: Oh my God, babe! You didn't! Oh my God! I'm gonna cry...

LETANG: Take it for a spin, and I'll give you the final surprise. My sister will take the kids with her.

MmaThapelo smiled and waved at Masedi while the kids grumbled about not being brought along as Masedi got in the driver seat of her new car and drove off with Letang.

Boitumelo walked into her new house holding her fiancée's hand.

FABIEN: So? You like it?

BOITUMELO: It's gorgeous. It's so homely!

Am'ma can take this first floor bedroom, it's better for her knees, and the girls can take whatever room that isn't ours. Then the helper's room. And we will still have two extra rooms!

FABIEN: Talking about our room, I can't wait for you to see it, come. On!

They ran upstairs and she exclaimed happily looking inside the huge room, devorated execly how she had wanted.

BOUTUMELI: Oh my God Fab! It's awesome.

She went over and laid on the bed.

BOITUMELO: Now I gotta think about what I'm gonna do with my life. Graduation is next month. You'll go back with me for it?

FABIEN: Of course babe. And you have a job at my company if you want it. But babe, you are doing so much better now. The doctor says to take things slow, and that Dr Liam has agreed to take you back

in outpatients on meds. Isn't moving back here enough stress already.

BOITUMELO: (sighing) You are right. I am so desperate to hold on to this stable mental state that I am not gonna push it.

FABIEN: That's my good girl.

He came to lie beside her and kissed her.

FABIEN: You don't know how proud I am of you! Finishing your degree and all!

BOITUMELO: (smiling) I couldn't do it without my Fab-ulous fiancée. It honest is so refreshing to have quiet in my head. And I'm in love, getting married...I am so happy.

FABIEN: Alright love. Let me drive out and get us some food, I wanna pass by the office too.

BOITUMELO: Alrigjt. I just wanna rest, the jetleg is real!

After he left Boitumelo laid in bed resting. She picked up her phone and went into social media. When was the last time she logged in even?

Might as well catch up with Botswana.

A post of a photo taken during Masedi and Letang's wedding was trending.

Plus a video of him handing her flowers and a car.

Sigh

Why would you go back to him Masedi?

She wondered what was going to happen when she finally met Letang. She couldn't avoid him forever, they had a child together, but he probably wouldn't be too pleased with what Yen did to him.

God, and Oteng.

Yen had made such a mess of things. What the hell was gonna happen when she finally met detective Oteng?

Letang laughed as he watched Masedi driving and singing loudly to Beyonce's One plus One. He smiled and squeezed her knee.

LETANG: I love seeing you happy. Alright, take a left

there... ok, drive in.

He led her into a little out of the city new place with private chalets, and took her hand, leading her to the restaurant area outside, and they sat having dinner under the stars, near a manmade lake.

He took out an envelope and handed it to her.

MASEDI: (smiling) What's this?

She read through the papers.

LETANG: I was thinking, this modelling thing doesn't have longevity. And I want you to take advantage of the social media following you have now anyway, so I thought, what can I do to invest in my babe. I bounced ideas around and you are passionate about kids. So, why not a kids line. Reusable diapers, disposable diapers, baby clothes, maternity clothes... so for the past two months I have been talking to these people with a factory in Indonesia. They are providing everything... we just put a price tag on it and put it on a shelf. We already secured the first store of your luxury boutique. Wena you just go into this website and

order the things you want, they will have them delivered to the store.

He leaned in and kissed her forehead, then wiped her tears.

MASEDI: Babe, what if I mess it up? Me, running a store?

LETANG: Why would you mess it up. The person doing my books will handle yours too. Sa gago is ordering stocko, decorating the shop, making sure the employees are doing their job. I believe in you babe. You are the girl who refused to crash at a point many would have. Now, how about we go took the bedroom so you can give me a proper thank you?

A message came through her phone.

Ftom Masalu.

‘You are busy trending, enjoying my brother’s money, getting cars, when he can’t even give his own mother one pula. I never thought you were like this Masedi.’

Her face fell sadly.

LETANG: Babe, what is it? Babe?

MASEDI: (sighing) Your family...

LETANG: What family? My family I s just Eph, Mmathapelo, and my uncle.

MASEDI: You know what I mean. Your mother... J ust forgive them... we all make mistak...

LETANG: Please don't ruin our night Masedi. Here, let me help you.

He took her phone and started blocking all his family members including his mom as he led Masedi to their room.

LETANG: There. Fixed it. Now they can't bother you.

He pulled her to his body and started kissing her while opening the chalets.

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[05/29, 14:14] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 42

Sapelo woke up on the morning and went through social media as she ate her breakfast.

A picture of Ephraim was floating across some page.

‘Fourth Ledimo brother? There is a fourth Ledimo brother, guys. Isn’t he hot? Rumor has it he shares a father with them, but guess what, he is also a brother to that hot ex soldier Letang Thebe of the ‘Money Mind’ book and videos, husband of model and entrepreneur Masedi Thebe.’

The picture was from a recent holiday Ephraim had taken with the Ledimo brothers. They were all topless in a beach. Another picture was of him as best man at Letang’s wedding.’

As they had tagged Ephraim’s Facebook profile.

She got in Ephraim’s Facebook account.

He had over 300 Facebook friend requests, and around eighty messages. A few from guys asking for business connections, help with funding from LID Industries, etc. The majority were from ladies, with a ‘Hey ’.

God, what was wrong with people, his profile said 'Married', and the profile picture was of their wedding day.

He walked in freshly shaven, smelling of cologne and aftershave. He came and kissed her neck.

SAPELO: You are famous.

EPHRAIM: Me? For what?

Sapelo handed him the phone.

EPHRAIM: Meh, by lunch they will be entertaining themselves with someone else. I'm gonna go to Malebogo's and get Nadia. You coming with?

SAPELO: Sorry babe, we got our first order of essential oils arriving today! Gosh I am so excited about the hot spring and spa extension in the garden.

EPHRAIM: And it really looks natural. It's so beautiful babe. I already booked my wife a session as soon as the spa starts operating, by the way.

She blushed and smiled at him.

SAPELO: Lucky girl.

EPHRAIM: I'm the lucky one. Alright babe, let me head off. Love you.

Ephraim parked in front of Malebogo's yard and walked in as Nadia ran to him. He picked her up and kissed her, giving her some candy to share with Malebogo's two year old.

EPHRAIM: Malebogo, I am taking my daughter to stay with me. Can you please pack her things

MALEBOGO: You are funny. You actually thought that would work? I'd just give her to you?

EPHRAIM: Malebogo, I am not trying to go to court and take custody from you. Let's work together here. I just want my daughter to live with me and come see you on the weekends.

MALEBOGO: So that Sapelo can abuse my child? Never!

EPHRAIM: Kante why do you always want things the hard way? When I get sole custody, you are gonna fucking lose any decision making rights you

have to my child's life! I am taking Nadia with me right now! Nxla!

He went outside and picked up his daughter driving off.

Masedi gently shook Penny to wake her up as the flight from Gaborone landed. They had went to shoot for her kids program.

MASEDI: Princess Penny, we have arrived. Come on.

She rubbed her eyes and picked up her backpack and neck pillow and walked out with her mother.

They found Letang waiting in the car with Boycie and Percy.

MASEDI: Hey boys...

She kissed Letang and leaned to the back to kiss Boycie and Percy.

PENELOPE: Hi daddy. Hi Tweddle Dum and Tweedle Dim.

MASEDI: Penelope Thebe! Don't call your brothers

names.

PENELOPE: They didn't even bring me my favorite juice. My brothers seriously suck!

MASEDI: (laughing) They are six and four, cut them a little slack, ao

LETANG: Would be fun if you had a sister, eh Princess Pen?

He said looking at Masedi.

MASEDI: (laughing) Don't start. Let's go have breakfast, Penny and I only had a yogurt each.

LETANG: (smiling) I'm just saying...the youngest of the house is four. It would be nice to have a baby and...

MASEDI: Babe, is this the place, really? Really now?

LETANG: (laughing) Ok, ok! Keeping quiet now... can't blame a man for trying though.

Boitumelo parked and walked into the restaurant to pick up breakfast. They had not bought groceries

yet and her mother in law and sister laws were still not used to the dry atmosphere that differed so much from humid Mauritius, so they stayed indoors a lot.

As she was walking out, she saw Masedi walk in with her family.

Letang whispered a barrage of explicit words towards her.

LETANG: (whispering) Fucking scammer bitch! I'm gonna kill you, nola.

Penelope looked at her, remembering how she was laughing as Masedi was on the floor bleeding

Penelope deliberately bumped into her and walked into the restaurant. Boycie didn't even recognize her.

Masedi gave her a fake smile.

BOITUMELO: Hi Sedi.

LETANG: We are not interested in talking to you, bitch.

MASEDI: Letang! Ao! Go sit down with the kids since you wanna act like one.

He sulked and walked over to the table.

MASEDI: Uh...hi. You are back.

BOITUMELO: Yea. Sedi, I'd like to talk when you have time.

MASEDI: I'm really very busy...

BOITUMELO: Please... it's important... We have hurt each other so much. It's not right... I'd like a chance to apologies. Please.

MASEDI: (sighing) Fine. This restaurant tomorrow for lunch. If you think you are taking Boycie...

BOITUMELI: I'm not. Boycie is home and safe with his mother. You. I don't trust myself not to hurt him. Tomorrow we can talk about you officially adopting him.

MASEDI: (happily) Really? Thank you! Thank you. Ok, see you tomorrow. Let me run and eat. I am starving.

Later in the afternoon Masedi dropped Penelope at Galo Mall where she was meeting with a group of

her friends.

MASEDI: You guys stay only in Galo, buy what you want to buy, and call me when you are done. Do not cross to that side, it's dangerous!

PENELOPE: Ahh, mama mma, Ataliah's brother will be chaperoning. We will be fine. There they are.

MASEDI: Ok, fine. But be careful Penny. I'm going into the salon, just call when you are done and I'll come pick you up wherever you are.

Masedi left and Penelope joined her friends. They went about the shops, buying little trinkets clothes and chocolate.

As they came out of Pick & Pay, she noticed Charity coming towards them when it was too late.

CHARITY: Heela Opene. Are you just gonna pass by me like you don't see me?

She just ignored her and Charity held her hand.

PENELOPE: (pulling her hand away) Leave me alone, Charity!

CHARITY: I saw you on that TV drama... your little

cousins watch your kids TV show also...

PENELOPE: Charity, let go of my hand, I need to go!

Her friend's brother ran over.

HIM: Ey, ey, lady! Let the child be.

CHARITY: Shut up, I am her mother! Or did you tell your friends Masedi is your mother? (she laughed) Shee, you are embarrassed by your mother at your age Opene? What will you do when you are a teenager?

Penelope teared up as her friends looked at her confused.

PENELOPE: She is lying, she is not my mother... she is an uhm... a relative. You guys go to the next shop, I will catch up. I'm fine. Go.

They reluctantly left.

PENELOPE: (Crying) Why do you enjoy embarrassing me, Charity! Don't you know how mean kids can be, someone is gonna tell kids at school that some woman who looks like... you, said she is my mother.

She looked Charity from head to toe, she was wearing a green string top that showed her orange bra strips and back fat, her cleavage almost spilling out of the top, and her short skirt was two sized too small, looking absolutely trash with makeup that as not well blended.

CHARITY: You are embarrassed by what I wear, while Masedi is on billboards in her panties?

PENELOPE: Mama is a model, and it's called lingerie! Don't compare yourself to her.

CHARITY: Whatever. Ntalets a ka P100 ngwanaka, I saw you taking money out of your wallet in Woolworths and you had several P200's. Akere you fancy kids get allowances.

PENELOPE: Mxim, never talk to me again or I'll tell daddy you are harassing me. You are embarrassing. She roughly pulled her hand away and walked off.

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[05/29, 14:14] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

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Ephraim walked in the office and sighed as a few of the ladies waved at him.

When he sat down in his desk, Miranda walked in with some files.

MIRANDA: Ledimo, eh?

EPHRAIM: Can we just fucking work, please?

MIRANDA: (laughing) You do realise you are a chick magnet now? All these hoes want that Ledimo coin...

EPHRAIM: Miranda! Damn...

MURANDA: Just saying... relax, damn. I know you don't want me Ephraim. I'm so over that. Besides, I am with a really great man right now, so, you are not in my moodboard.

EPHRAIM: Whose husband is he now?

MIRANDA: (laughing) Says the son of a sidechick...

EPHRAIM: (laughing) Ouch...

A younger junior employee knocked, then walked in.

HER: Morning, Mr Thebe... I was uhm... I was wondering if you had time to look over the investment opportunities we presented because...

EPHRAIM: (sighing) I am in a meeting, ma'am. In case you can't tell.

HER: Oh... sorry... I just thought you'll quickly just...

MIRANDA: (laughing) little girl... shoo! Go on. Buah bye. Close the door.

She huffed off and both laughed.

EPHRAIM: And they say we millennials are bad. Fucking Gen Z man! Entitled little shits.

MIRANDA: (laughing) Tell me about it! One of mine told me I am 'not sensitive to his emotions'.

EPHRAIM: (laughing) What does that even mean?

MIRANDA: (shrugging) Let me know when you find out. Anyway, here is the proposal for LID academy. Look it over and let me know if we are putting money into it or not.

She walked off with a smile. Recently the tension between them has slowly started to ease and they worked well together since she 'stopped' pushing on him. Now she got him. Ephraim was an alpha, he didn't like being chased, he liked being the one chasing and pouncing.

She smiles at herself wondering if he would ever take the Ledimo last name. The doors it could open...

Masedi parked at the hotel and Boitumelo walked to her.

BOITUMELO: Sedi, I was wondering if we can talk privately because I don't wanna cause a scene in the restaurant being emotional, there are things I need to tell you.

MASEDI: (sighing) Ok, the hotel manager here is a friend, I always book hubby's Francistown events here.. I think he can lend us one of the meeting rooms if they are free.

She called and a few minutes later they sat in a

meeting room with their drinks.

BOITUMELO: I wanted to apologies about what happened...

MASEDI: Mxim, which part?

BOITUMELO: All of it...

MASEDI: You took from my kids Boitumelo! There was a day I couldn't feed them, if it was not for Sapelo...

Boitumelo handed Masedi printed medical records, then played a video on her phone. It was some top psychiatrist explaining Dissociative Identity Disorder.

MASEDI: So, are you saying all that happened was not your doing? Wow, how convenient. Do shit and just get to 'it wasn't me'. You are not here to apologies, you are here to make excuses.

BOITUMELO: I wish it was like that. I am sick, Masedi. That's why I need you to take full custody of Boycie and never give him to me, no matter what I say. You don't have to believe me, but please let

me tell my truth. Please... I don't know how long I will be in control before she takes over. I can control better when I'm not defending myself, Yen is the defender, and I really don't need her coming out.

MASEDI: (rolling her eyes) I'm listening.

BOITUMELO: Deep down you know I wasn't lying, Masedi, what six years old says things like that?

MASEDI: Well, you said it didn't happen, so...

BOITUMELO: I was six! I got home and my mom beat me up saying I was a liar. That I shouldn't ever say something like that. When grandma asked me, she was talking to one of my alters, Tutu. She is an alter who has a perfect life, none of it happened to her. So, yea, to that part of my brain it didn't happen.

MASEDI: Whatever...

BOITUMELO: I am trying to apologise Masedi. For something I vaguely even remember, so please give me some credit. You have hurt me too.

MASEDI: (sigh) Fine... go on

BOITUMELO: One of my alters, Yen. She is

dangerous. She hates you and wants to make you suffer...

MASEDI: Right...

BOITUMELO: She has killed Masedi! You need to taken this seriously!

MASEDI: Huh? What does that mean?

BOITUMELO: I am confessing to a crime here. A crime that doesn't implicate only me, but a very dear friend of mine. Someone all my alters actually care deeply about.

MASEDI: Letang...

BOITUMELO: What? No. I am literally the only one who tolerates him. All my other alters despise him. I am talking about a detective who helped me cover up a murder.

MASEDI: What?

BOITUMELO: I was assaulted and sexually harassed in prison.

MASEDI: Oh my God...

BOITUMELO: When my alter Yen, learnt the ring leader of the ladies who harassed me was out. She devised a plan. Started seducing a junior doctor and then blackmailed him to release me. She planned with her lover, Mara, to rob Letang blind, break your family apart, get you raped, and... kill my father, Kgosi, and the women who assaulted me in prison. She managed to rob Letang and kill that woman, but had to flee because my doctor was legally coming after me. He knows just how dangerous Yen is.

MASEDI: You are not making this up are you?

BOITUMELO: I am sick, Masedi. Nothing hurts more than not having control of your mind. You don't have to believe me, just...

MASEDI: I believe you

BOITUMELO: Huh?

MASEDI: The Boity I know will never hurt a fly. You are the most positive thing I have come across.. I hated you, was jealous of you, treated you badly sometimes, and... you never gave it back. Instead you got me a job. You are genuinely a good person,

Boitumelo.

She wiped a tear and went over to her and hugged her.

MASEDI: I should have pushed, I should have told a teacher or the police or something. You trusted me enough to tell me, and I chose self preservation. I didn't want to be hated or beaten again so I chose to not push further, though I did ask myself, where did a six year old learn that something like that could happen?' I am so sorry Boitumelo...

Boitumelo just sat sobbing.

MASEDI: And I never considered you when I chose to sleep with Letang. I hated you, believed everything always came easy to you, you had such a charmed life. I thought you should feel loss once in your life, justified myself with 'she is so pretty, she can get another man with money anyway'. My upbringing hurt me, Boitumelo, I was brought to believe I was ugly, stupid, and worth nothing. And as they say, hurt people hurt people. I was hurting so much inside I did not think twice about hurting

another... I am healing now. When we were taking Penny to therapist, I started seeing one too. I am learning to see myself in a better light. I am not there yet, I still have some of the lowest self esteem you can encounter, but I am getting better. And I am sorry...about everything. About not helping when you needed me as a child, about sleeping with Letang... lying about what happened on my pregnancy... I am sorry.

Boitumelo broke down crying and Masedi hugged her again as they cried together.

BOITUMELO: I forgive you.

MASEDI: And I am not gonna pretend I understand all this dissociative identity disorder thing, but I am going to learn and find out how I can support you

BOITUMELO: Thank you... it's nice to feel like someone from my family supports me. I'm getting married and...

MASEDI: Really? Oh my God, that's wonderful Boitumelo I am happy for you. Is he a good man? Does he treat you right?

BOUTUMELO: He is the best... so understanding. And doesn't want kids. Which suits me well, because I have no intention of bringing a child into the mess I am.

MASEDI: Aww, don't say that. Maybe they can cure...

BOUTUMELO: There is no cure. Alters can go away temporarily with medicine and a low stress life, like right now. But anything could be a trigger that sets me off again. I can't have that mommy life. Which brings me to Boycie. My alter, Yen, she might hurt him to spite you or Letang. That's why I want to transfer custody to you as quick as possible, and promise me that under no circumstance will you leave him with me unsupervised. I will never ask, so if you see me asking, it's an alter, and she does not care about him, don't give him to me. Please Sedi, promise me that..

MASEDI: I promise...

Her phone rang.

MASEDI: Rrago Penny... babe... uhm, yea. No, they

can't have chocolate... yogurts are fine. No you can't have a beer, drink a juice or something (laughing) you need to finish your webinar notes. I told you I was... uhm... well, in a meeting with the lady who sells cloth, I want to do reusable nappies in African patterns... Don't start Letang, we don't need a baby to test them, there are baby models. See you in a bit.

She hung up and found Boitumelo looking at her sadly.

MASEDI: He uhm... he is still a little sore about what happened...

BOITUMELO: I want to apologise to him too, can you help set a meeting? You will come too, of course.

MASEDI: (sighing) Boity, I can't promise anything, Letang doesn't forgive, you know that. He still refuses to talk to his own mother. But I will try.

Letang laid in bed working on his seminar points when and listening to music on his headsets.

He felt a hand on his shoulder and turned to find Masedi's little sister Bontle seating on the bed.

BONTLE: I called you several times... ne ke re dijo di ready.

LETANG: Thanks. But you don't enter our bedroom. Ever. Masedi told you that.

BONTLE: Ee rra...

God please don't let her start that shit. He was not messing their life up. Not for anything.

He heard Masedi walk in still on the phone.

MASEDI: (on the phone) Come on Poppy, a whole month? You know I am a mother...I know it's a great opportunity and I am glad you are giving me a chance to market my 'little diaper thing', it's just...no, no... I am not saying no at all. No please, don't give it to someone else. I want it. Ok, fine, I will come to Gaborone after my husband's launch. Thanks.

She hung up with a sigh.

LETANG: Where to, now?

MASEDI: We are launching a new 24 hours

foundation across Kenya and Nigeria. I'll be gone a month.

LETANG: Masedi, this is not a life! We are always on the move! No, you are not going.

MASEDI: What do you mean 'no'?

LETANG: Just that, Masedi. You are so exhausted all the time. We don't even have time to just relax as a couple. When was the last time I ate food cooked by my wife? I don't even know why you work for them anymore. I provide more than adequate, and you are starting your own business.

MASEDI: A business I am not sure will take, a lot of start-ups fail. I need reliable income, and I learnt the hard way that I can't rely on you.

LETANG: Wow...

MASEDI: Oh my God, me and my big mouth. Babe, you know I didn't mean it that way. I just... modelling is my thing babe. I love it and enjoy it. And you wouldn't want to take something I love away from me, would you?

LETANG: (sighing) I just... Sedi, you are approaching 30, biological clock is ticking. I feel like we should have our last child before then...

MASEDI: Thank you, for reminding me how old I am. But no, babe. It's a busy time for me right now, there is no room for a baby. And what's wrong with three kids?

LETANG: I just thought a fourth would...

MASEDI: A new baby is not gonna ease your guilt, Letang. That baby died, even if we have another, it won't change that fact. Find another way to deal with it, I am not having a baby, at least not right now. Bontle said dinner is ready. Come. I love you.

She kissed him and took his hand leading him to the living room.

Ephraim walked in from work and started getting dressed for workout as Sapelo laid in bed, reading.

EPHRAIM: Why don't you come with me?

SAPELO: Nope. Thanks for offering though.

EPHRAIM: Come on babe, we'll do just a jog and then some light cardio.

SAPELO: (laughing) No, don't say 'we', you are on your own, buddy.

EPHRAIM: Come on, it's good for you!

SAPELO: Is that your way of calling me fat?

EPHRAIM: Come on babe, we have to admit that you could shed a few kilos. After Ae you added some and they never left, but that was cool. Rato came with a whole lot of pounds and it's no longer cute... shit! I...

He realised too late that she was staring at him with hands folded across her chest.

SAPELO: Ephraim, you chose a FAT girl to marry, don't try to act cute now.

EPHRAIM: But you were not this size baby. You were thick and sexy... I am sorry, but...

SAPELO: Oh, so, that's why our sex life has slowed down? I repulse you?

EPHRAIM: Repulse... what? No! I never said that. I

just think you could lose a few pounds...

SAPELO: You think my weight is a turn off, Ephraim!

EPHRAIM: I didn't say that... I am sorry babe. I really am. You do whatever you like, I love you in anyway you look. I just thought maybe it's what you wanted. But if it isn't, it's cool. As long as you are happy, I am happy.

He came to the bed, mounting her and kissing her.

EPHRAIM: You will always be sexy to me Sasa... always...

He kissed her, going down her neck... pushing the stretchy dress off her shoulders and a bra cup aside before taking a nipple in his mouth as he rubbed his erection on her inner thigh.

EPHRAIM: You see what you do to me? Does this feel like a repulsed man to you?

She moaned and gyrated into him as he pulled her panties off and put her legs on his shoulder

'I got exactly five minutes before I need to meet the boys, but the way you are so hot to me... three

minutes is all I need.

She moaned loudly as she felt him push his sweatpants to his knees while whispering in her ear.

‘You are hot as fuck babe... I mean it...all this big booty hour glass... damn..’

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:14] Lynne: BREADWINNER’S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 44

In the morning, Sapelo stood naked in front of the bathroom mirror pinching her fats and with a sad sigh. She’d never been thin all her life, but now she had gone past chubby and she was just fat. She pinched her small pouch from giving birth...no wonder Ephraim wanted her to loose weight, this was not attractive.

She wrapped a towel around her body and unlocked the bathroom door, seating on the bed and applying body lotion.

Ephraim sighed. Not this again. She had taken to wrapping herself up and never really being fully undressed in front of him unless the lights were off.

EPHRAIM: Babe, are you still sour about what I said two weeks back on you losing weight? I didn't mean...

SAPELO: No babe, not at all. Why would you ask that?

EPHRAIM: You won't get naked in front of me.

SAPELO: (awkward laugh) Really? I don't think so... let me finish getting dressed.

EPHRAIM: You locked yourself in the bathroom! And have been doing so for days now!

SAPELO: I just want a little privacy, that's all

She put on her clothes with the towel still around her body and went to the kitchen, looking at the bowl of porridge the helper had made.

Maybe better not.

She grabbed an apple in the fridge and sat on the couch munching on it while ordering that slim tea

Mas edi promoted.

She had never been one to be self conscious of her weight, but it was different when your husband told you you needed to loose weight. No matter what Ephraim said, a part of him must found her unattractive for him to even say that.

Letang walked into his home as Bontle was cleaning.

Mas edi had been gone for two weeks now and it was so lonely here.

Bontle was always trying to start conversations, but he wasn't going there with her. The familiarity would only lead to trouble.

Nah, man this was not gonna work.

The girl had already made a subtle move on him two weeks back. He was not fucking up like that.

He came and stood at the kitchen door.

LETANG: I think you should move. I'll set you up with a job and a house.

BONTLE: Why? Did I do something wrong? Letang, if it was me touching you last week, it was innocent, I swear. I just had been calling you for too long.

LETANG: You wanna be your sister's maid forever? And think about your kids. You can't expect us to give them the living standard we give our kids. Bo Penny go to a private school, get allowance and eat out a lot. How do you think it makes your kids feel? I know Masedi feels guilty because she loves kids and she feels like wa ba kgetholla, but it won't be fair for us to spend private school tuition and all on kids that aren't ours. You are making our lives difficult. I talked to a friend and he needs a secretary. And I found you a place to move in. I am giving you a chance to do something for yourself and your kids.

BONTLE: Ijo...ee rra. I will start packing.

Boitumelo and Fabien walked into Spar and started filling their trolley. As they headed to the cashier, their trolley bumped into another. Boitumelo looked

up.

BOITUMELO: Detective!

She smiled from ear to ear and hugged him, Oteng lifting her off in a hug and spinning her around.

OTENG: Boity, I suppose? Hey girl...you look...good.

BOITUMELO: (smiling) I am, I feel good. This is my fiancée, Fabien...Fabien, this is Detective Oteng.

Oteng looked up the other man that he greatly towered over, and smiled.

OTENG: Fiancee, huh? Nice meeting you man. She is fragile, the last asshole she loved broke her. So make sure you take care of my girl, otherwise...

He made a gun with his fingers and pointed it at Fabien's head, then mouthed 'pow'

FABIEN: Nice meeting you too, man.. And you don't have to worry, my fiancée is safe with me.

OTENG: Good, good man! Alright, let me not keep you two lovebirds. Catch up sometime, Boity.

She waved him off with a smile, then they paid and

went to the car, with Fabien quiet.

BOITY: Are you ok?

FABIEN: A friend of yours?

BOITY: Yes

FABIEN: You told me about your life, he never came up. Is he an ex?

BOITY: What? Oteng? I mean... we had something starting but it never went anyway. Are you ok?

FABIEN: I'm fine...

In the morning after Bontle left, Letang sat waiting for the new helper. She was an older lady who had grown up useless kids, so she still had to work at fifty five to provide for them. He had found her through a recommendation from a colleague.

There was a knock at the door and she went to open.

A girl nothing over twenty years stood there with a bag.

LETANG: Can I help you?

HER: (looking down) My mother, mma-Bojosi was supposed to come start work here, but the taxi she was on got in an accident and she broke an arm and a leg last night. She was afraid you would hire someone else if she told you, she said I should just come. My name is Morwadi.

LETANG: Yea, that's not gonna work...I need someone a little older.

HER: I am a hard worker, sir.. Anything you need done around, clean, cook, take care of the kids, washing clothes. Please don't send me away...

His phone rang and he answered, talking briefly.

LETANG: Uhm shit. I have to head out and meet a potential business partner I have been trying to get a meeting with. Anyway, get in, make lunch. We will handle this when I come back.

By the time Letang finished his meeting, it was already dark. He was driving off home when he saw Boitumelo jogging.

He stopped the car and ran over to her, covering her mouth with his hand and dragging her back to the car, then looked around before throwing her in the car trunk and locking her in, driving out of the city with her. She drove into the forest thicket and parked, then took her out and brought her into the car, pinning her to the backseat and slapping her repeatedly.

BOITUMELO: (crying) Letang, please...

LETANG: Give me one reason I shouldn't break your neck right now, fucking bitch! Where is my money?

BOITUMELO: (crying) I'm sorry... I'll get the money and...

He slapped her again.

LETANG: It's not about the money, nyla! You almost ruined my life. I should kill you.

BOITUMELO: I'm sorry... Letang, you know I'm sick...my alters... I was...

LETANG: The fuck you are! That's a fucking excuse you use to be a bitch! You know what? I'mma ruin

your life too.

He started to choke her until she couldn't breath.

LETANG: That's how easy it would be to kill you. Now I want you to give me the sluttiest smile, take off that blouse and straddle me. I'm gonna take a cute picture for your fiancée.

BOITUMELO: Letang, don't do this... please... please, I am begging.

LETANG: (slapping her) Smile, bitch!

When she opened her eyes, she was laughing.

BOITUMELI: How about a kiss instead... you like that babe? Come now Lets, you know I been about you... want me to do that little thing I do that you like?

She got on her knees in the car floor and unzipped his pants, taking him in her mouth.

BOITUMELO: Shit, I missed this...

Letang moaned and leaned back on the chair, his eyes closed and lost to the pleasure.

LETANG: Oh, shit... fuck, fuck... Boity... oh, fuck, stop, stop! I got... oh damn... you give the best head... fuck!

She sashayed up and straddled his lap impaling herself with his hardon and gyrating her thighs as they both moaned, Letang thrusting up to meet her rhythm until they both came.

She got off of him and stood outside the car laughing.

BOITUMELO: (laughing) Who's the bitch now?

She held up her phone with a video of them.

BOITUMELO: I have nothing to lose if this comes out. I don't give a fuck about that height challenged, average sized dick Mexican boy anyway. (laughing) You on the other hand, darling... nxe, nxe, nxe, nxe! You have everything to lose! Your wife, your family... your reputation... damn. Now, get the fuck out of the car before I hit upload. Chop chop! Leave keys in. Walk away from the car, to that tree.

He sighed and got off the car and walked to the tree, Boitumelo immediately running in the car and

driving off.

She drove off to his home and parked the car then took off her panties and stuffed them between the seta and the backrest if the passenger seat. Out of sight enough. But can be felt when someone sat there.

She caught a taxi home, after she had gotten in the shower, switching again.

As a recount of all that happened hit her all at once, she broke down crying, sitting under the running shower.

Oh my God, what had Yen done now! Oh God!

She ran to her phone and deleted the video, then sat in the bed hugging herself with her knees to her chest, her head on her knees as tears rolled down. This was no way to live. She couldn't do this anymore.

She kept eyeing her bottle pills . She took her phone and Googled 'can you die from antipsychotics overdose?'

Sapelo rolled in bed, not feeling Ephraim. She opened her eyes and he wasn't there.

He was probably working on the small walk in closet they had turned into a study. She could see the laptop light from there

She moved over and peeked in.

Seriously? He had his headsets on, and he was watching porn of some busty, perky breast, small waist thick girls... the kind of girl she had looked like when they got married.

He was leaned back, his hand on his erection as he moved up and down...

He left her in bed to beat his meat to a porn star with a body she used to have?

Gosh, he couldn't have said 'no longer attracted to you' in a louder way.

She felt hot tears prick at her eyes before flowing down as she went back to bed, burying her head in the pillow and crying.

God knows she had been trying to lose weight since Aedirwe. She had even exercised at short intervals every now and then, bought all the meal supplements...she was just not losing weight and he was no longer attracted to her.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:14] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 45

After walking to the main road, hiking, and catching a taxi, Letang finally arrived home late at night. His heart beat so fast when he saw his car parked at home. God, what if that psycho got to his children. He jogged to the house and ran to the kids bedrooms, all sleeping peacefully.

He went to get something to eat in the kitchen, finally noticing someone sleeping in the carpet in the living room. Oh damn! The little girl who was standing in for the maid.

She rubbed her eyes and sat up.

MORWADI: Dumelang

LETANG: Hey, why are you sleeping on the carpet?

MORWADI: You didn't tell me where to sleep, sir, and the kids said one of the room was their aunty's, the other their cousins, and the other you used it as a study.

LETANG: It's ok, use that room. Let me get you bedding.

*** *****

Masedi came back from shooting and laid in bed, calling Letang.

LETANG: Mrs Thebe...

MASEDI: Don't Mrs Thebe me Letang, why did you kick my sister out of my house?

LETANG: Babe, it wasn't working out...

MASEDI: What do you mean not working out? Did you sleep with her? Did you? Letang I swear...

LETANG: Calm down, I didn't sleep with Bontle, but I

just felt we are holding her back, I got her a job. Gape I know how bad you feel that our kids go to private school and hers to public while staying together.

MASEDI: But Letang, we need help with the kids!

LETANG: Maybe if you were actually at home being a mom...

MASEDI: I am not at home because who pushed me to hustling for my kids kana? Who diced all our money away ka dinyatsi, leaving us broke then tried to kill himself, leaving me unemployed, with no skills, and three kids to care for? Huh? Who? Kopa o ska ntena Letang, I don't like saying these things, but when you keep pushing this rubbish about me staying home gone nnyaa! No papi, can't do. I can't trust you not to fuck up again. You better have a solution by morning, and I do not want a maid.

LETANG: I love you too.

MASEDI: If its a maid she better be sixty with white hair...wa nkutwa?

LETANG: (laughing) Sir, yes, sir! Come back soon

babe, I miss you so much...this bed is too big without you.

MASEDI: Translated, I am horny.

LETANG: (laughing) You know me too well.

MASEDI: (laughing) It's been only two weeks you dog. See you soon babe. Find an older lady helper. Love you.

Ephraim woke up in the morning hearing the shower running. He tried to open, but the door was locked.

EPHRAIM: Babe?

SPAELO: Just a minute, I'm showering.

EPHRAIM: I know, I wanna join you... maybe get a little love and...

SAPPELO: I'm in a hurry, got clients.

She came out wrapped in a towel and gave him a quick perk on the lips. He tried to pull her closer for a kiss, but she pulled away and started getting dressed.

EPHRAIM: Sapelo, are you ok?

SAPELO: I'm terrific.

EPHRAIM: Don't be like that...

SAPELO: Fine. You left me in bed to watch porn and masturbate, Ephraim?

EPHRAIM: (confused) And? What is wrong with watching porn? And I literally beat my meat any time I am not getting it from you, what can I say? I am a sexual being! (laughing)

SAPELO: Mxim

EPHRAIM: Ah-ah? You are serious goriana? You are upset that I watched porn and jerked off? Really? Ahh, jaanong wa gana mma.

SAPELO: Why do you want to look at other naked women when you have your own right in bed?

EPHRAIM: It's just... I mean... uhm... there is nothing wrong with porn, come on.

SAPELO: Do you find me sexually attractive? Leave aside the fact that you love me, ke raa pure, primal sex hela. If you were single and walked across me

in a shop o sa nkitse, would you look at my body and think, 'I wanna nail that'.

EPHRAIM: Can we not do this?

SAPELO: No, let's do this! Why don't you say what's actually in your mind, Ephraim, huh? You are not attracted to me and you'd rather go watch porn.

EPHRAIM: So now you are angry at me because of your body issues? I ask you to come work out with me Sapelo, wa gana! You literally never keep to your diets... lasts two weeks and its done, you are the most determined and consistent person I know, when you want something, you ALWAYS get it. Koore hela you don't want to commit to losing weight because wena o sharpo ka this body, which is selfish...we are married, Sapelo. Whether we like it or not, we marry a preference too. Physical image plays a part in attraction, koore hela when one says that gatwe its offensive. You like me a certain way, and I keep myself that way. Why can't you do the same for me? Imagine if I start sporting a beer gut or bleached my skin, would you want to fuck me?

SAPELO: Wow... evade the question. That is an answer too, you know.

EPHRAIM: (sighing) Fine, fine Sapelo. I like my woman with shape. Big thighs, big hips, big butt, small waist, flat tummy. A big tummy turns me off...

SAPELO: Wow... Ephraim! I literally gained weight because of pregnancy and breastfeeding! (yelling) I got this body you hate so much giving you kids, asshole! Mxim.

EPHRAIM: Let's be honest Sasa, women give birth to seven kids and still maintain themselves if they want, look at Kaedi's wife. On her fourth child and...

SAPELO: (walking away) Go fuck your brother's wife then, mxim!

EPHRAIM: Sapelo, wait, I didn't mean...

She got her car keys and ran off, trying hard to not cry.

Damnit! Women were so complex. If he lied and said he was ok with her body now, she would have been upset. But now she is upset about his not

being ok with it too. Damn if you do, damn if you don't.

In the morning Penelope woke up and found the new maid finishing to clean.

MORWADI: Hi... this is so cool, I watch your TV show...

PENELOPE: (smiling) Thanks. What's for breakfast.. I usually have muesli with a greek yogurt and half a banana, daddy and the boys... well, maybe an English breakfast, we miss mama a lot, so maybe that would cheer them up as she makes it for us.

MORWADI: Huh? English breakfast?

PENNY: (laughing) I'll get my own breakfast. English breakfast just put bread in a toaster like so, then warm up some canned beans, fry either russian sausage or wors, bacon, eggs, and mushrooms.

Her phone rang and she picked up seeing her mother's number.

PENELOPE: (happily) Mommy! Oh my God, we miss you so much! Come back already.

MASEDI: (laughing) Hey princess Pen. I miss you too, but mama gotta work, you know that. Between you and I? Being poor sucks, doesn't it?

PENELOPE: (laughing) Totally! I hated when we had to go to public school!

MASEDI: Hence you see why mama has to work so hard? I never want you and your brothers to be in public school or lack of anything again.

PENNY: (under her breath) I just wish you were home more.

MASEDI: What was that, princess? I didn't catch it.

PENNY: Nothing mama.

MASEDI: Ok princess. You guys ready for school? I heard aunty Bontle moved out, so today daddy is gonna get you guys ready. Just eat cereal or something.

PENNY: Oh, the new girl is making breakfast.

MASEDI: What new girl?

PENNY: The maid?

She turned the video to the kitchen where Morwadi was making breakfast.

MASEDI: Oh... baby, I need to run. Go get ready for school.

As she hung up she immediately called Letang.

LETANG: Hey babe, I'm just getting dressed for a meeting.

MASEDI: When were you gonna tell me you have your little whore running about my house?

LETANG: (laughing) I don't have any little whore, my love. Wanna get me one for my birthday?

MASEDI: Don't play with me Letang, I want her gone. Now!

LETANG: I have a busy day today. Someone needs to be home when the kids come back from school, and take care of them while you are busy strutting about in your panties.

MASEDI: You are standing there being arrogant right now because I strut around in my panties,

don't get cocky. And I hate this recent attitude you have just because I won't have another child. Wa lapis a waits e Letang.

LETANG: I'm sorry babe, I just wish we could... I have always wanted four kids. I know a guy who had a downs syndrome child when his wife had a child a 33! You are 29 Sedi, that's not so far off.

MASEDI: (sighing) I'm not doing this with you right now. I want that whore of yours gone by tomorrow, ija.

Penelope was coming from her room when she heard her mom on the phone loud speaker.

So Morwadi was just like that Boitumelo, going to make trouble between her parents, huh? Some of the kids at her school had divorced parents and also she knew all too well how sad mama was when daddy was gone. She used to cry every night when she thought they were asleep.

She sulked and walked into the kitchen, looking at Morwadi laughing with the younger kids.

PENELOPE: Boycie, Percy, go seat down. You, make

us breakfast, your job is not to giggle about.

MORWADI: I was just...

PENELOPE: Not, interested. Bring me my muesli.

Letang finally finished getting dress and walked to the kitchen.

The house was so clean, no toys in the floor, and there was a full English breakfast on the table, with the kids seating there eating, already in their uniform.

LETANG: Wow.. you guys are having a feast...

PRNELOPE: Mommy makes better food.

LETANG: Penny, don't be rude.

PENELOPE: What? It's oily. I'll be in my room, call me when we are ready to leave.

LETANG: Penelope! Sit your narrow behind right now!

She rolled her eyes and sat down, her arms crossed over her chest as she messaged her mother.

In the evening, Ephraim walked in the gym and as he headed to the weight section, he noticed Miranda doing some weights.

He walked over to her.

EPHRAIM: Ahh, cute, weights...no spin class or what is that thing you do?

MIRANDA: (laughing) Are you mocking my class?

EPHRAIM: Do people really come to the gym to spin around?

MIRANDA: (laughing) It's very tiring, you judgemental prick. But I am trying to tone up and weights are the way apparently.

EPHRAIM: Your posture is wrong and you are not hitting the right muscle with that stance. And you wanna reduce your weights and do high reps for sexy arms, otherwise those chicken wings will end up looking like Vin Diesel's arm

MIRANDA: (laughing) Chicken wings? Really? Leave me alone Ephraim, or are you the steroid type that just comes to the gym to trash talk.

EPHRAIM: (laughing) I am insulted! Roids? People who use steroids look like they got pumped with air, this is pure lean muscle. Let me help you...

He corrected her stance and then watched her as she did the weighted squats again.

Damn, there was a li'l ass somewhere there.

God, what was wrong with him, He needed to go away from her. Or get laid.

Sapelo had been in a funk for two weeks now and they barely had sex, and today it was worse. They'd fought and she did not want to even kiss him in the morning. Refused to answer his calls or reply his texts all day. Sometimes she was so hard to understand.

Sapelo sat in her office late, crying.

What Ephraim had said was honestly offensive. She knew she had gained weight, did he need to shove it in her face like that!

There was a knock and a man stood at the door.

SAPELO: Can I help you?

HIM: You talked to my sister earlier. She couldn't make it... about a using the garden for a family reunion?

Oh my God, the client...she had been so preoccupied, she totally forgot.

SAPELO: (wiping tears) Uhm... I... of course. I'm sorry... allergies.

HIM: Allergies. Right. Come on, if you need an ear, I got time. Why is a pretty girl like you crying?

SAPELO: I'm fine...

HIM: Men are asshole, don't waste time crying over one. Shall we?

He sat down as Sapelo showed him the print layout of the garden and the services they would offer them.

As she stood up to take a file, she could feel the man's eyes on her. Not in a creepy way...

HIM: Eish... bo ntja ba itumela

SAPELO: Meaning?

HIM: (smiling and looking up her body from head to toe) Nice things...real nice things...ija...don't mind me.

SAPELO: (blushing) Nnyaa, you can't say half sentences.

HIM: (laughing) O batla go nkgolega akere...ring ke eo...anyway, yes, we will be booking the place

SAPELO: Ok let me put it down... leina?

HIM: Bokamoso...

She wrote it down.

SAPELO: Alright, come complete the booking tomorrow with our agent. Thank you for your business.

She stood up and shook his hand as the guy ogled her again.

HIM: Why are pretty girls always insecure. Every time I check you out you look down, and you have been pushing you handbag in front of you, trying to hide your tummy? Girl, you are built like an African

woman, stop hiding. You are beautiful. If your husband does not tell you that he is a fool.

He reached out and caressed her chin just as Ephraim walked in, still on his gym wear.

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1000/100/10

BREADWINNER'S WIFE † † † 46

Ephraim stood at the door and watched some guy caressing Sapelo's cheek.

EPHRAIM: What the fuck is going on here?

SAPELO: (moving away from the guy) Ephraim, I...

EPHRAIM: Don't fucking Ephraim me, are you fucking him?

BOKAMOSO: Hey now! That's no way to talk to a lady.

EPHRAIM: Don't fucking talk when I caught you

with you hands all over my wife.

SAPELO: Will you stop, Ephraim! Seriously! This is a client...sir, I am so sorry, and I understand if you no longer wanna do business with us...

BOKAMOSO: Punish you because he is acting like an ass? No way...

EPHRAIM: If you don't get out of here right now...

BOKAMOSO: Leave a woman alone with you acting like a charging bull?

Ephraim swung at him, but Sapelo moved between them and his fist caught her on the nose and side of mouth. She tripped on a box of files and hit her head on the wall.

EPHRAIM: Shit...oh my God, Sapelo, I'm so sorry... are you ok?

SAPELO: (moving away) Don't touch me. You are so immature! Always quick to hit people!

EPHRAIM: I'm sorry. I didn't mean...

SAPELO: You wouldn't have if you communicated like normal people, not a Neanderthal.

Bokamoso wiped her bleeding lip with his handkerchief, Ephraim pushed him off, punching him on the face.

EPHRAIM: Don't fucking touch my wife!

SAPELO: Oh my God, what is wrong with you? Bokamoso, I am so sorry. You need to leave wena Ephraim.

EPHRAIM: But...

SAPELO: I said leave! I don't wanna tell you again Ephraim, leave.

EPHRAIM: You don't even have your car with you today, how will you get home?

SAPELO: Get out of my sight! Damn! Ephraim, if you care about us and our marriage, you will leave. I can't look at you right now. Arggg! Go.

He looked at her with pleading eyes, but she was not budging, and eventually he walked off, seating in his car.

BOKAMOSO: Are you ok? Shall I take you to the hospital? The side of your head is bleeding.

SAPELO: I'm fine, thanks, just go home.

BOKAMOSO: Are you sure? You want me to call the police? He assaulted you.

SAPELO: Nah, it's fine. Just go.

He sighed and left.

Sapelo sat back on her chair frustrated. God! What the hell was wrong with Ephraim. How was he gonna go punching people randomly! When the hell was he gonna grow up?

She sighed and turned off the office lights, going to the backroom where she had a mattress she used to have a nap on during the day when she was pregnant.

Ephraim sat in the car park when he saw the office lights go off... then a car pulled off from the parking lot. He couldn't see inside, but he was pretty sure it was them.

He tailed it, watching it drive into some house and through to a garage.

Fuck!

After put the kids to bed, Morwadi sat in the living room sadly wondering why Penny was being so rude to her. She had seemed like such a nice little girl at first.

She had not even heard Mr Thebe walk in.

LETANG: Are you ok?

MORWADI: Rra?

LETANG: You are crying.

She wiped her tears and looked down.

MORWADI: I'm fine.

LETANG: I have very little patience for girly emotions. Is something wrong or not? Is everything ok at home?

She sobbed and looked down.

MORWADI: I'm ok...

LETANG: Suit yourself. Let me show you how to turn on the security alarm.

He showed her watching her do it. She was a very shy little thing who barely looked people in the eyes. She still acted pretty childish, watching cartoons with Boycie and Percy, and the fact that she was an extremely petite thing short and thin, she looked just like one of the kids.

But she was a really hard worker, after doing his laundry she had even rolled his socks in pairs and all.

After saying goodnight, he went to lie down in the bedroom, trying to reach Masedi.

She had left a message.

‘Invited to a party for night appearance. Tribe event. Won’t be able to chat tonight. Love you.’

Man, this was annoying. He felt like he always had to beg Masedi for her attention. He had never been one for a working wife, especially not one who struts about in her panties and goes to parties and whatever events all over the world for her stupid ‘tribe’. She was more married to that tribe brand than she was to him at this point.

The brand's lingerie page had just posted a picture of her wearing one of the line's latest offerings, an itty bitty red lace lingerie set that was a thong, her buttcheeks exposed as she laid on the bed, giving a sultry look. The comments were blowing up.

'Jesus, those legs go on for miles'

'All I need is two minutes'

'Fine girl, seat on my face'

Arggggh! This was so fucking annoying, what man wanted to watch the whole freaking continent saying such things about his wife?

He tried to call her and she wasn't answering.

He closed his eyes thinking of Boitumelo last night.

She looked so hot on her knees in that car...

He laughed as he inboxed her.

'I need to see you... or I will tell your fiancée what went down last night'

'I have a video, remember? Masedi will see it'

'Post it then. Masedi will always forgive me and

come back to me, can you say the same about Juan?’

‘My fiancée’s name is Fabien, and don’t think I am playing about the video.’

‘Give me directions, or Juan gets a nice story in the morning.’

‘No’

‘Cool. I guess you really don’t give a shit about him. I know where his office is. ‘

‘Letang, please...‘

‘You know where my office is.. Meet me there in twenty minutes. ‘

‘And what am I supposed to tell my fiancée? ‘

‘How is that any of my business? ‘

Boitumelo wiped tears as she messaged Letang back, then deleted the messages.

Fabien was in his study doing some work, and his mother and sisters were in their bedrooms.

She wrote a quick note and snuck out.

‘Hey babe. Remember the cell meeting that girl invited us to? I thought it would be a good idea, so I headed there. Love you.’

She drove to his office crying.

Fabien was understanding, but she doubted he would take this well. He freaked when he caught her with Mara. She promised it would never happen, he had nothing to worry about. Of course she couldn’t guarantee that, but she just didn’t want to lose him.

She parked and could see him already. He was waiting outside leaning by the car smoking.

LETANG: (laughing) Good girl...

BOITUMELI: What do you want? Please leave me alone, I deleted the video, I won’t bother you... please...

LETANG: (laughing) You deleted it? You are an idiot. That was good leverage. Now you got none on me. Talking about that, I’ll take your phone please. Now let’s have a little fun. You owe me. You almost

ruined my life. I was in a fucking wheelchair, you bitch. To say I hate you is an understatement. Come, let's go inside.

He roughly dragged her inside the rented office, pinning her to the wall and kissing her.

LETANG: Come on, I want the crazy one, she fucks good... what was that you told me when you were at the clinic? Yen comes out when I need protecting. Alright, Yenffer let's play, baby! (laughing)

He got his hand on her throat and squeezed hard until she was gagging for air and flailing.

LETANG: I want Yenffer. Why are you fighting?

Then he looked at her and laughed, releasing his grip.

LETANG: Hello, Yenffer...

BOITUMELI: (laughing) Well played... well played. You know I'm gonna make you pay for this, right? You have too much to lose Letang... especially with such a beautiful little daughter... Arabs pay big for a Nubian little princess...

He slapped her hard across the face and she slapped him back.

LETANG: Don't fucking talk about my kid.

BOITUMELO: (laughing) Oh I could drown that mentally slow one, he is useless anyway...or handsome, handsome Boycie. His daddy's lookalike. I'd enjoy stabbing the shit out of him just because he has your face.

LETANG: Stop damnit! Fine. Leave. Stay away from my kids. Go.

BOITUMELO: Leave? What? No! I came here to fuck. Do you know how unsatisfying Fabien's dick is?

He grabbed him by the t-shirt and pulled him closer, kissing him, pulling his t-shirt off and running his hands on his solid chest, as he ripped open his pajama top off, kissing down her clavicle... taking a nipple in his mouth with a moan.

She sashayed off her pajama bottoms, then pulled him by the belt and went to the table, sitting on top of the table and pushed him down to kneeling.

He growled loudly as she slowly opened her legs and pulled his head between her legs and pushed his head to her core.

BOITUMELO: Yea... that's it, like that eat that p*s sy nigga.

As Ephraim was about to storm in there, his phone started ringing. It was his brother.

EPHRAIM: Ky, it's not a good time right now.

HIM: Then it's definitely a good time. What is wrong?

EPHRAIM: What makes you think something is wrong?

HIM: The answer you just gave me. So, spit it out before I find you and beat it out of you.

EPHRAIM: I'm good.

HIM: Ephraim, I have two beautiful wives I could be having sex with right now, not babying your ass. Where are you?

EPHRAIM: I think Sapelo is cheating on me.

HIM: Nah. That girl loves you, she'd never do that.
Where are you?

EPHRAIM: I followed them to the nigga's house. I'm parked outside.

HIM: And you are gonna take a deep breath and drive away.

EPHRAIM: You want me to...

HIM: Because if you go in there, you are gonna kill that nigga, not that that's a problem. It's the fact that she will dump your ass for good. Are you willing to deal with that? Lose her forever? Walk away. Tell me where the house is and I will come and make sure she leaves. Now, Ephraim.

He sighed and gave him directions, then drove off with a cuss, stopping at a bar to get some alcohol.

As he drove into their home, he saw Miranda driving into her home too.

He parked his car and walked over.

MIRANDA: Ok, what's with you? You look like shit.

EPHRAIM: I have issues, and I don't wanna be alone

right now.

MIRANDA: Yea, well, today is my self pamper day, so keep it moving. Go find somebody else.

He snatched her keys and opened the door, going in.

MIRANDA: Ephraim! Kana I have someone over wena!

As the door opened, a white guy on his boxers walked from the master bedroom.

HIM: Mira... babe? I got your bath all ready and...

EPHRAIM: Hi, Mira has told me so much about you. Great guy. I'm her cousin. Thing is, our grandfather is critically sick right now and we need to discuss our options immediately. He does not have time.

The guy looked at Miranda.

MIRANDA: (sighing) I'm so sorry babe. Raincheck? I will call you later, maybe we can do this tomorrow.

The guy disappointedly went to get dresses and left.

MIRANDA: Fine, you sent my person away, what do you want?

EPHRAIM: I don't know.

He sat in the sofa and turned on the television.

MIRANDA: Seriously? You fucking sent my man off so you can watch TV? And he gives amazing orgasms too! Fuck you Ephraim. I'm gonna go soak in my bath, let your annoying ass out, o rile ka go harasa.

She cussed angrily and went to the bathroom.

He threw the remote across the room, thinking of that asshole's hand caressing Sapelo's cheek. How long had this been going on? How could Sapelo do this to them!

Now she'd gone with him. He was probably fucking her right now.

He should have gone in there and beat him to a pulp and dragged her cheating ass home.

He cussed loudly as he strolled to the bathroom.

Miranda got in the bathroom, pouring herself a glass of wine that was sitting in an ice canter, and lighting scented candles around her bath tub, then

throwing in more bath bombs and adding more hot water. She took off her clothes and just as she was about to step in the tub, Ephraim grabbed her by the waist and turned her around, kissing her.

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Apologies for this week being a mess. Loads of work. Tomorrow we do a marathon to catch up.

*

From now on the any next episode will only follow when we have at least 100 comments, 10 shares, 1000 likes.

[05/29, 14:14] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 47

Ephraim pinned Miranda to the wall kissing her.

He pulled back and yelled loudly, then jogged back to his home, cussing loudly as Miranda called after him confused.

Ephraim banged the door with another cuss.

This was so fucked up, was this what they had become?

His phone rang and he picked up. It was his brother.

EPHRAIM: Ky

HIM: Told you you are an idiot. Sapelo is at the garden.

EPHRAIM: She didn't go with him? He says he left her there.

HIM: Boy, she don't even know him. I roughed him up a bit and he talked. He had only met her for the first time twenty minutes before you walked in.

EPHRAIM: He is lying, I saw him touch her and...

HIM: I assure you he is not. I asked nicely (laughing). But about him touching her...he is a man. He saw a vulnerable woman and tried to shoot his shot. Break his fucking hand if you must. But

she did nothing wrong, that girl loves you Eph.

EPHRAIM: Recently it hasn't felt like it.

HIM: Maybe she is going through something. You were bitching about her weight the other day...

EPHRAIM: Sapelo is not trying, she never keeps to a diet and won't exercise...

HIM: Have you considered that she is already struggling with that. That she is already beating herself up about it? Workout and diet are some of the hardest things to commit to. This is the time when she needs your ass to make her feel beautiful, not berate her, stupid. You have a beautiful family, Eph and take it from someone who has fucked up as much as I did. Some battles are not worth it.

EPHRAIM: But...

HIM: Would you rather lose her or take her as she comes? Be smart, man. Give her time to calm down today, she obviously doesn't wanna see you if she chose to sleep in the office. Go see her in the morning.

Letang got home around 2am and laid in bed with a smile.

Damn.

That girl was one freaky bitch.

She went on Facebook and typed 'arrived home safe? '

Then changed his mind and sent nothing.

He went on Instagram and browsed his photos, many were with his wife and kids

What was wrong with him was he really willing to risk all this again?

And this time for a girl he had no interest in beside wanting to fuck? I mean who the hell wanted to deal with Boitumelo's deranged ass. If he was with her, another man would be taking the role he was playing right now, she'd definitely fuck someone else behind his back... hell, she already did. Not only cheat on him, but rob him blind too.

And the crazy bitch had threatened his kids. He

needed to shut this down pronto.

He blocked her in all his social media, and went to sleep.

In the morning Masedi stretched and put on her gown, going down for breakfast. Her boss, the owner of the Tribe brand was already there eating.

HER: Ok team. It's a job well done, and we did so well we are cutting the trip by four days. We had reserved the days for shooting, but we already done. Which means we are heading home today.

They all cheered happily and after breakfast and getting their flight details, Masedi booked her Gaborone to Francistown ticket and called Letang to tell him.

Ephraim tossed and turned all night, he couldn't sleep and just wanted to go to that garden and get Sapelo, but his brother was right. If she needed space, then that's what she would give her.

In the morning Ephraim packed some breakfast for Sapelo. He also took clean clothes and a toiletry bag.

It was still around six in the morning, the employees were not in yet. He had a key to the office, she always said 'in case I lose mine'. He opened and went to the backroom.

She was laying on the mattress sleeping.

He laid down beside her, spooning her, his arm around her waist.

He could tell she was awake by the way she was breathing. He caressed her cheek, her tears wetting his fingers.

EPHRAIM: I'm an idiot...

She just sobbed quietly.

EPHRAIM: It's just... I know I don't deserve you... you could do so much better. And I love you so much I am paranoid of losing you... sometimes I get jealous even when you are just talking to a male cashier in a shop. You are right, when it comes to

you I don't know how to control my emotions. And it ends up hurting you, which is something I never want to do.

He wiped her tear and kissed her neck.

EPHRAIM: And I am sorry I commented on your weight.. I was out of line, you have a right to look whatever way you like...

SAPELO: (sobbing) I am trying, Ephraim... I really am, but I am always so tired... and I get demotivated and I just quit... I know this past two month it has gotten worse. I don't even like looking at my own body... so, no, I am not comfortable... I'm sorry.

EPHRAIM: Hey now, don't apologies... you did nothing wrong...

SAPELO: And I am not cheating on you... I swear I would never... I met thay guy not even an hour before you walked in. I should have slapped his hand away when he touched me...

EPHRAIM: Babe, I know...ok? I know. I just hope you can forgive me for being such a colossal idiot.

SAPELO: (sighing) Ok... but babe, we need to improve how we communicate. Punching people is not a way to solve things.

EPHRAIM: I'm terrible at communicating my feelings... teach me.

SAPELO: Ok... you brought breakfast? Mhhh, I hope there is soft porridge in there... arggh, mushrooms, damn! They make me heave...if there is no porridge, at least let's buy mageu when shops open I have no appetite for fried food. And I am not being a bitch babe, I appreciate you took the time to bring me breakfast, I really just want something bland...

Ephraim laughed and kissed her again.

EPHRAIM: You are pregnant! You are pregnant babe, we are having another baby!

SAPELO: Nope

EPHRAIM: We literally had this conversation twice already! 'Babe, I just can't handle oils right now' 'Eww, mushrooms make me gag'. And both times you were pregnant babe, we are having a baby! And it explains so much! The weight gain... your interest

in sex in your first trimester is always low... The moods! Wow

SAPELO: (laughing) Sorry to burst your little joy bubble, but I had my period last week.

EPHRAIM: (laughing) I am more observant than you! I remember both our pregnancies vividly!

SAPELO: (laughing) Willing to put your money where your mouth is? P100 says I'm not.

EPHRAIM: (laughing) Hee, free clipa? You are on! Koore ke simolle to plan what I'm gonna do with my money... ko bechetsa cheri yam'. We are about to find out she is pregnant, and she always has a taste for sour milk when pregnant. I bet P100 can get me a bucket.

SAPELO: (laughing) Tell cheri ya gago not to hold her breath though! That P100 is coming to me, I'm getting a manicure!

He laughed and bumped her, putting his hand around her shoulder.

EPHRAIM: I missed us like this...happy, fun, playful.

You are my best friend kana, wa its e tota?

Boycie chased about with other standard one students playing as they waited for their parents' to pick them up.

A woman walked over to him when a teacher was in the class not looking.

'Hey Phineas'

BOYCIE: Hello?

'Waiting for your daddy? '

BOYCIE: Mama says I am not allowed to talk to strangers.

'Oh, I'm a friend of your mom's, look'

She showed him a picture of her and Masedi together.

'Your mum and I grew up together, see, this is us as kids. Come seat here in my car with me as we wait for your dad. You can see more pictures.

She took her hand and they walked outside the

school gates and to her car.

They sat looking at pictures as she looked up for Letang's car.

She saw him park and the older brat came to talk to him.

Letang parked his car with Percy in the background. Penny walked over to him.

PENNY: Daddy, Boycie is not at class, they say he left here with woman just now.

LETANG: A woman...shit! Shit, shit! Uhm, seat here, watch Percy, lock the car and don't open for anyone.

Her ran to the classroom panicked, then in the school parking lot.

His heart was beating so fast he was shaking. What if she already killed him? Oh God! What had he done, please, he couldn't have another of his children die because of him.

He unblocked her and requested to send her a message.

His phone rang.

LETANG: Hello? Boitumelo, please don't hurt my child... please. I'll do anything.

BOITUMELO: You ever pull the stunt you did again? You ever fucking threaten any one of my system or put your hands on us? I will enjoy gorging his eyes out, do you understand?

LETANG: Yes, yes. I swear I will stay away from you. I'm sorry.

He looked up at a distance.

Boycie sat in her car, looking at photos, oblivious of the knife she held right behind him.

LETANG: Please... he is just a child... let him go... Boitumelo will be devastated if you hurt him...

She laughed and whispered something to the boy, who looked up and saw his daddy, then ran up to him happily.

Letang ran toward him, pulling him into a bear hug and fell to his knees as he held him shaking. God, his child could have died.

BOYCIE: Daddy, are you ok?

LETANG: I... uhm... I'm. Ok champ. Let's go.. Mama is coming back today. We are going to pick her up.

The drove to the airport, and Masedi came out a few minutes later, smiling happily when she saw them. She kissed the kids, then Letang, and they all walked to the car hand in hand.

MASEDI: Rrago Penny, are you ok?

She whispered to him.

LETANG: Yea, I uhm...I just missed you.

She put the younger kids on the car seat and booster seat, then checked Penny's seat belt before getting in the passenger seat and Letang drove off.

MASEDI: Ouch, what's back here jaanong? What did I say about stuffing snack wraps between seats guys? We are better than that.

She turned around to pull out the offending thing stuck between the seat and the back rest.

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Next episode: 1000/100/10

[05/29, 14:14] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 48

Ephraim and Sapelo walked out of the clinic with Ephraim holding out his hand.

EPHRAIM: Pay up ausi Sasa, I promised my girlfriend sour milk kana.

SAPELO: (laughing) Come now, Mr Thebe, be a gentleman. A gentleman cannot make a lady pay.

EPHRAIM: (laughing) Nothing like that, ausi, pay me or we will meet at small claims. See, I told you and you didn't believe me.

SAPELO: (smiling) so you do pay attention, huh?

EPHRAIM: (kissing her cheek) When it comes to you? Every little detail, my love. Wow! Number three... how are you feeling babe? About the

pregnancy?

SAPELO: Actually, happy. Work is busy and all, but damn, we are having a baby! We agreed on three, but we were waiting two more years.. Surprisingly I am not disappointed it's sooner!

He pulled her closer and kissed her, then they walked to the car hand in hand.

Mas edi pulled out the lace panties and looked at it then threw it in Letang 's face.

LETANG: Shit...Sedi, I...

MASEDI: My kids are in the car, please. Let's just go home.

LETANG: I...

She held out her hand for him to stop talking and they drove in silence as Boycie amused his little brother with the sounds the different animals made, and Penny was on her phone.

They arrived home, finding Morwadi in the living room.

MASEDI: And then wena? What are you doing in my house?

LETANG: Morwadi, give the kids their lunch please. Sedi, let's go to the bedroom. Now, Masedi.

Masedi sighed noticing the sadness in her daughter's face.

MASEDI: Pennylove, come give me a hug?

PENNY: Are you and dad having a fight?

Lying to her was not gonna work, she had to be creative with the truth.

MASEDI: You know what, we are having a little disagreement because dad was supposed to book us a holiday and he forgot! So bad, right?

PENNY: Daddy, I told you to use Google calendar so you don't forget things! Now you upset mama!

LETANG: I am so sorry princess! Daddy isn't good at all these calendaring things like you are, you know?

MASEDI: I know! You should teach him and he has to take you shopping in exchange!

PENNY: (excited) Can we? Really, really really?

LETANG: (laughing) This is not fair! Ambush! Boys, a little help? Oh, fine. I'll take you shopping if you promise I can be good at remembering things.

He smiled at the happy girl and followed Masedi in the bedroom.

LETANG: I have no idea where that came from.

MASEDI: It's hers, isn't it? That bitch in the living room? Letang, I'm not gonna let you hurt me again. If you think you can't be a husband, motho wa Modimo, pack your bags and hit the road. I'm not going through this again.

LETANG: Sedi, kante why do this? Why say you forgave me, but keep reminding of the mistakes I made? I don't know where those came... ohhhh! My cousin Mothusi. Gave him the car to go pick up a batch of books for the upcoming seminar.

MASEDI: You must think I'm a fool.

She took out her phone to call him.

God, he hoped Mothusi caught the drift and covered

for him.

MASEDI: Hey Mothusi, so you managed to get the books?

HIM: Books?

Letang spoke in the background.

LETANG: The books I gave you the car to go get, dummy.

HIM: Ohhh, those books, sure sure cuz, are they ok? Is there a problem with them? I just picked up without checking.

MASEDI: J aanong rra after picking the books what did you do with my husband's car?

HIM: Ao, what do you mean? Something wrong with it?

LETANG: We found a panty in my car, asshole.

HIM: Shit, sorry cuz... eish... living at home is a problem hard to get space to do... you know what mmagwe Penny, I'm so sorry, I have no excuse for myself.

MASEDI: My children go in that car, Mothusi! You'll get my babies sick with your prostitutes' panties, nxla!

She hung up angrily and looked at Letang.

MASEDI: You are never giving him the car again.

LETANG: Without a doubt.

MASEDI: And I thought I told you I wanted that girl gone, Letang.

LETANG: Awesome, so you are deciding to stay home and...

MASEDI: Nice try. She needs to go.

LETANG: Ok, go get motho ee and she will go. But bear in mind that the kids already like Morwadi. You know how Percy is with strangers. But he is fine with her. Legale bring the person that meets your satisfaction mma. Nna I didn't send her away because our son likes him. And older people are not easy to find, they are ploughing in the fields, and do you think they will respect your gentle parenting? I wanna smack these brats myself sometimes

Masedi, you think an old woman won't?

MASEDI: Mxim

Boitumelo laid in the couch sadly. God! She couldn't take this anymore. Yen had used Boycie to threaten Letang, that was so scary... she could have hurt him anytime she wanted.

And she had cheated on Fabien.

This really was no way to live, she was better of dead...

And that thought had been in her mind the past few days now. Like she needed depression and suicidal on top of all this shit?

She walked to the kitchen where her mother in law was cooking. The old woman genuinely loved her, but she could be a bit smothering at times.

HER: Oh, my daughter, I was about to bring you soup. Traditional recipe. Soup is very good, Fabien said you were not feeling well.

BOITUMELO: Thank you ma, it smells nice.

HER: I know why you so sad... quickly you marry Fabien and make a baby... a baby will make you happy.

Literally none of her alters never volunteered to deal with this old woman. She was that irritating.

Fabien walked in and kissed her, then kissed his mother.

HER: Fabi, I just tell Boi you two must make baby...

FABIEN: Mama, can we not? I don't want kids.

HER: How you expect your wife to be happy? Look at her, so sad.. All woman wants baby. You give her baby.

FABIEN: Ahhhhh! I have had a long day mama, po favor! We don't want kids, ok? Can I have a coffee?

BOITUMELO: I'll make you one babe...go relax a bit in the table.

FABIEN: Thanks babe...

She opened the cupboards to get a cup, and everything had been changed. Third time this week. Lord, the strength it was taking not to yell at this old

woman!

BOITUMELO: Maa, where are the cups?

HER: Oh, here. Here much better. Oh, I found my dress in box when unpacking...for wedding. I want you wear it.

Lord! She was so tempted to agree with Yen and send this old lady packing.

Masedi went to the kitchen and found Morwadi washing the dishes.

She knew how hurt could make one act... how this girl could easily take her frustrations on her kids, she had been there at one point.

Now she had to choose carefully how she treated her.

Plus, all that keep your enemies closer.

MASEDI: (smiling) Morwadi, is it?

MORWADI: (looking down) Ee mma.

MASEDI: Hey now, no need to be afraid of me.

Pardon my manners just now, I was upset with husband. Have the brats been behaving?

MORWADI: Ee mma...

MASEDI: Alright, let me not hold you. Please keep checking on them in their bedroom, Percy puts random things in his mouth. I am headed out and will pass by the shops, what juice do you like? The boys drink mango my daughter and I drink wheatgrass. Any preference?

MORWADI: Nnyaa mma

MASEDI: Ok

She walked out with a sigh.

Maybe if she treated the girl right, there would be some loyalty and she won't sleep with her husband or abuse her kids.

Ephraim sat in the office doing work in the after hours when Miranda walked in.

MIRANDA: So, yesterday...

EPHRAIM: Was a mistake, don't let it give you ideas. I am not playing that game this time around Miranda, you start that shit or approach my wife or any of that and I will get you fired so quick... so, please don't. Now, get out of my office.

MIRANDA: You came to me, Ephraim! I left you alone and you...

EPHRAIM: Life sucks, get over it. I mean it. Bye now. She walked out with a sigh.

Ephraim rubbed his face in frustration. God, he hated flexing the Ledimo muscle, but he was not letting Miranda mess up his life again. Especially not now. Sapelo finding out he kissed Miranda? She'd leave him for sure.

The little adorable employee with a mad crush on him, Jewel, walked on and sat on his table.

'Soooooo, what happened yesterday?' she said with a smile.

Letang walked in the kitchen and watched as Percy

played with his car as Morwadi cook. He had taken to her so fast, but the girl was sweet, and childish anyway.

She was hardworking. Her innocence reminded him of Boitumelo when he met her. Adorable, quiet, shy...

In other words, a red flag. Boitumelo had taught him that it was the quiet ones to be wary of.

But then red was his favourite colour... and he was always a soldier at heart... walk to the heart if danger and all.

Fuck, what was he thinking.

He got a glass of water and walked out fast

Masedi sat in the living room looking at the kids clothes catalogue for her business when Morwadi came to tell her there was a visitor.

She went to open and Masalu walked in.

MASEDI: How can I help you?

MASALU: Masedi, how can you keep a man from taking care of his mother? How do you live lavish while you have no idea what Letang's family ate?

MASEDI: (laughing in disbelief) Yeah you people have gall, man! So, what would you be eating right now if he was still in a wheelchair, huh?

MASALU: Where is my brother?

Letang came out of the bedroom but just ignored her.

MASALU: You can ignore me all you want Letang, but I bet the media won't. They'll just love how you and Ms model here are neglecting your old mother who suffered taking care if you...

LETANG: Is that a threat?

MASALU: Nope... but I will be expecting P10 000 every months from you, Ephraim too, I am going to talk to him.

MASEDI: Ijaa! Yea neh. Now I have seen it all! Koore there is shameless and then there is you.

MASALU: Shut up wena, nobody is talking to you I

am talking about my brother's money.

LETANG: Get the hell out of my home before you annoy me, nyla!

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1000/100/10

[05/29, 14:14] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE 49

↑ ↑ ↑

Ephraim walked in the office with a big smile. As much a pregnant woman was hell to deal with, and a new baby was tiring, he was excited.

What worried him was Miranda just walking away with an 'ok' about the whole situation that happened between them.

But she knew what was at stake, and Miranda loved her job too much. She wouldn't dare go to Sapelo.

He sat in his office and started working when his

brother walked in, frustrated.

EPHRAIM: And then?

HIM: Miranda quit.

EPHRAIM: What?

HIM: She is even getting bought over by Mmusi Industries, so she is leaving immediately.

EPHRAIM: Fuuuck! Now there is nothing to stop her from...

HIM: From what? What did you do, dumb-ass? What? You fuck her?

EPHRAIM: Almost... I was mad out of my senses thinking Sasa was cheating and I just...

HIM: You fucking moron! She is gonna leave your ass, you know...

EPHRAIM: I can't lose her Ky... I just...

HIM: Maybe remember that next time you think with your dick! Shit!

He shook his head and pulled out a gun, handing it to Ephraim.

HIM: I showed you how to use it.

EPHRAIM: What the fuck is wrong with you! You want me to kill her?

HIM: No, dummy! What kind of psycho do you take me for. Scare her, damnit. Tell her you'll kill her if she ever tells Sasa. It works, trust me.

EPHRAIM: No, I can't do that. Maybe I should just confess and Sapelo will understand and..

HIM: You willing to take that chance? She is already wound up tight by your baby mama's drama, do you think she is gonna stand for this?

EPHRAIM: (sighing) You are right...

HIM: Take her somewhere out of town, put that gun up her mouth and make sure she knows you mean business.

He tucked the gun under his belt and took out his phone, calling Miranda.

Masedi sat in the living room calling the printers.

MASEDI: Yea thank you the mma. So I'll just send the guy who came to pick my husband's books last time to pick the flyers up.

HER: Guy? No, you guys have not picked the books yet.

MASEDI: Ohhh, that means he forgot maybe, I will come pick them up. Alright, thanks hun.

She hung up with a sigh as Penelope walked in.

PENNY: I saw what you found in dad's car.

MASEDI: What?

PENNY: The panty you tried to hide, I am not a fool mama, I saw you were surprised to see it. Which means it's someone else's.

MASEDI: Princess, I... daddy had borrowed Mothusi the car and...

PENNY: Daddy has not borrowed Mothusi the car for many, many months.. I saw some bitch...

MASEDI: Penelope! Language!

PENNY: (rolling her eyes) I saw a woman dropping

it one day late at night. Daddy arrived by taxi later.

MASEDI: Oh

PENNY: I am staying with you if you guys divorce. I am not leaving with him.

MASEDI: We are not divorcing baby, I... we...

PENNY: He is going to ruin our family again. I hate him!

MASEDI: Penny! You don't say such about your father. Go to your room and write me one page on why the way you just spoke is wrong! Go now Penny! Or I am taking your phone.

She sulked and walked off, with Letang walking in.

LETANG: You should whoop her little disrespectful ass.

MASEDI: Who gets to whoop yours, o sale o ntwaedis a mabeletenyana a gago Letang? Mxim.

She walked off to the bedroom, locking him out.

Letang walked to the kitchen where Morwadi was cooking.

MORWADI: Dumelang rragwe Penny.

LETANG: At least someone in this house respects me. Hey Morwadi. What's for lunch? Smells nice.

The girl blushed and looked down. Her shyness... that very petite frame and respectful nature... it reminded him so much of the Boitumelo he fell for.

She was the opposite of Masedi in every way. They both were.

Where Sedi had that melanin he was crazy about and legs that went on for days, that Amazonian warrior height and toned body, Boitumelo... erm... Morwadi was a tiny petite little thing who barely reached the top shelf.

Morwadi was shy and respectful... Masedi was a force and a fighter...

Gosh, why was he comparing his wife to his maid?

Masedi walked into Sapelo's home and found her laying on the sofa in the living room.

SAPELO: Hey girl, come in, come in.

MASEDI: (seating down) Gatwe your mother in law wants P10 000?

SAPELO: (laughing) Blessed are those who have sons with money. Hei mosadi yoo ha ka re ‘my son’s money’

MASEDI: Nna this selective memory of theirs annoys me. Where did their son get all the money ka not long ago he was in a wheelchair with them abusing him. Now gatwe all I do is travel and spend his money.

SAPELO: (laughing) Kana wena you are used to being the favorite, so you are only learning what type of people they are now.

MASEDI: Ahh, nna mma I’m tired. And I think Letang is cheating again (sadly)

SAPELO: When is Letang ever not cheating Mas edi?

MASEDI: (sadly) I found a panty in the car, and he had the audacity to lie about it. Waits e nna ke lapile Sapelo. I have an almost teen daughter, she is noticing things, and I don’t want her thinking this is ok.

SAPELO: Nna mma I am not gonna comment on your marriage because you know what I think already. That man is an abusive woman beating, hopeless, thankless cunt, and you can do so much better.

MASEDI: Maybe it's because I won't give him another child.

SAPELO: Really? You gonna make him cheating your fault? Just stop..Letang cheats because he is a piece of shit. Period.

There was a knock at the door and Sapelo went to open, finding Miranda.

She tried to close the door, but Miranda blocked it and pushed it open.

SAPELO: What the fuck do you want?

MASEDI: I could beat her ass for you if you'd like.

MIRANDA: (rolling her eyes) Don't you have some nudes to post online or something? I came to see my sister wifey.

SAPELO: (laughing) Girl, get a hint! The man does

not want you!

MIRANDA: You sure?

She handed her a phone with a video playing. She was in a candle lit bathroom standing in front of a herbal bath, naked.

Ephraim walked in and pulled her by the waist, turning her around and started kissing her as the video ended

MIRANDA: (laughing) After that we made love all night...man can eat pussy!

SAPELO: When did this happen? Huh?

MIRANDA: This Thursday. He told me he is poly like his brother, but he is just afraid that you will leave him if he told you. Duh, His father had four wives! His grandad six! The older brother has two and a concubine who come often! The sooner you accept that we are in this together, honey the better for us all. Ohhh, he is calling. (she answered the phone and put him on speaker) Hey Eph...

EPHRAIM: Hey... I was wondering if I could pick you

up right now.

MIRANDA: Ohhh, fancy! Where to?

EPHRAIM: Just out the city, you know. To chill.

MIRANDA: I'll be waiting.

She hung up with a smile and looked at Sapelo.

MIRANDA: You need to accept us sis, our man is not happy that you won't...

MASEDI: That's it. Out you go. Get out before I slap that smug off of you!

He pushed her out and closed the door, then went to console a crying Sapelo as she read a message from Ephraim.

'Hey babe, gonna catch a drink with Ky. May be a little late for home.'

MASEDI: Sasa, I'm so sorry'

SAPELO: You know, he came to me at 5am after muffing that whore... kissed me and shit... I'd spent a night at the office because he threw a tantrum. And I am pregnant! Oh God!

MASEDI: I am so sorry babes...

SAPELO: (wiping tears) No, I'm sorry that I have been letting a man disrespect me while I preach putting yourself first. I get insulted by Malebogo all the time. The same Malebogo he cheated on me with and impregnated. He fucked some old lady in the US. Fucked Miranda before this and said he does not remember hewee... they probably been having an affair since then, ba nja setshego behind my back...

MASEDI: Babes, lets not do that... you don't know the whole story...

SAPELO: What other interpretation it there to seeing your man making out with a naked woman on camera? Huh? Tell me Masedi, what! You know what? I am done. Done! Ephraim hits walls every time I as much as talk to a man, nna I should always say go lokile Morena. Nope. Fuck that shit! I am getting a divorce and this time I am actually going through with it. It's enough now.

Later at night Masedi laid in bed thinking of Sapelo and Ephraim.

How the hell could he do this to Sapelo. She had every right to leave him.

If she had any self respect she'd do the same as Sapelo too. How much more of Letang's whoring was she suppose to take?

LETANG: I seriously can't believe the nerve of Masalu. Seriously? And to fucking threaten to go to the media? Every month I give mme P2000 and Eph gives P2000 despite how nasty she was to me when I needed her. It's not our fault they have all these damn kids, I have no responsibility towards their kids. I have my own who have school bills, medical bills and all that.

MASEDI: Why are you bothering yourself with it? Let her go to the media, we have receipts. That money plus the fact that both Sapelo and I drop groceries there sometimes. Don't stress about her. Kana next week I have to go to Indonesia to meet the suppliers at the factories and plan deliveries and all. The

owner wa Tribe brand introduced me to a girl who buys clothes there and gatwe its cheaper when you go there and negotiate.

LETANG: Masedi, you just came back.

MASEDI: What do you want me to do Letang? Huh? Seat and wait for you to provide? Gongwe some ladies ee, nna I don't have that luxury because ha o rata you can just take all the money in your account o a neela ngwanyana wa panty e ne e le mo koloing.

LETANG: You heard Mothusi, that panty was...

MASEDI: I called the printers. The books have not been picked yet. Taking you back does not make me a fool, Letang. Just a woman in love. But you keep pushing me. I will learn to love myself enough to leave you. Good night rra, it's late.

She turned to face the wall and slept.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:14] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE 50

↑ ↑ ↑

Ephraim parked the car just on the outskirts of Francistown, with Miranda immediately getting on his lap and kissing him.

Ephraim pushed her back.

EPHRAIM: Miranda, what happened the other day was wrong. I was emotional and not thinking. It should never have happened.

MIRANDA: But it did...

EPHRAIM: And I am sorry. Can we just forget it? My wife.. uhm...we are expecting. Can't we just let it go?

Miranda laughed.

MIRANDA: I am not your playground, Ephraim... so yeah, I had a little talk with Sapelo and...

EPHRAIM: What? What the hell did you do, you stupid bitch!

He slapped her hard across the face.

EPHRAIM: (panicking) Oh my God, what did you do? You are gonna go tell her you made it all up.

MIRANDA: (rubbing her cheek and laughing) That's gonna be a little hard... see, when you came to my house, I knew what you wanted. But I ain't no fool, I wasn't gonna be used to relieve stress whenever fatty pissed you off. So I set up my phone because I knew you would come to me since I told you I was bathing.

EPHRAIM: Oh my God! Oh God! What have you done! Get out!

He pushed her out of the car and drive off at record speed and found Sapelo in the bedroom.

EPHRAIM: Sapelo, I can explain.

SAPELO: Explain what?

EPHRAIM:I don't know what she told you, but i can explain. Nothing happened... that video...I swear I can explain.

SAPELO: I bet you can. You were angry, drunk, hewee. I know the song. You know what all that tells me? That you are just a little boy not in control of himself.

EPHRAIM: I swear I didn't sleep with her.

SAPELO: Same way you went to meet your brother for a drink just now? You are a liar, Ephraim. I can't believe a word you say. And even if you are telling the truth you didn't fuck her, do you think kissing another woman, a naked one at that, is fine?

EPHRAIM: Sapelo, kana I...

SAPELO: Maybe it's just who you are Ephraim, you are a cheap whore and nna I can't stand for that. I am taking the kids and moving out in the morning.

In the morning Boitumelo came out of the shower and got dressed. Fabien had left early again after coming home late.

Now with her degree done, it got lonely. Especially with his mother in the house. As much as he was annoyed by the old hag, he refused to get the old woman a house of her own. He said he wanted to take care of her, Mexican culture, blah blah.

'Come on guys, anybody wanna deal with her today?

Ok, so me again then? Fine.'

She found her in the living room looking at her laptop.

BOITUMELO: Morning madre...

She insisted Boitumelo call her 'madre'. Mother.

HER: Oh, come here my girl. Come. I found this shop. They sell this sexy sexy ones for girls... how to say... panties and bra... very sexy, look at this one, no crotch.

Oh Lord

HER: I buy for you.

BOITUMELO: That's very nice of you madre, but I'm fine.

HER: No, no! You must wear. Maybe that's why... maybe what you wear not so nice... I never hear you and Fabi do...

Boitumelo stared at her in shock. What the hell?

HER: You wear nice panties then he wants to do. Otherwise, how to get grandchildren if never do?

Come, tell me your size. We buy now. I teach you a good herbal mixture. Make pom pom tight, they say like if so tight he is enjoying, you can get twins.

Good Lord.

She wasn't a violent person, but right now she really wanted to slap the shit out of this old lady.

She so needed to get a job.

BOITUMELO: Oh my, I just remembered, I have a doctor's appointment.. Sorry madre, O have to run.

She ran off to her car and drove out hurriedly. The old woman watched her drive off, then ran to their bedroom and searched around, finding the condoms in a drawer, and started pricking them all with a needle.

In the morning Masedi opened her eyes to a topless Letang arranging a tray of breakfast around her, with a single rose and a letter.

MASEDI: (smiling) What is this?

LETANG: A man can't make breakfast for his girl?

She shook her head and laughed as he picked up a spoon and fed her a yogurt, then kissed her.

LETANG: I gotta rush for a bit babe... love you.

He put on a t-shirt and ran out, as Masedi smelled her flower with a smile, then opened the letter.

‘Sedi, I just want you to know how much I love you and how much I appreciate you. I am not cheating, I swear. I’m sorry I lied. I panicked and thought you wouldn’t understand.. What happened is Boitumelo or whatever alter came to my office and stole my car keys. That is why I came with a taxi. She said she was gonna destroy us and all that. She must have planted it. I lied because I didn’t want to lose you. You can ask her if the panty is hers. She is the only other person that was in the car. Masedi, I love you, even if you probably don’t believe it right now. You have a heart of gold and you love with all your heart. You are the best thing that ever happened to me...if it wasn’t for you, I’d never be where I am today. And I most definitely don’t wanna do any of it without you. Got you a little surprise for later ;))

She smiled wondering what he would have gotten her.

She got in the shower and then drove to her mother's place grudgingly, but what could she do, her mother had demanded to see her.

Masedi parked at her mother's house and walked in.

MASEDI: Dumelang

MOTHER: So now you know us?

MASEDI: Ijo... you called for me?

MOTHER: Masedi, how can you throw your own sister out?

MASEDI: We didn't throw her out, we got her a house and a job.

MOTHER: The job does not pay much, she is struggling. You need to help her.

MASEDI: By struggling you mean she hates waking up early and spending a day in an office? That she has to now prioritize instead of frying a whole

packet of russian sausage midday for herself just because she feels like it? That she actually has to pay bills now? I am not helping her with anything, I have done enough.

MOTHER: You are so selfish Masedi. Now I see why God made you so dark, your heart is as dark as your skin. You refuse to help your sister struggling?

MASEDI: I helped her! My husband got her a job and a house. Gape nna who helped me kante?

MOTHER: You are just lucky you married a man with money. A man you stole from your cousin. O moloi ngwanyana lweena. Someone finds you a job and you steal her man?

MASEDI: That 'man with money' of yours left me broke with three kids, you people are quick to forget, nxla! Whatever I own right now, I earned it, and I refuse to have anyone put my success on Letang.

MOTHER: Ah, there she goes, selfish! Me, me me! All about Masedi.

MASEDI: And while talking about my selfishness, remember next time you are out of money, call one

of your selfless daughters or sons because I am tired. You have hated and emotionally abused me for years just because your sister wanted to hide what her child molester lover did to Boi. You are as guilty as that bitch is, and I hate you both. You are toxic and I can't do this anymore.

She stood up to leave.

MOTHER: (shouting after her) He is going to leave you, and you will be down to earth like the rest of us. Ebile kana you are refusing to give him a child after you gave him mopakwana hela. He will go back to Boitumelo who gave him a handsome son that looks like him.

Masedi got in her car and drove off, stopping at the side of the road, crying. Nothing hurt like your own mother hating you.

Talking about that, she needed to really get custody of her kids. Her lawyer said she had no ground to take them if she and Letang separate, unless she adopted them.

Maybe Letang was not lying. Maybe Boitumelo's

crazy alter left the panties and he was innocent. But still... both Charity and Boitumelo could demand them back anytime. Imagine either of those two raising a child! She knew all too well what being raised by a toxic mother did to a child, and it would be a cold day in hell before she let that happen to her babies.

She took out her phone and called Charity.

MASEDI: Can we meet and talk?

CHARITY: What do you want?

MASEDI: You to endorse my adoption of Penny, and for you to fully give up custody of her and let me be her mother legally too.

CHARITY: (sounding drunk) How much?

MASEDI: Huh?

CHARITY: You have money, you are always all over magazines and I saw you in a video song... plus that fancy store...and Letang has money too, and the one Penny makes. So, how much?

MASEDI: You want me to pay to adopt my daughter?

CHARITY: You help, I help you. P50 000

MASEDI: P20 000. Cash. P10 000 Tomorrow.
Another ten when it's compete. Take it or leave it.
And you sign a gag order... a lawyer's paper that
says Penny must never know about this transaction.
If you tell a soul, I sue you and you pay me P200
000.

CHARITY: (excited) You can really give me P10 000
tomorrow?

MASEDI: As soon as the papers are signed. And
remember, nobody should know.

CHARITY: You got yourself a deal, Mrs Thebe.

Masedi hung up feeling sick. How that woman
could just sell off her daughter like that! And she
felt ashamed of 'buying' her baby like that. Penny
would be so hurt if she found out. But what else
was she supposed to do?

She sighed and texted Letang.

'Charity giving up full cuatody and ok-ying adoption!
Yeay'

‘What? How did you even manage that? You are a miracle worker! Can’t wait to see you later. Love you.’

Ephraim looked at the divorce papers with tears in her eyes. Sapelo had already sighed and she stood there looking at him, her eyes resolute. She was really going, this time.

SAPELO: Fine. Refuse to sign. So a contested divorce then. I’ll drop it at my lawyer to proceed with it then.

EPHRAIM: Sasa please... I’m sorry.

SAPELO: And I’m done. Have a good life, Ephraim. She walked out and to her car, leaving him crying.

Ephraim punched the sofa in rage.

This was all Miranda’s fault.

He walked over at her house and banged the door loudly.

EPHRAIM: (slapping her) You ruined my life, you

bitch!

She was a feisty little thing and came back with a knee to his groin.

MIRANDA: Don't you ever fucking hit me again!
Now that's out of the way, like she gone gone? That means we can...

EPHRAIM: (Yelling) You ruined my life!

MIRANDA: (laughing) I freed you from that fat bitch. You should thank me babe...

He had not even meant to.

He had taken the gun to return it to his brother... it was giving him too many unwelcome thoughts...

But as she stood there laughing and making fun of the situation when he had just lost everything...

He only realised what he had done when she fell back to the table screaming...

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:14] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE 51

↑ ↑ ↑

Ephraim knelt in front of Miranda's lifeless body as blood spurted from her chest his clothes and hands covered in blood from when he tried to stop the bleeding.

Oh God, what had he done... oh God, oh God!

His hands shook as he dialled his brother.

EPHRAIM: (shaking) Ky I... I... I shot Miranda, I think... I think she is dead.

KAEDI: Shit... shit! Where are you?

EPHRAIM: Her place.

KAEDI: Don't move, don't go anywhere, and don't do anything stupid. I will be there in ten minute. I mean it Ephraim. When you hang up, throw the phone away from you.

He hung up and pushed the phone away, his body starting to shake as he broke down crying.

Oh God, he couldn't go to prison, he didn't want his son growing up without a father the way he did. But he had to... he had killed a person, he had to serve

his sentence.

The door opened and his half brother Kaedi, and Kaedi's brother Wetsho ran in.

EPHRAIM: (shaking) I killed her... I killed her... I... I...

KAEDI: Shit! I need to take him away from here, calm him down. I'll call Letang...

WETSHO: I don't need a kid to babysit...

KAEDI: The kid is solid he used to run errands for Midnight when he was still a soldier. He can handle blood... clean up will be quicker with help. Eph... bro come on, lets get you cleaned up, I brought an extra t shirt... Eph, come on. You gotta move.

Finally he dragged him to the bathroom and washed his hands, then pulled off his shirt and put on a clean one and as he took him to the car, they met Letang at the door.

LETANG: (hugging Ephraim) Bro, you good? Eph? Ephraim?

KAEDI: Shock. He'll be fine. Help Wetsho clean up. Remember boys, don't dump, destroy. Dumped

bodies is how people end up in jail. We got a copper melting furnaces at LID industries. Use that. And Wets ho, after clean up, find her passport and hit up Los. Tell him to make it tagged out of the country and into a flight. Gotta go.

Boitumelo walked idly around the mall when she bumped into someone. She looked up and her smile beamed.

BOITUMELO: Detective Oteng!

OTENG: (laughing) You do know 'Detective' is not part of my name, right? Shopping?

BOITUMELO: (laughing) I ran away... from my mother in law.

OTENG: (laughing) That bad?

BOITUMELO: She told me she hasn't heard my fiancée and I have sex in a while.

OTENG: What? That's a joke, right?

BOITUMELO: I wish it was! The woman is loving, but insufferable. I have literally entered every shop

and now I don't even have anywhere to go, home is not an option, I need my peace for a little while longer.

OTENG: Come with me then. I just knocked out, ke rekile boroso and 1kg ya phaleche, I'm gonna cook, and you can be my guest.

BOITUMELO: OT...

OTENG: Relax Boity, I know where we stand...I like you even when I can't have you. Let's go chill. I miss you. Please?

BOITUMELO: (sighing) Fine. But if I am coming with you, I'm gonna make you proper food. We all know your ass can't cook.

OTENG: (laughing) Ohh, shade!

BOITUMELO: (laughing) Truth, detective! Let's get more groceries.

Letang sat with Wets ho drinking beer.

LETANG: You think it's done?

WETSHO: Yea... now we flush the furnace with a hose and ashes go down the drain.

LETANG: But there are loose ends.. People don't just disappear. Car clothes, everything still there.

WETSHO: She didn't disappear. She left the country. Ky will go back to handle the car and clothes later. She'll keep in contact with her mother for a few months, sms because calls are not coming through...then she will disappear while abroad. Totally not linked to us.

LETANG: (laughing) Smooth. Real smooth. Can we wrap up? I got a thing with my wife.

Ephraim laid in bed still is shock as he heard his brother on the phone.

'Yea... sorry girls. My brother is going through a lot, his wife is leaving him. I am just making sure he is ok, so, I'll be with him for days. No, he does not need sage, Sassy, I don't even know what chakra is. Ok, love you girls...all three of you. Aww, damn. That sounds like fun. Come on Sassy, you can't

leave before I'm back. Alright, have fun you three.'

He walked back in the bedroom and sat on the bed.

KAEDI: You have to eat something, Eph.

EPHRAIM: I'm not hungry... you don't have to stay with me.

KAEDI: Actually, I do. You are my baby brother. Besides, I want to be there for you. And it's what the old fox would want.

EPHRAIM: He'd be disappointed in me, wouldn't he?

KAEDI: (laughing) Yea... but it didn't take much to disappoint him. I disappointed him just by existing.

EPHRAIM: I really didn't mean to shoot her. I'll go to the police and maybe if I explain, I'll get manslaughter

KAEDI: You are not doing anything of the sort.

EPHRAIM: I committed a crime. Killed someone.

KAEDI: So? What the hell you want? A cookie? I got a whole double digit body count, bitch. Cut that boy scout shit and get it together, you are a Ledimo.

EPHRAIM: She is dead...I have to go the police.

KAEDI: Yea, she is dead. And you are alive! And have three kids and one on the way. Do you want them growing up without their father? Besides, you think you are the only one implicated? I got eleven kids, Wetsho got five, Letang got three... If you go yapping to the police, we all go down because we cleaned up the scene and covered up. You wanna ruin that many lives?

EPHRAIM: I just... I feel bad.

KAEDI: Congrats, you have a soul. But you are also smart enough to know this dies down here, now. As far as everyone will know, she left the country for a job in UK. She had already resigned anyway. Now, about your wife...

EPHRAIM: I don't think she is coming back, man.

KAEDI: You need to make her realise that you are what's best for her... don't seat there with hands folded. Tried that. It don't work. Help her see she got a good thing with you.

Sapelo sat with her friends crying.

LORRAINE: Why are you crying when you are the one who filed Sapelo? Were you hoping for him to beg you to come back?

OLEBILE: And he is begging.

MASEDI: She is crying because she is hurting, you dumb bitch. She is not leaving because she does not love him, but because he can't love her the way she deserves. We honestly could all learn from that, and nna personally I am praying to reach that point where I love myself so much I can tell someone 'if you can't love me the way I deserve, then you can fuck off'.

Her phone rang and she sighed.

MASEDI: It's Letang. He 'has something planned' after I found a panty in his car and him lying about it.

OLEBILE: I wonder what its gonna be this time? Every time he cheats on you he buys you something big.

LORRAINE: I don't even know why she keeps bitching, some of us don't even get flowers with the apology. Masedi is ungrateful.

MASEDI: Ke reng? Shall I be grateful for Letang cheating on me and humiliating me? I hear school girls, bana hela ba bo Mater Spei le bo FSS laughing and passing remarks at me when I pass by them in the malls, ntse gotwe 'fake Insta lifestyle, while he cheats on her left, right and centre'. I am a joke, the whole country is laughing at me. So yea, I celebrate another woman finally valuing herself, and praying for the same strength, because I am terrified of leaving. Terrified of being a divorcee... terrified of losing my kids... afraid of that house of card 'couple goals' people call us will come crumbling.

SAPELO: Aww, babes..

MASEDI: Seriously. I have so much fear. I'm afraid I am too fucking ugly and too thin and too tall and too dark for anyone else to want me, so I just stick with the one who does.

SAPELO: Hey now... you are gorgeous...

OLEBILE: Like seriously! People talk about how beautiful you are and why do you think so many brands want you? Not every model makes it. How can you not see it?

MASEDI: Years of conditioning darling. I can't see what people see. I only hear what my mother told me. I don't know how to love myself, nobody ever taught me, I was only taught to hate myself and everything that makes me, me. Anyway... (tear running down her cheek) I gotta go. Sasa, will you be ok?

SAPELO: I'm fine girl. You will be ok too. And you will find your strength, eventually.

Boitumelo finally finished cooking and packing food in the freezer.

BOITUMELO: This can last you two months everyday for lunch and dinner. I have labelled what it is.

OTENG: You are literally a life saver.

BOITUMELO: (blushing) It's the best that I can do...

OTENG: I just wish you'd give us a chance.

BOITUMELO: OT please... don't go there... We can't
I can't hurt you. See what I made you do. You risked
you career and going to jail, Oteng! Went against
everything you believe in, for me. Yen will take
advantage of you again if we get together.

OTENG: You didn't take advantage of me. I chose to
do it. I love you, Boity... and you told me you only
have full control of your alters when you are around
me. That I am the only one all your alters like.

BOITUMELO: That's why I am not messing up the
only good thing I have in my life.

OTENG: I watched a documentary of this doctor
talking about alters merging, some even
disappearing when they are no longer necessary...

BOITUMELO: There is no cure for DID you know
that...

OTENG: Yea, but that doctor... he said some people
went decades without an alter resurfacing when

they take their medication well, are happy, and feel safe. I know you are happy when we are together Boity... and I know I can keep you safe...

BOITUMELO: I made you clean up a body after I killed someone!

OTENG: I chose to protect you. And she deserved it, she sexually assaulted you!

BOITUMELO: But still, I manipulated our relationship...

OTENG: No, I chose to do what had to be done, because I love you...

He said as he caressed her cheek, taking her hands on his and kissing her knuckles, staring in her eyes.

OTENG: I love you, Boitumelo

BOITUMELO: I love you too...

OTENG: Then give us a chance...please. Don't marry that guy.

BOITUMELO: I will only hurt you... I am damaged. Yen...

OTENG: Loves me... they all do. Even Mello who doesn't give a fuck about anything (chuckling) loves me. There has to be a reason your whole system is in peace with me. Yen hates Fabien, You hate Mara... but me... everyone is good with me... give us a chance... please.

He pulled her closer and started tenderly kissing her as she laughed and pushed him in the sofa, straddling him.

BOITUMELO: (kissing her) Hey big boy, long time... we missed you.

OTENG: No Yen, not today. I need Boity..

BOITUMELO: You know she can't have sex or do anything sexual. It terrifies her, because of what that piece of shit did. I or Mello always take over during sexy times (kissing him).

OTENG: I know that, but how will she take a step forward if she doesn't give it a chance? Please Yen... please bad girl. We will have our day.

BOITUMELO: (whining) You just wanna get rid of me.

OTENG: I can never get rid of you Yenffer. You are her. You and Boitumelo are two sides of the same coin, everyone has a different side to them, its just that for you, you just separated because of the hurt you experienced.

BOITUMELO: Urgggg! Come on! I don't need a lesson on DID, I know how this shit happened, right now I wanna fuck like we do... you know, that raw feral shit. You can't believe how boring four inch Fabien is! Even Letang, but at least he got good dick. What a waste of good dick on a vanilla guy. Fucking vanilla, both them.

OTENG: First of all, I don't wanna hear about you fucking other men because you make me wanna rip their throats. You belong to me. Secondly, not today, badgirl. I need Boity. Please.

BOITUMELO: You are such a party pooper!

Then she broke down and started crying on his shoulder.

BOITUMELO: I am scared, Oteng... I have never even as much as kissed a man as myself...

OTENG: You don't have to...

BOITUMELO: I want to..

He caressed her cheek as she looked up at him with both fear and curiosity. Then he lowered his lips and brushed hers as her body shook with sobs.

OTENG: Stay with me, Boity... stay right here. It's me... its Oteng, and you are safe. You are in control... you can kiss me if you want... you can touch me... and you can stop any time you feel unsafe. From now on, I won't move, I won't do anything, you do what you are comfortable with.

He stood with his hands to his side, trying to make his big body look as non threatening as possible, awaiting her move. She got on her tip toes and hooked her hands around his neck to bring his head down, before planting a shy kiss on his lips.

BOITUMELO: I... I don't know what to do... but I want to uhm...I want you to make love to me. Not my alters. Me... But I'm scared... I have never done it... not as me.

OTENG: At your pace... and if you switch I will stop

and bring you back. I love you.

{EXPLICIT}

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:14] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE 52

↑ ↑ ↑

Masedi arrived home to find some floral summer dress on the bed. Hey, didn't she use to have this dress?

At least a cheaper version she had bought at a Chinese shop...

This one looked expensive... it was tailor made.

Then there was a version of some shoes she used to have too.

She showered and got dressed, and when she came from the bedroom, he was dressed in a version of an old outfit he had.

Ok?

LETANG: You look beautiful.

MASEDI: (laughing) Right.

LETANG: (sighing) I wish you saw what I see. Come. He drove to...oh my God...

She started laughing. A small restaurant he had taken her to when she told him she had never been on a date... where they had their first 'date.'

MASEDI: (laughing) Oh my God...you goof. This is so cute!

They were led to the table they had sat on that day.

LETANG: I know some silly part of that pretty head think I only want you because of you are a model... before that you thought it was because you took care of my kids. You are wrong on both.

She looked down sadly, but he tipped her face back up with his thumb.

LETANG: I fell for you because of your soul. How you managed to stay so beautiful both inside and outside with a mother like yours. That fighter spirit even though they tried to break you at every corner.

How strong yet so vulnerable you are. When we sat here eating, with you throwing pickles out of your burger because you thought it was spoiled cucumber...

They both laughed.

LETANG: How you tried to downplay your hurt as you told me your story... I fell in love that very moment. Yes, way before you made a move on me. I knew I wanted you, not just to sleep with you, though that was totally on my mind the moment I met you, because hello. Have you seen my wife? Total knockout. But the more I got to know you... and then that 'date'... I knew I wanted a life with you. But I was fighting my feelings because I was in a relationship with your cousin and I didn't want to cause conflict between you too. Yup, I wanted you way before anything happened. Why do you think it was so easy to get me in bed? I was already interested.

She covered her face with her hands, sobbing.

MASEDI: I am never gonna stop feeling guilty about

what I did to her.

LETANG: Don't feel bad for that bitch, she hurt you, too. Anyway, let's keep her out of our night please. What I am saying, babe is I miss my girl... that soulful, heart on her sleeve full of life girl. The girl who was humming loudly in the morning making breakfast...the girl who looked at me like I was the world, when I was just a private earning shit and making bare minimum in bitcoin. My cheerleader, source of inspiration...the girl who made me believe in happily ever after. What happened to her, because I no longer see her.

A single tear ran down her face as she sniffled.

MASEDI: You broke her heart. Over and over again until the stars in her eyes disappeared. Until fairytale became just that, children stories.

LETANG: Sedi... I'm so sorry...

He got off from his chair and came to hug her from the back.

LETANG: I'm sorry... I don't know how to be a real man. I keep disappointing you. The only thing I was

ever good for was providing, and even that I made you lose trust in me now.

MASEDI: (wiping her tears) I'm ok... it's ok.

Their food came, but both just toyed with it a not.

He pushed an envelope to her and kissed her hand.

She opened it, reading.

MASEDI: You are buying this place?

LETANG: For you. They went bankrupt and were selling it at a give away. I have a plan on how you can turn it around. I want us to make more investment so we diversify our income streams.

She just sighed sadly remembering what the girls had said earlier. Every time he fucked up big time and felt like she was going to leave, he bought her something big. Hell, for a moment there she had actually bought this whole I am sorry thing.

Nope, just same old Letang thinking he could keep her with material things, when all she wanted was his love and loyalty.

MASEDI: Can we go home? I'm tired...

LETANG: But...

MASEDI: Thank you, for buying this. Most generous. Now, can we go home? I can catch a cab if you still wanna hang around.

She stood up, leaving the envelope on the table and walked out.

,

(Boitumelo sobbed hysterically as the judge spoke.

She looked down at the bloodied bodies of her father...her mother... Kgosi...Letang...

She had wanted them all dead...

Oh God...oh God, this was all her fault. It was all her fault.

'Legacy Oteng Monthe, you are sentenced to death'

Nope, please, no...no!

She yelled and begged and prayed.

Her father's bloodied corpse sat up laughing.

'I told you, you ruin everything, you are poisonous...

why do you think I named you Ivy? His death is your fault'

He laughed maniacally as a hooded person sliced Oteng's head off clean with a sword, blood spurting in her face as she screamed)

Boitumelo sat up from a nightmare screaming and clawing at her face.

Oteng hugged her tightly to his chest, soothing her.

OTENG: You are safe... you are safe, nothing can hurt you... it's only a dream.

She looked around still disoriented, hugging him with relief when she finally noticed him.

She needed to get away from him. This will not end well for him, she'd only bring misery into his life.

She jumped off bed and started putting on her clothes.

BOITUMELO: I gotta go... I.. this was a mistake... I'm sorry...

OTENG: Boitumelo... please...

BOITUMELO: I'm sorry, I have to go.

She ran off to her car and drove off, parking somewhere and seating in the car crying.

No Yen, we can't go back! No, we'll just hurt him. I know you like him, I like him too, damnit! We can't, he deserves better than us.

You are just scared that finally someone loves us and we love him back and you think he will hurt us.

Of course I am afraid of us getting hurt. There will be no one to pick up the pieces if that happens, because even freaking Tutu is friends with him! We will be shattered!

He is not gonna hurt us.

Yenffer, do you want to end up with seventy two of us in here? Because that's how people end up with a system of seventy two! Remember you came about after Letang hurt us? No. We stay with Fabien. He is safe. If he hurts us, who really cares, we just move on.

OT is not gonna hurt us

Shut up, Yen

She is right, you know.

Nobody asked you, Mello. I make the decision, I am the host. We stay with Fabien.

A few days later, Sapelo walked into the house to pick up the rest of her stuff, Ephraim would be at work.

She opened the door and he was on the couch drinking, looking a mess.

SAPELO: Oops, sorry. Thought you would be at work. I can come back later.

EPHRAIM: Please... stay.

SAPELO: No thank you... I'll just...

EPHRAIM: Sapelo, I need you so much right now... I am a wreck and...

SAPELO: Yea, go tell your Miranda.

EEPRAIM: I killed her.

SAPELO: Huh?

EPHRAIM: (looking down) She is dead. I shot her.
By mistake.

SAPELO: Ha ha ha. Very funny.

EPHRAIM: I'm serious.

SAPELO: Oh my God...oh my God...the body will...
I...oh my God!

EPHRAIM: Disposed. There won't be any trace of
her. But I am not coping. I am falling apart Sapelo...
I killed a person...I just...I need you.

God, she couldn't fold...she shouldn't. All she
wanted was cuddle him and tell him everything was
ok. No. She couldn't take any more of his betrayals.

SAPELO: It changes nothing. I'll come back for stuff
when you are not home. Ephraim, did you really kill
someone? Oh my God! Oh my God!

One year later...

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:14] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE 53

↑ ↑ ↑

Ephraim sat drinking with his brothers.

EPHRAIM: I seriously can't believe she actually went through with this shit!

LETANG: I really thought she was just scaring you. Damn!

KAEDI: My wife divorced me for five years at one point, so don't lose hope.

EPHRAIM: I don't fucking want five years without her!

LETANG: I told you how to get her back, but Ephraim is too good for that.

EPHRAIM: You want me to manipulate her into believing she is not desirable so she can come back to me!

LETANG: That's how you put it! I said merely show

her how bad it is out there. That you are a better man than most. Kana am I wrong bo rra?

KAEDI: To be honest if I had thought of that with my wife, I'd have done it.

WETSHO: I did...Lebakwe understands I may not be perfect, but I am better than a majority of men, and she is lucky to have me. You don't want your wife back deep enough bro. Your divorce is being finalized next week

LETANG: And the only thing that has been keeping her from getting her freak on is because she is not a cheating type, she wouldn't be with another man until she divorced you. That will be gone soon and your kids will be calling another man 'daddy' before you know it. Damn, look what just walked in! I'm gonna go sample.

EPHRAIM: You are just terrible.

LETANG: What should I do? Kana at this point sometimes I think Masedi actually hates me. And I love that girl. Koore o kile wa bona a married man litetally begging for sex? And then after that she

just lays there like she is being forced. Sedi is a freak! I got used to random freaky nudes during the day and a whole lotta pilates moves in bed. This new Masedi who is always busy and avoids intimacy with me... ahh, koore ke ikopele go sele. I'm off to explore. Wingman?

WETSHO: (laughing) I'll help. Eph, come on. Live a little before you get you marriage back. Won't bother with you Ky.

KAEDI: (laughing) I got two hot wives and a lover, what more does a man need? On that note, imma head out. Said wives and lover are in the Jacuzzi and an invitation has been extended to me.

He left, Letang and Wetsho approaching the table some skimpy dressed young girls sat. Ephraim sighed followed them.

Boitumelo sat in the bedroom reading when Fabien walked in.

FABIEN: Babe, when are we doing the wedding? You said to give you six months to settle into your

new job. It has been almost a year now.

BOITUMELO: I just... it's been very busy at work. I don't have the time to...

FABIEN: It's almost like you don't wanna marry me.

BOITUMELO: What? Noooo, babe, of course I want to marry you, I just...

FABIEN: Usually women get so excited about this whole wedding thing, planning the day and shit. You just don't care.

BOITUMELO: (looking down) Of course I care... I have just been, you know... settling.

FABIEN: But you are ok now. We haven't had any episodes almost all year, the alters have been quiet! I will hire a wedding planner so we don't stress you out. I can't wait to be your husband, babe.

BOITUMELO: (sighing) You are right. Let's do it. Let's hire the wedding planner and get married.

Penelope laid in bed chatting to her friend Ataliah's older brother who was seventeen.

He was sweet and always kind to her and understood her. Everyone just thought she should be this happy kid because she was rich and famous and had the 'perfect' parents.

'I just... it's not happy at home, sometimes I wish I could run away, they are always fighting. I am afraid they'll divorce, you know'

'I'm so sorry P. I remember how bad it was when my mom was with bio dad. Divorce is not always bad. Mom was so way happier after, and she met dad and they are so happy now'

'I just hate that everyone just thinks I have everything, they don't understand. I just wanna be me, not the celebrity kid on TV'

'Try being super Kai's younger, basic brother. Dude! Seriously, Expectations. But you shouldn't have so much stress at eleven, you are a kid.'

'Eleven and seven months thank you. '

' can't forget the seven months. Eleven and seven months. You are just a baby, they put too

much on you. Anyway, you'll be alright, kid. Cool, I gotta do a little schoolwork now, my sisters won't let me copy theirs.'

'Being a triplet must be so cool '

'Yup, been annoyed by two girls before I was even born. Absolutely cool . Try not to worry about your home situation. Things have a way of sorting themselves out. Night kid.'

Gosh, it was so annoying that he only saw her as his little sister's friend, she wondered what he would say if she told him she had a crush on him. She pulled out her diary and started writing.

'Dear diary... I talked to him again today. Well, I messaged him first and all but he responded. Swoon . I hate my home, I wish mama would just leave and take us from this. I honestly don't like my dad. He is a liar and a horrible person I remember when he beat up mama when we were little, I can't forget that. Right now I can hear them arguing again at 3am because dad just got home. Sometimes I wish he never came back.'

She closed and locked the diary, then smiled as she Googled 'How to make a guy notice you.'

Letang got home late at night. Masedi was not in their bed.

Where could she be at this hour?

He went to check on the kids' bedrooms, nope.

He found her in the guest bedroom, and goy inside, laying beside her.

LETANG: Why are we sleeping here tonight?

MASEDI: Why are you waking me? Akere I left the bedroom so that you don't wake me up at God knows what time you come home. I decided it's better you just move into this room.

LETANG: You want me to sleep in a separate room from my wife?

MASEDI: I like peace, I hate being woken up at odd hours because you finally decided to come home.

LETANG: Sapelo filling your head with stupid things

again, isn't she? Babe, honestly, is it wise for a married woman to be hanging with a divorcee?

MASEDI: Don't you dare!

LETANG: I am just saying. That's a woman who doesn't care that her husband loves her, that Ephraim is a good man...

MASEDI: A good man? Wow

LETANG: She doesn't even care that she is creating a broken home for their kids. Sapelo is being selfish and a bad influence on you!

MASEDI: Mxim... influence me to what? Realize I can do better?

LETANG: If you want to believe that, Sedi. You know I love you for you. All these niggas who are hitting on you, they only want you now t'g'at you are a supermodel. J ust some eye candy for them. I love you for you, don't you see that? Loved you before all this, before you became a brand. It doesn't get more authentic than that, and you know aint nobody love you like I do Sedi. None...

MASEDI: Mxim...one of your little whores messaged me on Facebook.

LETANG: I don't have little ho's. Wena kana just because girls want me and contact you with lies, you believe them. I love you, Sedi.

MASEDI: Nna rra I need to sleep, I have work in the morning.

In the morning Sapelo sat in her bedroom with Masedi.

SAPELO: Ephraim is not being fair. Why would he want to take my kids away from me?

MASEDI: He is just hoping that would make you come back.

SAPELO: That is not happening. And the unfair thing is we all know he will get custody already because he is a Ledimo. I can't have my kids raised by another woman, Sedi.

MASEDI: I totally understand, babes. And the girls he has been hanging around... arggg.

SAPELO: And still he will get custody. Life is not fair.

MASEDI: Don't think like that babes... God is great, I have seen miracles when I thought I was done for. It will turn around well.

SAPELO: Anyway, let me go talk to him I have one last card to play. Thanks for babysitting, my mom is not well.

MASEDI: Anytime hun, Mpoentle is a darling.

She walked off and drove to Ephraim's place parking in front of the house.

She knocked and some young girl in his gown came to open.

HER: Can I help you?

SAPELO: Is Ephraim in?

HER: You are looking for him because?

SAPELI: (yelling) Ephraim! We need to talk! Now!

He came to the living room wrapped in a towel. The girl folded her hands across her chest looking at Ephraim.

HER: Who is this, babe?

EPHRAIM: My wife. Which means you have to go.
Ciao.

SAPELO: Honey, you don't have to go on my account, I am not his wife. Not anymore. I just wanna talk about our kids.

EPHRAIM: Uhm... you... leave. I need to have adult talks. Come back at night.

HER: But...

EPHRAIM: Now, girl. Go

Sapelo looked at him and shook her head. Who was this even. Like seriously, who was this man treating a girl like she was nothing?

After the girl left she sat on the sofa.

EPHRAIM: Can I get you anything?

SAPELO: I'll take the custody of my kids with less drama please and thank you.

EPHRAIM: Ha ha.

SAPELO: Ephraim, I don't even want sole custody!

All I ask is my kids stay with me, please. They can come to you on the weekends.

EPHRAIM: Or they can come to you on the weekends.

SAPELO: I know you think you are spiting me, but you are really only hurting the kids.. Please, Ephraim...let the kids stay with me.

EPHRAIM: So that you can eventually bring in some asshole and have him abuse my kids? I got two daughters...

SAPELO: So, wena the people you bring won't abuse my kids? You know you are being irrational. Why are you doing this to me Ephraim? To the kids?

EPHRAIM: No, you are doing this to us! You and your selfish divorce and shit, when I barely did anything wrong.

SAPELO: Wow... barely did anything wrong, huh? So me fucking another man would be just fine with you then?

EPHRAIM: You know what? Go, Sapelo. Fuck

whoever you want if that's what it will take to end this drama! It's been a year. You proved your point, you can leave me if you want. I get it... come back home.

SAPELO: You are just... wow... seriously, who are you even? But then, you really are a Ledimo after all. Everything is always about you people. My children stay with me.

EPHRAIM: Nope...

SAPELO: I wouldn't want to go to the police about what went down with Miranda...

EPHRAIM: You wouldn't

SAPELO: For my kids? Try me. Ebile I heard her mom in the radio a re she is asking the government to help look for he, gatwe she has not called or smsed in eight months, ebile Batswana in the area she said she was staying have never seen her there. I want my kids or I will solve this mystery for the police.

EPHRAIM: I wouldn't go that route if I were you.

SAPELO: Or what? You will kill me too? My kids stay with me, Ephraim, or you will be sorry.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:14] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE 54

↑ ↑ ↑

Masedi walked in the restaurant where Boitumelo was already seating. She had called and said she wanted to talk.

MASEDI: (hugging her) Hey girl! You look good!

BOITUMELO: I feel good, no alter has resurfaced in almost a year! My doctor says that is incredible.

MASEDI: Fabien is doing a good job, shem. Now he needs to man up and marry you, you can't be wearing an engagement ring for years!

BOITUMELO: That's what I wanted to talk about actually. I have no idea what to do because I am sure I want none of our family involved in my wedding, I don't need the stress. So I don't know...

MASEDI: Ohh...I see. Eish...I understand you, I haven't seen mma-Masedi this past year and you can't believe the peace that it came with! Ok, so we can register at the magistrate and have a ceremony for friends.

BOITUMELO: Like I have any...Fabien will fly in some of his, and of course his family...

MASEDI: You have me, baby. And I know you are cool with Bontle's lazy ass too. And your work colleagues if you want. Nobody ever said a wedding has to have a million people, white people have weddings with twenty people and it's all good. Ok, so yea, I can help you decide on who to invite. Then the dress.

BOITUMELO: Fabien's mom wants me to wear her old ugly ass one.

MASEDI: Eish... maybe we can get it altered then. Venue Sapelo's garden will be lovely, and... Boity, what's wrong?

BOITUMELI: Huh? What do you mean?

MASEDI: We are discussing your wedding and you

are busy on your phone. You couldn't look more bored if you wanted. Aren't you excited about marrying him?

BOITUMELO: Of course I am...

MASEDI: But?

BOITUMELO: I just... I... ah, nothing.

MASEDI: There is another man, isn't there?

Boitumelo looked down shyly.

MASEDI: Letang?

BOITUMELO: What? Eww! No... it's uhm... he is just so wonderful Sedi! Ever since I met him, everything with him just seems so natural! He is a detective who helped me. Like, he knows every single bit about me... and still wants me, loves me. All of me.

MASEDI: Then why aren't you with him?

BOITUMELO: I just... I uhm... I don't want to hurt him. Or him hurting me... Fabien is safe.

MASEDI: Let me tell you honey, being in a marriage without love sucks. You start feeling trapped...

BOITUMELO: I can't take it if Oteng hurts me... I would literally crush.

MASEDI: But darling, what if he doesn't hurt you? What if he loves you so much and so deeply and makes you so happy and you two grow old together? Nna if I had that choice I'd choose love instead of security.

Sapelo sat in her office thinking about what she had said to Ephraim. She felt bad, but he wanted to take her kids away from her.

She was ready to lay every card on the table when it came to her babies. Hopefully that was enough to scare him into agreeing.

She sighed and got on Facebook to distract herself. Some guy had added her. Ok, cute. Had a job... looked fun.

She wasn't even looking right now, she had a three months old a was just getting divorced, for God's sake.

So she ignored the guy's 'hey', and took out her phone calling Masedi.

Letang arrived home and found Morwadi cleaning. She immediately ran to the kitchen to get water and wash his hands, then brought his food.

LETANG: Where is mmagwe Penny?

MORWADI: Oh, she came to pick up her bag, she said some people needed a reshoot for a chilli advert she did. She said to tell you she will be back on Monday.

He sighed with disappointment. So now she wasn't even bothering to let him know when she was going out.

He loved her, but God, it sucked to not feel like a man in your own home. Hell, at this point she was barely even his wife anymore, she refused to give him another child, the kids were taken care of by the maid as she was never home, and half the time she refused to have sex with him, the other half that she did, she acted uninterested. Lets not even talk

about quality time as a couple. She just didn't wanna spend time with him. He tried, planned things, dates... she either didn't show up, or was in her phone throughout.

And she wondered why he kept cheating? Did she even remember the time before the whole Boitumelo coming back debacle?

He was faithful, their lives were so happy. He used to feel so proud when she came to watch him play football, dressed in matching outfits with the kids. How she looked at him like he was the only man in the world.

The girl would wait to have dinner with him even if he came home at 11pm which made him always make sure he came home early.

Those raunchy little things she'd whisper to him in public... he laughed thinking of the day she whispered that she would blow him in the toilets at the barracks if he scored on a football game.

And she did.

He laughed realizing had a hard on from the

memory.

He looked at Morwadi thinking what a good little thing she was... how she could be molded... no. Morwadi was not Masedi, she was an innocent little kid who didn't deserve to be dragged into his shit.

He took his phone and texted Masedi.

'be honest Sedi, have I totally fucked it up for us so much that there is no hope of us every going back to how we used to be?'

Ephraim sat in his office thinking about what Sapelo said.

Jesus, what had he done to that girl. Blackmail was so beneath her she had to be desperate.

And when did he become this spiteful person?

He knew Sapelo would never let anyone hurt their kids, he was just being petty. He had to do the right thing and let the kids stay with her. He sighed and took out his phone, calling her.

When she didn't pick up, he drove to her place and

knocked.

She came to open wearing shorts and a spaghetti strap top that showed her cleavage well. She'd lost some weight and looked so good.

SAPELO: (from inside the house, laughing) Bathong, Evan, don't break the door ao!

She opened with a smile.

SAPELO: Thank you for bringi... Ephraim...

EPHRAIM: Who is Evan?

SAPELO: None of your business, how can I help you?

EPHRAIM: Wow, we aren't divorced yet and you are already throwing it to some other nigga?

SAPELO: Ephraim, I don't owe you answers.

EPHRAIM: Sasa, why are you doing this, huh? Ke utwile, I have learnt my lesson... ke bakile. Please come home.

SAPELO: I told you I am done.

EPHRAIM: J ust make me understand, how can you just leave us Sasa! What we have is epic. Don't you

love me anymore? I just thought...

SAPELO: You really wanna know, Ephraim? You do huh? Not once did you acknowledge how much you hurt me. Not once. Its all about 'come home because I love you, because I need you, blah blah, me, me, me!' It's all about you!

EPHRAIM: That's not...

SAPELO: Don't say its not true because all you ever did was downplay a video I saw with my own eyes and make me feel like I am overreacting for being mad about you kissing or even fucking another woman! You never acknowledge my feelings, o ntire nkare ke sets enwa for reacting when you hurt me. And you are always hurting me Ephraim. Nna a ke itse go cheater motho wa Modimo, I could have long made you feel what it's like to have someone you love betray you the way you do me over and over (wiping tears).

EPHRAIM: Kana I didn't even sleep with Miranda, I swear!

SAPELO: You see, you see! I just told you what's

wrong and you disregard it and make it about your pseudo innocence. And I can't even know if that's the truth since you killed the only person who knows. Leave me alone Ephraim.

A car parked and a man walked in.

EPHRAIM: Ethan, you are Ethan right? Why don't you slither your slimy ass right back where you came from with that struggle goatee.

SAPELO: Oh God. Here we go again. Evan is...

EPHRAIM: I said leave. What is it with you and your attraction to these gay looking niggas anyway. Wena fotsheke before I fuck you up.

SAPELO: Ephraim stop, would you?

EVAN: Sapelo, I...

Ephraim slapped the pizza from his hands and dragged him back to his car by the collar, then pinned him against the car, discreetly putting a gun against him as the gun shook in fear.

EPHRAIM: If you ever speak to my wife again. This is going in your ass and the bullet will come out

your mouth, nyla fucking faggot. Leave.

Sapelo sat in the verandah crying. Evan's car pulled off at high speed, and Ephraim came back and dragged her back in the house.

EPHRAIM: You fucking him? You have your body out for him like this, huh? Huh? Is this cleavage and shit, thighs and shit all out, its for him, isn't it? You are a mother for God's sake! Out here baring your thighs for random niggas, nyla.

SAPELO: (sniffling) I don't owe you answers. You can't do this, we are not together anymore.

EPHRAIM: So that gives you a right to bring niggas to where my babies stay?

SAPELO: And you wonder why I'm leaving you? You are the one who cheats, but never trust me. Kana its because I never react? Huh? You think I can't get angry, Ephraim? Is that what you fucking think because I can get dramatic too. I found a whore in your house the other day, did I threaten her, did I, answer me damnit!

She slapped him hard across the face and he just

stood there.

SAPELO: Did I fucking act crazy when you were fucking old American women (slap, slap) Did I? You want crazy huh? That's when you will see I feel too, is that it? Cos I can show you crazy.

She ran outside and picked up a stone, smashing his car windows.

SAPELO: Is that what you want? Does this show you how much you are hurting me Ephraim? Making a fool out of myself, is that when you will get it! Leave me alone! (yelling)

When he tried to come to her, she picked up small stones and started throwing them at him.

SAPELO: Violence is all you understand, right? The moment you see me with a guy all you do is fight. Ok then, lets fight! Nigga don't just stand there! Fuck you Ephraim! Leave me alone

He ducked the stones, a few hitting him, but he moved closer until he reached her, grabbing her by the waist and pulling her into the house as the neighbors watched

EPHRAIM: Sasa calm down please, lets talk.

SAPELO: Let me go Ephraim... let me go!

She felt the gun in his belt and pulled it out, pointing it at him.

SAPELO: Stay out of my life.

EPHRAIM: Sapelo, that's loaded...

SAPELO: Good! Then I can actually shoot you for real! Nxla! Why are you harassing me Ephraim? What would you like me to do, I left akere, you can have all the pussy you want. And since when do you even carry a gun.

EPHRAIM: It's not mine... we went to an uhm... a shooting range at the Ledimo farm, and I just came straight from it and...

SAPELO: You know what I don't even care, from now on, you stay out of my life, you hear me? Or I will retaliate. You people make us mad and then we get labelled a crazy ex? Ga ke lwe nao Ephraim, but come at me again, interfere in my life again and I will give back exactly what I get. Now, my kids

stay with me, say it.

EPHRAIM: (laughing) That's not fair, you have a gun to my head.

SAPELO: Say it, damnit!

EPHRAIM: Fine, fine, they stay with you.

SAPELO: And you will leave me the hell alone! Say it!

EPHRAIM: I never want to hurt you Sasa, I just, I'll never be able to handle the thought of you with another man.

SAPELO: Just. Say..what I said! Say you will leave me alone.

A single tear ran down his face.

EPHRAIM: I'm not saying that, you are gonna have to shot me then.

SAPELO: Please... Ephraim, please... I am begging. Let me go. I can't live like this! Please... being with you is too painful... please...

She dropped the gun and sagged to the floor crying.

EPHRAIM: And I can't lose you Sapelo. Please, one

last chance...

SAPELO: (crying) I love you babe, but I can't. It's too much Ephraim. You just attacked the gay decorator who is consulting on the garden's indoor venue. You carry guns now. You are just not the man I am in love with anymore. I don't know you and I don't think I even like you. Love is not supposed to hurt. If you really love me, you will understand that. You will want to see me happy, and realize that my happiness is not with you. If you love me, Ephraim, you will leave me alone. Please.

LIKE, COMMENT SHARE

[05/29, 14:14] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE 55

↑ ↑ ↑

Ephraim got back home and laid in bed trying not to break.

She was really done with him.

There was a knock at the door.

Malebogo.

He meant to ignore it until he heard Nadia's voice and went to open.

NADIA: Daddy! When am I coming home? I miss my brother and sisters! I hate it there.

Since Sapelo moved out, he had hired a nanny for Nadia, but the lady had recently gotten admitted at the hospital, so he had sent Nadia back to Malebogo.

The little girl rushed in and turned on the TV.

MALEBOGO: She flat out refused, said she isn't spending another night at my two rooms. Golo mo ga gago go makgakga hela jaaka wena.

EPHRAIM: It's really not a good time right now Malebogo, can I pick her up tomorrow?

MALEBOGO: Are you ok? You look like you have been crying.

EPHRAIM: (yelling) Can't you just take the damn child and leave! Fuck!

MALEBOGO: Ijo, excuse me for being concerned.

Nadia, let's go. Now, before I beat you up

EPHRAIM: Don't threaten my daughter.

MALEBOGO: That's why she is such a brat, you spoil her. Nadia!

NADIA: No!

EPHRAIM: (sighing) Can't you stay over with her something, I will pay you P200 to watch her for the night.

MALEBOGO: P200? Ok.

EPHRAIM: Great. Nana, daddy needs to rest a bit, ok? You be good for mama. There is food in cupboards and fridge. Feed her.

MALEBOGO: Ephraim... if you need to talk...

EPHRAIM: Fuck off...

He banged the door and locked himself inside.

Boitumelo drove into Fabien's home nervously. She had been driving around all day afraid of what she had to do. What Masedi said made sense.

She couldn't force herself into this loveless marriage where he was always at work.

She found him in his study.

BOITUMELO: Hey, can we talk?

FABIEN: Not today. I am a little busy right now.

BOITUMELO: I can't marry you.

FABIEN: Of course you can, babe. Whatever it is, we will talk about it tomorrow.

BOITUMELO: I'm leaving.

FABIEN: Alright... good night.

BOITUMELO: You, Fabien, I am breaking up with you.

FABIEN: New alter in town that also doesn't like me? See, I told you not to upset yourself, now its all back.

BOITUMELO: No alter, I don't love you Fabien. I can't go through with this.

He closed his laptop and rotated his chair to look at her.

FABIEN: You are fucking kidding me, aren't you? I broke my engagement for your crazy ass, and you pull this shit? Ok, ok, I need to calm down. Babe, I'm sorry if I did something to hurt you or make you want to leave. I am so sorry. I love you.

BOITUMELO: It's not you, it's me...

FABIEN: Don't give me that shit.

BOITUMELO: You are a good man, Fabien. I really wish we worked. Bye.

She put the car keys on his desk and called a cab to take her to a bachelor pad she had rented earlier.

Masedi drove back home and walked into the house, surprised to find Letang's car home.

It had that time again...

He had called. Threatened and blackmailed her with the video again.

And like a little bitch that she was, she had gone to him and let him do revolting things to her again.

And for what?

For what!

A man who sleeps with kids barely older than his daughter? A man who has no regards for her at all, and refuses to grow up?

She was done

This was the last time.

She was done with all of it, this pretend happy life happy wife, her blackmailer... Letang, everything, she was just done.

Her soul couldn't take it anymore. If he was going to release the video, so be it.

The kids were at school, and Morwadi wasn't in. She could hear Letang on the phone in their bedroom.

'I just... some kid I messed with messaged her and I just feel like she is done, man! I really think she is done. No, Ephraim, you don't fucking get it, Sedi can't leave me. What I... what I never told anybody... the car accident... it wasn't an accident at all. I tried

to kill myself because I couldn't take what I'd done to her, I don't know what's wrong with me, I'm fucked up. I keep hurting her, man. My friend says I am just trying to relive a childhood I didn't have because I had to help take care of the family... I done bad things, Eph. Real bad things, I used to smuggle shit for this other guy, started when I was just 16. You weren't earning much that time, we needed more...that money... the piece jobs I always said I got coding... I just... thing is, I don't fucking know what's wrong with me, and now I'm gonna lose the one good thing I ever had. She see good in me, Sedi does, always. What woman would come back to a man in the position I was in? Broke, in a wheelchair and good for nothing... especially after what I did to her. My treatment... it cost way more than she told me, I know she'd had to have done some unsavory things to get the money... but she did what needed to be done and got it for me... despite what I did to her... she took care of my kids, man. Loves them like her own...I can't live without her... I just...I can't man. I need Masedi. I know, I know... I always said I liked the timid sweet little

ones. Now I realize why. Girls like Boitumelo, I like that type because they allow me to be a boy. To be the teen I never had a chance to be, they don't demand much from me. Masedi, she pushes me, man. Demands for me to grow up, she won't put up with my excuses... and I need that...and now she is leaving. I think she is seeing someone else... no, seriously. A friend of mine called last night asking if I wanted to catch up for a drink downstairs. I asked what he meant and he swore he saw Masedi getting into a hotel room in Palapye, and when he heard her talk to a man inside the hotel suite, he just assumed it was me. And I don't even blame her, man... I don't blame her...maybe she is better off without me...

She sighed and opened the door, with tears running down her face.

MASEDI: I'm not cheating on you.

LETANG: (wiping tears) Uhm... Sedi. Hi... you are back.

MASEDI: (sobbing) I could never cheat on you

Letang, I love you. The man... uhm... I needed money, Letang. The treatment was way more than I could even think of. P250 000. I didn't have such money, but I had a chance to get it. A man from Kuwait had reached out to me...

He came over and hugged her.

LETANG: It's ok... its ok babe, you don't have to tell me if it's too much.

MASEDI: No, I want to... anyway, he reached out. Apparently a lot of models worldwide do it all the time, and he thought I was one of those. He had uhm... fetishes. And a huge obsession with me. He offered a large amount of money for... things. I rejected him for months. Then I saw you and, I just I couldn't leave you like that babe... I couldn't. But I didn't have the money needed.

LETANG: (kissing her) You did what you had to do... I could never be more grateful babe. I know you don't think I am...it's just... I'm really messed up Sedi! I wish I could be man enough for you! A woman like you deserves a real man.

MASEDI: But you are choosing to not be one! And I can't keep going to him every few months like he wants, for what? When you don't even care.

LETANG: I care... wait, he is blackmailing you?

MASEDI: (sobbing) He has a video. But I don't care anymore, I just left. It was supposed to be for the whole weekend, but I couldn't. I drove throughout the night. I am tired... broken... I just...

LETANG: Give me his hotel room number.

MASEDI: It doesn't matter anymore.

LETANG: For how long?

MASEDI: It doesn't matter!

LETANG: Masedi!

MASEDI: Months, ok? Eight, nine months! I just thought he will get bored and stop. But he is obsessed! I just... I don't care anymore.

He just snatched his car keys and drove off, breaking down as tears clouded his eyes.

God, what had he done! What had he put he through

with his silliness... all for a psycho.

Boitumelo got out of a taxi and knocked at Oteng's door. She'd gone to the station and they said he had knocked off.

He came to open shirtless.

BOITUMELO: Uhh, I hope I am not interrupting.

OTENG: Boity! Good to see you, girl! It's been long. Nah, you are only interrupting my bad cooking, come in, come in.

He followed him on and sat in the sofa uncomfortably.

OTENG: You ok, babydoll?

BOITUMELO: I uhm... I... I broke it off with Fabien.

OTENG: Oh

BOITUMELO: I just... I hope...I think...you are probably seeing someone by now and...

OTENG: I'm not your toy, Boitumelo. This disappear on me for years then show up out of the blue shit...

I understand you, but it hurts.

BOITUMELO: I was afraid, Oteng... it took me this long to realize being without you hurts more than any assumed pain we could ever cause each other. And maybe we won't even hurt each other. The thing is, I love you... and I just thought...

OTENG: What, we could have another wild romp and you will run back to your fiancée afterwards. I can't do this anymore Boitumelo.

BOITUMELO: No more... I am done with all that. I just hope I am not too late... this was a mistake. He stood up to leave, but he held her hands and pulled her closer, into a kiss.

OTENG: Are you sure?

BOITUMELO: I am... I want you.

Sapelo closed the garden and drove back home. God, it was so lonely. The kids were at her mother's because she needed to get herself together.

She laid in bed looking at their wedding photos .

Yes it hurt now. Yes she was lonely now, and so tempted to call Ephraim.

But it will all pass soon, and she could finally be her best self.

She had taken way too much from this relationship and marriage. From his family drama and insults that he did very little about, to his unending infidelity.

She had given him multiple chances, now she needed to give herself a chance. Accept that he is not the kinds of man she wants or need and move on.

She sighed heavily and changed her Facebook status to 'single', then started removing all of the photos of her with just him. Then she removed her wedding ring and put it in the drawer.

A small step, but it made her feel so accomplished, like she had just taken the first step to moving on.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE

[05/29, 14:14] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE

↑ ↑ ↑ 56

Letang parked his car at a distance from the hotel, ignoring Masedi's and Ephraim's calls.

Who the fuck did this asshole think he is, blackmailing his wife?

His friend had told him the number of the room he saw Masedi enter. He snuck into the housekeeping closet and sneaked a key of the room.

He snuck up to the room and unlocked. The door opened, but the guy was not in, just his stuff. His laptop was easy to get into. Letang searched through the laptop, nothing incriminating though.

He heard him open the door, and Letang ducked into the bathroom and hid until the guy was inside, then he came out and chest locked him, with a gun at his throat.

LETANG: You make a sound I kill you. But if you behave, nobody needs to get hurt.

He sat him in the chair and tied him up.

LETANG: So you do know who I am don't you? What, you thought you'd continue to just abuse my wife and have no consequence? Hmmm, let's see the phone. What's the password?

He lowered the gun to the man's crotch.

LETANG: Open it...now!

The guy opened the phone shaking, and Letang went through it, smiling.

LETANG: Ohhh, lookie! What do we have here. So you take it from other men, huh? Gayness is illegal in Kuwait isn't it?

He transferred a video of the guy with another man to his phone, then deleted the one that showed Masedi's face without watching it.

LETANG: Do you have any other copy of the video with my wife?

HIM: (shaking) No, I swear, I don't.

LETANG: You better not. And even if you are lying. If you as much as like a picture on my wife's social

media, I am sure I can find journalists in Kuwait who would be interested in you being banged by another man. Now, for my wife's trouble. I want P5 mil transfer to my wife's account for the trouble you caused her. That's nothing in Kuwait currency, couple of hundred thousands only. I could fucking ask for you whole balance, but I am not interested in your money, I'm just frustrated I can't kill you because Masedi doesn't like me being violent, but you deserve punishment. Get crafty on how to transfer it without question. And don't even think about getting smart, trying to hurt my family and shit. That's the level of dirty I don't think a pussy like you who blackmails helpless women is ready to play. But I am. You do the transfer, delete anything you have on my wife, and its like we never met. Understood.

HIM: (shaking) Ye... yes sir... please. You can't release that video. My father will kill me. He will literally have me killed.

LETANG: I don't do blackmail like you.

He punched him hard on the face, then untied him

and kneed him on the stomach, before slipping out and driving back home.

Ephraim laid in bed constantly hovering over Sapelo's number.

Finally he called her and after some time, she answered.

EPHRAIM: So it's really over?

SAPELO: Yup

EPHRAIM: Ok. Divorce is finalized next week. For the kids we will follow your plan. They stay with you and come see me on weekends, we co parent and have to make decisions pertaining to their lives together. Sounds good?

There was a slight knock at the door.

MALEBOGO: Rragwe Ae, Nadia wants you to read her a story.

Sapelo sighed, hearing Malebogo on the background.

SAPELO: Wow... moved your baby mama in already.

EPHRAIM: I thought we were leaving each other alone? My business is no longer yours.

SAPELO: My bad... sorry. Yea, I am cool with the arrangement about the kids, let me not keep you. Good night.

EPHRAIM: Nite.

He hung up and went out to Nadia's bedroom.

MALEBOGO: I made some rice and chicken, I thought you'd be hungry.

He ignored her and picked Nadia up, taking her to the bedroom and reading her a story.

Letang parked home late at night and found Masedi waiting for him, crying.

MASEDI: Is he alive?

LETANG: Unfortunately.

MASEDI: Letang, you don't understand, he will...

LETANG: Leave you alone. He deleted the video.

MASEDI: You must be disgusted with me.

LETANG: (taking her hands and kissing them)
Nothing can ever disgust me about you. I know what it's like to do what you have to do to survive. All I have is admiration and love. Anyway, I didn't watch it. Didn't need to. And it's gone. Somehow I do believe it was the only copy. He was arrogant enough to believe himself untouchable, so he wouldn't bother with a copy, he said as much. Sedi, why didn't you tell me?

MASEDI: Mhh, let's see, how was I supposed to say this? Hey, husband, so I had been sleeping with this other dude because he is blackmailing me with a video he took while he did nasty things to me in order for me to earn money to pay for your treatment of an accident you caused trying to kill yourself after you beta me to a pulp in front of our kids and gave your mistress all our money?

He looked down sadly.

LETANG: I wish I could take it all back. Everything I

did to you.

MASEDI: No you don't. If you did, you would have stopped all this bullshit. At my age I am still being called by senior school kids to disclose the color of my husband's underwear? Eh-eh Letang. Le wena you wouldn't tolerate that. I'm filing for divorce.

LETANG: What? Sedi no, please... please...

He came to kneel in front of her, holding both her hands.

LETANG: Masedi, I'm begging you... give me a chance to do better. Sedi, you know I try. I only cheat when I start feeling my efforts are not reciprocated.

MASEDI: .Wow. So it's my fault you are a whore?

LETANG: No, no! I am not saying that. I'm just... Sedi, please... give me a chance to prove I can be the man you deserve... hmm... just one more chance?

He pulled her to her feet and kissed her.

Boitumelo laid in bed with Oteng as he played with

her hair.

OTENG: So, now what? What's next for us?

BOITUMELO: Anything you want. All I know is I wanna be with you.

There was a loud bang at the door and Fabien yelling.

OTENG: And then?

BOITUMELO: I'm so sorry, I'll just...

OTENG: No, I'll go handle it, stay here.

He went to the door and closed behind him.

OTENG: How may I help you?

FABIEN: Where is that demented bitch? Where is she, I know she is here, I put a tracker on her phone.

OTENG: And you wonder why she is leaving you? What kind of psycho puts a tracker on their lover's phone?

FABIEN: You don't know what she is capable of! This bitch is evil. I talked to her ex... I'd always hated the man thinking he abused her, but you have

no idea what she did to him...kidnapped him and almost killed him... the man lost everything because of her. She uses people and discards them when she no longer needs them or she is bored or whatever.

OTENG: Cool story bro... what did you say I could help you with again?

FABIEN: I want Boitumelo. Now!

OTENG: Sorry, can't help you there...

FABIEN: The fuck you mean? You don't wanna mess with me boy, I have friends in high places in this very country and...

OTENG: You do know that the chief of police is my father right? Wanna tell me more about your corrupt friends? Fuck off.

FABIEN: She is using you... same way she used me and Mara and Letang. This bitch is fucking poison.

OTENG: You are not gonna talk about her like that... get out.

FABIEN: (yelling) Boitumelo, I know you are in there,

you crazy bitch! So you are not even gonna come face me?

Boitumelo watched Fabien through the window, tears running down her face.

She never meant to hurt anyone, he was wrong... she wasn't that kind of person.

Was she?

What if he was right though, what if she really was poison?

She was gonna destroy Oteng's life... she was gonna hurt him too. Fabien was a good man who never did anything to hurt her... all he ever did was love her and provide for her, and she just dumped him like that when he was no longer necessary.

She heard them argue a bit more, then Fabien left and Oteng came back in.

OTENG: Babe, why are you crying?

BOITUMELO: I'm sorry...

OTENG: No, no... that's not your fault. He is...

BOITUMELO: I can't do this O.T. I'll just end up hurting you too... Fabien is right I'm too broken...I need time to be on my own. Work on myself and heal... I'm so sorry.

OTENG: No

BOITUMELO: I love you Oteng, I really do. I just...I don't wanna hurt you like I did Fabien.

OTENG: We are done having you decide what's good for me, I'm a grown ass man, older than your, for God's sake...

BOITUMELO: (sobbing) I'm just trying to protect you.

OTENG: Who asked you to? I am not letting your insecurities ruin this for us. I'm a big boy. If I get hurt, guess what, you are not the first. I can take it. I love you, Boitumelo. And I have spent way too much time away from you because I chose to listen to your insecurities. If you can tell me you don't love me, I'd leave you alone. But that's not the can. You are not running.. Not anymore.

She sobbed loudly and he pulled her to his chest, kissing her forehead.

OTENG: I'm not gonna hurt you Boitumelo. Don't run from me. I love you, all of you, exactly the way you are.

Sapelo sat in her bedroom alone thinking of Ephraim. Wow, so he had moved on already.

And with Malebogo? That was Malebogo's voice, she could tell.

She went to Malebogo's Facebook, finding nothing to indicate they were together...

Lord, what was she doing! Ephraim was right, what he did was no longer her business he was just the father of her kids.

She wiped a tear she had not even realized was running down her cheek. This truly better pass, because right now it hurt so bad to think of him with another woman.

3 years later...

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[05/29, 14:14] Lynne: BREADWINNER'S WIFE ,

↑ ↑ ↑ 57

Sapelo closed the garden and got in her car, answering a call from her ten years old son.

AEDIRWE: Mom, mom! Oh my God, dad is home! Like literally just landed in Francistown! Can I go see him?

After their divorce Ephraim had not been doing so well, drinking too much and a whole lot of irresponsible behaviour. His brother had literally forced him to go work with their partner in the US.

He had only kept calling the kids everyday, and since there was never really any major decisions about the kids lives, there was never reason for him to talk to her.

She'd added him on Facebook with a fake account... the past few months there was a lot of photos he was always tagged on by some white girl.

Whatever, she had just started seeing someone else herself. He was a good guy, made her laugh, an accountant...sweet and kind. And she enjoyed his company.

She answered a call from her friends wanting to talk about the surprise wedding vows renewal Letang was doing for Masedi on their ten year wedding anniversary.

She didn't mean to sound bitter, but Masedi was being naïve thinking that man had changed.

Nobody just changes. She might not have proof, but Letang had probably just found a way of being creative with his whoring so he did not get caught.

Masedi sat in the restaurant eating as Boitumelo walked in.

BOITUMELO: Bathong, le ha go tweng, wena you are eating for a family of four... with two dogs.

MASEDI: (laughing) Leave me alone Boity, I'm pregnant.

BOITUMELO: (laughing) And you still look like a toothpick! You literally never gain weight, why the hell do you still have abs, you are pregnant! I swear you are God's favourite.

She laughed and stuffed a garlic bread in her mouth.

MASEDI: (laughing) Haters gonna hate. Oh my God Boity is that some bling? Oh my God!

She stood up excitedly and hugged her as Boitumelo smiled shyly.

BOITUMELO: He asked while we were in holiday! I just... Oh my God he actually wants to marry me! I know he loves me and all, but...wow!

MASEDI: No buts, you deserve it. You are a good person Boity, and deserve good things. I am gonna keep reminding you of that until you believe it. How have you been?

BOITUMELO: Really good. I am taking my meds and keeping low stress levels. I only have an alter pop once in a while nowadays! How are you and the brats?

MASEDI: (laughing) A teenage girl, a ten year old, and an eight year old boy while pregnant, girl, how you think I'm doing? I'm going crazy! Yesterday they came with me to shooting a commercial. J oh! Anyway, Boycie asked about you when I said I was coming to see you.

BOITUMELO: Oh

MASEDI: I think you should seat down with him and explain that you didn't abandon him...it was the best decision for him.

BOITUMELO: (uncomfortable) Uhm...no thanks. Shall we order?

MASESI: Boitumelo, what are you gonna do when that man you are marrying wants kids?

BOITUMELO: He doesn't, I got my tubes tied and he supported it. Can we stop talking about this? Let's talk about your baby shower.

Ephraim walked his brother's home, Nadia running to him from where his brother's daughter was

plating the little girl's hair.

He had strong armed Malebogo into having Nadia stay with his brother's family while he was abroad.

NADIA: Daddy! Ae said you were coming, I thought he was joking!

EPHRAIM: (laughing) Of course I came, big girl. I missed you. Have you been good?

NADIA: I was the best, you can ask my aunties or Ataliah. On the weekend I went to see my brother and sisters at aunty Sasa's.

He talked to her for a bit, then went to put his bag down and found his brother.

A few days later Masedi sat in a dressing room at Sapelo's garden, while Sapelo and the other girls fussed over her.

SAPELO: Awesome, come on, lets go, people are waiting.

Sapelo took her hand and walked with her to the outside of the room, Masedi gasping in a happy

surprise as she saw the red carpet, all her friends seated in white lawn chairs under a white tent, and Letang, that handsome devil looking so good in a tuxedo standing under a canopy.

MASEDI: (laughing and sniffling) Oh my God what's this...

Penelope stood up from her seat with a smile and handed her a bouquet of flowers.

MASEDI: (laughing) Wena o ka nthekisa ngwanaka, how did you hide all these from me?

PENELOPE: (laughing) For the right price, yea, I could keep things hush.

She threw her hands over her in a hug.

PENELOPE: I love you so much mama, thank you for choosing to be our mama.

MASEDI: (sobbing) Aww, Penny, don't make me cry. And I love you too, baby.

Letang looked at them with the biggest smile. His wife took all step mom stereotypes and flung them in the trash. Many people had no idea that Penny

and Boycie weren't even hers, looking at how much she doted on all of them equally. And now Penny was finally getting the sister she had always wanted.

LETANG: Uhm.. Ms Pen, may I have my wife back now?

PENELOPE: (laughing) Ok hater...

Masedi kissed her on the cheek and walked down the aisle again as a wedding ballad they played on their wedding day played.

She stood in front of Letang with a big smile as he took both her hands and kissed them, then kisses her forehead. The pastor said a few words, then asked them to say their renewed vows.

LETANG: Masedi Thebe. Ten years ago on this day, I pledged to love you in sickness and in health, and for better or worse. You have been by my side through it all, the best moments of my life, and the worst. We created a family, a home, and a life together. We have had our ups and down. The past years has tested our vows, but our enduring love for

one another has prevailed. I come here today to make a fresh start, to renew our vows of love, honor, and fidelity, and to reaffirm my love for you. Thank you, for being my rock, my compass, and my voice of reason. I look forward to the rest of my life with you.

She sobbed with a smile as he wiped her tear with his hand.

MASEDI: Oh my God. I'm still...I'm blown away. And I don't even have vows written because I just found out about this right now as I walked out here. So I will just speak from my heart. I'll be lying if I said the rest of our marriage was easy. But what I can say for sure is, it has been worth it. Both my husband and I have been wrong and done wrong. We had treated each other unfairly at times, and maybe even taken each other for granted sometimes. We came to a point where it seemed like the only way forward was to call it quits. You refused to give up on us, and on that note, I can forever be grateful, because the past three years, you showed me a man I have always dreamed of. A

father of worth, who heads the household with love and the Lord's guidance. A husband of which I am proud to submit myself wholly to his leadership as the head of the house, and I lover I am excited to grow old with. So, on this day again, Letang Thebe. I vow to love, honor, respect, and submit to you as a wife should. I promise to be your peace, not the reason you need to run away. I promise to be your friend and your confidant. May God's blessings forever be upon you.

Now she leaned towards him and kissed his forehead as his eyes teared up emotionally thinking of what they had been through together.

After the ceremony people ate and danced around in the hall.

Boitumelo looked at Letang. He stood chatting with two guys he had a resemblance to.

Throughout the day, he hadn't even spare her a glance. Not that she wanted him to. She just truly hoped he was being true and he would make

Masedi happy. She deserved it.

She watched Boycie amusing small kids with a magic trick. He looked some much like his father.

She approached him.

BOITUMELO: Cool trick.

BOYCIE: Thanks.

BOITUMELO: You look really nice in your suit.

BOYCIE: Thanks, my mom had it custom made for when I received my chess award.

BOITUMELO: You play chess? Did you know I played too?

BOYCIE: Ok... if you are looking for mama, there she is.

BOITUMELO: I was actually hoping to speak to you some day. If you like we could go for ice cream.

BOYCIE: Nah, I'm good. Daddy said you are mad crazy and once kidnapped me and tried to kill me. He says I can't go anywhere with you.

BOITUMELO: I was just...

BOYCIIE: Penny says you are the reason we had to be poor when we were little because you took all of our money. I know you are like my mother or whatever, but I don't like you, so I think I will say no to the ice cream.

He walked off and chased about with other kids.

Masedi walked over to Boitumelo and hugged her.

MASEDI: He is not a bad boy... just give him time. And I'll give him a talking to.

BOITUMELO: No, he is right. He is better off without me.

Oteng walked over to them and kissed Boitumelo's cheek.

OTENG: I was looking all over for you. Hey Masedi, was up.

MASEDI: Besides eating six pies a day? I can't complain.

OTENG: Congrats... they are such a blessing, aren't they?

Letang had walked over to them and held Masedi by

the waist, rubbing her bell.

LETANG: The best ever. I am blessed with this girl.
That Proverbs 31 kind of woman.

OTENG: Congrats. I know we started on a bad note,
but your wife is literally like a sister to my fiancée,
so a beer sometimes?

LETANG: Sure thing. Just let me know when. Sedi,
come, let me go feed my princess before she starts
kicking you.

He took her hands and led her to a chair, waving at
some guys who were leaving.

MASEDI: Who are those two?

LETANG: That's Levi and Maatla. I used to do some
work with them when I was still hustling. I ran in on
them the other day and invited them. So minced pie?

MASEDI: And seswaa, and some trifle please...oh,
and a juice.

He laughed and kissed her head.

LETANG: Genetics are so not fair. How do you still
look like a fucking runway model eating like that? If

I ate even half of that I'd be a ballon. Thank for sticking with me these rough past ten years babe. I swear to you from here on its all paradise.

Sapelo sat with the girls eating and chatting. She kept stealing looks at Ephraim, who was sitting with his brothers and their wives. Did he come with anyone?

God,, did he just wink at her...

No, she imagined it. He didn't even look like he noticed her.

He watched him talk to some giggling girl as he sipped his drink.

Ahhh, there he was... all about the ladies.

She did good divorcing his ass. Her phone started ringing, and she went outside to get away from the noise.

It was her boyfriend.

She walked a bit further into the garden behind the wall.

SAPELO: Hey babe...

HIM: Hey...I'm so sorry I couldn't make it.

SAPELO: Hey, it's ok, don't sweat it. I miss you...

She felt a strong arm taking the phone from her and hanging up, then pinning her to the wall as he kissed her with an intense hunger, her lips moving at their volition, matching his rhythm... dragging her into a whirlwind of emotions that felt like...home.

THE END

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