

Ask Caty 





This Novel Provide it

Team's

INTRO

28 MARTCH 2003 (FRIDAY)

BONITA'S POV

(DREAM)

I was in the hospital room giving birth I lay on the bed while feeling every inch of pain down my lady.

The doctors were there helping me breath and push harder.

my half sister was holding my hand also helping me get through the process.

"she is bleeding a lot" the doctor said freaking out. I looked at my half sister with lazy weak eyes and she looked more surprised than I.

"don't tell me she will lose the baby." she said looking at the doctors. "we will have to open her up and its too dangerous right now as she may die. and we don't have time.

I looked at my sister.

Me (sign language): Sister please help me.

she came towards me to whisper something to me.

Her: sorry dear this child is my ticket to being Mrs Collins. and I won't let you or anyone stand in the way. it was a great life I had with you I won't miss you though.

I looked at her as I shed tears.

Me (sign language): please sister please.

she stood up and looked at the doctor that they were working with called Doc Zulu.

Her: she said we should save the baby.

Nurse: really? she could die.

Her: that's what I told her but she is convinced that the baby has to live.

one doctor was in doubt as he saw me trying to shake my head.

Doc Zulu: I can understand sign language I will ask her.

the other doc got a bit relaxed and relieved.

Doc Zulu: if we go ahead with this you may loose your life is that what you want?

Me (sign language): no please save me. this child will only suffer alone.

the doctor looked at me and just looked at the other doc he nodded and I saw my sister smirk and they started going ahead. I tried getting their attention but before I could do anything I was sent to sleep.

(END OF DREAM)

I woke up sweating and having difficulty in breathing.

I quickly reached for the lamp and switched it on.

I then looked at the frame that was near the lamp I was sent to sleep.

(END OF DREAM)

I woke up sweating and having difficulty in breathing.

I quickly reached for the lamp and switched it on.

I then looked at the frame that was near the lamp that was my mother my dear mother.

she has been in the ICU for 3 months now.

I have always had hope that she would wake up one day.

My dad wanted to switch off the machines a month ago but I begged her not to. he said its just a waste of money to keep my mother in the ICU but I still begged for him to wait a few more. he said he would keep my mother alive if only I sleep with Mr Collins get his child and hand the child to Melissa (my sister).

Why? because my sister is barren. she was chosen to marry Mr Collins to bring the family together and join the family resources together and to also keep the business within the family circle.

My dad and Mr Collin's dad are long time friends. and that's why Mr Collins and Melissa are arranged to get marry to each other. which is not a problem but now I got involved.

- LATER THAT MORNING -

I had fallen asleep I guess because this time I was woken by my sister pulling the blankets and sprinkling me with cold water.

I woke up and looked at her.

Her: have you forgotten that we have a family dinner with the Collins today? I hate being late get up and lets get ready.

I never got to meet the Collins I never even once set foot at the house. I only saw Mr Collins and his family on TV.

so why I am invited today? because today Mr Collins will be drugged then I will be taken to his room and sleep with him then when he falls asleep I will have to be taken out and my sister will sleep next to him that's why its important that we both wear the same clothing tonight I am even forced to put on a weave that is also like the one she will be putting on. its important that we look as identical as possible.

then I will have to be under house arrest for 9 months give birth and hand my child to my sister. that's the plan. and its all for the exchange of having my mother's medical bills paid while in the ICU.

one would say "just give up on your mother and save yourself" well its not as easy as it seems. I wish I could do that without even thinking much about it.

Me (sign language): I am sorry I overslept.

Her: are you still sitting in your bed? hai hurry and get out.. you still have some cleaning to do. I am only holding myself back

from slapping your ugly face because I have to be elegant today.
I won't let a slut like you ruin my day.

I looked down as she walked out.

My Name is Bonita.

CHARTER 1

- SAME MORNING OF THE 28TH OF MARCH 2003 -
- AT THE NDAMASE'S -
- BONITA -

I just finished getting ready and I was now sitting on the corner of the bed looking down as I held my dress tight.

This was a new dress it is the same as Melissa's dress since its all part of the plan.

I don't usually get new clothing so having to wear this was great yet not comfortable.

as I was sitting down the door opened. I looked up already moving back with my heart racing thinking its my father or Melissa (my sister).

but I breathed out of relief when I saw Ms Gloria walk in.

Her: Bonita your father is waiting for you downstairs. he said to tell you that you should hurry down.

I looked down.

I wanted to get up and walk out but I remembered the dream the dream I had about me in the hospital bed about to die and

Melissa decided to save the child and let me die. I know I agreed to do this in order to keep my mom on ICU but I can't I can't get myself to do this. what if that is a warning?

ever since I was a child I used to get dreams dreams that were warnings. I didn't know I had this dream until one of my dreams came through. I was so afraid I thought I was not human or something. I tried telling my mom but she didn't believe me. so I stopped telling her and just dealt with it myself. But when Ms Gloria arrived she became my second mother at least she would listen to me. I always thought she was pretending to believe me but it turns out she actually believes me because sometimes it also happens to her.

They don't come very often but when I have one of those dreams I go into fear mode and try by all means to avoid it from happening. that's how I survived many things. but some actually came through. now you understand why I am scared right now why I am having second thoughts about this plan. I can't sacrifice my life for a child that will only suffer. I know Melissa very well. she won't love the child as her own and that scares me even more.

I looked at Ms Gloria she is the only one that understands me and always looks after me in this house. she secretly gives me food when my father refuses to give me food she secretly helps me have a better life despite how my father and sister treat me.

Me (sign language): Ms Gloria can you please help me run away?

she looked at me in shock??

Ms Gloria: run away where?

Me (sign language): just escape please I can't go ahead with what my sister wants me to do. if I do I will die.

Ms Gloria: what do you mean??

Me (Sign Language): I had a dream like the ones I always have. if I go ahead with this plan I will die giving birth and you know Melissa won't take care of that child like her own.

Ms Gloria: Bonita??

she said looking at me with worry.

Me (sign language): you believe me right?

Ms Gloria didn't know what to do she looked at me who was putting my hands together begging and looked around trying to figure out what to do..

I showed my hands that were put together and looked at her as I bit my lips deeply wishing that she could agree.

Ms Gloria: Bonita you know I see you as my own child and I know how bad you have been treated in this house but running away doesn't solve anything I told you to study hard and be able to be independent then you won't need anyone.

I looked at her as tears filled my eyes and then blinked looking down.

Ms Gloria: fine. I will go unlock the backdoor and leave it unlocked but tell me first are you running away forever?

Me (sign language): for as long as I can.

Ms Gloria: what about your mother?

Me (sign language): (looks down) its been months now and mom hasn't woken up. maybe me keeping her in machines is causing

her more pain so I want to set her free without having to say goodbye I hate goodbyes.

Ms Gloria: I still don't agree with this.

Me (sign language): please I don't want to die. please.

Ms Gloria looked at me for a while then went to peek outside my room door to see if there was anyone. she then came to me and looked at me.

Ms Gloria: I don't like what I am about to do but I know that you will be more happy away from here. so I will go unlock the door now. come out after 5 minutes ok?

Me: *Nodded*

she kissed my forehead

Gloria: be careful!

Me: *Nodded*

she smiled and walked out.

I breathed out walking up and down waiting for the 5 minutes to go by.

Minutes later I took one of my coats walked out making sure Melissa or my dad don't see me. I know they are outside but still I have to make sure.

as I got down stairs I ran to the backdoor and indeed it was unlocked. I ran out and had to slightly round my way out the small gate without being seen. My dad was in the car with Melissa as Ms Gloria stood at the car window talking to them.

that was my que

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I ran to the backdoor and indeed it was unlocked. I ran out and had to slightly round my way out the small gate without being seen. My dad was in the car with Melissa as Ms Gloria stood at the car window talking to them.

that was my que I ran out and kept on running without looking back.

bye mom!

tears came out as I kept running into the quiet streets.

- AT THE COLLINS' -

Mr Collins: WHAT!!

???: sorry sir.

Mr Collins: that child is like a pain in my ass. how could he leave after I told him that we will be having breakfast with the Ndamase's? AGGGG! some fathers have obedient sons while I have a disobedient one. how unlucky. worst because he is my only son. Stupid boy..

he grabbed his glass of water and finished it up.

Mr Collins: where is my phone?

he looked around and found it on the couch.

he took it and called his son Shaun.

Shaun answered.

Shaun: daddy!!

Mr Collins: Daddy my left foot. where are you?

Shaun: ohh I forgot to inform you I am meeting my friend Ntando.

Mr Collins: friend?? is that friend important then your own damn family.

Shaun: blood pressure daddy you know that I love you and no one is more important then you.

Mr Collins: SHAUN!!!

Shaun: daaaad... you think I don't know about your match making schemes with the Ndamase daughter?

Mr Collins: the Ndamase's are a good family rich and have a good reputation plus we have been good friends since way back.

Shaun: I am glad you still have a best friend at this age. its a rare gold but still dad can you just trust me in finding my own wife?

Mr Collins: I would if you would get one already you are 27 Shaun you not getting any younger?

Shaun: did you have to slap that in my face?

Mr Collins: for you to realize how slow you have pushing this process? you are gambling with my empire.

Shaun: soon to be mine remember? and dad I will get you the most beautiful girl on earth ok? a princess. happy?

Mr Collins: ohh you punk. you always take everything I say as a joke.

Shaun: because its funny. anyway I have to go now. bye!!

Mr Collins: Shaun Shaun!!! hai you idiot!!

he looked at his phone and the call was cut.

he sighed and put it on the table.

Mr Collins: this idiot will really kill me one day.

he said leaning back.

- BACK AT THE NDAMASE'S -

Melissa: WHAT!! HOW!!

???: I don't know ma'am but she isn't in the house and Ms Gloria also didn't see her go out.

Mr Ndamase: did she just run away? but how? we were here the whole time.

Melissa: this is not looking good dad she just ruined the plan.

Mr Ndamase looked defeated.

Melissa: what now dad? the Collins can't know that I can't give birth or else they will not allow me to marry Shaun.

Mr Ndamase: I know my daughter I know. Mr Collins wants an heir its the most important to him. we will find Bonita and she will do as we say don't worry.

Melissa looked away not assured.

Mr Ndamase: lets go for our breakfast meeting and enjoy it there will be many more meetings and opportunities. don't worry. daddy is here for you.

Melissa looked out the window as Mr Ndamase started the car and drove off.

- MINUTES LATER -

Mr Ndamase and Melissa arrived at the big house.

They drove in the gate after pressing the gate bell and speaking to one of the helpers in the house. After they parked their car they got out making their way in the house.

Melissa: I still can't believe that one day I will be living here as Mrs Collins.

Mr Ndamase: well you better believe it because you will be.
(smiles)

Melissa smiled looking at the house from outside and the beautiful garden.

Mr Collins walked out the house as they were walking towards the door.

Mr Collins: hay Joseph we finally meet again.

Mr Ndamase: Mike. looking good and young.

Mr Collins: Good and young you say? ohhh please my wife keeps on telling me that I am getting old.

Mr Ndamase: ohhh she is just saying.

Mr Collins: I will take your word for it.

they laughed.

Mr Collins: oh please come on in.

They walked in the house.

Mr Collins: please excuse us for today my son couldn't join us he had to do something at the company but I am sure next time he will be here.

Melissa was so disappointed because she really wanted to see Shaun today. seems like her plans was really ruined.

but she couldn't just leave because Shaun is not here she would have to put a smile and listen to old man talk.

Mr Ndamase: no problem there is always a next time.

- ON THE STREETS -

Bonita kept running and running. crossing roads and taking turns. she didn't know where she was heading too but surely she wanted to go far from her father and sister far from the abuse.

she ran across the busy main road and stood on the other side taking a moment to catch her breath. she looked around then started walking to wherever her mind lead her.

as she was walking she bumped into a young man who was walking with his friend.

she looked up to apologise and realized it was Mr Collins (Shaun). she got a bit nervous as she only saw this man on TV yet here he was in front of her.

Bonita (sign language): I am sorry.

immediately after that a vision came to her mind.

_____VISION_____

Mr Collins was in the car with someone. he was driving his black car while having his favourite black glasses on.

at that moment as Shaun was driving gun shots were fired from outside. he tried driving off but a truck came in speed and

bumped him causing his car to roll and that was the end of Mr Collins.

_____ END OF VISION _____

The Vision was played in her mind like a flashback.

when she got back to her senses she realized Shaun was not in front of her anymore. she looked back and saw them walking to the car the same car that she just saw in her vision.

"this must be a warning" she thought.

" but how will I tell him because I can't speak?" she thought again.

well she didn't have time because they were heading there.

she ran to him and pulled his jacket from behind Shaun looked back and this time had his glasses on.

Shaun: can I help you?

Bonita (sign language): do you understand sign language?

she asked wishing that he would say yes.

Shaun: yes... is there something wrong?

Bonita (sign language): great I know you don't know me and you don't have any reason to believe me but I have come to warn you.

Shaun: warn me?

Bonita (sign language): yes. today you will be attacked if you use this car. do not use the car to go back home please.. do not.

Shaun: what do you mean?? who are you?

Bonita (sign language): I mean no harm but please take me serious. do not use your car to travel. use a taxi or something but do not use the car. I have to go.

Shaun looked at Bonita as she ran in between the people.

Ntando: and?

Shaun: I don't know mahn.. I think she is crazy.

They looked at her traces and looked at each other.

Shaun: hai!! I would be crazy to believe this. hai lets go.

They walked to the car.

CONTINUATION 1

- 28 MARCH 2003 (FRIDAY LATE MORNING AROUND 11AM)
- AT THE STREET -
- NARRATOR -

Shaun walked into the car and put on his seatbelt but he just couldn't shake off the sudden fear in him. he couldn't stop thinking about what Bonita said.

he sat still thinking about it. Ntando saw him staring at the window thinking hard and shook him.

Shaun got startled a little and looked at Ntando.

Ntando: what is wrong with you? are you ok?

Shaun: I can't stop thinking about what that girl said.

Ntando: who? that girl you were talking to? the one who speaks sign language?

Shaun: yes... she said something about being attacked.

Ntando: she is attacked? and you let her go?

Shaun: not her... us.

Ntando: huh??

Shaun thought for a moment before he said anything.

Ntando: Shaun you are speaking but I don't understand you. actually tell me what exactly did that girl say?

Shaun: she said... she said I shouldn't drive this car.

Ntando: why?

Shaun: she didn't really specify but she said something about an attack.

Ntando took a moment to understand what Shaun just said.

Shaun: braza do you believe in prophets?

Ntando: prophets?

Shaun: (breaths out) no matter how I find this crazy and unbelievable I am so afraid right now. I don't feel right.

Ntando: you know your instincts are most of the time right. maybe she was used by God to warn you.

Shaun: but who would attack me? and why?

Ntando: boy we are discussing this while in the car after being told not to use it. what if that attack happens now??

Shaun: say no more lets get out.

they got out quickly.

One thing about Shaun he is a bit of a coward. he has his times where he is bold and can stand but he has a lot of fears. and one of them is death.

they stood next to the car and looked at it.

Shaun: so what do we do? do we call an Uber to take us to Duma's house.

Ntando: yah I think so too.

Shaun: ok you request it.

Ntando: k.

- SOMEWHERE -

- BONITA -

I was tired of running. I was out of breath now and needed some water but I didn't know where to get some.

I didn't have any money on me nor anything I can exchange with. I had no plan when I ran away but its okay even if I die on the streets its better then dying in the hands of my father or sister.

besides I believe that God exist so he will help me.

I kept on walking and walking.

as I was walking I passed a house where someone was using a hosepipe to water the plants and there was a dog.

I stood at the gate and waved my hand.

as he looked at me I smiled and greeted him by waving my hand.

he smiled and bowed his head a little.

Him: can I help you?

Me (sign language): may I please have some water to drink I am thirsty.

he called for someone and a boy a bit older then me walked out.

Him: can you please help the lady at the gate. (looks at me) he will help you.

I smiled and nodded. then put my hands together as a sign of thanks and then looked at the young man who came my way.

Him: hi

I waved again.

Me (sign language): do you understand sign language?

he looked at me with a confused look. it was clear he didn't understand.

I positioned my hand as if I was holding a glass and pretended that I was drinking from that glass.

Him: you want something to drink?

I nodded already with my hands together signalling a "please".

he nodded and said " okay please hold on for a while"

I nodded with a smile and waited.

indeed later he came out with a small 500ml bottle of water and told me to keep it.

I thanked him again by putting my hands together and he nodded.

I waved goodbye to him and the man I found outside watering the plants.

I didn't waste time but immediately drank my water finished. I must have been very thirsty.

I kept walking what was I looking for? I have no idea.

- LATER AROUND 1PM -

- AT THE NDAMASE'S -

- NARRATOR -

Mr Ndamase and Melissa came back and the first thing they asked the helpers is to ask if Bonita came back. they were so angry to be told that she hasn't returned.

Mr Ndamase: where could that child be?

Melissa: I also don't understand she doesn't have friends nor family around here so where could she go?

Mr Ndamase: we have to find her before she causes us trouble.

Melissa: I would be glad if she would die on the streets.

Mr Ndamase: we still need her for the plan remember?

Melissa just rolled her eyes looking away putting her hands on her waist.

Mr Ndamase: not many of the people I know know about her since we kept her hidden. it will be suspicious to ask them to help me look for her. we have to search for her ourselves.

Melissa: or hire a private investigator dad.

Mr Ndamase: right! you are right.. a private investigator. I have just the person in mind

As Mr Ndamase went to make the call Melissa just sat on the couch checking the TV out very annoyed.

- AT THE COLLINS' -

Shaun got out of the Uber car with Ntando and they walked into the house.

Shaun: I still think all this was just a joke and we fell right into it. what if they scammed us the car?

Ntando: better safe than sorry.

Shaun: bullsh**

Ntando: you are quick in finding people if it is a scam you will just let your dad know how the girl looks like then they will find her. done!

Shaun just shook his head.

he used his key to get in through the small gate and head in the house.

they got in and already his father was on his case.

but he ignored him. his mother also added to the fuel.

Shaun: mom dad

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I really have something else to think about. okay?

Mrs Collins: what is it? you look very worried.

Mr Collins: its his forefathers punishing him for not being an obedient child.

Mrs Collins: honey would you stay still.

Mr Collins: I was just saying.

Shaun: this is nonsense where is Musa?

Mrs Collins: he is outside

Shaun stood up leaving Ntando with his parents and went to Musa.

he got to him.

Shaun: hai buti Musa.

Musa: Shaun (smiles)

Shaun: sorry to bother you can you get my car in Florida? you can track down the tracker.

Musa: okay young master.

Shaun: mxm I always told you to just call me Shaun. you are more like my brother now.

Musa: (laughs) I was just pulling your leg you seem tense are you okay?

Shaun: yah I am okay.

Musa: okay let me get going then.. but then why did you leave it there?

Shaun: (sigh) you will probably think I am a fool.

Musa: what happened?

Shaun: some innocent looking girl came to me when we were just done getting some take out. she told me I shouldn't drive my car because I would be attacked. and for some reason I believed her. that's how I left my car there.

Musa: (laughs) is it even there right now? its probably a scam and its been hours are you sure its still there? I am sure your car is somewhere being stripped apart.

Shaun: (sigh) I still wonder why I believed such an obvious scam. am I being dumber by day?

Musa: you are just getting old.

Shaun held his forehead and Musa laughed.

Musa: don't worry I also have somewhere to go quickly so I will check it out if its there or not.

Shaun: wait!!

Shaun took out his phone to check if the tracker was still on.

Shaun: well the tracker is still located in the same location hasn't moved.. so maybe the car is still there...

Musa: then I will go check it out.

Shaun: but then if its true then it means you will be attacked.

Musa: I may believe in many things but prophesies? mhm mhm (no)

Shaun: Musa??

Musa: I will get it.. and I will come back in one piece. watch!!

Musa walked into the house to get his jacket and walked out.

Shaun couldn't stop getting a bad feeling but thought for a moment that Musa may be right. he shook the feeling off and walked into the house.

he went to sit where he was sitting next to Ntando. his parents were not in the living room.

Ntando: don't tell me you asked Musa to get your car.

Shaun:

Ntando: what if they attack him thinking its you?

Shaun: I am sure it was a scam okay and if it is really true if there were people who wanted to attack me they would have attacked that car already thinking I am inside. and if they are really watching then they will see that its not me in the car.

Ntando didn't say anything he just shook his head. as for Shaun he was internally agreeing with what Ntando said but hoped that they were both wrong.

- LATER -

Shaun and Ntando were now relaxed and playing videos games in his room.

yah another things about Shaun he is still a child at heart. he loves playing games to calm himself down or listen to music if not play the piano.

as they were playing games Shaun's phone rang and he looked at it. he suddenly stopped when he saw Musa calling and quickly took it and answered.

Shaun: please tell me you found my car?

Musa: I..... I did.... but...

Shaun: Musa?? Musa what is it? what is wrong?

Musa: I... I was attacked.. (swallowed)...(groaned in pain) I am injured.

Shaun: Fuc** hide well I am on my way.

he said that grabbing his jacket and walking out Ntando followed asking what is wrong.

Shaun: Musa was attacked.

Ntando: I told you... that girl was right...

Shaun: that's not the song I want to hear right now. we need to go make sure Musa comes here alive.

he rushed to ask his mother for her car keys and she gave him without asking because of how Shaun was. she could see that it was an emergency so she saved the questions for last.

Shaun and Ntando got in the car and drove out following the tracker of Shaun's car.

Shaun: fuc** its all my fault.

CHARTER 2

- 28 MARCH 2003 (LATE IN THE AFTERNOON)
- AT THE COLLINS' -
- NARRATOR -

Mr Collins: where is that boy? he is still not picking up my calls.

Mrs Collins: I have a bad feeling. Ohhhh Shaun were are you?

Mrs Collins buried her head in her hands worried.

Mr Collins phone rang it was Shaun.

he answered it already preparing a mouthful of comments to throw at Shaun.

Mr Collins: hai you punk do you think

Shaun: we are at the hospital..

Mr Collins: what?

Shaun: I thought I should let you know.. I know mom might be worried because of how we took off without a word...

Mr Collins: but what are you doing at the hospital?

Shaun: Musa was attacked.

Mrs Collins hearing the word hospital just brought her shock as she thought Shaun was hurt.

Mrs Collins: hospital? what happened? is he okay?

Mr Collins continued to talk to Shaun.

Mr Collins: Musa? Attacked?? by who?

Shaun: we don't know.. but its all my fault.

Mr Collins: what?

Shaun: I can't speak long we are in ##### Hospital.

Mr Collins: okay we will be there soon.

Shaun: mhm... No please get some rest for today you may come tomorrow. I am already worried about Musa don't let me worry about mom and dad too.

Mr Collins looked down and breathed out.

Shaun: I didn't tell you this to panic. you can come tomorrow plus Musa should rest. he just took some painkillers.

Mr Collins: (sigh) okay okay. I will take care of your mother and we will visit tomorrow.

Shaun: thank you pops. also I won't be coming home I will stay here with Musa please bring something nice for Musa to eat for breakfast I heard hospital food is dull.

Mr Collins: look at you. acting like a mature grown up.

Shaun: am I not mature?

Mr Collins: you? please I am sure Ntando told you what to say. you are just a childish immature brat who doesn't listen.

Shaun: ohhhhh only you manage to make me smile in a time like this.

Mr Collins: that's my aim. (smiles) take care of Musa.

Shaun: thanks pops.

Mr Collins: Sleep well.

Shaun: you are making me scared. why do you care so much?

Mr Collins: do you think I care? I only want you to be healthy so that you can help me grow my empire.

Shaun smiled and Mr Collins hung up.

Mrs Collins: what is this about Musa being attacked?

Mr Collins: Shaun didn't really say what is going on but we will find out tomorrow.

Mrs Collins: why tomorrow? we should go now.

Mr Collins: we should rest plus Shaun said Musa is resting he just had his painkillers.

Mrs Collins: what about Shaun?

Mr Collins: he is okay he will be staying with Musa the night he also asked that you bring Musa some food for breakfast.

Mrs Collins: idiot son. how could he tell us what to do??

they chuckled.

Mr Collins: you must be hungry let me go dish up.

Mrs Collins nodded.

- LATE IN THE EVENING -

- SOMEWHERE -

- BONITA -

It was getting dark. The sun was setting I couldn't see it set because of the tall houses around me.

My feet were killing me they were aching so bad.

I stopped for a while and looked around me. I was at a foreign place I think I have finally succeeded in running far away from home but now I don't know where I am nor where I am headed.

I saw a nice rock on the grass near the corner of a beautiful house.

I walked to it and sat down on it.

as my feet rested they started pumping so hard.

ahhhhhh my feet were very sore.

I laid on the rock
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it was big but very big. not too big but big. big enough for me to lay but not comfortable.

it was like a cliff.

I laid on my stomach and watched the small ants on the sand in between the grass walk and worry about their business.

I couldn't stop but wonder how they live? do they have family? friends? what language do they speak? do they speak or are they mute like me? maybe they also speak in sign language? maybe this maybe that.

its all I did while I listened to my feet pumping.

as the sun disappeared to its night blanket I looked up to see the stars.

I never got to enjoy the full view of the starry night sky... its beautiful. very beautiful.

even if I die now at least I know I will die happy since I am looking at the starry night sky.

I was so tired that I started falling asleep. but I held myself and sat up. I can't sleep in a place like this its not safe. so I have to stay up all night and enjoy the starry night or maybe just keep walking.

well after my feet heal.

- 29 MARCH 2003 (SATURDAY) EARLY NEXT MORNING

_____ DREAM _____

There were Voices shouting for Shaun.

"Shaun!!"

"SHAUN!!"

"Shaun Shaun!!"

as they were shouting someone walked towards another person sitting on the chair full of blood tied.

the person with the axe raised the axe aiming at someone who looked like Shaun it could be him

as the axe was raised I tried saving him I tried moving him away but I couldn't I was far so far that even he couldn't see me.

as the axe approached his body I woke up.

_____END OF
DREAM _____

I breathed as I tried to make sense of what that meant. I normally don't have such dreams by one person. this person is Mr Collins.

I don't have any direct contact with Mr Collins nor am I close to him so why would I get such dreams about him? is it because I saved him from the car attack?

why now after so many years. I don't want to be anyone's saver anymore. I can't. not after what happened with my dad.

I can't I will not..

WHY!!!!!!

- HOSPITAL -
- NARRATOR -

Musa woke up and saw Shaun laying his head on the bed near his feet.

he looked at him and sat up.

he smiled and gently woke him up.

Musa: Shaun! Shaun!

Shaun slowly got up and took a moment before processing where he was.

he looked at Musa and immediately stood up to him.

Shaun: Musa! are you okay??

Musa: (smiles) well after seeing you? I got even more better.

Shaun smiled and pulled his chair closer to him.

Shaun: I.... I am sorry.

Musa: for what? you not the one that attacked me.

Shaun: I know... I know but.... I was.....

Musa: hai!! its not your fault... I should say sorry for your car.

Shaun: that doesn't matter its just a car as long as you are okay.

Musa: where is Ntando?

Shaun: I told him to go home. but he said he would be here today.

Musa: mhm... did you tell your parents?

Shaun: of cause I had to.

Musa: I told you it wasn't serious.

Shaun: are you the doctor?

Musa didn't say anything.

Shaun: who would attack my car? I am sure they thought it was me.

Musa: I thought the same thing.

Shaun looked into space as he remembered Bontle's words.

Shaun: and how did she know? was she really a prophet? an angel?

Musa: who? what are you talking about?

Shaun: Musa? you go to church right?

Musa: mhm... why? will you ask me why God didn't protect me?

Shaun: no no no... I want to know.. is it possible for someone to know the future? like know what will happen in the future?

Musa: well I haven't experienced that directly nor indirectly. so I can't really agree. but then I can't disagree also because I am not aware of every being in this world. why?

Shaun: mhm... just asking..

Musa looked at Shaun and smiled..

Musa: I don't like that look.

Shaun looked at Musa.

Shaun: what look?

Musa: the one you just made. whenever you make that look you always decide to do something and you always stick to it. I hope you decide on something positive.

Shaun: hai no..

Shaun thought again.

"that girl should know what happened I have to find her" he thought

CHARTER 3

- 29 MARCH 2003 (SATURDAY AFTERNOON)

- SOMEWHERE

???: how could you be so careless??

?: sorry boss we didn't know that it wasn't Shaun in that car.

???: didn't you keep your eyes on that car? I told you not to make a mistake with this one.

?: sorry boss.

???: how will your sorry help me right now??

?:

???: you better make sure he concludes this as a failed hijacking. because if not. you will pay for this mistake.

the guy scared as ever nodded.

???: get out of my sight before I do something to do.

the guy walked out with some of the men he was working with in this mission.

the boss leaned back annoyed at the failed attempt. now his plans are ruined before they even begin.

- AT THE COLLINS' -
- NARRATOR -

Shaun and Ntando were sitting in the living room watching TV as they waited for a guest.

Ntando: won't your parents find out?

Shaun: so what if they find out? I just want to know who this girl is and how she knew about this.

Ntando: can't you let this go? take it as if she is just a girl who happened to be sent by God.

Shaun: it could be easy for you to believe that but as I was thinking I just can't believe it. that girl knows something. maybe she was part of the plan but decided to not go ahead with the plan. maybe that's why she ran away too maybe she didn't want to be seen talking to me because they would know.

Ntando sighed and looked away.

Shaun: come on think about it. its the only way it makes sense.

Ntando shook his head and continued watching TV.

Minutes later the door bell rang and Shaun rushed to check the door

Shaun: Mr Mtolo. welcome.

Mr Mtolo: Shaun!! nice to see you again.

Shaun: same here please come in.

Mr Mtolo walked in and they walked to the living room.

Shaun went to get some juice and a glass to give to Mr Mtolo.

Mr Mtolo: I was so surprised to see your message. is this girl you are looking for your future wife?

Shaun: (softly laughs) no she is someone who has the information I have about the accident.

Mr Mtolo: accident?

Shaun: you do know that Musa was recently attacked in my car right?

Mr Mtolo: yes your father told me. he asked me to try and investigate who were behind it since the police might take forever.

Shaun: I also believe police officers won't find out who they are. these people seem to be smart they wouldn't leave a trace that's why a private investigator is what we need for this case.

Mr Mtolo: so you want me to find the girl? are you sure she knows about this?

Shaun: yes.

Mr Mtolo: what makes you say that?

Shaun: she is the one that warned me not to use the car to drive home. its like she knew the attack would happen.

Mr Mtolo: so she saved your life?

Shaun: basically yes. and I put Musa's life in danger when I thought all this was rubbish and asked him to get the car for me.

Mr Mtolo: I see... so that means she could have been part of the plan but decided to pull out and save you.

Shaun: exactly what I thought.

Mr Mtolo: but why?

Shaun: I don't know.. maybe her conscious spoke to her.

Mr Mtolo: okay. do you know this girl? have you seen her before?

Shaun started thinking hard.

Mr Mtolo: could be at the club or anywhere. try to remember.

Shaun: (thinking)... mhm mhm.. I don't think I have seen her anywhere. it was the first time I saw her.

Mr Mtolo: okay for me to find this girl I need to know who I am looking for what she looks like and what she was wearing the day you saw her.

Shaun: well I never really paid attention to her but I do remember a few things.

Mr Mtolo: okay I will call someone I know to come with me next time. he has worked with the police to draw suspects out of victims head and most of the time it gives leads so I will talk to him but he doesn't come cheap. expecially because we are not the police

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but he doesn't come cheap. expecially because we are not the police this is a private investigation.

Shaun: its okay. he can name his price. I must find that girl.

Mr Mtolo: okay then. I will come back again with him. I will call you to arrange the next meeting.

Shaun: it would also be great if you kept this from my parents I don't want them to exaggerate things.

Mr Mtolo: okay. so that means we won't be meeting here right?

Shaun: yes. we will look for a better location to meet at.

Mr Mtolo: okay. well gentlemen I should not take long as I also have work to do. thank you for the juice I will call you.

Shaun smiled and walked him out.

as he came back he saw Ntando looking at him with the "I hope you know what you are doing" look.

Shaun: you look worried.

Ntando: wouldn't you be when your best friend is digging a hole that is full of mysteries?

Shaun: well I would be worried but its better to deal with what you know then the unknown.

Ntando: (sigh) I don't know why but this feels like you will be opening a can of warms.

Shaun: well I am BOOGIE MAN or is it BOOGIE T? yah whichever.

Ntando looked at Shaun as Shaun reached for the juice jar to pour himself juice.

- SOMEWHERE -

- BONITA -

I was walking towards what seemed to be a main road. it was a relief but I was also scared.

2 days walking around sleeping on the streets and scrapping from rubbish dumps. I am even lucky to still be alive.

as I was walking 3 guys appeared walking towards me. I looked at them then down trying to keep my cool.

they looked suspicious. their walk the way they looked. but I hoped that it would not be what I think.

as they approached me they crossed over to my side.

I breathed and tried remaining calm.

as they got closer to me I saw one of them raise his shirt and what seemed to be a knife appeared. I swallowed hard and said a prayer in my heart.

at that moment 2 cars appeared and slowed down when it got near me.

the car window lowered and the lady looked at me.

Lady: hai young lady can I speak to you?

she said with a smile.

I smiled back and nodded.

the guy who was about to take out his knife pulled his shirt down and they continue to walk.

I looked at her.

Lady: where are you headed to?

I looked down then looked at her. I don't know if she understands sign language.

Me (sign language): I can't speak?

Lady: you are speaking now. (smiles)

my eyes widened as I figured that she understood me.

I smiled as hope hit me on my face.

Me (sign language): you understand sign language?

Lady: yes. I studied some because my daughter can't speak.

Me (sign language): how old is she?

Lady: she is only 7 years old.

I nodded.

Lady: do you... have a home?

I looked at her and looked down.

Lady: I am sorry for asking so straight like that. its just that you don't look like you have a home. your clothes face and you look very tired. have you eaten?

I didn't say anything I just looked down.

The lady walked out of the car and walked to me.

Lady: my name is Nomalanga I run a orphanage. I take children like you who don't have a home and give them a home and a chance to have a better life.

Me (sign language): I ran away from home.

Lady: why?

Me (sign language): my father and sister didn't treat me well. so I ran away.

she looked around so I did as well. the guys were now standing at the corner. which made me even more scared.

Lady: come we will talk in the car.

I wasn't sure if I should go with her or if this was another trick to a more hell of a life.

it was a decision between facing the 3 guys who had a knife and probably waiting for me or the kind lady who could be more dangerous.

If only I was able to control my ability to look into the future that way I would know what would happen if I choose to not enter the car. but I can't. I only see the future when I have to.

I sighed and nodded.

she walked me to the other side and opened the car door for me. I walked in and she also walked in.

The car behind hers was still standing there waiting for her to drive because as soon as the lady started the car The car behind also moved.

I looked at the guys that were at the corner they were making a move too. seems like they were really waiting for the lady to walk away for them to attack me.

I looked ahead and just let life lead me.

CHARTER 4

- 29 MARCH 2003 (SATURDAY AFTERNOON)

- AT NOMALANGA'S HOUSE -
- BONITA -

The car arrived at a nice big house. I guess this is where the orphanage is.

I smiled as I looked outside the car window. The green grass and the trees surrounding the place were so green. It smelled great too.

She parked the car and looked at me.

Her: this is where I stay welcome home. (smiles)

Me (sign language): It looks beautiful.

Her: I know. (smile) let me show you inside.

I nodded as I smiled and she got out of the car as I struggled to get the safety belt off.

She came to my side and helped me out.

I smiled and got out while she closed the door and led me to the entrance of the house.

I looked around as we walked to the door.

She opened the door and we walked in.

The house was beautiful but I was suddenly feeling wired.

Normally a warm house would give warmth to a visitor but I felt cold. I tried to focus to see if I could force myself to see anything but I couldn't.

Her: are you okay?

I looked at her.

Me (sign language): this house is really big.

Her: it is.. (smile) I hope you like it.

Me (sign language): I do. (smiles) can I ask is this were the other children are?

Her: Oh no.. this is my personal house the orphanage is not here.

I nodded in understanding as I continued looking around.

Her: I thought maybe I should spend some time with you before I take you there you know. to you know you better.

I nodded again with a smile on my face.

Her: so you don't mind staying with me for a few days before heading to the orphanage? I just want to know you so that I am able to register you and to school.

Me (sign language): I always wanted to go to school.

Her: Great! (smile) let me continue showing you around.

we walked to other parts of the house. Its not massive just a big comfortable house.

- MINUTES LATER -

- NARRATOR -

Nomalanga had finish showing Bonita around and left Bonita in the guest room to freshen up and get ready for dinner.

she then came to her private office to make a call.

She walked to her drawer and took out her burner phone. she dialed a number.

the person picked up.

???: boss lady?

Noma: skull. how are you?

Skull: great ma'am.

Noma: I am glad. listen

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just a big comfortable house.

- MINUTES LATER -

- NARRATOR -

Nomalanga had finish showing Bonita around and left Bonita in the guest room to freshen up and get ready for dinner.

she then came to her private office to make a call.

She walked to her drawer and took out her burner phone. she dialed a number.

the person picked up.

???: boss lady?

Noma: skull. how are you?

Skull: great ma'am.

Noma: I am glad. listen I just got us a big fish in the market. I think our customers would love it. fresh and innocent. you start preparing for an auction and spreading the word okay?

Skull: okay boss lady. I will do that.

Noma: good.

she hung up and smiled.

" its been long since I delivered some fresh service its good to be back. " she thought as she smiled and walked out.

- AT THE COMPANY -

Shaun was in his office busy with his work when he got a call from Mr Mtolo.

Shaun: Mr Mtolo. good news?

Mr Mtolo: of cause seems like you have been waiting for my call?

Shaun: day and night. bless me.

Mr Mtolo: I spoke to the guy. he is willing to help.

Shaun: great. and his price?

Mr Mtolo: its not too expensive as I expected.

Shaun: great! I guess the angels are with me.

Mr Mtolo: seems like it. we will meet at the Mega café on Saturday 10am. is that fine?

Shaun: I am all in. I will meet you there on Saturday.

Mr Mtolo: okay. see you soon.

Shaun: same.

Mr Mtolo hung up and Shaun sighed giving a slight smile.

???: finally found a date?

he looked at the door and it was Nelisiwe his PA.

Shaun: how will I get a date when I am already married?

Nelisiwe: married? with who and why wasn't I invited to the wedding.

Shaun: ohhhhhhhh I see you have jokes.

Nelisiwe: you started.

Shaun took his pen and threw it to Nelisiwe.

Nelisiwe laughed.

- AT THE NDAMASE'S -

Mr Ndamase: I don't care how much it will cost me. I have to find that girl as soon as possible.

???: ok Mr Ndamase I will do my best.

Mr Ndamase: good. I have sent the picture of her on WhatsApp.

???: okay. I will look at it and start my search. I will be back with an update in no time.

Mr Ndamase: I heard you are the best in business don't disappoint me.

???: I will do my best sir.

Mr Ndamase: okay. do your best.

he agreed and hung up.

Mr Ndamase sighed and went to sit near his daughter who was sitting on the couch watching TV.

Mr Ndamase: don't worry Melissa we will find her. and she will regret ever pulling that stunt with us. she took a wrong turn and she will pay for this.

Melissa didn't say anything. she just fixed her eyes on the TV.

one might say they are worried and miss their lost daughter or sister but that's not the case.

she may be the Gold/ Ticket to their goal of attending the Collins family but after her task to deliver that baby she will be thrown like a used bag of teabag. Her value in that family is temporary.

CHARTER 5

- DAYS LATER (5 APRIL 2003) SATURDAY MORNING -
- MEGA CAFÉ -
- NARRATOR -

it was only 09:30 and Shaun had already arrived with Ntando.

They took their seat after buying some nice Coffee and muffins to enjoy before the meeting began.

Ntando: boi the way this matter has been stressing you you have started loosing weight.

Shaun: don't start with me.

Ntando: facts.

Shaun: mxm.. anyway I just want to get over this. what if I get attacked again? or worst my parents get hurt? I have to find out who are these people and what they want.

Ntando:

- MINUTES LATER -

Mr Mtolo and a young man walked in the café and as they saw Shaun and Ntando they headed to them.

Shaun stood up to greet them so did Ntando.

Mr Mtolo: this is Samson the guy I told you about.

Shaun: nice to meet you.

Samson: likewise.

they shook hands and smiled.

Mr Mtolo: okay lets get to it.

they sat down and Samson took out his drawing pad.

Mr Mtolo: ready?

he asked Samson

Samson nodded with his pencil in his hand.

Mtolo: so Shaun can you describe this girl.

Shaun: okay.

Mtolo: make sure to be slow take your time and please give us even the most slightest detail like moles or maybe a pimple that you saw anything.

Shaun nodded.

Mtolo: Ntando was there as well right?

Shaun: yes he was.

Mtolo: then he can also help with describing her. sometimes you may have missed a detail that he caught. 2 pair of eyes are better then one.

they nodded and started the process.

- AT NOMALANGA'S HOUSE -

Bonita was in the living room watching TV.

her stay in the house has been okay since she started living here.

She ate the best she was even taken shopping to get some clothing. she was treated well. she was starting to like Noma even though she gave a cold energy. she didn't understand why but she didn't mind since she was being treated well.

for a while she could forget about her father and sister.

As she was watching TV Noma walked in wearing a lingerie and a nice soft silk gown

she walked behind Bonita and stood behind her.

she looked at her and bit her lips.

she softly held her shoulders and Bonita jumped from the unexpected touch. she wasn't aware that Noma was behind her and that's why she got scared.

Noma: ohh I am so sorry did I scare you?

It was at this moment that she saw what was to happen.

_____ VISION _____

Noma was on top of Bonita. Kissing and touching her inappropriately.

_____ END OF VISION _____

Bonita widened her eyes and stepped back. Noma looked at her.

Noma: I am really sorry I just wanted to give you a massage.

Bonita (sign language): I am sorry I need to use the bathroom.

Noma: okay. (smiles)

Bonita hurried to the bathroom.

as Bonita disappeared into the bathroom

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I need to use the bathroom.

Noma: okay. (smiles)

Bonita hurried to the bathroom.

as Bonita disappeared into the bathroom Noma pulled out a needle that already had a syringe inside.

she held it and looked at the direction of the bathroom.

she walked to the door and stood there with the needle behind her.

Bonita sat in the bathroom for a bit longer.

she didn't know what to do. her tears threatened to come out but she looked up blinking them away.

she didn't know how to escape.

Noma: are you okay in there?? you have been in there for a while now.

Bonita pulled herself together and stood up flushing what seemed to be nothing.

she walked out and got startled when she saw Noma standing at the door.

Noma: you seem scared did I scare you that much?

Bonita swallowed and shook her head trying so hard to be calm.

Bonita (sign language): I have just been restless lately.

Noma: ohhh some sleep will do you well.

before Bonita could say anything.

Noma grabbed Bonita tight and injected Bonita quickly with the needle.

The syringe was a quick killer. it brings one to numbness and one can't move much.

- AT THE HOSPITAL -

Shaun got into Musa's ward and found him already dressed.

Shaun: ohhh you just couldn't wait now could you?

Musa: hai no one likes being here.

Shaun: well... I feel you.

Musa: and we both know if it was you in this hospital you would have left the same day.

Shaun: reason why I didn't visit very often.

they laughed.

we spoke about death being one of Shaun's fears. another is hospitals. okay he doesn't fear them but he doesn't like them

either. he says they smell medicine which is another thing he doesn't like.

he can't take in medicine it would take some time to swallow a simple pill.

they walked out.

- LATER -

- BONITA -

I was in the bathtub filled with water.

no matter how much I tried scrubbing myself I just couldn't get the dirt out of my body. the disgust the shame.

I wanted to vomit I was sick. I mean very sick.

I still felt like her hands were still touching me her lips still kissing me her hands still discovering every part of my body. I regret opening my eyes seeing her on me. who did I wrong.

I ran away from one abuse and found myself trapped in another.

I sank my body deeper into the bathtub and my head sank in the water too.

I laid in the water.

if I have to die then let it be.

but I can't live like this.

at least I could handle being beaten and emotionally abused but sexually? I don't know how much strength I will need I don't even have any strength so what now?

CHARTER 6

- NEXT DAY 6 APRIL 2003 (SUNDAY MORNING)
- AT NOMALANGA'S -

Noma woke up early to make breakfast for Bonita.

she made something nice and easy then took the tray to her room. Bonita didn't spend the night in her room (guest room) she spent the night in Noma's room.

last night she was injected and tied to the bed when she gained her conscious (which was faster then usual) she found herself tied on the bed and Noma half naked sitting on the chair in the bedroom sipping on some wine. when Noma saw that Bonita was awake she stood up and started doing what she pleased with Bonita.

after that she let Bonita to go bath. obviously she had to threaten her not to do anything stupid like running away or anything. Bonita tried drowning herself but she couldn't she just couldn't it was like the universe didn't want to let go of her or the after life was rejecting her.

so after taking a long bath she walked out and Noma told her to sleep on the bed. she had no choice but to follow the given instruction.

Noma walked in her room and sat near Bonita and gently working her up.

Bonita woke up with a spinning headache. (side effects of the injection).

Noma: good morning I made breakfast.

Bonita looked at her and looked away.

Noma: hai you have to eat and be healthy to make me happy.

Bonita just looked down and didn't say anything.

Noma: Love. You are in my care now so you do as I say. surely you don't want to see me angry do you?

Bonita looked at Noma and fear filled her.

she sat up and looked at the tray.

in her mind she was convinced that Noma was trying to poison her. so she swallowed and accepted death inside of her.

she reached for the food as her tears threatened to come out again.

she stopped and looked at Noma.

Bonita (sign language): why are you doing this to me?

Noma: what do you mean? I am giving you the best life here. am I not?

Bonita (sign language): you could have let me die on the streets.

Noma: is that what you wanted? listen Bonita. nothing is for free in this world. I gave you shelter food clothing I gave you the best. isn't it only fair to at least satisfy me?

Bonita didn't say anything.

Noma: I mean its not like I am making you sleep with a guy. I am a girl a woman. I use my fingers to penetrate you and you use a strap to penetrate me. what harm does that do? nothing. its not like I am raping you.

Bonita still didn't say anything. she looked at the food.

Noma: I don't mind sending you back to the streets. all you have to do is say it.

Bonita looked at her.

Noma: but just know.. if you do you will have to pay back what I did for you and then you can go. freely.

Bonita looked down losing all hope.

she continued eating as Noma kept watching her. as she was done she moved to the drawer and took out a syringe.

Bonita looked at it and shook her head.

Noma nodded as she smiled.

she held Bonita's arm right and injected her.

Noma gave her the second dose as well because Bonita never fully responded to one syringe. even though one syringe was enough to fully intoxicate a person it wasn't enough to intoxicate Bonita.

the syringe is supposed to knock you out for a few minutes then put you in a druggy state where you are ho**y and a bit weak. that way as much as Noma craves for it Bonita will also crave for it.

Noma was surprised and confused as to why but she just thought that the syrup inside must be getting weak.

but... it could be because Bonita was a special soul with a purpose.

as the drug kicked in Noma placed the tray on the side drawer and moved closer to Bonita. she gently touched her and started kissing her neck.

- AT THE NDAMASE'S -

Melissa was on the table picking her food.

Mr Ndamase looked at her.

Mr Ndamase: Melissa? won't you eat?

Melissa looked at her dad.

Melissa: dad?

Mr Ndamase: mhm?

Melissa: We have money right?

Mr Ndamase: huh... yah... why do you ask?

Melissa: I have been thinking. maybe we don't need Bonita.

Mr Ndamase: what?

Melissa: we can hire a secret surrogate.

Mr Ndamase: huh?

Melissa: think about it dad. I could start by getting to know Mr Collins then when we are close it will be easy to drug him and trick him into sleeping with that surrogate. then we keep the surrogate under house arrest while I pretend to be pregnant and using bought bellies to sell my story it would go well.

Mr Ndamase: it would but then we wouldn't have control. the surrogate could start blackmailing us anytime even after the baby is born she would be a threat to us. but with Bonita

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she would be a threat to us. but with Bonita we own her she wouldn't dare turn against us.

Melissa: The surrogate wouldn't blackmail us if she dies while giving birth right?

Mr Ndamase looked at Melissa and their stare was interrupted by a phone ringing.

Mr Ndamase realized it was his phone so he picked it up.

Mr Ndamase: ohhh Mike

Mr Collins: Joseph... hope you are eating healthy?

Mr Ndamase: as always.

Mr Collins: (laughs) anyway My son has a golf meeting to go to today he is not doing well emotionally due to the attack that happened few days ago.

Mr Ndamase: attack? Shaun was attacked?

Melissa looked at her dad in shock.

Mr Collins: ohh I must have gotten so busy that I forgot to let you know. it wasn't Shaun that got attacked but Musa got attacked.

Mr Ndamase: Musa? is he okay?

Mr Collins: yah he was discharged. but that's not what matters. I was asking if its okay if Melissa could go with Shaun to this meeting.

Mr Ndamase: well of cause why not. I mean they will be married soon so its best that we start highlighting that.

Mr Collins: exactly what I said... (laughs) we always think alike.

they laughed.

Mr Collins: okay get Melissa ready Shaun will be there to pick her up.

Mr Ndamase: say no more I will get her ready.

Mr Collins: okay. let me not waste more time talking. bye.

Mr Ndamase: have a great day.

he hung up and looked at Melissa.

Melissa: Shaun was attacked?

Mr Ndamase: no Musa was attacked. but he is fine now.

Melissa: ohh I was worried for a minute.

Mr Ndamase: anyway you have to prepare yourself hurry Shaun will be here any minute to pick you up to go with him to the golf meeting.

Melissa was surprised.

Melissa: really?

Mr Ndamase: yes hurry. you don't want to keep that handsome man waiting will you?

she smiled and quickly got up rushing to her room to prepare. Mr Ndamase smiled looking at her.

- AT THE COLLINS' -

Shaun: Dad I already said I wouldn't go with her.

Mr Collins: you better not make me a liar. she must be waiting already go.

Mrs Collins: son she is going to be your future wife can't you just try to see how she is?

Shaun: and who agreed to marry her? me? I don't remember.

Mr Collins: hai idiot. how will you agree when all you know is play around with life. you should be happy she agreed to marry you.

Shaun: of cause she would. I have everything that will benefit her. but what do I benefit? isn't a marriage about both of us benefiting?? I feel robbed.

Mrs Collins: you benefit a beautiful woman who is kind and generous her type is rare in this world. most girls now just lie to get into marriage and are evil minded. you are lucky to have her by your side.

Shaun: for all we know she could be a fox in a sheep's skin.

Mr Collins: agggg nonsense. not everyone is careless like you.

Shaun just looked down rubbing her forehead.

Shaun: fine. I will take her with me to the meeting but only because I want dad to stop talking. my brains hurt.

Mr Collins looked at him with a dirty look.

Mr Collins: punk. you should be thankful I am getting old. I would have whipped those big ears of yours.

Shaun smiled and grabbed his keys.

Shaun: I will use your car mommy dearest. dad's car might roll me over since his heart is dark. don't trust it.

Mr Collins: mxm. that car is still my car.

Mrs Collins: sorry?

Mr Collins: I was just kidding.

Shaun: Checkmate.

Shaun gave his father a smile and his father just frowned.

that's how they are and always were. but their love runs deeper trust me.

Shaun walked out after kissing his mother on the cheek.

He got in his car and drove to Melissa's house. (GPS)

- MINUTES LATER -

he arrived at Melissa's house and pressed the honk.

The helper came out and went to report that Shaun was here. Melissa came out and headed to the car.

Shaun was in the car. he didn't even get out to open the car for Melissa. Mr Ndamase was at the door looking at Melissa near the car.

Shaun looked at Melissa through the window and signalled for her to get in.

Melissa opened the front door and found a box on the chair.

Shaun: sorry I had a lot of stuff and no time to organise. I am usually not organised.

Melissa: (disappointed) oh..

Shaun: you can get in the back.

Melissa nodded.

she opened the back door and got in.

Shaun drove.

CHARTER 7

- DAYS LATER (11 APRIL 2003) FRIDAY MORNING -
- NARRATOR -
- AT NOMA'S HOUSE -

Bonita was busy cleaning the house as Noma just sat on the couch with her legs on the table back leaning on the couch and her eyes fixed on the TV.

not only was Bonita her s*x satisfactory but she has now turned into a maid.

Noma had a helper who cleaned the house and cooked when necessary but she fired her and made Bonita do all the work alone. not even Noma can do all of that.

however Bonita was used to such hard work. it reminded her of the hell hole she came from. this was how she worked even at home.

she thought it was better here because she wouldn't face her father and sister but now she rather be there than here. at least her father wouldn't sexually abuse her.

ever since she came here she lost everything her body her freedom her speech and her will. she doesn't wish to live anymore she has even become suicidal. she tried drowning

herself. tried cutting her wrists with a knife but she couldn't. somehow she would be filled with fear. she wouldn't know where the fear comes in but it would be there.

Noma: Bonita!!!

Bonita stopped whatever she is doing and ran to the living room.

she stood near Noma and looked at her.

Noma: I need some more wine darling my glass has run out.

Bonita: *nodding*

Bonita did as instructed.

Noma looked at her as she smiled licking her lips.

- LATER IN THE AFTERNOON -

Bonita had just finished taking a bath Noma instructed her to get ready as they had somewhere to go.

Noma walked into the bedroom while Bonita was still changing.

Bonita freaked out when she saw Noma walk in and she was still half naked putting on the tracksuit that Noma got her.

Noma: (smile) don't be afraid even though you always turn me on we don't have time. we have an important meeting to go to. maybe we can save that for later right?

Bonita looked down while slowly putting on the track pants.

Noma: hurry and lets go.

Bonita hurried. she was feeling so uncomfortable changing with Noma standing near her staring at her.

after she was done Noma lead the way out as she made sure every light was switched off and every window was closed.

they walked out and went in the car.

as they were in the car Bonita was looking out the window wondering if the world was only cruel to her of if she is just going through rough times to prepare for the future.

she kept looking outside.

Noma: are you enjoying the scenery?

Bonita looked at Noma who was speaking to her.

Bonita: *nodded*

she also gave a slight smile hiding all that sadness.

- FEW MINUTES LATER -

The car parked outside a huge club.

Noma: we have arrived.

she said then opened the door for both of them to get out.

Bonita got out the car and looked at the place. she got a full view of it and looked around the street to see other buildings.

Noma: like the place? its my special business. this is the reason why I live so lavish.. want to see inside??

Bonita didn't respond but already Noma was leading her in the club as she held her hand.

they walked in and the place.

as they walked in Bonita kept looking around. there was music playing people enjoying themselves with drinks and chats. there was also woman on poles dancing with almost no clothing on.

she continued following Noma as she walked into some hallway.

after passing a few doors they arrived at the last door upstairs and that's where Noma walked in.

as Bonita walked in following Noma her heart sank to its bottom stage when she saw many girls locked up in there.

the girls were a mess looked liked they haven't been washing up. every girl had their own mattress and small storage bag.

Bonita stood there holding her tears back. she didn't want to Noma to see her cry.

Noma: you can stay here for a minute familiarise yourself with the girls because this is about to be your home soon. okay?

she said that already heading out leaving Bonita to deal with the rest.

Bonita walked slowly while looking at the other girls. some looked at her dirty others didn't care and other felt pity for her.

as she was looking around a girl raised her hand and called Bonita. she had a smile on her face like she wasn't sad about being here.

Bonita walked to her as she looked rather more open and welcoming.

Bonita waved her hand to say hello.

Girl: hi.. my name is Samantha.

Bonita (sign language): I am Bonita....

she said with a smile on her face.

the girl looked at her rather confused and lost.

Bonita was a bit disappointed that she couldn't understand.

Samantha: wait? you speak sign language?

Bonita: *nodded*

Samantha: ohhh I can't speak sign language.

she thought for a while then smiled turning to Bonita.

Samantha: but that doesn't matter body language is also a language right?

Bonita laughed then nodded.

Samantha: mhm... that means I can't ask questions that need lengthy answers so I will focus on questions that are easy to answer using body language.

Bonita nodded again while smiling.

Samantha: seeing that you are new have you been at aunt Noma's place?

Bonita nodded then pointed at her wanting to ask if she was also there Samantha caught what she was trying to say.

Samantha: mhm.. I was also there. I was her toy for some time then she brought me here for my first customer after that more clients wanted me so its like I was in demand. (laughs) at least I was in demand (she joked to make the situation light) and that's how I got a permanent place here.

Bonita then pointed her twice and made a thumbs up in order to ask her if she was okay.

Samantha: I have to be.. if I am not.. how will I survive?

- AT THE COLLIN'S -

Ntando: how is Musa?

Shaun: he is currently under bed rest.

Ntando: hope he gets well soon.

Shaun: well he always roasts me when I go check on him. so that means he is well.

Ntando: (laughs) I know him very well.

they laughed.

Ntando: so Mr Mtolo hasn't found that girl?

Shaun: (sigh) not yet boy.. he hasn't even contacted me yet.

Ntando: maybe they killed her.

Shaun stopped playing and looked at Ntando.

Shaun: why would you think that?

Ntando: come on Shaun I am sure you are smarter to understand. I mean if I had a plan up my sleeve and someone betrayed me to tell you about the plan I would kill that person because I know if you find her she will expose us.

Shaun thought more about it.

Shaun: isn't that too far fetched?

Ntando: you are not a gangster ask a gangster and you will hear how they think.

Shaun: are you one?

Ntando: I watch those movies a lot.

Shaun: movies??

Ntando: mhm..

Shaun: damn! I was about to fall into that explanation. thank goodness I didn't.

Ntando opened his mouth shocked as Shaun laughed.

someone knocked on the door. Shaun went to check who it was and it was his mother.

Shaun: ma?

Mrs Collins: its time for dinner and we have guests.

Shaun: its the Ndamases isn't it?

Mrs Collins: just come to dinner and stop wining like a baby.

Mrs Collins walked away and Shaun looked at Ntando.

Shaun: I swear I feel like I the Ndamases are trying too much.

Ntando: why don't you just marry Melissa? she looks like a nice girl.

Shaun: (sigh)...

Ntando: sometimes we don't fall in love we rise in love. we start loving a person once we start getting to know more about them. so give her a chance you might get to love her.

Shaun: lets go have dinner before my dad comes here to drag me out. he always acts out when the Ndamases are here.

Ntando laughed as he put the controller down and walked out with Shaun.

- SAME DAY (LATER) -

- NARRATOR -

- AT THE CLUB -

Bonita was still sitting with Samantha when the door of the room opened and the boss arrived. Noma in the flesh.

she smiled as she looked at Bonita. Bonita's small escape time with Samantha was seen flushed down the drain in such a small time.

Noma: I see you even made a friend? you chose well. its like you knew how similar you guys are.

she said smiling.

Noma: well little bear its time. come we have work to do.

Bonita looked at Samantha and held her hand tight. Samantha smiled and nodded.

no words had to be exchanged they knew each others hearts and their minds connected.

Bonita then stood up and slowly walked to Noma. she looked back once more but was dragged by Noma holding her hand.

Samantha's smile disappeared when she saw Bonita being dragged out. a flashback of her first time here flashed in her head as she looked at Bonita. a mute girl like her will she be able to survive like Samantha?

Samantha has been in this situation for 3 years its Bonita's first day will she even survive a week?

Noma dragged Bonita to another room. in there she helped her change into something very exposing.

Bonita wasn't comfortable at all but didn't have much of a choice.

Noma: look at you... oh my word.

she said admiring Bonita's exposing short dress. it was so short and very thin.

she was then sat down so that her face could be pampered.

Noma: you better help me Bonita and don't you dare cry. because if you cry and ruin this make up you and your little friend will see heaven.

Noma knew that Bonita has lost her will so threatening to kill her might motivate her to get herself killed so she found a way to make her obedient.

Bonita was triggered by what Noma said so she swallowed and breathed to calm down.

after her make up was done Noma lead her to look at herself in the mirror.

Bonita couldn't even recognise herself. not even a bit.

- FEW MINUTES LATER -

Noma: my next girl is not just any girl. you see this one is still fresh. of cause she isn't sealed but she is fresh innocent and she is the type to even have fun with right under other people's noses because she doesn't make sounds.

???: doesn't make sounds kanjan'?

Noma: phela she is mute. and wena Magyver I heard you like it at the theatre with people watching movies. wouldn't it be fun.

Magyver: (laughs) kodwa the fun is when she has to make the noise but holds it in. its the suffering I like. I can't suffer holding it in alone.

many other agreed with Magyver.

Noma: I tell you gents she is a price to grab you know I never lie.

Noma nodded and Bonita was brought in.

indeed her shy appearance with her pulling down her skirt got some men's attention as they saw that innocence that Noma was talking about. her nervousness was just adding points.

the bidding started.

she was like an object being auctioned to hungry predators and the highest bidder wins.

after the long bidding an old man had his last price. he was old enough to even be her father.

Bonita looked at him then at Noma as she battled with her tears.

it was obvious what would happen after this.

- MEANWHILE -

Samantha didn't want anything to happen to Bonita and she already promised to protect her so she was willing to do what she promised.

Samantha and some girls built up a plan.

some girls started a fake fight then as the security focused on them Samantha managed to sneak out. she walked through the hallway to the club because that's where the auction was.

she knew the place so well since she has been around for 3 years now. she knew how to dodge security and knows where are the "sleeping rooms". she waited until the auction was done then waited for Bonita to be taken to the room while she just looked in hiding.

after a while she walked to the room and kicked the door finding the old man trying to force Bonita into a kiss.

Samantha: old man you better stay away from her. you have no shame coming onto a young girl who is likely the same age as your daughter.

the man was shocked to see an interruption as he was told no one would interrupt.

Guy: hai wena little girl. unless you want to join I suggest you get the hell out of here. grown ups are busy.

Samantha: I guess you won't be busy when the police know about this.

Guy: what police? you can't contact the police you are locked up here.

Samantha: of cause I can't but you see that girl. she is the most wanted girl right now. I am sure her parents even hired private investigators to find her. her family is rich and they will be searching for her. what will happen if she is found and she tells them that some old man raped her?

the guy looked at Bonita and looked at Samantha not knowing what to say.

Samantha: if you don't believe me search online. unfortunately the girls face is not revealed because they are avoiding prank calls. but check it.

as he was reaching for his phone to verify some men and Noma walked into the room after being told that Samantha escaped and some securities caught Samantha on camera heading to the "sleeping" room.

Noma: hai you slut what is happening here?

she said to Samantha.

Noma: get her take her to the room and teach her some manners.

the man did that.

Samantha: verify mister Verify before you get your hands dirty!!

she said before being dragged out.

Noma: I am deeply sorry for the interruption I will put my man near the door so that there is no interruption anymore.

the guy had already verified the news.

Guy: actually I have changed my mind I am leaving.

Noma: wait? what?

Guy: you don't have to refund me. I do not want to be part of your scheming if you want to play with fire do that alone.

the guy walked passed her as Noma stood there not knowing what was going on. Noma looked at Bonita and the guy then decided to chase the guy first.

Bonita breathed out as she sat on the bed. she buried her head as she let her tears came out. at this moment she wasn't even thinking about the threat Noma made she just wanted to let her heart breath.

- ABOUT AN HOUR LATER -

Bonita was dragged in the room by Noma.

Noma was holding her by the hair and made her look at Samantha who was terribly beaten and left ripped laying on the floor.

Noma: girls who don't listen follow the same path. be careful what you choose next time.

Noma threw Bonita on the floor with the same outfit that she had on.

Noma: I think this will be your home from now on. you may have not done anything today but there is still another day.

with that said she walked out.

Bonita crawled to Samantha and held her shoulders as Samantha moved away because it was painful.

Bonita put her hands together to indicate a "sorry". Samantha saw Bonita and sat up straight as she let out a smile.

Bonita drew a smile on her face and shrug her shoulders with her hands stating a "why?". she was asking why she was smiling.

Samantha: why am I smiling?

Bonita: *nodding*

Samantha: because you are here.

Bonita smiled and looked down.

she then put her hands together to state a "thank you" and made a thumb moving back

Samantha: are you thanking me for something?

Bonita nodded and made a beard.

Samantha: ohhh about that man?

Bonita: *nodded*

Samantha: hai! no big deal.. I am just glad you are okay.

Bonita didn't say anything she just smiled.

Samantha: you must be wondering why he believed me right?

Bonita: *nodded*

Samantha: well yesterday when I got a client I managed to use his phone while he slept. it was fingerprint so I used his print to open it. he didn't have anything interesting in his phone so I went online. I saw a post about a wanted girl. she is from the Kubeka family but they didn't want to reveal her face so they just had an outline of how she may look like. your face almost suits the outline that's why I used that excuse.

Bonita nodded as to say she understands.

Samantha: don't you know the Kubeka's?

Bonita: *shakes head*

Samantha: ohh.. well thanks to their post many clients won't want to be involved with you. they will be afraid of landing in jail. only the bravest will take that risk.

Bonita thanked her.

Samantha: hai what did I do?? I only started some fire. that's it.

Bonita smiled and went to hug her but stopped with Samantha hissed in pain.

they both laughed.

- AT THE COLLINS -

dinner was finished and now was just chatting and chatting.

Mr Collins: Shaun!

Shaun looked at his father.

Mr Collins: don't you want to show Melissa how beautiful the moon is before they leave??

Shaun: I am sure they can.....

Ntando stamped on him before he could finish his sentence.

he looked at Ntando.

Ntando: that's a good idea. getting to know each other may be the first step to knowing each other.

Mr Collins: see even your friend is supportive.

Shaun: (fake smile) of cause.. I guess I can give it a try right?

Mrs Collins: ohh look at my baby finally growing up.

Shaun: if I keep doing this everyday will I be grown enough to mind my own life on my own?

Mr Collins: stop talking nonsense and go..

Mr Ndamase: Melissa you will be fine right?

Melissa: yes dad.

Mr Ndamase: won't you get cold? let dad hand you his blazer

he said that slowly taking it off.

Mr Collin: ohh don't worry Mr Ndamase I am Shaun is generous enough to consider something to help.

he said that looking at the confused Shaun wondering what he should consider.

Ntando: Shaun!! it is cold outside..

Shaun: I have a hoodie on.

Ntando threw eyes at Melissa who looked down embarrassed.

Shaun caught on and sighed.

he took off his hoodie and was left with a shirt.

Shaun: here have my hoodie. its probably cold outside.

Melissa: huh... but won't you get cold?

Mr Collins: he is a man he won't get cold. right Shaun?

Shaun: I mean you already said it Mr Shaun.

he became sarcastic as he lead Melissa out.

Ntando smiled and shook his head

CHARTER 8

- DAYS LATER (17 APRIL 2003) THURSDAY AFTERNOON -

- NARRATOR -

- ON THE STREETS -

Shaun was walking from her company just stretching his feet. he just had too much in his mind that he wanted to offload some thoughts and walk around the block to get some air.

as he was walking someone attacked him from behind and he fell down.

he quickly looked and there were 3 guys in hoodies.

Shaun: who are you guys? what do you want?

they didn't answer. they just jumped on him and started beating him up.

he groaned and groaned in pain trying to use his hands and feet to block the sticks used to beat him.

after some beating one guy squatted to his level and pulled Shaun by the collar.

???: Mr Mbedu told me to send his greetings. he also said to tell your father that a father's since always wears to the son.

he then pushed him down and they walked away.

Shaun laid there roughed up and full of blood.

with a struggle he reached for his phone and dialled Ntando's number.

it rang so many times but Ntando didn't answer.

he called his father still it didn't go through he called Musa and also didn't go through..

he gave in and just laid there in pain.

After a while his phone rang. he picked it up and it was Mr Mtolo.

he picked up.

Shaun: Mr .. Mr Mtolo (cough)

Mr Mtolo: Shaun?? are you okay?

Shaun: mhm... why did you call? did you find her?

Mr Mtolo: yes I found her.

- AT THE NDAMASE'S -

Mr Ndamase was in his bedroom sorting out some things when his phone rang.

he walked to the drawer picked it up and answered.

Mr Ndamase: Zakes anything?

Zakes: I found her.

Mr Ndamase: are you sure? where is she?

- 18 APRIL 2003 (AFTERNOON) -

- AT THE CLUB -

Samantha: you know in the 3 years that I have been here I have learnt that it doesn't matter whether you are obedient or fighting at the end of the day we are all punished somehow.

Bonita couldn't really say much so she could only nod and listen.

Samantha: I never got to ask. but... do you have a family??

Bonita thought it through before giving an answer.

she then slowly shook her head.

Samantha: really?? I am sorry.

she moved her hands stating that it wasn't a problem.

Samantha: I also don't have a family. I was raised in an orphanage and when I heard I was going to be adopted I ran away.

Bonita shrug her shoulder asking why?

Samantha: I had hope that my mom would find me. that she will come looking for me. till today
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I ran away.

Bonita shrug her shoulder asking why?

Samantha: I had hope that my mom would find me. that she will come looking for me. till today I still have hope that maybe she is still looking for me and regretting ever leaving me at the orphanage.

Bonita looked down not knowing what to do.

Samantha: don't be sad. I am okay. I will find her no matter what.

she then smiled after saying that.

Samantha didn't seem like this life was bothering her. she kept smiling even after she was beaten up. she made sure Bonita doesn't see her sad or crying she always smiles and laughs around her.

Bonita knew that Samantha wasn't okay but let her be as she thought maybe this was a way to help her heal.

- MEANWHILE -

Noma: what do you mean you want to buy her? she isn't for sale.
???: clearly there is a rumour that this girl is the rich girl that is wanted by some private investigators and police officers. don't you think they already know that she is here?

Noma thought about thought he was right. ever since Samantha started this rumour no one wants to touch Bonita. they say she may tell and they could go to jail. so Bonita never has clients. the only person she is touched by is Noma.

Noma looked at the guy.

Noma: that rumour could be a lie.
???: really? then explain this.

the guy gave Noma a picture of Bonita a clear picture of her.

Noma: where did you get this?

???: an investigator asked me if I know this girl because she is wanted. I told him I didn't. but then I came here someday and saw her. I would have called the investigator's number and told him. but then again this girl is worth more value. that's why I must buy him from your hands and return her.

Noma: if she is that valuable shouldn't I be the one to call and return her?

???: and risk your business?

Noma: who said I.....

???: the chances of this girl speaking are 50/50. the chances of me speaking is 50/50. not to even mention your clients who have seen her countless times around here. do you think they will keep quiet in front of money?

Noma looked at him.

???: its more risky if you do it. so how about this. the reward I will get when I return the child is 500K. I give you 200K to buy her from my pocket then I gain 300K. how is that?

Noma looked at him the card of the investigator and Bonita's photo.

???: its either that or you lose your business and go to jail. that's how valuable she is to me.

- MINUTES LATER -

some men walked in and walked straight to Bonita no word nothing.

Bonita was confused and scared Samantha shouted asking where they were taking her but that only caused her to be beaten for disrupting their work.

she was worried about Bonita.

the men took Bonita to Noma's office.

as they walked in Noma looked at her and the man stood up smiling.

Noma: you must have strong Gods hai.. once again someone came to your rescue. lucky B**ch.

she said looking at her.

Noma: she is all yours now. the money?

the man threw the bag on the table.

???: a man who knows what he wants comes prepared.

Noma looked at it and it was indeed real.

???: I could sit here and wait for you to count but I am busy.
however I assure you its all in there.

Noma: I believe a man like you won't lie to me. or else my boys
will find you.

???: (laughs) mhm.... nice doing business with you.

he looked at Bonita.

???: follow me please. I am now your new master.

he smiled as he led the way and Bonita followed while continually
looking back.

she didn't know what was going on and didn't know how to ask.

the guy put her in the car and got in the drove away.

CONTINUATION 8

- AT THE NDAMASE'S -

- NARRATOR -

the car stopped in front of a familiar house. she got very shocked
and scared when she actually realized that it was the house she
thought it was.

but it was too late for her to try anything as she was already
pulled by the man into the house but Mr Ndamase was already
walking towards them.

as Mr Ndamase came closer to her he landed a hot one across her cheek and Bonita fell down.

Mr Ndamase: you little sl** you thought you could h** your way to a better life? huh??

he said that raising her by grabbing her arm.

???: sir we are outside.

Mr Ndamase looked at Bonita furring with anger before grabbing her hair and dragging her in the house.

Mr Ndamase walked in the house while pulling Bonita and threw her on the floor.

Mr Ndamase: little Bi*** did you really think you could get away from me? you dare run away?

he landed his hand on her face and Bonita held her cheek as tears came out of her eyes.

Bonita (sign language): Father I am sorry.

Mr Ndamase: oh little child. you are still yet to be sorry.

he said that as he pulled her up again with her hair and dragged her up to her room as Bonita tried following. she kept falling and tripping because she couldn't keep up with her father's tracks.

they got to Bonita's room and Mr Ndamase walked to the wardrobe.

he opened it and threw Bonita in there.

Mr Ndamase: get in there right now.

he shouted as Bonita's tears kept rushing down and Bonita kept on wiping them.

Mr Ndamase: you wanted to escape? fine. I will help you go to a place where you will never see us. and that's in there.

he pointed in the wardrobe.

Bonita slowly crawled into the cramped up wardrobe that had her clothing in. she pushed her clothing aside to make space for herself.

Mr Ndamase closed the wardrobe and used the outside lock to lock the wardrobe so that Bonita wouldn't be able to get out.

Mr Ndamase walked out and Bonita looked around the dark space and clothing that she couldn't even see properly.

she sighed as she buried her head into her knees and held her legs.

she didn't want to cry. she wanted to be positive but her tears and emotions were betraying her. she let it out without holding back.

- OUTSIDE THE CLUB -

Shaun: DAMN IT!!!

he said as he hit the car.

Mr Mtolo: we missed her.

Shaun: (sigh) she must have known that we were following her. seems like we are not dealing with an Amateur.

Mr Mtolo: you think this all could be a trap as well? the whole cat and mouse play?

Shaun: I don't think they would have time for that.

Mr Mtolo: so what now?

Shaun: I will not rest till I find her. she knew about the attack that means she knows more about this Mr Mbedu.

Mr Mtolo: Mr Mbedu?

Shaun looked at Mr Mtolo then looked down holding his forehead.

Mr Mtolo: if you want me to help you in this you have to at least tell me what is going on.

Shaun raised his head and looked at Mr Mtolo.

Mr Mtolo: and I mean everything.

Shaun sighed and sat back.

Shaun: fine.. where do I even start?

Mr Mtolo: who is Mr Mbedu?

Shaun: I don't know. the attackers that attacked me earlier today told me that Mr Mbedu sent a message to me that says that a father's sin's is now my sins.

Mr Mtolo: your father's sins?

Shaun: yah. I don't know what my father did but its coming to bite me.

Mr Mtolo: isn't it okay to tell Mr Collins about this. he could know who Mr Mbedu.

Shaun: you don't know my father. he is sick. he will try his best to go after this man wouldn't that be the death of him?

Mr Mtolo:.....

Shaun: I know he sometimes gets on my nerves but he is my father. I must get this person and know why am I paying my father's sins and what my father did.

Mr Mtolo: okay... so do I continue looking for this girl?

Shaun: yes... please continue. I will double your pay.

Mr Mtolo: okay. (sigh) let me drop you off at your house then I will resume my search I will also get my sources to keep an eye open.

Shaun: no

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take me to Ntando's place. I will put the address in the GPS for you to follow.

Mr Mtolo: okay.

Shaun did just that then picked his phone and dialled Ntando.

Ntando answered.

Ntando: Boi!

Shaun: I am on my way to your house. is it okay?

Ntando: yah its cool I just finished my work.

Shaun: (sigh) okay. will be there soon.

Ntando: you sound are you okay? did you find her?

Shaun: ... no... she managed to run before we could get her. someone helped her escape. the lady we spoke to here said someone bought her out but I think that's just a story to throw us off. that girl can never be a prosti*****

Ntando: that is a sign of guilt then. right?

Shaun: of cause it is. if she wasn't guilty she wouldn't have ran away. but then its cool. Mr Mtolo will keep investigating. I will find her.

Ntando: but how did she know that you were coming?

Shaun didn't think about that. I mean she didn't know that there was another investigator who was looking for her but again he thought that was a great question.

Shaun: are you saying we could be watched?

Ntando: maybe!!

Shaun: Ohhhh my head.

Ntando: hai the main aim is to keep yourself safe you are in danger. be on a lookout.

Shaun: if I am watched then coming to your house could put you in danger. I can't do that.

he looked at Mr Mtolo.

Shaun: go to my private house. I will put the address in the GPS.

Mr Mtolo nodded

Ntando: you can't go there.

Shaun: its to keep everyone safe. my parents house my parents could be in danger. so I have to be alone.

Ntando: Shaun!!

Shaun: if anything happens please take care of my parents.

Ntando: shut up and stop saying those things. nothing will happen. I am coming.

Shaun: don't you dare.

Ntando: see you there.

he hung up.

Shaun: stop the car.

Mr Mtolo: don't be crazy. go home and rest. if this Mbedu wanted to hurt any of your family he would have done it.

Shaun:....

Mr Mtolo: his aim is you. so Ntando has to be there for you.

Shaun:.....

- LATER -

- AT THE NDAMASE'S -

- BONITA -

I don't know how many hours I have spent in here.

I keep falling asleep but I don't want to sleep.

My stomach was making crumbling sounds and I was really hungry. but what can I do. its my punishment for being disobedient.

I heard the door open and I held my legs tighter thinking it was my father.

the wardrobe lock was unlocked and as the wardrobe door opened.

My face formed a smile as I saw Ms Gloria holding a container that has a divine smell.

I looked at the container as I swallowed.

Ms Gloria: you have to be quick your father and Melissa are already sleeping.

Bonita nodded.

I reached for the container in respect and started eating while I still sat in the darkness.

Ms Gloria didn't want to switch on the lights because that would be an instant danger. so she just used her flashlight.

Ms Gloria watched me eat my food. I was gulping it up to the point that I would choke on the food but still go on.

even though she told me to slow down while brushing my back I couldn't. I was so hungry and this food was delicious.

CHARTER 9

- NEXT DAY (18 APRIL 2003) -
- AT SHAUN'S HOUSE -
- NARRATOR -

Shaun woke up.

he looked at his watch and stretched getting out of bed.

he reached for his phone and saw his father's missed calls and his mother's missed calls and one from Musa.

he sighed and just put his phone down walking out of his room.

he found Ntando in the living room playing games.

Shaun: now I know why you insisted on coming with me here.

Ntando: because I am your one and only.

Shaun looked at him then at the TV that was showing the game that Ntando was playing.

Shaun: if I was that game I would believe that truly I am your one and only.

Ntando laughed.

Shaun walked to the fridge to take out water to drink. he enjoys cold water no matter how cold it can get he just loves cold water that's why he likes buying bottled water and storing it in his fridge

he pulled out a bottle and closed the fridge and walked to the couch.

he sat down and took a sip.

Shaun: did Musa call you?

Ntando: mhm... he wanted to know where you were since you were not taking your parents' call.

Shaun: mhm... did you tell him that I was here?

Ntando: I had to. guy was worried.

Shaun: ...

Ntando: oh and he said something about your father stressing because he already organised another dinner date with the Ndamase's at the Royal Restaurant.

Shaun: well it should teach him to stop making arrangement without my knowledge. I am starting to think he wants to get married to that Ndamase daughter.

Ntando: (laughs) haibo Shaun. you know why he is pushing this marriage thing. don't act like you don't.

Shaun: who said I can't handle his business without a woman?

Ntando: this could be your father's last wish don't you think?

Shaun:

he sighed and drank his water thinking about it.

- AT THE NDAMASE'S -

Bonita was still in the wardrobe sleeping uncomfortably.

Mr Ndamase opened the wardrobe and Bonita was woken up by the unlocking of the wardrobe. when the wardrobe door opened she looked up and saw her father.

Mr Ndamase: come out!

he said as he dragged her out of the wardrobe.

Mr Ndamase: I hope you learned your lesson.

Bonita nodded.

Bonita (sign language): I am sorry father I won't do it again.

Mr Ndamase: of cause you won't do it again because you won't get a chance to do it. Now go freshen up you smell like a pig. and make sure after that you go and clean the whole house. I want it sparkling.

Melissa walked in and stood at the door smiling.

Melissa: my clothing also needs some washing. today I don't feel like using washing machine the washing machine needs some rest

Sponsored

the washing machine needs some rest so use your hands. and you better wash it clean.

Bonita just looked at Melissa and her dad without saying anything.

Mr Ndamase: when we come back you better have everything done.

Bonita nodded looking down.

Melissa walked to her and used her fingers to press Bonita's cheeks and raised her face.

Melissa: you seem to forget about your mother when you make these stupid decisions. you are lucky we managed to find you early enough before we switched off the machines.

Bonita held in her tears.

- LATER -

- AT SHAUN'S HOUSE -

Shaun was on his phone when a call came through and it was his mother.

Shaun: ma!!

Mrs Collins: Shauna where are you? your dad has been worried sick.

Shaun: mom wasn't worried?

Mrs Collins: of cause I was worried.

Shaun: I am at home.

Mrs Collins: home?

Shaun: my house.

Mrs Collins: I thought you hated it there because it made you feel lonely. and you only went there when something is wrong. what is it boy?

Shaun: nothing ma don't worry.

Mrs Collins: how can I not worry when I can tell that something is wrong? ever since Musa got attacked you have changed. you have become distant.

Shaun: ...

Mrs Collins: Shaun my baby. you know we are here for you right?

Shaun: I know ma. and I am also here for you.

Mrs Collins: will you be okay?

Shaun: I am with Ntando so its not really cold here.

Mrs Collins: your father is so upset because you will be missing the family breakfast again.

Shaun: why doesn't he just call them to live with him because they are starting to be there everyday.

Mrs Collins: Shaun!!

Shaun: does mom also think the Ndamase girl is good for me? seriously?

Mrs Collins: there is nothing wrong with her.

Shaun: but I don't love her.

Mrs Collins: we should learn to love each other. its about learning.

Shaun: mom.. is the company more important then my own happiness and wellbeing?

Mrs Collins: you know we care about you. don't twist our intensions. we just want you to be settled before.

Shaun: before? mom and dad won't be dying soon. so why is this such a big deal?

Mrs Collins: ...

Shaun: anyway.. don't stress mom. its not good for your health.

Mrs Collins: I won't... but you have to promise to come to family dinners at least to know more about the Ndamase's. they are really old friends and we trust them.

Shaun: mhm.. I will try.

Mrs Collins: be well son.. mommy loves you.

Shaun: mhm... I know.

Mrs Collins smiled and hung up.

Shaun looked at his phone and sighed.

Ntando: you seem to have a lot on your plate.

Shaun: but I am not stressed by all of them.. I just have to find that girl.

Ntando: she is the only one that stresses you?

Shaun: I don't know when those people will attack me again or how long till I die in their hands. most importantly I don't know their plans whether they will kill my parents or not. I can't sit and wait for the next attack I have to find her. she will lead me to them.

Ntando: but what will you do when you find them? talk?

indeed Shaun had never thought that far.

he looked at Ntando.

Shaun: I never really thought that far but I don't care. I have to find them. about what I will do I will cross the bridge when I get there.

Ntando: what if the bridge collapse because you didn't check it first.

Shaun: then let it collapse.

Ntando looked at Shaun who looked like he was really serious.

Ntando: I would advice that you at least have a plan.

Shaun: ...

CHARTER 10

- 3 DAYS LATER (21 APRIL 2003) MONDAY LATE IN THE EVENING-

- AT THE COLLINS -
- NARRATOR -

Mr Collins: ohhh Mr Ndamase you have arrived.

Mr Ndamase: yes. today we came with some treats.

Mr Collins: hai there was no need. we are family now.

Mr Ndamase: I know. but we thought it was only right to have something for you.

Mr Collins: well I can't really refuse a gift can I?

they laughed as he reached for the paper bag that Mr Ndamase was handing to him with a smile on his face.

Melissa smiled as they walked in.

Shaun happened to be in the living room fetching something when they walked in. Melissa blushed looking at Shaun. it was as if she could die that instant.

her heart raced and she just couldn't stop smiling.

Shaun looked at Melissa and her father.

with a slight smile he greeted.

Shaun: greetings.

Mr Ndamase: ohhh Shaun my son. how are you?

Shaun: I am fine sir and yourself?

Mr Ndamase: I am great. I haven't seen you around. every time your father invites us for dinner or breakfast you just happen to be busy. I see a great successor.

Mr Collins: indeed. that's why he will need a smart bright and wise woman by his side. and that woman is non other then

Melissa. I mean imagine the kids they will get with so much beauty. me and you Mr Ndamase will be happy grandfathers.
Mr Ndamase: indeed.

he gave a fake smile at Melissa who was also smiling.

Shaun: dad I will go finish helping mom.

Mr Collins: okay.

he said and Shaun walked to the kitchen

Mr Collins: such a bright boy. he even helps in the house. I am sure he will treat you like an angel.

he said to Melissa who just couldn't control her smiles.

they walked to the living room to talk more.

- KITCHEN -

Shaun walked in and walked near his mother.

Shaun: need anything mom?

Mrs Collins: (laughs) you never help me in the kitchen. you always say kitchens are not for you. so what are you doing here?

Shaun: I just want to help? is it a crime?

Mrs Collins: have the Ndamase's arrived?

Shaun: yes mom.

Mrs Collins: now I understand why you are here.

Shaun: what do you mean?

Mrs Collins: should I take it as being shy or irritated?

Shaun: I am only here because mom begged me to.

Mrs Collins: if I hadn't?

Shaun: I wouldn't be here. I would be with Ntando.

Mrs Collins: well you don't have to feel pressured
Sponsored

Musa will be joining us.

Shaun: oh?? is he fine now? he has been staying in his shell for a while now. I almost thought he was avoiding me because he was blaming me.

Mrs Collins: he just needed some rest. did you know that he discharged himself?

Shaun: he what?

Mrs Collins: that's why he didn't want you checking on him. he knew you would lecture him nonstop when you found how worse he was becoming.

Shaun: that punk.

Mrs Collins: hai!! he is also my son.

Shaun: I am your biological son. don't dare put Musa over me.

he said jokingly.

Mrs Collins laughed and hit Shaun on his shoulders.

Mrs Collins: ohhh Shaun... you still hate sharing?

Shaun: should I cut the onions?

Mrs Collins: can you?

Shaun: nah I don't want to cry. what's the easiest thing to do?

Mrs Collins: (laughs) just watch that the pots don't burn.

Shaun: isn't that the hardest?

Mrs Collins shook his head while laughing at his useless son trying to "help" in the kitchen.

- AT THE NDAMASE'S -

- BONITA -

I had just finished cleaning the house and I now had to rearrange the furniture in the living room.

I yawned as I made my way outside.

through the gate I looked at people walking passed the gate going right or left.

it wasn't a lot of people and cars that pass by. its a very quiet place and we are not even close to the main road.

so people pass about after few minutes and cars too.

but seeing people or cars pass just made me smile. I don't know why but I just did.

The helpers of the house were given off times and I had to complete their daily activities.

my punishment is 7 days. and so far this is my 4th day.

I miss Ms Gloria.

I looked at the sky and took a deep breath trying to inhale the fresh wind hitting my face.

it was at that moment that a vision came across my mind.

_____VISION_____

Samantha was screaming as she kept being dragged out the room. she kept screaming and screaming asking for an apology.

Samantha: please it wasn't me!! it wasn't me!!

she kept screaming and screaming.

then there was darkness. after a few seconds she was thrown into an empty room and told.

???: you will be given 7 days to try to survive. if you die that's a shame!

the guy then walked out locking the door for Samantha not to go out.

the room was so very dark.

Samantha sat there crying as she held her knees rocking herself back and forth.

Samantha: it wasn't me...

she said while crying!

_____END OF FLASHBACKS_____

I held my head as it started hurting after the Vision disappeared.

I strongly held on to the gate as I slowly lowered myself to take a seat on the floor near the gate.

after a while of sitting down with one hand on my head and one hand on the gate my headache cooled off on its own.

I then leaned my head back revealing my watery eyes as I thought about the vision.

Me: Samantha!!

I said as tears kept coming out.

if Samantha dies she will be the second person I couldn't save even after I saw a vision of what would happen.

I had concluded that my visions come only if I have someone to save or if I have to save myself. but other than that I don't get them.

how can I save Samantha?

- ABOUT AN HOUR LATER -
- BACK AT THE COLLINS' -
- NARRATOR -

The Collins and Ndamase's were having a great dinner at the Collins'

Mr Collins: ohhh is it me or these 2 just look like a match made in heaven.

Shaun looked at his father who was smiling like a mad person and then looked at his mother who just smiled and continued eating.

Mr Ndamase: I think I see that too.

Shaun faked smiled as he looked at Mr Ndamase and Melissa.

as they were eating and having small talks Shaun's phone vibrated. his mother looked at him.

Shaun: it could be business mom I won't take long.

Shaun looked at the caller ID and it was Mr Mtolo.

CONTINUATION 10

- AT THE COLLINS' -

- NARRATOR -

Shaun: sorry about that. it was indeed an emergency.

Mr Collins: what could be more important than having dinner with your family?

Shaun: dad I already apologised.

Mr Collins: haiiii!! I wonder why I had to have one son.

Shaun: isn't it luck? you get to see your reflection everyday.

Mr Collins: reflection my foot. maybe the looks are mine but that attitude mhm mhm.. not mine.

Mrs Collins: then is it mine?

Mr Collins cleared his throat and focused on his food.

Shaun and Musa secretly laughed.

Mrs Collins: I believe Melissa will pull Shaun in the right track..
right Melissa?

Melissa looked up and smiled.

Melissa: yes Mrs Collins.

Mr Collins: I trust in you Melissa.

she smiled as Shaun just let them be.

- LATER -

Mr Collins: it was great having you guys to join us.

Mr Ndamase: we are happy we got the invitation. its always great having meals as a family. I could get used to this.

they laughed.

Mrs Collins: you know I was thinking. honey! I think your way to push this marriage thing is putting my son in a lot of stress.

Mr Collins: what do you mean?? Shaun is old now and must get married. is there anyone more perfect than our Melissa?

Shaun secretly rolled his eyes out of annoyance and sat back ready to hear this big debate.

Mrs Collins: I am not saying Shaun shouldn't marry Melissa but honey don't you think its kind of awkward talking about marriage when the kids don't even know each other?

Mr Collins: what are you talking about?

Mrs Collins: dates. Melissa and Shaun should be going on dates and spending time together in order to know about each other then they will be able to know each others feelings. love needs a process.

Mr Collins kept quiet thinking about it.

Mr Ndamase: I think I understand Mrs Collins. maybe a few dates might help them get along very well.

Mr Collins: (sigh) it does sound like a good plan.

Shaun just kept still looking at everyone deciding his future just like that. Musa kept looking at Shaun and at the family.

Mrs Collins: well son.. what do you think?

Shaun looked at her mother.

Mrs Collins: you always said you didn't want to marry Melissa because you didn't know her. will this arrangement be of help to you?

Shaun pulled a smile.

Shaun: makes sense.

Mr Collins: okay then.. so when will be the first date?

Musa: how about we let Shaun and Melissa decide on their own dad? its more natural that way.

Mr Collins: you think Shaun will.....

Mrs Collins held his hand and smiled at him.

Mrs Collins: honey! let the boy handle this on his own. he already agreed to having dates.

Mr Collins: can I at least know how many dates before he decides?

Mrs Collins: honey!!

Mr Collins sighed and raised his hands to surrender.

Mr Collins: okay okay.. but don't disappoint me..

he said before letting out a cough.

Shaun just let him be and smiled.

Mr Ndamase: well thank you for the delicious meal but we have to get going now.

Mr Collins: oh yes..

he said as he stood up.

Mr Collins: let me see you out.

Mr Ndamase smiled as well as Melissa.

Melissa: thank you for the meal it was delicious.

Mrs Collins: I am glad you enjoyed it.

Shaun: huh... before you leave... Melissa can I get your number?

that request shook everyone even Musa himself.

Melissa: my... my number?

Shaun: I have to set the date and time for our first date remember? and having each other's numbers is the first step to knowing each other.

Melissa: huh.. yes of cause.

Shaun handed his phone to Melissa to type in her numbers.

Mr Collins smiled looking at Mrs Collins and Mr Ndamase.. Mr Ndamase also looked pleased. surely things were starting to work for them.

Melissa returned the phone after she typed her number and saved it. Shaun called Melissa and her phone rang.

she took it out and it was an unknown. she then realised it was Shaun after she saw him calling someone.

Shaun: those are my numbers.

Melissa: okay.. I will save them.

Shaun nodded.

Melissa smiled holding her phone close to her heart.

- AT THE NDAMASE'S -
- BONITA -

I was in my room laying in my bed.

My feet and hands were painful from the scrubbing and polishing and cleaning.

I also had some curtains to wash today
Sponsored

can I get your number?

that request shook everyone even Musa himself.

Melissa: my... my number?

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Shaun: those are my numbers.

Melissa: okay.. I will save them.

Shaun nodded.

Melissa smiled holding her phone close to her heart.

- AT THE NDAMASE'S -
- BONITA -

I was in my room laying in my bed.

My feet and hands were painful from the scrubbing and polishing and cleaning.

I also had some curtains to wash today using my bare hands so my wrist was really painful.

as I was resting the door opened and Melissa walked in with a tray of food.

I looked at her.

Melissa: ohhh look at you. little poor thing. are you tired?

I looked at her and sat up straight heading to the edge of my bed.

Me (sign language): do you want me to do something for you?

She walked towards me holding a plastic in her hands.

Melissa: you know I was heading to bed when I remembered that I have some fat cake that I bought this morning remember? well.. I thought maybe you would want some.. that's if you are hungry.

I nodded countless times in desperation to having some since I was really hungry. my mistake was to eat my meal in the afternoon. I thought it would hold my hunger till the next afternoon but it couldn't. water was keeping me steady.

Melissa threw the plastic that she had on my lap.

Melissa: I am in a good mood so consider yourself lucky.

Me (sign language): thank you.

Melissa: of cause it won't be free though.

I looked at her wondering what I had to do to repay for the food.

Melissa: lets just say you owe me a favour okay??

without thinking much I just nodded. besides I am already used to hard work and I have been through worse in my life so what kill me?

she stood up.

Melissa: remember!!

she said as she walked out. I impatiently opened the plastic and started eating the fat cakes she had for me.

I feel like a house dog. even dogs are treated better.

CHARTER 11

- NEXT DAY (22 APRIL 2003) THURSDAY MORNING -

- NARRATOR -

- AT THE NDAMASE'S -

Melissa walked in the kitchen humming her favourite song. her father was in the kitchen dining table having his breakfast. he looked at Melissa with a smile when he saw how happy he looked so early in the morning.

Mr Ndamase: look at you all smiles early in the morning. did something good happen this morning?

Melissa: well dad something happened yesterday so i just woke up happy thinking about it.

Mr Ndamase: ohhh.. i see Shaun really made your night and morning.

Melissa: i mean dad i thought Shaun was going to straight up tell his dad that he isn't interested or show up with another girl but after yesterday i am now sure of our future.

Mr Ndamase: i think that boy always was interested in you but he just wanted to play hard to get.

Melissa: hard to get?? Shaun?? (laughs) no dad. cant be.

she said as she took her cup to make coffee.

Melissa: but he now has my number we will be going dates. wow!! finally things are progressing.

Mr Ndamase: mhm.. its also about time we set our original plan to action. the quicker you bare a child for him the better.

Melissa: but dad shouldn't we be doing that after the wedding?? i mean Shaun is showing interest now.

Mr Ndamase: what if he finds another girl who interest him more before he even marries you?

Melissa:.....

Mr Ndamase: knowing Shaun if he decides to marry someone else he will do it. no matter what his father says. but if he can have a responsibility then he will have no choice but to marry you.

Melissa: but that wont stop him from looking.

Mr Ndamase: but he will marry you. his father told me that Shaun will always take responsibility no matter what.

Melissa thought about it as she continued making her Coffee.

she then took a sip and looked at her father.

Melissa: father.. do we have to let Bonita sleep with Shaun?

Mr Ndamase: what do you mean?

Melissa: just me imagining that low life with Shaun makes me angry... cant we do something that doesn't require that?

Mr Ndamase: unless you want to leave suspicious links then try other ways. but this way is the most natural fast way to get to the goal without leaving any tracks behind.

Melissa: so what if she doesn't catch the first time?

Mr Ndamase: a traditional healer i know has some medicine to produce quicker then normal. one must drink the medicine for 3 days before being intimate then on the forth day she will not eat and go to Shaun. there is 80% chance that she will catch on the same day if not she has to go again. but it will never go on for more then 3 times before she catches.

Melissa: 3?

Mr Ndamase: relax. i believe ones will be okay.

Melissa took a sip again as she thought about the plan.

she really wants to be Mrs Collins and she would do anything to do that. but again she couldn't shake the thought of Bonita being under Shaun.. she felt it was unfair.

she started cursing the accident she got years ago for this damage.

- AT THE COLLINS' -

Shaun was all dressed up heading to work. he walked to the dining table where his parents were before heading out.

Shaun: dear mother.. key?

the mother threw the car keys at him and he caught it.

Shaun: love you.

he said then winked.

Mr Collins: hai Shauna! did you set your date yet?

Mrs Collins: haibo baba.. can you let the child be.

Mr Collins: just asking hao.. is it a sin to ask.

Shaun: i slept well dad. thanks for asking.. did you sleep well?

Mr Collins: how can i sleep well when i have a son like you?

Shaun smiled and went to back hug his father. his father hit Shaun's arms and Shaun laughed.

Shaun: i still love you.

Mr Collins: give that love to Melissa

Sponsored

she couldn't shake the thought of Bonita being under Shaun.. she felt it was unfair.

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- AT THE COLLINS' -

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Mr Collins: how can i sleep well when i have a son like you?

Shaun smiled and went to back hug his father. his father hit Shaun's arms and Shaun laughed.

Shaun: i still love you.

Mr Collins: give that love to Melissa i dont need it.

Shaun walked out laughing.

Mrs Collins: do you always have to push him so much?

Mr Collins: if i dont he will be playing around. all i want is to see my son get married before i die. is that too much to ask?

Mrs Collins: baba! then why dont you tell him.. tell him that you are sick and the reason why you are pushing him so much.. maybe he might understand your intention.

Mr Collins: (looks down) no... i can not tell him that i am dying.. i cant.....(coughing)

he started coughing so much that it seemed like his chest was pulling away.

he put his handkerchief on his mouth and looked at the handkerchief after coughing. again like always blood was visible.

he sighed looking down.

Mr Collins: i dont have much left in this world. already i have a beautiful wife and handsome son's. all i want is for them to have a complete life.

Mrs Collins: why dont you push Musa as well? is it because he isn't your blood son?

Mr Collins: no.. its because Musa is more capable in doing this alone then Shaun is... Shaun still acts like a child and sometimes just doesn't see what life is.. he is acting like me when i was still young.. if he continues like this his life wont turn out well.

Mrs Collins: you have to just trust Shaun as much as you trust Musa.

Mr Collins didnt say anything. he stayed silent.

- LATER -

- AT THE NDAMASE'S -

Bonita was in her room taking a break. her 7 day punishment was done and Ms Gloria was back but that didnt mean she was free from chores. she still gets chores but it wasn't as bad as it was.

she had just finished eating her lunch and was now taking a break.

she was humming her song as she lay on the bed drawing a face she was missing Samantha's face.

as she was busy drawing and having fun the door opened and Melissa budged in

Bonita is forbidden from locking her room ever. she was told that if she ever locks her room the door of her room would be removed.

as Melissa walked in Bonita pulled a paper to cover the face she was drawing. she pulled it smooth in a way that Melissa wouldn't see.

Melissa: hi!!

she said with a smile on her face.

Bonita just looked at her wondering what she did wrong or what she is supposed to do.

Bonita (sign language): do you want me to do something for you?

Melissa: no!! i am just here to check on you.. cant i check on my little sister?

Bonita looked down not buying the sweet act she just knew she wanted something. guess she has to wait for her to speak in order to find out what she wants.

Melissa: you always draw when you are bored hai??

she said picking up her drawings. she looked at them on by one and saw the one with Samantha's face.

Melissa: ohhh this one looks great. its actually the first stranger face you ever drew.. who is she?

Bonita looked away.

Melissa walked to her and sat next to her.

Melissa: is she your friend?? did you meet her at the strip club you went to?? were you both prosti***** yourselves?

she said while looking at Bonita for answers.

Melissa: (laughs) ohhh Bonita.. i must say you actually shocked me you know.. i mean i never thought you could go to such places let alone shake your booty for some notes... girl i must say you are brave.

Bonita just kept quiet looking down.

Melissa: well... that means it wouldn't be hard to sleep with Shaun right?

Bonita looked at Melissa.

Melissa: dont tell me you forgot.. it has always been our plan.. before you ruined it by running away.. but rest assured because this time you wont be able to run away. because if you do.. it will be a wrong move.

Bonita looked down.

Melissa: this time it wont be for money but for your useless mother's life.. so be prepared okay??

she said as she stood up squeezed Bonita's cheeks like a child and smiled walking out leaving the papers on the bed.

Bonita's eyes got watery as she remembered the dream she had about her dying while in labour.

the choice she had now was the same she had when she ran away. but this time she wasn't thinking about running away. if she did they would find her again then what?? so instead she has to come with a way out a different way out. or just accept the situation at hand.

CHARTER 12

- LATER THE SAME DAY -
- AT THE NDAMASE -
- NARRATOR -

Melissa was in her room laying on the bed looking at her phone. she was thinking whether to send Shaun a WhatsApp message or just wait for him to send the message.

she was busy viewing Shaun's status' when she received a message from him.

she quickly went out of his statuses and went to check his message.

" Hi I thought I should confirm our first date. are you available this coming Saturday?"

Melissa smiled tapping her feet out of excitement as she rolled back and front before giving a response.

"Hi. mhm.. I am free" she responded

" okay. then can we have go watch a movie then have lunch after?" Shaun texted.

Melissa bit the sheets and screamed into her mouth not making much noise. she then sat up and looked at the message re-reading it again.

she then bit her lips as she typed a message.

"okay. sounds nice what time?"

" I will pick you up at 09:00 is that okay?"

"sure"

"okay see you Saturday. sleep well"

"okay you too."

after typing that she lay again on the bed facing up.

it seemed as if Shaun wasn't about to text anything so she put the phone away and smiled alone like crazy. she started planting

scenarios in her head on how Saturday will be like. she also started thinking of the future with Shaun.

she started talking alone talking about her future as if she was telling someone about something that happened long ago.

- NEXT DAY (23 APRIL 2003) WEDNESDAY MORNING -
- AT THE NDAMASE'S -

(THE SAME DREAM AGAIN)

Doc Zulu: if we go ahead with this you may loose your life is that what you want?

Me (sign language): no please save me. this child will only suffer alone.

the doctor looked at her and just looked at the other doc he nodded and Bonita saw her sister smirk and they started going ahead. she tried getting their attention but before she could do anything she was sent to sleep.

(END OF DREAM)

Bonita woke up and sat on up scared as ever. she was even sweating.

she takes a moment to take a breath then turned to check the clock that was on the drawer next to her bed. it was only 05:45. 15 minutes before her alarm would go off.

she just stopped her clock alarm and went down to start with her chores. she knew what this dream meant but what can she do she can't escape like she did the last time. so what should she do?

- LATER IN THE MORNING -
- AT THE COLLINS -

it was around 11am and Shaun was in the kitchen eating his sandwich with a glass of juice.

Musa walked in thinking he was alone but was surprised to see Shaun at home.

Musa: shouldn't you be at work?

Shaun looked behind him to find Musa there.

Shaun: nah... I decided to take some off day.

Musa: why?? are you sick?

Shaun: well yes.... no..

Musa: which one is it?

Shaun: I don't know.

Musa chuckled as he joined Shaun on the table.

Shaun: would you like some Coffee?

Musa: please.

Musa got up to make for him. Musa wasn't fully recovered and since he discharged himself he delayed his recovering time line. but he is becoming better now.

Shaun: you know.. I shouldn't be making you Coffee. you should be making it yourself Coffee since you even discharged yourself.

Musa: Hhhhu! you knew?

Shaun: (laughs) you think you are smart hai?

Musa: come on you know I hate hospitals

Shaun: I hate them too
Sponsored

you know I hate hospitals

Shaun: I hate them too but if I need to be there to heal I rather go there.

Musa: you is you me is me.

Shaun laughed bringing Musa the cup of Coffee.

Musa: anyway how is the "date" going with the Ndamase girl?

Shaun: I already set a date.

Musa: really??

Shaun: mhm... this Saturday.

Musa: so you were serious about giving this a chance?

Shaun: I realized I have been harsh towards her. I mean we are both forced into this so the least I can do is try to find out who she is. then I can decided if I will be okay with her being my wife or not.

Musa: you are dead serious?

Shaun: mhm.. there is no use running away from this. my dad won't let it go. so unless I try he will just keep pushing. who knows maybe I might fall in love with her.

Musa: are you still Shaun??

Shaun: in the flesh.

Musa: okay! what about that girl?

Shaun: what girl?

Musa: the girl that warned you about the attack are you still looking for her? or have you forgotten about it?

Shaun: (sigh) I didn't get her name nor do I know her family name so how will I find her? I can't really put up papers of her and wrote "wanted" even if I wanted to I don't have her picture.

Musa: you can't give up now. what if they keep attacking you and this time get you killed?

Shaun: well I don't know Musa... I hired Mr Mtolo to find her but he couldn't. he is still looking though. but I am starting to think Ntando is right

Musa: Ntando?

Shaun: he said the girl could be killed.

Musa: well it is possible.. maybe that's how they silenced her.

Shaun: then I am wasting my time right?

Musa: then tell your father.. he knows more people he may help you find her.

Shaun: no... I don't like my parents worrying about useless things. I can handle this. don't worry.

Musa: isn't too late to tell me not to worry? I am already worried to death here.

Shaun frowned

Shaun: that's so gross.

they laughed.

- LATER IN THE EVENING -

- AT THE NDAMASE -

Melissa: Father!!!

she shouted as her father walked into the house tired from work.

she walked to him and helped him with his suitcase.

Melissa: how was your day dad?

Mr Ndamase: maybe not as good as yours.

Melissa: you think? well I think so too.

she smiled walking her father to sit on the couch.

Mr Ndamase: what is it now?

Melissa: guess who has a date on Saturday?

Mr Ndamase: a date?? Shaun finally set the first date?

Melissa: yes dad.. he did.

she said screaming of excitement.

Melissa: I will need a nice outfit dad. a really nice one.

Mr Ndamase: so where is he taking you?

Melissa: we will be going to the movies then go have lunch together. imagine us in the movies and me laying my head on his shoulder or holding his hand or eating popcorn in the same container.. AHFFF!!! its amazing!!

Mr Ndamase: I see you are very excited.

Melissa: a lot dad!!

Mr Ndamase: well my excited daughter will you please dish for your father he is starving.

Melissa: well I can't let my father starve.. so please hold for a while I will be back.

she walked out and Mr Ndamase smiled shaking his head.

CHARTER 13

- 3 DAYS LATER (26 APRIL 2003) SATURDAY MORNING -
- AT THE COLLINS -
- NARRATOR -

Shaun was heading out when his mother called him.

Mrs Collins: leaving late today? I thought you were staying in.

Shaun: ahhh mom you are also home?

Mrs Collins: mhm.. I have some emails to focus on so I can do that here. I don't have to go to the building.

Shaun: nice...

Mrs Collins: why are you going to work late?

Shaun: I am not going to work.. I have a date.

Mrs Collins: date?

Shaun: with Melissa.

Mrs Collins: you are going on your date with Melissa?? ohhh my baby really?

Shaun: (awkward look with a smile) right!

he said walking out.

Mrs Collins: treat her well?

she yelled.

Shaun just smiled and shook his head.

Musa came in after a while.

Musa: was that Shaun?

Mrs Collins: mhm... she is going on a date with Melissa.

Musa: I know..

Mrs Collins: mhmmm of cause you would... sly brothers.

Musa smiled.

- AT THE NDAMASE -

Melissa was in her room looking herself in the mirror.

she was wearing a nice short dress with matching pumps she put on her weave and combed it well and added a nice bandana to match the outfit.

she put on her make up and was now staring at the mirror.

her father came to knock on her door.

she opened the door and smiled seeing her father.

Melissa: dad how do I look?

Mr Ndamase: like a princess.

Melissa smiled taking a turn.

Mr Ndamase: anyway Shaun is waiting in the living room. hurry down.

Melissa: he is here?

Mr Ndamase: yes.. so don't make him wait for long okay?

Melissa: okay dad I am almost done anyway.

her father smiled and let her finish up.

- FEW MINUTES LATER -

Melissa came down while Shaun and Mr Ndamase were talking in the living room.

they both turned to her as she walked towards them.

Mr Ndamase: wow! look who has arrived.

Melissa smiled.

Mr Ndamase: you guys are looking good. I wish I could tag along.
Melissa: dad please.

Shaun smiled.

Shaun: well we better get going Lisa.

Melissa blushed when she heard Shaun call her that.

Shaun stood up and Melissa walked towards him.

Shaun: Mr Ndamase we will get going then.

Mr Ndamase: take care of her son.

Shaun: will do Mr Ndamase.

he smiled and Mr Ndamase nodded.

Mr Ndamase waved good bye to Melissa.

Mr Ndamase: enjoy!

Melissa: will do dad.

they walked out.

Shaun opened the door for Melissa then went to the drivers side and got in the car.

he looked at Melissa and looked at the seatbelt near her.

he leaned over to Melissa to get the seatbelt and as Shaun leaned over Melissa her heart raced and she couldn't hold her smile back as she thought Shaun maybe wanted to kiss her.

she swallowed as Shaun came closer but Shaun just reached for the safety belt and pulled it to lock it.

he then looked into Melissa's eyes.

Shaun: its always best to be safe.

he then smiled and put his safety belt before driving off.

for about 2/3 minutes there has been silence in the car. but Shaun kept looking at Melissa.

Shaun: am I terrifying you?

Melissa: me? oh no. not at all.

Shaun: ohh I thought maybe I make you feel uncomfortable.

Melissa: no I am fine.

Shaun: my father keeps saying we should get married but I keep telling him that we can't get married because I don't know you that well.

Melissa: ohh...

Shaun: isn't it a basic thing to do before getting married?

Melissa: (a bit disappointed) yah it is..

Shaun: so you wouldn't mind getting to know me before our wedding right?

Melissa looked at Shaun almost as if she didn't believe what she just heard.

Melissa: wedding??

Shaun: my father won't rest till we get married. my mom says your family is kind carrying and kind hearted. so I don't see why not. plus I don't meet girls that often or even have time to be meeting girls so falling in love won't be something I experience. maybe with you I can learn.

Melissa: ..huh... yes.. I agree.

Shaun: so I am the only child. what about you?

Melissa: I...

she thought about Bonita

Sponsored

I am the only child. what about you?

Melissa: I...

she thought about Bonita then quickly brushed it out.

Melissa: its just 2 of us.

Shaun: really? who is the other sibling?

Melissa: my older brother.

Shaun: ohh does he stay with you here?

Melissa: no. he is a successor now in my father's company so he is busy with that.

Shaun: oh so here is just you and your father?

Melissa: mhm.

Shaun: really? that's fun. daughter and father. (laughs) can I ask. where is your mother?

Melissa: my mother passed away 4 years ago.

Shaun: ohh I am sorry.

Melissa: its okay its just me and my dad.

Shaun: is your brother married?

Melissa: yes.

Shaun: I see. but won't your dad be lonely when you get married?

Melissa: I guess he will but its life.

Shaun: mhm... that's nice. so what are your dreams?

Melissa: dreams?

Shaun: yah like what you want to become?

Melissa: mhm.. I don't really know yet..

Shaun: don't know?

Melissa figured that that answer could make her seem like she doesn't have a goal so she thought about something even if its not what she wants to do.

She remembered what Bonita loved doing and always wanted to do so she took that as hers.

Melissa: I love drawing.

Shaun: drawing??

Melissa: yes... I draw a lot. whenever I get bored I draw.

Shaun looked at her and didn't believe her. Shaun also loves drawing as a hobby.

Shaun: do you mind drawing something for me.

Melissa: huh.. yah.. yah... I can..

Shaun: really? then can I send a picture on WhatsApp so that you can draw the picture for me.

Melissa: oh.. okay.. (already regretting her decision)

Shaun: you know I really wanted a wife who could draw something for me. I find that very charming.

Melissa: really?? then I will have it done by tomorrow? (she said without even thinking)

Shaun: tomorrow? are you sure? it is a lot of work.

Melissa: huh.... (nervous laugh) I did tell you not to underestimate me.

Shaun: (laughs) I don't think you can do it.

Melissa: want to bet?

Shaun: okay!! on what?

Melissa: mhm... if I do it you owe me a favour and you must say yes to my request.

Shaun: as long as its not something drastic and doesn't hurt anyone then sure..

Melissa: I am already thinking of asking you to go shopping with me.

Shaun: ohhhhhh!! now I think I will reconsider.

Melissa: that's unfair.

Shaun: okay okay! deal!

Melissa smiled already thinking about her shopping day with Shaun.

Shaun smiled at her while he continued to drive.

- MINUTES LATER -

They arrived at the mall. Shaun found a nice parking and they made their way to the cinema.

Shaun: we are here.

he said looking at the Cinema.

Melissa: ohh I don't know when last I watched a movie in a cinema. I am already excited.

Shaun: don't you watch movies often?

Melissa: online.

Shaun: ohh.

they laughed.

Shaun went to buy some popcorns and some other snacks before making their way in.

- AT THE NDAMASE -

(A VISION)

???: you will be given 7 days to try to survive. if you die that's a shame!

the guy then walked out locking the door for Samantha not to go out.

the room was so very dark.

Samantha sat there crying as she held her knees rocking herself back and forth.

Samantha: it wasn't me...

she said while crying!

(END OF THE VISION)

Bonita held her head again as she got the same Vision about Samantha again.

these days Bonita is haunted by 2 dreams. the dream of her dying while giving birth and another one about Samantha.

she cried as she held her head and using her other hand to grab onto the sheets.

"why???" she asked. "why are you showing me something I can't stop?? why?? why must I suffer like this?" she said as she let out some tears.

someone knocked on her door and it could only be Ms Gloria she is the only one who actually knocks before entering.

Bonita wiped her tears and went to open the door.

Ms Gloria: Bonita? I just finished eating Lunch I came to bring you some lunch.

Bonita: thank you Ms Gloria. but can you put them in a container I will eat them later I am not hungry now I have to finish my chores.

Ms Gloria looked at her worried.

Ms Gloria: Bonita??

Bonita: thank you Ms Gloria.

she faked a smile before heading out leaving Ms Gloria there.

Ms Gloria sighed

CONTINUATION 13

- LATER THE SAME DAY -

- AT THE NDAMASE -

Shaun's car parked outside.

Shaun stopped the car and looked at Melissa.

Shaun: thank you for today. I enjoyed it.

Melissa: I should be thanking you. you set it up.

Shaun: (smile) right... anyway see you soon then. you will set the second date right?

Melissa: me?

Shaun: mhm.. I am sure there is something you want to do.. we can do it together. its part of getting to know each other.

Melissa: ohh... okay..

Shaun: at least now you know that I like Action films I don't like romantic movies. and I like food. (laughs)

Melissa: (laughs) yah.. totally... well I love actions films as well but I like a little romance sometimes. I love food but sometimes watch my figure. I don't want to become fat.

Shaun: I see..

he smiled still looking at her.

Shaun: well let me help you out stay there.

Melissa smiled as Shaun got out of the chair to open for her.

she helped her out and closed the door after she got out.

Shaun: I will hear from you then.. about our second date.

Melissa: okay... I will figure something out.

Shaun: okay.. have a great Afternoon

Melissa: will do.. same to you.

Shaun smiled and nodded.

Shaun: ohhh and another thing...

he said getting his phone in his pocket.

he clicked on it for a while and after some time Melissa's phone delivered a message.

Shaun: I just sent you a picture of mine. you don't have to draw it perfectly since I know it needs some detailed drawing to make it good.

Melissa: is that you underestimating my abilities?

Shaun: I am just saying that you don't need to be under pressure to make it perfect.

Melissa: don't worry I will not be under pressure I will draw it to my best ability.

Shaun: yah... then you can also send me yours and I will draw it.

Melissa: can you?

Shaun: drawing is my hobby. I love drawing and I was also the best in my arts class till grade 9. sadly I didn't take up arts as my major. but I still continued drawing on the side.

Melissa: okay then I will send something. better not disappoint.

Shaun: mhm... now go inside I will stay here until you are in.

Melissa smiled and nodded.

she slowly walked towards the gate then turned back. Shaun smiled making Melissa blush and walk in the yard.

she waved goodbye before closing the gate and heading in the house Shaun waved back.

Shaun sighed and walked into his car driving home.

- MEANWHILE -

Melissa got in the house in a happy mood and all smiles.

she took out her phone and saw the picture of Shaun.

she sighed biting her lip. "Bonita better know how to draw this picture." she thought before another thought gave her an idea.

to make that picture her wallpaper.

she quickly set it as she sat on the couch. she was so excited.

Mr Ndamase: you had a great time?

she looked back and saw her father walking to the living room.

Melissa: yho dad it was amazing.

Mr Ndamase: did you hold hands put your head on his shoulder like you wished?

Melissa: no I couldn't.. we were eating from different containers and he was leaning his body to the other side which made it hard for me to pull that move. but the movie was amazing. actually I had already watched the movie but it was more interesting now then before.

Mr Ndamase: hai you!!

she laughed.

Mr Ndamase: well lets hope the next date will be more interesting.

Melissa: it will. I just have to find the most romantic thing to do with him since I am setting the date and venue.

Mr Ndamase: does it mean you are paying this time?

Melissa: isn't it fare like that?

Mr Ndamase: no comment

Melissa laughed

- AT THE COLLINS -

Shaun had just arrived and was in the kitchen getting himself a bottle of water.

Musa: how was the date?

Musa appeared giving Shaun a little fright.

Shaun: and where do you come from?

Musa: since you spent hours with her

Sponsored

I take it it was amazing?

Shaun: well.. maybe!

Musa: you like her now?

Shaun: I didn't say that.

Musa: I have a feeling its heading there.

Shaun: are you a prophet?

Musa: maybe!

Shaun: mxm.. come on.. its only been one date.

Musa: and?? anything changed?

Shaun: she can draw.

Musa: what??

Shaun: I always wanted a wife that can draw with me. and she can draw

Musa: ohhhhh... were you bewitched?

Shaun: why would I be?

Musa: just few days ago you wouldn't even recognise her even though you shared the same table now she isn't bad because she can draw?

Shaun: its not like marrying her is wrong.

Musa: I know.. but like.... dude you drifted from "hate her" to "she's not bad" in such a short time.. not even the best car drifter can break that record.

Shaun laughed shaking his head.

Shaun: I think your brains still need some more recovering to do.

Musa: are you saying I am crazy?

Shaun: of cause not. its just damaged. that's all.

he shrug his shoulders when he said that then walked to his room with the bottle in his hand.

Musa shook his head looking at him.

- LATER THAT EVENING -

- AT THE NDI MANDE -

Melissa: hai little sister... I come bearing good news.

she said as she budged in Bonita's room just when Bonita was about to head to sleep. with nothing to do and not allowed to watch even TV she always heads to sleep immediately after finishing all her chores.

Bonita looked at her and the food paper bag she was holding. it smelled amazing. she even could smell the aroma of deep fried chicken.

Melissa: my dear sister. look what I brought you.

she said waving the paper bag on the air. Bonita looked at it.

she had just eaten dinner. but it was just regular pap with milk. that's what she eats most of the time.

Bonita (sign language): is that for me?

Melissa: yes.. if you help me with something.

Bonita (sign language): is it chicken?

Melissa: 3 pieces of chicken a nice ham and cheese sandwich a small sprite and some chips.. what do you think? I am the best right?

Bonita swallowed and nodded.

Bonita: so what do you want me to do?

Melissa placed the paper bag on the bed and showed Melissa a picture on the phone.

Bonita looked at it and looked at Melissa.

Bonita (sign language): is this Mr Collins?

Melissa: yes... you have a sharp eye hai.. anyway I need you to draw me this picture. you think you can?

she said that then waved the paper bag.

Bonita (sign language): sure.. I can..

she asked looking at the Melissa and the paper bag.

she hasn't had such delicious food in a long time. sometimes Ms Gloria makes her something nice secretly as she makes for herself. but chips and deep fried chicken? that's more luxury.

Melissa made sure to ask for a take out for this knowing she would need Bonita. he told Shaun that it was for her father.

Melissa: great!! I knew you would agree. now listen this picture must be done by tomorrow.

Bonita looked at Melissa with her eyes wide open.

Bonita: tomorrow?

Melissa: yes darling. that's why I bought you this food so that you can cross night.

Bonita didn't say anything.

Melissa: you can do it right?

Bonita looked down and nodded.

Melissa: good. I knew I would count on you.. hope you enjoy and better not let my father know I gave you that or else I will just say you stole it when I bought it for him...

she said making her way out.

Bonita reached for the paper bag and indeed it was the yummy stuff. she smiled but the thought of her having to cross night while very tired just made her sigh and put the paper bag away.

besides she may need it later more then now.

she looked at the picture on the tablet.

Melissa has a phone and a tablet. her tablet is filled with movies and things that are not that important so she must have sent the picture on her tablet because she didn't want to leave Bonita with her phone.

the tablet didn't have a sim card so Bonita wouldn't be able to contact anyone even if she wanted.

CHARTER 14

- NEXT DAY (27 APRIL 2003) SUNDAY MORNING -
- NARRATOR -
- AT THE NDAMASE -

Bonita was laying on the bed passed out. the drawing was neatly placed on the drawer with the tablet on top of it her bed was filled with pencil skin from frequently sharpening her pencil.

she only slept this morning at around 4am. the picture needed very good detailing and it had been a while since she had to draw a picture in so much detail so she kept on making mistakes. that's why her room was filled with rolled up papers.

she got the drawing book from Ms Gloria no one had a problem with that since it brought no harm to anyone.

it was now passed 7am and still she was fast asleep.

Melissa opened the door and switched the lights on since the curtains were still closed making the room dark.

she looked at the condition and walked to the bed to wake Bonita up.

Melissa: Bonita!!

she was hoping and praying that Bonita drew that picture she can't afford to lose a bet now.

Bonita woke up immediately yet still feeling very tired and looked at Melissa. Bonita is a light sleeper and wakes up fast when she hears some sound. its because she is always in fear of her father or Melissa. her biggest fear is doing something wrong. she knows

if she is caught slacking or something else she will be in big trouble.

Melissa: tell me you are done with the drawing.

Bonita pointed at the drawer while rubbing her eyes and sitting against the headboard.

Her eyes landed on the drawer where her tablet and a paper was.

she ran to the drawer to check the drawing. as she looked at the drawing her face formed a smile and she got happy.

Melissa: yah!! this is perfect...

she looked at Bonita.

Melissa: I didn't know you were this talented.. wow!! I always thought you were a useless girl but seems like you will be a bit useful to me these days... well until I marry Shaun of cause.

she said smiling and walking to the door.

Melissa: oh and to thank you.. I won't expect you to do anything this morning. you can rest Ms Gloria and the other helpers will do everything. I am sure you need the rest. now don't say I was a bad sister.

Bonita (sign language): Thank you so much.

Melissa: you work hard you earn...

she said walking out.

Bonita sighed out of relieve

she was about to head back to sleep when she saw the paper bag on the bed near the pillow. she was so busy last night and this morning that she couldn't even eat. she only had a bite of the sandwich to keep focused.

she took the paper bag and opened it.

the smell was divine making her stomach growl.

she started digging in before heading back to her sleep.

- AT THE COLLINS -

Shaun and Musa were in the living room. Musa was watching TV while Shaun was busy drawing a picture from his phone. it was Melissa's picture that she sent for him to draw.

Ntando walked in.

Ntando: what's up fellas..

he greeted throwing himself on a one seat couch and immediately had his eyes on what Shaun was doing.

Ntando: Shaun is drawing?? nice!

Musa: its what he's drawing that's got me shocked.

Ntando: what is he drawing?

Musa: see for yourself mahn.. just don't faint.

Ntando curiously stood up to check and his eyes widened when he saw the drawing that was half done.

Ntando: Melissa??? Shaun you good?

Shaun: what's wrong with you two?

Ntando: hai Musa... are you sure Shaun is completely fine?? isn't he maybe stressed out because of the attack?

Musa: you think?

Ntando:

Ntando went back to sit down.

Shaun received a message. he checked it out and his eyes widened while looking at his phone making Musa and Ntando curious.

Musa: what is it? what's wrong?

Ntando: did Melissa send a nude?

Shaun looked at Ntando with the "what the" look.

Shaun: its just a drawing she did.

Musa: a drawing? she can draw?

Shaun: seems like it.. damn but this seems impossible. how did she manage to draw such a detailed picture in one day? did she cross night?

Ntando: let me see.

Ntando took the phone to see.

Ntando: I bet she used that drawing app.

Musa: I was about to say that.

Shaun: nah

Sponsored

you earn...

she said walking out.

Bonita sighed out of relieve

she was about to head back to sleep when she saw the paper bag on the bed near the pillow. she was so busy last night and this morning that she couldn't even eat. she only had a bite of the sandwich to keep focused.

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Ntando took the phone to see.

Ntando: I bet she used that drawing app.

Musa: I was about to say that.

Shaun: nah you can see that it was taken from a paper.

Musa: Shaun everything is possible with the internet.
Shaun: hai suka..

Shaun texted Melissa.

"did you cross night to draw this?"

" yah.. how did you know?"

" its drawn very well and in detail. it takes hours to get it done.
so the only way to finish it is to cross night."

" :) :) its the afford that counts right? I hope you like it"

" are you kidding me? of cause I love it.. can you please frame it
for me. I would like to hang it in my room"

"really?? huh.. okay I will do that."

" okay.. then you can deliver it to my house"

"okay!"

" I will also frame yours and send it over when I am done with it."

"can't wait to see it :)"

Ntando and Musa kept looking at Shaun then at each other then
watch TV.

they just didn't know what to say and already Shaun was really
acting weird and they didn't know what knocked him off.

as he was chatting his phone rang it was Mr Mtolo.

Shaun: sorry gents.

he said as he walked out to answer the phone.

they both shook their head as Musa took a sip of his juice.

After a while Shaun came back in.

Ntando: was that Mr Mtolo?

Shaun: mhm.

Musa: did he find her?

Shaun: no.. not yet.. but there has been some progress.

Musa: really?? which is??

Shaun: a small link.. so he might find them soon.

Musa: that's great then!! that means we will find out who was behind the attack and get that person arrested.

Shaun: mhm.... we will

he said as he spaced out.

- LATER THAT AFTERNOON -

- AT THE NDAMASE -

Bonita was in the kitchen helping Ms Gloria prepare dinner.

Gloria: Bonita?

she said looking at Bonita Bonita looked at her.

Gloria: are you still having those visions?

Bonita (sign language): *nodded* I still get them. I think its because the vision is about to happen.

Gloria: will you be okay?

Bonita looked down then shook his head.

Gloria: I am sure that you will find a way.. you will find a solution to prevent those visions from happening. okay? don't lose faith.

Bonita (sign language): I don't think I have much time. and I don't think I will ever escape. its over Ms Gloria.

Ms Gloria held her shoulder tightly to comfort her.

Ms Gloria: trust yourself Bonita. trust in your gift as well.

Bonita smiled but wasn't convinced.

CHARTER 15

- DAYS LATER (3 MAY 2003) SATURDAY NIGHT -

- NARRATOR -

- AT THE COLLINS -

Shaun was in his room preparing himself. Melissa had set a date for their second date which will be a dinner date at a fancy hotel.

The Hotel has a restaurant situated on the 13th floor. it has amazing view out the window and a nice atmosphere. its very elegant and fancy looking.

but there was another reason why she chose that hotel.. their plan was about to be put to action.

they had decided to use Bonita to trap Shaun into pregnancy that way they would be guaranteed that Shaun would marry him.

Shaun's mother came to knock on the door. Shaun opened.

Mrs Collins: Shaun isn't it getting really late? you still have to pick Melissa up.

Shaun: its only 6:15pm mama our dinner is at 7:30pm.

Mrs Collins: still. rather early then late.

Shaun: (sigh) I am sure Melissa is not even close to being done. I don't want to wait an hour for her.

Mrs Collins: would you get out already and stop whining.

Shaun chuckled and took his belongings before heading out with his mother.

Mrs Collins: this is your second date right?? so you don't have to be nervous.

Shaun: I think mom is more nervous then me.

she laughed.

as they passed the living room they found Mr Collins there.

Mr Collins: he is already leaving?

Mrs Collins: yes.. my handsome son.

she said that brushing Shaun's cheeks with both her hands.

Mr Collin: son no need no hurry back just take care of your wife. okay?

Shaun: yes dad.. yes dad..

Shaun smiled as he waved goodbye to his parents and headed out.

Mr Collins: I don't have to worry anymore should I?

Mrs Collins: you just worry too much.. there was nothing to worry about from the beginning.

Mr Collins: if I hadn't pushed him he wouldn't have even accepted this date thing. look now.. things are going great.

Mrs Collins looked at Mr Collins worried and sad. she knew her husband only had little time left and that hurt her more than anything. but she didn't want to show that she wanted to be strong for both her son and her husband.

but deep down.. her heart is being cut in small pieces as she thinks about losing her husband.

- AT THE NDAMASE -

Bontle was sitting on her bed playing with her fingers while holding her tears back.

today was the day. the day she has to sleep with Mr Collins.

The door opened and Mr Ndamase walked in holding a bottle in his hand.

Mr Ndamase: here. drink this before you leave.

she has been drinking this thing for 4 days now. she didn't know what that was but she didn't even ask.

after gulping it down and pulling up with the unpleasant taste Mr Ndamase took the bottle from her.

Mr Ndamase: you better do what we discussed if you dare try anything I will not spare you and your stupid mother. we understand each other?

Bonita nodded.

Mr Ndamase walked out.

Bonita held her short skirt while pushing it down.

she was dressed like her sister even the weave was the same down to the make up. the idea was to make them look identical as possible. since Shaun will be drugged but not knocked out it was important that he thinks he is with the same girl.

after a while Shaun arrived to fetch Melissa.

Bonita stayed waiting for her fathers people to get a go ahead then they would drive her to the location.

- FEW MINUTES LATER -

Shaun: ohh and steak please.

he smiled after giving the final item of his order.

Melissa: I will only have the pasta with mixed vegs in chicken soup please.

Shaun: only?

Melissa: I normally have a small appetite.

Shaun: ohh.. okay then.

the waiter left as they talked over a glass of juice.

Shaun: this place is good. you chose well.

Melissa: right?? am I not the best?

Shaun: you are..

they laughed.

- AFTER A WHILE -

Shaun: please excuse me.. I need the bathroom.

Melissa: sure...

Shaun walked up and walked away heading to the bathroom.

Melissa used this opportunity to drug Shaun.

she slightly exchanged the glasses while looking around to see if anyone was looking. then sneakily put the drug in his glass and used the back of a fork to stir the juice.

after a while she put it back and took her juice.

she sat back and sipped on her glass as she waited for Shaun to come back.

- MEANWHILE -

Mr Ndamase had asked some men to take Bonita to the location. they were driving there with Bonita in the backseat looking out the window.

she didn't know what to do but she couldn't stop praying. she kept praying and praying for help a sign or something to get out of this plan. but she couldn't get anything.

- BACK AT THE HOTEL -

Shaun came back and sat down.

Shaun: I am sorry for that.

Melissa: no problem.

The food had already arrived.

Shaun: I see my food is here.

Melissa: we better dig in before it gets cold.

Shaun smiled and nodded.

they started eating and Shaun had his juice.

Melissa smiled mischievously as she saw Shaun having his juice.

after a while the drug was starting to kick in. Shaun was slowly seeing blurry and he was started to feel weird while his manhood started getting hard.

he held the table to control himself but he couldn't. he looked around and he couldn't see properly. he started getting weak as if he was drunk.

Melissa: Shaun?? Shaun are you okay??

Shaun: ahhh.... I... ahhhh...

he couldn't even form his sentences well.

Shaun: I am... feeling weird...

Melissa: let me help up.. maybe you are too tired.

Melissa went to his side and tried helping him up.

Shaun easily gave in to her helping him up. he was feeling so weak yet needy.

he looked at Melissa and he couldn't see her properly. he could see what she is wearing and her hair but blurry. her face was also blurry.

Melissa helped him out of the restaurant heading to the elevator.

see Melissa had already booked a hotel room. all she had to do was head down to get her room card.

she took the elevator to 1st floor to the receptionist to get her room card.

after speaking to the Hotel receptionist she got her card and headed back to the elevator. she pressed her floor and hurried there quickly.

she got there and opened her room and walked in while holding Shaun. she closed the door and helped Shaun lay on the bed.

Shaun held on tighter to her so they both fell on the bed.

Melissa: Shaun!!

Shaun didn't respond he let go of her and tried getting up.

Melissa: stay here I will try to get some water.

Shaun: no... I am fine...

Melissa: its okay.. just give me some few minutes.

Melissa walked out and called the guys who were outside.

after receiving the go ahead to bring Bonita in they brought her in the hotel but didn't get in.

Melissa went down to meet Bonita as if she was here to see her. they allowed her in and Melissa took her up.

Melissa: listen Bonita.. you must be grateful that you even get the chance to be with Shaun let alone sleep with him.. so don't start enjoying it okay... just do what you are supposed to do and get out. I will go have a drive..

Bonita didn't say anything. she just swallowed as her heart raced.

she was afraid nervous and just wanted to run away and never look back.

they arrived at the room so Melissa made Bonita walk in alone.

Bonita walked in.

Shaun looked at the person who walked in and it looked like Melissa since she was wearing what she was wearing..

she didn't even think about the water she said she was going to get.

Bonita slowly walked to Shaun who was groaning alone laying on the bed.

Bonita swallowed and walked to him.

Shaun looked at her and shook his head trying to erase the desire he was having.

the drug used on Shaun was the same drug Noma used on Bonita when she wanted to sleep with her.

Bonita slowly climbed on the bed and took off her jacket.

tears were rushing to her eyes that she couldn't control them.
they started rushing down getting in the way of the make up

she quickly looked away wiping them away..

Shaun held her hand and Bonita got scared looking at him.

Shaun: you better get out of here..... or else.... you will regret it.

Bonita didn't say anything.. she remained still.

Shaun pulled her closer and Bonita fell on him.

Shaun: I warn you again Melissa...

he said as he grew more and more in need.

the lights were still on Shaun rolled her over and looked at her
narrowing his eyes.. he wanted to see her clearly but he couldn't.

he leaned reaching for her face. with his hand he was able to
reach for her mouth. and that's where Bonita and Shaun had their
first kiss together.

it was a soft passionate kiss.

Bonita had about 5 boyfriends before this life of slavery took her
cheerful life away. so she wasn't a newbie in the field of s*x or
kissing.

as they kissed Shaun slowly ran his hands on Bonita's body making Bonita even more uncomfortable and wanting to cry even more. the situation would be a great debate. rape or not?

since the girl wasn't willing and was uncomfortable? is it called rape? or because she was fully aware of what she was doing and she wanted to save her mother is it willingness??

Bonita had her eyes shut already accepting the situation when suddenly Shaun pulled out of the kiss and looked at Bonita again.

Shaun: are you happy
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is it willingness??

Bonita had her eyes shut already accepting the situation when suddenly Shaun pulled out of the kiss and looked at Bonita again.

Shaun: are you happy Melissa? you finally get what you want.

(VISION)

Bonita cut herself using a broken glass. she put some of that blood on her thumb and put her thumb in Shaun's mouth.

at that moment Shaun closed his eyes...

after a blackout Shaun woke up shocked at who he saw in the room with him.

(END OF VISION)

"I can't" she thought after having that vision and Shaun down on her neck sucking her neck down to her chest.

"but I have to" she decided.

she pushed Shaun up to look at her. Bonita kissed him and rolled him over. finally after so long she thought of a way out. Shaun!! Shaun was her way out.. meeting him today was actually a sign.. Shaun was the way out. she never thought about it but a sign was sent.

she started thinking and making sense of it all.

if Shaun can be on her side then she stands a better chance of saving her mother Samantha and herself.

she sat on the half naked Shaun and tapped on his chest.

Shaun: what..... what are you doing?

she looked around and saw a glass with a jar on the drawer.

she reached for the glass dropping it on the floor.

Shaun was a bit confused but more focused on his needs.

Bonita got off Shaun heading to get a piece of glass.

Shaun looked at her with no energy in him anymore. he was close to exposing because he hadnt released anything yet.

he took off his trouser and started hand fighting the solution.

with him working on himself he was able to offload a little..

all Bonita could do was give him privacy and head to the bathroom.

in there she cut her hand and made a fist to hold back some blood as she walked out of the bathroom to the bedroom. Shaun was still at it.

he groaned as he rolled to the other side. Bonita walked to her after seeing him laying still. he must be done she thought.

she sat on Shaun and Shaun held her waist slowly grinding her from under the sheets. although it was awkward for Bonita she understood that Shaun was under a drug.

She put some blood on her thumb and put her thumb in Shaun's mouth.

Shaun thought it was a sexy gesture as he likes doing that to girls when in the session.

he sucked on her thumb and even licked it.

he then threw Bonita on the bed and hovered on her.

Shaun: I know you want it but why act like you don't?

Bonita looked at him without saying a word.

Shaun: you never even let out a sound are you shy?

he asked again as he narrowed his eyes trying to see her clearly but he couldn't.

Shaun: F*** I can't even see properly..

as he was about to reach for Bonita's thighs he started feeling sleepy.

about 20 seconds later he lay on Bonita's chest sleeping.

Bonita pushed him off her and sat on her butt.

she then hurried to pick the broken glasses and go throw them in the bin.

she then sat on the bed looking at Shaun..

she leaned back hoping he will wake up before her time runs out.

the estimated time for her to satisfy Mr Collins was 1 hour. they knew the drug makes one very heavy and needy so he would expect more then 1 round which really upset Melissa. but it was the only way to have Bonita do this ones with many possibilities of pregnancy.

- ABOUT 10 MINUTES LATER -

Shaun started groaning of a headache and opened his eyes only to find himself in a room on a bed.

he stood up and looked around. his eyes met with the one and only girl he has been searching for for a long time.

Shaun: you??

Bonita gave him water in a bottle. the hotel had a mini fridge that stored drinks and water.

because of the slight headache he had he took the water and drank it half way.

he then closed the bottle and looked at himself... he was half naked with his pants button loose.

Shaun: what did you do to me?

Bonita (sign language): I didn't do anything.

Shaun: you? how did you get here? did you hear that I was looking for you now you came to kill me?

Bonita (sign language): please don't be scared I won't hurt you.. actually I need your help.

Shaun: help?

Bonita: *nodded*

Shaun: what help?

Bonita swallowed before telling him everything that has happened and why he was there at that time and Melissa's plan with her father.

the news were too drastic for Shaun to believe.

Shaun: wait let me get this straight. so Melissa wants to trap me with a child for me to marry her?

Bonita: *nodded*

Shaun: but Melissa can't have kids so they are using you as a surrogate by force?

Bonita: *nodded*

Shaun: and you have a gift of seeing the future and you were shown that if you carry on with this plan you will have complications during labour and Melissa will make the doctors save the child instead of you?

Bonita: *nodded*

Shaun: and I am here because I was drugged by Melissa and you are here because you came to pretend to be her since I wouldn't see you clearly I would sleep with you to reduce my needy desire and we wouldn't use protection so you would fall pregnant.

Bonita: *nodded*

Shaun: and soon after now Melissa will come snuggle next to me while you go back so that it seems like I slept with her?

Bonita: *nodded*

Shaun: and you had no choice because of your mother who is in ICU?

Bonita: *nodded*

Shaun: (chuckles) are you writing a movie?

Bonita (sign language): I am serious.

Shaun: you expect me to believe that?

Bonita (sign language): please.. I am not lying.

Shaun laughed while rubbing his forehead.

Shaun: okay then.. lets say I believe you.. how did you know about my attack the first time we met?

Bonita (sign language): I saw it.

Shaun: you saw it?

Bonita (sign language): I told you I can see into the future.

Shaun: so you don't know anyone named Mr Mbedu?

Bonita *shakes head*

Shaun sighed.

a knock was heard. Bonita looked at Shaun realizing that its time.

Bonita (sign language): its time.. I can't say much.. but please save me.

Shaun: (whispers) wait you can't expect me to believe that?

Bonita (sign language): then pretend to sleep and you will see for yourself.

with that she got off and went to the door.

Shaun got under the sheets and pretended to be sleeping.

Bonita opened the door and Melissa peeked.

Melissa: is he sleeping?

Bonita: *nodded*

Melissa looked at Bonita from her head to the toe.

Melissa: I can't believe I will be sleeping in the same bed where you slept with him.

Bonita (sign language): I didn't sleep with him.

Melissa: what?? but you said he is sleeping?

Bonita: *nodded*

Melissa: he will only be able to pass out if he gets what he wants. so how did he relieve himself?

Bonita (sign language): he helped himself.

Melissa: and you watched him?

Bonita looked down.

Melissa held Bonita's hand looking at some wound she saw when Bonita was communicating.

Melissa: what?? happened here?

Bonita (sign language) I broke a glass and tried picking it up but cut myself.

Melissa: so you chose to betray the hand that feeds you?

Bonita (sign language): I couldn't do it. I am sorry.

Melissa: son of a.....

Melissa through a slap across her face.

Melissa: you will get what's coming to you. B****

she said pulling her out and walking in the room.

Shaun closed his eyes when Melissa approached steaming with anger.

Melissa peeked at Shaun and saw that he was still sleeping.

she then took out his phone and called her father.

Mr Ndamase: baby! is everything done?

Melissa: daddy Bonita ruined things again. how useless can she be.

Mr Ndamase: calm down... what did she do??

Melissa: daddy she didn't sleep with Shaun.. she didn't..

Mr Ndamase: are you sure?

Melissa: only Shaun can verify when he wakes up because he will remember if it happened or not.

Mr Ndamase: she better pray that it happened or else she is dead.

Melissa: if she didn't.. I will personally switch off her mother machine. I am telling you dad.

with that she hung up and sighed.

she then took off her jacket and slept close to Shaun looking at him.

Melissa: don't worry Shaun we will be together. that which won't ruin this for me. I will anything for us to be together. that's how much I love you. I will give you millions of children.. just you wait.

with that she lay her head and closed her eyes.

CHARTER 16

- 2 DAYS LATER (5 MAY 2003) MONDAY AFTERNOON -
- AT NTANDO'S HOUSE -
- NARRATOR -

Musa: so all this time you have been pretending to be close to Melissa in order to find out what that girl is doing there?

Shaun: yah.. I needed to be close to her to get as much info I could.

Musa: wow!! you know for a moment I really thought you had fallen in guy was even drawing her picture.

Shaun: sorry I had to fool you two guys. but this had to stay between me and Mr Mtolo for a while at least until we are sure of our assumptions.

Musa: this is crazy so now you found out that she is actually their slave whose mission is to carry your child or her mother dies?

Shaun: exactly which checked out because I overheard Melissa's conversation with her father.

Mr Mtolo: but the only thing that doesn't check out is how she knew about the attack.

Shaun: true. I don't by the "seeing the future" crap.

Ntando walked in the living room holding 4 bottles of alcohol.

he sat down handing each one to Shaun Musa and Mr Mtolo.

Ntando: I don't mind borrowing you guys my house for meet ups if you will continue buying bottles and meat.

Shaun: mxm..

Mr Mtolo: thank you.

Shaun opened his bottle using his teeth and took a sip.

Shaun: Ahhhhhh!! refreshing.

Ntando: well since you found the girl shouldn't you be more happy?

Shaun: I would be.. if that girl was not linked to the Ndamase's

Ntando: yah that does make things a bit complicated.

Shaun: exactly. the Ndamase's are up to something and I have to find out what.

Mr Mtolo: so far there hasn't been any weird movements. the girl is always in the house they go and come back and she doesn't. maybe what she told you was true.

Shaun: no!! that's bullsh*t!! she was only right about the Ndamases using her to get pregnant with my child and pretend Melissa is the one pregnant but as for "seeing the future" I am not a fool.

Ntando: then how would you explain her being locked up in the house every single day?

Shaun: of cause they would they know that if she comes out
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she will be caught and their little secret will come out.

Musa: mhm.. makes sense.

Shaun: (sigh) and now I also have Melissa to deal with.

Mr Mtolo: you focus on getting more closer to Melissa then use that opportunity to visit her and find anything useful. there should be something there.

Shaun: (sigh) I wonder when did my life become so messed up.

Mr Mtolo: we will find this Mr Mbedu. and I think its also time you included your father.

Shaun: NO!! leave him out of this.

the gents looked at each other.

- AT THE NDAMASE -

Bonita was in her room laying on her stomach on the bed with her curtains still closed and the smell of filth filling the room.

her father gave her a hard beating 2 days ago and the pain is still felt 2 days later. expecially when she lays on her back.

she was so weak and starving as she hasn't been getting any food for 2 days now. Ms Gloria also couldn't sneak in any food to her because she was not in charge of the kitchen this week.

she stayed there sobbing alone. she couldn't bath or do anything for the past 2 days.

as she was sobbing the door opened and Melissa walked in holding a plate of rice and chicken.

Bonita looked at her.

Melissa: you want to know what I want to do now?

Bonita didn't respond.

Melissa: I kind of want to see you leap.

after saying that she threw all the food on the floor and Bonita looked at it.

Melissa: come eat.. DOG!!

Bonita's tears build up she slowly got up looking at the food.

Melissa started stamping on the food with her shoes and then looked at her.

Melissa: enjoy!!

she then walked out banging the door.

Bonita burst in tears looking at the food on the floor. she was debating with herself on whether to eat it or just leave it.

as she was crying while standing there Ms Gloria walked in with 2 lunchboxes.

she stood at the door looking at Bonita and the state of the room.

Ms Gloria: Bonita!!

Bonita looked at Ms Gloria.

Ms Gloria went to open the curtains and the windows for some fresh air to get in the room.

Ms Gloria: Bonita! you can't live like this. you know you can't.

she didn't say anything.

Ms Gloria: I know its hard I know its unfair but please. please be strong my baby.

Bonita was still laying on the bed.

Ms Gloria stood next to her and closed her eyes. immediately the room became so bright as if the sun was shining straight into her room.

she widened her eyes looking at Ms Gloria who was now standing with her wings open.

Ms Gloria: the moon chose you as guardian for a purpose. going through this is not the moons fault its your fault.

Bonita (sign language): how is it my fault? I didn't ask for this.

Ms Gloria: you didn't ask for it but you are not doing anything to get out of this situation. sitting and crying won't help. crying to the moon won't help. you have to use your brains.

Bonita looked at Ms Gloria.

Ms Gloria: I don't have much time. you must act and you must act now. many people's lives are in danger and only you can save them. the moon chose you to do it.

Bonita (sign language): all this time you knew?

Ms Gloria: *nodded* it wasn't time to reveal myself back then but now its time because I will be leaving soon. so Bonita you don't have much time.

Bonita started thinking about it and stood up.

as she took courage and stood up her wounds started to be less painful which shook her.

Ms Gloria: you are actually stronger then what you think. all you have to do is gain control of your powers. never fall weak because then your powers also become weak.

Bonita let out a slight smile.

Ms Gloria closed her wings and the light was gone.

she smiled and walked out of Bonita's room.

Bonita stood up and started with cleaning her room and then cleaned herself. she even swept the food that Melissa through on the ground and threw it away.

then after all that she ate her food very quickly before anyone could catch her.

she was breathing fresh air again.

CHARTER 17

- NEXT MORNING (6 MAY 2003) TUESDAY MORNING -
- AT THE COLLINS' -
- NARRATOR -

Shaun was in his room looking at framed drawing that Melissa "drew". no matter how much he thinks about it he just doesn't believe that Melissa drew that.

"could she have asked that girl?" he thought

a knock disturbed him. he looked up at the door

Shaun: its open.

Mrs Collins opened the door and walked in.

Mrs Collins: breakfast is ready boyza.

Shaun: I am coming down ma.

Mrs Collins: you better.. Musa is already at the table.

Shaun: I am jealous these days he gets more compliments than me.

Mrs Collins: hai stop being silly.

Shaun: all of a sudden I don't want breakfast.

he pouted acting out. but he was just joking.

Mrs Collins: really? I made porridge already made with milk.

Shaun: rama?

Mrs Collins: mhmmm (yes)

Shaun: forget what I said I am suddenly hungry.

Shaun loved porridge cabbage morogo wet pap beans and such traditional food because they remind him of his grandmother.

Shaun used to live with his grandmother before moving to live with his parents. so he knew the Village life before coming to the rich world.

even though he brags about being handsome and rich he never disowned the teachings he got from his grandmother.

after his grand mom passed away he moved to live with his parents.

Mrs Collins shook her head smiling as she followed out closing the door.

- DINING TABLE -

The Collins were having their breakfast.

Shaun instantly had an idea.

Shaun: dad.

Mr Collins: mhm?

Shaun: you always invite the Ndamases here for breakfast or dinner. how about this time we dine at their place?

Mr Collins: (smile) you know.. sometimes I have this feeling that you are not my Shaun.

Musa: I get the same feeling Mr Collins (he joked).

Mrs Collins: I think its a good idea.

Shaun: thank you mom.

Mr Collins: you know I was expecting a bit more hassle.

Musa: I wonder what happened. (he joked again)

Musa was joking around with Shaun. he knew Shaun's reasons for wanting to go there he knew the plan from A-Z but that plan just gives him more access to teasing Shaun non stop.

Shaun: anyway... I was suggesting that we could have dinner meals at the Ndamase's. isn't it normal to know my in-laws house as well? they have been coming here and we hardly visit.

Mr Collins: that's actually not a bad idea. I will call him and set an arrangement.

Shaun smiled and nodded.

Shaun: mhm.. this porridge reminds of gogo.

Mrs Collins: right?? (smiles)

Shaun dug into his porridge.

- MOMENTS LATER -

- AT THE NDAMASE'S -

Mr Ndamase: meal date here? in my house?

Mr Collins: yes

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he knew the plan from A-Z but that plan just gives him more access to teasing Shaun non stop.

Shaun: anyway... I was suggesting that we could have dinner meals at the Ndamase's. isn't it normal to know my in-laws house as well? they have been coming here and we hardly visit.

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Shaun: mhm.. this porridge reminds of gogo.

Mrs Collins: right?? (smiles)

Shaun dug into his porridge.

- MOMENTS LATER -

- AT THE NDAMASE'S -

Mr Ndamase: meal date here? in my house?

Mr Collins: yes Shaun is the one who actually suggested it. he seem to be really ready to marry Melissa. we should act now while he is willing. don't you think?

Mr Ndamase: of cause. I will check the perfect day and let you know.

Mr Collins: great stuff.

Mr Ndamase: thank you.. see you soon.

Mr Collins: okay Joseph.

Mr Ndamase hung up and looked at Melissa who was looking at her father after hearing that Mr Collins wants to have a meal here at their house.

Mr Ndamase: Shaun suggested that we have a meal together here?

Melissa: well that shouldn't be a problem.

Mr Ndamase: yah... it won't if that busted of a child stays still and doesn't try anything.

Melissa: she won't. don't worry dad.

Mr Ndamase: lets hope so. or else everything will be game over.

Melissa: besides she can't talk and I don't think Shaun understands sign language.

Mr Ndamase: we can't be too sure about that. Shaun looks like a very Smart person.

Melissa:

- AT THE COLLINS' -

Shaun was in his room laying on his bed.

today he was off and Mr Mtolo was busy so they couldn't meet to talk about the updates.

as he was laying a knock was heard..

Shaun: its not locked.

The door opened and Musa walked in.

Shaun: ohh Musa..

Musa: I thought you would be working?

Shaun: I need some rest.

Musa: mhm....

Musa looked at Shaun and Shaun kept pressing on his phone as if Musa wasn't in the room.

after a short silence Shaun wondered why Musa was silent and looked at him. only to meet with Musa looking at his framed drawing.

Shaun: like it?

Musa: I am still wondering is indeed Melissa drew it.

Shaun: you know I was so happy to have a wife that can draw but now there is a chance that she asked that weird girl to draw for her.

Musa: weird?

Shaun: a girl who claims to see the future is called crazy but that's too harsh so weird is a better version.

Musa: (chuckled) what if its true?

Shaun: really?? don't tell me you believe in that.

Musa: I mean back in the days there were people who could see in the future. its just that now it has become rare.. never heard of Deja vu?

Shaun: that's different. you feel like it once happened not that its going to happen.

Musa: well we can't proof that she is linked to Mr Mbedu and we also can't proof that she saw the future but one thing for sure she saw the attack coming.

Shaun: yah... that's for sure..

Musa looked at the picture again and this time taking a good look at it.

Musa: so if the weird girl drew this will you marry her?

Shaun: should I?

Musa: mxm..

they laughed..

as Musa kept looking at the picture something caught his attention. he looked closer.

Shaun: are you really that drawn to that picture??

Musa: Shaun?? did you draw this picture and pretend Melissa did?

Shaun: no.

Musa: really?

Shaun: yah.. why?

Musa: aren't you the only one who uses that signature in your drawings?

Shaun looked carefully and was amazed that he actually missed that slight detail.

Shaun: yah!! are we dealing with a psycho? stalker?

Shaun said as he looked at the drawing with his eyes wide open.

CHARTER 18

- 2 DAYS LATER (8 MAY 2003) THURSDAY AFTERNOON -
- AT THE COMPANY -
- NARRATOR -

Shaun has been thinking deep about this matter which lead him to have headaches from time to time.

he told Mr Mtollo about this and Ntando. they all found it creepy. This matter was getting very complicated and curiosity just build up.

"who is this girl" is the question he constantly asked himself.

he was in his office still looking at the picture he had brought the framed picture with him. he was sitting down leaning back on his chair while looking at the picture.

" I know I didn't draw that picture? Melissa drew it or that weird girl but how did they know my signature? how could she copy it so perfectly? where did she see it?" he kept asking himself as he looked at the picture.

he quickly turned to his drawer and for the millionth time he took out his sketch book that he uses when he is bored with work. he looked at his signature the one he drew and looked at the signature

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the one Bonita drew or "Melissa".

he got Goosebumps again.

"how can one's signature be the same?" he kept asking.

he did ask Mr Mtollo if it was possible for 2 people to have exactly the same signature and its not very possible yet also not impossible. but in his case its highly impossible because the signature was his own made signature using a mix of his mother's surname and father.

"골세 (colseh)" that was his signature label written in Korean. he chose writing his signature in Korean because the language writing system was like a drawing of characters so hiding this was

easy when sketching. so having someone to have the same signature is almost impossible.

Shaun isn't a verified painter/drawer he writes himself as anonymous. but what marks his work is this signature. people who see this signature know that it is from Mr Anonymous as they have named him.

Shaun snapped his thoughts and reached for his phone.

- AT THE NDAMASE'S -
- BONITA -

I was now in my room just laying on the bed. I am not allowed to leave my room or else I spend the night in the wardrobe.

I was laying on my bed sketching a flower.

someone knocked then walked in.

Ms Gloria: need anything?

Bonita (sign language): *shakes head* thank you

Ms Gloria: I heard Mr Collins is coming here.

Bonita (sign language): today?

Ms Gloria: yes.

Bonita (sign language): why? did something happen?

Ms Gloria: I don't think so. they seem happy to about the visit.

she nodded in understanding.

Ms Gloria: I also heard you have to stay in here until they leave and never show your self or make a sound.

Bonita: *nodded*

Ms Gloria: do you want to use this as your opportunity to escape?

Bonita (sign language): *shakes head* I have a plan up my sleeve.. don't worry Ms Gloria.

Ms Gloria: okay! but please be careful okay

Bonita: *nodded*

she then smiled. Ms Gloria walked out.

"its almost time everyone will soon pay for their wrongs."

- LATER -

- NARRATOR -

Shaun and his father drove in the gate.

he was with Musa inside his mother's car. His mother and father were behind him in his fathers car.

both cars drove in the gate and parked their cars in the yard.

Melissa closed the gate and locked it.

Melissa lead them in and Mr Ndamase welcomed them.

- MINUTES LATER -

Mr Ndamase: this house is not very warm as the Collins house.

Mr Collins: ohh no need to say that. just a woman's touch and it will all be okay.

they laughed.

CONTINUATION 18

- AT THE NDAMASE'S -

- NARRATOR -

- LATER -

Dinner was ready.

everyone was seated around the table having their dinner.

Shaun: oh Melissa I framed that picture and placed it in my office on the wall. it looks great there.

Melissa: really?? should I draw more pictures to put on the wall?

Shaun: well your drawing is amazing so yah if you have time.

Melissa: I always have time. I mean I could draw 5 images of anything

Shaun: really?? that's really impossible.

Melissa: I can do anything as long as I put my mind into it.

Shaun: that's amazing. do you perhaps have a signature to mark your drawings?

Melisa: signature??

Shaun: yes.

Melisa: yes. I just sign my name in cassif writing.

Shaun: ohh that's nice..

Mr Collins: look at them..

Mrs Collins: can you let kids be.

Shaun smiled..

Shaun: I always wanted to learn a new language. like Korean.

Mr Collins: don't you know Korean already?

Shaun: I only know some there and there. I am never there for long I only go for business.

Mr Ndamase: YouTube videos. amazing.

Shaun: Melissa? would you like to learn with me?

Melissa: yah I mean I don't even know one word.

Shaun: really? not even a hallo?

Melissa: nope maybe you can teach me something as well.

Shaun: (fake smile) I sure will.

he smiled.

- MEANWHILE -

Bonita was in the wardrobe. they made sure to lock her in there because they didn't want her to try anything. they also locked her room. so Ms Gloria couldn't sneak in.

the paper she sneaked under Shaun's feet was not something Bonita asked her to do.

she felt she needed to do more to help Bonita.

Bonita sat in the dark wardrobe while playing with her clothing.

Somehow
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was not something Bonita asked her to do.

she felt she needed to do more to help Bonita.

Bonita sat in the dark wardrobe while playing with her clothing.

Somehow she was being weak. it wasn't because of hunger it wasn't because of water. she was just being weak.

Bonita never really got to fully understand why she is able to see the future and who she really is.

life was never good to her.

- LATER -

(PHONE CONVERSATIONS)

Mr Mtolo: young boy??

Shaun: new update.

Mr Mtolo: found something?

Shaun: you were right.. that picture was really strange.

Mr Mtolo: okay but did you get anything.

Shaun: I don't think I will sleep tonight I might go sleep with Musa. this is creepy man. I think I am chasing a ghost.

Mr Mtolo: Ghost?

Shaun: think about it. I get a drawing from Melissa and it has my signature sign on it written in Korean but Melissa can't even say halo in Korean. as for the weird girl she never appeared not even a sound and the family and helpers acted like nothing happened. except one helper. she kept giving me creepy vibes whenever she came to serve us. she is an elderly lady. my heart was racing like crazy I even felt like sh*** on myself dude. I don't think I can do this. its like a witch hunt.

Mr Mtolo: we will need to come up with a plan quickly. I think we need that girl I feel like many things would start making sense after we speak to her.

Shaun: yah... but how?

Mr Mtolo: (sigh) get some rest I will think of something.

Shaun: I don't think I want to sleep right now.

Mr Mtolo: resting is important. we all need strength to put all of this to a stop.

Shaun: (sigh) okay... I guess I have to go disturb Musa. I can't sleep alone.

Mr Mtolo: okay.. just rest okay.. don't think too much.

Shaun: mhm...

CHARTER 19

- 2 DAYS LATER (10 MAY 2003) SATURDAY AFTERNOON -
- AT NTANDO'S HOUSE -
- NARRATOR -

Shaun was sitting on the couch thinking about the mess he is in.

he was wondering whether to involve his father or not.

he just had a lot of questions but not even 1 answer. it was like the more he found out the more lost he becomes. at this moment he didn't know what could come next.

he now wishes that he had listened to Ntando. indeed he has opened a can of warms which he was not supposed to open. now he is drowning in those worms.

Mr Mtolo slapped his thighs disturbing him from his thoughts.

he sat up and reached for the bottle Mr Mtolo had in his hand.

Mr Mtolo: this whole thing can turn any how. we might even find out that she is innocent.

Shaun: I know mahn.. I don't know..

Mr Mtolo: well lets start by verifying facts. I will try to find out about her sick mother without raising any suspicion.

Shaun: how will you know which hospital she is in?

Mr Mtolo: she can't be far. so I will start with nearby private hospitals. including public. I will find out.

Shaun: (sigh) okay.. maybe its time I also played the same trick Melissa played.

Mr Mtolo: which is?

Shaun: drug her then check out her phone. I am sure I can find some useful things in there.

Mr Mtolo: no! don't do that. we don't want to give the Ndamase a heads up that we are onto them. so hold back for a while.

Shaun:..... fine!

he said throwing himself back on the couch and raised his bottle to take a sip.

Shaun: I think my head is about to explode.

Ntando: that's why I am just listening. if I try to solve anything I will just go crazy.

Mr Mtolo: I had another idea I didn't want us to do this but its the only thing to do.

Shaun: do what??

he said as he pulled his body up and looked at Mr Mtolo.

Mr Mtolo: I kept dismissing it because I don't think it will work. I think it will backfire more then it would work.

Shaun: what is the plan?

Mr Mtolo: to kidnap the girl.

Shaun and Ntando: Kidnap??

Mr Mtolo sighed and rubbed his forehead before explaining to them.

Mr Mtolo: yes. Shaun would talk to his father to talk to Mr Ndamase for the family to have an outing. like Golfing or fishing.

Shaun: then you would go to Mr Ndamase's house to get the girl?

Mr Mtolo: correct.

Ntando: won't that come back to us when the Ndamase's start looking for her?

Shaun: even if they realize that she is gone. they won't ask any of us because they never told us about her so they are under the impression that we don't know anything about her.

Mr Mtolo: true. that way she stays with us then we will monitor the Ndamases to see how they react and also have more time to hear this girl out.

Shaun: (sigh) maybe I can also find out about the drawing and my signature.

Mr Mtolo: yes she has answers that we want so we also have to keep her safe and there is no safer place then your personal house Shaun.

Shaun: my personal house?

Mr Mtolo: its very secured and not a lot of people know that you live there. many people think you stay with your parents for some odd reason. so hiding her there is safe

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plus its far from here.

Shaun: (sigh) mhm..

Mr Mtolo: another thing... don't live with her.. it might create suspicion as to why all of a sudden you like going home.

Shaun: so she will live there alone?

Mr Mtolo: you can visit from time to time like you normally do. or tell them that in weekends you will go home. tag Musa along its less suspicious since you always say you don't like living alone. or mention tagging Ntando. so that its always to their ears that you are taking someone.

Shaun: I see.. and if they start being suspicious I will just tell them that I am preparing for when I start living with Melissa.

Mr Mtolo: yah.. if it will work.

Shaun: I may have difficulty convincing my mom but using Musa would do the trick. as for my dad as long as I am still keen in marrying Melissa he won't suspect a thing. he will be blind forever.

Mr Mtolo: good. I think I am going out of my line here.. but its because I care about you and your family. and if this is a stop to knowing about the attackers then I will help.

Shaun: indeed you have done a lot. and I am very grateful for that.

Ntando: do y'all want to kiss the bride?

Mr Mtolo and Shaun stood to give Ntando a slap.

Ntando laughed.

- LATER -

- STILL AT NTANDO'S HOUSE -

Mr Mtolo had left since he has other things to do.

Shaun and Ntando were still in the house. Ntando was watching a movie while Shaun's eyes were on the screen but he just couldn't stop thinking about the issue.

he was even starting to get a headache again.

Ntando: I am glad this movie managed to get you off this topic about Bonita.

Shaun didn't hear him.. his eyes were still glued to the screen but his mind was not present.

Ntando: hai!!

he said as he snapped his finger in front of Shaun's eyes and Shaun snapped out.

Shaun: huh??

Ntando: were you watching the movie or just looking?

Shaun: (sigh) I am sorry.. my mind just.. I can't stop thinking about this matter and its giving me a headache.

Ntando: if you carry on like this. you will die from pill overdose. this headache is starting to worry me.

Shaun: its because I don't get enough sleep and don't eat much lately.

Ntando: yah I did notice the bags under your eyes.

Shaun: eash!!

Ntando: okay.. sleep.

Shaun: huh??

Ntando: sleep.. you not doing anything so try to sleep.

Shaun: don't you think I tried?? I really want to I am tired. but I am restless. I can't sleep. my mind is active.

Ntando: when I get like that. I listen to meditating music and sleep. or raining sounds. it really calms me and I end up sleeping.

Shaun: (sigh) I don't have time for that.

Ntando: you need to sleep so hypnotising your brain is the only way. come!!

before Shaun could even start listen to the music and sleep his phone rang.

he picked up and it was his mother sounding very sad.

Shaun: ma!

Mrs Collins: Shaunah!!

Shaun: what is it ma? are you okay?

Mrs Collins: its your father..

Shaun: dad? what did he do?

Mrs Collins: your father.. he.. he is in hospital.

Shaun: WHAT??

'sometimes what we see is not what it seems. no matter how much the puzzle fits it never means the puzzle belong there'

CHARTER 20

- AT THE HOSPITAL -

- NARRATOR -

Shaun ran to the ward and as he got in the ward he found his father laying on the bed with his mother holding his hand.

Shaun: ma? baba?

Mrs Collins looked at Shaun and sighed looking at Mr Collins.

Mrs Collins: (sigh) you really like acting like a baby.

she said hitting Mr Collins on the head.

Mr Collins: ouch!! that hurts.

Mrs Collins: should I make it hurt more??

Mr Collins: Shaunah!!!

Shaun chuckled out of relieve looking at his parents.

Shaun: here I thought it was serious?

Mrs Collins: it should've been serious.

Mr Collins: how can you say that my love.

Mrs Collins: I told you countless times to let Musa do it. but you insisted knowing very well that you are old.

Mr Collins: I am not old I just lost balance.

Mrs Collins: Balance my left foot. I don't know who is this girl that is motivating you to stay young. but just a warning you better make sure I don't find out.

Mr Collins: what girl now?

Shaun: I think its Melissa.

Shaun interfered purposely making it hotter for his father.

Mr Collins: hai Melissa is your wife. are you crazy.

Shaun: it only makes sense why you trying so hard and always inviting them for meals. I mean she is the only young girl around you. Mom watch out.

Mrs Collins: I will...

she said already pinching him.

Mr Collins: AAAHHHH!! Shaun you are dead.

Shaun: you shouldn't have made me run here like a mad person.

Mr Collins: I am glad you care so much.

Shaun: of cause I care about mom. I thought she would be sad because of you.

Mr Collins: listen to this punk.

The door opened and Musa walked in.

Musa: ohhh Shaun I was about to call you.

Shaun: no need now.

Mr Collins: Musa son. when I get well remind me to transfer all my assets to you this punk is not my son.

Shaun: (laughs) that would be great. too sad I wouldn't be marrying Melissa again. after I tried so much to be closer to her and get to know her.

Musa: don't worry Mr Collins I always wanted to be officially adopted.

Mrs Collins: you are already our son. as for your father I will deal with him later.

Mr Collins: now I wish something serious happened.

Mrs Collins: and make me sad??

she said landing a soft slap on his shoulders.

Mr Collins: I was joking..

Mrs Collins: this the kind of jokes you do?

she said again pinching his cheeks.

Shaun: mom... I know I don't get well with dad but that's man abuse.

Mrs Collins: man abuse huh?? come here.

she ran after Shaun and Shaun used Musa as shield.

- LATER -

Mr Ndamase and Melissa arrived in the hospital.

they found Shaun Musa and Mrs Collins in the ward with Mr Collins.

Mr Ndamase: ohhh Mike what happened??

Shaun looked at them and looked at his father.

Mr Collins: oh Joseph.. I didn't think you would come.

Mr Ndamase: of cause I would we are family.

Mr Collins: family... right..

they laughed.

Shaun clicked on something and quickly excused himself.

Shaun: can I quickly make a call I will be back in a few minutes.

Mr Collins: hai go with your wife. you can also go and get Coffee for us.

Shaun: its a business call dad. I will come and get her when I head to get coffee.

he said that already heading out.

he got out and took his phone out dialling Mr Mtolo.

he answered.

Mr Mtolo: Shaun?

Shaun: your plan... its time to put it in motion.

Mr Mtolo: now? where are the Ndamase's?

Shaun: here at the hospital. its getting dark so its the perfect time for the plan.

Mr Mtolo: I will call Ntando. what about the keys to your house?

Shaun: just go there I will meet up with you there.

Mr Mtolo: okay. try to keep them busy we will tell you when its done.

Shaun: but what about the helpers? won't they be a problem?

Mr Mtolo: as you said its late we can knock out the securities as for the helpers I think they left already. but don't worry I have my guys.

Shaun: okay. see you later.

Mr Mtolo: okay... hurry!!

Voice: do you already have to go?

- MOMENTS LATER -

- BONITA -

I was in my room drawing again. its all I do since I am not allowed to leave the house.

The door is locked and Ms Gloria or any helper doesn't have the key.

My father knows that I was helped but doesn't know that its Ms Gloria. so he doesn't trust any helper around me.

I was laying drawing when suddenly I was startled by the movement of the handle.

I sat back and looked at the handle.

I couldn't help but stare at the door.

It was like someone was trying to unlock the door but couldn't.

after a while the door opened and there stood 2 men and Ms Gloria.

Ms Gloria: Bonita come take what you need these men are here to help you.

Bonita (sign language): do you trust them?

Ms Gloria: yes they are Mr Collins men.

Bonita looked at them and remembered Ntando.

Bonita (sign language): oh I remember him.

Ntando: what did I do?

Ms Gloria: oh she just said she remembers you.

Ntando: yes I was there when you were predicting the attack.

Mr Mtolo: we don't have time the Ndamase's could be here anytime

his phone clicked a message. he checked. "red flag get out" from Shaun.

Mr Mtolo: we have to move they are on their way back.

Bonita ran to the wardrobe to take a small box that she had been hiding in there. she took her drawing and picked a jacket.

Mr Mtolo kept rushing her since she seemed to be taking time. but she was taking what was dear to her.

They ran out as they ran out a car stopped near Mr Mtolo's house.

everyone looked at the car.

Ntando: should we run?

The car door opened and Ntando held Bonita tighter to get ready to run out.

Ntando: Bonita
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there is no looking back? are you ready?

Bonita nodded.

The person came out and it was Musa.

Ntando breathed out relieved and walked out.

Ntando: Musa what are you doing here?

Musa: we don't have time. Shaun filled me in lets go.

Ntando: okay

Ntando called Bonita and she came running with Mr Mtolo coming behind her.

Mr Mtolo stood at the gate and looked at Ms Gloria.

Mr Mtolo: thank you for what you did for her.

Ms Gloria: its nothing I am just happy that she is finally free.

Mr Mtolo: I would like to know why you helped us? aren't you a loyal servant to the Ndamases?

Ms Gloria: I guess this is what she was waiting for.

Mr Mtolo: huh?

Ms Gloria: Bonita is a gifted child. her purpose is to save those who need to be saved. if she stays here any longer she will die. either of being beaten to death starvation or dehydration.

Mr Mtolo: that bad?

Ms Gloria: Mr Ndamase is a rich man for nothing. he keeps his wife under injections to keep her in a dead state. he constantly treats the mother of his wife as a slave. his heart is evil and will never change. Bonita has been through a lot. I tried to help her escape before but she was found after Mr Ndamase hired a PI to find her. I hope this time you will keep her safe and away from here because if she gets found again she won't find me here and she will be in a more difficult space as no other helper will help her. so please don't make me regret ever helping you.

Mr Mtolo: you talk as someone who is leaving.

Ms Gloria: (smile) my purpose is done. she is in your hands now. so why should I stay?

before he could ask more questions the guys called for him. he looked back and quickly took out his business card.

Mr Mtolo: here's my number. the girl might need you in the future Shaun hates cleaning he might need a helper in the house call me when you want a job with a higher salary.

Ms Gloria didn't say anything though she just nodded and smiled.

Ntando: Mr Mtolo we have to go!!

Ntando shouted from the gate.

Mr Mtolo: I am just a call away. Shaun as well. I am sure Bonita will appreciate it if you stay with her.

Ms Gloria: as I said my purpose is done. the will of the one in charge is done. she is now ready.

Mr Mtolo: ready??

Ms Gloria smiled not saying anything.

Ntando shouted again that they should leave Mr Mtolo looked at Ms Gloria with a confused look but didn't have time.

Mr Mtolo: call me!!

with that he left her there and ran to his car.

Ntando and Bonita were in Musa's car and Mr Mtolo in his own car.

Ms Gloria smiled.

Ms Gloria: she has finally met the person she is destined to save. I wish you well Bonita. my journey with you ends here.

- AT THE HOSPITAL -

Shaun kept waiting impatiently for a call.

he kept worrying about whether they were out or not.

Mr Ndamase: we will get going now..

Mr Collins: thank you for coming to see me.

Melissa: its a good thing you are being discharged tomorrow Mr Collins.

Mr Collins: thank you my daughter.

Shaun: already?? I mean I wouldn't mind spending more time with Melissa.

Mr Collins: ohh Shaun why make as if you won't see her again?? you can take her out tomorrow its getting late now.

before Shaun could say another word his phone rang..

Shaun: ohhh I have to take this.

he said with a smile then walked out to take the call.

Shaun: yes??

Mr Mtolo: we have her.. we are driving to your house now.

Shaun: (breaths out relieved) thank goodness.

Mr Mtolo: yah Musa kinda helped. its a good thing you filled him in.

Shaun: (clears throat) I can't talk right now. I will call when I am free.

Mr Mtolo: they are still there??

Shaun: mhm.

Mr Mtolo: okay see you later then.

Shaun: okay.

Shaun hung up and smiled as her mother and the Ndamases were walking his way heading out.

he was relieved.

- MOMENTS LATER -

- IN THE CAR -

Melissa: I think Shaun has finally fallen for me dad. soon I will be Mrs Collins.

Mr Ndamase: of cause he is supposed to fall for you. I mean you are the most beautiful woman on earth.

Melissa blushed.

The car arrived at the house.

after driving in and parking the car they walked in the house.

as they walked in the house they found Ms Gloria sitting in the living room as if she was expecting them.

Mr Ndamase: huh Ms Gloria you haven't left?

Mr Ndamase walked to Ms Gloria as Melissa went upstairs

Ms Gloria: I am glad you are back. I had something to say before I leave.

Mr Ndamase: if its about salary increase just forget it. we have more then 3 helpers in this house and one increase means all increase.

Ms Gloria: well I am sure having one less helper will help you save.

Mr Ndamase: Ms Gloria? what are you saying?? are you implying that you are leaving as in not going to come back?

Ms Gloria: my work here is done. so there is no need for me to be here.

Mr Ndamase: what??

Melissa came running down shouting for her dad.

Melissa: dad!! dad!!

Mr Ndamase: what is it Melissa I am talking to

he looked around and Ms Gloria wasn't around...

Mr Ndamase: she was right here..... she was...

Melissa: dad Bonita escaped again.

Mr Ndamase: what?? but... but how??

Melissa: where is Ms Gloria?? she must have helped her.

Mr Ndamase: but no one had the key.. are you sure.

he asked already walking to see while still looking around for Ms Gloria.

they got to the room and looked inside. indeed she was gone.

he checked the lock and it didn't seem broken. the door got unlocked.

but no one had the key.

Mr Ndamase: Melissa you saw Ms Gloria when we came in right?

Melissa: yes.. you shouldn't have let her go yet dad...

Mr Ndamase: what about when you came to call me?

Melissa: she wasn't there that's why I said you shouldn't have let her go.

Mr Ndamase: but I didn't...

he tries remembering that he was talking to Ms Gloria when she suddenly disappeared.

he was trying to understand whether she disappeared or ran away quickly. but can someone run out so quickly without leaving a trace that shows that she ran out?

Mr Ndamase: am I hallucinating?

CHARTER 21

- LATER THAT DAY -
- SHAUN'S HOUSE -
- NARRATOR -

Shaun Ntando and Mr Mtolo were in the living room.

Musa had just put Bonita to sleep.

Shaun was going through Bonita's box which had most of her drawings and other memory items.

Musa walked in the living room.

Musa: she is asleep.

Shaun: Thanks Musa.

Musa sat down then took a bottle of water from the table to drink.

Mr Mtolo: it seems like we will have to wait until tomorrow to ask her questions.

Ntando: she doesn't look like a harmful person.

Shaun: so she was the one behind the drawing?

Ntando: I knew Melissa wouldn't have drawn that drawing.

Musa: you should ask her to draw you a picture in front of you just for fun.

Ntando: its obvious she won't be able to.

Mr Mtolo: a little embarrassment won't hurt.

Shaun: (soft laugh) I can imagine.

there was a few second silence.

Musa: why do I always have to be the last to know about anything?

Shaun: that's because I never want to worry you.

Ntando: so you want to worry us?

Shaun: Shut up!!

Ntando squeezed his lips together as Mr Mtolo laughed at him

Musa: (shakes head) me not knowing anything makes me more worried.

Shaun: noted!

Musa: so what now?

Shaun: now we wait for our little safe card to wake up so that it starts spilling the tea.

they nodded in agreement.

Musa: alright... so no plan can be prepared until we have spoken to her..

Mr Mtolo: well... we better get going... I won't be here tomorrow so you guys will fill me in with what she said.

Shaun: oh Mr Mtolo you said you were investigation on the attack which my father asked right?

Mr Mtolo: mhm...

Shaun: any information?

Mr Mtolo: nothing valuable... it was a clean job done by professionals. nothing leads to the Mr Mbedu you were talking about.

Shaun: mhm.. okay.

he nodded again..

Mr Mtolo: okay... see you guys when I see you... Ntando!

Ntando: mhm... I will be here tomorrow.

Shaun nodded..

Shaun: thank you guys for doing this for me.

Ntando: we are family... no one messes with one of us and gets away with it.

Mr Mtolo: says the most coward one.

Ntando: I am not...

Shaun and Musa laughed...

Ntando: mxm..

he said waving goodbye and walking out Shaun walked him out.

Mr Mtolo: look at him..

Shaun: you should stop teasing Ntando...

Mr Mtolo: (soft laughs) I find him cute when he is like that.

Shaun: don't say that I might think you are gay.

Mr Mtolo: who knows.

Shaun: haiiiiiiii!!!

Shaun said blocking his chest and raising his knees higher up.

Mr Mtolo laughed.

Mr Mtolo: anyway I wanted to ask a favour.

Shaun: you want to sleep with me?

Mr Mtolo: I am serious.

Shaun: okay what is it?

Mr Mtolo: I am worried about Ms Gloria being left in that house... can she come here and help you take care of this house?? you do need a cleaner.

Shaun looked around realizing that he really does..

Shaun: yah I really do.. and we need someone we can trust.

Mr Mtolo: she is the one that helped us get Bonita I think we can trust her.

Shaun: I don't mind having her around.. she might even help Bonita feel at ease around us.

Mr Mtolo: exactly.

Shaun: did you get her contacts? I can call her and offer her the job.

Mr Mtolo: shucks!! I was so in a hurry that I didn't ask for her contacts but she has mine I asked her to call me. so she will.

Shaun: will she?

Mr Mtolo: she seems to be very close to Bonita so obviously she might want to know how she is and also ask to see her.

Shaun: right!! is she like related to her in a way?

Mr Mtolo: I doubt.. but she said some weird things when we left. I wonder what she meant.

Shaun: weird? what weird things?

Mr Mtolo: something about her leaving. she said her purpose is done and that Bonita is ready now!. but she also said that no matter what the Ndamases should not know or find Bonita.

Shaun: that I can assure you

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it won't happen.

Mr Mtolo: and about her mother its serious hai!

Shaun: really?

Mr Mtolo: this is where you need to use your money to bribe some doctors because Mr Ndamase made sure the ropes are tight around her.

Shaun: (sigh) is she fine though?

Mr Mtolo: she gets drugged to stay in the state she is in.

Shaun: so she isn't really in ICU?

Mr Mtolo: no... I am sure if they stop injecting her she would wake up and be fine.

Shaun sighed not saying a word.

Mr Mtolo tapped on Musa's shoulders and walked out..

Shaun walked back to the living room.

Musa: coffee??

Shaun: please... my head is painful.

Musa: okay....

- AT THE NDAMASE'S -

Mr Ndamase: she escaped again.

???: should I look for her again?

Mr Ndamase: I will double the last pay.

???: okay sir I am on it.

Mr Ndamase: while you are at it. look for Ms Gloria as well.

???: the helper??

Mr Ndamase: you know her right??

???: I have seen her a couple of times at your house.

Mr Ndamase: yes... bring her to me as well.

???: copied.

Mr Ndamase hung up threw his phone on the couch and breathed while leaning back.

Melissa came in sulking and looking drained.

Melissa: dad...

Mr Ndamase looked at her.

Melissa: do I still stand a chance with Shaun??

Mr Ndamase: my daughter.

he said as he stood up heading to Melissa.

Mr Ndamase: remember Shaun doesn't know about Bonita no one does. and Shaun already said that he will marry you so why are you stressed?

Melissa: (crying) what if what if Bonita goes after Shaun and tells him everything.

Mr Ndamase: even if she does... do you think they will believe her?? Shaun has been in this house he never suspected anything so he won't believe her. we just have to deny knowing her.

Melissa: what about aunt?

Mr Ndamase: well leave that to me.

Melissa placed her head on her father's shoulders.

Melissa: I need to marry Shaun quicker Father... I love him.. with him I can get a better future have anything I want in life.. right?

Mr Ndamase: yes you will. and yes you will receive all that you want. he is a successor.

Melissa smiled through her tears.

- LATER -

- AT SHAUN'S HOUSE -

Shaun was in the living room still watching TV.

Musa was from the bedroom. he had his pyjamas on and his gown.

he walked to the living room.

Musa: can't sleep?

Shaun: first round I almost got attacked second round I got attacked.. the person who links the attacked is sleeping in my house should I sleep?

Musa: you scared that she will kill you while you sleeping?

Shaun: its possible..

Musa: you are crazy.

Shaun: I value my life... what about you?

Musa: I was attacked too have you forgotten?

Shaun: (soft laugh) mxm...

they both sat on the couch watching TV.

CONTINUATION 21

- AT SHAUN'S HOUSE -

- NARRATOR -

Shaun had just finished getting ready.

he walked down to the living room and found Bonita already in the living room sitting on the couch watching TV.

his heart raced a bit because of fear.

he took a deep breath and walked to her.

as he was walking to her Bonita looked back after hearing footsteps

Bonita looked at Shaun who suddenly stopped on his tracks.

she stood up and looked at Shaun...

Bonita (sign language): why are you always so scared around me? do I scare you?

Shaun:

Bonita (sign language): did I do something wrong?

Shaun: something wrong?? scare me? are you still not well even after a fresh bath?

Bonita (sign language): I can feel it. so tell me so that I know. I am bad at reading between the lines.

Shaun didn't say anything but avoided eye contact.

he walked to the other side of the couch and sat down. Bonita also sat down facing Shaun.

Shaun: fine.. I just can't seem to believe that you saw the attack in your mind... this seeing the future thing is only fiction.

Bonita (sign language): but its true..

Shaun: (sigh) okay lets say its true... tell me.. when will I die? at what age?

Bonita (sign language): as I said I only see what I am shown. I don't choose what to see.

Shaun: (sigh) last time I believed that Santa exist was when I was about 5... I caught my mom packing the presents under the Christmas tree late at night. and I was right they don't exists. I know I love Marvel movies and comics but I am old enough to know that supernatural powers don't exist. I always hear people talking about prophets but with so many false prophets going on I don't believe there are any real once.

Bonita (sign language): I understand.. of cause its not easy having to accept and believe something that doesn't make sense. but that's how it is. Mr Collins my journey is not only with you but with another girl called Samantha.. I have to save her before she is sent to spend 7 days under hunger detention she may not make it. so I don't have time. whether you believe me or not that's all up to you. but please help me save the people I care about. please. only you can help me.

Shaun: only I can help you? why?

Bonita (sign language): you are in a powerful position where you can help me. alone I am weak I can't do it alone. that's why I beg for your help. I am not here to harm you but to help you.

Shaun looked at her.

Shaun: is seeing the future the reason how you know my signature writing in drawings?

Bonita (sign language): signature writing in drawings?

Shaun: yes. 끝세

Bonita (sign language): ohh that? so the drawings in my vision were linked to you?

Shaun: you didn't know?

Bonita (sign language): I thought it was something I had to do every time I drew pictures. actually for me to even start drawing I was 7 years old I kept on having visions of someone drawing something and putting the signature like that while shading it in. I never knew who it was because I never saw his face but he was a small child as well judging from his hands. so I copied how the child and drew his drawings.

Shaun: so all these drawings are drawings of the child?

Bonita (sign language): its pictures that the child used to draw. the child loved drawing flowers the sky trees moon and one last peace was a picture of a young girl crying under the tree. the child drew that one more often I always wondered why.

Shaun: a girl under the tree?

Bonita (sign language): yes...

Shaun: where are her pictures?

Bonita (sign language): that was one picture I didn't want to draw.. it was too painful

Shaun was thrown back in the past for a second when he remembered how he used to draw. and just like this child Bonita is talking about he also used to draw a girl who used to stay next door.

in his life she has never seen that girl smile.. she was always sad and crying. she would sit under the tree

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or against the wall or sit outside in front of her house.

Shaun was too shy to approach her so he just watched from far while drawing pictures of her. he wanted to use the pictures to tell her that he likes her but couldn't.

because a few months later he found out that they have moved. for him that broke him so much. he even regretted why he didn't confess sooner maybe she would have refused to move away.

Ntando walked in the living room as Shaun was running these memories in her head. he was now wondering is Bonita saw him or is he is starting to be crazy for actually listen to that story.

Ntando: ohhh you two are here? good breakfast is ready.

Shaun looked at Ntando and at Bonita who was already smiling at Ntando. he looked back at Ntando and nodded.

Shaun: you two go ahead I will be there now.

Ntando: lets go Bonita.

they went to the kitchen table while Shaun sat on the couch thinking about what Bonita just said.

he then quickly shook his head and leaned back..

Musa: are you going crazy?

he looked back at Musa..

Shaun: Crazy? me? why do you say that?

Musa: just.. you don't look well.

Shaun: I think I am hungry Ntando is done.. lets go eat.

Musa shook his head and walked with him to the kitchen table.

As they had their meal Shaun kept looking at Bonita who was enjoying her meal.

he continued eating while giving short stares at Bonita in between.

Shaun: Ntando.

Ntando: mhm?

Shaun: want to move in?

Ntando: move in?? are you sick?

Shaun: I am asking.

Ntando: ohhhhh I see.. you want me to move in so that I could make breakfast for you huh? I told you I was a chef you didn't believe me.

Shaun: you are high.. the only reason is because I need someone to take care of Bonita while I go back home.

Musa: you are going to leave her here?

Shaun: I have to act normal. Dad can't be sniffing around here.

Musa: well I can stay here

Ntando: but you can't stay here while Shaun is at home with his parents that will raise questions.

Shaun: yah.. and telling them that I am suddenly moving out will raise some question which is why I will give them a notice smoother that way.

Musa: okay..

Shaun: Ntando she and this house will be on you.

Ntando: I will look after her with my life. plus I have Spike.

as they were speaking Shaun's phone rang.

Shaun looked at Musa before answering.

Shaun: dad?

Mr Collins: Shaun why didn't you say that you will be sleeping at your house?

Shaun: how old am I again?? do I still have to do that?

Mr Collins: you are living under my roof.. so that means you are still a child.

Shaun: well I will be staying in my house then.. so I am not a child.

Mr Collins: do you always have to be so childish?

Shaun: does dad always have to be so controlling? I can't even sneeze without even asking for permission.

Mr Collins: Shaun!! I am your father.

Shaun: yet you act like my boss. not once did you be a father to me. its the company its the marriage its my life.. everything is just about you.. can't I live?

Mr Collins: Shaun??

Shaun: I won't be coming home today either..

he hung up and took a breather..

Musa looked at him and he looked at Musa and Ntando.

he stood up leaving them there..

Bonita looked at him as he walked out.

- LATER -

Mr Mtolo had arrived.

everyone was in the living room.

Bonita was telling Shaun what happened from the beginning and Shaun would translate to the guys what Bonita was saying.

it was a story that was not easy to believe but somethings made sense.

but now that the story is placed out and Bonita is under Shaun's care. what is next?

CHARTER 22

- NEXT MORNING -
- NARRATOR -
- AT SHAUN'S HOUSE -

Bonita woke up and first thing she sees is this room that she didn't recognise for a few seconds before she remembered what happened yesterday.

"ohhh so it wasn't a dream? I am really free?" she thought to herself.

she gently woke up and got out of the bed.

she was still wearing what she was wearing yesterday. she walked to the door and gently opened it.

she walked out stepping into the hallway.

she walked to where the hallway was leading her.

she walked passed few closed doors but didn't want to open them so she kept walking till she saw stairs going down. she walked down with them and that lead her to the living room.

she walked down the stairs.

as she was walking down the stairs looking around she saw people sleeping on the couch.

she looked at them but couldn't see who it was.

so she walked to the couch and stood in front of the couch.. she then looked at the TV that was still on and looked back at the 2 gentlemen sleeping on the couch.

she smiled and looked around.

she saw a pathway. she turned to see where it leads and it led to the kitchen.

she smiled looking around. Kettle cups the tea set. that was all she needed to make some tea for the people who saved her and give thanks.

she took the kettle filled it with water and plugged it for it to boil the water.

she took 3 cups and rinsed them before reaching for the tea set. it was a set of 4 containers (Tea Suga Coffee and Creamer).

she didn't know if they liked coffee or Tea nor knew how many sugars so she decided to just pour water and they would do it themselves.

she took the tray put 3 cups on it placed the 4 containers on the tray then after the kettle turned off she poured the water in the cups.

she then held the tray and walked back to the living room.

when she walked in she found one of the guys on the phone sitting on the couch.

Musa: Hai!..

he said as his eyes met with Bonita's eyes.

Musa: listen I have to go.. something just came up.

he wrapped up still looking at Bonita who was walking towards him.

Musa stood up to help Bonita.

Musa: let me help you..

Bonita let him take the tray and placed it on the table.

Bonita waited for Musa to look at her so that she can say thank you.

Musa looked at her.

Bonita (sign language): Thank you.

Musa: are you okay?

Bonita nodded.

Bonita (sign language): Thank you for saving me.

Musa didn't know what she was saying..

Musa: I am sorry I can't speak sign language.. maybe we can....

he looked around..

Musa: right!! you can write it down.

he said reaching for the piece of paper under the TV Stand and a pen.

Musa: here..

Bonita took the paper and wrote down then showed it to Musa.

Bonita: the water will get cold lets make tea first.

Musa smiled and nodded.

he then made the tea.

Musa: how many teaspoons of sugar?

Bonita raised 3 fingers up.

Musa: (smiles) mhm.. coffee??

Bonita nodded while putting her hands together to indicate a "thank you"

Musa smiled and continued.

Shaun moved stretching his body then slightly opened his eyes to see Musa and Bonita.

he quickly sat up looking at Bonita with eyes filled with fear.

why? while Shaun was going through the drawings his signature was planted in every drawing some drawings were creepy as they were drawings that portrayed fear and darkness since Bonita was abused.

since he hasn't fully believed that that's the truth he just thought they were creepy which made him doubt Bonita into being dark.

Musa: you awake? Bonita made us tea.

Shaun: she did?

Musa: mhm.. get up so that we can have some.

Shaun: huh.... right...

Shaun sat up wiping his face and removing dirt around his eyes.

Shaun: huh.. I will go wash my face first.

Musa: just sit down I am already done it might get cold.

Shaun breathed as he kept looking at Bonita.

Bonita smiled at him.

Bonita (sign language): Thank you for saving me

Shaun: I still want answers. you must know I don't buy half of your story.

Bonita (sign language): which one did you buy?

Shaun: the part where Melissa and Mr Ndamase are using you to trap me into marriage through a child that you will carry but Melissa will mother.

Musa: can she have breakfast and freshen up first? why the attack so early in the morning? she even made you tea yet I didn't hear you say thank you.

Bonita shook her head.

Bonita (sign language): no

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it might get cold.

Shaun breathed as he kept looking at Bonita.

Bonita smiled at him.

Bonita (sign language): Thank you for saving me

Shaun: I still want answers. you must know I don't buy half of your story.

Bonita (sign language): which one did you buy?

Shaun: the part where Melissa and Mr Ndamase are using you to trap me into marriage through a child that you will carry but Melissa will mother.

Musa: can she have breakfast and freshen up first? why the attack so early in the morning? she even made you tea yet I didn't hear you say thank you.

Bonita shook her head.

Bonita (sign language): no its okay. I knew you would have a lot of questions about this. I didn't mean to scare you it just happened so fast and I couldn't ignore it.

Shaun: she says its fine..

Musa looked at Bonita

Musa: sure??

Bonita nodded.

Musa handed each person his/her cup of tea/coffee then sat down.

Bonita (sign language): okay then ask me anything and I will answer.

Shaun: lets start from the beginning where all this started.. how did you know that I would be attacked?

Bonita (sign language): I already told you but you said you don't buy that story.

Shaun: so you saw it? its the seeing the future nonsense?

Musa: what did she say?

Shaun: I will tell you everything after..

Musa: no I want to know as she goes.. what if I can help with the questions?

Shaun: its too much work so let me gather information then I will tell you.

Musa: you better tell me everything.

Shaun: I will.

Musa: don't leave anything behind.

Shaun: (sigh) I won't. (turns to Bonita) so you see the future?? that's your answer?

Bonita (sign language): *nodded*

Shaun chuckled and shook his head.

Musa: what??

Shaun: she is still giving me the "seeing the future" crap.

Musa looked at Bonita.

Bonita crossed her fingers.

Musa: lets say we believe you.. are you saying you saw this attack happen and told Shaun to avoid it?

Bonita nodded.

Musa: do you see everything that will happen in the future??

Bonita (sign language): I don't really know when I am allowed to see the future but I see whatever that is shown to me.

Musa looked at Shaun who was just looking at Bonita.

Musa: well??

Shaun: this is nonsense.. believe me you don't want to know.

Musa: Shaun!

Shaun: she says she sees what she is shown.

Musa looks at Bonita.

Musa: do you know Mr Mbedu?

Bonita shook her head.

Shaun scoffed and sipped his tea.

Shaun: this is unbelievable.

at that moment a call came through and Shaun reached for his phone.

Shaun: Ntando!!

Ntando: open the gate we are outside.

Shaun: we? is Mr Mtolo with you?

Ntando: no he said he would come later.

Shaun: so who is we?

Ntando: me and Spike.

Shaun: you brought Spike?

Ntando: mhm.. boy needed a drive and change of scenario I will tie his leash to the pole in the background so don't worry he won't mess up your precious garden.

Shaun: I hope so. I worked so hard to get that garden to be so beautiful.

Ntando just laughed then hung up waiting for the gate to open.

Shaun went to the gate remote on the wall with a camera preview of who is at the gate.

he looked and saw Ntando then pressed the open button.

Ntando drove in. after he was in he pressed the close button and stood there till the gate closed and locked.

he then walked back to the living room to get his tea.

he then walked to the kitchen while gulping the remaining tea.

he went to rinse his cup and put it away then walked passed where Musa and Bonita was.

Musa: hao aren't you going to finish asking questions?

Shaun: on second thoughts I think we should freshen up and have breakfast before anything.. it looks like she needs it.. her brains are not settled yet. I understand.. sometimes I feel like that and start saying things that don't make sense..

Musa didn't know what to say.. Bonita saw that coming.. not everyone will believe that she sees the future.. these things are known to be fiction and seen in movies.. its understandable that he might doubt.

Ntando walked in while Shaun was about to head out.

Ntando: I told you I would be early.. at least I made it before breakfast.

Shaun: I knew that was your only aim of coming early. but than again its a good thing because you and Musa can prepare breakfast.

Ntando: what??

Musa: I also have to freshen up.. so Ntando you will do it alone.

Bonita stood up.

Bonita (sign language): I can help

Shaun was looking at her.. as after she said that Ntando and Musa looked at Shaun for translations.

Shaun: she says she also has to freshen up..

Shaun looked at Bonita who was shaking her head.

Shaun: hurry and freshen up then.. its a good idea.. it will help you relax.

Bonita pouted also sulking..

she sat down to finish her tea.

Ntando: agggg now I wish I was a little late..

Shaun: at least you get to choose what breakfast to make.

Ntando: hai suka... same thing.

Shaun smiled and walked to his room.

- DAYS LATER -
- AT SHAUN'S HOUSE -
- BONITA -

(DREAM)

Mr Collins stood there looking at someone with his eyes wide open. he was so startled that he started breathing heavily and held on the wall.

someone walked towards him only the shoes were visible.

Mr Collins had to take his pills but Mrs Collins was not with him and the person who he was looking at didn't have the intention of saving him.

???: long time Mike.. I missed you. why didn't you visit me??

Mr Collins didn't say anything he just continued holding his chest as he found himself on the floor. it seemed like he was having chest pains.

???: I have come to take what you took from me. my life.

with that Mr Collins collapsed.

The sound of a machine started becoming loud and all of a sudden it started going off as if someone had just died.

(END OF DREAM)

I woke up immediately and took a moment to catch my breath.. I was sweating and my heart was racing. it was as if my heart would race me to death.

After a moment I calmed down and looked around.

" something is going to happen I don't know when but I must tell Shaun he must go home his parents are in danger." I thought

I immediately got out of the bed running out.

I ran down the stairs and met with Ntando playing games in the living room.

I ran towards him and stood in front of him.

I waved and he looked at me.

Ntando: Bonita you are up very early today.

Bonita (sign language): where is Shaun?

Ntando looked at her trying to figure out what she is saying. when Bonita saw that she ran to get a paper and a pen at the TV stand. that's where Shaun kept his paper work drawing books and stationary.

She grabbed a pen and paper and wrote it down for Ntando.

" where is Shaun?"

she gave it to Ntando to read.

Ntando: ohh Shaun? he is at work. why?

She wrote something again.

"I just saw the future his parents are in danger"

she gave to Ntando to read again.

Ntando read and looked at her.

Ntando: are you serious?

Bonita nodded.

Ntando: well.... huh... let me call Shaun.

Bonita nodded and waited eagerly for Ntando to call.

Shaun picked up.

Shaun: Ntando?? what's up?

Ntando: your girl is here trying to communicate..

Shaun: (interrupted) she is not my girl.

Ntando: whatever listen I will video call you so that you speak to her..

Shaun: okay.

Ntando hung up and video called Shaun. Shaun answered and waited while they set the phone to stand on its own since Bonita can't hold the phone because she will need her hands to communicate.

Shaun: want to say something?

Bonita (sign language): you have to go check on your parents they could be in danger.

Shaun: why do you say that??

Bonita (sign language): I saw a vision. your father was looking at someone while struggling he then collapsed and the person let her die.

Shaun: (laughs) and I should believe you because you see the future?

Bonita (sign language): its a risk you have to take. you will either believe me and save your parents or don't believe me and watch it happen. what will it be?

Shaun: (sigh).....

Bonita (sign language): you have nothing to lose by taking the risk.

Shaun: (sigh) but Musa is at home you didn't see him in your Vision?

Bonita shook his head.

Bonita (sign language): Musa and your mother were not there
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you didn't see him in your Vision?

Bonita shook his head.

Bonita (sign language): Musa and your mother were not there I only saw your father and someone else. but I couldn't see the person's face only his shoes.

Shaun: (Chuckles) hai the things we come across in life. kunzima. anyway thank you for letting me know. I will be sure to keep an extra eye at home.

Bonita (sign language): please do.. this could happen anytime. and I mean anytime.

Shaun: you don't get to see when it happens?

Bonita shook her head.

Shaun: okay.. so did it happen at home or the company where?

Bonita took a moment to remember his surroundings

Bonita (sign language): he was standing against a glass table with a sky painting behind.

Shaun couldn't think of any sky painting.

Shaun: Sky painting??

Bonita: *nodded*

Shaun: okay!! noted. now go have breakfast and relax. Ntando is there he will be your chief?

Ntando just chuckled as he heard Shaun say that.

Bonita looked away as Ntando spoke to Shaun. she knew Shaun wasn't still convinced. and she was worried that Shaun wouldn't be able to do anything as he might think its not true.

she was hopeless.

- AT THE NDAMASE'S -

- NARRATOR -

Mr Ndamase: what do you mean you still haven't found anything on them?

Zakes: I looked everywhere I even appointed some sources to look into the organisation where they sell young girls there is nothing.

Mr Ndamase: there is no way that girl could go far. how did you find her last time??

Zakes: she was taken in by the lady who prostitutes girls.

Mr Ndamase: then search for her there again?

Zakes: I already did. she hasn't seen her after I took her from her.

Mr Ndamase: what about Ms Gloria?

Zakes: that's the weird part... I went to were you said she lives but no one knows a woman like that the house you sent me too is being used by some couple. it is said that they have been living there for years now.

Mr Ndamase: it can't be they must be lying.. Ms Gloria has been living there since she started working for me. that's what she wrote on her application.

Zakes: a woman like that doesn't exist in that place. and to shock you more I checked for her info with my connections and it seems the ID number belonged to someone else. it didn't show her.

Mr Ndamase: are you saying she is a fraud??

Zakes: could be.. but at this moment nothing links to that woman its like she never existed.

Mr Ndamase couldn't get his head around the matter. it was too confusing for him.

Mr Ndamase: Zakes just keep digging.. find these 2 people. fast.

Zakes: yes sir.

he hung up and clenched his jaws as he leaned his hands on the table thinking about the matter.

"FU**" he said as he smashed his fist against the table and looked up.

- SOMEWHERE -

Mr Mbedu: I think its time I make my visit don't you think?

???: yes boss.

Mr Mbedu leaned back and raised a picture of him and Mr Collins together smiling..

it was a picture taken back in the days they had just returned from fishing together.

he clenched his jaws looking at the picture.. he took a pen and traced it around Mr Collins face.

" I am back not to laugh with you but to settle a score"

CHARTER 24

- 2 WEEKS LATER -
- AT SHAUN'S HOUSE -
- NARRATOR -

Shaun arrived at his house very late at night. just as Bonita asked he has been checking on his parents and he also asked Musa to always check on his parents.

he let Musa know about what Bonita said so 2 is better then one.

Ntando was in the living room watching TV when Shaun walked in. Bonita was in the kitchen preparing dinner.

Ntando: hai Shaun...

Shaun: mhm...

he said putting his suitcase on the couch and throwing himself on the couch.

Shaun: ahhh I am tired.

Ntando: would you like a massage? Bonita gives the best massages ever

Shaun looked at Ntando and chuckled.

Shaun: seems like you 2 grew close huh!

Ntando: what do you mean??

Shaun smiled and looked at him turning his whole body to him.

Shaun: wait!! could it be that you planned this whole "attack" prediction to keep me and Musa away from here? so that you 2 can be together alone.. and "massage" each other?

Ntando looked at Shaun opening his eyes wide.

Ntando: Ahhh!! do you really think that of me?

Shaun: just saying!!

he said getting up grabbed his suitcase and headed to the stairs.

Shaun: anyway enjoy your massages I am going to take a nap.

Ntando: won't you have dinner with us?

Shaun: and suffer being a third wheel? no thank you.

Ntando: come on Shaun.. what does that mean?

Shaun: just as it means.

he smiled and went to his room.

Ntando just shook his head and headed to to the kitchen where Bonita was.

Shaun threw himself on the bed and took out his phone.

he dialled Musa.

Musa: boy!

Shaun: anything?

Musa: not yet boy! even the painting you talked about exists. I checked their bedroom checked all the rooms in the house I couldn't find it.

Shaun: yah even in the company I didn't find it.

Musa: I also managed to get Melissa's house checked there is no such painting.

Shaun: (sigh) of cause there wouldn't be such a painting if this was all made up. I told you this "seeing into the future" thing is a lie. I am starting to doubt this whole slave thing as well.

Musa: hai!! but you said you heard Melissa talk about it.

Shaun: what if it was all planned? what if Melissa saying all that was actually planned for me to believe Bonita? I mean come to think of it the drug they used was strong. many man who used this drug as a Viagra needed at least 6 rounds to steam off the drug and pass out. and when you pass out many woke up after 6-9 hours of sleeping while a little of them woke up after 4-6 hours which is minimal. no one woke up in less then 4 hours but I did.

Musa: then how did you steam off? you needed to steam off in order to pass out right?

Shaun: I remember helping myself. but that was only... twice.

Musa laughed.. then held it in.

Shaun: its not funny

Musa: sorry...

he tried staying serious but ended up laughing again.

Shaun: I will hang up.

Musa: I am sorry. but Shaun you know.. maybe you one of the weakest link.

Shaun: Musa!!

Musa laughed again.

Shaun: this is so humiliating.

Musa: it is.. or maybe you don't remember other rounds.

Shaun: no.. I remember that I felt a bit dizzy while having dinner with Melissa she then went down to get the card for a room and took me to the room I laid there as she said she will be back she came back and we had a little steamy moment but nothing happened. when she ran off to the bathroom for some reason
Sponsored

I decided to help myself because I was dying. I actually thought she was kind of punishing me.

Musa: then after that?

Shaun: she just came back and sat on me. I thought she was ready especially when she put her thumb in my mouth but that's when I started getting some relieve and passed out.

Musa: Damn!

Musa said holding in some laughter.

Musa: you know.. I always thought you would be someone to carry out 12 rounds before passing out.

Shaun: Shut up!!

Musa: anyway I see now why you would be worried.

Shaun: exactly... I didn't even pass out for long. after a few minutes I got up. she told me she had one hour to sleep with me and exchange with Melissa.

Musa: so all of that happened under an hour?

Shaun: see what I mean?

Musa: Shaun how long did you last helping yourself.

Shaun: its surely longer then I took to pass out.

Musa: mhm.. are you sure.

Shaun: Musa!!

Musa: (laughs) okay okay. so what do you plan to do now?

Shaun: what else can I do? I have to expose the Ndamases. I have to set a date invite all of them to dinner then bring Bonita lets see how they explain the situation.

Musa: NO!! that's very dangerous.

Shaun: I can't sit here surrounded by all this mess and not do nothing.

Musa: lets give her more time. I feel like this is not everything.

Shaun sighed.

- AT THE HOSPITAL -

Mr Ndamase walked into the ward and the doctor immediately closed the door after checking the coast.

Doc: you can't keep coming here and asking to meet me it will get suspicious.

Mr Ndamase: I tried calling but you wouldn't answer my calls.

Doc: that's because I am busy Mr Ndamase with all due respect I really have a patient to check on. so I don't have much time.

Mr Ndamase: fine.. I will make it quick.. how is Portia?

Doc: I make sure to not miss the injection time. no need to worry.

Mr Ndamase: listen.. a girl might come here looking for her if she does you have to call me.

Doc: why would she come looking for her?

Mr Ndamase: just do as I say.

Doc: I hope this won't come back to me.

Mr Ndamase: just do what you are paid to do. nothing will come to you.

Doc: yes sir... if we are done here I would like to go attend my patient.

Mr Ndamase nodded.

The doctor left and Mr Ndamase walked to where Portia was laying.

he looked at her

- NEXT DAY AFTERNOON -
- AT THE COLLINS -

Mrs Collins walked in with Mr Collins holding a huge painting in his hands.

they walked in laughing and talking finding Musa in the living room alone.

Musa: wow!! the atmosphere just become so lovely and warm.

Mr Collins: (smile) ohh son...

Mrs Collins: don't tell me you were sitting there watching TV the whole day?

Musa: *shakes head* I was not.

Mrs Collins: you are lying.. your eyes are red.

Mr Collins: maybe its because he is high.

Musa smiled opening his mouth wide as in shock.

Musa: ahhhh baba.. me?

they laughed.

Mrs Collins: did you at least eat?

Musa: yes ma'am.
Mrs Collins: when?

Musa checked his watch.

Musa: about 4 hours ago.
Mrs Collins:

Mrs Collins was giving him the "don't lie to me" look.

Musa: don't tell me you want me to proof it.
Mr Collins: disgusting.

Musa saw the painting.

Musa: wow!! I didn't know Dad was into paintings.
Mr Collins: oh this?

he looked at the painting.

Mr Collins: well I was at some gallery for a business talk I saw it and thought maybe Shaun would like it. plus I wanted to support the gallery. he likes art so he would appreciate it I guess.

Musa: I see.. may I see it?

Mr Collins: sure.. when you are done please hang in right there.

Musa: on the wall?

Mr Collins: yah right behind the glass table. that way Shaun will see if just as he walks in.

Mrs Collins: look at you carrying for him.

Mr Collins: I am not.

Musa: but you bought him a painting.

Mr Collins: its mine.

he said that waking away. Mrs Collins laughed following him.

Musa looked at the painting.

"she said he had a sky painting behind him and a glass table" he remembered Shaun's words.

"right behind the glass table" he remembered Mr Collins request.

he quickly grabbed his phone to call Shaun.

Shaun answered after the 3rd ring.

Shaun: Musa.

Musa: he bought it.. the painting he bought it.

Shaun: huh?

Musa: what's more scary? he asked me to put it right behind the glass table on the wall.

Shaun: the glass table?

he also remembered Bonita's words.

Shaun: no way!!

CHARTER 25

- NEXT DAY AFTERNOON -
- NARRATOR -
- AT SHAUN'S HOUSE -

Ntando Bonita and Shaun were sitting in the living room waiting for Mr Mtolo. Shaun had asked for a meeting since he found out something important. he still didn't think this was possible but the whole painting thing just proved everything.

Mr Mtolo arrived Shaun opened the gate for him and he came inside.

as he walked in the living room he was met with a atmosphere filled with curiosity and coldness.

Mr Mtolo: I don't like how the atmosphere is... what is it?

Ntando: well we are all curious as to why Shaun called us.

Shaun looked at Mr Mtolo.

Shaun: please... sit down.

Mr Mtolo sat down crossing his legs.

Bonita didn't want to say anything she just looked at her fingers.

Shaun: I am glad you could make it.

Mr Mtolo: it seemed serious.

Shaun: it is..

Ntando: did something happen?

Shaun looked at Bonita then sighed.

Shaun: God knows I hate to say this.. but Bonita was right!

Ntando: about?

Shaun: my parents are about to be attacked.

Mr Mtolo: wait!!! what??

Shaun: Bonita!! do you still remember the painting that you sure in your vision?

Bonita: *nodded*

Shaun: is it like this?

Shaun handed her his phone showing the picture that Musa shot and sent to him via WhatsApp.

Bonita looked at it and nodded

Bonita (sign language): it is.

Shaun: (sigh) my dad bought this painting for me yesterday. Musa told me about it last night. and he was told to put it on the wall right behind the glass table.

Bonita widened her eyes and looked at Shaun.

Bonita (sign language): that means the attack will be anytime from now.

Shaun: but as long as Musa is with my dad it won't happen. you said you didn't see Musa or my mom right?

Bonita: *nodded*

Mr Mtolo: can we also be filled in on the conversation?

Ntando: I was about to say that?

Shaun: sorry... she was just telling me that the attack will happen anytime from now. so I told her not as long as Musa is with my father or if my father is not home.

Ntando: how will that stop the attack?

Mr Mtolo: from what I understand Bonita saw the attack happening at Mr Collins home in the living room because that's where the painting and glass table is located. so as long as Mr Collins is not home the attack won't happened unless Bonita sees another attack happening outside. and another thing she didn't see Musa or Mrs Collins in the vision that means its either the attackers got them first or they were not there.

Ntando: aaahhhH!! so as long as he is not around the painting then he won't be attacked?

Shaun: basically.

Mr Mtolo: maybe you should bring them here for a while.

Shaun: what about Bonita?

Mr Mtolo: she can go with Ntando to his place. that way we can prevent the attack from happening.

Shaun: but here's the thing we don't know when the attack will happen.

they all thought for a minute.

Shaun: don't worry even if it happens now Musa will tell me if something is off.

suddenly his phone rang it was Musa.

Shaun: speaking of the devil.

he said before picking the call up.

Shaun: Musa!!

Musa: red light!!

Shaun: what's wrong? is it now?

Musa: No!! but I think its tomorrow.

Shaun: why do you say that?

Musa: Mrs Collins wants me to meet someone tomorrow at the company. I tried talking my way out but its not up for debate. she said its important. Mr Collins is a bit sick so he will be staying in tomorrow. that means he will be alone..

Shaun: got it!! what time are you leaving?

Musa: in the morning.

Shaun: F*** I have to be at work tomorrow.

Musa: so what now?

Shaun: don't worry I will still keep him safe. you just make sure my mother is safe.

Musa: she is also my mother.

Shaun: just make sure she is safe...

Musa: obvious. I trust that you will be on time... if Bonita's vision is really true
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I will still keep him safe. you just make sure my mother is safe.

Musa: she is also my mother.

Shaun: just make sure she is safe...

Musa: obvious. I trust that you will be on time... if Bonita's vision is really true we could lose Mr Collins. and I know we don't want that.

Shaun: mhm..

Musa: okay.. I am hanging up.

Shaun: okay.. thanks for the update.

Musa: mhm..

he hung up and Shaun looked at Mr Mtolo..

Shaun: can I bother you??

before Mr Mtolo could answer Bonita had the same vision she had about Samantha. the one that kept bothering her for days now.

it was so strong that she blacked out and stared in space as if she was seeing a ghost. tears filled her tears as she thought about how she won't be able to save her.

Ntando: Bonita!! Bonita!!

as Ntando shouted Bonita snapped out meeting with 6 worried eyes.

Mr Mtolo: Ms Bonita are you okay?

Bonita: *nods and fakes a smile*

Shaun: don't lie. your eyes are watery did you just see something else?

Bonita looked down biting her lips.

Shaun: you did didn't you? what is it? you have to tell me.

Bonita looked up.

Bonita (sign language): its not about your parents its about someone else. someone I won't be able to save.

Shaun: who?

Bonita (sign language): Samantha! we were both locked up together she was the only one who was on my side. but seems like she will die soon and I won't be able to help her.

Shaun: at the club?

Ntando: hai what did the club do?

Shaun: wait!

Bonita looked at Shaun surprised as to how he knew that place.

Bonita (sign language): *nodded* how did you know?

Shaun: we once went there to get you but someone had already found you first.

Bonita (sign language): to get me? why?

Shaun: its a long story.. so that person is still there?? what did you see?

Bonita (sign language): she will be punished with no food for 7 days she will die.. that's because I only get visions of the moment of death. that's why I was shown this vision. if she dies. she will be the second person I failed to save.

Shaun: second person you failed to save?

Bonita (sign language): the first was my father.

Shaun didn't say anything but looked down.

Shaun: Mr Mtolo I will need more of your resources I will double the price.

Mr Mtolo: what is it? what did she say?

Shaun: remember the club we located Bonita before?

Mr Mtolo: mhm..

Shaun: we need to bring that Club down. prostitution drugs and abuse. you think you can sort that out.

Mr Mtolo: of cause. I know a good police officer who works specifically with human trafficking. leave it to me.

Shaun: Ntando I need you to guard my parents house tomorrow. never set your eyes away and park very far. you see any odd movement you let me know.. okay?

Ntando: okay!

Shaun looked at Ntando.

Shaun: don't worry.. we will help you its only fair because you helped me.

Bonita (sign language): Thank you.

Shaun smiled at her.

CHARTER 26

- NEXT DAY LATER IN THE MORNING -
- AT THE COLLINS -
- NARRATOR -

Mr Collins was in his bedroom sitting on the bed reading a newspaper. she wasn't feeling well today so his wife suggested that he rests today which he did.

he clears his throat realising that he hadn't had tea/coffee since the morning. so he got off the bed making his way out of his room.

he walked to the kitchen but as that happened someone knocked on the door.

he looked at the door confused.

"why would someone knock here?? or is it the security?" he thought. normally if its just a random person they would ring the bell at the gate no one would enter the gate without access so he was convinced that it was the security.

he walked to the door and slightly opened the door.

as he looked at the person knocking his eyes widened heart raced and he stepped back of the sudden shock that came to him.

after so many years this person just had to come and make an appearance in his house.

Mr Collins: Sandile!!

Mr Mbedu: Mike?

Mr Collins started taking small steps back as Mr Mbedu took small steps forward..

Mr Mbedu: wow!! I must say you really made it life hai!!

Mr Collins: what.... what are you doing here?

Mr Mbedu: ouuuuU!!! look at that.. my ex (smile)

he said looking at the picture of Mrs Collins with Mr Collins.

Mr Collins: Sandile... Sandile please..

Mr Mbedu: Mike... "there is no use begging.. you made your bed now lie in it" do you remember those lines.

Mr Collins:

(FLASHBACK)

YEARS AGO

Mr Mbedu was in prison charged with robbery and attempted murder..

there was a group of 6 guys who pulled the heist Mike and Sandile were one of them.

they had to do a in and out that was the plan. but the plan went south when Sandile wanted more then what was planned. he felt like taking money was just something small he wanted to tear the shop upside down to leave his mark. that's why he also shot the shopkeeper on his shoulder.

at that moment the police siren was heard.

Mike didn't know that Sandile was still in the shop turning it upside down. he just got in and told them to drive.

when Sandile heard the car leave he ran out but the car was already far away.

just as he wanted to run the police cars arrived and he was surrounded.

and that's how he was arrested.

After he was sentenced and taken to prison Mike visited him.

they had a fight because Sandile thought Mike left him on purpose but Mike said he didn't which was true.

Sandile then asked Mike to help him. at least plan his escape. but Mike didn't want to be involved. he didn't want to be involved in gang activities anymore.

Sandile didn't like the answer.

but it was only when Sandile learned that his girlfriend is now dating Mike and she is pregnant that he went wild. his hate for Mike grew even more.

when he came out of prison their success made him boil and have sleepless nights. just thinking about how he could be where Mr Collins is now made him eager to kill Mike and reclaim his life.

(END OF FLASHBACK)

- AT THE CLUB -

Noma was busy doing his everyday business when suddenly a handsome young man entered into her office brought in by some men.

Noma: ohhh and what can I do for this handsome young man?

???: I heard this is the best place to escape the everyday stresses of life?

Noma: of cause... well depends on what stress you want to release?

???: Sammy... is that her name? yah!

Noma's smile faded a little as she remembered that the only Sammy she knew was Samantha and she was in punishment state meaning she was in no state to see customers. but this looked like a rich fellow so she didn't want to disappoint.

Noma; ohhh Sammy?? well you see she is not available right now!! maybe after a week.

???: eashh!! that's too sad hai... because one of my guys actually recommended me to her... he says she is everything I need. so I thought I should come and check it out.

Noma: ohh!!

???: well seems like its not on my luck.. I normally get so little free time.. I keep flying in and out with business. but then I guess next time.

Noma: we do have other girls that are as good as Sammy..

???: really?? I can't be disappointed.

Noma; let me show you.

she stood up leading him to some launch.

Noma; I will bring them in in a few.

he gave a slight nod and Noma walked to get the girls.

the guy pressed into his earpiece.

???: ready?

?: we have surrounded the building.

???: okay.. then I will send the hint soon. first I have to find the Samantha girl.

?: okay!

he then leaned back and checked his watch looking impatient.

after a while Noma brought some of her best girls to put on a show for him. but he looked uninterested. after the whole show finished he sighed and stood up Noma came to stop him from leaving.

Noma: no one caught your eyes?

???: there is no girl there that can make me spend 300K in one night.

Noma: 300?? 300K?

???: as I said

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today is my loosen up day I sometimes go crazy and spend more. I have about 4 days like this in a year. see why its important that I never waste even a minute? which I think I wasted enough here.

Noma: okay! okay! Sammy... I will get her for you.

???: (smile) okay!! let me see her then.

Noma walked to get Sammy and made sure to clean her up so that she doesn't show how much pain she is in.

after the make over Noma brought Sammy in.

the guy looked at the girl but wasn't sure if its Samantha.

Noma: here is our princess.

???: is it really her? it would be disappointing if you are lying to me.. I am very connected hai!

Noma: its really her.. the golden flower.

???: (looks at Samantha) (sign language) Bonita!

Bonita taught Samantha how to say her name in sign language since she couldn't tell her.

Samantha never knew what those hand signs meant but she was familiar with them and knew it was Bonita's name.

Samantha looked at Noma and then at the man.

she then smiled and nodded.

Noma: I guess there is a secret hand sign in this.

???: I wanted to verify.. I heard someone taught her this hand sign..

Noma: really? who?

???: Bonita!

Noma opened her eyes wide and pulled Samantha close to her. she was not paying much attention to the hand sign she would have picked it up since she also knew sign language.

Noma: who are you?

???: (smiles) ohh I didn't even get to introduce myself... my name is Detective Khumalo.

he said that taking out his badge.

Noma was so scared and started looking around.

she tried hiding but it was too late.

the police were in the building and half of her staff was already arrested.

before she could even run another officer held her and handcuffed her.

???: Ms Nomalanga you are under arrest

as they read the law for her the man walked to Sma who was still confused as to what was going on.

???: you must be feeling cold in that small dress here take my jacket.

Samantha smiled accepting the jacket.

Sam: thank you very much sir..

???: you don't look well either.. we will take all of you at the hospital first then take it from there okay..

Sam nodded.

she was internally suffering but still managing to keep a smile. her body was painful and weak yet she still stood strong.

they walked out.

- AT THE COLLINS -

Mr Collins stood there looking at someone with his eyes wide open. he was so startled that he started breathing heavily and held on the wall.

Mr Mbedu towards him

Mr Collins had to take his pills but Mrs Collins was not with him and Mr Mbedu didn't look like someone who would help Mr Collins reach for his pills.

???: long time Mike.. I missed you. why didn't you visit me??

Mr Collins didn't say anything he just continued holding his chest as he found himself on the floor. it seemed like he was having chest pains.

???: I have come to take what you took from me. my life.

Mr Collins collapsed.

Some one opened the door making Mr Mbedu look back in shock.

Shaun ran in running to his father before Mr Mbedu could say anything a voice was heard.

???: Sandile Mbedu put your hands up!

he looked and smiled realizing it was the police. it wasn't just a meaningless smile. it was the irritated annoying smile.

he raised his hand without no complain.

Shaun: help here please.. he needs to go to the hospital..

some men ran to help Shaun take Mr Collins to his car (mothers car) while the other man arrested Mr Mbedu.

Shaun wasn't really concerned about Mr Mbedu all he wanted was for his father to get to hospital safely.

- AT SHAUN'S HOUSE -

Bontle was sitting on the couch still wondering if everyone is okay.. she couldn't stop biting her nails not knowing what to expect.

Ntando walked in holding two cups of hot chocolate.

he had a warm blanket around his shoulder.

he placed the cups on the table and gave Bonita the blanket.

Ntando: have some hot Chocolate it will help you calm down.

Bonita smiled and nodded as she reached for the cup.

Bonita laughed and then reached for her "communication" book that was on the table. yes she was given one to communicate with Ntando and Mr Mtolo.

" I also love hot chocolate but the last time I had it was when my mom did it for me" she wrote and then gave to Ntando.

Ntando: really? I am glad to be the first one to do it for you again. I hope I didn't disappoint in how it should taste like.

"no it tastes amazing" she wrote again and handed to Ntando.

Ntando smiled and took a sip of his own hot chocolate.

Ntando: how I wish to talk to you a lot but I know the irritation of writing I myself even hated taking notes at school.. I would take a picture of the notes and never even go through them.

Bonita Laughed.

Ntando looked at her and also smiled seeing Bonita's beautiful smile.

" I don't mind" she wrote and handed to Ntando.

Ntando: I will only ask one question then..

Bonita nodded.

Ntando: this seeing the future thing.. does it run in the family? or is it like a prophet? how did you get such a gift?

Bonita smiled and started writing.

" I was chosen by the moon to have this gift and save others. but my biggest purpose was to save Mr Collins from the Ndamases the others are just small tasks." she wrote and handed to Ntando.

Ntando: The Moon? how? and are you expected to be Shaun's guardian forever?

" not forever. Look!." she wrote and handed to Ntando.

then pulled her sleeve up to her shoulder. there was a very faint mark on her shoulder. it was starting to fade off though.

" the more I get close to finishing my mission this marks keep fading. once it disappears it means my job is done and I will leave earth." she wrote and gave to Ntando.

Ntando: I am sorry but can I ask another question?

Bonita: *nodded*

Ntando: does that mean after this mission you will die?

" as long as I have a purpose and a strong will to live I will stay longer but once I don't have a purpose or strong will the mark fades and I will leave earth." she wrote and gave to Ntando.

Ntando: are you like an angel or something?

Bonita: *shakes head*

" I was born as a human through my mothers stomach I was just blessed by the moon while I was still in my mothers womb. so when I leave earth I will die. my body will be buried and I will return to the moon. I will keep watching over you all" she smiled and handed the note to Ntando.

Ntando: this is interesting makes me want to ask many more questions but never mind rest your fingers..

Bonita laughed.

Ntando: yah.. (smile) enjoy..

Bonita nodded and continued to sip on her hot chocolate and watch TV.

Ntando looked at her and also watched TV.

CHARTER 27

- SAME DAY -
- AT THE HOSPITAL -
- NARRATOR -

Shaun was in the ward sitting next to his father as he held his hand.

he just heard about his father's sickness which he didn't know about. the doctor thought he knew so he just told him that this was just one of the side effects of the disease that he has.

Shaun was in the ward crying alone.

now he understood why his father was pushing him so much it all made sense now.

Shaun has never been so broken as he is right now.

Mrs Collins and Musa were the first to come. when they rushed in Shaun quickly wiped his tears and stood up.

Mrs Collins: ohhh Shauna!!

she came to give Shaun a hug.. then turned to her husband.

Mrs Collins: ohh! stupid old man.. why did you come back to this place?

she said as she held Mr Collins hand and taking a seat.

Shaun held her mother's shoulders and then walked out with Musa giving her mother some privacy.

Musa: I see you made it right in time.

Shaun: yah! thanks to Bonita I did.

Musa: how is his condition?

Shaun:..... well..... he is going to be okay.

Musa: I am glad.. at least that son of a B*** is locked up again.

Shaun: yah...

Musa: well I guess the worst is over right?

Shaun: yah! we finally got the people who attacked me.. now I can safely get my car back.

Musa; is that the reason why you never went to fetch it?

Shaun: yah.. I was scared of using it again thinking they would attack me again. I even got the colour changed.

Musa: really? wow!!

Shaun: yah...

his phone rang and he picked it up.

Shaun: Mr Mtolo?

Mr Mtolo: the clean up is done. Noma and his men are arrested we also managed to safe every child. can you believe that the youngest was 7 years old?

Shaun: (sigh) thank you man... thank you so much...

Mr Mtolo: what's wrong with you Shaun? wait? is Mr Collins okay?

Shaun: yah.. I was on time.. even Mr Mbedu was arrested. seems he just got out of prison.

Mr Mtolo: isn't that great?

Shaun: yah.. it is.. listen I will call you later.

Mr Mtolo: okay.

he hung up.

Musa: Shaun are you really okay?

Shaun: I.... I just need some rest.. please look after my mom and dad okay! please.

Musa nodded still looking at Shaun worried.

Shaun walked out heading home.

- AT SHAUN'S HOUSE -

Shaun didn't come home to rest instead he went to rest at his parents house.

Bonita and Ntando were in the house watching TV.

Mr Mtolo arrived and Ntando opened for him.

he drove in parked his car and got out.

he walked in the house.

Ntando: hai Mr Mtolo.. so? how did it go?

Mr Mtolo: we managed to crush the club down. Noma and her men are arrested the kids are in hospital.

Ntando: are they okay?

Mr Mtolo: yah.. just some check up. the police is also involved so some will be reunited with their families if they don't have a family they will go to a orphanage.

Ntando: that's great. they must be happy.

Mr Mtolo: mhm...

Bonita (sign language): what about Samantha?

Mr Mtolo: mhm??

"what about Samantha?" she showed the paper to Mr Mtolo..

Mr Mtolo: ohh she is also okay.. you were right she was locked up to starve and thirst.. luckily it was her 3rd day.

Bonita smiled and put her hands together to say thank you.

Mr Mtolo: she told me she doesn't have a place to go

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she was locked up to starve and thirst.. luckily it was her 3rd day.

Bonita smiled and put her hands together to say thank you.

Mr Mtolo: she told me she doesn't have a place to go so they might send her to an orphanage.

"as long as she will have a better life there" she smiled and showed Mr Mtolo.

Mr Mtolo: she will. don't worry.

she smiled and nodded.

Ntando: how is Shaun? I haven't heard from him and Musa says he doesn't think Shaun is okay.

Mr Mtolo: leave him for a while.. he has been a lot.. too many things happened so fast. he needs some serious rest. I mean he almost lost his father. and I am sure he is wondering what would he have done if Bonita couldn't see the future.

Ntando: yah.. now I understand.

- AT THE COLLINS -

"I would if you would get one already you are 27 Shaun you not getting any younger?"

"don't you want to show Melissa how beautiful the moon is before they leave??"

": indeed. that's why he will need a smart bright and wise woman by his side. and that woman is non other then Melissa. I mean imagine the kids they will get with so much beauty. me and you Mr Ndamase will be happy grandfathers"

those and more words continued crossing Shaun's mind as he lay on the bed restless.

he couldn't sleep even when he forced himself.

then he remembered Ntando's words about meditation music to hypnotize his brain.

he put on his earphone searched something online quality of 144.

he closed his eyes and focused more on every sound played in the video.

indeed it worked. in no time he was fast asleep with the music still playing in his ears.

- AT SHAUN'S HOUSE -

(DREAM)

Ms Gloria: I thought we wouldn't be seeing each other again. but here we are (smiles)

Bonita (sign language): (smile) I am glad I was able to see you again. I missed you.

Ms Gloria: (smile) really? well I have been watching you. I must say you have finally understood who you are.. now you have fully grown.

Bonita (sign language): I saved her Ms Gloria. I saved Samantha.

Ms Gloria: I know... which is partly why I am here. Samantha's mother said I should thank you. she is the reason why the moon made you meet her and save her.

Bonita (sign language): really?? so me ending up at that Club was just to meet Samantha?

Ms Gloria: I told you.. everything happened for a reason. why do you think I let you escape at first?

Bonita (sign language): so that I could run away go to someplace. if the guys with the knife didn't appear I would have refused going with her. so by the guys approaching me it lead me to accept her request. which lead me to her house and also to her Club. which lead me to Samantha.

Ms Gloria: yes. see it wasn't because he wanted you to suffer but he let you suffer because he knew you could take it. but Samantha couldn't. that's why he sent you there.

Bonita (sign language): (smiles) I am now glad he used me.

Ms Gloria: now your real purpose is approaching. be prepared.

Bonita (sign language): the Ndamases?

Ms Gloria: *nodded* you will be meeting them again. but stay calm and always remember everything happens for a reason. always remember that okay??

Bonita (sign language): *nodded*

(END OF DREAM)

Bonita was sleeping so peacefully while wearing her smile.

Ntando looked at her and smiled.

Ntando: look at you having a nice dream.. hope I am in it.

he said as he pulled the blankets to cover her then walked out.

CHARTER 28

- NEXT DAY -

- AT THE CAFÉ -

- NARRATOR -

Shaun got in the café and looked around for Mr Mtolo.

Mr Mtolo saw Shaun he raised his hand and waved for Shaun to notice him. after Shaun noticed him he smiled and walked to his table.

Shaun: Mr Mtolo

he said as he took a seat.

Mr Mtolo: Shaun.... I thought you needed more rest but I was surprised to get your asking me to look into Mr Mbedu.

Shaun: I had to find answers for my overworking head. or else I would just die of brain attack.

Mr Mtolo chuckled.

Mr Mtolo: coffee? I already got mine.

he said as he raised his cup.

Shaun: no thank you but juice would be fine.

Mr Mtolo nodded and raised his hand to get the waiters attention.

the waitress came to him.

Mr Mtolo: a class of pineapple juice please

Shaun: orange not Pineapple.

Mr Mtolo: oh yes.. Orange. I am sorry.

The waiter nodded and went to get the Juice.

Shaun: pineapple?

Mr Mtolo: sorry.. I was thinking about Nta..... I mean its a misunderstanding.

Shaun: thinking about who?? you were about to finish?

Mr Mtolo: its nothing okay.. lets leave that.

Shaun laughed shaking his head.

Shaun: okay as you say. anyway did you find anything?

Mr Mtolo: yes.. (sigh) well..

the waiter came to serve the juice.

Shaun: Thank you..

the waiter nodded and walked away.

Shaun: mhm?

Mr Mtolo: he is Sandile Mbedu.

Shaun: okay.. so why would this Sandile want to kill my father?

Mr Mtolo: huh...your father and Sandile were in the gang when they were still young. before you were even conceived.

Shaun widened his eyes and looked at Mr Mtolo..

Shaun: what?? my dad? in a Gang?

Mr Mtolo: mhm.. he was recently released from prison.

Shaun: what was he arrested for?

Mr Mtolo: attempted murder and robbery.

Shaun: damn!

Mr Mtolo: yes... it was robbery planned by the whole gang

Sponsored

did you find anything?

Mr Mtolo: yes.. (sigh) well..

the waiter came to serve the juice.

Shaun: Thank you..

the waiter nodded and walked away.

Shaun: mhm?

Mr Mtolo: he is Sandile Mbedu.

Shaun: okay.. so why would this Sandile want to kill my father?

Mr Mtolo: huh...your father and Sandile were in the gang when they were still young. before you were even conceived.

Shaun widened his eyes and looked at Mr Mtolo..

Shaun: what?? my dad? in a Gang?

Mr Mtolo: mhm.. he was recently released from prison.

Shaun: what was he arrested for?

Mr Mtolo: attempted murder and robbery.

Shaun: damn!

Mr Mtolo: yes... it was robbery planned by the whole gang including your father but things went wrong when they drove away leaving him there.

Shaun: they left him there?

Mr Mtolo: yes.. he had already shot the shopkeeper. that's why he was charged with attempted murder. he couldn't run because after they left the police found him.

Shaun: so he is blaming my father for leaving him there which caused him to get arrested?

Mr Mtolo: possible. but there is another possibility.

Shaun: which is?

Mr Mtolo: I think he is more angry at the fact that your father married your mother

Shaun: so?

Mr Mtolo: your mother used to be his girlfriend.

Shaun widened his eyes looking at Mr Mtolo.

Shaun: so he feels like my dad stole his life?

Mr Mtolo: yah.. I think he feels betrayed.. wouldn't you be? your best friend leaves you at the most crucial moment and then takes your girl and marries her and gets a son as well.

Shaun starts thinking about it.

Shaun: I see... damn! now I wish I had told my father sooner.

Mr Mtolo: our way was still the coolest.

Shaun chuckled as he takes a sip of his juice.

- LATER -

- AT THE HOSPITAL -

Shaun walked in the hospital holding only one flower and a nice watch.

he walked in and smiled when he saw his mother having some laughter with his father.

he walked in.

Shaun: am I interrupting something?

Mr Collins: of cause you are.. can't you see?

Mrs Collins hit Mr Collins on the shoulder and they laughed.

Shaun: well I hope this works..

he showed the flower.

Mr Collins: a flower?? 1 nogals? you don't see me.

Shaun: who said its yours?? (looks at his mom) mother..

Mrs Collins: haibo shouldn't you be gifting the sick?

Shaun: I heard you are also sick..

Mrs Collins: me?? sick?

Shaun: yes.. sick and tired of dad.

Mr Collins aimed at him making both Shaun and Mrs Collins laugh.

Mrs Collins: you two need a beating. I am serious.

Shaun smiled as pain struck his heart. the father he always played with was slowly leaving him behind. at this point he wishes that he had not known the truth. he wishes he was still clueless.

Shaun: here dad.. they say save the best for last.

Mr Collins: I doubt its something good.. lets see.

Mr Collins took it and opened it.

he was so surprised to see the watch.. it was so beautiful and suits his style. he wanted to get one last week but Mrs Collins told him not to waste money as he had a lot of watches in his drawer.

he was so touched. he almost wanted to cry. but he can't act soft now.. that would just make Shaun tease him forever.

Shaun: ohhhh. is daddy touched?

Mr Collins: (scoffs) touched? by this simple watch? ohh please.. I am only going to wear it because I don't want to hurt your feelings.

Mrs Collins smiled knowing he loved it. Shaun also smiled knowing he was actually touched.

Shaun: ohhh and I have another announcement.

they looked at him with eyes that couldn't wait to hear what announcement he has.

Shaun: I have decided to marry Melissa.

Mrs Collins opened his mouth filled excitement and surprised. not to even talk about Mr Collins. he was so happy.

Mr Collins: are you real son?? for real?

Shaun: I managed to find out who she is and she isn't bad. she would make a good wife.

Mrs Collins: of cause she would.. I mean we have been telling you that seun...

Shaun smiled.

Mr Collins: have you asked her?

Shaun: not yet dad.. I wanted to let you know first.

Mr Collins: stupid fool... we are supposed to be the second to know after her... how is your calculative mind?

Shaun: (laughs) okay dad.. but I will this weekend.

Mrs Collins: ohhh my baby!! come here..

Mrs Collins hugged Shaun and Shaun hugged her...

Mr Collins: hai!! lets have a family hug..

they laughed as they moved closer to Mr Collins to hug each other.

Shaun's smile faded as his parents couldn't see his face.

This was the only present he could give his father.

Mr Ndamase walked in holding a basket of fruits.

Mr Ndamase: ohh it is so warm in here.

he said as he walked in.

Mr Collins: hai!! Joseph.

Mr Ndamase: Mike (smile) I see you got very strong judging from yesterday.

Mr Collins: of cause.. I am a man you know..

they laughed.

Shaun: okay!! I shall head out now.. I have to prepare.

Mr Collins: okay son.. do it well.

he smiled as he greeted Mr Ndamase and waked out.

CHARTER 29

- NEXT DAY -
- SHAUN'S HOUSE -
- NARRATOR -

Musa Ntando: WHAT!!

Shaun:.....

Musa: are you crazy?? he must be crazy.

Ntando: Shaun? are you high?

Shaun:

Musa: you know what Melissa did to Bonita you know her plans and her intensions. and you still want to marry him?

Shaun:

Ntando: you won't even try to explain?

Shaun: I found out in the hospital that father is dying.

Musa: what?

Shaun: yes.. he doesn't have much time left.. I heard from the doctor. even the doctor didn't know that I wasn't aware. he told me thinking I already knew about his illness.

Musa: wait.. what are you saying?

Shaun: the reason I want to marry Melissa is to make dad's wish come true before he dies... I want him to rest easy and not fear anything.

Musa was shocked confused and his brains were running around as he just couldn't understand.

Ntando: so your father is dying. and because his wish is for you to marry Melissa you will marry her?

Shaun: yes... I have to.

Ntando: you don't have to... just tell your father what Melissa and his father are doing? Bonita can even vouch for you.

Shaun: the same Bonita who sees the future?? it took time for me to believe her do you think my father will?

Ntando sighed dropping his head with his hand rubbing his hair.

Musa: when did you find out?

Shaun: the day I took dad to the hospital.

Musa: so that's why you were so down?

Shaun nodded.

Musa sighed and walked to Shaun to hold his shoulders.

Musa: but still... must you marry the devil just to make your father happy?

Shaun: he is my father and I know he would also go through all ends to make me happy.

the room filled with silence for a few seconds before Ntando spoke up.

Ntando: there must be another way.

Shaun: well until we find that other way I will have to marry Melissa and I want to ask you 2 to be my guys on the side.

they looked at each but never said anything. they just nodded.

Musa: so when is the wedding? do you have a date in mind?

Shaun: first I have to propose to Melissa

Sponsored

I will have to marry Melissa and I want to ask you 2 to be my guys on the side.

they looked at each but never said anything. they just nodded.

Musa: so when is the wedding? do you have a date in mind?

Shaun: first I have to propose to Melissa then we will set the date for the wedding. so I will update you once I have the date.

Ntando: it takes months to prepare for a wedding.. surely the date will be set to be in June. plus the whether is fine.

Shaun: no.. the earlier the better.

Musa looked at Shaun with a little suspicious look but brushed it off and just thought about the situation.

- LATER -

- AT THE NDAMASE'S -

Melissa was in her room just watching a drama series on her tablet. her phone rang causing her to stop the drama.

she checked the caller ID and was shocked to see Shaun's name. she smiled and cleared her throat before taking the call.

Melissa hi...

Shaun: hai Melissa.. how are you?

Melissa: I am doing well what about you?

Shaun: I am doing great...

Melissa: I am gad..

Shaun: mhm.... actually its been long since I heard from you that's why I wanted to check on you.. I thought maybe after last time you lost interest in me.

Melissa: last time?

Shaun: the day I got so drunk that I passed out? at the restaurant.

Melissa: ohh that day... (nervous laugh) ooh no.. I just thought maybe you wouldn't want to see me.

Shaun: nonsense.. well are you free this Saturday?

Melissa: huh... yah.

Shaun: well.. can I invite you to dinner?

Melissa: of cause I would love that.

Shaun: great! I promise this time I will not drink.

Melissa: (fake laugh) okay!

Shaun: okay then... lets say 07:30. so I will pick you up at 06:30.

Melissa; okay..

Shaun: okay.. bye then.

Melissa: (smile) bye!!

Shaun hung up and Melissa kicked her feet out of excitement. she even rolled on the bed not knowing what to do with herself.

she didn't even waste time. she immediately went to share the good news with Mr Ndamase.

- 2 DAYS LATER -

- AT THE COLLINS -

Mr Collins: OHHH finally. my own space

Mrs Collins: this house indeed was cold without you. maybe warm with Musa and Shaun here.

Musa walked in the living room..

Musa: WELCOME DAD!!

Mr Collins: ohh I feel like the president.

Shaun: besides you will never be one.

Mr Collins: Shhhhh!! someone give this boy a slap.

Shaun laughed walking to his parents.

Musa: leave that to me dad. I will avenge for you.

Mr Collins: please do and I will make you my successor instead.

Musa: deal!!

Shaun: you will hang out with your father Musa.. don't dare me.

Musa scratched his head.

Musa: I think I will take a rein check.

Mrs Collins: I have your back honey!! they will starve to death.

Mr Collins: my hero.

Shaun & Musa: HAAAA!!

Mrs Collins: go on.

they kept quiet smiling.

Shaun and Musa helped Mrs Collins settle Mr Collins in.

CHARTER 30

- DAYS LATER IN THE EVENING -

- NARRATOR -

- AT THE NDAMASE -

the day has come. their third date the date that will change everything.

Melissa was in her room staring at the mirror wondering if the outfit was good for the date. this was her trying out the sixth outfit trying to look her best. for her impressing Shaun was the most important thing to achieve.

suddenly she heard a knock on the door and it happened to be her father he was taken back by how beautiful his daughter looked.

Mr Ndamase: look at you you look amazing

Melissa: really dad you really think I look amazing?

Mr Ndamase: of cause you do what do you think?

Melissa smiled as she took a round turn still looking at the mirror.

Mr Ndamase: ohh!!! Shaun is outside so you better make it quick.

Melissa: Outside? didn't you invite him in?

Mr Ndamase: oh no I did but he had to take a quick call so I bet he is still outside. but you know what I think? I think the call was an excuse he just wants you to come out quicker.

Melissa: (laughs) ok dad ill be out in a sec.

Mr Ndamase: you better (laughs)

Mr Ndamase laughed as he walked out.

- MEANWHILE-

Shaun was outside leaning against his car.

Melissa appeared looking like a flower that grew in the garden of Eden. although she held the heart of the devil she had the appearance of an angel. she shyly walked towards Shaun with her hands together with her hands together looking like a innocent girl but not so innocent .

Shaun looked at her and let out a smile.

Shaun: WOW!!!! you are looking beautiful.

Melissa blushed as she looked down not knowing how to control her heart.

Melissa: thank you you are looking handsome yourself.

Shaun: of cause I am looking handsome I am always handsome. did I tell you that I won first place as the most handsome man in the world.

They both laughed

Melissa: and I believe you.

Shaun: ahhhhhh!!!!!! why do I feel sarcasm in your sentence? I am hurt.

Shaun acted hurt and pouted as he opened the car door for Melissa. Melissa laughed at his sudden cuteness

Shaun: for hurting me you are paying for dinner.

Melissa: haaaaaa!!

Melissa said as she got in the car Shaun laughed as he closed the door and headed to the drivers seat

- AT SHAUN'S HOUSE -

Bonita walked into the living room and found Ntando sitting on the couch watching something on his phone with his earphones on. he wasn't even aware that Bonita was near him.

Bonita walked near him and peeked to see what Ntando was watching. it seems Ntando was learning South African sign language.

Bonita smiled and gently poked Ntando on his shoulder.

Ntando got a bit startled but calmed down and smiled after seeing that it was Bonita.

Bonita (sign language): what did you learn so far?

Ntando looked at her not able to understand completely.

Ntando: I don't think I am at the point of communication yet.

Bonita laughed and got her communication book.

"Thank you for learning sign language to be able to communicate with me. it means a lot to me" she gave to Ntando.

Ntando: I just want you to stop having to write every time you want to communicate with me. I mean we can't even have endless conversations because I start feeling for your fingers. I know how much it hurts to write all the time. the finger that balances the pen ends up being painful and grows a bumper.

Bonita laughed.

"what's a bumper?" she gave to Ntando again.

Ntando: (laughs) its that one.

Bonita laughed again. Ntando just looked at her smiling.

Ntando: I never knew a silent laugh could sound so cheerful..

Bonita just smiled not understanding what he said.

Bonita then waved her hand wanting to write something since the book was still by Ntando. Ntando gave it to her and she wrote down.

"I haven't seen Shaun for days now Musa as well and Mr Mtolo are things okay?" she gave to Ntando.

Ntando: well... as for Mr Mtolo I think its because Shaun aborted the mission. Musa and Shaun it could be because their father was

hospitalized but just got discharged so they should be taking care of him.

Bonita nodded in understanding.

Ntando: yah... Anyway.. I always wanted to ask..

Bonita nodded as to indicate that Ntando can ask.

Ntando: remember when you told me that your existence depends on your purpose?

Bonita: *nodded*

Ntando: what would happen if that purpose is not fulfilled?

before Bonita could answer

Sponsored

it could be because their father was hospitalized but just got discharged so they should be taking care of him.

Bonita nodded in understanding.

Ntando: yah... Anyway.. I always wanted to ask..

Bonita nodded as to indicate that Ntando can ask.

Ntando: remember when you told me that your existence depends on your purpose?

Bonita: *nodded*

Ntando: what would happen if that purpose is not fulfilled?

before Bonita could answer the bell rang.

Ntando: that must be one of the gents.. I will be back now.

Bonita nodded and Ntando walked out to see.

"if I fail my purpose fails and my life ends.. its how it is." she wrote then closed the book waiting for Ntando.

after a while Ntando walked in smiling.

Ntando: its Mr Mtoloo.

he said taking a seat.

Bonita was about to hand him the book when suddenly she saw a familiar face through the glass window approaching to the door.

she stood up already meeting them half way.

as they walked in already Bonita was slowly running to them.

Samantha screamed and ran to Bonita hugging her when she saw her.

they hugged almost falling down together from the excitement.

Bonita (sign language): I am so glad that you are safe I missed you so much.

Samantha: (smiling) I don't know what you said but I love you.

Bonita laughed as they hugged again

Ntando: I see you missed each other very much? I will start making dinner to celebrate.

they both nodded.

Mr Mtolo: I will help you.. lets let love birds enjoy each other.

Bonita smiled as Samantha also smiled.

Samantha: oh my word... you live in such a big house with such beautiful man?? no wonder you were saved faster then any other girl.

Bonita knew she wouldn't understand when she speaks so she pulled her to the couch and she took her book paging to a clean side.

"yes. I was lucky to have friends like them" she gave her.

Samantha: friends?? just friends?

Bonita laughed as she nodded.

- MEANWHILE -

Ntando: Thank you for bringing Samantha here. I don't think I have ever seen her smile so brightly.

Mr Mtolo: I had to. she will be leaving soon?

Ntando: leaving?

Mr Mtolo: mhm.. we found her relatives who live in Cape town. so they will be coming tomorrow.

Ntando: ohh I am sure Bonita will be so sad.

Mr Mtolo: yah but at least she will get to say goodbye and thank her for saving her.

Ntando: mhm... her sole purpose was to save Samantha. but she ended up saving everyone.

Mr Mtolo: true.. its a pity she can't get any credits since the story will sound crazy and unbelievable.

Ntando: I doubt she would even want to get credit even if the story was believable. she's very laid back you know.

Mr Mtolo: I am jealous. you know her more then I thought.

Ntando: of cause I live with her you know.

Mr Mtolo: I hope you are keeping your distance. she is not a prey.

Ntando: now that you mentioned it I want to make her my prey.

Mr Mtolo: come on man..

they laughed.

- LATER -

- AT THE RESTAURANT -

Melissa: Thank you once again.. the food here was nice.

Shaun: really? I am glad you enjoyed it.

Melissa smiled taking a sip of her juice.

Shaun: Melissa. I have something to ask you.

Melissa: mhm okay.

Shaun took out a ring and showed it to Melissa.

Shaun: I am not madly in love with you but I want to try. My parents think you are good for me and after spending some dates with you I have also come to realise that actually you are not bad. I would like to spend the rest of my days with you. finding out more of who you are and learning to love you.

Shaun cleared his throat and held Melissa's hand.

Shaun: Melissa Ndamase would you marry me?

Melissa was in aware from the moment she saw the ring. she couldn't believe that it was finally happening. the whole thing finally paid off.

she looked at Shaun with tears already rushing down her cheek. she was so happy surprised and just couldn't believe it.

after Shaun popped the question Melissa immediately nodded.

Shaun put the ring on her finger and smiled at her.

Melissa cried looking at the ring.

Shaun walked to her and hugged her..

those who actually saw were happy for them and smiling while looking at them. I mean it would have been very far more better if he knelt on one knee right? then the whole restaurant would know about it maybe even get some "engaged special" from the restaurant.

Melissa: its so beautiful.

Shaun: just like you.

she blushed and looked at the ring again.

Shaun just smiled looking at her smile.

it was so beautiful and clean unlike her heart and intentions.

sometimes evil doesn't come in a form of ugly and obvious. it comes mysterious just when you think its okay then the evil reveals itself.

CHARTER 31

- LATER THE SAME EVENING -
- AT THE NDAMASE -
- NARRATOR -

Shaun parked his car outside Melissa's house.

Shaun: have a great evening.

Melissa: are you kidding me? I just got engaged of cause I will have the best evening. will I even sleep?

Shaun laughed as Melissa smiled.

normally this is the time when you would want to kiss your partner how did they get engaged without exchanging even a kiss? I guess that's how arranged marriages work.

Shaun walked wanted to get out of the car but Melissa stopped him.

Melissa: its okay. I can just get off on my own no need to open the door for me.

Shaun: hai!! I am just treating my wife to be.

Melissa: and I am telling my husband to be that I can manage.

she said already opening the door.

Melissa: bye!

she said as if she was expecting something from Shaun. but Shaun looked clueless.

Melissa just smiled and got out the car.

she waved goodbye before closing the door Shaun waved as well.

she closed the door and Shaun drove away.

although Melissa was a little disappointed she still smiled looking at her ring. she might have not gotten a kiss yet from Shaun but at least they will be getting married and she will be receiving many kisses and even more.

she walked in the house showing how excited she was.

Mr Ndamase was sitting in the living room watching the news.

Mr Ndamase: Melissa!

Melissa: daddy!!

she said already walking to him waving the hand that had a ring on a finger.

Mr Ndamase sat up straight looking at the shiny item on Melissa's finger.

Mr Ndamase: Melissa? is that what I think it is?

Melissa: what do you think it is dad?

Mr Ndamase: did.... did Shaun propose?

Melissa smiled and nodded.

the house got filled with happiness and excitement. for a moment worries and stress' were wiped away.

- AT THE COLLINS -

Shaun arrived home finding his parents in the living room.

as soon as he walked in his father was already looking at him and seeking for answers. the answer he has been waiting to hear for a long time.

Mrs Collins: son.. you are back how was your dinner with Melissa?

Mr Collins: did you propose?

Mrs Collins: honey!!

Mr Collins: what?? I am curious.

Shaun smiled and walked towards them.

Shaun: yes dad... she also said yes.

Mr Collins: she did?? so you really proposed? ohhhh!! my son is getting married. finally I can look forward to getting grandchildren...

Shaun looked at his father and smiled shaking his head.

Shaun: I guess I just got my next mission huh?

Mr Collins: of cause.. or do you want me to die as a father? I need to die as a grandfather.

Shaun: I can't control your death daddy. but I am sure God will keep you around until my children give you great grand children.

he said this with painful heart knowing that his father is dying.

Musa walked in already in his pyjamas.

Musa: now I understand what the fuss is about.

Mr Collins: stop lazing around and also get married. look at Shaun he already proposed to Melissa.

Musa: he did?

he asked looking at Shaun who avoided eye contact.

Musa: I guess congratulations are in order.

Shaun smiled and looked at Musa giving a nod.

Musa just looked at him then looked at Mr Collins.

Musa: dad I will be the next Shaun and refuse to get married.

Mr Collins: hai!! I always took you as a good son don't change that now okay?

they laughed softly.

Mrs Collins: as long as you are happy son. then I am also happy.

Shaun smiled.

- AT SHAUN'S HOUSE -

Ntando: what?? he went ahead with it?

Musa: yah.. he even told his parents that Melissa said yes.

Ntando: don't you think that maybe he has something planned? a backup?

Musa: the way I see it its game over.

Ntando: but.. how can Shaun marry Melissa after Bonita told him that the Ndamases have evil intentions?

Musa: maybe finding out that his father will die soon made him forget about everything and put his father's wishes first.

Ntando: what happened to the Shaun I know?

Musa: I was also asking myself the same thing.

the conversation continued as Bonita stood at the stairs listening to Ntando from a distance. she heard Ntando saying Shaun is getting married to Melissa.

somehow she wasn't happy but sad upon hearing that.

she slowly walked to Ntando waiting for him to finish his call.

after a while Ntando hung up and shook his head thinking about this whole situation.

Bonita walked around the couch Ntando saw her.

Ntando: ohh Bonita?

Bonita forced a smile reaching for her book.

Ntando: I thought you already went to sleep.

Bonita (sign language): I couldn't sleep.

Ntando: you couldn't sleep?

Bonita widened her eyes and her smile became genuine as she was so happy that Ntando understood.

Bonita: *nodded*

Ntando: that's what you said? I got it right?

Bonita: *nodded*

Ntando: ahhhhhh! these lessons are finally paying off. I feel so motivated to learn something right now.

Bonita laughed. her silent laugh was so loud making Ntando feel every emotion in it.

Bonita: why are you not sleeping?

Ntando: when... am I... sleeping?

Bonita (sign language): *shakes head* why?.. why?...

Ntando: huh?

Bonita (sign language): why? why are you not sleeping? why?

Ntando: you are going too fast... wait!!

he took a moment to think and take a few guesses.

Ntando: ohhhh! why?

Bonita: *nodded*

Ntando: ohh! why am I not sleeping?

Bonita: *nodded*

Ntando: ohh... (laughing) well.. I don't know.. I am just not sleepy yet.

Bonita wrote something since she knew he might struggle.

"I heard you talking on the phone. is Shaun really getting married to Melissa?" she gave Ntando.

Ntando: ohhh

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huh... yah.. he is..

Bonita nodded in a way to show understanding.

Ntando: I am sorry... I know you were trying to help him.. and I am sure he appreciates it.

Bonita smiled.

" don't worry I have done my part I am just happy I could help"
she gave Ntando.

Ntando: (nods) Thank you.. you are very kind. and if you get any other visions please tell me. now that Shaun is marrying Melissa I am sure he will be in more danger.

"I will. let me go try to sleep again maybe this time I will fall asleep" she gave to Ntando.

Ntando: okay.. sleep tight have good dreams.

Bonita smiled.

Bonita (sign language): you too.

Ntando: you said me too. right?

Bonita smiled and nodded.

Ntando smiled.

Ntando: thank you.

Bonita walked back to her room.

Ntando was still holding her communication book.

he smiled looking at it. it was so filled with phrases of Bonita communicating with people around her.

he kept re-reading those sentences from the latest page going back.

he got to these phrases and the last one had him losing his smile and realising something very important.

"Thank you for learning sign language to be able to communicate with me. it means a lot to me"

"what's a bumper?"

"I haven't seen Shaun for days now Musa as well and Mr Mtolo are things okay?"

"if I fail my purpose fails and my life ends.. its how it is."

"life ends?" he asked himself. "as in like she will die?" he asked himself again.

he wanted to know for sure what that meant but didn't want to disturb her from her sleep.

- IN BONITAS BEDROOM -

she was laying on the bed thinking about all of this.

if all of this was true then that means her time was coming to an end.

that's what she was thinking about.

she didn't want to leave as yet. she wanted to stay a bit longer. not only to spend more time with her birth mother but to also see Shaun once again.

she laid on her side and closed her eyes.

"may I wake up tomorrow please" she said as a little prayer.

CHARTER 32

- DAYS LATER -
- AT A PRIVATE RESTAURANT -
- NARRATOR -

the Ndamases and the Collins had decided to go out as an official family to have dinner. This was the first dinner date they were having as an official family.

Mr Collins: I would like to propose a toast. To family.
them: To family!

they hit their glasses against each other and drank their wine.

Mr Ndamase: you know I am so happy that Shaun here chose my daughter to be his wife. I promise you she will take care of you and help you in your business. she is the best princess you can find.

Shaun: hao Mr Ndamase isn't she a Queen.

they laughed.

Mr Ndamase: of cause my son.. she is the Queen. your Queen.

Shaun nodded smiling.

Musa could only sip his wine and eat his food as he listens to everyone talking and joking around.

he just couldn't understand this situation but again he had given up on trying to understand. he just had to accept that Shaun will be marrying Melissa and that's final.

Shaun wasn't showing any regret he looked genuinely happy and seemed so eager to marry Melissa. he never let any doubt for Musa to think he is up to something. which is why he figured that Shaun is actually marrying Melissa and that's no joke.

Mr Collins and Mr Collins were the most talkative once while Mrs Collins kept smiling and adding some commends. not to mention the newly engaged who would smile and blush.

Mrs Collins: ohhhh what a warm celebration.. if only Portia was here she would have been very happy.

Mr Collins: indeed. she would be.. I mean what mother wouldn't be happy when her daughter gets married?

Mrs Collins smiled.

Mrs Collins: Mr Ndamase. I admire you for being so strong for Melissa. having to lose your other daughter and your wife falling into coma must have been very difficult for you.

Mr Ndamase suddenly felt a bit nervous as he let out a soft smile.

Mr Ndamase: yah it was indeed hard but for the sake of those around you we have to stay strong and never give up.

Mr Collins: true..

Shaun: I didn't know Melissa's mother was in a Coma.

he said acting shocked.

Melissa: huh.... I hardly talk about that easily unless I am asked directly. I am sorry.

Shaun: oh no its okay.. I understand.

Melissa: yah... actually it also hurts me having to see her in that bed. I wish she could be at my wedding and see me get married I know she would have been very happy.

Mrs Collins: she would be for sure. she always told me that she wished to be there for both her daughters wedding.

Shaun: she had 2 daughters?

Mrs Collins: yes son. but the other daughter passed away years ago. after she passed away Portia stopped visiting us she stayed locked in the house not wanting to see anyone. I could understand her pain though loosing a child is very painful. I thought she would heal in time. but time past and she was just getting worse. few months ago Mr Ndamase told us that she is in hospital in ICU.

Shaun: I am sorry Melissa I am sorry Mr Ndamase.

Mr Ndamase: thank you son.

Melissa smiled sadly and nodded.

Mr Collins: I just didn't think Portia would commit suicide.

Musa: Suicide?

Mr Collins: mhm.. that's how she ended in ICU.

Musa looked at Shaun who looked as though he was sympathising with them instead of putting 2 together. he was already calculating and had things figured out but why didn't Shaun look like he was also calculating?

Musa was convinced. Shaun was convinced that this was the only way. its over. the gents are alone now.

Mr Collins: enough about sad news our children are engaged.

they all cheered up and drank to that.

- AT SHAUN'S HOUSE -

Ntando has been living with Bonita in this house for her protection. Ntando does his work mostly online but today he had to go out because he had a meeting with a client.

he owns a small media company where he produces web series movies and dramas. he has a small production team and also a group of 2 script writers.

he sometimes collaborates with writers to make their story come to their screen.

he was heading down to the living room all dressed up with his laptop bag in his hand when he saw Bonita laying on the couch as if she was dead.

she lay with her hand wide open and one leg hanging off the couch.

as he saw her at first he just thought he was sleeping so he went to her smiling looking at how funny she was sleeping.

he then moved her hand to sleep right but her hand fell back to how it was. more like she was lumb.

Ntando got a bit scared off but shook her before coming up with any conclusion.

as he shook her she didn't move not even to sleep right.

Ntando remembered her words; "if I fail my purpose fails and my life ends.. its how it is."

as he remembered this he immediately shook her harder trying to wake her up he kept screaming and screaming for her.

after a while when Ntando almost called Mr Mtolo Bonita moved and started moaning as she stretched her body.

Ntando stopped and looked at him relieved but also worried.

Bonita looked at Ntando without saying anything. she was wondering what Ntando was doing here and why he kept waking her up like that.

Ntando: Bonita!! you almost got me worried.

she shrug her shoulder. Ntando knew she was asking why he was worried.

Ntando: I thought... I thought... just don't scare me like that okay?

Bonita blinked a few times narrowing her eyes trying to understand what he meant.

Ntando just sighed and stood up.

Ntando: I am going out today. no matter what don't let anyone in. only Shaun or Mr Mtolo or Musa. but no one else. okay?

Bonita: *nodded*

Ntando: I will be back in about 4 hours.

Bonita: *nodded*

Ntando took a deep breath and nodded then said goodbye

- CAFÉ -

Shaun: how does it taste?

Melissa: amazing. I always get myself the Vanilla flavour because I thought Strawberry was just the usual taste I know. but seems like I was wrong.

Shaun: indeed.

they smiled while having their milkshakes.

Melissa: you still owe me a shopping date remember?

Shaun: how could I forget that was the first bet I ever lost.

Melissa: (laughs) really??

Shaun: yes.. and the first time I fell for someone through a drawing.

Melissa: *blushed* oh please don't lie.

Shaun: I am not.. I mean you have a very smooth hand. you drew every detail well and I could feel your sincere heart through it. nobody draws like that these days.

Melissa smiled but it was a smile that was hiding a bit of some nervousness.

Shaun: can I ask you to draw something for me?

Melissa: huh?

Shaun: you don't have to draw what I want. actually I want to see how you see me. how you feel about me so can you draw me a picture that shows me your feelings and thoughts about me?

Melissa: huh... well.... huh...

Shaun: you don't have to draw it in one night (smiles) you can take your time. actually the more time it takes the more feeling you can gather.

Melissa: (nervous laugh) yah.. sure.. I will do that..

Shaun nodded

Melissa: huh.. Shaun.. so.. have you thought about the wedding date?

Shaun: ohh the date?? I thought maybe you would want to set it?

Melissa: well... since this is an arranged marriage shouldn't we set it to be sooner?

Shaun: of cause it should be sooner

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I mean its an arranged marriage.

Melissa; yah..

Shaun: so what date were you thinking?

Melissa: is July very close?

Shaun: not really actually I was thinking June.

Melissa: June? June is perfect.

Shaun: but I think its too close given that you all have preparations to set for.

Melissa: it doesn't have to be something big. just a small venue with the necessary guests and family and that's it.

Shaun: oh okay then.. then we will go for the 28th of June? its Saturday so I am sure our guests will be free.

Melissa: ohh my Gosh the day before my birthday?

Shaun: wow!! doesn't it make it more special.

Melissa smiled sipping on her milkshake.

Shaun also smiled looking at her while also sipping on his milkshake.

- LATER -

- AT THE COLLINS COMPANY -

Shaun was back in the company after having his lunch break with Melissa at the café.

as he was busy with his work the door opened and Ntando walked in. Ntando and Musa are 2 people that come and go as they please in the company without having to stop at the receptionist because already the staff new who they were.

they respected them as their own boss since Shaun asked them to do that when he introduced them to the staff.

so Shaun wasn't expecting Ntando at all which is why he was a bit surprised to see him there. normally Ntando would let him know that he is coming through a call of text but this time none!

Shaun: and then? (smiles) were you trying to surprise me?

Ntando: well are you surprised??

Shaun: huh... tshh...

Ntando: (interrupted) I mean its been a while hai!

Shaun could sense the anger that was coming out of Ntando's mouth.

Ntando: ohh how would you know if maybe for you it has only been yesterday. I mean you are preddy occupied these days.

Shaun: hai Ntando what's up? why are you acting like this?

Ntando: are you really getting married to Melissa?

Shaun: (chuckles) ohh its about that?

Ntando: not only did I have to hear it from Musa but clearly every update is coming from Musa... are we not friends Shaun?? or has your new wife become your friend now?

Shaun: Ntando its not like that..

Ntando: its okay I am not here for that..

Shaun didn't know what to say or do. the best he could try was to listen.

Ntando: Shaun!! Bonita will die.

Shaun: huh??

Ntando: if you marry Melissa it means her purpose to save you will fade. not only that but its a mission failed. which means she will die and not be able to look upon her mother.

Shaun looked at Ntando showing signs of confusion.

Ntando: she is like an Angel guardian in human form okay. she was sent specifically to save you. she was sent to finish her mission by making sure you do not marry the Ndamases. that's why the moon chose her mother to give birth to her that's why she let her mother stay in an abusive relationship.

Shaun clicked at the word abusive. that was one fact he didn't know about. but tried staying calm.

Ntando: the moon let all of this happen just so you could be saved from the Ndamases. it is unclear what they really want but if you continue to marry Melissa you will be opening the door for them and not only that but sending Bonita to her early death because then her mission would be failed and there would be nothing she could do. so she won't have any other purpose in this world.

Shaun: wait! so basically once she doesn't have a purpose she dies?

Ntando: yes.

Shaun: then that means she would still die even if I choose not to marry Bonita.

Ntando: but if would be a mission succeeded.

Shaun: and what's the difference?

Ntando: if she fails the mission she won't be gifted with the eyes of guardianship. those eyes allow her to look after her loved once from the sky. to try and protect them and watch them grow. but if she succeeds she will be able to guard her loved ones through the eyes of guardianship. and what's more important is that she stands a chance to actually choose another purpose. should she find a purpose to stay on earth she could stay and become human like us.

Shaun: and you believe all of that?

Ntando looked at Shaun surprised that he even asked him that.

Shaun: this is like a supernatural drama series. really? you believe that the moon sent someone to guard me? does that make sense?

Ntando: she already proved to you that she can see the future.

Shaun: being able to see the future is one thing but claiming to be a guardian angel is another. prophets see the future and they are human not angels. so please don't force me to believe this crap.

Ntando looked at him surprised at what he just said. his tears were building up as he thought about Bonita and how he believes her.

Ntando: that's how you feel?

Shaun: that's what I know.. maybe we should look closer and see why she is targeting me. you know corn-artists come in many shapes and sizes.

Ntando: (chuckles bitterly) corn artists?

Shaun just looked at him..

Ntando: I see.. I see.. (smiles bitterly) well.. I believe in that corn-artist so what does that make me?

Shaun didn't say anything.

Ntando: (sighs) okay! well a corn-artist can not stay in your place I mean what if she takes your things and leave you homeless right? *nods* so I have to move her out of your house.. (smiles bitterly) see I am looking out for you here.. now you rest easy without thinking about whether she is taking your things at home or not.

Shaun didn't say anything but wanted to say something.

Ntando walked out after saying that and Shaun sighed holding his head.

it was like he was regretting the words he just said to Ntando.

could a relationship tight as theirs be broken because of this?

CHARTER 33

- WEEKS LATER -
- AT NTANDOS HOUSE -
- DAYS BEFORE THE WEDDING (27 JUNE 2003) -
- NARRATOR -

Bonita (sign language): why did you call me out here? Ntando is not here.

Shaun: I am here for you. I wanted to take you out before I get married to thank you for what you did for me.

Bonita (sign language): Ntando told me not to leave this house even though its you Musa or Mr Mtolo. he made me promise to stay here.

Shaun: what if I tell you that I need your help?

Bonita (sign language): help?

Shaun: yes.. I have something to tell you. but over some coffee or some milkshake.

Bonita was battling with herself on whether to leave or not since she promised Ntando that she wouldn't leave the house.

Shaun: you can trust me.. you know you can.

Bonita sighed and slightly smiled nodding.

they walked to his car and drove to some café.

they went inside ordered their drinks and then started talking.

- FEW MINUTES LATER -

they had been talking and talking together while having some drinks. then Shaun excused himself to head to the bathroom.

Shaun got up heading to the bathroom while Bonita continued having her milkshake.

a man walked into the café looking at Bonita.

he walked to her and Bonita immediately knew who it was. it was the same person who picked her up at the Club when she escaped the first time.

when she saw him Bonita opened her eyes widely and moved back.

the guy walked in front of her showing her his gun.

Zakes: if you try anything someone will get hurt in here.

Bonita looked at him with her tears filling in her eyes.

Zakes held her and took her out of the café to his car. he put her in and went to start the car.

Shaun walked out seeing Bonita left. he sighed and walked to the counter to pay his bill then walked out as if nothing just happened.

- AT THE NDAMASES -

Mr Ndamase: what?? you really found her?

Zakes: yes sir. I am on my way with her right now.

Mr Ndamase: good job Zakes I owe you for your hard work.

Zakes: just doing my job sir.

Mr Ndamase: okay hurry and make sure no one sees you dropping her here.

Zakes: yes sir.

he hung up and smiled.

Mr Ndamase: I finally found you you sick bi***

Melissa walked in seeing her father in a good mood smiling.

Melissa: who was that on the phone? that person seemed to have made your day.

Mr Ndamase: nothing can top up the fact that tomorrow you will become Mrs Collins.

Melissa: (smiles) of cause. finally I can wake up next to Shaun and also sleep next to him. I will be by his side everyday and be his pillar of strength.

Mr Ndamase: (smiles) exactly.. my baby will be happy.

Melissa: I am very happy dad.

Mr Ndamase: well let me make you even more happy.. that evil witch is found.

Melissa: who?? Bonita?

Mr Ndamase: yes.. finally we found her and this time... I will make sure she doesn't escape. Ms Gloria isn't here so she won't be able to help her.

Melissa: I still don't understand how she managed to hide so well that even a PI couldn't find her. as well as Ms Gloria. what makes me even more creeped out is that no one knows her apart from people in this house. its as if she was a ghost.

Mr Ndamase: he managed to find Bonita he will soon find Ms Gloria Bonita surely knows where she is.

Melissa: mhm.. well lets just hope she won't ruin my day tomorrow.

Mr Ndamase: how will she even do that when she will be locked in that room till we come back?

Melissa: better.

she smiled.

Melissa: well I have a lot to prepare daddy so let me go.

Mr Ndamase: okay nana.

- FEW MINUTES LATER -

Zakes arrived and drove into the yard. after parking his car he got out and went to get Bonita who was seating at the backseat.

Bonita was crying. tears were filled on her face when she saw this house again. it has been long since she has been here and being here again was bringing a lot of memories.

Mr Ndamase walked out and didn't waste time.

he pulled her in the house straight to the bedroom she used to call her bedroom.

he threw her inside locked the room and walked down to Zakes.

Bonita sat next to the bed hugging her knees. Ms Gloria wasn't here to help her it was her and her alone.

Mr Ndamase walked out with Zakes because he didn't want to disturb Melissa's happiness.

Mr Ndamase: listen my daughter is getting married tomorrow. so I don't want to mess her day up. I will transfer the money to your account thank you for finding her.

Zakes: and Ms Gloria? should I leave her?

Mr Ndamase: keep your ears on the ground. but I am sure Bonita knows where she is. so we might also find her sooner.

Zakes: okay Mr Ndamase.

Mr Ndamase: keep your phone close I will be calling you soon for another job. this one will earn you triple what I will be paying you now..

Zakes: (smiles) then I will be waiting for your call then.

Mr Ndamase: sure.

Zakes left.

Mr Ndamase walked in the house straight to Bonita's room.

he unlocked the door walked in and closed the door. Bonita was shaking in fear looking at her father who looked angry and very furious.

Mr Ndamase: you thought you were clever hai?

Bonita didn't say anything she just kept crying.

Mr Ndamase: so you thought you could escape just like that huh?? just like that?

Bonita (sign language): sorry baba.

Mr Ndamase: I am not your father and never will be.. but for thinking you are smart I will teach you a lesson today.

he took out his belt and rolled it on his hand.

Mr Ndamase: undress!!

Bonita looked at his father with wide eyes and tears rushed down her eyes. the last time he beat her up while naked was about 6 months ago when her mother was still living here. but she couldn't do anything because she was also threatened.

Mr Ndamase: I said get undressed!!

he shouted.

Bonita started removing her clothing very carefully. after removing them all remaining with just a bra and underwear. Mr Ndamase held her and started beating her.

he started beating her with the side that had a metal holder. that metal holder landed on her skin leaving a mark every time it landed.

Mr Ndamase was using full force. its almost like he was beating to kill.

her silent screams and cries ended right in her mouth. that can only be more painful then letting your voice out.

she cried till she couldn't cry anymore. and went to a point where she accepted death and lay lumb while Mr Ndamase continued.

Mr Ndamases phone rang while he was "teaching Bonita a lesson" he stopped and picked up the phone.

Mr Ndamase: Dhlamini?

Mr Dhlamini: Ndamase I have been waiting for long now. my patience is running out.

Mr Ndamase: don't worry Mr Dhlamini. I am almost there.

Mr Dhlamini: you are always almost there. how long should I wait?

Mr Ndamase: listen I am aiming for a big fish here. and I got him.. once my daughter gets married to Shaun I will be able to use Melissa to get the company

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I will be able to use Melissa to get the company then we will be part of the top 5 richest people in this country. then only then we will be able to play with the big fishes. don't you want that?

Mr Dhlamini: talking is cheap Ndamase I also have people to report to. or have you forgotten?

Mr Ndamase: don't worry Dhlamini. just tell them we have arrived.

Mr Dhlamini: just remember if you don't do as you say you will lose everything. your house cars and that small construction company we will take all of them to settle the deal you made with us. understand.

Mr Ndamase: that won't be necessary. because its already done. the gate to swim with the sharks is open.

Mr Dhlamini: makubenjalo.

he hung up.

Mr Ndamase looked at Bonita and clicked his tongue before walking out.

- LATER -

- AT THE COLLINS COMPANY -

Ntando was furious and fuming with anger. he walked into the company heading straight to Shaun's office but didn't find him there.

he asked around where Shaun was and was told that he went out. he stood to think about possible places where they could have went. he decided to go to his house.

- FEW MINUTES LATER -

he arrived at Shaun's house and rang the bell outside. after the helper checked who it was from the camera screen she let him in.

Ntando walked in and knocked before entering.

as he walked in he found Musa sitting on the couch playing video games.

Ntando: hai Musa where is Shaun?

Musa: Shaun?? maybe the company.

Ntando: he is not there...

Musa: huh...

he was still playing games partly concentrating on the question given. Ntando was impatient. he went to unplug the controller showing Musa how serious the situation was.

Musa: hai Ntando what's wrong with you?? I was almost done I needed just few more shots.

Ntando: does few more shots matter then Bonita being sent back to Ndamases?

Musa: what?? what are you talking about?

Ntando: I guess you didn't know..

Musa: know what?

Ntando: your F*** brother came to see Bonita this morning took her out and tricked her into being caught by Mr Ndamases PI. as we speak Bonita is with the Ndamases Shaun sent her back there.

Musa: what?? no Shaun would never do such a thing.

Ntando: well he did.

Musa didn't know what to say. he was shocked.

Ntando: I am sure he planned all of this with Mr Mtolo.. only he can pull such great plan. I bet he paid that client to ask for me this morning.

Musa: okay that's far fetched.

Ntando: trust me right now. nothing is far fetched.

Musa: I think I know where Shaun could be.. lets go.

they walked out in a hurry.

- AT THE CAFÉ -

Shaun: we can now wrap this up right?

Mr Mtolo: will you be okay with Ntando and Musa?

Shaun: mhm... don't worry.

Mr Mtolo: are you sure.

Shaun: trust me.. I will handle them.

Mr Mtolo: okay then.. I guess we wrap it up then.

Shaun: good.. now I have to go prepare for tomorrow it will be a big day I have to also sleep early.

Mr Mtolo: surely it will be a great day.

Musa and Ntando arrived. as soon as Ntando saw then he stomped to them leaving Musa behind.

he stands neat their table as they looked at him.

Ntando: so here you are huh.. drinking coffee celebrating that you finally sent Bonita back home huh?

Shaun didn't say anything nor did Mr Mtolo.

Ntando: she was not in your house but my house she was not in your way so why did you have to send her back? huh? what did

she do wrong Shaun? what did she do to you? why did you send her back to that hell hole?

Mr Mtolo: Ntando....

Ntando: no you stay out of this.. you are just a PI hired to do things. right now I am speaking to the one who paid you to do those things and the one who sent Bonita back home. Shaun... if you wanted to marry Melissa why don't you go and make the deal with the devil alone? why did you have to drag Bonita in all of this? huh?

Shaun: if she is the guardian angel as you said shouldn't the moon save her?

Ntando chuckled and shook his head.

Ntando: the moon had saved her though us.. but the same hands that the moon used to save her brought her back there. who can the moon use this time? the ones he used before betrayed him.

Shaun: you are still here Musa is here too. let him use 2 of you.

Ntando looked at him not believing what he just said.

Ntando: *nods* let him use us.. you are right.. I will get Bonita out of there.. I dare you to try and stop me.

he walked back then stopped.

Ntando: ohhh and Shaun.. I am sorry to tell you this at the last minute before your grand wedding. but I don't think I will make it as your best man. try Mr Mtolo.. he looks like he is ready to be one..

with that he walked out but Shaun stood up and called him.

Shaun: Ntando!!

he stopped and looked back.

Shaun: can you... can you at least come for the wedding? as my friend.. I would really be happy to see you there.

Ntando:

he didn't say anything. he just walked out.

Shaun sat down and sighed holding his forehead.

Musa: I hope you won't regret this in the future.

he also turned to leave.

Shaun: are you also dropping me?

Musa turned and smiled.

Musa: how can I?? I mean I am your big brother after all. not by blood but your parents took me in so it makes me your brother. so I must be there for my little brother even if he makes stupid selfish decisions. its called family.. Ntando is just angry right now. don't worry he will be at the wedding you know why? because even to him you are his family. you will see.

with that he left.

CHARTER 34

- WEDDING DAY (28 JUNE 2003) -
- NARRATOR -
- AT THE NDAMASES -

Melissa woke up very early because she had to go to the hall to prepare early before the Collins and guests arrive.

so she had to go fast since she will be getting her make up and dress at the hall.

she took her things and rushed to Bonita's room.

yesterday she instructed her to draw something for Shaun. anything that would show show how much she loves him and appreciates him.

so Bonita had to stay up to do the drawing.

what Bonita drew wasn't anything complicated but it had greater meaning.

Melissa unlocked the door and got in finding Bonita sleeping.

she woke her up.

Melissa: hai where is the drawing?

Bonita showed her the small box with the book that Melissa gave her since Bonita didn't have her drawing things here.

Melissa opened the book and was disappointed to see something so simple being drawn.

she walked to Bonita and slapped her on the thigh. she flinched not because Melissa slapped hard but because she slapped onto the pain of the belt Mr Ndamase used yesterday.

Melissa: what is this?

Bonita (sign language): the drawing.

Melissa: how is this going to make Shaun feel my love for him?

Bonita (sign language): it isn't about the image but about the message. that's what is important.

Melissa: what?

Bonita (sign language): Shaun will be looking for the meaning of the drawing not the quality. so the message is what he wants.

Melissa: so what does the message say here?

Bonita (sign language): its about a persons true feeling towards someone. sincerity and...

Mr Ndamase called Melissa before she could finish.

Melissa: coming dad (looking at Bonita) never mind.. just pray he will like it. if not you are dead.

with that she left.

- MEANWHILE -
- AT THE COLLINS -

Shaun looked himself in the mirror fixing his tie. someone knocked on his door.

Shaun: come in!!

he yelled.

the door opened and Musa walked in.

he looked at Shaun and smiled.

Musa: I still can't believe that today you become a man.

Shaun: wasn't I always a man?

Musa: you were a boy.

Shaun laughed turning to Musa.

Shaun: wow!!! how do I look?

Musa: handsome. if I must admit.

Shaun: (laughs) of cause I am always handsome.

Musa: I was waiting for that.

he smiled reaching for his suit.

he put it on and buttoned the one button on it.

Musa: ohhhh so smart.. you don't even get this smart when going to work.

Shaun: I know right?

they both softly laughed.

the relationship between them was not like before. although Musa was trying so hard it was still visible that he wasn't fully himself yet.

Shaun: we better not be late. is mom and dad gone?

Musa: would they leave without you?

Shaun: not dad..

they laughed.

Musa: he is the one who even suggested that we use one car. guess he doesn't want you changing minds.

Shaun: (laughs) sometimes dad worries about stupid things hai!

Musa: I guess he just wants everything to go well I mean if I was dying I would want to spend every second wisely and going to the wedding only for it to be cancelled is just a waste of time.

Shaun: (smiles) really?? then I guess I am in for a long lecture hai!!

Musa: what do you mean?? are you planning to run away?

Shaun: (laughs) me? run away? why?

Musa: then what did you mean?

Shaun: never mind.. lets just go.

Musa shook his head and just let him be.

- AT THE NDAMASE -

Bonita was in her room locked in the wardrobe.

she hugged her knees and rested her head on her knees.

she remembered the dream that she had a long time ago.

"now your real purpose is approaching. be prepared."

"the Ndamases?"

"*nodded* you will be meeting them again. but stay calm and always remember everything happens for a reason. always remember that okay??"

She then breathed and sat up straight. she smiled to bring some positivity in her mind.

"everything happens for a reason" she thought

- LATER -

Melissa was all dolled up.

she looked at herself in the mirror and almost started crying when she saw herself in a white dress with such a nice make up and amazing hairstyle. she was so happy.

it was starting to sink in that she is about to be Mrs Collins. she just couldn't believe it.

???: don't cry Melissa you will ruin your make up.

Melissa smiled and looked up trying to suck her tears back in.

Melissa: sorry.. I just got emotional.

???: I would also cry I mean you are looking beautiful about to marry the handsome Shaun. phela most of people thought Shaun might be gay. he likes to flirt with girls and brag about how handsome he is but he didn't look like he was interested in any girl. you must be lucky girl. I wish I was you.

?: well you are not.

they laughed.

???: okay Melissa its almost time. the final touch is this face vail.

?: is that what's its called??

???: mxm.

Melissa smiled.

Melissa never had friends but that was by choice. she would have friends then stop talking to them move to the others and do the same thing. she kept on saying they were not on her level. so she

ended up being alone with her father and also using Bonita to cure her boredom by making her suffer.

they put the veil on and prepared her to get ready.

- MOMENTS LATER -
- IN THE HALL -

everyone was seated and waiting for the ceremony to begin. Mr and Mrs Collins were seated in front.

Mr Collins: finally.. now I can die in peace.

Mrs Collins: so sad that you don't even wonder how I feel whenever you say that.

normally she always jokes but this time she was serious.

Mr Collins looked at her and held her hand.

she didn't fight it she let him be.

Shaun walks in looking around. she spotted his parents and smiled as they greeted him. he then went to stand in front as he got there he smiled at Musa and Mr Mtolo
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he smiled at Musa and Mr Mtolo then waiting for his bride to arrive.

Musa was right behind him with Mr Mtolo and other guys who are close to Shaun and work at his company but not so close like Musa and Shaun.

as he was waiting he saw someone come in and walked straight in front. it was Ntando. he looked at Musa who saw Ntando as well. Musa smiled and nodded Shaun also smiled looking at Ntando again.

Ntando landed his eyes on Shaun who was looking at him.

he faked a smile and became serious same time making Shaun automatically smile at him. that smile forced Ntando to smile genuinely.

Ntando was actually glad he came it was only right that he did.

he stood behind Shaun and leaned in to whisper.

Ntando: is my space as your best man still open?

Shaun: even if you wouldn't come I would leave it open because no one can fill that space except you.

Ntando: agggg that's just disgusting.. are we dating?

Shaun: want to be my second wife?

Ntando: not even if I was a girl.

Shaun: am I that bad?

Ntando: you are worse.

Shaun laughed as Ntando went to stand at his place with his suit looking clean and nice.

Shaun could never be more happy. not because he is getting married but because even though he was selfish and a fool his friends were still there till the end. why? because they were like family and family never turns against each other no matter what happens that should never be an option.

the music started everyone stood up as the bride appeared.
Melissa walked in with her father holding her hand.

they walked towards the front.

when they got to the front Mr Ndamase handed Melissa to Shaun
and Shaun took her hand and helped her up the alter.

before the pastor could even begin the piano guy played the song
again.

everyone thought maybe it was just a mistake or a planned thing
or something until another bride appeared.

everyone looked at each other wondering what was going on. the
guys looked at Shaun and Shaun looked at the guy looking
shocked as well.

he looked at the pastor and shrug his shoulders.

the bride was brought by a young man.

"and then?"

"another bride? is Shaun in polygamy?"

"haibo! what is this now?"

those were whispers of people in the hall.

as the bride got to the alter Shaun looked at Mr Mtolo and Mr
Mtolo walked down to get her and bring her up to the alter.

Pastor whispered to Shaun.

Pastor: is this a double wedding perhaps?

Shaun shook his head.

the music stopped and the pastor took his mic.

pastor: huh... I am very sorry ladies and gentlemen but seems like there is a issue right here. we would like to sort it out before we continue.

Shaun asked for the mice and spoke.

Shaun: they say a true husband knows his wife even if her face is hidden. am I wrong?

the crowd gave a soft laugh and agreed.

Shaun: that means I will be able to successfully know who my wife is right?

the crowd again agreed. the tension had died down since the situation was about to be rectified.

Shaun looked at the 2 brides.

he pulled the second bride to stand next to the first bride then looked at them.

Shaun: yazi sometimes when you ask for one God gives you double.. does it mean I should reject the other?

the crowd laughed.

Shaun pulled the second bride and held her hand.

Shaun: I think this is my bride.

Mr Ndamase who knew he was wrong shook his head and pointed at the first bride but Shaun ignored him.

Shaun handed the mic to the pastor.

Pastor: ngathi sidlala igrime ye pipimabelani.

the crowd laughed.

Pastor: okay Shaun.. would you like to unveil your bride to see if it is her?

Shaun: should I?

Pastor: you want to find out after the "I do" only to find out wrong?

Shaun: I shouldn't have that neh?

the crowd laughed. Shaun smiled slowly unveiling the bride.

the face revealed and Mr Ndamase was shocked to see who it was Melissa as well so shocked that she even unveiled herself with her eyes wide open showing shock. Mr Collings and Mrs Collins were also shocked as they saw who the girl resembles. they could see Portia with no doubt that's how much she looked like her mother.

not to also mention Musa and Ntando's reaction. mostly Ntando he was so shocked and confused that his brains couldn't even try to guess what was happening.

Pastor: is she the right bride?

Shaun: mhm.. yes!!

the guys shock was even more not to mention the Ndamases and Collins.

CONTINUATION 34

- AT THE WEDDING HALL -

- NARRATOR -

Mr Ndamase: what is this?? Shaun?? what are you doing?

Melissa: Shaun! can't you see? its me Melissa?

Shaun took the mic and asked the pastor to take a seat on the chairs placed on the side. it was meant for them later.

Shaun: I am so sorry everyone but seems like things got a bit mixed up but I will explain now what happened. but before I begin I need to make sure no one leaves the hall so I brought my friends.

with that said the same police officer who helped him free Samantha and arrest Nomalanga walked in with back up. they surrounded the hall and also closed the hall. Mr Ndamase sat down not wanting to make a scene as he already sensed that this trouble was aimed at them.

Melissa also started to get a bit nervous.

Shaun: please take a seat its about to be a long explanation.

he said to everyone who was at the alter.

Shaun: let me help you.. your body must be sore.

he said to Bonita.

he helped her to go sit next to the pastor.

Mr Ndamase remembered the beating he gave her.

Shaun: my friends don't have much time so I will be fast. let me start by welcoming someone. my dear police officers please let the nurse come through.

they opened the door and the nurse was already at the door. she walked in pushing Bonita's mother on the wheelchair.

when Bonita saw her mother she quickly ran to her and fell on her feet crying. she didn't care about the aching body of hers that kept piercing with each step. she withheld the pain just to run to her mother.

her mother was not strong she also couldn't move as fast. when Bonita fell on her knees hugging her mothers legs and crying her mother saw her and started crying as well slowly rubbing her hair.

Shaun: mom dad.... someone made it out of the "COMA"

his parents were already surprised to see Portia. Mrs Collins walked to her and also hugged her.

Shaun: Bonita mom please let the nurse bring Mrs Ndamase here. its important.

Mrs Collins held Bonita who didn't want to let go but finally did. Mrs Collins held her and hugged her as she helped her walk to where she was seated next to Mr Collins.

Bonita sat down still crying with her head on Mrs Collins lap. Mrs Collins kept brushing her hair waiting to hear what was going on.

Mr Collins was just surprised that Mr Ndamase didn't move. he didn't even react happy to see his wife and daughter back home.

Shaun: this woman here is Mrs Portia Ndamase. she is the biological mother of Bonolo Ndamase who is known as Bonita. she landed in hospital few months ago and the cause was suicide so they say. and the daughter was said to have passed away few years ago. well the truth is.. the child never passed away but one day years ago she was beaten to the point that she almost died by her father.

the crowd mumbled in shock.

Shaun: yes! after that incident her father locked her in her room and that was the beginning of her being locked up in there. Mrs Ndamase couldn't do anything she was scared and also beaten up often for always helping her daughter by sneaking food to her. so she couldn't leave the house with bruises that's why she kept herself locked in the house. when my parents visit she was told never to leave her room or else her daughter would be punished. so she would do as told. as for the "suicide" that's not true.. months ago it was found that Mrs Ndamase was pregnant. yes her husband would sometimes force himself on her. so he sent her to the hospital to take the child out. as she was there Mr Ndamase paid a doctor to sedate her and inject her with some medicine that keeps you asleep as if you were in a coma. he didn't want to kill her yet because he wanted to control Bonita using her mother.

the crowd was in shock. especially Shaun's parents and friends. they looked at Mr Ndamase who had no where to go other than hide in his seat and look as if he was shocked and innocent.

Shaun: that's not it. dad do you know why Mr Ndamase was also so eager to get me to marry Melissa? he wants to take your company away take the only legacy you have built for your kids he wanted to take it and use it for his own selfishness. dad Mr Ndamase is your high school best friend. I am sure you know he likes to gamble.

Mr Collins looked back at Mr Ndamase who shook his head when he saw Mr Collins looking at him.

Shaun: don't you wonder how he got his riches? he made a deal with the Dhlamini brothers. the most well known loan sharks in this country. and you know how else they get money? smuggling drugs. Mr Ndamase has a debt of 3.2 million to pay and an interest of 1.1 million. total being 4.3 million that he has to pay back to the Dhlaminis. his assets right now are only worth 2.8 million. so even if he sold everything and went broke he would still need 1.5 million to close the debt and live freely. so having Melissa marry me he would be able to pay off the debt and still have much more to live the lavish life he always wanted. even if its by the cost of his wife and daughter.

Mr Collins couldn't believe it. he just couldn't believe it.

Mr Ndamase couldn't sit back and keep quiet he wanted to defend himself even though he knew it was all true.

Mr Ndamase: hai boi!! that's some really big accusation. you know I can sue you for defamation of character?

Shaun: I am sure you would sue me 4.5 million right? that would be enough for you to pay the debtors and leave us alone right? then I dare you to sue me. please go ahead. because I have proof.

Mr Ndamase: what proof? that woman? that woman is nothing but a scam. both of them. they probably plotted this together. she faked her death and she faked being in a coma to pin this on me. and who said I forced myself on her? she was clearly sleeping with other man.

Shaun: ohhhh I think Mrs Ndamase here should sue you for defamation of character because the proof I have here states that you are guilty. lets see.

the nurse handed a file to Shaun.

Shaun: here are the files showing that Mrs Ndamase came to the hospital to make an abortion then after that she was put straight under sedation. and the traces of that medication were found in her system. recorded. ohh and we also have the doctor that was taking care of her. Doc Zulu are you familiar with that name? he was even interrogated in the police station so he gave a full statement of everything. his bank statement proofed what he said because the account number sending him a lot of money tracked back to you. ohh and your PI

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so he gave a full statement of everything. his bank statement proofed what he said because the account number sending him a lot of money tracked back to you. ohh and your PI Zakes.

when he said that Zakes walked in also wearing a suit.

Mr Ndamase looked at him shocked.

Shaun: they say loyalty is priceless and can't be bought with money. you should know that Mr Ndamase. anyway isn't this the same guy you used to find Bonita twice already? I mean you said your daughter passed away years ago but she was living with you all this time locked up in her room. ladies and gentlemen do you know where my guys found her before bringing her here today? locked in the wardrobe.

some people shook their heads looking at Mr Ndamase disgusted.

Shaun: we are sorry we broke your doors. you can send a quote and we will have it fixed.. and please ladies and gentlemen don't just take my word for it. lets look at the proof.

he played a video showing from the moment Bonita arrived got beaten and left to lay there they made sure to blur out her naked body before submitting the video to Shaun in a USB. Mr Mtolo was the one behind the laptop playing the video. when Shaun was still speaking he was connecting the laptop on a projector and setting the projector and the wall paper.

Shaun: look at how they are abusing my wife.. isn't this just too much? if our parents treat us like this then where should we find love? outside? what makes it worse is that she can't even speak for herself. she is mute. she only speaks sign language but she can hear. and then Melissa. can you really draw? or you just bullied Bonita to do it for you while you take credit? I get it you didn't do as much as your father did but you were there you knew you saw but you kept quiet. you are worse then your father.

Melissa just kept wiping her tears the hole time. her makeup was even totally ruined.

Shaun: lets wrap this up so that the police can do their jobs.

Shaun explained the remaining facts and then concluded with the last evidence. a bug that Shaun planted on Bonita the day she asked her to go with him to the café. Bonita wasn't aware of it since Shaun planted it without her knowing. that was the whole point of meeting her to plant the bug and have her caught.

after explaining the police arrested them and also collected all the evidence that Shaun had.

Police officer: Thank you Shaun. you helped us catch yet more criminals. with this we might also be able to catch the Dhlamini brothers.

Shaun: you think he will talk?

Police Officer: he looks like he will talk. don't worry.

Shaun: well I wish you good luck officer.

Police officer: Sandile.. just call me Sandile..

Shaun: okay.. Sandile.

Police Officer: you could make a great detective you know..

Shaun: (laughs) you think?

Police officer: I know so.

Shaun: then when you need help just give me a call plus I have Mr PI here (Mr Mtolo) make it 2 actually (and Zakes) that means we can reach where you can't reach.

Police officer: ohh that's a deal right there.

they laughed.

they shook hands and thanked each other once again then Sandile left.

Shaun looked at the Nurse.

Shaun: thank you Nurse. you can take Mrs Ndamase back to the hospital. and please take care of her.

the nurse nodded and walked out.

Bonita stood up and followed to speak to the nurse.

the nurse stopped and looked at Shaun Shaun was already looking at them wondering what she was asking the nurse.

Shaun nodded as Bonita also looked at him and said "please let me stay with her". the nurse and Bonita walked out.

Ntando and Musa walked to him.

Ntando: was this your plan all along?

Shaun: I am sorry I decided to leave you out of it.

Musa: what should we do? bury him alive? (he said looking at Shaun but speaking to Ntando)

Ntando: I think he has to be our slave for a month. (he said looking at Shaun but speaking to Musa)

Musa: deal!! you heard that right Shaun??

Shaun opened his mouth trying to hold back his laughter.

Shaun: isn't that unfair? I can't be a slave. how can the son of the Collins be a slave? how? does that make sense?

Musa cleared his throat looking behind Shaun.

Shaun looked back and his parents were standing near the alter. people were starting to leave since there wouldn't be a wedding.

Shaun looked at Ntando and Musa.

Shaun: I will explain everything later right now I have some important clean up to do.

they nodded as he walked to his parents.

Mr Collins: Shaun!!

Shaun: I know you have a lot of questions but lets go home first then I will answer all of them. okay?

his parents nodded walking out.

Mr Mtolo walked to the boys.

Mr Mtolo: can I get some extra hands. we need to clean up the hall.

Ntando: well seeing that we were not part of this plan shouldn't we get shocked and move out like everyone?

Musa: I think we should.

Mr Mtolo: come on...

Musa and Ntando acted out first before agreeing. actually they had long agreed to do it in their mind but they just wanted Mr Mtolo to keep going on.

Ntando was so relieved that this was just a plan. and also he felt a bit bad that he actually doubted Shaun's actions. he wish he had been more supportive other then try to leave him. he was even more glad that he came to the wedding. because he would have felt even more bad if he hasn't come and heard that it was just a plan. it would have made him a disloyal friend. well that's what he thought.

- LATER IN THE EVENING -

Ntando: wait so Bonita was also in on this?

Mr Mtolo: no when she met Shaun Shaun convinced her to have some coffee with him. that's when he managed to plant the bug. luckily it wasn't exposed when she started undressing and getting beaten.

Musa: that's cruel though.

Mr Mtolo: it is.

Musa: how is she?

Mr Mtolo: she is well she was at the hospital with her mother now she is going through a full body check up to see if she wasn't hurt or anything she has been through a lot.

Ntando: true.. I am sure if she was human she would have committed suicide.

Mr Mtolo: isn't she human?

Musa: what are you talking about? she is human.

Ntando: yah she is. but she is also like an guardian angel.

Mr Mtolo: just because she sees the future?

Ntando: eash!!

he showed them the notes where Bonita was explaining.

Musa: she says she is human born like all other humans its just that she has a gift its like a prophet.

Ntando: prophets are fake.

Musa: not all of them

Ntando: well most of them which makes it rare to find a true one. the one who's mission is to truly help others and not demand money like you are selling your dreams.

Mr Mtolo: green apples red apples. at the end of the day they are all apples.

Ntando: mxm.. vele vele were you and Shaun underestimating our acting?

Mr Mtolo laughed getting up.

Ntando: hai where are you running to?

Mr Mtolo: after all that work I am hungry. I am going to make dinner.

Ntando: ahh!! I feel you there.. lets all make dinner to finish faster we will argue about this after.

Musa laughed following as well.

CHARTER 35

- NEXT DAY (29 JUNE 2003) SUNDAY MORNING -
- NARRATOR -
- AT SHAUN'S HOUSE -

Shaun just arrived with Bonita. he made sure to pass by the hospital to fetch her before going to his house. Mr Mtolo had told him that Bonita would stay there overnight to be with her mother so they let her be because they knew she probably has it hard.

he walked in and entered in the house only to find the house a bit messy.

Shaun: what's up with these guys? where you the one cleaning when you were staying with Ntando?

Bonita (sign language): *shakes head* he wouldn't allow me to clean.

Shaun: then why didn't they clean?

Bonita shrug her shoulders.

they walked in and Shaun started cleaning the living room. he just wanted Bonita to be in a clean and safe environment.

Bonita sat on the couch.

after a while Mr Mtolo was the first to come down which was a shock because he had never slept over. even when they offered he would decline.

Shaun: wow!! you slept over?

Mr Mtolo: I didn't have much choice. I am slave now so I have to do whatever my masters tell me.

then it clicked.

Shaun: shoot they are still at it?

Mr Mtolo: I also thought they were joking but guess they weren't.

Shaun: shucks

Voice: hai!!!! why are you chatting around.. should the princess get something to drink?

they turned and it was Ntando. Bonita laughed.

Shaun sighed and took out his jacket to start working. there was no way to run away from this.

- FEW MINUTES LATER -

they were now sitting down having breakfast.

Ntando: so your how did your father react?

Shaun: he was shocked that I knew but also became emotional. but I assured him that I will grow up. he just thought Melissa was genuinely good for me and I was just blind so he wanted to help me out but didn't know that he was inviting evil. but I told him its over now thanks to my guardian angel.

Bonita smiled.

Ntando: well I am glad that is over. but really you should have let us in the plan or at least told us to not worry. I mean what if one of us messed with your plans?

Shaun: it was the risk we were taking. we thought they were watching us so we had to make sure we sell the act.

Musa: wow!!

Shaun: and my mother also wanted to see you Bonita.. she says she wanted to thank you for helping her son. she also mentioned that you would have to go live with them until your mother is fully recovered because you can't live here with us.

Ntando: ahhh why? she is like our little sister phela.

Mr Mtolo: I understand why she needs a female elder around her. she may want to speak to someone will she speak woman things with us?

Ntando pouted looking down.

Ntando (sign language): I will miss you.

Bonita smiled. her bright smile was back on her face.

how can someone who went through all of this be able to have such a bright smile?

Bonita (sign language): wow!! you are learning well.

Ntando (sign language): Thank you.

Musa: haibo!! Ntando this sneak cow.. you don't say.

Ntando: usele!!

they laughed.

Shaun's phone rang and he went to pick it up.

Shaun: Doc how are you?

Doc: Mr Collins I am afraid I come bearing bad news.

Shaun: bad news? is Mrs Ndamase okay?

Doc: we tried our very best to clean out the drug before it does any more damage but we couldn't save her. she was okay this morning we thought she was making progress but as the nurse came to check on her few minutes ago she realised she had passed away. I am sorry Sir.

as he was about to say something he heard the boys calling out Bonita.

he ran to them and found Bonita on the floor.

he had already hung up on the doctor.

Mr Mtolo: the ambulance will take time lets hurry her to the hospital.

without wasting time they picked her up taking her to the car. they got in and Mr Mtolo drove.

they were using one car.

after a while they got to the hospital and handed her to the doctors. the doctors and nurses took her in a ward and examined her.

Ntando went to Shaun.

Ntando: do you think its time?

Shaun: *nodded* I thought so too. I received a call saying her mother passed away.. I was thinking to myself
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" how will she react to this?? she just reunited with her" but seems like she won't have to know it.

Ntando:.....

the doctors came out.

they hurried to him.

Doc: she will be okay.. she is just tired and hasn't been eating well. she had lack of nutrition's and water. so we will keep her here until we are able to balance that out.

Shaun and Ntando breathed out relieved and Ntando held Shaun's shoulder..

Ntando: maybe you can give her a new purpose.

Shaun looked at Ntando confused.

Ntando: I know how you fee about her.. tell her maybe she may stay.. for you..

Shaun: wait!! don't you love her?

Ntando: me??

Shaun: the way you cared about her and got all worked out and also tried learning sign language I thought you liked her.. that's why I kept to myself.

Ntando: stupid boy.. don't you know me already? if I had liked her would I be even here trying to get you to keep her? no I

would have already told her that I like her.. I mean I have been living with her.. shouldn't I have tried something already?

Shaun: (smiled) I just didn't want a girl to ruin our friendship.

Ntando: like I said. her purpose to save you has passed she needs a new purpose.. so let her new purpose be to be with you forever.

Shaun: you think love will make her come back?

Ntando: even if it doesn't. at least just let her know how you feel. so that you won't regret it.

Shaun looked down and smiled while nodding.

- LATER -
(DREAM)

Bonita was standing near a road leading into the light.

she had no way back just forward.

she kept walking looking back but finding a way.

as she was walking a voice was heard.

"Bonita... can you hear me?"

she looked around hearing that voice.. she knew that voice. it was Shaun's voice. the same voice she has been yearning to hear before she could leave.

"I was so scared when you suddenly fainted. I thought.... I thought you had left me." he continued.

Bonita turned and looked up.

"Bonita... I always wanted to tell you this but I couldn't.. I never got to bring myself to say it because I was scared.. I can't really say scared of what but I was just scared... but I won't be scared anymore because I want to tell you... Bonita... I..... I LOVE YOU..."

Bonita smiled

(END OF DREAM)

Shaun was seating on the chair holding Bonita's hand and talking to her.

Shaun: I want you to wake up so that I can tell you again. ever since you came into my life I could see meaning and warmness.. a feeling only you can bring. so please wake up..

he continued talking to her even though he wasn't sure if she was listening or not.

- DAYS LATER -

Mr Collins and Mrs Collins came to the hospital holding some fruits in a basket.

they got to Bonita's ward and as they walked in her room was filled with a nice scent and some flowers. Bonita was even sitting on the bed having some porridge.

as they walked in Bonita smiled.

Mrs Collins: ohh my baby..

Bonita: *smiled*

he had food in his hands so she couldn't exactly say much.

Mr Collins: good morning my daughter.. how have you been?

she gave a thumbs up with a huge smile on her face.

Mr Collins: I am glad.

they stayed there for about 20 minutes talking and making her laugh.

Shaun then arrived. his parents told him that they will be coming to visit. so he wasn't shocked to see them there.

as he walked in the bickering started again between Mr Collins and Shaun.

it will always be like that. its a father son thing.

- LATER -

Shaun was now with Bonita alone.

he sat next to her holding her hand.

Shaun: are you really okay?

Bonita: *shakes head*

Shaun: what is it? are you feeling pain somewhere?

Bonita: *nods*

Shaun: where? should I call the nurse?

Bonita touched her chest meaning her heart. Shaun looked at her and placed his hand on hers.

Shaun: your heart is painful? should I call the doctor?

Bonita: *shakes head*

Shaun: (smiles painfully) is it time?

Bonita: *nods*

Shaun: so my love for you can't count as a new purpose?

Bonita: *shakes head*

she said as tears rushed down her cheek.

Shaun: so... you will leave me?

Bonita: *nods*

she started to cry more painfully as her heart ached even more.

Shaun: I will miss you.

Bonita (sign language): don't forget what I told you.. don't let your love die.. because I may die but my love for you will live on.

Shaun: (smiled and nods)

Bonita held the back of his neck and brought him closer. their foreheads touched as they both shed some tears.

Bonita handed him a bracelet.

Bonita (sign language): I asked your mother to buy me beads so that I could make this for you. keep it.

Shaun took it and put it on.

Shaun: thank you.. I will forever keep it with me.

after that Bonita laid back still holding Shaun's hand.

it was at that time that she closed her eyes and suddenly the machines went on.. it was peeping to show that the heart rate was dropping.

the nurse ran in and the doctors finding Shaun inside in tears.

they asked him to head out as they tried to save Bonita. but there was nothing they could do. she didn't die of a illness or anything it was just her time to leave.

CHARTER 36

- 2 YEARS LATER -
- NARRATOR -
- AT THE COMPANY -

Shaun was in the company working on the new project they got. he has been making the company successful for these past 2 years. this third one was also heading for success.

Shaun's father was blessed. according to the doctor he could only live for a year but he was now over 2 years and he was still alive and growing.

yes he was still nagging Shaun to get married expecially because Musa was getting married now. he was a father to be his girlfriend is pregnant.

they decided to have the wedding when his girlfriend is 5 months pregnant. that way they can have their honeymoon until she gives birth.

Ntando is still busy with his company. its booming now as they keep releasing some movies dramas and gaining some viewers. now the next step for them is to create a channel like you netflix

showmax dstv but Ntando thought a online Channel is better. a channel where you only use data to watch and not monthly subscriptions that way everyone can access it as long as they have an account. but of cause the premium version would cost you some monthly payments or yearly payments. what's special there is also a 5 year plan (pay every 5 years)

Mr Mtolo? still working as a PI but now he ventured into helping police officers. yes Sandile still keeps in touch and Shaun and the guys still hang out with Mr Mtolo. its like one big guy thing.

Shaun still keeps the bracelet on his wrist. the last drawing that Bonita drew for Melissa on the day of the wedding was framed and hung on the wall next to the first drawing that Bonita drew for Melissa.

Melissa and Mr Ndamase were serving time in prison. as for Mr Mbedu Mr Collins dropped the charges but applied for a protection order. so he must stay away from him and his family or else he will get arrested. but no one knows where he is. because after the charges were dropped he left and was never heard of.

as Shaun was working
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Ntando Musa and Mr Mtolo walked in holding 3 boxes of pizza.

Ntando: hai hai hai father Christmas is home.

Shaun laughed shaking his head.

Shaun: uyabeda wena.

Musa: still working?? we got some pizza.

Shaun: who would say no to Pizza?

they all laughed as Shaun walked up heading to them.

they sat on the couch and enjoyed their pizza while they tease each other laughing and having fun.

Musa looked at the drawings and immediately remembered Bonita.

Musa: (sigh) I still can't believe its been 2 years..

they all looked at where Musa was looking and it all flashed back.

Ntando: yah.. it feels like yesterday... I kind of miss her smile.

Mr Mtolo: (laughs) yah.. such a kind soul.

Musa: of cause she has to be kind. or else why would the moon choose her?

Ntando: I think we should eat..

Ntando says after seeing how sad Shaun looked.

the rest caught on and changed the topic. Shaun looked at bracelet and smiled while eating.

someone knocked.

Ntando: please let it be a hot girl I am tired of salt.

they laughed as Shaun told them to enter.

a young woman entered. indeed she was beautiful.

Shaun: how can I help you Khethiwe?

Khethiwe: sir the new PA has arrived.

Shaun: okay let her in.

Khethiwe: okay sir.

as she walked out Ntando shouted.

Ntando: Khethiwe Khethiwe (changing the lyrics "Khethile Khethile")

the boys laughed.

the girl walked in and immediately the boys were shocked. almost to the point of fainting.

???: good morning sir My name is Bonolo Motaung the new PA.

Shaun looked at her and looked at the guys.

"can it be that its Bonita? how can they look so alike?" Shaun thought.

Mr Mtolo: sorry sisi have you seen before?

Bonolo was a bit confused by the question but answered honestly.

Bonolo: I have seen Mr Collins before on TV and very rarely at the mall. but as for the rest I a afraid to tell you that I haven't seen you before.

Ntando: how old are you?

Bonolo: 26

Musa: what's your favourite hobby?

Bonolo: baking.

Shaun walked to her and stood in front of her.

Shaun: have you seen this before?

he showed her the bracelet.

Shaun was hoping she could say yes.

Bonolo looked at him confused.

Bonolo: *shakes head* no sir.

Shaun sighed in disappointment.

Shaun: I am sorry for asking so much questions. its just that you look like someone we knew. we thought maybe you were the person.

Bonolo: ohh its okay I understand.

Ntando: wait! you don't have memory loss right?

Bonolo: no sir.

Musa: do you have parents?

Bonolo: yes sir.

Ntando: are they your biological parents?

Shaun could see she was becoming uncomfortable.

Shaun: stop it guys!! its not her.. she may look like her and have her name.. but its not her.. stop making her feel uncomfortable.

they all started apologising.

Shaun went to get a file and handed it to her.

Shaun: these are the notes made by my previous PA. he asked me to hand this to my next PA which is you. and this...

he reached for his diary.

Shaun: is my diary. you can note every appointment in there. go through it and list your questions I will be back to answer every question you have.

Bonolo: yes sir.

Shaun: gents.. lets go to the boardroom and give Ms Motaung space.

they all agreed packing the boxes and heading out while looking at her.

A WOMAN WHO LOOKED LIKE HER HAD HER REAL NAME BUT ISNT HER. COULD THERE BE A LINK THAT HUMAN EYES CANT SEE BUT THE MOON SEES? IS THE MOON APOLOGISING FOR TAKING HER AWAY? IF REINCARNATION EXISTS COULD THIS BE IT? BUTS ONLY BEEN 2 YEARS SO IT CANT BE. SO WHAT IS IT?

THANKS FROM WRITER

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