

Diary by Makahlelo

Gosh it's that alarm again.. 6:25am I drag myself out of bed.. Damn this man did a number on me.. I feel paralyzed from waist down, my poor pussy is swollen again and on fire.. I spot the note next to the bedside lamp.. You were amazing remember don't call me I'll call you and be ready when I want you.. My phone beeps money in R25000 into your fnb cheque account.. Let me have that much deserved bath n order room service no on second thought I think I might just go and have an early breakfast at the Cafe across the road. As I sit in that bath memories comes flashing like waves.. 'we gonna have it all babe, the big beach house or do you want a big house in sandton. We can always move to a different city you know. I can see you slaving away in our kitchen and our kids running around in our beautiful garden'. I catch myself laughing while drying my wiping one tear that had escaped my eye. Funny how this memories still pops up in my head. So I pull myself towards myself and wear my big panties and smile. Big girls don't cry that's my favorite line.. I'm done bathing I slip into my next to nothing lace red dress and make my way out of that hotel. On second thoughts I think I'll skip breakfast and rush to my flat. I taxify and within 20 minutes I'm there fiddling with my key.. 'Sawubona Nkosazane, angakwaz uzifihlephi'.. 'Ngiyaphila Mbuso kunjani' I roll my eyes and make my way into my little paradise.. Yeeey my bed.. My phone rings as I drift off to lala land Gosh can A woman get some sleep geez.. Yah ' Oluhle is that how you answer your phone lately' 'talk I'm really not in the mood' I bark back.. Babe why don't you spend time with me tonight ' look I'm really not up to it, besides we only had sex like once or twice. Thought I made it clear we were only fuck buddies Senzo'.. 'Please okuhle I'm in love with you,can't you atleast'.. I cut the call and switch off My phone.. I honestly don't hv time for nonsense.. You see this love thing is really a waste of time.. I made a vow never and I mean never to fall in love again.. Lemme catch up on some good sleep.. I'm loaded n I'm painting the town red tonight..

7 hours later I get up,switch on my phone and dozens of messages comes flooding in.. One from Senzo I delete without reading it.. I'm in no mood for sappy stories.. One is from Bra Muzi, meet me at Michelangelo hotel room 205 8pm sharp. Wear that sexy number I feel a bit kinky tonight.. This is confusing Muzi has never booked us in 2 days in the row.. Woow there goes my night of partying my sorrows away.. Lemme soak myself in those bath salts and get ready another night of my pussy being tortured . By 7:15 I'm done n finishing up with my makeup.. Already requested an Uber that man and time keeping, wouldn't Want a repeat of last time. Breaking of rules comes with intense punishment. I really don't want an omnibus of that torture.. I make my way to the Uber tonight I'm wearing a black little number and heels.. I make my way to the hotel and as instructed I catch the lift to our room tonight.. The door is slightly open n it's dark.. I step in n his cologne fills up my nostrils.. 'come closer baby.. I follow his voice n I can see vividly his standing next to the window'.. ' It's so dark in here why aren't' He attacks me with a kiss and whispers tonight we gonna try something different ' I'm in a daze.. There's always

something about him that makes me weak.. He turns me around n I'm face to face with the window, he unzips my dress n takes it off me slowly.. He presses me against the window n whispers ' tonight I'm gonna fuck the living soul out of you '..

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The bra n my matching lace undies follows n just like that I'm left with nothing but heels.. My breasts are in contact with the glass n that sensation alone is enough to make me loose my mind. He slightly spans my ass n instructs me to open my legs slowly. His fingers comes in contact with my already wet nuna. I'm completely at his mercy and he starts rubbing me slowly Gosh by this time I want him to take me now n fuck me senselessly. I'm a moaning mess n he's so persistent with that clit rub.. I feel myself build up n as I'm bout to climax, he removes his fingers n instruct me to lick them. I feel him unbuckling his belt with his other free hand.. I try turning but he pins me to that window n He removes his fingers from my mouth and tells me to keep still..he's stripping naked n I'm denied the pleasures of watching him get naked.. Within seconds he's behind me.. 'Tonight I'm gonna rip this nuna apart' he whispers with his warm breath.. That sends shivers down my spine.. My juices are flowing freely now I want him buried inside.. 'Muzi please' that comes up as a whisper.. He spans me hard this time and I gasp for air.. ' Please what, tell me what u want kuhle'.. The fingers are back on my nuna and the his rubbing vigorously.. I'm a moaning mess and he removes his fingers n drops to his feet, My ass is in contact with his face.. He lifts my one leg n just like that I feel his tongue in my nuna.. I'm so close to coming all this teasing has been torturous.. He feeds on my nuna he licks, bites n graze on my clits with his teeth.. I can't hold it anylonger my knees are getting weaker. I'm loosing my balance and myself in this moment.. I'm sweating and panting.. His tounge deep in my honeypot. His index finger is vigorously rubbing my clit.. I'm in cloud ten, my eyes roll back.. I scream his name n just like that all my juices are released in his mouth.. He gets up n scoops me up in his arms. He puts me on the couch and grabs his balvenie whisky. Pours himself a shot and just stares at me..There's a light knock at the door.. He wears a gown, throws me one and attends to the door. luckily its room service.. I'm famished he wheels in our food. 'Hope you starving you need to eat, you'll need all the energy'..This man only ordered a salad and T-bone steak for me, there's only cranberry juice for me yet he's indulging in his whiskey.. 'Don't look at me like that, I need you sober and in your senses tonight hence there's no intoxicating beverages for you '.. He's a mind reader now 'great' I roll my eyes.. We eat n engage in small talks mainly about my daily activities and his business trips. We are done eating he goes for another shot of whisky, downs it quickly. He takes off his gown and he starts rubbing his member.. I see it rising to the occasion in all its glory with veins popping.. 'Come here Baby' I model my way to him while dropping my gown along the way.. I smashed my lips into his and he kiss me back hungrily.. I pullout from the heated kiss and drop to my knees.. I lick the tip n slowly slide him in.. I lick, bite n tease.. I swear I heard him cuss but I'm about to take control..

His all in my mouth n I continue to suck n lick while rubbing his balls.. He starts moving n I feel myself gag a little but I'm not about to let him take control. ' Shit Kuhle' He picks up his pace I continue licking n sucking.. 'Fuck this' he pulls out lifts me up turns me over and slams hard into me. He starts moving in a fast pace I'm holding on to the barstool. He moves in me like a man possessed.. My poor pussy is being ripped apart once again.. I start moving with his pace.. His fingers are findling with my wet folds.. Another orgasm is building up again.. I'm a shaking and trembling mess.. The waves are approaching and this man is doing undespicable things to me.. I feel him tightening his grip on my hips and he's breathing heavily behind me.. Just like that we both reach climax.. We stay in that position for a while, breathing heavily. When he's gathered enough strength he picks me up n tuck me into bed.. I can barely keep my eyes open he gets in and I drift off to lala-land.. That damn alarm again!! time is 6:25am and I'm alone in this hotel room.. There's a note on his side of the bed.. I'll be away on business trip for the next 5days.. Be on your best bahaviour.

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I drag myself from the bed into the bathtub.. I soak myself n my mind drifts off. Sometimes I wonder how life would've turned out for me, if he had kept his promises. I would've been the Mrs with a big rock on my finger. I'd be selecting his suit for the day and preparing his lunch boxes.. He had always wanted me to be a kept housewife, but hey I'm a kept glorified sex slave. There's money in my account to be spent, let me wrap this up n go pamper myself.. Nothing like a new outfit, new set of nails and a massage to get a girl in good spirit.. I stare myself in the mirror and say these words out loud 'I will not wallow in self pity' followed by a little giggle.. Sometimes I'm just a silly young woman. I request an Uber to my place and decide to nap just for 3hours before the big spending spree I'm about to embark on. A yogurt will do for now after a couple of minutes I retire to my bed and As soon as my head hits the pillow, it's lights out.. I'm woken up by my phone vibrating nonestop under my pillow.. It's Jase 'Hello bitch'.. 'Hoe why are you so scarce, I see this suikerpa(sugar daddy) is keeping you busy'.. 'There I was thinking you called coz u missed your girl kanti uzongshumayeza'.. 'Bitch please bewuzofona nini nje if I didn't call you'.. 'Stop grumbling meet me at the Mall of Africa in 2 hours, lunch is on me'.. 'Aaahhh why didn't you say so from the start.. Ciao see u just now'.. Guess I'll take a shower so I can finish quickly.. Lethokuhle mtwanami, kuzolunga Sisi ngikhulumile no Baba uvumile ukuthi uye eGoli, uyohlala izinyanga nyana kodwa uziphathe kahle my baby. Unkulunkulu uzowapholisa wonke amanxeba asenhlizweni yakho. Uhambe kahle ke Mabaso ukhumbule, uvakasha iskhashana. Ngiyakuthanda Sthandwa Sami .. Another flashback!! I can never go back there, not anytime soon.. Let me get ready, it's about to get lit this weekend . I make my way to the mall and it's packed to the nines.. 'Hey moghal' he screams 'Hey moghey' we hug n he kisses my cheek.. 'Aaymaarn chomie what is that man feeding you kanti, you've picked up a few kilos since last I saw you '.. 'Jase you are just being extra now'.. I playfully push him.. 'yeey don't play like that

behind this mascara n long lashes there's a man with muscles phela 'He says while laughing.. 'chomie tell uncle Bae to hook me up with one of his friends, uyaglower'..'Is it the dick or the moola '... I blush a bit 'Behind that Mascara and long lashes there's a gay man who's capable of getting his own man'.. we both laugh in unison. I hv 15K to blow let's get moving.. 'Now you talking my language'. We start at the Babor beauty spa for our Mani's n pedi's.. followed by.. women's secret for some lingerie shopping..we make our way to, YDE for few dresses.. lastly we had lunch at Cassa Bella..we caught up n there was lots of laughter too.. We bid each other farewell and went our separate ways. I make a mental note to call my mom when I get home. As soon as my Uber drops me off I spot Mbuso standing by our block of flats and I instantly get bored. Clearly he's standing there just to make unfruitful conversation with me. Yaz angaz why these boys are wasting their time. I'm not interested and I'll never be, not in this lifetime mxm.. 'Kunjan Nkosazana' he has a genuine smile on his face and all I hv to say is few words or ignore him blatantly and that smile will be temporarily wiped, ngoba nje lesilima will be back tomorrow with the same stupid grin. 'Kunjan Mbuso'.. 'hey Bro wait for me' another fool rushes to Mbuso.. the fool speaks as soon as he gets closer to us.. "Ow kodwa Bafo why ungashongo kukhona usisi omuhle kanje kulendawo' he says with the most widest smile I've ever seen.. he looks ridiculous.. 'Ngiyaxolisa Nkosazane igama uSakhile I'm Mbuso's cousin ngijabulela ukukwazi Nkosazane enhle' that wide smile again. Let me not be rude especially after such a marvelous day I had... 'I'm Lethokuhle popularly know as Okuhle nice meeting you, gotta rush' .. I leave them standing there I don't have time for young boys.. 'Yini inkinga yakho wena Sakhile' I hear Mbuso as I'm making my way to my flat I lock up as soon as I'm in.. throw my shopping bags in my little couch and decides to call mommy dearest.. It rings unanswered I redialled 3times n decides to call again tomorrow..I take a deep breath and sigh.. I'm all alone again.. I binge-watch The big bang theory and stuff my face with junk till I pass out.

Insert 5

It's Saturday morning and I have absolutely nothing to do.. not that I ever have anything important to do besides shopping, hitting the gym, sleeping and being an occasional hoe.. I'm not complain though life has been a bit kinder to me since my move to jhb. Although I was a complete mess when I got here but Jase has been there every step of the way.. He suggested I relocate to jhb, said something about change of scenery that brings healing to the soul.. I'll forever be grateful to him. Just then my phone rings!.. speak of the devil.. 'Bitch tonight we are turning up and I'm not taking no for an answer'..hes extra and very lively, what's new.. 'uum I think'.. He cuts me off.. 'listen get ready 8pm xap Thulani and I are picking you up and look super sexy, not that you struggle in that department. Ciao'.. just like that he hangs up.. I decide to thoroughly clean my flat and cook a proper meal for a change.. I dialed mommy dearest and it still goes unanswered..opt to send he a message declaring my love and how much I miss them.. Few minutes later she replies on my sms something about being caught up at church choir practice.. Atleast she still remembers her phone.. I'll call her later or Sunday afternoon.. I get busy by 2pm I'm done and I hit the shower,eat and rest. Partying with Jase equals zero

sleep I might as well sleep now.. Set my alarm for 6pm and drift off to sleep.. That alarm again geez!! I wake up and take a very long bath by 7pm I'm done and searching for an outfit for tonight.. I settle for a black formal jumpsuit and gold stilettos, gold clutch bag.. Make up on fleek. . I'm ready to go.. By 7:50 Jase calls they are outside.. I make my way to them n my moghey looks on point.. He hugs n kisses me on the cheek compliments are exchanged.. Jase and Thulani are sitting at the back of this Mercedes-AMG GT 4-door couple.. The couple is in their own love nest and I'm having a light conversation with the driver who's Thulani's friend named Kabelo.. He's too snobbish for my liking.. He's kinda cute and his sense of humor is on another level.. We hit Katzy's live Rosebank.. We enjoy a wonderful meal and cocktails start flowing.. I'm glad this Kabelo guy is not making any advances on me.. He's very open and tonight he just wanted a breather from his pregnant bully wife.. 11pm and the place starts buzzing.. We dance and drink the night away 4am. We decide to call it a night or day lol call it whatever.. They drop off my place and this Kabelo dude walks me into my flat as soon as I get in he leaves.. I'm lekka drunk n sexually rubbing my wall trying to find the lights switch.. I'm giggling and singing finally there's the light switch.. Soon as I press it the room gets bright and there he is sitting bare chested on my couch.. He's staring at me coldly and sipping in that whisky. I'm rooted on that spot. My lips are suddenly dry and I'm instantly sober.. Wait how did he get into my flat.. Isn't he suppose to be out of town for the next 5 days or so.. All these questions but my throat is suddenly dry and I can't even utter one word

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'Come here' that voice sends shivers down my spine.. I remain rooted in that position.. 'kuhle, come here' he repeats and just like a good girl I move into his direction.. I'm walking slowly not too sure what awaits me from that couch.. 'Sit here' he pats his lap.. I'm hesitant.. 'should I repeat myself'.. I sit on his lap in a speed of light.. He grabs my waist and trace kisses on my exposed shoulder.. So you misbehave when I'm out of sight. 'no my friend just decided'.. He shuts me up with a very seductive and hungry kiss.. I taste that expensive whiskey on his lips.. 'I asked do you misbehave when I'm away'.. 'No I just went out with friends for drinks, fun was had and we lost track of time'.. 'Ow really now'.. he looks at me intensely and shakes his head.. He traces his fingers on my bare shoulder. "You see kuhle I'm naturally a very generous man but I'm also selfish..as generous as I am there are particular things that I don't want to share"..he says with a very stern voice.. He unzips my jumpsuit n orders me to stand n strip slowly for him.. This whole time I'm seductively stripping while he watches me. He commands me to bring that small back on top of the counter n I oblige.. 'Open the bag' I follow the instruction and I can't hide the shock to the sight of the bags contents.. "Bring those cuffs and that flogger whip here" "Ow and that lubricant" he commands.. At this instant there's no trace of alcohol in my system that's how sober I am right now.. I follow instruction and as I'm about to reach the couch he stands up makes his way to the bedroom "follow me miss K, we taking this to the bedroom" I sheepishly follow him, wait how does he know which bedroom I'm using.. I stay in the 2 bedroom flat even though I'm not sharing. I assumed since it's his first time in this flat he'll ask me but it seems

like he knows his way around this flat.. Very confusing.. I get in and he is already left in his boxer.." Take off your shoes, give me those items and climb the bed" but why is he standing next to the bed though, I do as instructed n now I'm only left with my thong and bra.."kneel on the bed for me Miss K".. Wooowww what game is this man playing at.. I follow orders.. Put your hands behind your head.. I oblige and I feel this cold metal on my wrist in a blink of an eye I'm cuffed, on my knees n he is behind me.. "Today I'm gonna lay some ground rules and I expect you to fully follow them or you'll be severely punished. I nod n I feel a sharp sting on my ass.. I'm close to tears and without any warning a second strike lands upon my ass." "This pussy is mine and mine alone, the clubbing will b minimized and when the clock strikes 12 you'll b safely tucked in bed, meaning no partying till early hours of the morning..are we clear" I nod he's uncuffing me now.. Just before I could catch my breath he flips me over.. I'm laying on my back he rips the thong, spread my thighs n he buries his head in there.. He licks my labia gently n blows air in my vagina . His tongue has found my clitoris and his lips are rubbing on my labia ..im gasping n moaning.. He moves his tongue deep into my love nest and his index and thumb are rubbing on my labia n clits in circular motion.. I'm moaning now n before I know his up he removes his boxers n there stand his magic stick.. I want him in me right now.. He gets on top of me n without any warning he rams into me.. My gasp is met by his kiss and all I do is moan in his mouth.. He starts moving and I join his rhythm and we dance to our own tune.. I feel myself building but then he stops.. He gets off me and pull me by my hand.. I'm facing him and he picks me up my legs are wrapped around his waist and he walks us to the wall.. Without any warning he is in again.. He pins me to the wall n he fucks me hard.. He's engraving his dick on my womb now that's how deep he is now.. I feel myself approaching climax and he walks us back into the bed.. He turns me over, chest down ass up.. That's how he wants me now.. I'm screaming n singing praises right now but the man is on the mission to ravish my pussy.. I scream and come so hard.. My legs are shaking..He turns me over and my legs are over his shoulders now.. He rams into me and fucks me like there's no tomorrow after what seems to b forever.. I feel his muscles stiffens and just like that he release all his loads in me. I could c the sun rays coming through.. He gets up finds a towel wipes me, leaves the room I hear the shower running and just as I'm about to drift off to lala land.. He budes in the room gets in bed pulls my legs to the edge of the bed.. Lord hv mercy his hard again.. He smash into me again..

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I can hear my phone ringing from afar.. I try lifting my head but give up on the fourth try, whoever is calling might have to call again. I'm alone in my bed, wonder when did he leave.. I'm pressed I hv no choice but to get up.. I dash to the bathroom my body feels like I was ran over by a train, let's not even get started on my Nana. I fill the bathtub and soak myself. It all started after my arrival here in Jhb. Jase took me in and organized a job in Piccolo Mondo Sandton restaurant..I enjoyed my waitressing days there, kept my mind of things. It was just a normal day when I served this very charming man, but I messed it up by tripping n spilling coffee on his expensive suit. Clumsy me I apologized repeatedly and he seems amused by all this. My manager

intervened and apologized on my behalf. He just asked to be excused and left. My manager called me in and gave me my 1st written warning, standard procedure. Same day I knocked off and the same man I accidentally spilled coffee on, claimed he is waiting for me and demands a proper apology. I was so defeated could this day be any worse. He demanded I join him in his car and he's not taking no for an answer.. Can you believe this man even threatened to get me fired if I don't join him. . Like a naive school girl I joined him, he drove to the nearest park. Fear started creeping this is how people get raped killed n dumped bin the bushes or dams. Guess he sensed that coz he started the ignition and drove into the nearest garage. "Would you like something to eat" that was unexpected. Thought he'd lecture me about my clumsyness and how I ruined his expensive suit. Clearly he's loaded judging by the car he drives, the places he dines in and that cologne screams expensive nje.. You see not just anyone can afford a 3 course meal from my place if work.... " where will you like to it Miss" ... I laugh out loud, is he serious vele.. Bathong!! He's looking at me clearly expecting an answer.. "I'm not really that hungry" I reply embarrassed by my sudden outburst of laughter... "Are you certain miss" he's looking at me, and I can't get over this formality yabo Miss.. "I'm definitely not hungry".. "Guess I'll drop you off at your place then".. Is this man for real right now.. "No need to worry, I'm sorry once again for accidentally spilling coffee on you this morning". "I'm not usually this clumsy I hope you'll accept my sincere apology".. He's amused by all this, I can tell.. " If you allow me to drop you off home, then I'll sincerely forgive you".. I finally accept his offer comforted by the fact that Jase is at home..He won't even get anywhere with me if he tries anything funny. He dropped me off and from that day onwards.. He forcefully became my chauffer after work..I became so comfortable around him, he enjoyed listening to me babbling about my day and my roommate..we had casual dates.. Even considered dating once again but he wasn't about that life, few months down the line he came with a contract.. Told me to hv a look at it and whenever I'm ready to accept his offer we can go in detail in regards to the terms and conditions of the contract. As much as me and Jase are open towards each other, this I kept from him. That's how it all began the nature of our relationship I'm a glorified Paid sex slave and he finances my lifestyle.. I resigned from the restaurant, moved into my own flat and yes the contract requires me to b physically fit hence the gym. I'm always available whenever he needs me.. Besides the fact that he's a business man and his dick of course there's nothing more that I know about him. The water is ice cold now just then my phone rings disturbing me from these thoughts that seemed to have taken over me. I get up , dry and pull the gown hanging by the door... whoever is calling is very persistent, it stops ringing as soon as I reach for it.. Haaibo 8 missed calls from my mom.. This woman never calls I'm always the one doing the honours.. It's ringing again.. "Ma Khumalo, kunjan".. Lethokuhle you need to get home before Friday.. this weekend kuzobe kunomhlangano and umayelana nawe.. Angeke ngxixoxe konke efonini.. Fika sizokhuluma kahle " (you need to get home before Friday, this weekend there's a meeting concerning you.. I can't go into details over the phone. Everything will be discussed when you get here).. And just like that she hangs up.. Wonder what's that all about.. God after 2 full years I'll have to go back to verulam Township in Mpumalanga.. I'm dreading the weekend

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Last night I slept with a heavy heart.. I should consider doing something with my life, studying or starting up a small business.. I need to blow off some steam and gym is my answer.. I get up prepare and leave my flat.. After my good session.. I go pass Aronia day spa and treatment by the time I leave,I'm so relaxed I feel like a brand new person. I'm headed to my flat and I could really use a good nap round about now.. still haunted by the thought of going back home..Wonder what could be so urgent n discreet.. Home sweet home.. I throw my gym bag on the couch and I collapse next to it.. Wait I remember vividly falling asleep on the couch.. When did I get into my bed.. I feel footsteps approaching and I'm shit scared to even lift my head.. A familiar scent fills the room " I know you are awake, get up we need to talk".. I sit up and he doesn't look pleased by my presence.. "why are you so careless".. I know what he's referring to but I'm unsure whether to reply or just remain mute.. " Am I talking to myself".. "Do you know the grave danger you subject yourself to with your carelessness".. "Okuhle" that commanding tone.. OmG can the ground swallow me this instant.. "someone could've walked in here and take advantage of you, someone could've touched my".. Okay his hands are shaking now. Wait what's wrong with this man.. I've never seen this side of him.. He sits on the edge of the bed and his rubbing his face and head.. He loosens his tie n remain in that position.. What do I do with A man in his position.. The only thing I could think of is seducing him and let him blow some steam.. No man could ever say no to sex right.. I get up slowly and seductively model my way towards him.. I try touching him and he lifts his face looks at me.. Gets up and just like that he walks out of the flat into his car and drives off.. I stand at my door and I suddenly feel so down, so sad.. I'm on the verge of crying when Mbuso approaches me.. He smiles and just like any other day he politely greets "Sawubona Nkosazana".. I just attack him with a hug and tears just flows freely from my face he first pats my back, probably not too sure whether to comfort me or pull away.. He slowly tries to pull way and I hang on for dear life.. No I can't be rejected by 2 man in one day.. This is too much, I start sobbing he fully and freely holds me and I let it all out.. I cry so hard, don't know if I'm crying for Bra Muzi, my past pains or for what awaits me at home.. He's shushing me, shame poor guy doesn't even know the reason behind my misery. He holds me till I'm calm and I let go.. He's looking at me with a worried face.. I look at him and shyly smile.. Wtf is wrong with me, pull yourself together big girls don't cry.. My favorite pick me up line and just like that.. I'm all good the sun will shine again and I will smile.. "Ngiyabonga Mbuso, ungakhathazeki ngam.. It's that time of the month and I'm a little emotional" I lie and leave him there looking looking puzzled than before.. I lock as soon as I'm in my flat, shuuu it's gonna be a long week.. The emotions are at display, don't think I'm ready to go back home.. Not fter the Mini breakdown I just had.. I stuff myself with junk.. I'm an emotional eater if it wasn't for the gym.. I decide to binge watch The 100.. Must've fallen asleep, who could be knocking at my door at this ungodly hour it's 2:23 am.. I peep through the door hole and I don't believe my eyes.. I open the door " Muzi"

Insert 9

He attacks me with a kiss. There's something different in the way he kisses me tonight or should I say this morning.. It's not that hunger lusty kiss that we always have.. He's passionate, there's emotions involved.. This is so different so warm, so lovely.. He closes and locks the door.. He holds me a bit too tight and kisses me slowly and passionately.. He picks me up and walks me to my bedroom.. He lays me gently and kisses me like his life depends on it..He takes of my nightie and I'm in my birthday suit "seems like you were ready for me" good thing I got that brazillian wax at the spa today.. He's so passionate and taking his time with me..He kisses me so tenderly and passionately.. His hands are rubbing me all over.. He starts by sucking my one breast while his other hand is massaging sensually the other twin.. He's in no rush.. He traces kisses all the way down to my tummy..He goes all the way down to my Nana..Shit his tongue makes it's my paradise.. He kisses licks, sucks and nibble on it with his lips.. He repeats the process.. I'm a panting mess I moves my hips to his rhythm.. He's tongue deep in there doing it like we have all the time in the world..I'm on the edge.. "cum for me baby" and I oblige by screaming his name and all my juices are flowing freely.. He doesn't stop he eats me up and licks me clean.. He gets behind me lifts up one leg and he's in me.. He moves so slow in circular motions, nibbling on my neck.. His other hand is rubbing my temple.. He doesn't increase his pace. He's grinding on me slowly with so much passion.. I move with his rhythm and we dance to our own tune.. I feel an orgasm building up.. I'm on the edge again.. The sensation his Dick and fingers are giving me is too much now.. He whispers again " cum for daddy baby" and bi fall apart again.. He follows right after me.. "I love you" I'm too weak and too tired to reply.. He gets up.. Well whats new he's gonna wash all my scent from him and leave like he usually does.. What was I expecting.. He comes back with a warm towel wipes me clean.. He gets behind me.. "turn around Kuhle".. I face him.. "Lay your head on my chest".. I don't even protest but follow orders.. I could be wrong but we are having a moment here.. Let me enjoy it while it lasts.. We are cuddling for the very first time since this arrangement started.. He's brushing my back.. His heartbeat is my lullaby.. I drift off to lala-land..I'm awake and the sun is shinning through the room.. Wait what time is it.. There's set's of hands around me.. Now I remember falling asleep on his chest.. I try to escape his embrace but he pulls me closer and he mumble something in his sleep.. I'm pressed and need the bathroom asap.. I get off his embrace slowly and I dash to the bathroom.. I do the whole hygienic thing then decides to make him breakfast.. I do the whole English breakfast.. Now I'm undecided whether to serve him in bed or wait till his up.. We've never spent the night together.. He always does what he wants, showers and leaves.. Waking up alone in hotels has become a norm to me.. It's almost 11am and I decide to take a bath.. I'll warm the food when he gets up.. I fill the bathtub and soak myself in.. This is how it used to be back then in Verulam with who I thought was the love of my life.. I use to fall asleep on his chest and wake up to his embrace.. We would talk about our future plans and laugh till early hours of the morning.. He was my high school sweetheart and my first in everything.. Mm life was a total bliss back then.." penny for your thoughts".. I'm brought back to earth by his deep mellow voice.. " aah nothing to worry about".. I reply " there's definitely something to worry about coz I've been standing here for the last 10 minutes and you didn't even acknowledge my

presence".. " I made breakfast, wasn't sure whether you'd be pleased having it in bed, so I opted to wait till u".. "Changing the subject I see".. He's totally right but I don't owe him any explanation.. "This weekend I won't be available, my parents want me home".. "No problem" he replies.. "You sound so disappointed".. "don't flatter yourself, now move let me join you".. He gets behind me and starts washing my back.. "Kuhle I was thinking to maybe move you to a bigger apartment or buy you a house".. "I'll need an answer from you sometime next week so you need to decide which option suits you best".. I don't see a problem with this flat why the sudden change now.. But I don't voice my opinion.. "I'll have an answer for you next week".. " Think I might leave Thursday morning".. "No you'll leave Friday morning,I'll have one of my guys to drop you off at home and fetch you Sunday afternoon".. Bathong!! What's wrong with this man vele.. "don't worry about me, I'll be fine using public transport".. So he thinks by spending a night he has a right to dictate my life.. " my decision is final little miss, I can't afford to have you blacking out in public"... I know exactly what he means " look Kuhle when you back I'll take you to see a therapist".. "I don't need a therapist, I'm perfectly fine!" I shout.. He seems unbothered by my little tantrum..we continue bathing and when we done.. I grab a rope and warm our food.. We eat in comfortable silence.. He keeps stealing glances at me and shakes his head in the process.. I want him out of my flat already.. He takes his car keys. Pecks my lips.. " You'll see A therapist and that's final" with that said he leaves..I'm fuming and I think gym will take my mind of things.. I make the bed, wash the dishes and take my gym bag.. After an hour session, I'm thinking Therapy doesn't sound so bad after all

Insert 10

I hang around the mall and get few items for Mommy dearest and my dad.. By the time I'm done it's past 5pm..let me call Jase "Bitch, haven't heard from you since the turn up".. His energy is on another level.. "sit your ass home, I'm coming through".. With that said I hang up and request an Uber.. I could definitely afford a car but I'm enjoying being chauffeured around..I burge in and this man is parading around in his birthday suit.. "aah sies" I close my eyes.. "sorry honey but I don't swing that way".. my eyes are still covered "Jeez cover up will you".. I hear swift movements and he's back wearing sweat pants that exposes all his package , gotta say the man is gifted ..I make my way to the fridge and pour juice.. I sit on the kitchen counter and watch him making magic on that stove.. The aroma is enough to awaken the hunger .. "out with it, what's bothering you".. I sigh Jase knows me too well.. "I got a call from MaKhumalo, there's a family meeting and my presence is required".. "MaKhumalo couldn't even give me the heads up over the phone, she says we'll discuss the details when I get home".. He's looks genuinely concerned now.. "Doll do you want me to accompany you".. He knows the state I was in when I arrived here.. "screw that, I'm coming with you"..dramatic as always.. "don't worry guess this is something I hv to do on my own".. "can't run away from my demons forever you know".. "besides I think I'll get closure once and for all".. I sigh heavily "you know I'd drop everything just to be there with you , right".. He's the sweetest and the only friend I hv.. "when are you planning on going back home".. I ask " as soon as that devils agent dies".. I look at him and we both burst with laughter..

"verulam, screwed us both" I say.. "no it screwed you doll, I'm still in contact with my mom".. "we video call and I send her money".. "that bastard still blames her for my gayness, I didn't ask for it you know".. "I've always been gay and that fateful day".. He sighs "He can jump to the nearest cliff for all I care".. I remember that fateful day, we were celebrating his 21st birthday.. It was such a joyful day... Drinks were flowing and Jase came with his varsity friends from wits.. His dad caught him kissing this one boy and all hell broke loose.. He beat him to a pulp and disowned him..he was discharged from the hospital after 5days, packed up and moved to jhb permanently luckily he had a bursary and it sponsored everything from accommodation to fees.. He waitered tables and after his graduation landed himself a good paying job at Pfizer.. My choma right here is a qualified Biochemist.."wonder what this meeting is all about".. There's this uneasy feeling I get every time I think of it.. "few more days the you'll know Doll" he's dishing up for the both of us.. "when last did you see Thulani".. I pry.. "he's probably on his way as we speak".. Wuu there goes my sleepover.. "Don't be dramatic, your room is still unoccupied".. Is he out of his mind "Never after what you guys subjected me to, that moment is permanently engraved in my mind".. He laughs out loud " that is what you get from not knocking, I see that habit hasn't died.. The way u just budged in here earlier" really now " seeing you parading is nothing compared to seeing you pinned down with the dick on your ass".. "I couldn't sleep for days after that sight".. He's laughing like there's no tomorrow.. I just let him be.." you know Bra Muzi wants to move me to a bigger apartment or buy me a house, I'm still undecided".. "Whoooo Bitch you must be dishing that cookie real good Mos".. " Get a house Doll imagine all the parties we'll be throwing in there".. "soon as you get back from home, we house hunting".. My goodness what did I get myself into.. One thing is certain I'll definitely enjoy house hunting with Jase.. We eating and having nice conversation mostly about our memories back at Verulam township.. If someone would've told me I'd be living it up in the big city, having no financial stress.. I'd laugh at them.. I didn't even see myself going beyond Middleburg.. I had all my life planned out.. Cooking, cleaning, ironing and fixing supper later for my husband and kids was all that I've planned and inspired to be.. I already had the love of my life and that's all we ever talked about.. He seemed pleased with that life as well, or so I thought.. Days are getting closer and I'm dreading going back home.. We are done eating and I Uber myself back to my place.. Jase insisted I sleep over but I needed some free time to digest what awaits me back home.. I text Jase upon my arrival and lock up as soon as I'm in.. Wouldn't want Mr who to have a fit, since he has this tendency of coming and going as he please.. I'm too tired to even bath tonight..I throw myself in my bed and it's lights out for me

Insert 11

Can't believe it's Friday already.. My chauffer will b here at 10am courtesy from the Mr.. I pack a small bag since I'll b staying 3days only.. My phone rings.. "Bitch wanted to wish you a safe trip, I'll check up on you later"..ain't he the sweetest.. "I'm so not ready for all this, guess the time has come to deal with my demons head on".. I sigh.. " You are stronger than you think Doll, can't really talk now.. I'll call you later.. Take care" he hangs up.. It's 7:30am.. I clean my flat and by

8:45am I take a bath.. 9:30 I'm dressing up and I'm not even hungry few minutes later.. My chauffer picks me up.. He's not really much of a talker..The only time he said something to me was when he asked for my home address, he puts it the Google maps and takes off.. This is gonna be a long drive.. Im listening to music through my headsets and checking on social media.. After an hour or so of driving.. He pulls up to a Nandos drive thru ad orders for the both of us.. I'm impressed with his choice of order..He pulls up on the parking lot and parks.. I don't even ask any questions, he's eating.. I stuff my face with mediterranean salad, chicken breast fillet wrap and it's going down real nice with this cranberry juice.. He's done eating but he's still parked.. As soon as I'm done he takes the takeaway bags and dispose them in the trash.. He comes back looks at me in the rear view mirror and smiles.. Just like that we off again.. I'm so full and sleepy.. I just lie at the backseat.. He's patting me on my shoulder.. "we are here Mam".. Damn I must've dozzed off the entire trip.. We are really here nothing has changed that much expect the painting.. I take my bag, bid the gentleman goodbye and I make my way in..The kitchen door is wide open and I can smell my mom's scones.. I half run through the door and there she is MaKhumalo just like how I remember her with her wide hips, thick arms and in that apron.. "MaKhumalo".. She turns around and smiles revealing her Colgate smile and one dimple.. She's still beautiful and aging gracefully.. "Ow Mtwanam".. She pulls me to her and gives me one of her bone crushing hugs.. Does she realize I could die from this embrace.. She finally let's me go and her tears are running freely from her face.. I'm so emotional right now.. "I missed you so much, can't believe you are really here".. "These are tears of joy, the city is so good to you.. You are glowing my baby".. I'm speechless right now.. "Baba u Lethokuhle usefikile"...Go see your Dad he'll never come here.. Somethings will never change he's still attached to that couch and I'm sure he's watching some sport channel..I make my way to the living room.. We have new couch and a huge ass plasma TV that's mounted to the wall now.. The room divider is gone.. Nice.. "Baba".. He looks at me and opens his arms for me.. I run to his embrace like how i did whenever he came home from work.. "Lele ka Baba".. I roll my eyes "really now dad, I'm a grown woman now.. The pet names must stop".. "you'll always be my little Lele just so u know, you'll be 50 with your grandkids and I'll still call you Lele".. Kodwa Mtungwa.. "you are trying to soften me up and it won't work, you can call all my clan names but you'll always remain my little Lele".. I surrender now.. "The city is treating you good, you've picked up weight and glowing".. "what is it again that you doing there".. Here we go again, no father wants to hear, His daughter is prostituting herself even If it means to just one man.. So I lie " I'm an office Admin at some company, it's not a good paying job but it gets me by".. God will forgive me for this one.. "You still staying with that boy, what's his name again Skhumbuzo".. Seems like I'd be lying till I go back to my place "Yebo Baba, we are flat mates.. It makes life a bit easier since we are sharing the rent".. Lol Jase will have a fit, he hates that Skhumbuzo's name with passion... At school he preferred to be called by his other name Jason..thats how Jase came about, it's short for Jason.. " Tell me that boy hasn't left his nonsense even now".. the nonsense is him being gay, that's how my father and the rest of the elder generation calls it.. As if you choose being gay.. "uhhmm Baba I don't think he's faking it, he was born that"... " yeey yeey uMahlangu angakuzwa ukhuluma kanjalo" (Mr Mahlangu must never hear you saying that about his son).. " Now that you are here, make your father tea.. And relieve your mom from her duties" .. Weeeee I haven't

even sat down now I must be domesticated.. I go to my room put my bag down.. Change into leggings and big T. Shirt.. I make dad his tea with scones.. "Daddy how many spoons of sugar!".. I shout from the kitchen "Lele bring that sugar bowl here and my tea, iyaganga lengane".. Lol I knew it that man and sugar.. I make for mom as well and serve them.. I decide to make beef stew, pap, spinach and coleslaw on the side... I'm done cooking in 1 hour 30 min.. I dish up for the parents and serve them.. I make my way to the kitchen and I don't believe my eyes.. "Bhuti Siphwi".. Wait what's going on here

Insert 12

Siphwi: "Don't just stand there come give your brother some love".. I throw myself in his bulky arms.. It's only been 2 years, but this man looks like he's been living in the gym.. Guess this meeting it's more serious than I thought..

Siphwi: "snorty face look how grown you are, Jhb is treating you good neh"..I frown he knows how much I hate that name..

Okuhle: "Bhuti not that name, thought we were passed that stage now", Do you know what this meeting is about".. I pry. Only he can be honest with me..

Siphwi: " So the parents didn't inform you, this is total bullshit.. Thought you were on board with this whole thing.. I wanted to give u a piece of my mind.. Let me sort this with Dad first".. There's no way in hell I'm allowing this bloody sham of nonsense to occur, not on my watch "... He walks away leaving me even more confused.. What the hell did he mean by I'm on board with this nonsense.. Just then my mom calls me to help her with something in their Bedroom.. I walk past the living room and the tension is too much.. My brother looks livid..guess I'll only know tomorrow because MaKhumalo will never tell me anything..Not even a minute with my mom and I can hear my brother and Father are arguing over something.. My brother has never raised his voice when addressing my father.. I try to leave but my mother insist I stay right here.. Her voice is stern and she seems unbothered by the commotion in the other room.. I hear the door banging and my father cussing.. Wtf!! I retire to my bedroom to sleep.. Clearly I'm not gonna get answers tonight.. I wonder what got my brother so worked up.. We didn't even catchup..I update Jase on everything since my arrival, he's just as puzzle as I am.. Tomorrow all this mystery shall be revealed.. I'm woken up at 5am the next day.. Mommy wants me to help her clean up and cook.. I'm too tired to even argue and complain..This woman will throw the lazy card on me.. She's mostly cooking and barking orders.. Lethu do this, do that.. Clean here, dust there.. Can this day end already.. Aaghh Maan I'm so done with this day already.. It's almost 7am when my aunt Zanele arrives.. She's ululating from the gate and shouting "kwakuhle kwethu".. I'm done with my chores.. All I wanna do is BATH and sleep.. I'm not even hungry that's how tired I am.. She's comes straight to me and gives me the warmest hug ever.. She's kissing me all over my face and going on about how proud she is of me.. This one has always been extra

Aunt Zanele : "True love always prevails my child, I knew he wouldn't stay away forever.. Yabona wena ufuze mina (you take after me).. Your uncle also left me but later came back running.. No one can resist all this.. She's pointing her hips and big bums.. Lol Lord knows what she's blabbering about.. She joins my mom n clearly they are planning on cooking up a storm..

Aunt Zanele : " Lele you should take a bath so long, I'm coming to give you tips.. I'm taking this upon myself.. As you can see your mother is good in cooking and baking.. Mina ke Lele.. I'm the Jack of all trades and I excel in the bedroom.. Ask your Uncle"..

MaKhumalo: "hhay Zanele stop talking nonsense you'll pollute my daughters head with your filthy ways"

Aunt Zanele: " Polutte who, this one is getting it. Look at those hips and clearly the joburg guys are hitting good.. I once had a boyfriend from jhb.. Heeyii that guy"

MaKhumalo : "Baby go bath and stop listening to this nonsense" , " wena" she points at my aunt.. "I'll deal with you later " .. Mom's such a party popper, I wanted to hear more about this guy.. He probably kinkiy like bra Muzi.. Can't imagine my aunt handcuffed on the bed.. Lol I go bath and as soon as I'm done.. I'm ordered to stay in my room apparently my cousin Phumi is already on her way.. I'm more than happy to remain in my room.. I'm chatting to Jase and updating him, no actually I'm complaining about all the slavery I've been subjected to from 5am.. He's laughing and I don't seem to be finding humor in all this.. There's a knock on my door and I tell whoever to come in.. I'm so happy to see her.. We both scream and hug.. She's lost so much weight since the last time I saw her.. Won't even ask she's probably on this Banting frenzy that's taken the world by storm.. Soon as we settle.. She talks

Phumi : I thought everything was going well for you in Jozi

Okuhle: Ofcourse cuz.. Things are going pretty well for me

Phumi: "Then explain to me how could you be so desperate to agree to this madness, I mean after all that he put you through Lele.. Abandoning you, turning you into the townships laughing stalk..Lele explain to me what type of desperation will drive you into marrying Smanga ".. I swear my ears are deceiving me.. The walls are closing in on me.. My chest feels clogged all of the sudden.. My lungs are failing me.. I'm struggling to breath.. I try to get up.. The room is spinning.. "Kuhle, Kuhle!!!" .. She sounds so far away.. " Mamncane!!! " she's shouting.. That's the last thing I hear before my head hits the ground

Insert 13

I'm slowly regaining consciousness..There's commotion around me..Everything is happening in slow motion.. My vision is still a bit blurry.. I try lifting my head but it's heavy.. I've got mothers of all migraines..

Phumi: "Lele you are awake, thank God.. You gave me such a fright" ..

MaKhumalo : " uzizwa njani my baby" .. Lol how am I feeling.. Can't believe this woman.. Maybe we should switch position and she'll know exactly how I'm feeling..

Aunt Zanele: " This is witchcraft.. Banomona ngawe mtwanam" (they are jealous of you my child).. "I'll call Bab' Mngomezulu to come and strengthen you" .. This headache is getting worse .. I need the bathroom.. I feel pressed.. I try to stand up and all of the sudden a sharp pain shoots on my lower abdomen..

Phumi : "You are bleeding" she screams.. There's a bloody spot from where I was sitting.." Aaah" another pain shoots again.. Aunt Zanele is next to me in an instant..

MaKhumalo : "Call an ambulance Phumi" she screams

Aunt Zanele : "The ambulance will take long to get here, Call Sipiwe he's across the streets.. He'll drive us there" .. Phumi dashes off.. I'm experiencing severe period pains now.. It could be from shock and stress.. I don't get periods Bra Muzi takes me for my shots after every 3months.. MaKhumalo disappears to her room and come back with a towel and a throw.. My brother comes in and scoops me in his arms.. He carries me to the car.. And everyone else follows.. I'm sitting on top of the towel and covered in fleece.. I'm in so much pain and sweating profusely.. My brother is driving like a maniac and within minutes we are at the emergency entrance.. He jumps out and comes back with help.. I'm wheeled in and nurses are attending to me..

Bhut' Sipiwe : " hang in there snorty face, hang in there for me please" the pain is too much to bear now.. Last thing I remember was being attended to by a doctor.. Guess I passed out coz I'm woken up by the beeping sound.. There's a drip connected to my arm.. The pains are no more.. That's a relief.. "What happened" I ask.. Everyone in this room look so down and sad.. My brother have his hands on his head and he doesn't even move from that position.. My aunt is on the verge of crying and Phumi is a weeping mess.. MaKhumalo is looking at me with so much sadness.. Just then the Doctor comes in to run a final test.. He examines me and when he's done..

Doctor: "I'm so sorry for your loss Lethokuhle Khumalo" we tried to save your baby but you've lost too much blood by the time you got here.. It was already too late.

Okuhle: " what are you talking about, I was never pregnant.. I was on the injection" He looks at me with so much sorrow in his eyes and It's in that moment when I realise He isn't bluffing.

Doctor : "You were two months pregnant Miss Khumalo, I'm really sorry for your loss.. I know this is the most difficult for you and your family.. we'll keep you overnight for observation, counseling will be arranged for you.. I'm sorry once again" .. Just like that he leaves.. I'm numb this a lot to take in.. I was pregnant but how coz bra Muzi makes sure I take my shots after each and every 3 months.. He drives me there himself.. Phumi gives me a hug and she's crying hysterically

Phumi : "This all my fault.. It's all my fault.. I shouldn't have upset you earlier.. Please forgive me it's my fault.. This is all my fault".. She's blaming herself.. Her eyes are swollen from crying.. It's not even her fault.. My mother and aunt Zanele are also crying except for my brother he's still in that same position and hasn't said a word.. I feel so empty but the tears are failing me right now.. I'm still in shock and in disbelief..

MaKhumalo : "I'm so sorry my baby.. I failed you as a parent.. this is partly my fault.. I should've stooped up to your father.. I should've protected you.. Please forgive me Lele".. Just then my Father and Smanga barges in the ward.. I haven't seen him in 2 full years.. His making his way to me

Smanga: "I came as soon as I heard.. are you okay my bunny bear".. After all the hurt and pain.. He still has the audacity to call me by that stupid petname.. The nerve!! My brother comes charging towards him in a blink of an eye.. He punches him and grabs him by his collar..

Bhut' Siphwiwe : "who the fuck do you think you are.. to waltz in here as if nothing happened.. If you dare come any inch closer to my sister I'll fuck you up"..

Bab' Khumalo : "Siphwiwe I'm warning you.. Let him go and stop meddling in matters that don't concern you"

Bhut' Siphwiwe: "What kind of a sick Father are you.. Selling your daughter to be a surrogate.. What kind of sick twisted bastard are you dad".. I'm so shocked by all this revelations.. Can't believe my dad would stoop so low..

Bhut' Siphwiwe : " Wena Smanga you think I don't know.. You see news travel faster in the streets.. The only reason you want to marry Lethokuhle as your second wife is because your wife is barren".. Smanga looks so shocked right now as well as Bab' Khumalo, guess he didn't get the memo.. My dad looks at Smanga with so much disgust and hatred..

Bhut' Siphwiwe : " This sham of lobola negotiations will not happen, not while I'm still alive".. Not after everything you did to my sister " he's fuming and pointing at Smanga...

Bab' Khumalo: " I'd this true Smanga!!! Answer me dammit!!.. So you lied and deceived me".. "the story about your parents marrying you off and you rectifying your mistakes was all a lie".. Answer me dammit ".. Smanga looks shit scared and my Dad is spitting fire...

Smanga: " I lover Lele.. She's the love of my life.. I was young and foolish back then.. I want to make things right " please allow me to do right by her"..

Bab' Khumalo : "Young man you better leave before I do something I might regret for the rest of my life"

Smanga: "but"

"Leave!!!" Aunt Zanele and phumi shouts in unison.. He leaves with his tail between his legs..

"Please leave, all of you leave !!". I shout.. It just hit me.. I've lost my baby because of all this madness..Right now I want to grieve.. I want to mourn the life I never even knew was growing in me..

Insert 14

The nurse comes and removes the drip.. Food is served and I'm not hungry.. The emotions are getting the better of me right now.. I'm all alone and reality has sunk in..I'm brushing my tummy and imagining all that I've been robbed off.. I'll never get to feel the little feet kicking and hear the heartbeat.. The cravings sleepless nights and morning sicknesses..I know this baby wasn't planned or conceived out of love.. But I was going to love her/him like I've never loved before.. I'm so consumed by all these mixed emotions.. There's a huge lump on my throat, the emotions are getting the better of me.. I let it all out.. I'm crying for the life I've been robbed off, the deceit from my parents.. Everything is coming back in waves right now.. I can't believe my parents would sell me to the only person who broke my heart so bad.. The reason why I moved to another province.. My very own Father how can he throw me under the bus like that.. Doesn't he know I'm a woman who's capable of making her own decisions.. As for my mom I'm defeated.. She's always been an obedient wife that I understand but for her not to warn me in advance.. I'm strong willed like my dad.. I would've arrived there with a plan of action and this wouldn't have gotten so out of hand.. I'll forever be grateful to Bhut' Siphwe he has always protected me from back when we were still small.. I can always count on him.. I remember how he messed up Smanga's face when news of him getting married started doing the rounds..Apparently his wedding was 2 weeks delayed due to the beating he received.. Lol served him right.. Smanga still a very sensitive topic but I guess I've found the closure I've been seeking.. It all started when I was doing Grade 9.. He was one of Bhut' Siphwe's friends..He was 4 years my senior and he started courting me ofcourse without my brothers knowledge.. I had no experience in dating whatsoever.. Let alone had time for boys.. The only boy I hang around with was Jase.. People thought we were dating but I knew that was unlikely to happen coz He was more girlier than me.. So Smanga continued until I gave in when I was doing grade 10.. He was already doing his first year in UCT then.. I was beginning to like him plus he made me feel comfortable and treated me like a lady.. Unlike my brother who still saw me as his snorty little sister.. He flew all the way from Capetown to our kasi for my birthday.. I remember after school he took me to spur and bought me a Gold chain with a matching watch.. It was legit gold from sterns..I was sold from that moment and we became official.. We carried on dating in secret until my brother found out and he beat him to a pulp.. He was admitted and claimed he got robbed when police pushed him to open a case.. I was deeply in love and my brother made peace.. We were exclusive and everyone in the neighborhood knew about us.. I was doing Grade 12 when he graduated and obtained his B.com degree..He came home soon after that and started job hunting.. We were madly in love and discussing our future together.. He promised to pay lobola soon after he was employed.. I was madly in love and when we were together when he got a call from this big company in Capetown.. He got hired and 4days before he left.. I willingly gave him my V. Card.. I

remember how he asked me repeatedly if I'm sure and ready.. I was madly I love and I was 100percent sure after all he was the love of my life and my future husband.. The next 3days were a blissful lovemaking and he left.. We'd call each other 5/6times a day.. And soon after I was done with my exams.. He organized a ticket for me to come visit.. I was flying first class baby n Babe had already settled in his new flat.. We made love till the sunrised first day I landed there.. After it was shopping spree, date nights, a bit of clubbing and more love making.. I came back and started applying but couldn't get space from the varsities so I opted to do Business Admin and management at Boston.. It was better than doing nothing besides I was just passing time.. I'd soon be Mrs Mdletshe and my only priority will be catering all my husband's needs. He made it clear that I'd be a housewife and it was cool with me.. I mean my mom has been a house wife and she's never in need of anything.. My father took good care of her and us.. Life was a bliss.. I was happy and very much in love.. I didn't even look or give these college boys anytime of the day..He never called as much as he used to but that didn't bother me.. I mean my man was busy working hard saving for the lobola so who am I to complain.. I saved up my allowance and Bhut' Sipiwe was already working so he'd send me money every now and then.. I had something planned up my sleeve, bought a return ticket to Capetown and there I was on the plane to surprise my man.. Guess what I was the one surprised when I got there.. His car was in the driveway so I made my way through happy as ever.. Knocked 3 times and a woman opened the door with nothing but his T-shirt on..

Smanga:"Babe who's at the door".. He rushed to see the person that had disturbed them and to say he was surprised would be an understatement..

Insert 15

I hardly slept last night.. The battle I'm fighting is just heavy right now.. I need to tell Bra Muzi, don't know how he'll take the news..I really miss Jase.. He always knows what to do in situations like these.. Pity my phones back home.. The doctor examined me early this morning and I'm free to go home..Dont even know if I could refer to that place as home..Borrowed a phone from the nurse , who's been nothing but supportive throughout this ordeal.. It's easier to talk to someone who've experienced what you going through.. Her story is quite sad, 3 miscarriages in a space of 8months.. Pressures of marriages ..I'm wearing the same dress I came with.. Hope Bhuti Sipiwe will bring me clothes to change.. The bloody spot on this dress is just too much..I have the fleece throw over it.. All I

need is a good bath and my bed..The nerve of this man.. He waltz in here with so much confidence it's sickening..

Smanga : " Bunny bear, how are you feeling today" .. "I know I'm the last person you expected to see today but I'm not prepared to let you go" .. "I've learnt from my mistakes and this is me fixing them right here.. Right now" ..he says that last part with so much conviction.. I have bigger problems to worry about than listening to an old sulking man...

Smanga: "Talk to me bunny bear".. "I know you have a lot of questions.. I'm here to give you all the answers so we can bury the hatchet and move on with our lives" I'm being tested here.. I'm praying Bhut' Sipiwe comes and rescues me from all this madness.. He sits next to me.. I'm so disgusted by his entire being.. Can one per be so selfish?.. I'm so drained right now

Smanga: " it wasn't my intention to marry her bunny bear..Don't get me wrong.. Yes I had an affair with her.. It was suppose to be just a harmless fling.. But it all changed after you caught us.. I ended things with her but 2weeks later she showed up to my flat claiming she's pregnant" ..I was planning on paying damages and supporting the child only " ..I definitely ended things with her, guess I was wrong coz that's when she started blackmailing me"..... He really thinks I'm that gullible and naive so called bunny bear of his..This sappy story right here.. I'm really not buying.. Crocodile tears won't shake me anymore.. This man deserves an Oscar awards for his acting skills.. Pity he's showcasing it to the wrong person..

Smanga : "I came back home desperate for my Father's advice.. As traditional as he is.. He pulled the wedding card on me..assuring me no child of our clan will be born out of wedlock" He's sniffing and wiping his tears...2 years ago I would've jumped in his arms after hearing this explanation.. But I've grown over the past 2 years and this doesn't move me at all...

Smanga: "I wish I'd have fought for us back then Bunny bear..I've hated myself over the years for leaving you hanging..for causing you so much pain" .. "If I knew then what I know now.. I would've done things differently" .. " please allow me to rectify my mistakes" .. This sad show needs to come to an end right now..I'm fed up and this man deserves every single thing that's coming his way.. I remove my hands from his...

Smanga: "please give me one last chance. Promise to worship the ground you walk on.. I'll love you till the end of time " .. This one is selling me dreams.. Just then Bhut' Sipiwe walks in.. The atmosphere immediately changes in this room.. All hell will break loose.. I see the anger in his eyes.. He charges towards him, pulls him by his collar and the first punch lands on his face.. Smang is not even defending himself..He just takes it as Bhut' Sipiwe punches him repeatedly..I scream when I see blood.. The security rushed in and they pull them apart.. They are both kicked out of the room.. There's blood on the floor.. The sight of blood reminds me of my misfortune.. I've just lost a child this is all too much for me.. I sink on the floor and wail.. How am I gonna break this to Bra Muzi.. I'm sure he'll be relieved, he probably didn't want an illegimate child to ruin his marriage.. Is he even married.. He must be hence he never spends the night with me except for that one particular day.. Either way I'll have to tell him..My God this is gonna be harder than I thought

Insert 16

He comes back fuming...

Bhut' Siphwi: "I swear that man has a dead wish! and I'll be more than happy to fulfill it, that son of a bitch is really testing me"

He's really angry, but the minute his eyes lands on me. He immediately switch from angry to concerned. He drops to my level and pulls me up. He hugs and assures me all will be well. This right here is my sanctuary. He hands me my clothes, thank God I can finally get off these clothes.

We driving back home in total silence. Bhut' Siphwi keeps stealing glances at me. He pulls up to a steers drive-thru, orders food and drives us to the nearest park. I know what this means. We sit on the bench, watching kids playing. They are so care-free. How I missed these days.

Bhut' Siphwi:" talk to me snorty face, you know I'll slay dragons for you and go out of my way to make sure you are okay "

Okuhle : " Bhut' it hurts, I'm in so much pain and I don't know how to deal with everything"

I break down, this is the kind of relationship we've always had. Even back when we were kids .Funny how I've always wished to have a big sister, Someone to confide in and go to for advice. I'm grateful for my brother. He was the first person I ran to when I had my first period. Second person I ran to when I had my heart broken. I've never had that close relationship with MaKhumalo although she was a housewife, She was more consumed by her duties as a wife which was mostly cleaning, cooking and church of course. Whenever I had a bad day at school, my brother was there to comfort me.

Bhut' Siphwi : " Come here"

He pulls me closer to him, just like old times I'm comfortable wrapped in his warm hugs.

Bhut' Siphwi : " I know you are grown and have your own life to live now. But I'm always here for you. If it all gets too much for you. I'm only a phone call away"

Okuhle : "When am I meeting the lucky lady in your life, she scored herself a jackpot"

Bhut' Siphwi : "let's not even go there, I always attract the crazy one's"

Okuhle : "No one will outdo Simangele, now that one was a real nutcase"

Bhut' Siphwi : "Dude tell me about it"

We spend half of the day chatting and catching up. Can I be 11 years old again. I'm so glad we came here. I feel a bit better now except for an uneasy feeling that's bothering me. How do I break the news to Bra Muzi. There's someone who'll make me feel even more better. Jase I have

to call him as soon as we get home. He'll be surprised. The past 24 hours of my life have been more dramatic than any soap I've ever watched. I was almost someone's second wife, unknowingly so and I lost a baby. Let's not even get started on the ex. Gosh, that man. We driving back home now and I'm in no mood to face my parents.

Soon as we get in the house my mom attacks me with a hug. She's rubbing my back and apologizing. My face is getting wet. She's crying, my mom always bottles her emotions and feelings inside. She's deeply hurt and who am I to hold a grudge against her. Our eyes lock, many words are spoken through these emotions. Right this moment I forgive her, after all everything she did was out of respect for her marriage and husband. The older generation were taught to respect and follow their husband's lead. This is the only life she's been accustomed to. My dad calls me from the living room. I sit next to him and he's not his usual self. He's a proud man and this must be hard for him. The whole family is gathered in the living room. Guess my aunt and Phumi left already. Too bad, didn't even catch up with my cousin after such a long time.

Bab' Khumalo : "Lele, I've wronged you my daughter. I feel so ashamed as a man and head of this family. My main duty is to protect and cater for all your needs and wants. I've failed you as a father and for that I would like to apologize"

My mom is so emotional, her eyes are swollen. Bhut' Sipiwe is listening attentively to my dad. For my dad to humble himself like that and apologize means a lot to me. He was deceived by my ex from hell. His apology is so sincere and his face is full with so much shame, resentment and pain. I owe this to myself and my late child. I get up from my seat and pull my dad into a hug.

Okuhle : "I fully and open heartedly forgive you Dad"

My mom and brother joins us. This feels so right. No one's perfect and we all make mistakes. So long as people apologize and mean it. I forgive my mom, my dad for their mistakes. Hopefully one day they will also forgive me for mine. I'm at peace with this whole situation. We sit and chat.. Bhut ' Sipiwe and Bab' Khumalo have made peace and this is exactly how I remember my family. I excuse myself, exhaustion has taken over. I charge my phone and 3 messages pop up.

1st message (JASE) - Bitch I'm worried, is verulam treating you so nice that you've forgotten about me and not answering or returning my phone

2nd message (mother fucken ex) - I'm not giving up on you, not now, not ever.

3rd message (Bra Muzi) - I'm in verulam, answer your phone. We need to talk.

Insert 17

I'm shocked, the last message. I delete the 2nd message and block this motherfucker. Really now as if I need more stress. I call Jase and update him on all that has happened, he's shocked and crying by the time we hang up. I'm not too sure if I should call Bra Muzi, he always calls me not the other way around. I debate with myself and what's the worse that could happen. I dialed his number and it's ringing. There's no answer so I dial again still no answer. I give up, he'll have to return the call. Just then a message comes through. I'm a little disappointed, thought it could be from him but it's Jase comforting me and assuring me things will work out for the better. Best friend ever. I'm imagining all the scenarios that could happen when I break the news. This is going to be difficult. We both didn't know about the pregnancy, now we must deal with losing the baby we never knew existed. Wonder will this change the nature of our relationship. I'm comforted by the fact that if worse comes to worst. I'll have to crash with Jase again and look for a job like any other normal young adult. Won't lie, I kinda got used to the life of being a kept hoe. The life of having no worries about money, everything being paid for. Well I still have about 50k on my savings. I've been saving for rainy days, besides who knows when he might get bored and desert me. Isn't what all these rich man do? the minute they get bored they seek for a new plaything. I might spend and waste money sometimes but every month I make sure to save a little. Life is just unpredictable.

I'm so consumed in my own thoughts, I'm not even aware my phone has been ringing. Well it's on silent maybe that's why. I check, 2 missed call from Bra Muzi. It's ringing again. Why am I suddenly consumed by fear. My hearts racing and I'm sweating a little. Bathong! If a phone call works me out like this, how will I be when we meet face to face. Just then it stops ringing and I'm a bit relieved for now. It's ringing again and this time I answer.

Bra Muzi : "Finally she decides to answer"

Okuhle : "Hello Bra Muzi"

Bra Muzi : "look, we seriously need to talk. Seems like my suspicions have been confirmed. When are you free tomorrow"

Okuhle: " I guess we have to talk, from 10am I'll be free"

Bra Muzi : "Okay then my driver will pick you up 11am xap, night"

He hangs up. The disadvantage of the nature of our relationship, there's no emotional attachment. I'm so broken yet he didn't even catch it. See what I mean, no emotional attachment. I'm so sad all of the sudden. Will I mourn and battle with these feelings by myself. Atleast I have my brother and bestie to turn to for comfort. The thought alone is comforting enough. Yes, I'll get through this. I survived the Smanga thing, surely I'll survive this as well.

I'm awoken by the knock at my door. My mom comes in with a bowl of sour soft porridge. I dig in after our morning greetings. She's genuinely concerned about me. I soak myself in the bathtub and get ready for my meeting. A message comes through, the driver is outside. It's now or never. I grab my bag and leave. The driver is parked 3 houses away from my house. Told the parents I'm going out to the mall. The car comes to a standstill. I've been absent minded the whole trip. He's already waiting for me outside the driveway. I make my way to him, seems like he booked a house this time around. He holds my waist as we make our way into the house. There's a little romantic setup, small table, champaign glasses and food in the serving bowls. I wonder what's the occasion. He leads me to the table.

Bra-Muzi : "Please join me miss"

Okuhle : "What's the occasion"

Bra - Muzi : "There's only one way to find out, now sit"

I obey his command. I fear this nice gesture will soon be ruined by the sad news I have to deliver. He's in a jolly mood, dishing up for the both of us. The mouthwatering food right in front of me doesn't even appetise me. Now I'm debating with myself when to drop the bad news. Do I wait to hear what he has to say first or do I just go ahead and drop the bombshell.

Bra- Muzi : " Bon appetit madam"

Okuhle: "Thank you"

He's digging in and I'm just findling with my food. If this was 2 days ago, I'd be going for seconds. He stops eating and looks at me. I force myself to have 3/4 spoons. This food is delicious no lie, but my hearts heavy. I stop after the 5th failed attempt.

Bra-Muzi : "aren't you hungry"

Okuhle : "not really, I had something not so long ago"

Bra-Muzi : "mmmhmm"

With that said he continues eating, goes for seconds and finishes all his plates contents. When pours the champagne for the both of us.

Bra-Muzi : " alcohol free, that's what you'll be having from now on"

I'm uneasy and all I can think of is how am I gonna break these news to him. He's in such a good and jolly mood. We toast and I gulp mine down real quick, if only it was alcoholic. Maybe things will be a bit easier if I was a little intoxicated. My thoughts are disturbed by his voice.

Bra-Muzi : " thirsty, aren't we?"

I just nod, he pours me another one. Just like the first time I gulp it down. He seems surprised by all this. He's about to get real surprised. He takes my hand and lead me to the couch, he settles comfortably next to me and he take both my hands into his. He's suddenly serious and I feel even more uneasy. We are seriously gonna engage in the talk, I was surmored here for.

He clears his throat.

Bra-Muzi : "I don't know how you gonna take this, judging by the nature of our relationship. I believe we can make it work and just wanna assure you, I can never abonden one of my own. I know this may come as a shock to you but I was just as shocked. At first I had my suspicion but now I'm certainly sure that you are expecting "

I'm stunned to say the least, well how did he know certainly. He always take me for my shots wait he insist in taking me always. Does he have anything to do with me falling pregnant, my last appointment with the Doctor. What was I injected with? All these questions are running through

my mind but what's important now is how I deliver these news now. This man seems genuinely happy and it saddens me that his happiness will be short lived.

Bra-Muzi: " I'm well aware that you don't know this as yet, we'll go to the doctor and they will confirm this"

Okuhle : " there's no baby, I lost the baby yesterday'

Those words came as a whisper. He gets up from the couch and I feel his eyes piercing through my soul. This will be more harder than I thought. I definitely didn't mean for the news to come out like that. Something in me just snapped, the way he was carrying on. I couldn't take it anymore, it got too much for me.

Bra-Muzi : "what did you just say"

His voice sounds faint, it's as if he's out of breath. I can't even bring myself to look at him, right now. Might as well just say it again.

Okuhle : "Th Baby is no more, I lost our baby last night. Was admitted in the hospital, just started bleeding and when I got it the hospital it was too late. I didn't even know I was pregnant till then"

He just leaves me there on that couch, no hug, no comfort. I just broke the most saddest news. Even I, myself haven't come to terms with the loss. I haven't started dealing with the emotions that comes with losing a life. I didn't think he'd just leave me at my lowest. Seems like he went to one of the bedrooms, maybe I should find him. We need to deal with this together. I get up and follow his direction. The door is slightly open and he's sitting on the edge of the bed staring down, his hands are at the back of his head. This is it I'm going to comfort him, I come closer, drop to his level, lift his head and his eyes are blood shot red. We gaze into each other's eyes and pain is all I see in his eyes. He probably sees the same as well in mine. Many emotions are spoken in this gaze of ours. He looks away and speaks

Bra-Muzi : " The driver will take you back home"

Insert 18

The driver drops me off at home. It's crystal clear, I'm all alone in this. I'm blocking every emotion till I get in my room. MaKhumalo and dad are watching TV. They ask me to join them but I come up with a great excuse. Told them I need to lie down, got migraine. They just let me be, I'm replaying everything from the moment I arrive to the last and final detail. He's a very selfish man, thought we'd atleast deal with this together. You know what screw this, I'm terminating this arrangement once and for all. I grab my phone and send him a message. Im angry and it's better this way. Replacing pain with anger. I'm pacing up and down this room. No reply, he's a bloody coward that's what he is. This is the last time A man takes advantage of me. Fuck this love thing. I feel great, in charge of my emotions. Might just get that wine and drink myself to sleep. There's a tavern down the street, I'm getting that wine and it's final.

I grab money from my purse and off I go. Another great excuse, going to the Spaza shop for some headache pills and they buy it. I'm in the queue to buy when our drunkard noisy neighbor spots me.

SIS ' THANDI : " Haaibo is this really you Lele, what brings you here. I swear Bab' Khumalo will murder someone today '

OKUHLE : " Sis' Thandi, I'm 24 now. I'm official to get myself a drink, when I want to "

SIS THANDI : " well in that case buy me 3 beers skeem "

OKUHLE : " Hawu Sis Thandi, black tax vele"

SIS THANDI : " aay buy, I've been raising you and your brother since you were small. Chasing you off the streets. It's payback time now"

This woman has always been a drunkard ever since I can remember, she never had kids of her own. Apparently she was married to an abusive man, he'd find her no matter how many times she tried to get away from him. Beyond those scars you can tell she was a beauty. My turn comes I buy my 750ml bottle of sweet rose wine and 6 beers for Sis' Thandi. She's kissing me and making a big deal out of this. I decide there and then to never ever rely on a man. Imagine celebrating 6 beers just a mere R80, wow this life isnt for the faint hearted. I'm rushing home it's getting dark now and I have a bottle to smash.

Wish Jase was here so we can get drunk, I need his company tonight. All that madness, will

make me forget about my sorrows. There goes my bottle in my jacket, out of respect from my parents.

Pop bottles!! I'm inside my covers and I'm sipping it straight from the bottle. Headsets banging from my black motions music. I'm vibing in my bed. The bottle is half way and I'm lekker drunk. I'm lost in this blissful moment, there's no place to accommodate those sad thoughts. I drink my wine finish, hide the bottle and pass out.

My heads throbbing in the morning. Hangover, now I really need those headache pills. My mom comes in after knocking a few times without any answer. She's made a conclusion that these migraines are serious and I need to see the doctor. All I need is a bath and greasy breakfast with sting coffee. My father is already starting the car, what a dramatic bunch. My bath is already fixed. I settle comfortably in. I'm done and breaks fast is already fixed. There's no way I'm escaping the Doctor session, they are convinced I'm sick. Old age, there's no way I'm aging like them.

We arrive at the Doctor's consulting room, they take my urine, blood samples and I get a thorough check up. Everything is still in order. I'm given migraine medication. What a waste, but it's good to know the Khumalo's still care for me. Staying at home and being nested for a few weeks doesn't sound like a bad idea. Myb this is all the healing I need. We drive to the nearest restaurant and have lunch there. I admire my parents love. What they have is so sacred, still see the way MaKhumalo blushes every time Dad showers her with compliments. Will I ever find my soul mate. Who cares love is not for me, that'd one thing I'm certain of.

We drive back home and I'm so much at peace. Feels so good to be home, bhut' Siphwi is ready to leave. He has invited me to his place and I'll pop in before I go back to Jozi. Anyway what's the rush. It's not like I'm studying or working. I'm sad to see him leave but that just mean I'll get all the attention and loving I need. Yeey

BHUT' SIPHIWE : "keep well snorty face, I'll b expecting a visit from you. Don't make come drag you from here. You know I'm more than capable of doing so..

OKUHLE : " let's make a deal, u stop calling me snorty face and I'll spend a week at your place getting all domesticated for you"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " it's a deal then, take good care and remember I'm only a phone call away"

OKUHLE : I know bhut' and thank you

He pulls me into a hug, Maan it's good to be home. I'm a bit emotional, he leaves and it's just me and the Khumalo's. An unknown number is calling me. Who could it be? I'm debating on whether to answer or not. Finally decides to answer and I feel sick to my tummy right there and then. The sound of his voice, Yuck!! I must've been drunk throughout the entire relationship. Okay! lol, I was young and naive. This one never ceases to amaze me, he's a true definition of his name.

OKUHLE : "what the fuck do you want"

SMANGA : "Bunny BEAR"

OKUHLE : "I swear if you call me that again, I'll cut your balls and feed them to your dog!"

SMANGA : "woow, the city is turning into a savage but not to worry. I know just how to fix that"

OKUHLE : "really now and I know just how to fix you. If. You still value your life, stop calling or else I'll go to wifey dearest and let her know of the shenanigans the husband gets up to."

SMANGA : "all I ask IS for you to have lunch with me, let's sit down and discuss this like matured adults"

OKUHLE : "funny you mention matured adults, approaching my parents for my hand in marriage is that matured to you. Listen and listen to me pretty good. If you think Bhut' Siphwiwe is a threat then you haven't met my gangster boyfriend from jhb. He'll fuck you up, if you continue bothering me. "

Mxm I hangup, after such a lovely day then a fool disturbs my peace. Fuck him.

I decide to call Jase, need to vent. He listens to me going on and on. I'm glad he's amused by all this. I'm actually pissed.

JASE : " do you think the wife is failing him in the bedroom chomie, it's only a sexually frustrated man that do all these desperate things"

OKUHLE : "I couldn't careless of he's started or not, he must just stay away from me"

JASE : "what if he's your soul mate doll"

OKUHLE : "then this love thing can miss me, honestly I don't need such stress in my life"

JASE : "of course he's below your league now, wena your sex game is to par now. You've been laying with experienced D now"

OKUHLE : " I'm gonna strangle you, when I arrive there"

JASE : "speaking of which, when are you coming back?"

OKUHLE: "I'm not too sure babe, I need to heal and come to terms with what happened. This is the only place that makes sense right now"

JASE: "I feel you doll. take all the time you need. But don't take too long."

OKUHLE : " I won't stay too long babe, might just be caught for murder"

We laugh, I need to take my pills and sleep. I do some self introspection. What's with me that attracts all these twisted Men. I should probably be single for a while, focus on bettering myself. first I need to tie loose ends, officially end things with Bra Muzi. move out of that flat and get a job. I hv a diploma that needs to be put to good use.

I've made up my mind, soon as I'm back in jhb. It's job hunting, the money I have will see me through till something comes up. Plus I'll be crashing with Jase and only contribute on groceries. This seems like a perfect plan. Life has to go on. Just then 2 messages pops up from my phone

1st message :I arrived safely at home, take care. Looking forward to that visit. (Bhut' Sipiwe)

2nd message :I'm releasing you from your contract (Bra Muzi)

INSERT 20

The mess, I clean it up while my brother gets something for us to eat. The kitchen looks decent again. To think all this would've been prevented by just one question and honest answer. Shame, my poor brother and his psychos. Might as well take a bath, while still waiting for food. I settle on the couch and watch TV. Just then I receive an sms from my brother

"change of plans my friends, hitting the nightclub with friends. You'll find a spare key in the bottom drawer of the kitchen unit. There's a food delivery coming your way in 10min. There's money in the gold vase on top of the dining table. The guy will call you when he's at the gate. Don't let anyone in and lock up. I hv my keys with me.. Goodnight snorty face "

Great just great, so much for a bonding session. What am I gonna do with myself in this huge ass house. There's a call, it's the delivery guy. I fetch my food and lock up as soon as I'm in the house. I've lost my appetite already but I just eat, wouldn't want my tummy grumbling early hours of the morning. I call Jase and update him on the drama that unfolded earlier today. He's laughing his ass off, gotta admit though. It sounds humorous when I narrate it to someone. We talk for almost an hour. I'm sulking about spending my first night alone in this house but Jase is on my brother's side. Apparently he would've went on a drinking spree to drown his sorrows and forget about the psycho chick. Shame my brother deserves a break. We say our goodnights.

I'm too tired to even concentrate on what's playing on TV. I retire to bed and hope tomorrow will be a good day. It's lights out soon as my head hits the pillow. I'm woken up by noise, they are laughing and chatting so loud. I check the time and it's 4:20am. I can tell they are drunk judging by the silly things they are busy discussing. The discussion goes from cars, soccer, woman, big asses, boobs, politics and money. Don't think I'll be able to fall asleep again, I'll remain here in my bed till the 8am or so. I'm surfing the social media, reading all the latest gossip and liking pictures every now and then. I'm not really big on social networks, Jase mostly tags me on our every outing. He's such a social butterfly. I check the time again it's 6:18 am, it's quite all of the sudden. I feel sleppy also.

Can't believe I fell asleep again, the time is 8:40am. I make my bed and hit the shower. Shame they all passed out on the couch, maybe I should make breakfast and serve them when they wake up. There's eggs, bacon, cheese and bread. I go full English breakfast and clean the house except for the living room of course.

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " something smells divine in here"

OKUHLE : "thought you'd use something greasy after the clubbing scene"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : "can I have some"

OKUHLE : " nah go wake your crew and freshen up"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : "thank you for this I'll definitely make it up to you"

OKUHLE : "Don't sweat it, now get going"

He goes and wake his crew up, some are grumbling. It's my second day, I'm exposed to 4 drunk

passed out men. I'm setting up the table after a good hour they come one by one.

BHUT 'Siphiwe : " gentlemen meet my young sis' Okuhle and Lil sis they are not that important so I won't formally introduce you to them.

ONE GUY : " Okuhle my beautiful lady I'm Sabelo, this is Kabelo and the head guy is Thuto, lovely to meet you.

He goes on one knee, take my hand and kisses it. The other two guys are on the verge of laughing and my brother is pissed. This Sabelo is such a character.

BHUT ' SIPHIWE : " Get your hands of my sister before I fucken kill you"

The other two guys are laughing and Sabelo doesn't seem to be bothered by my brother's threats. I serve them their breakfast and we eat over light conversation, they had me in stitches the whole time with their jokes. The Thuto guy is quite strange, he's not making much conversation. There's quite a few times when I catch him staring at me. Hell no! I'm not dating any friend of my brother not in this lifetime. Not after that bloody curse Smanga. Just the thought alone is enough to make me loose my appetite.

They are happy with my breakfast and compliments are flowing. Christmas comes once a year, I'm not making anyone breakfast anytime soon, let alone them. They leave and Bhut' Siphiwe offer to do the dishes, shame he's very tired. I insist on doing them and allow him to go and sleep. He's been complaining about a sore neck, serves him well for deserting me for a night out of fun. I go on with my chores, Jase calls me and we catchup like we normally do. Our phone calls always go beyond 40 min. Apparently there's an open vacancy for a personal assistant at Kabelo's workplace. Kabelo Thulani's friend that we went clubbing with the other day. He has already sent my CV. I'm over the moon hopefully I get it. It's hightime I start working like any other adult. This is exciting to me.

I decide to just laze around and watch TV. There's nothing to watch really I'm channel hopping. Someone is at the door, let me just get the door.

I can't believe who's standing right in front of me. Lord I'm not ready for a second round of madness. She looks ashamed, can't even look at me in my eyes. She's playing with her fingers,

get it over and down with already.

THABISILE : "Hy Okuhle, how are you"

She better get straight to the point, I'm in no mood for formal greetings and introductions. First impressions last.

THABISILE : " I'm really sorry about our encounter yesterday, I know sometimes I act a little crazy and yesterday was no exception. When I saw you looking all beautiful in my man's kitchen I lost it. I'm really sorry, may you find it in your heart to forgive me.

Dis she just say a little crazy, this woman is mental shame. She's so sincere and her eyes are glassy. She just attacks me with a hug, she's squeezing the life out of me. I pull out and she's smiling with tears running on her cheeks. She's beautiful but crazy.

THABISILE : " now that we've made peace my sis in law, can you please help me prepare a nice dish for my man. Today I want to surprise him with home cooked meal"

OKUHLE : " are you sure about this, don't you think it's better to let him cool off a bit?"

THABISILE : " Don't worry doll, leave that man to me. I know exactly how to soften him up"

What more can I say, we select all the ingredients and she's making a Beef lasagne. We chatting and she's actually a nice person. She's so easy to talk to, can't believe we clicked so much. I'm making few salads.

THABISILE : " wait there's something I have that I'm sure you'll enjoy, she's scratching on the bottom cupboard.

THABISILE : " I saved this baby for a special occasion and I guess we can celebrate "

She pulls out a Meerlust Cabernet Sauvignon red wine. Say what now! This is my type of girl. She opens the bottle, I get 2 wine glasses. The aroma of this thing. We drink and chat. I'm having so much fun, feels like I've known her for years. We are done cooking and we move to the living room. For the very first time in my life, I've actually clicked with someone except for Jase. I'm not that much of a friends type of girl. We exchange numbers and we watch the fashion Channel while snacking and sipping on some wine. Guess we were making noise because Bhut' Sipiwe is now standing on the passage and he doesn't seem pleased with what's in front of him. This is my queue to leave, I need to bath anyway. I leave the two lovebirds on some serious staring contest. I ain't getting involved.

I run myself a bubble bath and play music on my phone. I honestly hope they don't kill each other in there.

Insert 21

I'm done with my bath and contemplating whether to join those two or nap a bit. They definitely need space to iron out their differences. There's a knock on the door, wonder who could that be. I open only to find an emotional looking Thabisile. I'm really not good in comforting people. So I awkwardly stand there, clearly she can sense my uneasiness with this whole situation. She throws herself in my arms and hugs me. My God, she's crying and right now there's nothing left for me to do but just hug her back and comfort her. She seems to be calming down, she lets go and sits on my bed. Why me, why do these things happen to me. I'm faced with an emotional woman, don't even know whether I should ask what went down or keep quiet. I'm so used to Jase, he speaks whenever he's upset. He'll go on and on, all I do is just nod and offer wine. This is all new to me.

THABISILE : " he has changed Okuhle, I feel like I'm losing him. Whenever we argue or have our fights as couples, he'd call me and beg me to come over. He used to drive through the night to my place just so we can resolve our issues. Last night he didn't even bother finding out if I made it home safely .He ignored my calls and didn't even reply to my messages"

I'm silently praying she doesn't break down now, this woman is pouring her heart out to me. The pain she's going through is visible enough for me to see and feel it. This is the same state I was in when Smanga broke my heart, I remember crying day in and out. The depression was real, couldn't eat nor bath. MaKhumalo didn't even know what to do with me. Jase suggested moving

to jhb could heal and help me forget. Part of me believed him but there was still that little hope that Smanga would stop all that wedding nonsense. Sometimes I'd even dream about him coming to my place and confessing his undying love for me, that this was a big mistake and all he wants was me. I'd wake up and it would feel surreal. Leaving the house was a nightmare for me people would look at me with pity, I hated every minute of it. I'd go to the shops and hear remarks such as "aw kodwa indodakazi ka Khumalo ukuphela kwayo, lomfana ukhohlakele' (shame Khumalo's only daughter, that boy is heartless). Sis' Thandi even came to me, she told me it might hurt now but it will get better in time. She told me to hold my head up high and get my life in order or else I'll end up like her. That was a huge wake up call for me, from that day on I called Jase and told him I'm coming over. Went home cooked and took a bath, I was strong and on the natural high.

THABISILE : " he doesn't want me anymore Okuhle. He asked what am I doing here. I didn't even get a chance to apologize. He told me he needs space and when he comes back I should be gone"

I can't anymore this is too much for me to bare. I pull her up and give her a warm bone crushing hug. That's what Jase did to me when I got to his place. She's wailing just like I did back then, feels like I'm reliving this moment over again. Atleast my brother spoke to her, if things don't work out between them she'll find closure. What about me, the man I loved, cherished and gave my entire being to didn't even take my calls nor replied to my messages. I just wanted some kind of explanation from him. Closure is all I wanted even though it was hard accepting reality but closure would've made the healing process better. So after the news started making the rounds of him getting married, he stopped contacting me altogether. He avoided crossing paths with me. Then 3 weeks later I bumped into him at some grocery store at the mall. He was with her, he walked passed me as if I was a complete stranger. There was no eye contact, that's when it dawned on me. He was getting married, the rumours were true and there was nothing I could do about it. My whole body went numb everything was happening in slow motion.

My mom took me back home because I was In some kind of a trance. I couldn't speak nor move the grocery shopping was unsuccessful, mom booked a maxi taxi. They gave me pain and sleeping pills, things went really bad after that day.

THABISILE : "I should go, he'd be more upset when he finds me here"

OKUHLE : " no I think you should stay a bit, you too upset right now. Why don't we just watch a movie and eat. You'll go later"

THABISILE : "I don't think that's a good idea, let me go I'll call you as soon as I'm home"

OKUHLE : " I'm not taking no for an answer, come let's go"

I pull her to the living room. We watch a comedy movie 'meet the parents'. I dish up for the both of us. We eating and laughing this movie is way too hilarious. By the time the movie's done, her mood has improved and I'm glad she agreed on watching this movie with me. She request an Uber, within 15min she's gone and I'm left all alone again. Seems like I'd be home alone again tonight. I dish up for my brother and do the dishes. As usual I call Jase and he picks up on the 3rd ring. We catch, I fill him in on the latest gossip. He's really shocked that Thabisile apologized and we cool now. Five days before we reunite again. The good news he had was that Kabelo is very close to the boss, apparently he is putting in a good word for me. I might just leave sooner than expected. This is all the good news I needed to hear. My brother comes in just then, he's sober today and had no company. That's great.

OKUHLE : " sit, I'll warm up your food just now"

He sits and I serve him. He's digging in and enjoying every minute of his food. Doesn't look like he ate wherever he was. Shame man my brother needs a wife now. He's done and I take the plate and rinse it. I join him and we watch TV.

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " thank you snorty face, that was lovely. Sorry for all the drama you've been exposed to since your arrival"

OKUHLE : "Don't sweat it big Bro"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : "Yena she's a good cook and a great girlfriend. The problem is she's too clingy, it's like I must always be with her. I also need my space and hang with the boys every now and then. Everytime I'm not with her, she accuses me of cheating and loose all her marbles. It'd tiring Lele, it's unattractive and I honestly think I'm falling out of love with her "

OKUHLE : " did you speak to her bhuti, have you told her how her behavior is affecting your relationship "

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " I don't know how many times I've sat her down and explained everything nicely to her, I'm out of options. The funny part during our discussion she understands and promise to give me space. But when I hangout with the boys, she comes here and makes a

mess. I'm so tired Lele, honestly I love her but I deserve peace and someone understanding "

This is more difficult than I thought. At this point I can't even offer advice, what do I know about relationships anyway.

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " I'm not getting any younger, I need to settle down Lele. I just pray God blesses me with a mature lady. Looks are not even important to me"

OKUHLE : " I hear you brother, God will bless you with your soul mate when the time is right"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " Eey ngizwile yilabohlanyoza yezwa (Eey I've heard it with these nuts cases)

I can't help but laugh. We both laughing. It's crazy but ever since I could remember my brother has never dated a normal mentally stable girl. All his exes are crazy. Dudu even burnt his school jersey, when she suspected he was cheating. He is reciting that story and we both cracking. Since high school, how unfortunate one can be. Maybe he must make peace with the fact that he's a crazy chick magnet. We joke and reminisce over the past. I'm enjoying every moment of this, it's been way too long. He's suddenly serious as if he just remembered something.

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " how have you been sis after the whole miscarriage and the smanga saga"

OKUHLE : " I'm coping, even though the thought of losing my baby still haunts me"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " does the father know and how serious are you guys"

Guess we having this conversation

Insert 22

I guess we are having this conversation right now. My brother will forgive me but I won't be totally honest with him. It's for his own protection. No brother will be happy knowing their little sister signed a contract of being a hoe or sexual object to a man. He expects answers and I'll give him the revised version.

OKUHLE : " Yes he knows, we weren't really serious.

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " what do you mean by you weren't really serious "

OKUHLE : " we only dated for a year and couple of months, the whole pregnancy and miscarriage came as a shock to the both of us "

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " so you guys weren't using protection, Lele how can you be so reckless "

OKUHLE : " we weren't for all the test and every other 6 months we get tested, I was taking the injection. I really don't know how did I fall pregnant "

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " okay I get that but as my little sister I need you to be careful and focus on bettering yourself Lele. These man aren't loyal, take it from me I'm a man "

OKUHLE : " thank you big Bro, I've made the decision to stop dating and focus on making something of myself. Already sent out my CV to few places.

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " I'm so proud of you Lele, so tell me about this guy of yours "

Ow no! He can't go there, I can't go there. Honestly thought we were done with this topic. I'll only tell him the good stuff only, it's still too early to discuss this sensitive subject.

OKUHLE : " he's a good guy bhuti, he takes care of me. Takes me out and supports me financially.

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " what about emotionally Lele, does he support you emotionally? "

I really don't like where this conversation is going. This just triggered the last encounter I had with him. How he dismissed me when I tried comforting him. He just shut me out completely, to this day I wonder how he's coping with this whole situation. Maybe that's his own way of dealing with pain. He might act tough and all that but I saw the pain that lingered when I stared into his eyes. I'm going on an emotional Rollercoaster. I'm not even aware that I'm crying until my brother wipes a tear in my eye. I honestly thought I was okay, what's the meaning of all these emotions now.

OKUHLE : " he has difficulty expressing his emotions, hence it gets difficult to support me emotionally "

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " I understand that but clearly you haven't healed Lele, I'm taking you to see a therapist tomorrow. There's a varsity female friend of mine that's very good at what she does"

OKUHLE : " I don't need a therapist, all I need is to forget about this whole thing. Put it behind me and carry on with my life"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " I understand people heal differently but you can't just dismiss this as if it didn't happen. Later it will cause problems for you, even now you are battling with feelings and emotions that you thought you had buried already"

He's accurate, honestly thought I'd buried this chapter of my life for good. This one knows me too well. He's genuinely concerned about me. I'm considering the Counseling or Therapist nonsense of it will make me feel better

then I'll attend it but I'm not really ready as yet.

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " I'm not going to rush you into doing this now, whenever you are ready just tell me. I'll gladly pay for all your sessions until the very last session. All I want is for you to feel better and what better way than to start from the inside"

OKUHLE : "thank you big Bro, you'll be the first to know once I'm ready for counseling, my main focus is right now is get employed"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : "come here"

I feel so safe, he's my sanctuary. I'm grateful for my brother, he's the best brother in whole wide world. He let's go and pulls me to the couch.

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " when was the last time you watched Snake in the eagle shadow"

OKUHLE : " talk about a real throwback, think the last time I watched it with you"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " Brace yourself Lil Sis tonight we having a binding session"

He goes to the kitchen and comes back with a bag packet of Blackjack popcorn 2 bows and orange tropika. This feels like old times. I'm having a time of my life with my Bro. His phone rings and he flat-out ignored it. I'm looking at him with enquiring eyes. He shows me the screen it's Thabi babe. Guess he's really tired of his drama queen. Just then a message pops up on my

phone. Money in R25 000. Haaibo thought contract was terminated nje. We are both no longer in the mood for our movies and I make up some excuse about having a headache. I just needed to be alone and digest all this.

I'm in my room debating myself on whether to call him, he has some explanation to do. What's this money all about. I'm pacing up and down. My pride is getting the better of him. Don't think I'll fall asleep without getting to the bottom of this. If I'm released from my contract then why am I still getting paid. What if I get to Jozi and he expects us to carry on where we left off. I can't accept this money. If it's the clean start that I seek then I really need to send back his money. I won't call him so I decide to send his money back. Money out R25 000, I'm instantly relieved. I'm no charity case and I'll earn my money through hard work from this day onwards. My phone is ringing. O'Lord it's him. What do I do now. I'm definitely not ready to speak to him. It stops shuu that's a relief, it rings again. I just let it ring. After few attempts he finally gives up. I change into my pj's and get inside the covers. I'm so restless, I keep tossing and turning. I'm usually like this when something is weighing heavy on my mind. I wonder what the fuck did he want to say. After 3 weeks of silence, he probably sent that money out of guilt. Now I can't sleep.

I go to the kitchen and make rooibos tea, apparently it helps with insomnia even though I don't suffer from it. I just need some sort of distraction because thoughts of this man have consumed my mind. I can even smell him and see his figure when I close my eyes. He's just complicated my life with just missed calls. Why does life always have to be so complicated. I had everything figured out and honestly I thought I'd forgotten about him till now. I'm on my second cup of tea now. There's a thought that I can't seem to get away from if a missed call can turn my life upside down like this how much more when I actually see him.

BHUT' SIPHIWE : "can't sleep huuh"

I almost feel off the high kitchen stool, he gave me such a fright

OKUHLE : " why are you sneaking up on me like that, you almost gave me a heart attack"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " I wasn't sneaking up on you, what's got you so restless. Is it our discussion earlier"

OKUHLE : " no it's this headache and I felt a little hungry so I figured rooibos will do the trick"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " I know you lying but I'll let it go, I have panado and allergex, take them and go to bed. You'll feel better in the morning. I promise you"

OKUHLE : "thank you Doctor Khumalo"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " that sounds so wrong, I'm no soccer player"

I laugh, take the pills and drink them. I feel better already and I'm glad he decided to let it go. The thing is my own demons are haunting me. That job better come soon. I'm so fedup right now. I climb the bed and surf the social media. Jase was out and about, this friend of mine is living his life to the fullest. He posted more than 30 pics and was tagged by 5 people. Just a few more days then ill be tagging in and club hopping just like him. Champagne life! Ow How I miss it. I miss the gym, the spa treatment, the expensive dresses and all the lavish hotels. I've been to most 5 star hotels in all the provinces. Even though we never traveled together but I'd be flying business class all the time. He's so spontaneous, I wonder how is he with his wife. If me the side dish, hoe, sex object whatever we are referred to these days can experience such a lavish life. Then the wife is surely living like A queen in her own castle. Sleep gets the better, I'm out.

Insert 23

Life has been nothing but a bliss with a dash of drama. I've been cleaning and cooking for my big Bro. My only wish right now is for him to find a good woman who'll take good care of him. Today I'm going back to Jhb, time flies when you having fun. He insisted to take me to the bus station, so his whole lunch hour is dedicated to me. I woke up very early just to clean and cook for him. It's the least I can do. He's already here, he takes my bags and off we go.

BHUT' SIPHIWE : "promise me you'll take good care of yourself, if you ever need anything I'm only a phone call away"

OKUHLE : " I promise bhuti, you are best brother a girl can ever ask for and I love you"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : "I love you too snorty face"

We hug one last time, the bus is already waiting. I board and wave him goodbye. I'm siting next to this uncle and he smells like a shebeen. It's gonna be a long trip. Luckily he passes out as soon as we take off but the snoring is unbearable. I put on my headsets and get lost in the world of Toni Braxton. Four hours later we arrive in joburg and I'm headed to Bram. I'm definitely

gonna spend the night or 2 in this flat before I move in with Jase. Home sweet home, I lock up hit the shower and dive in my bed. This definitely feels like home, maybe I should pay 4 months in advance and keep this place. It's kinda nice having my own space, as much as I love Jase but Thulani practically lives there. I'll give this a lot of thought before taking the final decision.

I'm really pressed, I rush to the loo and it's really dark. Exhaustion must've gotten the better of me. I check the time and it's 1:49 am, can't believe I slept so much. There's plenty of missed calls from my brother and Jase. I send my brother a message and apologize of not informing him earlier. Forward the same message to Jase. There's no food in this place so I settle for a pack of doritos and black tea. The milk is off as well as the fruits and veggies that were in the fridge. Tomorrow is grocery shopping, I'll get all the necessities. A girl's gotta start using money wisely. I head back to bed and sleep. I have a busy day ahead of me.

I feel like breaking a sweat today, gym here I come. I've picked up a bit of weight the past month. I grab my gym bag and pack an extra outfit coz it's grocery shopping after the gym. My brother sent me a message, he's relieved and I must visit him soon. I'll do that as soon as I get my life together but I don't dare say that. I reply and promise him I'll visit soon. I call the parents as well just to check on them. They are good, lol I'm pretty sure they doing the Nasty deed all over that house. I prepare and leave the house. One hour session is all I needed but my muscles are quite stiff, it's been way too long. Under normal circumstances I'd run to my favorite beauty spa. Circumstances aren't favoring me these days so I rush to my grocery shopping. It's mostly veggies fruits and meat. I'll stay away from starch for the next month or so. Trying to get that flat tummy back.

I'm at pick n pay. I'm almost done but damn I almost forgot my steers mustard sauce. No this can't be happening, my eyes must be deceiving me. Right on that aisle I see Thulani Jase's lover with a woman and a kid. They look so comfortable Thulani is holding the baby, while the lady is picking up sauces and spices. They kiss every now and then. This looks like a proper family. I regret coming to this isle, my poor friend. He's going to be so heartbroken, should I tell him or mind my own business. What if he knows about this whole setup, I haven't been completely honest with the Bra Muzi saga. He seems me staring at them, he whispers something to the woman and they leave. What was I doing in this isle on the first place. Yes the stupid damn sauce, how am I going to handle this. I'll ask my brother for advice and take it from there. Right now a part of me wants to phone Jase to come right away so I can be spared of explaining and narrating the story. Arrgg let me just leave, I'll figure something later.

I'm at my place unpacking groceries, my mind is just wondering off. Jase is all I've been thinking about since the pick n pay saga. Speak of the devil, he calls and I pick up on the second ring. He's complaining of having a bad and I decide there and then not to tell him. We catchup and gossip about everything else. He tells me, he just had a call from Thulani. He claims he was with his cousin and her baby when I saw them. He's clearly covering his tracks this madafaka. Nothing stays hidden forever though, the truth will come out eventually. I know what I saw, that's definitely no cousin. He promise to drop by after work. I miss him so much and looking forward to spending time with him.

I spring clean my flat and decide to cook up a storm for my dear friend. Good thing I bought that wine we gonna need it. I take that much deserved bath and wait up for my friend. A call comes through from him, apparently he can't make it coz Thulani has something special planned for them tonight. Wow, I certainly didn't see this coming. How can he be so selfish after covering his tracks. Jase is gonna have his heart shredded when all this comes out. Can't let this good food go to waste. Guess it's just me and the wine tonight. Feels so good to be back home.

I wake up with a massive headache the following day. I went too hard on that wine. I need to take it easy on the bottle. I make myself a strong cup of coffee, today I'm skipping gym. I just need to eat and sleep the whole day. I call the Khumalo's after my greasy breakfast. They sound so happy and content with their lives, it makes me really happy. There are times when I feel like packing up and heading home. Then there are times when I realise, I'm a grown ass woman who needs to make things happen for herself. It really gets lonely sometimes in the big city but I'm more than determined to make things happen. The only thing I really need now is a job to keep me busy and occupied. I can already envision myself in a pencil skirt, beautiful blouse and high heels. It's such a beautiful image. Maybe having my own office or on an open plan office. Dear Lord I pray you bless me with a good job, good salary, a peaceful working environment. All these images they keep me going and hopeful. I know God will answer my prayer, hopefully soon. It's so tiring sitting doing nothing. I never really knew just how frustrating it was coz that man kept me busy and there was spa treatments and shopping in between. Whenever we didn't meet I'd sleep and rest just so I can be well rested whenever my services will be needed. It's all different now.

I decide to stand on the balcony and get some fresh air, this over thinking will make me loose my mind. The city is alive, people are rushing for work. Some are rushing for school. A reminder pops up on my screen, it's for my shot tomorrow. I don't see a reason to continue with the shots, I'm not dating or sleeping with anyone and I won't be doing any of those anytime soon. These things aren't even guaranteed, I fell pregnant while using them. I for one never used to believe in shows such as I didn't know I was pregnant. Lol I laugh at the thought of having cramps and they tell you to push, like WTF. Guess those things are really possible, who would've believed me

anyway when I tell them I got pregnant while taking the injection. I doubt Bra Muzi wanted that child anyway judging by how he dismissed me after breaking the most saddest news to him. God only knows why things turned out the way they did. We all have our plans but he has the final say in our lives. When was the last time I even went to church, maybe I need spiritual upliftment as well.

I go back inside, take a bath. Today I'm not cleaning nor cooking. I decide to take my laptop and search for jobs. Let me do something worthwhile with my time and seek employment. I go through tons of questions they normally ask in the interviews.

Insert 24

It's been a month and a half of job hunting without any luck. Last night I had a very strange dream, dreamt of my late Grandfather from my father's side smiling at me and he said "all will be well" before he disappeared. It's quite confusing though, I've never dreamt nor met him. He passed two weeks after my birth. I called my father and explained the dream to him. He said good fortune is coming my way. It's crazy but I believe him. I do my daily routine, the gym, the cleaning and cooking. Jase is suddenly too busy to even meet up, maybe it's me who have too much time on my hands. Been applying for vacancies like my life depends on it. I've decided on staying in my flat, paid 5 months rent in advance. My brother has also been sending money for groceries every month. So, I'm still good financially that is.

Today is no exception, the routine goes on as usual. I'm preparing to go to gym when suddenly my phone rings, it's a land-line number. I cross my fingers and recite a small prayer. This might be the big break I've been waiting for. I answer

LADY : "Good morning, may I kindly speak to Lethokuhle Immaculate Khumalo.

OKUHLE : " morning, you speaking to her mam"

LADY : " Miss Khumalo, I'm Nomzamo from Nxumalo and sons attorneys. You are invited to an interview tomorrow at 9:30am it's for a P. A position . I'll send you an sms with our physical address and all the documentation required. See you tomorrow, have a lovely day"

OKUHLE : " I'll definitely be there, thank you very much. Have a blessed day"

I hang up, scream and jump up and down. The excitement is just too much. My mood just went from 40-100 real quick. This might be a start of something great. I call my brother and inform him. He's just as excited, somehow he believes the job is already mine. I decide not to inform the parents as yet. Let me select an outfit for tomorrow, good thing I bought formal clothes. I really hate shopping last minute and under pressure. I decide to call Jase and inform him. He's excited but a bit down, I can sense something is not right with him. He assures me all is well and he'll come see me this weekend.

I hope this doesn't have anything to do with Thulani. I go through the questions and rehearse throughout the day. It's bed time and I'm anxious, can't it be tomorrow already. I set my alarm for 6am. I'll Uber to that place and it's only 30 min away. I want to be early and familiarize myself with the place. I'm doing my own online research about the company. It's the biggest and most successful attorneys firm in Gauteng. Wow the company was started by Bhekifa and he later partnered with his two sons Nkanyiso and Mpilo. There's even pics of them. I just memorize a few pointers just to impress them during the interview.

The damn alarm, can't believe it's morning already. I hardly slept the nerves mixed with excitement were getting the better of me. Can't even remember when did I actually fell asleep. I wake up with a positive mindset if this opportunity is for me, it won't pass me by. If it passes me by then it wasn't mine. Either way it's a learning curve. I'm done by 7:am and I request an Uber. I arrive 7:50am xap and just wait for the offices to open. I've made a friend with the security guy and he assures me the offices will b opened 8:30 am xap. They only start working 9am. A very beautiful lady arrives past 8 and opens the offices, soon as she hears I'm hear for the interview she let's me in. She offers me coffee and I can't really turn it down. Her name is Antoinette, she's Mr Bhekifa's PA. She's really friendly and we chatting about random things. People are starting arrive, the staff and other interview candidates. The interviews comense and we are interviewed by none other than Mr Nxumalo and his sons. I'm second in line and nervous as hell. The first lady goes in and she's done in less than 30min.

It's my turn and as soon as I step in, I'm met by these 3 intimidating gentleman. I'm so nervous I even start sweating. They formally introduce themselves and they tell me to relax. The interview starts, its mostly Mr Bhekifa and Mpilo asking the questions. This Nkanyiso character is just going through his phone as if he's forced to be here. I answer each and every question to the best of my ability and knowledge. I almost fell off my chair when they inform me if I'm hired ill be Nkanyiso's PA. What's the deal with him, he's supposed to be asking all the questions since I'll be working closer with him. That's if hired. We done and they thank me for my time. I'm not even sure if I've made an impression, they were so professional and closed off. Well I'm relieved it's over being in the room with such powerful men was very intimidating. I'm so drained all I need is my junk food and bed.

I Uber to the mall to stock up on some junk. Spur will do, I order their Ribs, calamari and Buffalo wings. Would it be so wrong for a girl to get some wine. Fuck it I'm getting that wine after the day I had. I've always wanted to taste the woolies red wine, apparently it's very nice plus I'll get a tub of ice cream while I'm at it. I'm shopping and minding my own business. Not again, I see him Thulani with the same woman and the baby. Why do these things happen to me. I decide to just leave everything and go home. This take away will have to do, plus I don't trust myself. I'm so tempted to confront him but it's better I leave because this won't end well.

I make it to my place in one piece. My brother is calling me. Guess he wants to know, how the interview went. I answer

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " tell me the good news"

OKUHLE : "I don't know Bhut' , it doesn't even feel like I made an impression"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " Don't worry too much about it, your blessing won't miss you. Take it as practice, the next interview you'll ace it"

OKUHLE : " great minds, I didnt even inform the parents as yet. I want to tell them the good news once I get hired"

BHUT ' SIPHIWE : "great minds,that job is coming your way Lil sis. Keep on applying, soon you'll be rewarded"

OKUHLE : "have I told you lately how much I love you"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " I'm all ears, tell me Nana"

OKUHLE : " I love and appreciate you. You are the best brother a girl can ever ask for"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " Don't you ever forget that, gotta go snorty face. We will talk soon okay"

OKUHLE : " bye Bhuti"

He hangs up and I'm more determined to get that paper. What better way than to get hired. I pull my laptop and get busy once again. I'm having my junk when my phone rings. It's Jase

OKUHLE : " bitch, you've forgotten about me neh"

JASE :....

OKUHLE : " chommie are you there"

JASE : " I Tru - ste - d him Kuhle"

OKUHLE : " friend where are you"

OMG, he hang up on me. I grab my purse and bag. I taxify to his place. I'm praying he didn't do anything stupid along the way. My friend needs me and I'm gonna be there for him. I keep trying his phone but it's going straight to voicemail. I feel my eyes burning, the tears I can't hold them back. I'm already thinking of the worst. I say a small prayer, God please keep him safe for me.

Insert 25

As soon as the car drops me off, I run inside the flat. It's dark and the door is half open. My heart is beating out of my chest. I switch on my flash light and follow the sniffing sounds. It's heading to the bathroom. There he is sitting inside the bathtub I rush to him and give him a hug. The water is ice cold, wonder how long has he been here. I grab the towel and gown, I help him stand and wipe him. Soon he's in his gown and we heading to his bedroom. I open the blankets, tuck him in. He's shivering I'm afraid he'll definitely catch a cold. We haven't even said anything to each other. I switch on the lights and lock the door. I make two cups of hot chocolate, there's 2 muffins that will have to do. I go into his bedroom, he's just staring down and finding with his fingers. I serve him the hot cholote and muffin. I'm so relieved when he starts starts sipping and eating. He's still shivering, so I switch in the heater. Good, the room is getting warmer now. He looks at me and smiles through his tears. I'm relieved to say the least.

JASE : "so you flew over here, I've always suspected you of being a witch"

The humor is still there, this must be a good sign. My emotions are all over the place, don't know what I'd have done, had I lost him. I just let the tears flow.

JASE : " I should getting cheated on more often Mos, if it means you'll use your broom and get here in two minutes"

He's so stupid this friend of mine, we both start laughing and he starts crying all over again. I hug him so tight and brush his back

OKUHLE : " let it all out babe, cry all you want. I'm here just for you okay"

He just nods and wail. This was me two years ago. He was there for me every step of the way. I'll be his rock this time around. He cries for a good 30 minute or so. I'm also shedding a tear, every now and then.

JASE : "I trusted him Kuhle, thought he was different from all the others I've dated all the years. He seemed legit, he treated me like a queen. His one and only"

OKUHLE : " I'm so sorry doll, this too will pass. It may not seem so right now but 2 months from now we will be laughing over this situation"

JASE : " I'm so gullible chomie, I believed every word he said. He could tell me the sky is green and I wouldn't even check to see if it's really green, that's how much I trusted him"

OKUHLE : " he lost out on a good thing, he'll never ever find a love like yours"

JASE : " was I not enough for him Kuhle, or maybe is the fact that I don't have a pussy. Maybe is the fact that I won't give him children, but we could've adopted or found a surrogate if he wanted kids of his own"

OKUHLE : "please don't do this to yourself doll, you are enough. You are a vibrant, beautiful man with a heart of gold. Anyone will be lucky to have you"

JASE : " you reckon, but why me my friend. Why do I always fall for these guys that take advantage of me and my kindness. When they've fulfilled their purpose in my life, they leave me for a pussy"

OKUHLE : " the problem lies with them, not you my friend"

JASE : " why can't I find my prince charming and live happily ever after"

OKUHLE : " life is no fairytale babe, unfortunately for me and you we might still kiss a few frogs before we find our prince charming"

OKUHLE : " speak for yourself, I'm feeding my next boyfriend love potion"

I'm so shocked by his last remark, that whole mumbo jumbo of love potions can miss me. I'd rather die a lonely woman, but not so lonely coz I'll have more than one vibrato. Maybe a call boy or Ben 10 specifically for that purpose.

JASE : " you should see your facial expression, priceless"

He starts laughing, I really love this friend of mine. I decide to order hot wings and pizza. I'm certain there's wine stashed somewhere in this flat. It's my mission to find it, nothing makes one feel better than comfort food. Great the delivery guy is here, guess today we eating in the bedroom. This one is a neat freak and no food is allowed in the bedroom but today I'll break all these rules. I found that bottle of white wine, we gonna get sloshed. Someone will call in sick at work, it's on.

We eating and sipping on some wine. His really heartbroken but I'm glad his opening up. Apparently Thulani is engaged and he paid lobola for this woman. He's been living a double life. The fiance thinks his renting a place near his workplace just to cut transport costs. While the whole week he crashes here by Jase and weekends he always tells Jase his visiting the family. So he played them for 3 full years without getting caught. Apparently his fiance was suspecting foul play so he had him followed and strike when he least expected it. So she dropped by today and Thulani denied the having anything to do with Jase. He claimed they were room mates and friends. He packed everything and left with his fiance. That's when Jase learned of their relationship status and their two year old daughter. Shuu!! This is really hectic. He's been crying while narrating the story. I love the fact that he speaks and he's crying.

The bottle is almost empty. We are sloshed, talking about how trash men are. The most selfish species on the planet. I look at him laughing, how can someone hurt such a kind and loving person. Life really isn't fair, it hasn't been fair to most of us. If there's one thing I've learnt about this life, it surely goes on. People will hurt you and carry on as if nothing happened. Jase is more drunk now, guess tonight I'm crashing here. He needs me and I'll be right here. I wait till he's fast asleep, as soon as he starts snoring I tidy up all the mess in his bedroom and it's spotless. I double check the windows and the door if its locked. I'm in my old bedroom, as soon as I'm inside the covers. It's lights out. What a day!!

It's past 5 in the morning and I'm pressed, I use the bathroom and shower while at it. I'm on a cooking spree and what better way to start with an English breakfast. The breakfast looks very appetizing, so proud of myself. I run a bubble bath and wake up Jase. He's grumpy this morning, I'm not letting him fall into depression over this stupid man. I make his bed as while his taking his bath. One thing I love about this man he's very neat, everything is in order. We eat breakfast and he's not his usual self. Everything has probably sunk in by now. Seems like I'll spend a couple of days here, later I'll rush home and grab few clothes and toiletries. I have a plan but what am I gonna wear. I raid Jase's wardrobe and come across leggings and big T- Shirt. This will have to do for today. I drag Jase to change his clothes. He's wearing tracksuits and this is a perfect outfit for what I've planned for us. We won't sit here and be miserable.

He's complaining along the way, I still have the 3k my Dad gave me and today I'll put it to good use. The Uber takes us straight to Soweto Towers, I'm terrified of heights but today is the day. We are going to bungee jump today. He already called in sick at work. We get there and I pay for the both of us. He's excited soon as he realize what the surprise is. We get strapped in and we decide to do this at the same time. The adrenaline, it's so exhilarating. I can't really explain it. We get our pics and videos. His mood has improved and I'm so excited. After we do movies and lunch at the mall. We laughing and chatting away. My phone rings and it's a land-line again, similar to the attorneys one but the last 3 digits are different.

OKUHLE : " Hello"

GENTLEMAN: " Good day, am I speaking to Lethokuhle Khumalo"

OKUHLE : " speaking"

GENTLEMAN: " I'm Nkanyiso Nxumalo, you are hired as my P.A next week Monday I expect you here at work 8:30 am xap. Don't be late, I hate late comers"

Haaibo he hungs up. What an arrogant bastard. Wait I'm hired, I scream and tell Jase the good news. We are happy jumping around and making noise. People are staring at us, but we are not bothered one bit. We have more reason to celebrate now.

Insert 26

I spent 4 more days at Jase's place. We've been wine binging, mall hopping and eating a whole

Lotta junk. I'm glad to say he's in a much better space emotionally and otherwise. Bhut' Siphwe and the Khumalo's are so happy for me. Promised them, I'll come home month end. Tonight I'll have to spend a night at my place. I need to pick out a perfect outfit and get my mind ready for work. After all that wine we consumed this weekend, I need to sober up for tomorrow. Pencil skirt, formal shirt and 3 quarter heels, perfect office couture. I set my alarm for 5:30 am, I'm nervous all of the sudden. My phone rings and it's Jase, he wants to know if I arrived safe at my place. We indulge in our gossip, mainly about our weekend and the fun we had. We promise each other to do it more often. I'm feeling better after our conversation. I double check my alarm again, wouldn't want to disappoint my boss.

I'm woken by my alarm, doesn't even feel like I slept at all. I drag myself out of bed. It's my first day, I should be jumping for joy but somehow I'm tired maybe it's from the lack of sleep. I kept tossing and turning the whole night. I'm done preparing myself and lunchbox in 7:20 am. I'm gonna be way too early but I aim to impress. I get to work and the offices are already opened. I walk in and I'm met by Antoinette. We chat over a cup of coffee. She shows me to where I'll be working. The office is very spacious, so I'll be sharing the office with thee Nkanyiso Nxumalo. I have my own little open plan cubicle, it's a bit further from his desk. I prefer it this way. I met the receptionist Nomzamo. she came in, didn't even greet me. When Antoinette introduced me to her, she only went "mmmm". I'm not even gonna entertain her, got enough worries of my own. The brothers arrives almost the same time. Mpilo is very friendly and he's more relaxed today. Nkanyiso is closed off and more intimidating.

NKANYISO : " Morning Lethokuhle or do you prefer the name immaculate"

OKUHLE : " I prefer the name Lethokuhle Sir"

NKANYISO : " I see, Antoinette will have to show you the ropes. You'll be working closely with her for the whole week. You can be excused"

OKUHLE : " thank you Sir"

He just leaves me there, guess I'll have to find Antoinette. The Nomzamo woman is too friendly with Mpilo. Bathong! My first day and I'm already making assumptions. " kuhle behave" note to myself. I find Antoinette, she's more than happy to teach me. The whole day I'm shadowing her, she's showing me how to manage Nkanyiso's diary, all the files and clients that his currently working on. I'm enjoying this already, don't know if it's Antoinette's bubbly nature or details of her private life that's got me so relaxed and enjoying this moment. Lunch time comes, we chill by the stuff dining room and eat. Nomzamo is just occupied with her phone while me and Antoinette are engaging in our conversation. After lunch I Shadow Antoinette till we knock off,

she's such a good Teacher though. We've covered all there is to know in just a day, guess tomorrow I'll be more practical. First day wasn't that bad.

I get to my place and take a much deserved bath. I call my brother and the Khumalo's just to update them on my first day. I'm too lazy to cook but what am I gonna have for lunch tomorrow. I make myself a sandwich and binge on some more of the big bang theory. I'm loving this new life, being busy the whole day. Coming back home, bath, cook, watch TV and sleep. Soon I'll have to add gym in my schedule, even if it's 2 times a week. Things are looking promising already.

That alarm again, guess I'll be used to it after a week or so. I'm at work and shadowing Antoinette again. Nomzamo is still off towards me, she can jump off the nearest cliff for all I care. The rest of the week it's the same routine, we haven't spoken since day 1 with my boss. It's Friday and we knock off at 2pm. Friday I pack my bag, this weekend I'm crashing by Jase again. He'll be strong we are both single and we need to hit the club tonight. As soon as he gets home from work, he notifies me. I'm there in an instant, we cook, eat and prepare for a night of fun.

We hit Booth night club in Sandton, Jase invited the squad and I know it's gonna get lit. We party and dance the night away. Drinks are flowing and so is the conversation. Selfies, group photos are snapped and loaded. This is the life, we arrive at Jase's place past 5am. I pass out in my room. Saturday we so hangover, we just laze around the whole day. Sunday I'm back at my place. Haaibo!! Weekends are really made in China.

Monday, I'm at work and today I'm fully in charge of Mr Nxumalo's diary and all his case files. I'm early as usual and settled in my small cubicle. I greet him upon his arrival and brief him on all his meetings. He seems impressed but doesn't show it. He has a meeting, I sit in and jot down all the important notes. I diaries all his meeting tomorrow and he has a court appearance. He wants me accompany him. I'm just going with the flow, he hardly says anything to me unless it's work related and I prefer it that way. Knock off time, I'm happy to be home. Same routine bathing, cooking, TV and sleep. The following day I'm accompanying Mr Nxumalo as required, he suggest we eat breakfast first. We are in mug and bean, there's no conversation I'm just eating while he's busy on his phone and giggling every now and then. Crazy I tell you, same thing in the car he concentrate on the road. On our way back, still the same story.

Everything has been going smoothly, it's been 3 month since I got hired. I've ve laid off on

partying every weekend, it got too much for me. Today we are attending some gala work dinner, I'm in my expensive gown, decided to plait tribal braids. Antoinette is fetching me from my place but I'll have to request an Uber when I come back. It's really no problem. Everyone is looking amazing so is the place. I'm sitted with my colleagues, Mr Nxumalo, his wife and sons. Mpilo came with a plus one and Nomzamo is staring at this woman with evil eyes. Me and Antoinette are sipping on DOM Pergnon rose gold, it's not everyday a woman gets to sip on some fine expensive champagne. I'm suddenly pressed, I need the loo asap. I'm rushing to the loo and do my business. I should probably take it easy on that champagne, how am I gonna get home. I leave the bathroom and make my way to the table. I feel eyes piercing my back, it doesn't help that my back is exposed. The scent, after so many months. That voice, I remain in that position for a good 10minute.

I turn back and there he is looking as fine as ever. His eyes are fixed on me. His holding a glass of whiskey and he slowly lifts it to his mouth Ow so sensually. Things are happening to me right now. After all this time, I still crumble at his gaze. Everything and everyone doesn't seem to exist. I'm just lost in the world of lust again.

NKANYISO : " Lethokuhle, are you alright"

I turn and look at him. He seem concerned.

NKANYISO : " you've been gone for a while and Antoinette asked me to check on you. Are you alright"

I turn back again and he's gone just like that, was I day dreaming. No fucken way he was just here. It's him that I saw. I turn to look at Nkanyiso again. He looks even more worried now.

NKANYISO : " Lethokuhle did something happen to you, you look flushed like you've seen a ghost or something"

I look at that spot again, he's gone. He's really gone. I'm so weak and speechless. I can't even find my voice, guess the wine is also taking its toll on me.

NKANYISO : "Lethokuhle, fuck this I'm taking you home. Let me just inform the others"

He pulls me into our table and grab my fur coat.

NKANYISO : " goodnight lovely people, I'm taking miss Khumalo home. She's not feeling well, guess it's something she ate"

Everyone bids us farewell. He gently pulls me by my arm, I'm just following his lead. He pulls me in his car, adjust my seat and strap the seat belt. Off we go

Insert 27

I open my eyes and I'm in an unfamiliar room, I jump out of bed. I'm only left with my bra and Brazilian cut lace panty. Okay I remember being in the car with Nkanyiso, this must be his place. Beats me why couldn't he take me home. My dress is nowhere in sight, why do these things have to happen to me. I peep through the wardrobes but they are empty. I strip the sheet of the bed and cover myself. There's music playing and all I have to do is follow the voice of the person rapping to this song. This house is huge, the music is coming from downstairs and something smells divine. I make my way down the stairs battling with this long ass sheet. If only my dress was in sight then I wouldn't be caught up in this messy situation. I make my way to the kitchen, this is quite a sight. He's rapping to this Two pac - dear mama song. Shirtless and he's bobbing his head up and down while tossing the sausages. I stand there and feast my eyes on this pleasant to the eye creature behind the stove. He turns and looks at me

NKANYISO : " great you are awake, how are you feeling now"

OKUHLE : " I'd feel much better if I had decent clothes on me"

He looks at me for the longest time. I honestly can not allow this to get any awkward than it already is.

OKUHLE : " you didn't happen to see where I put my dress"

NKANYISO : " let me get it for you"

He switch off the stove, run upstairs and dissappeared to one of the rooms. He comes back down and hands me my dress.

OKUHLE : " uhhmm thank you. Mr Nkanyiso, how did I end up here"

Nkanyiso : " you passed out before you could tell me your address, I had no choice but to bring you home with me"

Clearly his the one that stripped me off my clothes, awkward. The thought of him seeing me half naked. The panties are see through, so he saw my Nana. I'm suddenly embarrassed, I should've taken it easy on the beverage. I need to get out of here.

OKUHLE : " Mr Nkanyiso, I'm really sorry for ruining the Gala dinner for you. Thank you for your hospitality but I think it's best for me to leave now"

NKANYISO : " Don't mention it. I had to make sure you get home safe, the state you were in when I found you"

OKUHLE : " thank you once again"

NKANYISO : " have breakfast with me, then I'll take you home"

OKUHLE : " can I freshen up first"

NKANYISO : " no problem come with me"

I follow his lead, he shows me the bathroom. unfortunately he doesn't have any feminine products, so I'll have to use his toiletries. He brings me jogger pants and one of His T-shirt. Atleast I won't have breakfast in that dress. I smell so masculine. These joggers pants are sitting on me nicely , not too tight they are a perfect fit. I feel so much better and refreshed. We having breakfast and I'm sold. Don't know if it's hunger but he sure makes one heck of a breakfast. I'm enjoying this and I might go for seconds. No hold up, I'm definitely going for seconds. My plate is clean, I dish up more bacon, eggs, sausage and add two more slices. He's staring at me in amusement. He clears his throat but I'm not bothered. I'll eat till I'm full. He

clears his throat again, okay he has my attention now.

NKANYISO : "enjoying your food, I see"

OKUHLE : " mmmhm"

That's all I manage to say, accompanied by a nod. He seems impressed with himself. I'm done and the least I can do is wash the dishes. This one is very strange, who sits and watch people doing dishes. I'm done and I just need my bed now. He offers to take me home. I thank him once again for his hospitality. I kind of enjoyed our drive to my place. For the very first time we actually engaged in a conversation, Mr is not so uptight afterall. Home sweet home. I'm busy searching for my flat keys, beats me why I didn't do so on my way here.

MBUSO : " Nkosazana"

OKUHLE : " Hi Mbuso, long time no see. Where are you hiding these days"

MBUSO : " It's you that's hiding, thought you even moved out"

OKUHLE : " Don't be silly, I've been here all along. Maybe it's my new job"

MBUSO : " I'm glad to see you, don't be a stranger. Need help with that"

OKUHLE : " Don't worry I found what I was looking for"

MBUSO : "can I take you out for lunch today, so we can catch up"

OKUHLE : " I'm sorry but already have plans, maybe next time"

MBUSO : " okay, take care neh. See you around"

I lock up as soon as I'm inside my flat, I open the windows. Today I'm having a lazy day. Jase will forgive me but today It's just me, the big bang theory and junk food. I change into clean underwear and a loose dress. I call the Khumalo's and Bhut' Siphwe just to check on them. Next weekend I'm going home, it's been a while and I promised my parents a visit. Jase has been partying almost every weekend. Lately the party scene has been a bit too much for me. I've been declining most invites from him. I'm content with the lifestyle I've been living as of late. The day carries on with me binge watching the Big bang theory. It's past 4 and I feel like cooking. The plan was to make something light but I get carried away and pull a full Sunday kos. It's around 7pm and I'm done with grilling the meat. I take a much deserved bath, after slaving away in the

kitchen.

I've tried to suppress all these thoughts that have been roaming my mind the whole day. Bra Muzi, I sigh heavily. My mind race to last night's occurrence, after so many months. I finally see him and he pull a disappearing act on me. Surely he was also not expecting to see me there, that was pure coincidence. Clearly he didn't want to talk to me. I could be wrong but we had a moment right there, he looked at me with those lusty eyes. Wonder what could've have happened had we not been interrupted . The staring contest, he has this strong hold over me. The fact that I haven't been laid in over four months doesn't help me either. Thoughts of him and his dominant nature are crowding my mind. The urge to touch myself is way too much now. I'm sensually rubbing my breast and the other hand makes its way to my Nana. I'm imagining him touching me all over again and I'm rubbing my clits. The finger travels from my labia to the clitoris, the pleasure is kicking in. I rub in circular movements, up and down. I pick up the pace and I release a huge gasp. Juices are flowing , I've just pleased myself. I sit in that position for a good 10min gathering my strength back. The water is cold now, I dry myself and slip into my night wear.

I'm so hungry after the bath session, eating alone won't even be a problem. I dish up for myself and just as I settle on a couch there's a knock at the door. It's past 8 at night who could that be. I peep through the little hole. Haaibo! I don't believe my eyes. I open the door and he's standing there with a smirk on his face.

OKUHLE : " Nkanyiso, what are you doing here!"

NKANYISO : " I was in the neighborhood, decided to check on you before heading home. Aren't you gonn let me in?"

He makes his way in and leaves me there at the door looking shocked. He settles comfortably in my couch and starts digging on my food. Bathong! This man.

NKANYISO : " This is delicious, did you make it "

OKUHLE : " of course I made it "

NKANYISO : " you might as well dish up two plates, one for you and another one for me"

He really isn't playing around I dish up two plates, his done with the first plate. Soon as I put the food in the small table, he takes the second plate and digs in. He's enjoying every minute of this, I can tell by his facial expression. Im halfway through my plate and he is done. He burps so loud and laughs after that. I complain and he laughs.

NKANYISO : " I'm also here to collect my jogger pants, you can keep the T-shirt though"

OKUHLE : " let me get them for you"

I get them and pack them in one of the shopping bags for him. He takes them. Haaibo! this man.

NKANYISO : "thanks for the lovely supper, pity I can't do the dishes"

He dashes off. Strange character I tell you. I lock up and make my way to the bed. I'm exhausted.

Insert 28

It's Sunday I decide to do some little grocery shopping, especially since I'm taking lunch to work everyday. I go pass Jase's house with my groceries. He's hungover, How he manages to pull this every weekend beats me.

JASE : "look what the cat dragged in"

OKUHLE : " I'm here to nurse your hangover ass back to life"

JASE : " aren't you the sweetest, come here"

OKUHLE : " no ways, go bath. I'll cook for us"

If he's expecting seven colours then he'll get a shock. I make pap, wors and chakalaka. Today I'm no kitchen slave, 1 hour tops then I'm done. Lookat this fool parading naked.

OKUHLE : "agg Maan sies, wear your clothes pls"

JASE : " you've seen me naked countless times Mos, what's your problem"

I give him that serious look, he knows better than to argue. He came back wearing shorts and vest. That's much better, I can't be dining with a naked man. He's telling me all about the club scene from Friday and Saturday. I'm just enjoying my food and his company. He offers me wine but I decline his offer. I'm taking it easy on the intoxicating beverages. We chill and later I bid him farewell and head to my place.

MBUSO: " nkosazana, how are you doing today"

OKUHLE : " hy mbuso, I'm all good and you"

MBUSO : " let me help you with those"

It's just 3 plastic bags. He insist on carrying them for me. For the very first time, I invite him into my flat. He puts the bags away and settle in the couch. I make coffee for the both of us. It's a bit awkward, he looks uncomfortable for some reason. He ask for the news channel, I don't even watch news. I change to the news channel and we talk about family, friends and work. He's getting a little comfortable now. I definitely wouldn't mind having him as a friend. Its getting a bit late and we say our goodbyes. I lock the door , I'm too tired to even prepare for tomorrow. I might just wake up early, good thing I dished myself a lunchbox. I'm too tired to even bath tonight.

That alarm again. I prepare and leave for work. I'm used to Nomzamo's bitchness now, I no longer bother myself greeting her anymore. Antoinette couldn't wait to fill me in on her weekend. She's such a bubbly somebody, we decide to catch up during lunchtime. I get into my cubicle and check my bosses emails. I diaries all his emails and get his files ready. He comes in at 9am xap and he's in such a good mood. Mom Martha comes in with 2 cups of coffee. He ask me to Join him. I sit across him and have coffee and muffins. They taste so good, he's staring at me.

OKUHLE : " what"

NKANYISO : " think I've found myself an eating buddy"

OKUHLE : " becareful what you wish for Nkanyiso Sir, I might just use that to my advantage"

NKANYISO : " be my guest, it's rare seeing a woman eating freely without jeopardizing her figure or whatever it is you woman obsess about where weight it's concerned"

OKUHLE : " clearly you've been hanging around the wrong crowd of Woman"

That smirk again, he surely wasn't expecting that comeback from me. I leave him there and get on with my work. It's lunch time, I can't wait for Antoinette's stories. We settle in our little dindig table and I get to hear of all her weekend shenanigans. The day goes quicker than usual, it's home time. All I wanna do is soak myself in the bath and indulge in some me fun time. These days I've been touching myself during bathtime or before bedtime. Who needs a man, when you have magic fingers.

Im done bathing, think I'll have bread tonight. I'm too lazy to cook tonight. Perks of living alone.

An sms comes through from my phone

"be ready in 30 minutes, there's a food joint we need to explore. From one foodie to another. my Food buddy"

Where was he all along, this food buddy of mine. I slip into jeans, takkies and leather jacket. There's a knock and we take off. I wonder where this one is taking me. We drive into some a kasi shisanyama. I'm surprised, wo would've thought a cheese boy like him. Wow, it must be a usual hangout coz everyone seems to know him. We settle and they have African dishes. He orders Mogodu and pap. Never judge a book by its cover, I can't seem to make up my mind. So he orderes for me. Our food arrives, there's tripe, chicken feet, drumsticks, braaid wors, red meat, pap and dumpling. Wooow!! This is too much food for two people. We eat over light conversation. We discussing life in general, love and all the madness that comes with being an adult. He's so carefree outside the working environment.

I'm so full, my tummy is aching. He keeps making fun of me. Eating fast competition, where have you ever heard that. Yep, the consequences of taking part in the eating competition. This fool is cracking up, this isn't funny anymore. All I want is my bed now. He's driving me to my flat, I feel sick. As soon as he stops the car I run but I don't even make it to the door. I vomit all my stomachs contents, all the different foods are clushing in my tummy. He's standing beside me looking all kinds of worried, guess it's not so funny now. He take smy bag, get the key and open the door. He pulls me inside, all the way to the bathroom. I vomit again and sit in that position.

Shame he's cleaning the mess outside, now I feel bad.

He runs me a bubble bath, he's typing something on his phone.

NKANYISO : " will you be able to take a bath by yourself or do you need my assistance"

OKUHLE: " I think I'll manage"

NKANYISO : " are you sure"

I nod, no ways he's seeing me naked for the second time around. I'm a bit flushed but I'll manage.

NKANYISO : " shout if you need anything, I'll be right outside"

This one is extra, too dramatic. He wasn't joking about being outside, there was a knock after every 7-8 minutes. Haaibo, this guy. He kept asking if I'm still okay. I had to cut my bath short before he breaks my door. We had a full on conversation while he was on the other side of the door. I slip into my gown and he's standing next to the door. I feel a bit better just a little headache and stomach cramps. He takes his car and my flat keys with.

NKANYISO : " I'll be back just now, there's a pharmacy still open. If you feel worse call me okay, call me. I'll be back"

Just like that he's gone. Twenty minutes later he's back with pills, ginger ale, fruits, 2 different types of juice and coke. I can't help but laugh, he doesn't seem to find humor in all this. He picks me up from the couch and tuck me in bed. I'm drinking the pills, what's the fuss all about. He puts the fruits and all the other stuff he bought next to the bed. There's bottled water also.

OKUHLE : " you don't have to Fuss so much, I'm feeling way better now"

NKANYISO : " I'm not taking any chances"

OKUHLE : " it's getting really late, you need to rest"

NKANYISO : " stop worrying about me, let me take care of you"

OKUHLE : " tomorrow you have a very early meeting, with a very important client"

NKANYISO : " important than who Lethokuhle, important than who"

OKUHLE : " I'll be fine. Let me put your number on speed dial, see. I'll call you if or when I get worse. I promise"

NKANYISO : " we can have this argument the whole night, I'm not leaving. I'll be right here beside you the whole night"

I'm shocked to say the least. Is he really serious, who would want to leave their mini Mansion and sleep in a matchbox size flat. That's just how my place looks like compared to his.

NKANYISO : " the look on your face right now, priceless. I'll be in the room, shout when you need me"

Bathong! This food buddy of mine is one heck of a character. The pills are getting the better of me. I'm drowsy and sleepy. I close my eyes and allow sleep to consume me.

Insert 29

The alarm I can hear it from afar. I'm still exhausted, think it's the after effects of the pills.

If I don't get up now, I'll be late for work. I drag myself to the bathroom. Wonder how did my food buddy slept. I'm done bathing and trying to iron my work outfit. He comes out of the bedroom. He leans against the door.

NKANYISO : " Miss Khumalo, what do you think you are doing"

OKUHLE : " preparing for work Mr Nxumalo"

NKANYISO : " you not setting your foot in there, not today Miss Khumalo"

OKUHLE : " Mr Nxumalo I'm going to work, I have bills to pay month end"

NKANYISO : " Miss Khumalo, I'm your boss and I'm giving you an off day today"

OKUHLE : " but I feel better Nkanyiso sir"

NKANYISO: " you are not going to work and that's final Let-O"

OKUHLE : " LET-O"

He just laughs and walks away. Only a snob, trustfund baby has the ability to ruin my name like that. Not only is he ruining my name but he's busy parading around in his boxers. Is that a boner or the man is naturally gifted. It definitely wasn't my intention to look but the eye man, the eye. I watch him go in the bathroom, probably to bath but he comes back quicker than expected.

Can you believe he's complaining about my toiletries, apparently they are too feminine for his liking. Aay! he can jump off the nearest cliff, he'll bath at his place. He dresses and calls the office. We'll be spending the whole day in court, that's what he says over the phone. Lies, lies!!

NKANYISO : " dress comfortably we leaving in 10min"

OKUHLE : " where are we going"

NKANYISO : " I'll have to take a bath LET-O and I won't leave you here by yourself"

OKUHLE : " I'm not gonna win this argument, Am I"

NKANYISO : "nope, change we leaving in 5 minutes"

OKUHLE : " it's 5 minutes now"

NKANYISO : "4, 3"

OKUHLE : " okay, okay"

First it's my name, now he's bullying me. What's wrong with this man. I can hear him counting from the other side of the door. He's beyond crazy this one. I dress up quickly and we take off. I'm so hungry, my tummy is even grumbling.

OKUHLE : " can we get something to eat, I'm starving"

NKANYISO : " so you can get sick and throw all up in my car. I don't think so"

OKUHLE : "really now, yesterday was a different story all together. The different meats and all the spices made my tummy upset"

NKANYISO : " I'm not taking any chances"

I roll my eyes and fold my hands. I'm so upset right now, don't even feel like talking anymore. I'm giving him straight answers to whatever he asks. He's not even phased by my sudden change of moods and attitude. The drive seems longer now, I'm irritated by even the smallest of things. I'm hungry, all I need is food. Can this man be so heartless, I should've remained behind. I'd be eating now. My breathing pattern has changed that's how upset I am right now. We drive in his mini mansion. I storm out as soon as he stops, only to wait for him at the door again. I feel like wiping that smirk off his face.

NKANYISO: " let me officially welcome you, since I had to carry you in the first time"

NKANYISO : " so we not on speaking terms my LET-O, let me quickly take a bath and feed you my food buddy"

His mission to kill me with hunger is succeeding, he still wants to bath and I'm dying. Wow just wow!

NKANYISO : " I'll make it snappy, you won't die. I'll be done in 20min"

20min, someone bury me right now. He runs upstairs. I'm not gonna wait for 20min. I raid his fridge, there's redmeat, wings, and a pie. All left overs I assume. I warm up the pie and wings. It smells so good, I dig in as soon as the food gets warm. I'm leaning on the kitchen counter and enjoying my food. It's 15 min since he went for his bath. Imagine having to wait, while you could be eating. There's a coffee machine, I don't even know how to operate this thing. So I boil the kettle, another searching spree for the tea combo. Luckily I come across them. I make my tea and settle down now. 25 minutes later, he's nowhere in sight. See what I mean, would've collapsed in this huge ass house.

He resurfaces after 45minutes, wearing those jogger pants I like. I'm on my second serving of

meat. He seems a bit disappointed by the plate in front of me. He can jump off the nearest river, I wasn't gonna starve when there's food around. Haaibo!

NKANYISO: "knew I couldn't trust you around food"

OKUHLE : "you took almost an hour, I could've died you know"

NKANYISO : "impatient I see, now I'll have to eat alone"

OKUHLE : "depends what you cooking, might just join you"

NKANYISO: "what's the point of cooking"

He's sulking and I'm not about to entertain him. He's eating muesli and yoghurt shame poor man.

His done and we are arguing on what movie to watch. So we both decide on watching a Romantic comedy. He is so carefree, I'm loving this side of him. The plan was to cook together our lunch but I'm doing all the cooking now. We have our lunch and continue with our movie marathon. Later he drops me off at home. I was a bit sad when he left after our cup of coffee. He had difficulty leaving also. I can't label what is happening between us, all I know, he is my food buddy and I enjoy his company.

I call Jase to catch up. Moghey claims he's taking a break from the club scene. I'll believe that after 3 consecutive weekends of him not partying. Apparently Thulani had dropped by to apologize and he chased him out like a dog. Serves him right, after all the drama he brought into my friends life. We gossip as usual. I call the Khumalo's just to check on them, only 2 weeks before I see them. Bhut ' Sipiwe wants me to meet the special lady in his life, I pray it's not another special case.

I take my bath and indulge in some self pleasuring. Lately, I've suddenly developed this sexual urge. It's crazy but sometimes my fantasy is none other than Nkanyiso Nxumalo. I'd touch myself with his image filling my mind. Today it's even worse, after seeing that Dick print when he was parading in his boxers earlier. He's masculine, with a very seductive laughter. I cum over these thoughts. Lord have mercy, my food buddy has turned into my sexually arousal stimulation . Wtf! I'm too tired to even lotion. I wrap myself in my gown. Get in between the covers. What a day! An sms from my food buddy, sexual arousal stimulator in secret.

" had a lovely day today LET- O goodnight"

Wonder how he'd sound like mourning my name

" LET-O"

I reply

"the feeling is mutual my food buddy, see you tomorrow Nkanyiso sir"

He's calling. Nah I'm not gonna pick this up. I put my phone on silent. Thoughts of this man are invading my mind. I get up, drug myself with allergex and panado. The images Ow Lord have mercy. The drugs are kicking in now. Lala-land here I come.

Insert 30

Damn it's that alarm again, life of a working citizen. This is what I signed up for, this is exactly what I wanted. I'm in such great spirits today, good vibrations only. I get up, make my bed and play music. Ciara - body party on repeat. Moghel is feeling herself. I run my bubble bath and dance so sensually in front of the mirror.

" you can keep your hands on me, touch me right there, rock my body.
I can't keep my hands off you, your body is my party

I'm doing this little dance for you

You got me so excited

Now it's just me on you

Your body is my party, let's get it started "

I don't remember being this happy and lively. It's been a long while. I'm singing my heart out and

dancing like a stripper. No one's watching, so I'm getting freaky and kinky all up in this mirror business. Oh shit! I got a bit carried away with Zonke feelings. Flip the time, I jump in the bath and do my hygiene process as quickly as I can. Good thing I'm not ironing. I'm wearing clothes I was suppose to wear yesterday. I don't even have a lunchbox today. I grab fruits and allbran, I'll be hungry as fuck by the time I knock off but this will have to do. It's better than having no lunch at all. The shops are way too far. I'm getting discount from the taxify guy. He charges me what the taxi could've charged me in a day. Perks of being a loyal customer. Glad I've covered the time.

Antoinette is already waiting for me, we make tea and carry on with our usual topics. Her personal life, being the main subject. Today I'm in such a good mood. Nomzamo seems a bit down today, her eyes are swollen and she's really trying to look strong but shame the poor woman looks crushed. Antoinette pulls me into her office, she closes the door and I know whatever she's about to tell me is highly confidential.

ANTOINETTE : "skat luister hier" (darling listen here)

OKUHLE: "aay Nette you know I won't here a thing, when u start speaking Afrikaans"

ANTOINETTE : "sorry Maan man, your sister there (Nomzamo) was getting it on with Nxumalo Junior"

Woow my heartbeat, why this reaction now. Which Nxumalo Junior is she referring to. Hopefully not my food buddy. Why am I jealous now. No, no! I refuse, I'm just fond of him. I mean he feeds me and feeds my other secret cravings. It's not love, even if it's him, that has jerk shit to do with me. But my heartbeat, I'm waiting for her to tell me which Nxumalo Junior. Screw this I have to know. Here goes nothing

OKUHLE : " you don't say! which Nxumalo brother is she getting it from"

ANTOINETTE : "the question is, was she getting it from. Mpilo Nxumalo, she seduced him and got exactly what she wanted. Now Mpilo has paid lobola to his girlfriend and rumors has it they will tie the knot soon"

OKUHLE : " so was he cheating on her the whole time, while getting freaky with Zamo"

ANTOINETTE : "no, he only met her 5months ago and ended the sexual affair with Zamo immediately . The poor girl hoped he will eventually fall for her"

OKUHLE : " that's hectic shame, I feel for her man"

ANTOINETTE : "it's really sad, she never used to be this cold you know . she was bubbly and friendly but after she started sleeping with the junior boss. She developed an attitude, thought she was better than all of us"

OKUHLE: " shame I really feel for her maybe she caught feelings. It can't be easy watching somebody you love, love someone else"

ANTOINETTE : " it's life skat, what can we say"

OKUHLE : " let me get going, we will catch up around lunch"

It's sad what happened to Nomzamo, I can't even begin to imagine what she's going through. Watching someone you love slip away from you, that I can relate. I guess bad things happen to good people too. Behind all that makeup, fancy office couture there's a very fragile and broken woman.

Maybe she's not such a bad person, she pulled that whole cold bitchy attitude to mask the pain. We woman are very good in masking our pain. We still manage to laugh, joke and speak loudly.

Come night time the mask gets off, we cry and break down. When the morning comes we wear that same happy mask . After that morning bang and good vibrations I had. I feel a bit down. Fuck this I'll be the bigger man.

OKUHLE : " morning Zamo, would you like a cup of coffee or tea?"

She just looks at me as if I've just spoken a foreign language. No reply, great. I leave her there and go in the office. I do my work and diaries all his meetings. An sms from him

" LET - O, I'll be working from court today the whole day. Mr Nxumalo senior is not feeling well. I'm taking over his case"

The disappointment, my food buddy I was looking forward to see him. Maybe it's a good thing he's away, that Dick print has been Invading my mind more constantly now. It's been a while since I last had any real action. It's fulfilling pleasing oneself but the whole combination of having your breasts sucked, inside warm masculine arms. Sweet nothings being whispered in

your ears, neck kissing, finger sucking, waist gripping and ass spanking. The Dick being deep within you, that whole combination is priceless. Making love is such a beautiful thing.

Antoinette is ululating, I rush to see what's the reason behind all that noise. It's Mpilo and the lovely Matshepo his bride to be. Wow! That's the biggest rock I've ever seen, if that's an engagement ring I wonder what will the wedding ring look like. Congratulations are in order. She's such a bubbly person, they are so In love with each other. It's a beautiful sight. Mpilo formally introduce me to the love of his life and soul mate. His exact words, not mine. I congratulate them and move back to the office. Ten minutes later a very emotional Nomzamo walks in the office.

NOMZAMO : " does that offer for tea or coffee still stand"

OKUHLE : " of course"

She's standing by the door trying so hard to keep it together. I get up close the door and just hug her. That was the confirmation she needed, her shoulders are moving, there's sniffing. She's crying shame. I just let her cry and brush her back. Antoinette opens the door and closes it immediately, she's very considerate. Zamo didn't even notice, after a good ten-minute she stops crying. I let her sit on my chair. I go to the kitchen and make two cups of coffee for us. I'm glad I reached out, she doesn't even have to explain herself to me. As long as she feels better, then I've done my bit helping a sister out.

We drink our coffee in silence. I can see she feels a bit better, she stands up and looks at me for the longest time. I see a smile forming on her face, I return that smile.

NOMZAMO : " thank you for offering me a shoulder to cry on. I've been very unkind to you, please forgive me"

OKUHLE : " water under the bridge, come here"

I give her one last warm hug. She leaves the office and I get on with my daily task. Life is one big puzzle, I'm so done with this day. Mpilo comes in the office, he's more friendly than "NKA"

He's 4 years older than NKA.

Ow my word! listen to me going on about NKA where is that coming from now.

MPILO : " Hy Miss Khumalo, I need you to do me a huge favour. There are documents that I need you to deliver to Nkanyiso today after work. I have a date tonight with my fiance and these are highly confidential docs he has to see them tonight, since he's taking over dad's client "

OKUHLE : " no problem, I'll drop them off for you "

Mpilo : " thank you, I owe you big time. I'll request an Uber for you "

OKUHLE : " Don't mention it "

Lunch time comes, all three of us are in our dining area. Today Zamo is engaging in our topic, this is really nice. She's a great person. she's loud, bubbly and has the strangest laugh I've ever heard. I guess this was what Antoinette was referring to, earlier on. Wonder what made her so cold hearted from the beginning. That's old news now, all I can do is wonder. Maybe just maybe one day, she'll be comfortable in sharing her story. Life neh!

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The rest of the day goes by smooth and peacefully. Mpilo drops the envelope with documents before knock off time. The Uber is already waiting for me, I get in and off we go to the mini mansion. The joy I feel in my heart at this current moment is indescribable. He drops me off the gate. I use the small gate luckily it's not locked. I'm standing at the door gathering myself first, the excitement is a bit too much. I ring the bell 4times and there's no reply. Really now, I came this far only to turn back with the same documents. I try again and on the 3rd ring, the door opens. There she stands, a young beautiful woman with the most curvaceous body I've ever seen. She's only wearing a man's shirt, that's definitely one of his.

LADY: "hy can I help you"

My mouth is suddenly dry, I just stand on that same spot holding the envelopes. Which also feels heavy all of the sudden. She expects an answer, my heart is aching. The thought of actually meeting someone who's indulging on what I've been fantasizing about every night. She's gorgeous, he comes to inspect who's at the door. I've probably disturbed them from the

deed. He's wearing his boxers, damn! this man is hung real low. Such a pleasant sight, I've completely forgotten about the lady in front of me. I'm in my own world of lust and desire. The heart isn't aching anymore, only the clits are itching now. My lace panties are soaked. I need to get out of here.

NKANYISO: " miss Khumalo, to what do I owe this pleasant surprise"

OKUHLE : " I came to drop off these"

NKANYISO : " you are a life saver, I owe you one"

OKUHLE : "Don't mention it, I better get going"

I turn on my heels and leave. I don't trust myself around him anymore, maybe it's just the hunger talking. I haven't been laid in over 4 months. Purchasing a vibrator doesn't seem like a bad idea, after all. This break from men has been good to me. One gym session can take this urge off, it's been a while since I've set foot in there. Tomorrow I'll pack my gym bag and go straight there after work. Perfect! I request an Uber and head straight to my place. Cooking always calms me down, perfect distraction from my own thoughts.

I put my bag away, change into leggings and loose top. Seven colours is the order of the day. I select my favorite Playlist and sing my heart out. Good vibrations from this morning, I feel them all over again. Funny how music can lift one's mood, Wine! all I need is my wine. I scratch in the cupboard and come across one. One glass leads to another and another, by the time I'm done cooking I'm lekker tipsy. I'm singing to Zonke - Nameless.

You're so amazing

Yet I don't even know your name

See you around here

All I do is hide my face

Say you're the one but I don't even know your place

Sends me the one for me, but I don't even know his name

I'm dancing while dishing up. I'm on cloud 9, can you imagine loving someone yet you don't even know his name. It happens to the most of us. Damn I put this song on repeat, two more glasses of wine. I indulge in meat only, the rest of the food I'll enjoy tomorrow during lunch time. I carry on with my Playlist. Who on earth could be disturbing my me time. I ignore the knock thinking whoever is on the other side will give up and leave. But they are persistent, I peep through the door. What the fuck does he want this late.

I open the door. He just stands there, folds his arm and stare at me. Really now, what's his problem.

NKANYISO : " why aren't you answering your phone?"

OKUHLE : "phone"

The phone is still inside my bag. I'm beyond tipsy right now and a bit slow. I don't understand why he would drive all the way just to ask such a question though. This one is extra. After our staring contest, he moves me gently to the side and locks the door. He smells so divine, the hoe inside of me wanna jump him right now. My brain is a bit too slow to pull out such actions though.

NKANYISO : " I've been worried sick about you, you don't answer your phone. I wasn't even sure you made it safely home, so I decided to come check on you"

OKUHLE : " that's so sweet of you,as you can see I'm alive and kicking. You stress too much"

NKANYISO : " alive, kicking and drunk, What's wrong with you"

OKUHLE : " dude chill, I don't understand why you so worked up over this"

NKANYISO : "you don't understand, you don't understand! You'll be the death of me"

Haaibo! He's trying to gather himself but I can sense anger arising. What's his problem, this one has issues and I'm not getting involved. He scans me up and down. He comes closer and I step back. This man better keep his distance if he knows what's good for him. My backs against the wall, there's no escaping him now. He leans in, just when I think he's going to kiss me. He whispers into my ear.

NKANYISO : " the old me, would've stripped you off those tight leggings, baggy T-shirt and punish you for having me so worried. You'll be begging for mercy while I'm pounding on you"

I gasp for air. I want him to punish me right now for all the naughty thoughts, I've been having of him. I'm soaking wet, can't he just take me off my misery. I'm staring at him with pleading eyes. He looks at me, shakes his head and looks away. He moves and grab my plate and start eating. Really now, my guard is down. I'm drunk and horny. So I strip off all my clothes and I stand naked before him. He looks at my nakedness and the buldge in his pants gives me all the confirmation I need.he clears his throat and closes his eyes, his hands are on his face. Those hands should be roaming around my body right now, why is he resisting what's in front of him.

NKANYISO : " Let-O, why"

Those words comes out as a whisper, his voice is hoarse. He remains in that position and I'm sobering up with every minute that passes. If he rejects me, I don't know how I'll face him ever again. Did I just allow lust to control me. I'm almost sober now and regret is washing over me. This is the most awkward, embarrassing moment of my entire existence. He finally looks up, his eyes are bloodshot red and very small. He pulls me closer to him and locks his lips on mine. The kiss, it's different from all the kisses I've had my entire life. His lips are so soft and they taste of mint. Gosh the tongue game, his rolling his tongue against mine. He sucks on it and comes back again to my lips. His hand travels on my bare back and he is tracing patterns. My breast are crushed on his chest that's how tight he's holding me. If there was a kissing competition I swear he would be a leading champion. This feels like the first time I've ever been kissed. He pulls out we are both breathing heavy.

NKANYISO : " LET-O I want you but not like this. The day I decide to have you, you'll be sober and ready for me"

OKUHLE : " NKA"

NKANYISO : " come here"

He pulls me into a bone crushing hug. I've never been so satisfied and safe in any man's arms before. This feels like home, I'm content in his embrace. He pulls out and looks at me. He smile

lazily and I smile back.

NKANYISO : " I don't want you having any regrets or thinking I'll treat you any differently just because you acted on your feelings.do you know the very first time, I stripped you off that dress the whole night. I couldn't sleep. Days later your nakedness was all I saw when I closed my eyes "

OKUHLE : " glad to know I'm not the only one with dirty thoughts "

NKANYISO : " say what now! "

OKUHLE : " nothing "

NKANYISO : " I'm a fuckboy LET-O, I don't do relationships. I just fuck and move on"

OKUHLE : " who would've thought, but u do look like one"

NKANYISO : " there's a very special lady and I'm trying to change my ways for her. She's making shit difficult by standing naked right now"

He leaves me there trying to digest what he's just confessed to me. He comes back and cover me with a gown. The self proclaimed fuckboy just turned down sex. He's dishing up for the both of us. Mr Nkanyiso Nxumalo sir, the fuckboy!

Insert 32

We eat in total silence. We keep stealing glances at each other. He kisses me on my forehead and leaves me wanting more. More of his kisses, more of his touches and more of his package. If only I can get a glimpse of his tool. I laugh at these thoughts, lock up and head to bed. He sends a message notifying me that he's home safe and suffering from my naked image. There's something about him, with him I'm free to speak my mind and express myself. I reply letting him know how torturous it has been seeing his dick print for the 2nd time now. He's calling, let me answer before he drives all the way here. He's not well upstairs this one.

OKUHLE : "Nka"

NKANYISO : " you'll be the death of me, do you know I'm fighting this urge of driving there and finishing up what you started. But I won't do that, not with you"

OKUHLE : " is it fair to sleep in this state you left me in"

NKANYISO : " miss Khumalo"

OKUHLE : " Mr Nkanyiso sir it hurts, only you can cure me from this sudden illness "

NKANYISO : " goodnight miss Khumalo"

Bloody coward he hangs up on me. Gosh! See what starvation is doing to me. Another sms.
"LET - O what are you doing to me. Goodnight my food buddy, soon to be my"

This sms is incomplete, soon to be my what?

Let me just sleep. The kiss it keeps replaying in my mind. If the kiss is this good then what about? I remove my underwear and my fingers start working, the pleasure I'm feeling right now.

I wipe myself, roll over and sleep consumes me.

The following day I'm up early, prepare and leave for work. Nomzamo and Antoinette are already having coffee, I join them. We engage in different topics, the most interesting topic is polygamous marriages. It's interesting hearing different views, Antoinette doesn't have a problem getting into one. Nomzamo says no ways, she's not the sharing type. Me, myself it will depend entirely on the treatment and if we all come to decision that will benefit all of us. To think I was almost tricked into one. A lot of things can happen to one person in a space of months. We decide to carry on with this discussion during lunch time.

I get into the office and get busy with my work. His scent fills up the entire office, he's standing folding his arms and watching me. Wonder how long has he been standing there. I look up and I'm met by his sexy eyes.

NKANYISO : " miss Khumalo, care to show me where the itch was last night"

I gasp! I'm a blushing mess. He close the door and come stand next to my desk, He helps me stand. he walks me to a wall and pins me on it. He locks both my hands above my head and nibbles on my neck. I close my eyes and get lost in my own world. He leans in and kisses the lights out me. I'm moaning in his mouth, this man is torturing me. I want him to touch me. He pulls out and I'm a panting mess.

NKANYISO : " this is just a warning, you torture me at night. I'll torture you in the office"

I nod! I'm too weak to even talk. There's a bathroom in his office, I go in there and remove my panties. They are extremely wet, did I just cum from the kiss. I wipe myself and I take the panty and leave them in his desk. He is looking at me with so much desire, he looks at them. he Gets off from his chair, take his briefcase and heads out. Got him real good, I remove my panty from his desk and put them in my handbag. Few minutes later Mpilo comes in suppressing his laughter.

MPILO : "miss Khumalo, I just came to check on you. Are you alright"

OKUHLE : " yes I am mr Nxumalo"

He shakes his head and I can tell he's laughing from the way his shoulders are moving. Okay! He burst out in laughter. Whatever is amusing him has everything to do with Nka, that coward left me to work by myself.

MPILO : " I like you already, have a good day"

He leaves soon after saying that. The Nxumalo sons are quite interesting. An sms comes through

"I'll be working from court for the rest of the day. See you later"

I carry on with my work and lunchtime we continue where we left off with our discussion

Nomzamo : " I honestly can't share my husband, I'd rather have him cheat so long as he comes back to me every night "

ANTOINETTE : " I'd rather know his whereabouts, atleast I'll definitely know if he's not with me

then he's definitely with the other wife. So long as there's transparency and honesty"

OKUHLE : " I'm not sure where I stand, I'd prefer knowing from the get go. If my partner is open to polygamy and if he plans on taking a second wife in future. I mean if you know you can prepare yourself emotionally and mentally. If there's honesty and transparency from the beginning then I don't think I'll have a problem"

NOMZAMO : " if he can tell me before we get married then he would've done me a favor and I won't even bother marrying him. Marriage is about two people"

ANTOINETTE : " it's about two people until they start cheating, hence I prefer polygamy than all the drama associated with cheating"

OKUHLE : " it all boils down to honesty and transparency"

NOMZAMO : " I've made peace with the fact that men are never satisfied with one cookie, but I'm still hopeful somewhere out there there's a perfect man made just for me"

ANTOINETTE : " no one is perfect, we just love and learn to appreciate the most imperfect things in our partners"

OKUHLE : "I'm not so fond of relationships, they are too draining"

NOMZAMO : " tell me about it. Whoever bewitched me to have failed relationships, sure did one heck of a good job"

We all burst out in laughter. I mean we've all had our fair share of heartbreak.

NOMZAMO : " I always fall for the wrong one's, I'm a fuckboy magnet. They always leave me for the next woman, since I started dating"

OKUHLE: " join the club, I've been single for 5months now and it's treating me so good"

ANTOINETTE : " you won't be single for long now, Nxumalo junior has his eyes on. His been checking you out since the first day"

NOMZAMO : " you don't say"

I blush, they are cracking with laughter. Lunch was fun with the ladies. Time flies indeed when you having fun. It's knock off time, I head to the gym. I decide to go pass Jase, luckily he's home.

JASE : " Bitch you glowing, life's treating you good"

OKUHLE : " life's really good, I can't complain"

JASE: " you look happy, is there a man I should know about"

OKUHLE : " I'm so over those species, how's the clubbing scene treating you"

JASE : " I'm so over that life doll. I'm more worried about my mom, that man is sick and she's taking care of him. Can't he die already"

OKUHLE : " Don't you think it's high time u made peace, I feel you two need to make peace before something terrible happens"

JASE : "I'm sure he'll get off that death bed and punch me, I don't understand how one can despise their own flesh and blood so much. am I such a disgrace to him"

OKUHLE : " what's wrong with him choma"

JASE : "prostate cancer Lele, it's really bad"

OKUHLE : " next weekend I'm going home, I think we should go down together"

JASE : " I've been actually considering it, my mom has been begging me to come"

OKUHLE : " your mom knows best, do it for her. Let's go down together. Please doll"

JASE : "anything for mom and my bestie"

I'm jumping up and down. He doesn't join in the madness. He might act like he doesn't care but deep down he's hurting. He was his dad's favorite the only son. We chill and hang out. It's already late, I request and get home. I reach out for my phone 3 missed call from my food buddy. He'll be strong shame, I'm inside my flat and I lock up. I send Jase a message notifying him that I'm home safe. My bed is calling my name now, after the hectic day I had today. rest is much needed. I strip off my clothes and get in my bed. I'm way too lazy to look for pj's. It's too much Admin. I drift to lala-land, my phone's ringing. Hell no! I'm not getting up just to answer that phone. The person is persistent and that ring tone is annoying. I finally get up

OKUHLE : " yes"

NKANYISO : "open the door I'm outside"

Insert 33

It's 10:23pm who in their right mind knocks at people's door at such hours . I grab my gown and switch on the lights. I make my way to the door and open. That scent! This man will be the death of me. He grabs me by my waist and devours my mouth, in a sexy proper manner though. I kiss him back, he makes his way in. locks the door, he's back on my lips again. His kisses are life to me, they are food to my soul. His hand travels to my waist, guess he wasn't expecting my bare skin. He stops and cusses under his breath

NKANYISO : " fuck LET-O"

He seems frustrated with himself, tonight I really want him. This man has awakened things with his kiss. I undo the gown's belt and slowly slip out of it. Here I am again, completely bare in front of him. I slowly make my way to him, making sure not to break eye contact. He's staring deep into my soul. As soon as I'm closer to him, he grabs me by my waist and smashes his lips on me. The kiss gets heated, his hands are traveling from my waist down my ass. He gives my ass a firm squeeze, that alone sends me over the edge. Screw this I want him. He picks me up and leads me to the bedroom . He lays me gently on the bed, we are back to kissing and I undo his belt. He gets up and strips his clothes, he leaves his boxers on. I gasp for air and get goosebumps all over my body. It's erect and humongous. Gosh! What did I get myself into. The desire to have him is greater than before. He stands there and scans my body. This man better get his ass in this bed before I jump him.

OKUHLE : "Nka"

He comes back to his senses. This man will be the death of me! He gets on top of me. He kisses me all over again. He nibbles on my neck all the way down to my breast. He starts sucking on one breast while his hand is massaging the other twin. I'm beyond honey, my honey pot is dripping wet. He must take me right now. He leaves the other breast and suck on the other twin . He is very skilled in this department. I'm moaning in pleasure, he trails soft kisses from my stomach all the way to my Love nest. He opens my thighs and stares at my Nana. Strange, who does that. He looks at me and smirk. He goes down on me. He licks my labia in a very passionate manner, the pleasure is kicking in. He parts my folds with his tongue and his tongue take full control.

OKUHLE : "owww Nka!"

He dives in, licks, sucks and blows air on it. He shifts his focus on to the clitoris and he do unspeakable things with his tongue. He sucks on it like his very own life depends on it. The first wave is building up, right now I'm not in charge of my body. I cum very hard, I'm trembling and shaking. He holds me down and the look on his face priceless. He smiles

NKANYISO : " LET-O, are you okay"

OKUHLE : " mmmhm"

NKANYISO : " do you realise that I haven't done anything to you as yet"

He pulls me to him and carries me to the wall. He pins my hands above my head and kisses me. So passionately, the urge is back. He goes back to my breast and the alternate sucking is on again.

NKANYISO : " I love your twins they are perfect"

He drops on his knees and lifts both my legs. They are hanging on his shoulders. His back to my Nana again. The tongue again, he licks and sucks. I fall apart again, my knees are shaking. I'm exhausted my eyes are involuntarily closing. He lays me gently on the bed and goes out again. He comes back with ice cubes and ice cold water in a glass. He hands me the water.

NKANYISO : " drink up, I need you fully awake"

I gulp the water down.

NKANYISO : " turn around for me baby, lay on your tummy for me"

His voice alone sends shivers down my spine, I already came twice. The suspense and thrill of what's about to come next is exciting. I obey his command and I'm lying in that position. The coldness of ice on my spine almost sends me jumping, but he's behind me and holds me down. The ice goes all the way to my lower back, he repeats the same process. He licks the water from my back. This is all foreign to me yet so pleasurable. He leaves trails of kisses in both my buttock. He turns me around and opens my legs, he removes his boxers. My God! This is a mass of distraction weapon, with veins popping. I want to taste it regardless

NKANYISO: " are you sure LET-O"

OKUHLE: " shut up and fuck me, take me now"

He positions himself. There's no doubt in my mind, I want him. Scratch that I need him right now. He inserts the tip first, he rubs it on me. The tip goes in and out. He rubs me with it again.

He carries on with this pattern till I'm dripping wet, without any warning he goes all the way in. I gasp and scream. My walls are stretching just to accommodate his length and width. This man is well endowed. He starts moving in a very slow pace, the pleasure is kicking in now. The rhythm and the way he moves his waist. This man is a sex God. He starts rubbing my clits, while devouring my cookie. I've never felt so much pleasure ever since I've started having sex. The orgasm that hits me next, is indescribable. It comes with the urge to pee, I just let it all go. Damn!

NKANYISO : " a squirter too"

I lazily smile. I'm finished right now I can't even speak. He kisses me one more time and turns me around once again. Chest down ass up, he goes in. I scream, can't get used to his big tool. He starts off slow and gentle. He picks up the pace.

He gets carried away and he bangs me hard.

OKUHLE : " Nka, baby please cum. Baby pls cum"

Can't take it anymore, I feel it all the way through my stomach. I beg him until he finally cums. He wipes both of us clean. My pussy is throbbing, I don't think I'll ever get used to his anaconda. Weapon of mass destruction, I pass out. He pulls and place me on his chest. This feels like

home. He's saying something but I can't make out what he's really saying. I'm fatigued, he's brushing my hair and rubbing my back. All my life I've never felt so safe and secure. I swear he confessed his love for me but I pass out soon after that. Maybe I was just dreaming. I finally got docked down after 4 months it was worth the wait. My Nxumalo Nkanyiso sir is a sex God and I'm satisfied.

Insert 34

That damn alarm again. His arms are wrapped around me, such a comfortable position. Duty calls, one must wake up and prepare for work. I gently move away from the bed. He's mumbling something in his sleep. Shame he looks so cute

with his bushy eyebrows and long eye lashes. I'm really pressed my poor Nana is on fire, it's burning when I pee. I run my bubble and add all the salts. I should wake him up or else he'll be late. I select my outfit for the day first and wake him up after. He's grumbling, such a cute sight. He pulls me in bed and squeeze my bum. No I can't allow this to happen, not while it's still so sore down there. He gets on top of me and deep kiss me inspite of morning breath. He spreads my thighs and I can already feel the discomfort. It's now or never

OKUHLE: " Nka it's still sore down there"

NKANYISO : " let me cure it babe"

OKUHLE : " no babe, well be late for work"

NKANYISO : " I'll be very gentle babe, I promise"

He's already sucking on my twin, the desire is back all over again. The alarm goes off again. At this point I don't even care if I'm late. He goes down on me and that tongue starts doing its magic. The pleasure mixed with a bit of pain, I'm enjoying every second of it. I'm so close to cumin when he suddenly stops and goes in. I don't think I'll ever get used to his gigantic tool. He moves very slow and passionately, it feels better than yesterday. Maybe I might get used to it. He's taking his time, time that we don't even have. He gives me deep and long strokes, it feels so good. I'm speaking in tongues and uttering absolute nonsense.

NKANYISO : " fuck baby, u feel so good. Shit LET-O you so tight and warm. Fuck!"

Every word that comes of his mouth is followed by fuck and shit. His eyes are closed, I can tell he's enjoying every minute. The way he curves his mouth and bite his lip with every stroke. I am no different from him

OKUHLE : " deeper Nka, oow Nka, it's all yours Nka. Uhhhhmmm Nka"

I wrap my legs around his waist and lock him in. This feels so good and pleasure is all I feel, I move and meet his every stroke. He brushes the side of my face and stares deep into my eyes. I could be wrong but all I see and feel is love. We back to kissing again, he is making love to me, this morning. He picks up the pace and so do I.

NKANYISO : " fuck LET-O"

His voice alone just send me over the edge. He goes back to sucking my breast and just like that I fall apart, I tremble and vibrate under him. Guess that sends him over the edge coz he screams my name and hold me tight. He's stiff and he releases all his juices on me. We both breathing heavily. We remain in that position for a while. He's still buried inside of me.

OKUHLE : " Nka we are going to be late"

NKANYISO: " I'll tell them we'll be working from court today"

OKUHLE : "and what will we be doing the whole day"

NKANYISO : " this"

He says in his husky voice and I feel him getting hard all over again. He starts moving, still on that deep long strokes. Lord have Mercy! I arch my back just to give him full access. He goes all in, this feels so good. Mr Dickson feels so good right now, wouldn't mind having him the whole day. We change position and he's laying behind me, he lifts my one leg and goes all in. I bend my back a bit and give him full access, we both move in the same rhythm and one hand of his is on my neck. Both his hands are on my neck, he's strangling me but the grip isn't too tight.

NKANYISO : " I love the way you twerk on it babe, fuck LET-O."

OKUHLE : " Nka aaaawhhh"

I'm talking gibberish and his enjoying every minute of it. He's leaving trails of kisses on my back. His one hand now is on my breast and the other hand is gripping my waist firmly. He picks up the pace and from the pleasure we both feeling I know we aren't far apart from cuming. I cum first and he follows right after me. I'm so exhausted, he gets up. Gets his phone and inform his brother that we will be working from court today. He gets behind me and holds me closer to him. My eyes are involuntarily closing I'm drifting off to sleep and this time I hear him clearly.

NKANYISO : " I love you LET-O"

OKUHLE : " mmmhmmmm"

Then it's lights out. I wake up and I'm all alone in my bed. This just takes me back, when I used to be wined and dined at fancy hotels. Then I'd wake up all alone. There were no morning glory back then, no movie marathons. No love making.it was strictly sex, bang bang thank you mam. He comes in the room smelling like me.

NKANYISO : " I had no choice but to use your toiletries now I smell like you"

OKUHLE : " when did you get up"

NKANYISO : " about an hour ago, come"

He picks me up as if I weigh nothing. I'm giggling all the way to the bathroom. He gently puts me in the bathtub.

NKANYISO : " wash up, I'm preparing breakfast. As for the bed, I'm sorry but you'll have to make it"

He dissapears again, I just soak myself and take my time bathing. I'm reminiscing over last night and this morning. I don't know where all this is going but I'm loving every minute of it. He really

cured me this morning. I'm completely satisfied sexually and otherwise. I get done and he's still busy in the kitchen. I make the bed and slip into my short dress. Let me go help him with breakfast shame. Something smells divine. This man is heavenly sent. He has made cheese and ham omelets, accompanied by a strong cup of coffee. This is the life. He pulls me and directs me to sit on his lap . He feeds me as if I'm a child.

We done eating, I do the dishes.

NKANYISO : " we need to go pass my house and go to the doctor. I've booked us an appointment at 2pm"

OKUHLE : " no problem Nka"

On our way to his place, he explains how we need to get tested since we were both reckless. We will get the morning after pill and decide on which method of birth control will be suitable for both of us. I'm not even worried one bit since he told me he used condoms with all his fuck buddies. My contract with bra Muzi ensured that I take regular hiv test so every other 3 months, we both went. Everything was still in order and he was the last man I had sexual encounters with. We get to his place, he changes and off to the doctor we go. We get there in time for our appointment, standard procedure is followed. We get counseling and tested. We are both negative and we decide on the best contraceptive will be me getting the shots after every 3 months.

We drive to the mall, we go pass spur and order take aways, he insisted on take aways. He drives us to the park in his neighbourhood. It's such a chilled and quite park. There's no one that's how chilled it is. Maybe it's a weekday afternoon. We have our lunch there. A mini picnic. This is our official first date, so he says. I enjoy his company, he push me on the swing and chase me all over the park. I haven't had such carefree fun in such a long time. My food buddy, my sex God and my boyfriend. Mr Nkanyiso Nxumalo Sir

Insert 35

Time flies when you having fun indeed. We are parked outside my flat.

NKANYISO : "babe pack a night bag, I need to sleep next to you tonight"

OKUHLE : " aren't we moving too fast Nka, I think"

NKANYISO : " my love allow me to be with you tonight, please LET-O "

This man will be the death of me. He pouts, who can say no to that cute face. I kiss him and jump out of the car. He follows me. As soon as we indoors I grab my gym bag and empty the contents, he's in the bathroom packing my toiletries. I pack 2 outfits, 2 sets of bra's with their matching underwears and 2 pairs of shoes. My night bag is complete. He meets me halfway, we lock up. on our way out we bump into Mbuso, He stares at me and I just wave. He waves back. We get inside the car and we take off. Mini mansion here we come.

I can't seem to get use to how big his house is. Me and babe settle down to eat the takeaway we got along the way. It's way too late to start the pots anyway. We eating while watching TV. He's feeding me, I'm getting used to this . He runs us a bubble bath his bathtub is big enough for the both of us. This man literally baths me, I feel like a queen . We are done, he picks me up and today I finally get to see and sleep in the master bedroom. I'm talking king-size bed, walk in wardrobe with an ensuite. I'm singing praises and all he does is just smile and stares at me. He pulls me to bed and we sit. He's suddenly serious. Okay what's wrong now.

NKANYISO : " LET-O, I honestly don't know how to do this relationship thing. All my life girls have been throwing themselves on me. I never really had to court a girl and all the Admin that comes with it. I've never had a stable relationship. I've been a fuckboy since my high school days. But then you came looking all so innocent for that interview. For the very first time I instantly got nervous okay "

OKUHLE : " really dude, you didn't even look at me. What are you on about "

NKANYISO : " I avoided eye contact simply because you unsettled me and the minute you started speaking. Damn am I really opening up to you"

He half laughs and stares at me. I may not be too experienced with love and relationships but I know he is sincere. I feel it in my heart and soul. From this day on, I'm giving love a chance. I'm giving this man my heart, if I get hurt so be it. This moment right here is real.

NKANYISO : " I hoped they wouldn't hire you but they were already taken and sold by you. So I had to call you myself just so I can hear your voice and see if it still unsettled me. It got worse

when we spoke over the phone, hence I avoided any contact with you for the past 3months. Until the gala dinner. That sexy dress and your perfect physique, I was so taken and later got the pleasure to remove it from you. As passed out as you were "

OKUHLE : " I'm sorry for that night, I ruined it for you "

NKANYISO : " do you believe in fate "

OKUHLE : " yes but not entirely "

NKANYISO : " I believe that was fate. I worked so hard avoiding you but that fateful day . I couldn't run or avoid you. I watched you sleep for almost 3 hours trying to make sense of what it is that unsettles me so much"

OKUHLE : " that's creepy who spends 3 hours watching someone sleeping"

NKANYISO : " I was trying to find answers"

OKUHLE : " do you have them now, the answers. Did you find them?"

NKANYISO : " yes I love you"

OKUHLE : " I love you too"

NKANYISO : " say what"

OKUHLE : " I love you"

NKANYISO : " seal it with a kiss"

I get close and smash my lips on his. I'd never say no to his kisses or his sex for that matter. It's still early days, we can argue and claim it's still honeymoon phase but my heart is singing a whole new tune. I'm in love, it's different than the high school love. This feels certain, He feels like my forever. I'm not even making sense to myself but my heart is at ease and he feels like home.

NKANYISO : " I know it's still early but can we get everything out in the open. I hate surprises and I hate secrets. I want us to be on the same page and face everything together"

This is it! don't even know how he'll feel about me after hanging all my dirty laundry in the open . He's been honest from day 1 about his fuckboy nature. So why must I hold back. Here goes nothing. I start from the beginning back in Verulam Mpumalanga with Smanga. I tell him all

about it and he's listening to me attentively. How I ended up in Johannesburg, my friend Jase, the restaurant job and how I met Bra Muzi and the nature of our relationship, the huge amount of money, all up to my miscarriage and what led to it. He keeps quiet for a long while, it's a lot to take in. I let him digest it all. I'm almost in tears, I've been through a lot

NKANYISO : " did you get counseling for all this"

OKUHLE : " I just wanted to forget"

I speak through my tears. He pulls me closer to him and I feel safe in his warm embrace. Today I've shared details that I thought I'll never share with anyone not even Jase knew about them. I've followed my heart and trusted A man with my deepest darkest secrets.

NKANYISO : " hey look at me. Thank you for opening up and trusting me with your secrets. They are now our secrets and we will face them together. I promise you"

I just nod and cry my eyeballs out. He brushes my back and assures me that will be well. He carries me all the way to the kitchen and puts me in the kitchen counter. He makes sugar water and I drink all of it. I now feel better. He makes two cups of hot chocolate. We sip on it, when we done. He rinse both our cups and carries me all the way up the stairs with so much ease. He tucks me in, we kiss passionately. I want him to have me but he says I'm too emotional. He wants us to cuddle either way I'm happy. His arms are all the assurity I need. I'm hopeful and in love. I pass out in the arms of the one who holds my heart.

We wake up in the morning I feel so much better, a heavy burden has been lifted off my shoulders. I have a man who loves and accepts me with all my demons. Life is a bliss. He's not in bed, wonder where could he be. He comes back with two cups off coffee. A girl can get used to this life.

NKANYISO : " thought you could use a fix before the real fix"

OKUHLE : " Don't get any ideas Mr Nxumalo"

NKANYISO : " how can I not with your sexy self all up in my bed. Drink your coffee I need to sex you up real good before we go to work"

OKUHLE : " what makes you think I'll agree to be sexed up by you"

NKANYISO : " let me demonstrate it for you"

He connects his phone to the speaker in his bedroom. Usher - nice and slow comes on

He starts dancing so sensually, teasing much. His top comes off, my very own strip show, the boxers follows. He keeps touching it and playing around with it. I'm dripping wet now. I'm sitting in the small puddle of my very own juices right now. Damn this man will be the death of me.

NKANYISO : " come get me"

He leaves the bedroom and I follow him like a little puppy. I'm ready to be sexed up right here and now but I wonder where he's leading me.

I follow him stripping along the way. I'm naked following him. He gets into this room, it looks like a study room he sits on top of the desk.

NKANYISO : " it's all yours, do as you please"

I fall on my knees and take him in. I Start by licking the tip I roll my tongue around it and take him all in. I suck on his magic stick like my life depends on it. Gosh! his moans. I suck and lick until I taste his precum, he helps me stands. Turns me and bends me over the desk, he goes in without any warning. I scream it's not as bad as it was the first time. He goes in and out, teasing me. As soon as my juices flows, he smash on me real hard and picks up his pace. His fingers finds my clits and he starts rubbing there, while sexing me up. I feel myself building up, the first wave hits me hard and I can't even feel my knees. He picks me up and takes me to the couch. Gosh! He's about to finish me.

Insert 36

We on our way to work after our morning session, if he carries on like this then I'll cancel my gym membership. This man really knows how to work me. I keep stealing glances of him while he's busy driving, his concentrating on the road. A smile breaks here and there from him. Those muscular arms, can I be wrapped around them for the whole day. I'm hot and bothered all over

again. What is this man doing to me? Can we get to work already before I loose all my morals and have my way with him.

NKANYISO : " stop undressing me with your eyes"

OKUHLE : " I'm beyond the undressing phase in my mind, I'm already"

NKANYISO : " miss Khumalo mam, if we carry on with this conversation I'm too scared of the outcome"

OKUHLE : " pray tell"

NKANYISO : " the end result will have us both behind bars arrested for public indecency"

OKUHLE : " well that will be an experience to me"

NKANYISO : " the innocent Miss Khumalo is not so innocent, who would've thought"

OKUHLE : " Mr Nkanyiso sir can I demonstrate my innocence to you after work"

NKANYISO : " it's a date"

OKUHLE : " music to my ears"

We get to work, as usual I have coffee with the ladies and catchup on the latest gossip. Antoinette keeps giving me these weird looks, I'll never hear the end of it. She probably wants to interrogate me on the side. I'm not so ready for it. I get to the office and carry on with my usual tasks. I'm smiling from ear to ear, love is in the air. He comes in and close the door. The look he's giving me, hell no! I'm not about to get smashed in the office during working hours. God knows I haven't recovered from this morning session. That reminds me, an energy drink is much needed to keep me revived and energized for the rest of the day. He comes around and stands behind my chair. What is this man up to, his muscular hands lands on both my shoulders. He starts off slow, this is life. He gives me one heck of a massage that has me moaning with my eyes closed.

NKANYISO : " for someone who doesn't want to be sexed up in the office, u sure do moan loud"

OKUHLE : " you are a mind reader now?"

NKANYISO : " it's not hard to tell, everything is written in your face. Your facial expressions they say it all, but only I can read them"

OKUHLE : " u don't say"

NKANYISO : " soon I'll have you on top of my desk, on your desk, behind the door, against the wall and all over this office. I'm just taking it easy on you, since our morning session"

I gasp, this man is on the mission to devour this cookie of mine. Not that I mind, of course! I'll gladly give it to him. He turns my chairs, comes down to level and smash his lips on mine. The kiss is passionate, he breaks it and turns my chair into its proper position. Why did he stop?

What kind of torture is this? He sure enjoys leaving me dripping wet from my own pool of fluids.

NKANYISO : " work miss Khumalo, we have a lot to cover today"

OKUHLE : " yes Mr Nxumalo Sir"

He giggles and goes to his desk. Soon as he sits in that position it's all work and no play. I watch him all serious behind his laptop, he's so sexy the crisp white shirt, the navy blue tie and those skinny fit formal trouser. Damn! My man's sexy. I snap out of it. 'Girl get your act together and work' note to self. The day goes by real quick and smooth. Nka had a court case to attend and a client to meet. After work I decide to go crash at my place. I feel lonely and needy. I decide to have a much needed bath and cook just to pass time. Just one week left and I'll be home. I call the Khumalo's to no avail, wonder what those two oldies are up to. Probably getting freaky, don't think I'll ever recover from being subjected to their sexual sounds. Big brother is next in the list and he's also unreachable, talk about zero luck. I call Jase to no avail. I give up and settle on the couch. Why am I so bothered, I switch off the pots and retire to bed.

My phone rings as soon as I'm in bed. It's Jase, forgot I even called him earlier. I answer the phone and he sounds like he's sniffing.

OKUHLE : " doll talk to me"

JASE: " it's bad Lele, seems like I'll have to go home sooner than expected"

OKUHLE : " I'm sorry doll, when are you heading home"

JASE: " tomorrow morning, mom and my sister called. He's really bad Lele, they don't even think he might make it till next week. That's atleast what my sister said . Mom still has faith, so I have

no choice but to drive home, apparently he asked for me"

OKUHLE : " go babe, he probably wants to make things right before he makes his final exit"

JASE: " my sister sent me his recent Pic, it doesn't even look like him. He's all skin and bones, I'm shocked. The person on the Pic doesn't even rembles my Father"

OKUHLE : " go home babe and fix things with the old man"

JASE:" hopefully I won't be too late, I'd hate for him to pass without us making peace"

OKUHLE : " you'll make it just in time and keep me posted. I'll check up you on a daily basis"

JASE: " there goes our trip together"

OKUHLE : " I understand, I'd do the same in your situation"

JASE: " that's why I love you so much"

OKUHLE : " that's what friends are for"

JASE: "night doll, guess I'll see you upon my return"

OKUHLE : " nyt babe, take care of yourself"

Life is one big roller-coaster. I really want to be there with him, guess this task he'll have to do by himself. Somehow my soul is restless, I miss my person and I'm on the edge of calling him. Just then there's a knock on my door. I rush to the door and peep through the small hole. My heart jumps for joy, my very own person. I open the door and throw myself in his arms. He holds me close.

NKANYISO : " was I that missed"

OKUHLE : " come here, let me show you how much you were missed"

NKANYISO : " can I be fed first"

OKUHLE : " main meal or dessert"

NKANYISO : " I want both but I don't mind skipping the main meal to dessert first"

OKUHLE : " now you talking my language"

NKANYISO : "I swear, you'll be the death of me"

OKUHLE : " shut up and kiss me"

He picks me up and puts me on the kitchen counter. He gets in between my thighs and takes of the baggy T. Shirt I had on. I help loosen his tie he takes off his shirt, belt shoes and trouser. The excitement in me, just what my body's been yearning for . Why he always leaves the boxers for last puzzles me. His all erect and ready for me. This is all the remedy I need. We back to kissing and touching. I've fallen so deep in love with this man. Just minutes back I was so empty and incomplete. Now he's here and I feel like I can conquer the world. I let myself go and succumb to his touch. In this moment nothing or no one matters its just me and My Nkanyiso Nxumalo.

Insert 37

That damn alarm again! I snooze it. I turn and watch him sleep. Guess he must've felt me staring at him. He opens his eyes and give me his lazy smile. He pulls me closer to him and stares deep in my soul.

NKANYISO : " my sunshine are you good this morning"

OKUHLE : " who wouldn't be? waking up next to their lover "

NKANYISO : " Ow really babe, just so you know the feeling is mutual. Why don't we just do it babe? Get hitched.

OKUHLE : " ha ha ha! you full of jokes this morning "

NKANYISO : " uhhhmm"

OKUHLE : " you not serious now or are you?"

NKANYISO : " only one way to find out, now come here"

That "come here" sounds dangerous, I'm yet to recover from last nights session. I jump out of bed and run to the bathroom. He's right behind me. He grabs me by my waist and I rest my head on his chest. The way my body gets paralysed by his touch. He draws patterns on my back, his soft lips comes in contact with my bare shoulders. He plants soft kisses on my shoulders all the way to my neck. His one hand is on my breast while his fingers are caressing my nipples. His other hand makes a debut entry to my Nana, soon as the fingers come in contact with folds.

Floods come pouring down. He rubs me gently and a moan escapes my lips. He giggles softly

NKANYISO : " do you want me babe"

OKUHLE : " mhmmmmmm"

NKANYISO : " I can't hear you my love, I need your permission to carry on with this task at hand "

OKUHLE : " yeeeessss, take me now"

NKANYISO : "your wish is my command Mrs N"

He takes my hand and guide me to a toilet seat. He sits first and I sit on him, squat position. I guide his tool in my flowing paradise. I don't move immediately , I'm allowing his girth to fill me. His eyes are so small, he's quite impatient today. He starts moving and I follow suit. We both move into our own slow rhythm, his grip on my waist becomes tight. Pleasure starts kicking in, I pick up the pace. I ride him like a woman possessed, maybe I am possessed. Possessed by his good Dick game. I let it all go and fall apart. He squeeze me so tight and he release all his juices on me. We sit in that position for a while, he gives me a passionate wet kiss.

NKANYISO : " damn I love you"

OKUHLE : " I love you more, we gonna be late"

NKANYISO : " fuck, he lifts me up and puts me down. Shit babe I have an early meeting with one of my clients"

OKUHLE : "let's quickly shower babe"

We shower together, he leaves immediately after that. I make my bed and get dressed quickly. There's no time to make my lunch box, my transport is already hooting for me. I rush outside and luckily I make it to work just in time. We have our coffee with the ladies and catch up as usual. Finally me and Antoinette are finally on our own, can she get it over and done with! I can see she's itching to tell me something.

ANTOINETTE : " so you and Nkanyiso are exclusive now"

OKUHLE : " something along those lines"

ANTOINETTE : "I knew it, details girl"

OKUHLE : " duty calls girl, duty calls"

ANTOINETTE : " I'll get you for this"

I leave her there, get into the office and carry on with my usual tasks. I wonder did he make it on time for his meeting, the boyfriend. I wonder how Jase is holding up, I'll call him around lunch. I call the Khumalo's, they are well. MaKhumalo said they went to deliver prayer by Jase's home, this confirms how bad his dad is. Friday I'm definitely going home, to offer my friend and his family support. His scent disturbs me from my thoughts. I look up, only to find him staring at me with a concerned look.

NKANYISO : " penny for your thoughts"

OKUHLE : " I'll have to go home this weekend, it's quite urgent"

NKANYISO : " what requires you to be home so urgently"

OKUHLE : " my best friend needs me, his dad is gravely ill. I was gonna visit them next weekend anyway, but I'll go this weekend instead"

NKANYISO : " Don't you want me to accompany you"

OKUHLE : " Don't think it's a good idea, all my attention will be focused on my friend and his family for the whole weekend. You'll feel neglected"

NKANYISO : " it makes sense but if I get too bored, I'll drive down there"

OKUHLE : " dramatic much"

NKANYISO : " nothings too dramatic were you are involved"

OKUHLE : " is that so Mr Nkanyiso sir"

NKANYISO : "I just came here to feed you, thought you'd be starving since we were pressed for time this morning"

OKUHLE : "and the best boyfriend award goes to,drumroll"

NKANYISO : " shut up and eat"

OKUHLE : " yes sir"

We eat over stupid jokes. A man that feeds me all ways, Thank you Lord. My thoughts are revolving around Jase, I just pray he makes it in time. Just so he can get closure, the talk with my mom had me worried. You know a person is gravely ill once they start delivering home prayers. Poor Jase. I sigh heavily. Now he really looks worried, guess he doesn't understand the bond me, Jase and our families have. His home has always been my second home since we were in primary school. This food is not going down well, I've lost my appetite. Shame my man is really worried now, the look on his face says it all.

NKANYISO : " maybe I can drive you home thursday night, before you go insane with worry"

OKUHLE : " really Babe, you'd do that for me"

NKANYISO : " anything for Mrs N"

OKUHLE : " I love you, you are the best boyfriend ever"

NKANYISO : " when it comes to you, I aim to please"

OKUHLE : " trust me I'm more than pleased"

NKANYISO : " Are you? Are you really pleased?"

OKUHLE : " more than pleased"

NKANYISO : "looks like I can boyfriend after all, I plan to husband as well"

OKUHLE : " you crazy dude"

NKANYISO : "come here"

He opens his arms and gives me one of his warm embrace. I instantly feel better, he rubs my back and assures me that all will be well. There's assurity in his statement, I believe him. He leaves for his meeting and I call Jase immediately.

JASE : "Lele"

OKUHLE : " talk to me doll"

JASE : " it's beyond bad Lele, I can hardly recognize him. Worse part is that he refuses to go to the hospital"

OKUHLE : " that's hectic, what's your mom's take on all of this. The hospital story"

JASE : " she's an obedient wife Lele. She's respecting and fulfilling his wishes. What more can we do?"

OKUHLE : " there's nothing more we can do or say my friend. Guess we should respect them, they know what they are doing"

JASE : " we haven't really talked but he seemed genuinely happy to see me. He gave me a hug Lele. I honestly think he want to make peace before he passes on"

OKUHLE : " I'm coming down Thursday night, I'll see you Friday morning my friend. See you soon"

JASE : " your support is much appreciated doll, can't wait to see you. I'm so drained but already at peace, feels good to be home finally. Even under these circumstances, it's been way too long Lele"

OKUHLE : " tell me about it, tell me about it. That's exactly how I felt few months ago. There really ain't no place like home"

JASE : " thanks for the call doll, I've got to run few errands for mom"

OKUHLE : " anytime babe, check on you later then"

I'm so relieved after my phone call with Jase, can't wait to see him Friday. The fact that he's at home and at peace gives me joy. I'm also glad he made it home just on time. The rest of the day goes by quite quick. I miss my boyfriend and food buddy. After work I rush home, I'm too lazy to cook. Bread or cereal will do. I decide to check on Jase after my bath and his phone rings unanswered. Worry instantly washes over me, but I'm comforted by the fact that my mom would've informed me if anything bad had happened. He's probably busy, it's not easy looking after an ill person. My phone rings, it's the boyfriend he's on his way. I smile by myself, all I want is to be wrapped around his arms and sleep my worries away.

Insert 38

It's Thursday already, the boyfriend and I are driving to mpumalanga. We bunked work all in the name of working from court. All the sacrifices and effort from him don't go unnoticed. The boyfriend, he seems pretty excited going to where his wife was born and breed. So he says, pretty crazy I tell you. I don't remember ever having so much fun driving home. We make casual stops to stretch, buy food and fill up gas. That gives him the opportunity to take random pics of me, we snap few pics together. For memories keeps, that's what he says. we'll probably take

part in the couples challenge. I won't mind going on more road trips with my Nka, his carefree nature makes it worthwhile. We are parked 5 houses away from my place, the mood is suddenly somber. The pout, he's sulking . This is gonna be more difficult than I thought.

OKUHLE : " babe, don't do that please. Don't sulk please"

NKANYISO : " I already miss you babe"

OKUHLE : " only 3 nights bae then I'll be wrapped around those arms, all night long "

NKANYISO : " huuh 3 nights, that's 72 hours, 4320minutes and counting. Don't even get me started on the seconds"

OKUHLE : " ha ha ha! I've already made peace with the fact that you crazy but I didn't know you were absolutely insane"

NKANYISO : " so crazy I'm thinking of booking in close by"

OKUHLE : " you wouldn't do that now, would you?"

NKANYISO : " is that's a dare?"

OKUHLE : " come here babe"

He comes closer and I devour his lips one more time. We both agree, I'll spend the night over his place upon my return. It's working, I see him loosen up a bit. Great! there's a smile now on his face. I pull him to me and kiss him. after all, it will be 4320 minutes before I get some loving. As difficult as it is, we part ways. Home sweet home, I bump into Sis' Thandi. Great just great!

SIS' THANDI : " Lele Khumalo, my girl. I've been staring at that expensive car. You are rolling with rich guys now"

OKUHLE : " hawu Sis THANDI"

SIS' THANDI: " look how you blushing, young love. Enjoy it my baby, love is a beautiful thing but some of us choose to love monsters"

Here we go again. I've heard this story a million times . Saved by the phone. It's the Bae, he decided to book in. He's too tired to drive so he'll check out in the morning and drive back. I get the feeling tonight I'll be wrapped around his arms. He might not say so now, but I know him too

well now . Atleast he saved me from Sis' thandis story, I wave goodbye to her and make my way home . I stand outside for a while and listen to my man complaining about missing me. We haven't even parted for an hour. This man and drama. I wrap up our call and get inside.

There she is my very own MaKhumalo busy with her pots. One day, I'll also cook everyday for my husband. Myb when I'm Mrs N, the smile creeps up my face. MaKhumalo turns and finds me smiling . She seems so happy to see me especially since my visit was only expected next weekend. She wipes her hands. I rush to her and I'm met by her warm embrace.

MAKHUMALO: " Lele, I'm so happy to see you"

OKUHLE : " not as much as I am, MA. where's your husband"

MAKHUMALO : " that's your father and you are not too old to get a hiding"

OKUHLE : " who's gonna make him tea if he hits me"

MAKHUMALO : " you are so beautiful and glowing Lele. I hope you are not making me a granny"

OKUHLE : " no I'm not, maybe Bhut' Siphwe will make you a granny soon"

MAKHUMALO : " I really hope so. He came to show us our Makoti, she's so beautiful and well mannered. Very down to earth, he found himself a true woman there. Her name is Langelihle Minenhle ,youll soon meet her"

OKUHLE : " I can't wait, I like her already"

MAKHUMALO : " you should even your father was impressed by her"

OKUHLE : " she's one special creature then, if Bab' Khumalo is impressed. now I really wanna meet her"

MAKHUMALO : " go greet your dad and you'll dish up for all of us"

Here goes nothing! I haven't even sat down and I'm already being sent around. Talk about being the only daughter. Bab' Khumalo and the news Channel. Geez! if it's not the news then it's the sports channel. My mom only watch gospel and cooking channels. I don't even get a chance to watch TV when I'm around.

OKUHLE : " Daddy! how are you Bab' Khumalo?"

BAB' Khumalo : " Lele, what a pleasant surprise. Come give your dad a hug. So you decided to surprise us on a Thursday night "

OKUHLE : " I missed you guys and I'm here because of Jase as well"

BAB' KHUMALO : " things are really bad Lele, I'm glad you are here to support him. That boy needs all the support he can get"

OKUHLE : " let's hope he'll recover, after all we can only hope and have faith"

BAB' KHUMALO : " my daughter is not only big but she's a wise woman now. I'm so proud of you, that's exactly how a wise woman speaks"

OKUHLE : " thank you dad, let me put my bag away and dish up before your wife starts complaining"

I put the bag in my room, make my way to the kitchen and dish up for the family. It's so nice having supper with the Khumalo's. I'll only go pass Jase's house tomorrow, it's too late now anyway. I do the dishes and retire to my bed. I call Jase and inform him that I'm here, and I'll only come by tomorrow since it's way too late now. He sounds so down over the phone, apparently all the family came to see his dad. They were fulfilling his wishes, its pretty hectic. It's only now I realize how bad things really are. All the uncles convinced him to go to the hospital but he didn't budge. He's always been a proud, stubborn man. Even in his death bed. Jase is really down, we chat and gossip. It seems to be working beaccuse he laughs every now and then.

We gossip about my brother and his new girlfriend. Jase wants to meet her as well, she's in demand. Imagine all of us are waiting to meet her.

I call Bhut ' Sipiwe and inform him that I'm home. We chat and he can't stop telling me about the love of his life. The dude is whipped but I'm happy for him. The way He describes her, she's a woman of his dreams. Finally he's free from all the crazy woman his been dating in the past. He's bringing her Saturday and I'm ordered to cook his favorite dishes. He has never went all out for a woman before. It's a date I can't wait for Saturday, after the call with my brother. I decide to call the boyfriend, he's been too quite for my liking. He answers on the second ring.

NKANYISO : " LET-O my love"

OKUHLE : " hy baby, just wanted to check on you

and say goodnight"

NKANYISO : "well, why don't you come out and say it to me"

OKUHLE : " you joking right?"

NKANYISO : " I'm serious as a heart attack, I've been packed here for the past hour. waiting for the lights to go off, so I can sneak you out of the house"

OKUHLE : " has anyone ever told you just how crazy you are"

NKANYISO : " a million times and you confirmed it a few times"

OKUHLE : " you are beyond crazy, that I can attest to "

NKANYISO : " come out, I miss you"

OKUHLE : " let me check the coast first"

NKANYISO : " I'm patiently and impatiently waiting for you"

OKUHLE : " is there such a phrase"

He laughs. Good the Khumalo's are already in bed. I sneak out , carefully so. He's parked right in front of my yard. This one doesn't know Bab' Khumalo too well. I stroll to the car, as soon as I'm in. He attacks me with a deep kiss. I haven't even said a word to him.we both pull out of the kiss

NKANYISO : "I missed you so much LET-O"

OKUHLE : " not as much as I do"

NKANYISO : " stop lying, how are the Khumalo's and did you see Jase? "

OKUHLE : "the Parents are good babe and Jase I'll only see him tomorrow, lost track of time with the parents earlier"

NKANYISO : " wish I can steal you for the night but I wouldn't want to upset my future inlaws"

OKUHLE : " haai babe, I'm willing to be stolen by you"

NKANYISO : " trust me, I'd love to but they are more important to me and I'm not about to disrespect them like that. Give me my goodnight kiss"

He can't be serious or is he?

Insert 39

He was dead serious and now I'm lying in my bed contemplating about what could've been. I've gotten so used to being dicktimized. it just doesn't feel right, being with him and not getting any. You see, the power of the D. The power of the D! An sms comes through from him, the nerve of this man.

"Goodnight Mrs N, I love you"

I melt and forget about my mini tantrum earlier on. I switch on my data and we chat till I fall asleep. It's a brand new day, my mom wakes me up to clean. House chores, it doesn't get any better. I don't even have the strength to complain, I'm avoiding the speech of being a lazy wife. Atleast I'll get done early and spend the rest of the day with Jase. It's 8am and I'm done with my chores, I don't even wake up 8am when I'm off. I bath and make breakfast for the Khumalo's. We have our breakfast reminiscing on good old days.

After the breakfast I chat with the boyfriend, he's driving back home.

I make my way to Jase's house, after reporting to the parents ofcourse. He meets me by the gate, we hug. I could be wrong but he had lost a bit of weight. We go inside the house, I greet the family. My eyes lands on Jase's father, the shock on my face is visible. He's all skin and bones, it's quite scary. I greet him properly with a handshake, he smiles and whispers my name. The tears are streaming down my face, I'm overwhelmed by sadness. I see Jase's mom wipe her tears and his sister looking down. Jase and I go back outside for some fresh air. I can't seem to stop the tears from flowing. Now Jase is comforting me, honestly I never thought he was this bad.

JASE : " it's bad Lele, he's been hallucinating since last night. Talking about he's ready to go home"

OKUHLE " no Jase"

JASE : " he has accepted his fate, he genuinely apologized to me last night. I'm so scared Lele"

OKUHLE : " come here"

I open my arms for him, we hug and cry together. It's really sad, I've lost all faith in his father ever recovering. If he makes it then it's by the grace of God, what I saw in there left me hopeless. He looked exhausted and pale.

JASE: " let's go for a walk Lele, I feel so drained and suffocated"

OKUHLE : " your wish is my command "

JASE : " when was the last time you had Kota (bunny chow) from Kota zone"

OKUHLE : " you kidding me right, does that place still exist"

JASE : " yep and I haven't eaten since this morning"

OKUHLE : " what are we waiting for then, let's go feed my favorite moghey"

We stroll down the road, there's few familiar faces I see along the way. This life has done a number on them. We arrive and order our bunny chows. My mouth is watering already, can't wait to dig in. Our order arrives, we decide to go chill by the park. We eat and go down memory lane.

JASE : " remember when you fell on that swing and tore your dress in the process"

OKUHLE : " Don't even mention it, the hiding I got from MaKhumalo. That was my Sunday dress and I wore it without her permission"

JASE: " remember when those bullies chased me and promised to beat me next time I'm seeing playing with girls"

OKUHLE : " ha ha ha you've always been gay my friend"

JASE: " no matter how many warning and threats I got, the next day I'd be back"

OKUHLE : " Yaaasss wena girl"

JASE: " Sis' Ntombi's underwears, I was always in trouble at home and by the playgrounds"

OKUHLE : " reminds me of the soccer team"

JASE: " I only joined to please my dad you know, but after 2 days of practice. I was down and out. Who trains so hard, the other players complained of me being too soft to the coach"

OKUHLE : " you definitely were my friend, no lie"

JASE: " do you even know how hard and sore the soccerball is?"

OKUHLE : " that can miss me, I'm not even a soccer fan"

His mood has improved so much. I'm so glad I decided to come home, my friend really needed me. We go down memory lane, amazing the kind of friendship we have. It doesn't matter the circumstances, we always come through for one another. Just then my man calls to inform me, he arrived safe at home. He starts sulking again complaining of being bored and missing me. Serves him right after denying me a sleepover. I'm having a conversation, blushing and Jase is staring at me with questioning eyes. This is not the time nor the place to tell him about my love life, not under these circumstances. I cut our conversation short, my main focus right now is Jase. So it's bye Bae.

JASE: " sneaky bitch, you have a boyfriend and you don't share the good news. I'm all ears, dish the news!"

OKUHLE : " it's still early days doll"

JASE: "all the details babe, where, when and how? time is all we have pray tell"

OKUHLE : " okay where do I start, I'm his PA, he's yummy and his sex is on steroids"

JASE: " you already let him dip in your paradise. Hee moghal you don't waste time, do you?"

OKUHLE : " it just happened you know "

JASE: " Haaibo! You little freak. Who are you and what have you done to my innocent friend"

OKUHLE : " your innocent friend is now a woman"

JASE : " tell me about it"

OKUHLE : " it might be Honeymoon phase Jase but I'm genuinely happy. He fits so perfectly in my life"

JASE : " my only issue or worry is your working relationship. Business and pleasure babe, things might get pretty ugly"

OKUHLE : " it makes sense, your concern. Surprisingly I haven't thought that far. I'm too consumed by his sex game and craziness, to the point where I've overlooked such things"

JASE: " happiness is written all over your face, I'm truly happy for you. This calls for a celebration"

OKUHLE : " I'd drink to that, this might be a good opportunity for me to introduce you to him"

JASE : " Amen I'll drink to that"

We chill and catch up some more. It feels like old times, back then we'd meet here to gossip in peace and plan our escape from this dusty township. Life was easier back then, the only worry was to pass and make it to the next grade.

I think we've been sitting here for 5 hours or so.

I probably should have heard home and start with the pots. Dad is quite fussy and super must be served at 7pm xap. We stroll back. I want to say my goodbyes to my next family, so we head straight to Jase's home. We are almost by the gate when Jase's mom screams and wails. Her cries cut straight deep in my heart, I get instantly weak. This can't be happening, my knees get weak. My feet are heavy to carry me, Jase runs in the house. His screams confirm what my mind was failing to register.

JASE: " Dad no dad, you can't do this to me!"

He screams, I want to get to him. I really want to be by his side. But my body feels paralysed from waist down. Luckily one of the uncles spots me and come help me. He half carries me inside the house. Seeing him curled up like that next to the couch gives me strength. I rush to him and wrap my arms around him. He wails in my arms and I let them flow. This is really sad everyone is just crying. I see one of the uncles closing the Masters bedroom door. I hear one auntie calling the police and the funeral parlour. Life is short and unpredictable, just this morning I shook his hand and now he is gone. I cry even more, Jase is no longer wailing he's just sobbing. My phone rings and I just let it be. Whoever's calling is no more important than my friend and his family at this current moment. Reality just hit me hard, it all boils down to this. We all live just to die one day.

I make a promise to myself to check and visit my parents on a regular basis. Jase's dad wasn't even sick for that long but he's no more. Jase's mom is so broken and so is the sister. The police arrive first and the people from the morgue follow shortly after them. They do their job without anyone interrupting them. It's when they carry out Jase's father lifeless body, that everyone start crying and wailing all over again. My phone vibrates from my pocket again. I'm way too weak and too emotional to answer it let alone look at it. My poor moghey just when he made peace with his dad, then this.!!

Insert 40

Neighbour's and close families are already here to offer their condolences. Jase's mom is sitting in the mattress with two elderly woman from her husband's families side . I've been up and down with Ntombi making tea for the elders. Jase is too wrapped up in his emotions. He needs all the time to absorb what has happened. I let him be and assist Ntombi, one of their cousins has joined us as well . The Khumalo's are also here with some of the church ladies. It's such a sad sight to witness. People are coming and going, it's quite hectic. This is how life has come to be, death, weddings and celebrations are the only things that get us together as families. Life is just too complicated.

It's getting pretty late and I'm ready to go home now. I search for Jase but he's nowhere insight. Apparently they are in the meeting, discussing the burial date and all the Admin that comes with it. He's the surviving son so he must be present in these meetings. Ntombi and their cousin Nqobile are accompanying me home. I'm so exhausted all I need is a bath and my bed. They take me all the way. I get home and the Khumalo's are watching e-news. I'm so drained, they just let me be. I take my bath and retire to bed. My phone, I have to call Jase before passing out. There's 9 missed call from the boyfriend and watsapp messages. I completely forgot about him, he's probably worried sick. I'll call him after getting in touch with Jase. I try countless times to get ahold of him to no avail. I'm worried sick, So I leave him a message. Tomorrow I'll go there early in the morning. So I call my boyfriend

NKANYISO : " Babe, are you okay? Thank goodness I've been worried sick about you. You don't answer your phone and I almost"

OKUHLE : "wooo slow down u talking too fast and my brain isn't functioning properly"

NKANYISO : " okay Mrs, so tell me are you alright"

OKUHLE : " I'm definitely not good babe, Jase's father passed on today"

NKANYISO : " Babe I'm sorry to hear that, shame poor Jase. I don't even know him but he must be devastated, losing a parent. I can't even imagine what he must be going through"

OKUHLE : " it's bad babe, he's beyond devastated. I mean they've just made peace and now he must bury him"

NKANYISO : " yooh I don't even know what to say, what was wrong with the old man"

OKUHLE : " prostate cancer, he wasn't even sick for long, two weeks max and he's gone"

NKANYISO : " as sad as it is, atleast he managed to make peace with his dad. Not a lot of people are as fortunate"

OKUHLE : " guess you are right babe"

NKANYISO : " of course I'm right, wish I could be with you right now and hold you"

OKUHLE : " how I wish"

NKANYISO : " mmmhm I might just"

OKUHLE : " Don't you even dare"

He laughs, I join in. We chat some more and I feel a bit better after our little chat. Tonight I go to bed with a heavy heart. I'm overwhelmed by everything that took place today. I can't even imagine what Jase might be feeling. I imagine what I'd be like if I had to lose one of my parents, the pain is just too much. I'm sobbing all over again, does it even get better. I have a slight headache now, don't think I'll fall asleep anytime soon. My heart's just not at peace. I make my way to the kitchen, the parents are already sleeping and I need painkillers. I scratch through my mom's first aid kit, luckily there's a painkiller. I take two and retire to bed. Twenty minutes in bed and I pass out.

It's Saturday and as usual MaKhumalo wakes me to clean and prepare lunch for Bhut' Sipiwe and our potential Makoti Langelihle. To think I was in such good and high spirits to meet her. Not that I'm not looking forward to it, but I'm just too drained. I must go to the mall as well for a few things. Wow! MaKhumalo said it's just a few things but I end up with a list. I prepare myself, the plan is to go past Jase's house first. I must check up on him, he hasn't even been on WhatsApp. I go past his house, they sent him to run a few errands. Guess I'll see him later on.

I'm at the mall, luckily all the items lead me to one store and one store only. I'm not in the mood for ups and downs anyway. I get all the items and make my way to the till point, the queues aren't long either. I'm done in an hour. I go past Milky Lane for their ice cream, might as well. Someone pats me on my shoulder while I'm standing on the queue. I turn and I'm met by none other than my annoying ex. I roll my eyes, today of all days.

SMANGA: " can I have 5 minutes of your time, promise I won't upset you"

OKUHLE : " what makes you think I have time to spare after our last encounter"

SMANGA : " please, I promise to leave you alone for good after this "

OKUHLE : " okay then"

SMANGA : " thank you, I really appreciate it"

He's leading me to wimpy, thought this was going to be a 5minute chat. We settle down and he orders a Mango juice. Somethings never change, he asks me to order but I'm not in a social mood. He better say what he brought me here for. He sighs heavily, I'm getting irritated with every passing minute. Haaibo! Why am I here, can he speak already before I walk out of here.

SMANGA : " I owe you an apology Lele. I was a selfish coward and I acknowledge that now. I decided to pay lobola and marry who I thought was the love of my life at the time.I should've officially ended things with you but the selfish me wanted my bread buttered on both sides. At the time it made sense to me having a wife and a side. That's what most of us guys do"

OKUHLE : " wow, so why you telling me this now"

SMANGA : " because all my bad ways have caught up with me and I got served with a taste of my own medicine. Let's just say now I know how it feels to be cheated on and played Lele. Worse part by the person I trusted the most"

OKUHLE : " wow I didn't see that one coming"

SMANGA : " everything that glitters isn't gold, I lost a diamond while counting stones"

OKUHLE : " woow dude, it's all in the past. I've longed forgiven you,even though it was hard at first"

SMANGA : " you don't know how good it feels to hear you saying those words. Thank you Lele"

OKUHLE : " Don't mention it, besides thank you for everything. You know without you I wouldn't have moved to joburg. I wouldn't have met this amazing man, who makes my heart skips a beat each time he looks my way. Without that heartbreak I wouldn't have know just how strong I am as an individual. So whatever happened between us was part of my journey. At first I prayed you'd stop the wedding and come for me. But now I'm glad you didn't. It's unfortunate what happened to you, the deception and pain that comes with being cheated and taken for a ride is just too much. I wouldn't even wish it upon my worst enemy.

SMANGA : " wow that was a mouthful, I've messed up on a good thing. I want to apologize also for almost deceiving you into marrying me. I'm so ashamed of myself. I was yet selfish and

desperate. Please forgive me"

OKUHLE : " I forgive you Smanga for everything"

SMANGA : " Thank you Lele, I wish you all the best and please take good care of yourself. Whoever is dating you now, I hope they know just how lucky they are. I'd give anything to turn back the hands of time and do things right. But I'll live with the fact that I'm the one who messed up "

OKUHLE : " take good care of yourself as well, hope you meet the love of your life "

SMANGA : " only time will tell. right now I'm focusing on my career, clearly love doesn't love me "

OKUHLE : " Don't be silly, look! It was nice catching up. I really need to go now "

SMANGA : " thank you once again for your time "

OKUHLE : " Don't mention it, see you around "

I grab my shopping bags and leave. I feel much more lighter atleast that part of my life is closed for good. That woman surely did a number on him, talk about karma. Great! now I have to wait till this taxi is full. I need to check up on Jase. His number is still on voicemail. I'm a bit excited, I'm going to see my brother and his plus one.

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Soon as I get home. I drop the grocery and rush to Jase's house. I can't stay any minute longer without seeing him. Luckily I spot him sitting with his uncles in their veranda. He meets me halfway and drags me to one of the empty back rooms. We hug briefly, he looks exhausted. Planning the funeral has taken its toll on him Shame. He tells me his father will be buried next week Saturday. So Next week Friday I'll have to come back for the burial. We sit in the little couch, he buries his hands in his face.

OKUHLE : " hey look at me.. I'm here okay"

JASE: " it's so hard Lele. I have to be strong for mom and Ntombi. The uncles are telling me to be strong for the family. I'm the only male figure, the head of the house and I'm required to be strong"

OKUHLE : " you can be weak and vulnerable with me doll, you can cry on my shoulder. You don't

have to pretend with me"

Jase : " I'm so glad you here with me Lele, it's funny how everyone else disregard my feelings. I also lost a father, I'm grieving as well. But no! A man doesn't cry, a man has to be strong. That's all I've been hearing ever since I got here Lele"

OKUHLE : " vent babe, let it all out. If need be, cry. You'll feel so much better afterwards"

JASE : " mom hasn't said a word, she hasn't cried ever since the body was taken to the morgue. I'm so worried about her"

OKUHLE : " she's grieving in her own way, people grieve differently doll"

JASE : " I guess so, there's a part of me that's relieved you know. I'm so glad I made it home just in time. Atleast we made peace and he's in a much better place now"

OKUHLE : " he's resting J the pain was way too much for him"

JASE : " he waited for me Lele, he waited for me"

OKUHLE : " come here"

We hug and he sobs. I just let him be, he's been carrying a lot on his shoulder and the pressure from the elders doesn't make it any easier. I don't even blame the elders they are passing down their knowledge and teachings from one generation to another generation. Jase is a different type of male all together, if only they understood that. We talk and chill some more. I have to go home to welcome our Makoti. Jase is in such a jolly mood by the time I leave. I promise to come back later, so we can gossip about our Makoti. Bhut' Sipiwe's car is already parked outside our yard.

There's laughter inside the house. This must be nice. She's gorgeous my goodness, she's helping MaKhumalo dish up. I stand there by the door admiring this view. This brother of mine doesn't waste time, I spot a baby bump on our beautiful Makoti.

MAKHUMALO: " there you are, come In and greet our beautiful Makoti"

OKUHLE : " hello I'm Lethokuhle mom's last born"

LANGELIHLE: " the famous snorty face, look how beautiful you are. I'm Langelihle Ntombela, nice to finally meet you. I've heard a lot about you"

OKUHLE : " good things only I hope"

LANGELIHLE: " he adores you"

OKUHLE : " I'm glad to finally meet you, you are really beautiful and you glowing too"

LANGELIHLE : " well let's just say someone will be an aunty soon"

OKUHLE : " Amen, I can finally pass down the snorty face name"

LANGELIHLE : " Don't you dare"

I understand why my brother fell for her and why the Khumalo's are so fond of her. My brother finally found one of the good one's. She's so calm and sweet. There's something special that draws you into her. Maybe it's her calm nature, the way she throws her one hand in the air when she laughs. She's a very warm friendly individual. We dish up and serve the rest of the family. The way they keep stealing glances at each other, it's such a beautiful sight to witness. I miss my own person now. The food is great and the company is lovely. We do the dishes together and my brother keeps on coming to steal kisses.

OKUHLE : " gosh, can you be so annoying. Allow our Makoti to breath pls"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " jealousy makes you nasty"

OKUHLE : " I'm so happy for you Bhuti, I'll even add a 10% on the lobola money"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " Don't worry little sis, I'm sorted and I'm visiting her family soon. I can't wait to make you Mrs Sipheriwe Khumalo"

LANGELIHLE : " Ow really now my love"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " yes my better half"

OKUHLE : " this is my queue to leave "

I can't believe these two, they're busy exchanging saliva in my presence. Yuck! I leave them there and make my way into my room. I might as well check on my boyfriend as well. He answers on the third ring.

NKANYISO : " Mrs me, how are doing today"

OKUHLE : " my lover, my man crush everyday. I'm well just missing you"

NKANYISO : " man crush everyday huuh"

OKUHLE : " yes that and many more my lover"

NKANYISO : " I love you Mrs N, how's your best friend today"

OKUHLE : " he's heartbroken but he'll live, I'll go see him later on again"

NKANYISO : "okay my love, should I pick you up tomorrow. How are you planning on coming back home"

OKUHLE : " my very own chauffeur. I didn't even think that far"

NKANYISO : " it's a deal then, I'm fetching you tomorrow"

OKUHLE : " you are the best bae, look got to go. We will chat again before my bedtime"

I chill with the lovebirds and the Khumalo's for the rest of the afternoon. Me and Langelihle are getting along quite well. We exchange numbers. I think I've found A sister in her. They leave a bit early. MaKhumalo is so excited about having a grand child. My brother is sending the elders after two weeks for lobola negotiations, they are already planning their wedding. Apparently they both don't want their child to be born out of wedlocks. Talk about doing things properly. I decide to go check on Jase as promised. The church members are here for a prayer ceremony and some Neighbours. Me and the ladies are back to making tea and serving it with scones. My feet are so sore, come to think of it. I've hardly had any rest since my arrival. The trips to the mall, the waking up early and cleaning the house. After about an hour everyone has left and I'm also ready to go home. Jase accompanies me back home. I tell him all about our precious Makoti, my encounter at the mall with Smanga. He's more shocked about the unexpected apology, so was I. I'm glad he's feeling much better, I promise to come see him before I go back to jhb tomorrow. Even though I wish, I can stay the whole week till the burial. I'm an employee and duty calls. We separate and i feel so much better. My friend is coping well under these circumstances. I make a mental note to call him everyday when I'm back in jhb.

I get home and soak myself in a much deserved bath. What a day! I call Langelihle and they are home safe. I send Jase a goodnight text message. The boyfriend calls and we catch up. I'm so sleepy, I keep yawning during our conversation. We say our goodnight. Today I've experienced all the emotions from my encounter with Smanga, Jase, Langelihle, my brother and the Khumalo's. Today I forgave, cried and laughed. Was a bit sad by Jase's house but life has to go on. As soon as my head makes contact with the pillow, it was lights out. What a day!

It's Sunday. I wake up early before the Khumalo's and clean the house. I take a bath and make breakfast. It's just after 7 and I'm done with all my chores. All thanks to the 5am alarm. Makhumalo is awake and I know they have church to attend. So we settle for breakfast, after breakfast they prepare for church and I pack my bags for later. The boyfriend will get here around 3pm, at least that gives me enough time to check on Jase and spend about two hours with the Khumalo's before my departure. It'll be a great idea to cook for the fam, so we can have lunch together after church. There's not a lot to do anyway, we still have salads from yesterday. All I'll have to cook is rice and meat with some gravy. I get on it straight away, if I can make it to Jase's house around 11am. That's the whole reason why I was up so early, so I can clean, cook, pack and spend time with my bestie before I go to jhb.

It's past 9 and the parents are rushing for the 10am service. Good! I'm also done in an hour. I use the parents shower so I can finish quickly. Really needed to freshen up after slaving away so early. The pots are done, the bag is packed. I'm making my way to Jase's house. It's pointless calling him these days, he hardly uses his phone. I don't blame him though, the elders are quite strict and have him on a tight leash. If he's not running errands for them, then he's cooked up in one of those never-ending meetings of theirs. I guess the only time he gets to use his phone is when he's in bed about to sleep. My poor friend but all this will come to pass. I get there and I'm met by Ntombi, he tells me Jase is in hospital. They had to take their mother because her blood pressure was too high. My goodness, I have no choice but to request an Uber and go to the hospital straight away.

I keep trying Jase but his phone just rings unanswered. How am I going to locate them in this huge ass hospital. I'm at the front desk, asking for help. Luckily the nurse directs me to where they are. She hasn't been admitted yet so it's quite easy finding them. They are waiting outside while the doctor examines her. This is way too much. Jase looks so down and lost, Lord have mercy. I can't even begin to imagine what he must be going through. Planning the funeral and having your mom admitted to the hospital. I'm also weak now. I just make my way to him and squeeze his hand. He's been sitting in this chair and staring down. He's stressing, I'd also be. I so want to give him a hug but I decide against it. Don't want the uncles to be in his case on being a weak man. They all believe a man has to be strong, whatever that means. My friend is hurting right now. He lifts his face and looks at me. His eyes are bloodshot red, this sight breaks my heart into little pieces.

We can't even talk right now. Everyone is quite and wallowing in their sorrows. I just sit next to him and we all wait in anticipation to what the doctor has to say. We've been sitting here for

over an hour when the Doctor finally makes his way to us. The doctor ask for the closest family and I panic immediately. Jase and one the elderly aunt get closer to the doctor. He is saying a mouthful to them but we can't hear anything. After a while they make their way to us. The aunt tells all of us that Jase's mom is well and won't be admitted. But they need to keep a close eye on her and make sure she doesn't stress. They fetch her from the casualty ward, she looks so weak and fragile. Atleast she's going back home, maybe this has everything to do with her bottling everything inside. This is really hard.

I'm traveling with Jase and his two uncles, the mom is with the two aunts and the other uncle. We are sitting at the backseat and I'm just lost for words. I don't even know how to comfort my friend. We are back at his place and luckily her moms two sisters have just arrived. I hope she'll feel better and open up to them. Jase seems relieved after seeing the two aunts. The mom also seems a bit at ease. We go back to the backroom again. Jase lets it all out, once we are alone. I just hug him and offer him a shoulder to cry on.

JASE : " you don't know how relieved I am seeing my mother's two sister here. Things are so messed up Babe. The family politics and drama. One of my father's brother wants to take charge and control everything. That's what caused mom's blood pressure to rise. Why are people so selfish and heartless"

OKUHLE : " this is messed up"

JASE : " I just want this over and done with"

OKUHLE : " it will pass and look at the bright side now. Your mom has her own sister for support now"

JASE: " you don't know how relieved I am right now, atleast that's one less thing to worry about"

OKUHLE : " exactly my friend, just carry on with the arrangements and respect your father's last wishes"

JASE: " I honestly don't understand why there must be debates over everything"

OKUHLE : " the good will prevail in the end, I think you guys must stick together with your mom and do what your dad would be happy with"

JASE: " exactly what me and Sis' Ntombi were discussing last night"

OKUHLE : " exactly my friend"

JASE: " I completely forgot you are leaving today doll. You know this family drama has me by the balls"

OKUHLE : " ha ha ha! the balls you say my friend"

JASE: " ha ha ha! Oow you know exactly what I mean so when are you leaving"

OKUHLE : " in two hours time, the boyfriend is fetching me"

JASE: " honey it looks like you've bagged yourself a good one. You mean to tell me he's driving all the way from jhb to Mp.damn! The nigga is whipped"

OKUHLE : " too whipped he drove me all the way from jhb to Mp. But I'm just as whipped. There's something so different about him Jase. I'm complete when I'm with him. It seems like it's just the two of us in the entire planet. For the very first time in my life, I can admit I'm in love shamelessly so "

JASE:" that's the sweetest thing I've ever heard coming out of your mouth where love is concerned. Girl you are inlove. This story of yours just gave me hope. Somewhere out there there's a prince charming for me "

OKUHLE : " you are damn right there is, who wouldn't love such a strong, wise and gorgeous man like you "

JASE:" of course I'm gorgeous honey. That Mr right better come find me "

OKUHLE : " amen to that "

JASE:" let's go have lunch with the Khumalo's, I need timeout from all this. Even if it's just for a minute "

OKUHLE : " your wish is my command, plus I cooked up a storm. Well not a storm but u know what I mean "

We go to the Khumalo's residence and they are back from church. They seem happy to see our guest, what am I saying. It's their second son. I set up the table while mom and dad have a heart to heart conversation with their son. I dish up and serve them. We have lunch over light conversation. It's so refreshing seeing Jase laughing from his stomach after all the drama that's been occurring in his life. I've completely forgotten just how humorous Bab' Khumalo is. He's taking us down memory lane, when we were kids. All the mischievous things we got up to. My goodness this man has kept record of all our mischievous activities. Some I've long forgotten about. I'm glad Jase came over, this is all the remedy he needed. It's almost 3pm and the boyfriend already sent the message that he's an hour away. This gives me enough time to indulge in some of Bab' Khumalo's tell tales.

We do the dishes with Jase. After we done, he joins the Khumalo's . I dissappear to the

bathroom to freshen up a bit and have a change of outfit. It's time to say my goodbye to the fam and Jase. I'll see them in 4 Days time,my ride is already here. Dad is a bit concerned, I tell him I'm catching a ride with my colleague. He gets a bit relieved. I hug Jase one last time, my ride is parked further down the street. Jase says he's still chilling with his 2nd parents. He just needs a bit of space. I take my bag and walk all the way to my ride. He's leaning against the car. My sexy Mr Nkanyiso .

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He attacks me with a hug followed by a smooch, he takes my bag and put it in the boot. He straps me in my seat, after our Friday road trip. I'm really excited, traveling with this man it's an adventure on its own. Let the journey begin.

NKANYISO : " my person, how are you today?"

OKUHLE : " I'm good my baby, so you drove all the way just for me"

NKANYISO : " it's amazing the things I'm prepared to do for you. This is nothing compared to all the things I'm willing and yet to do for you"

OKUHLE : " am I blessed or Am I blessed"

NKANYISO : " all I know is that I'm blessed and I'm willing to stick with you till the end"

OKUHLE : " if I didn't know any better I'd think you are proposing marriage"

NKANYISO : " of course I am but I'll make it official along the way. I just need to make it clear that I'm here to stay and foverer that is"

OKUHLE : " mmhmm let me think about it"

NKANYISO : " do you need some convincing Mrs N"

OKUHLE : " depends what kind of convincing you talking about"

NKANYISO : " mhhhhmm you don't really want to know"

OKUHLE : " mhmmm I guess so"

NKANYISO : " how are my in laws"

OKUHLE : " they are good babe"

The rest of the trip was fun and enjoyable plus Sundays there's hardly any traffic. I had to pick up few clothes from my place because the boyfriend wanted me all to himself. I checked up on Jase and informed the Khumalo's of my safe arrival. Later that night I slept so peaceful in my bae's arms. The rest of the week went by quite quickly and I had to take a bus home Friday morning coz the Bae had back to back cases in court. So here I am again on my way home. Jase hasn't been answering his calls but I honestly don't blame him. The day before the funeral is quite hectic. I get home around 3pm. I drop my bags at home and I'm just on time. The Khumalo's are heading to Jase's house, I change into a long dress and tie my headwrap. We all head to Jase's house, it's a full house and people are waiting for the coffin to arrive so they can slaughter the cow and start peeling veggies. So I join the ladies and we wait.

I'm disturbed by my phone, it's the boyfriend. I move away from the crowd just to answer the call. Isn't he the sweetest ever, he wanted to know if I made it safely home. I'm still conversing with my person and all of the sudden there's loud screams and sad cries. The coffin is here, reality just hit me hard. This is the moment of truth and sadness. My mind can't grasp anything that my Bae is saying, he realises it and promise he'll call again later today. All I do is nod as if he can see me. He hangs up first and a message follows.

'love I'll call you later "

The men have slaughtered the cow and the ladies are busy peeling the veggies. I grab a knife and get on it as well. Past 5 we are all done with the veggies. The church members are already arriving apparently they are going to hold a night vigil. My feet are complaining now, I haven't even seen Jase. He's probably too busy with the elders. I search for Ntombi and luckily I find her with her cousins. I tell her that I'm heading home but I'll be back around 10 for the night vigil. I'm really tired, I need to rest a bit even if it's just for 2 hours. I get the house keys from MaKhumalo and head home. I set my alarm for 9:30 pm and I sleep.

I wake up and it's 5am. My goodness, what happened to my alarm. I jump out of bed, I have 4 missed calls from the boyfriend and 2 from Jase. There's also a message from Jase

'heard you were here earlier on, rest babe. I'll see you in the morning'

I get ready and I'm all dressed up after making my bed. MaKhumalo tells me she switched off

my alarm when she got home, Jase's instructions. We prepare and leave. The service is at their home and we leave for the graveyard. Jase's moms cries pierced right through my heart when the coffin is lowered. Jase and Ntombi are comforting her. I find myself sobbing, this is too sad. A number of people are already rushing to their transport. It's all done now, we all leave to Jase's home. We wash our hands in the zinc basin filled with aloe leaves. It's tradition after being at the graveyards.

I'm not even hungry I just want to see my friend. I spot him and he makes his way to me.

JASE : " doll, don't be angry at me neh. I asked MaKhumalo to switch off your alarm so you can get some rest"

OKUHLE : " she told me this morning, how are you now"

JASE: " I feel better doll atleast everything is done and the old man is laid to rest in his final place. Mom has been talking with her sisters and she opened up to us Thursday night. I was worried about her wellbeing but now, I'm not so worried anymore"

OKUHLE : " glad to hear that doll"

JASE: " why don't we get out of here for some bunny chows and hang around the park. I'm so not in the mood for this food"

OKUHLE : "it's like you've just read my mind "

JASE : " say no more"

We make our way into the Kota zone for bunny chows and ice cold coke. We chill at the park and eat. He's filling me up on all the drama that occurred during the week. Some stories are funny and others are shocking. Like the uncle who wanted to take over his brothers household and fill his brothers shoes. Imagine, luckily he was called into order. That tradition is not even followed by Jase's in laws, talk about a real chancer. That's the same man who wanted to take over the funeral arrangements. He was reprimanded by their old Aunt, imagine he didn't even get along with Jase's father. What makes him want to take over his home, puzzles me and the whole family.

JASE: " I feel like indulging in some red wine after all the hectic week I've had"

OKUHLE : "you deserve a turn up and I'm taking you clubbing soon as you back in jhb"

JASE: " I'll drink to that and hopefully I'll get a chance to meet Mr lover boy"

OKUHLE : " that's the whole plan doll, I'll formally introduce you to the lover"

JASE: " I honestly can't wait to meet the one who stole my best friends heart"

OKUHLE : " all in good time friend all in good time"

JASE : " to think I have another week to go doll, I'll stick around for 10 days then I'll come back next week Sunday. Atleast I'll get a chance to chill with mom and Ntombi"

OKUHLE : " atleast there won't be drama since most of the family will be leaving today"

JASE: " Amen to that, especially uncle Simon. I've heard enough of that man. No one seems to like him anyway"

OKUHLE : " forget about him, he's a chancer and his chances ran out. The nerve"

JASE: " tell me about it doll, tell me about it. Who really takes over their siblings home and wife. Really that man is something else"

OKUHLE : " he's been eeying your mom all along, or he's always been envious of your father or he's a natural chancer. Either way none of his plans worked"

JASE: " did I tell you, he was asking one of my moms sister out. Who does that? She was so pissed she almost slapped him but contained herself out of my dad's respect and memory"

OKUHLE : " bathong!! Uncle Simon is a problem"

JASE : " a definition of opportunist"

It's been good catching up with my Jase. I can tell his heart is at peace now. Im so glad this whole thing has passed now. We went to his place and chilled a bit. The tent and the mobile toilet were collected already. The society ladies have cleaned and took all their pots, plates and cuttlery. Everything is back to normal now. One of Jase's moms sister remained behind with her. Everyone has left. I can't believe we were gone for so long. I go greet Jase's mom and she's also way better than she was. She even recited the whole story how he got sick and the cancer was discovered way too late. There was nothing the doctor's could've done. She sheds a few tear every here and there . She's a very strong woman, I admire her strength and courage. The aunt mentions uncle Simon and everyone burst into laughter. That man will have karma to deal with, I tell you. After such a sad and draining long week. Here we are laughing again. Life!!

That night I slept with a peaceful heart. No matter how bad things always seem to be, life has a way of sorting itself out, all we have to do is trust in the process. Sunday I woke up early and cooked for the fam, sadly I won't stick around for lunch. I'm traveling with public transport and I'll only see Jase for an hour or so. Of course the boyfriend doesn't know about this arrangement, he said he'll fetch me around 4 pm but I'll be halfway there by then. I can't allow him to drive all the way just for me, even though he doesn't seem to mind but I'm not allowing this to happen. So I go pass Jase and catch up with him, my bus leaves at exactly 12pm. We chat and at 11pm I make my way to the bus station.

I decide to call the boyfriend and inform him that I'm already on my way. I hope he doesn't take this the wrong way. It's for his own good anyway, I mean this man has done so much for me and this is the least I can do. he answers on the second ring, gosh he sounds so excited.

NKANYISO : "Mrs Me, can't wait to see you"

OKUHLE : " babe, about that I'm already on my way"

NKANYISO : " what! Tell me you are joking"

OKUHLE : " I'm not babe, I'm 3 hours away now. I really wanted to make things easier for you Bae"

NKANYISO : " wow, so you chose to be sneaky about it. Why would you think you making things easier for me. Did I ever complain to you"

OKUHLE : "no babe, this is coming from a good place"

NKANYISO : " miss Khumalo I don't want to lie, I'm really not impressed with this decision and sneaky behavior of yours"

OKUHLE : " okay Mr Nkanyiso Nxumalo Sir, I promise it won't happen again"

NKANYISO : " it better"

OKUHLE : " I'm sorry babe okay"

NKANYISO : " get your ass over here, I need a proper apology"

OKUHLE : " your wish is my command sir"

NKANYISO : " good I think this act of yours deserves a bit of punishment"

OKUHLE : " OMG"

NKANYISO : " the exact words I'll have you uttering when I'm busy punishing you"

OKUHLE : " Mr Nkanyiso Sir, can we have this discussion face to face"

NKANYISO : " as you wish Mam, see you just now"

Woow!! He's gonna punish me alright. Why am I thinking about him now, Bra Muzi. Maybe it's because he was a master of punishment. That man used to punish me like nobody's business. Funny how all these questions are popping through my mind, only now. For a Man who's well off and loaded like him. Why the contract? Why didn't he just get the right woman and settle down or maybe he was married and I only served as a pawn for his sexual fantasies. One can never know when it comes to men. Regardless of my past experience I choose to love again. I put my headsets on and indulge in some music. There's a guy sitting opposite me and he's been staring at me shamelessly, he's giving me the creeps.

I try napping but it's hard when there's someone staring at you. My goodness, atleast we arrive in jhb. I jump off and mr creepy is behind me.im so glad babe is waiting for me just around the corner. I can spot his car. Haaibo! This man just grabs my arm.

CREEPY MAN : " baby are you gonna give me your number. There's this chemistry between us, don't play hard to get"

OKUHLE : " let go of my arm please"

CREEPY MAN : " feisty neh. I like them feisty and a bit sturbon"

My phone rings. I can't even reach it, this fool tighten his grip on my arm. Swear I'll wake up with a bruise on that area. I smell his scent before I can even see him. I get the feeling this isn't gonna end well. Mr Creepy over here has a smirk on his face. He's definitely not right upstairs who grabs a stranger and demands their numbers. What chemistry is he even referring to.

NKANYISO : " please let go of my girls arm before I loose my temper"

MR CREEPY : " I don't see a ring on her fingers, so the lady is not married. Let her speak for herself"

NKANYISO : " I'm so sorry babe that you are about to witness this"

I'm still trying to make some sense to what he's saying. We even have audience now, there's a little crowd that's gathered watching what's about to transpire. He punches the man straight on his nose. The fool let's go of my arm, he's bleeding now. He swears at us, but we pay him no mind. We walk away while the crowd watches. I hear comments such as

' he's really a gentleman, I would've knocked some respect into him'.

' the poor lady, Eey some guys are psychos'

' he'll learn to respect other people's girlfriend next time'

'sies! What a pig, forcing himself on a girl. He's probably a rapist'

All I want to do is go home and be wrapped around my supermans arms. I can tell he's still fuming. Shame. He starts the car and drives straight to his place. Okay so tonight I'm not even fetching my clothes from my place. We are parked in his driveway. I'm not even sure whether to start a conversation or just keep quite.

NKANYISO : " I'm sorry for losing my temper earlier babe. Trust me I would've messed up his face, but I saw u got uncomfortable"

OKUHLE : " no need to apologize my love, that man is a psycho. He was literally staring at me the whole trip, I was so creeped out"

NKANYISO : " you see why I wanted to fetch you from the beginning"

OKUHLE : " yeah babe and I promise that was the first and last time I go against your wishes"

NKANYISO : " no Mrs N, look I still want you to have your own opinion and we'll have disagreements as couples. When it comes to your safety babe, I'd go crazy if anything bad had to happen to you"

OKUHLE : "I hear you Zwide kaLanga"

NKANYISO : " Mrs N, you'll be the death of me. Do you know that"

OKUHLE : " Ndwandwe, Mkhathswa"

Is that a smile on his face. That's a wide genuine smile, I've googled and practiced his clan names along the way. I was armed incase the punishment was going to be brutal and severe. I'm quite impressed with myself. He climbs off, comes to my side and opens my door. Ow God that smirk says it all. I still don't have clothes for work tomorrow but right now that fact doesn't even matter anymore. He unstraps me and carries me to the house as if I weigh nothing.

NKANYISO : " are you ready for your punishment Mrs N"

OKUHLE : " Mr Nxumalo are we feeling a bit naughty"

NKANYISO : " you have no idea Mrs me, but first I want to punish you for making me go around punching your psychos"

OKUHLE : " Ow, he's my psycho now"

NKANYISO : " of course not, I'd hit him all over gain"

He carries me all the way to the bedroom. He commands me to strip as part of my punishment. So today there won't be fourplay, let me just take my punishment.He leaves the room and comes back with a set of handcuffs. He strips all his clothes and cuffs both my hands above my head. He opens both my thighs and he dives in with his magical tongue. Gosh, I'm speaking jibberish within minutes. It's so good. I'm screaming his name and confessing my undying love for him. I feel my self build up just one more lick then I'll reach my climax. He pulls away. This man he can't do this to me. He goes to the bathroom. Next I hear the shower running, gosh I hear him moan. This man can't be jerking off while I'm here ready to be pounded on. He comes back smelling fresh. He gets inside the covers.I'm lost, trying to come to terms with what just happened.

NKANYISO : "Goodnight my love"

OKUHLE : " what !are you going to leave me like this"

NKANYISO : " that Mrs me was your punishment,can we sleep now"

He switch off his side lamp. No no! What kind of punishment is this. I get inside the covers, turn and sleep facing the other way. I really want to cum, can this man deny me of such pleasure. Who the fuck does he think he is. Just because of some stupid mistake,not even a mistake.I

was doing it for his own good. How can he punish me like this. I honestly thought my pussy was gonna take all the punishment. I find myself sobbing, am I really crying for a dick. Yes I'm crying and the more I'm trying to suppress my voice the louder I cry. He pulls me closer and dry my tears with his hand. I cry even more. All I want is his Dick!

Inset 45

I don't even remember when did I fall asleep last night. He's already up and whistling to some song. It must be nice! He shakes me lightly and I pretend to be sleeping . I hear water running, he's back I feel myself being lifted in the air. He puts me down and strip me off his T-shirt. I open my eyes and I'm met by his.

NKANYISO : " morning miss grumpy grumps"

OKUHLE : " miss grumpy who?"

NKANYISO : " babe I'm gonna need you to work with me. If we don't hurry then you'll be forced to wear my clothes to work"

OKUHLE : " then I'll look like a hobo, a sexually starved one for that matter"

NKANYISO : " Ow now I see, we still angry over last nights punishment"

OKUHLE : " that wasn't punishment, it was pure torture. Pure evil.

NKANYISO : " evil will be me starving you for the whole week"

OKUHLE : " wow!"

NKANYISO : " let's get done babe, time is really not on our side"

OKUHLE : "okay okay"

We are now driving to my place, he's very impatient this morning. I wanted to make things easy for him by taxfying from his place to mine and from mine to work. Mr here refused, so now I'll have to do everything in a hurry. As soon as the car comes to a complete halt, I jump out and make my way to the flat. Luckily I find an outfit that doesn't require ironing. I dressed up as quickly as I can. He's here watching me in amusement. He's not my favorite person this morning. I'm done in 15minutes . We go pass Macdonalds drive-thru for some breakfast on our way to work. I can't even wait, I'm starving so I dig in.

NKANYISO : " I almost forgot Babe, we have a family lunch Saturday and I'd love for you to come"

OKUHLE : " family as in parents and the rest of the family. You mean everyone"

NKANYISO : " of course Mrs me"

OKUHLE : " I'm so nervous babe, like they only know me as an employee"

NKANYISO : " that's exactly what I'm planning to clarify and officially introduce you to the family"

OKUHLE : " I'm even more nervous now"

NKANYISO : " Don't be, ill hold your hand throughout"

OKUHLE : " what time's the lunch and what must I wear"

NKANYISO : " Don't worry about all those details babe, you are spending the weekend with me anyway"

He laughs at my facial expression. He drops me off at work and rushes to his meeting. The ladies seem happy to see me, we catch up and go our separate ways. The day is such a drag but eventually it ends. I go straight to my place, I'm so tired. I take my my bath, goodness don't think I'll cook today. Maybe I should order in. I call Jase just to catch up. He says it's much more peaceful with uncle Simon gone, music to my ears. I check up on my soon to be sister in law and the Khumalo's. Maybe I should check on my heartless boyfriend as well. It rings and rings just when I'm about to hang up. She answers, wtf!

"Nka's phone Hello, hello, hello!"

I'm lost for words, who the fuck just answered my boyfriends phone. I check again and damn I dialed the correct number. I call again and this time it rings, and rings. No answer. Wow! I pace up and down. The bastard! No wonder he didn't want to give it to me last night. He's busy creeping around with hoe's. Men! They are all the same, aren't they? They promise you the world and do the opposite. There's one part of me that wants to go to his place and burst him. But there's another part of me that's unsure, am I even strong enough to witness all of that. I honestly wish Jase was around, he'd know exactly what to say or do in this situation that I'm faced with. Maybe I should call him? nah I don't want to burden him with my drama.

The more I pace the angrier I get. I'm mostly angry at myself for trying this stupid love thing and giving this man an opportunity to hurt me . Isn't it enough that my heart has been broken before. Broken by the very person who promised me the world. Why me, my choice in men. I sure know how to pick them. The lying cheats. I honestly thought he was different but then is he cheating? I didn't even talk, let alone let the lady explain herself. Am I jumping into conclusion. Why wasn't the phone answered when I try to call again. There's only one way to find out and one way only. Can't believe I'm really doing this, but it's better to know than being taken for a ride. I wear my leggings, hoodie and my takkies. I look in the mirror and laugh. This is so ridiculous, hell no! I'm not going ahead with this plan.

So I changed into my pj's and make my muesli with yoghurt. I've never been a fighting type and I'm not about to begin now. Of course the dick is good but I'm not about to loose my morals and dignity over a dick. Never! Great he's calling, wonder what lies is has he cooked up. I roll my eyes before answering

OKUHLE : " babe, there's someone I want you to meet. Hope you haven't cooked we bringing takeaways. See you now"

He didn't even wait for me to reply. I'm in no mood for company let alone meeting people. Now I must change my pj's again. The struggle! I watch TV and wait for my soon to be ex and his guest. There's a knock at the door. I open and he's smiling like a retard, next to him is this lovely looking lady. I let them in and he introduce us, the ladies name is Refiloe. Apparently she's his favorite cousin. She prefers the name FIFI. they bought pizza and hotwings. I bring the plates and serve them. They get along pretty well, I'm starting warm up to this fifi character. The funny part I've learnt she's the one who answered his phone. I laughed so much, they were both puzzled. I'm laughing at my plan of bursting the boyfriend. I'm imagining how stupid I would've looked rocking up there with my leggings, takkies and hoodies. Street fighting couture.

I'm having so much fun now with the two of them. Fifi is lesbian and she loves full figured woman, how she handles them as small as she is beats me. She flew all the way from Capetown for the family lunch. Wow! It must be a really big deal then. I might need to go shopping for a proper outfit . I'm so relieved atleast I'll have fifi in my corner. They tell me their childhood stories, I'm laughing can't believe fifi got into so much trouble. She's so soft-spoken and she's too much of a lady. Can't believe they both got expelled from school for smoking dagga in the schools library during school hours. Who does that? My childhood seems boring

compared to theirs. We hang around till 10pm, soon as I start yawning I'm ordered to pack few items of clothing and toiletries because I'm sleeping over by his place . He says my space is too small, he doesn't want Fifi listening on us all night long. That statement just made me wet. I can't wait!

'Boyfriend I'm ready for you'

I recite these words as I'm putting on my black sexy lingerie. He won't know what hit him tonight.

We can blame it on starvation and sex depravation!

He's walking behind me as we walk to the car. He pulls me on the side and whispers

NKANYISO : " tonight I have a different punishment for you"

I whisper back " I'm ready to take my punishment Master"

FIFI " Nka please drop me off at the parents house or mpilo's house, the way you two are looking at each other. I doubt I'll get any sleep"

We both laugh and off we go

Insert 46

Fifi keeps looking at us and shakes her head. She's in the verge of laughing because this fool can't keep his hands off me. His driving while his other hand keeps squeezing my thigh. It's a firm tight squeeze . It's clear what's on his mind, tonight I'm ready for my punishment no lie. We drop Fifi by the parents house. Wow! It's magnificently beautiful. Wonder what it looks like during the day. The Nxumalo's are monied and I'm suddenly uneasy about the whole Saturday lunch. Whatever, I'll cross that bridge when I get there besides there's Fifi to put my mind at ease.

He's back to squeezing my thigh with that naughty grin on his face. Can we get home already!

Soon as we are parked outside his house, he pulls me into a deep seductive kiss. He kisses the life out of me, when he pulls out of the kiss I'm a panting and mourning mess. He looks at me with that naughty sexy smile. He takes off his watch and unbutton his shirt. Haaibo! He practically strips while I'm watching him, I'm horny as fuck and I'm secretly praying this isn't one of his silly punishment stunts . I don't know what I'll do with my horny self if this man decides to leave me hanging. One can never be too certain with this one. Okay he's completely naked , he looks good in his birthday suit. I'm still fully dressed. He pulls me into one of those kisses again, I loose myself completely this time around. My hoodie Comes off together with my top.

NKANYISO : "take off those leggings, sneakers, top and meet me outside"

Haaibo! What is this man up to. He climbs out of the car and walks to my side. It's quite funny, watching him in his birthday suit and erect member. I strip as instructed, I'm now left with my sexy lingerie. he opens my door and pulls me out. I crash into his chest and he grabs my waist. I'm facing him and he's looking down on me with so much lust. He looks so impressed, so am I. I'm only covered with bits and pieces of lace and this sexy man is admiring what's in front of him.

NKANYISO : " looks like you came prepared Mrs me"

OKUHLE : " Ow I aim to please Mr N"

He leads me to the cars boot. He lifts me and sits me on the cars boot . The cold metal against my skin. He gets between my thighs. It's a bit chilly and this man is planning to take me here and now. Talk about kinky and freaky combination . We back to kissing and this time it's heated than before. His one hand finds my twin and he keeps on teasing my nipple. He pulls out from the kiss and his lips comes in contact with my nipple. Lawd! this is paradise, I start moaning. He alternate from one breast to the next. His one hand has made its debut entry into my paradise. He drops down and licks me there through the lace lingerie . The contact of lace and his lips drives me insane. I can't anymore, I need him in me.

OKUHLE : " Nka take me noooowwww"

NKANYISO : " your wish is my command"

He rips the lingerie off me. Haaibo! What happened to Mr smooth and gentle. He pulls me closer to him. He gives me one deep kiss and smash into me real hard. My screams are swallowed by his lips. He's back to kissing and pounding me. My legs are wrapped around his waist. He pounds on me like there's no tomorrow. Rough! I like this side of him. He pulls out from the kiss and decrease his pace. He's doing me slowly while staring deep in my eyes. He's working me so good, the sweat and the night breeze. He goes on and on as if we have all the time in the world. I'm not complaining though the pleasure I'm receiving is way to great.

NKANYISO : " baby I need you to bend over for me"

Whoaa! He pulls out and directs me into the exact position that he wants me in . I'm almost touching my toes. He slides in smoothly both his hands on each side of my hips. He grinds on me while I twerk on it. We move into our own rhythm of love making. I feel myself building up, it feels so good I don't want him to stop. He pulls me up, he's still behind me. I lean against his car my breast are in contact with the side window. His hands, Damn! his hands make their way into my clits. He starts rubbing while working me in slow motion. I can't hold it back anymore, with one final deep stroke. I fall apart, all my juices are flowing. He picks up his pace and pounds into me hard and rough. He cums right after me. We stand in that position, I can't feel my legs. I can't even stand straight after he has gathered enough strength. He picks me up and walk us to the front door . We get to the door and we both laugh.

NKANYISO : " my love will you be able to stand on your own. The keys are back in the car"

OKUHLE : " put me down, I'll sit and wait for you"

NKANYISO : " damn you've been served real good"

He walks back to the car and comes back with the keys. He opens the door and picks me up again. I'm so tired I can't even keep my eyes open. He climbs the stairs with me in his arms. He lay me on the bed and dissapears. Probably to lock up. I pass out there and then. In the morning I wake up wrapped around his arms. Last night it was my first outdoor sex experience. I don't even remember how I got inside the covers. Wonder what time it is, we'll probably have to rush again.

I move away slowly from his arms as not to wake him. He's still fast asleep. Let me prepare first then I'll wake him. I'm famished. I run the shower, I'm so lazy to fetch my toiletries from the car. Might as well use his. I get in, it's steamy and warm. It really feels good. I hear the door opening.

NKANYISO : " thought you'd escape from me wifey"

OKUHLE : " no Love, you were sleeping so peacefully I didn't want to wake you"

NKANYISO : " Ow really now Mrs"

OKUHLE : " Yes Mr Nkanyiso Sir"

NKANYISO : " now turn around let me worship this body of yours"

OKUHLE : " Nka"

That's all I manage to say, this man will be the death of me. He closes the door and stand behind me. Just his touch sends shivers down my spine. He leaves traces of kisses from my shoulder all the way to my neck. He licks the water from my neck all the way to my spine. He spans my butt and whispers

NKANYISO : " turn around for me babe"

That sexy husky voice do things to me, things that can make the pots to be done. I turn around and face him. We face to face, chest to breast.

Here we go again! His sexual appetite is on steroids . I fully submit and feed him. Morning glory!

Insert 47

I'm exhausted and sleepy after our shower session. Only God knows how am I going to cope the whole day. I'm sexed up real good. We drive to work together after our healthy breakfast. I'm complaining all the way because I wanted a greasy breakfast but Mr here was having none of it. Now I'm sulking along the way. Only answering what I'm being asked. He pays me no mind, who eats fruit salad and plain yogurt for breakfast. Sometimes I'm lazy and opt for that but after our shower workout session , I need something salty, fatty and spicy. I'm talking real English

breakfast, your scrambled eggs, bacon, sausages , cheese, tomato and all that jazz. He drops me off at work because he suddenly has to rush somewhere. He's not my favorite person at this present moment anyway.

I join the ladies for some coffee, strong black coffee will do for now. As usual we listening to Antoinette's never ending stories, swear I've never met anyone who's life is half as interesting as Antoinette's.

ANTOINETTE : " so last night I got busted ladies my man caught me right handed kissing my side dish in the car"

NOMZAMO : " this I got to hear, dish it up babe and don't even miss a single detail"

OKUHLE : " that's hectic, thought you are the one who said you'll never get caught"

ANTOINETTE : " ofcourse I always play my cards right, 3 full years in this game and none of them suspected a thing. Swear it's that nosey neighbour Clarise. That woman will know me very well"

NOMZAMO : " start from the beginning we will deal with the Clarise woman later"

OKUHLE : " let me sit down for this one"

ANTOINETTE : " the main was supposed to be out of town, according to my knowledge right. so I invited the side dish over for some fun steamy session. But we didn't even make it to the house. We were still chatting in his car and things got heated so we were all touchy touchy and kissing. The next thing the main knocks on the side of my window. He was so livid, he didn't even wait for me to explain. He opened the door and gave me a little jewelery box and left "

OKUHLE : " woow! so what was in the box "

NOMZAMO : " let me guess, engagement ring right "

ANTOINETTE : " damn right, I went inside the house and there was a special romantic setup. He had it all planned out"

NOMZAMO : " what about the side then "

ANTOINETTE : " I couldn't care less about him, our relationship was more physical ,Sex buddy type of thing . I ran after the main but he was nowhere to be seen. He doesn't answer my calls nor reply to my text messages. I'm so broken. I would've been half Mrs Adam's"

NOMZAMO : " girl share your secret, I struggle to find even one boyfriend. You juggled two for 3

full years. Out with it"

ANTOINETTE : " with the side it started off as a fling and before I could say fling. We were in a relationship. Sexual relationship as a matter of fact. He's fun and loves exploring. Between me and you Ladies. I regret it, I lost out on a good thing because of my stupidity"

OKUHLE : " I'm speechless"

ANTOINETTE : " from two men to zero man, story of my life"

NOMZAMO : " join us on the manless ship, some of us have been camping here for quite a while now"

OKUHLE : " so the side also neglected you"

ANTOINETTE : " hell no! I'm just not that into him, not in that way"

NOMZAMO : " ladies let's continue with this conversation lunch time"

ANTOINETTE : " I'm not taking part in that conversation, all I need is a strategy to get my main back"

OKUHLE : " I agree let's discuss this further lunch time"

I get to the office, there's a Piatto takeaway in my table and a note.

' Breakfast for you miss Grumpy grumps, I'll pick you up after work'

Isn't he the sweetest. My greasy breakfast, just the fix I need. The rest of the day goes by pretty quickly. Lunch time was fun strategizing how Antoinette can get her main back. I applaud her for juggling two dicks at once. I can hardly cope with one, a very active one for that matter. After work, I find him waiting for me. Apparently we are having a proper date tonight. When last was I wined and dined. He drops me by my place to freshen up properly. We doing Mezepoli restaurant in Melrose arch, fancy. I feel girly so I play around with colours. Dusty pink sexy dress and gold stilletos with gold accessories. I pull that 360% in the mirror and I'm satisfied with my look. Facebeat and all that Jazz. Mr me I'm ready for you .

He calls and informs me his outside waiting. I lock up and make my way to him. He steps out of the car and his jaw drops to the floor. Mission accomplished.

NKANYISO : " wow Mrs me, you look absolutely gorgeous and stunning "

OKUHLE : " thank you Mr me. Let's get going I'm starving"

NKANYISO : " let's go feed you my lady but first I need my hug"

We hug and he's struggling to let go. This man has issues, all I need is food right now. We drive off to this fancy restaurant, everything is perfect. The food, the drinks and the company. Our next stop is at the movies. He's a fan of horrors and I tag along after all the convincing from him. What an experience, I'll watch more scary movies with him. It's 11:45pm when we drive back home, oops his place I mean. I'm beyond exhausted and he's making conversations so I don't fall asleep.

Surely it didn't work because the last thing I remember, was him telling me how he can't wait to get me off this dress or maybe I was dreaming.

I'm awoken by his phone ringing. He answers it and disappears into the bathroom. Im sleeping in one of his T-shirts, shame the poor man had to pick me up and undress me. I blame all that on the wine consumption from that restaurant. He comes and already he has a smirk on his face. I recognize that naughty smile. Hell no!

NKANYISO : " so Mrs me, last night you passed out on me"

OKUHLE : " the wine babe, I blame the wine"

NKANYISO : " so I was thinking of ways you could make it up to me"

OKUHLE : " that smirk, should I guess"

He opens the sliding door leading to the balcony

NKANYISO : "We have like an hour to spare, so I was thinking why not bless this balcony with our sexy sounds and presence this morning "

OKUHLE : " Mr Nkanyiso Nxumalo Sir, I like how you think"

I get off the bed, take off his T-shirt in a seductive slow motion. He's staring at me with lust and excitement in his eyes. The thong follows and I walk pass him shaking what my mama gave me.

I hear him cuss " fuck!". I walk all the way and lean against the steel rods. I signal for him to come and get me. He walks slowly towards me and I'm already touching myself. He stares at me, his member is ready to play. It's poking its way out of his boxers. I touch myself erotically so and few moans escapes my mouth. He charges towards me, what happened to his slow sexy walk. He pulls me by my waist and I know this is about to be another banging morning glory session.

Insert 48

The week went by pretty quick, time flies when you having fun indeed. I've been cohabiting the whole week. Today we attending the Nxumalo's lunch date. I'm anxious and nervous at the same time. Meeting the boyfriends family wasn't even part of my plan, not so soon anyway. I'm comforted by the fact that Fifi will be there, atleast I won't feel so out of place. I'm wearing a summer floral dress and sandals. The boyfriend picked this outfit for me, apparently it's more of a braai chillas kind of vibe. I'll have to take his word for it. It's midday when we make our way into the Nxumalo's residents. Luxurious cars are parked in their driveway. Mhhmm this I have to see.

Their house is exceptionally beautiful. I'm still admiring the view when he takes my hand and lead me in. Fifi comes to me and attacks me with a hug.

FIFI : " so glad you came babe, I would've been so bored with all these barbie look alike women of this family. Come let me introduce you"

NKANYISO : "Haaibo that's my duty as her better half"

FIFI: "Don't start with me, go join the rest of the guys that side"

NKANYISO : " babe don't allow her to corrupt you, she probably has a bag of weed and booze stashed up somewhere"

FIFI : " come love, stick with me and we'll have fun"

NKANYISO : " take good care of my property"

OKUHLE : " property, really now Nka"

FIFI : " let's just go"

Fifi leads me to the garden, guess this is where lunch will take place. There's a beautiful setup. Wow Barbie dolls, now I see what Fifi meant earlier. I'm introduced to the ladies, they are all dressed up. I feel under dressed now. I shouldn't have listened to the boyfriend. I'm introduced to all of them, most names I can't even remember except for Matshepo Mpilo's fiancée. Mrs Nxumalo makes her way to the table, this woman is gorgeous no lie. Everything is on point from the way she's dressed, makeup and perfectly manicured nails. They all have a signature greeting going on, that's not even a hug it's a pat at the back and they blow kisses sideways. She does that with all of them and as soon as we are face to face. She first scans me from head to toe, then followed by their weird signature greeting. What was that all about, I just decide to let it go.

The table is full of finger foods and I can hear my stomach grumbling. The guys bring the braided meat and join us. I'm seated in between Fifi and Nka, opposite us is Mpilo, Matshepo and one of their lady cousin. She keeps making nasty remarks about woman who don't look after themselves 'the plain Jane's'. The other Barbies join in the conversation as well as Mrs Nxumalo. I honestly feel like they are indirectly sending a message across, what's their problem. The only plain Jane's here are me and Fifi. I decide to focus on my food and forget about this annoying topic. Nka keeps on stealing kisses every now and then, much to his mom's annoyance. I'm no mind reader but this woman doesn't seem to like me.

The guys start their own conversation about cars and football. I'm glad we are over the plain Jane's topic. Fifi signals for me to follow her, we are done eating anyway. There's two helpers who are in the process of clearing up the table. Nice life problems. I follow Fifi and as soon we are out of sight from everyone she pulls out a bottle of wine behind the aloe plants. So Nka was right, this one is very mischievous.

FIFI : " trust me we need to get tipsy in order to survive those Barbies and their boring conversations"

OKUHLE : " I'll drink to that"

FIFI : " plain Jane's this, make up that, boutiques and all that shit that tickle their Barbie world fancies"

She mimics them so perfectly, I laugh so hard. This one missed her calling, her talent in acting is

impeccable. She pulls out a cockscrew from her denim pockets. This girl had a plan in action already. She's my favorite person in this family.

FIFI : "Sibudlel' ebhodleni" (we drinking straight from the bottle)

She takes a huge gulp and hands me the bottle. I take a long sip, while this fool keep on cheering me on. We lean against the wall and sips becomes gulps. We having this nice flowing conversation, okay I'm getting tipsy real quick. This is way better than sitting with those uptight bitches. she pulls out a blunt and lights it. Wooow! I've never smoked weed before but I'm willing to experiment today. She takes two long drags and puffs. It looks so sexy and I'm ready for my turn.

NKANYISO : " I knew ya'll were up to no good"

FIFI : " chill Nka what's your problem"

He takes the almost empty wine bottle from me. He empty the rest of the liquid and take the weed from Fifi.

NKANYISO : " this is not the time nor the place Fifi what is wrong with you"

OKUHLE : " but Nka"

NKANYISO : " as for you, there's a punishment coming your way later on"

FIFI : " Mr Grey type of punishment"

He winks at me, a spank follows. A very sore spank for that matter. He pulls me aside and smash his lips on me. It's a very hungry and seductive kiss.

FiFi : "do you guys realise I'm still around, sies get a room you two"

NKANYISO : " get yourself a woman I'm claiming mine back now"

GUY: " so you guys are hiding here"

NKANYISO : " Sbo, meet the love of my life LET-O"

SBO : " she's a gem, such rare beauty"

FIFI : " Nka watch that perv around your woman"

SBO : " what did you just call me"

NKANYISO : " will you two ever outgrow the Tom and Jerry phase"

SBO /FIFI : " never"

NKANYISO : " guys I'm taking my woman home. I need to instill some discipline she's been a bad girl"

SBONISO: " I definitely wouldn't mind instilling some discipline on your behalf"

FIFI : " exactly what the perv would say"

NKANYISO : " I'm killing any Tom, dick and Harry that might try invading my territory"

FIFI : " start with this one standing next to you"

SBO: " lucky you are a lady, I would've knocked out your teeth by now"

FIFI : " just remember who fought your battles back in high school Bruuh"

My tummy hurts, Sbo and Fifi will be the death of me today. They have that love/hate relationship going its so cute. The guys are planning an after party, something about hitting the night club. Mr boyfriend here is adamant about heading home and punishing me. I honestly wouldn't mind some bit of loving and attention from my man. It was nice meeting the Nxumalo's, even the uptight ladies. Let's not even get started on Mrs Nxumalo, a topic for another day. We say our goodbyes, it's not even that late Nka is being unreasonable. Fifi promise to come see me before her trip back to Capetown. We drive out, he keeps stealing glances at me. The smirk and seductive smile, I know what's on his mind. That hand and it's tight squeeze on my thigh. Lawd am I ready for my mystery punishment? Last time he had his hand on me like that , we ended up doing it outdoors. I close my eyes and get lost in the world of fantasy. I hear him giggling every now and then. I'm tipsy and my clits are throbbing for some stimulation. I'm in need of some erotic punishment. Only Mr Nkanyiso Nxumalo Sir has that effect on me.

Insert 49

It's Sunday and we are parked outside my place. It's a bitter sweet moment, having to go our separate ways. I had to pull all stops to return to my place today. Mr here is sulking but honestly after all the punishment he put me through, my whole body's numb and I miss my place. Besides Jase is an hour away from jhb and I need to catchup with him. Nka will be having supper with his family and I'm in no mood for the barbies today. He takes me all the way to my flat. Shame he's really disappointed and I get the feeling he wants to convince me otherwise . This is one battle he won't win, not today.

NKANYISO : " babe are you certain you'll be fine being here all by yourself"

OKUHLE : " Don't worry love Jase will be here soon"

NKANYISO : " Mrs me please come with me, my love "

OKUHLE : "no babe, enjoy supper with the family and catch up with your cousins"

NKANYISO : " I miss you already babe, give daddy some sugar please"

OKUHLE : " only a perk then you leave, really my body is complaining now"

NKANYISO : " this is just an initiation stage babe, your future husband has humongous sexual appetite and only you can fulfill it"

OKUHLE : " I'm not getting married anytime soon especially not to a sex addict"

NKANYISO : " keep fooling yourself love, keep fooling yourself"

He pulls me closer and kiss me so tenderly. Now it's my turn to accompany him to his car. I don't even give him an opportunity to sulk. as soon as he's in his car, I turn on my heels and run to my flat. Had I stayed there a minute longer, swear I'd be dining with the barbies. I Feel like this man has a spell on me, especially that sulking face. This seems like a good opportunity to take a nap. I pass out within 20minutes. I'm woken up by my ringing phone, it's Jase informing me that he's on his way to my place. Wow! I've been sleeping for the past 3 hours. I hit the shower just to freshen up and look presentable. Today I'll have to order in, Jase will forgive me. Exhaustion has taken over me, this whole week I'm sleeping at my place. Haaibo! This guy just budge in and attack me with a hug.

JASE : " Lele I've missed you so much doll"

OKUHLE : " I see my habit of not knocking rubbed off on you"

JASE : " I've learnt from the best. I learn from you. Ow baby babe I learn from you"

He sings that whole sentence out loud. The character this man is. I've missed my person. He has shed a bit of weight and I don't even blame him one bit. He's been through too much the past 2 and a half week. He let go and scans me up and down as if examining me. What's this all about now.

JASE: " the Glow, Mr new man must be giving it to you real good. While some of us have been starving "

OKUHLE : " Don't be silly, I'm genuinely happy doll. I got hired and scored myself a wonderful man. Why wouldn't I glow chomie"

JASE : " I seriously need to get laid now. the dry season that's resting upon me needs to emigrate to another body "

OKUHLE : " OMW almost forgot just how crazy you are"

JASE : " the past two weeks have been draining doll, all I need is a bit of action and some fun Lele"

OKUHLE : " I'll grant your wish babe, next week Saturday we hitting the club. Just like old times"

JASE: " I'll drink to that, isn't there a bit of wine stashed up somewhere here"

OKUHLE : " I doubt so, we can quickly get some and food"

JASE : " music to my ears"

We take a walk to the nearest take away place and grab two bottles of wine while we at it. We enjoy our wine over serious conversations. Jase is finally opening up about his father's death, leaving his mom and sister behind. Apparently his mom's health has improved, she's attending the church counseling and his sister is moving back home permanently. Things seems to be settling well back home. Just then I receive a call from the boyfriend, they are going to some Sunday chillas and he wants me to tag along. He doesn't mind that I'm bringing a plus one. Jase is happy with the new plan in motion. Who am I to deprive him of a good time. I change into a more appropriate outfit for the sudden occasion. Jase is always dressed up. He freshens up a bit and we are ready.

Nka, Sbo, Fifi and their two other cousins arrive and off we go. Change of plans we hit XO lounge in midrand. I've never been to a strip club before, there's a first time for everything right. Fifi is over the moon, for obvious reasons ofcourse. She and Sbo are best of buddies all of a sudden, common goal. I formally introduce everyone to Jase and they immediately warm up to him. The other two guys are Manqoba and Sandiso, Manqoba is outspoken and Sandiso is very quite.

We find a nice spot that accommodates all of us and drinks are ordered. Nka pulls me to his lap. I try escaping but he holds me still in that position. His tool is poking me and his hand is caressing my back up and down. I'm getting a bit uncomfortable and Sandiso has his gaze on me. He makes small talks here and there. Jase, Sbo and Fifi hit the dance floor. I'm pressed and I really need the loo. Mr boyfriend offer to accompany but I refuse. That smirk and seductive smile means one thing and one thing only. After the punishment, I don't want his tool anywhere near me. For the next 7 days , he ain't getting my cookie. Nka is busy now with Manqoba, I try signaling for Jase but it's all in vain.

SANDISO: "Come I'll accompany you to the bathroom"

OKUHLE : " how did you know, I"

SANDISO : "judging by the way you were posing and doing a foot dance. You definitely need to pee, let's go before we have any accidents. Shall we?"

OKUHLE : " thank you, let's go"

SANDISO: " ladies first"

I do my business, wash my hands and I find him waiting for me. We head back to our spot and everyone seems to have join all the others on the dance floor. I sit and Sandiso joins me. His gaze makes me feel a bit uncomfortable.

SANDISO : " you really are beautiful and down to earth"

OKUHLE : " thank you"

SANDISO : " I understand why Nka is so inlove with you"

This conversation is so weird, I'm just hoping someone saves me before it gets even more awkward than it already is . He take my my hand into his . Very strange.

SANDISO : " I forsee some obstacles along the way, you need cleansing. The child you were carrying"

FIFI : " no Bruuh don't tell me you having one of your vision while all of us are having fun. Come girl let's dance a bit"

Fifi pulls me up and leads me to the dance floor. My mind is on shut down. Is Sandiso some kind of a seer. This explains the gaze and him trying to get me alone. What cleansing was he talking about, what does it have to do with my miscarriage. My head is spinning, I need air. No I need to get Sandiso so he can explain further. I leave the dance floor and he's not sitting in our spot anymore. I need to find him.

NKANYISO : " babe, what's wrong you look a bit flushed. Are you okay"

OKUHLE : " Sandiso, I need to find Sandiso"

NKANYISO : " he just sent me a message, he left babe. We will request an Uber"

OKUHLE : " I need to see him, I have to talk to him"

NKANYISO : " babe, sit down. You are worrying me now"

OKUHLE : " baby, Sandiso I need to talk to Sandiso, Nka"

FIFI : " Nka, I think Sandiso had one of those visions and now LET-O is upset"

NKANYISO : " fuck, didn't they heal him or something. Babe what did he say to you"

I can't tell him. I can't share what I myself don't understand. This mystery will only be solved by Sandiso himself. Why did he leave without giving me the full message? There must be a way to get to him.

NKANYISO : " baby talk to me, you worrying me now"

OKUHLE : " I'm tired, I need to sleep"

That's the first thing that comes into my mind. Maybe I'll think clearly after a good sleep. But my mind and heart is yearning for whatever message Sandiso was about to deliver to me. I'm suddenly drained.

Insert 50

We had to request an Uber home me, Jase and Nka. I'm absent minded the whole trip. I can't even recall when we Jase was dropped off. I'm brought back to life when Nka shake me lightly. Ow! We at his place, he holds my hand and we walk into his house. I'm just consumed in my own thoughts, what cleansing really was Sandiso referring to. What's the connection with the baby I miscarried. I've heard of such rituals, all I need is clarity from him. He sits me in the couch and disappears to the kitchen. I'm just staring into space. I'm brought to earth when he puts the two cups of coffees in front of me. He's genuinely concerned and I know this gesture. He wants me to open up to him. I might as well share the little pieces of this puzzle with him. What's the point of driving myself with something that doesn't even make sense to me at this present moment.

NKANYISO : " LET-O pls let me in, what's bothering you so much. What did Sandiso say to you. He also pulled a disappearing act on us"

OKUHLE : " is Sandiso some kind of a seer or prophet Nka"

NKANYISO : " I'm not sure which is a proper term to label him under, honestly it's still a mystery to all of us. What did he say that got you so down and disturbed"

OKUHLE : " the whole night he has been staring at me in an unusual manner, I couldn't make sense of at first. All I know his gaze made me uncomfortable"

NKANYISO : " that's what usually happens when he's about to have a vision or premonition over a certain individual but I honestly thought they had stopped"

OKUHLE : " He held my hand and told me he forsee obstacles and I need cleansing. The child I was carrying. That's when Fifi disturbed us, he couldn't carry on babe. Fifi pulled me to the dance floor, the moment all this started to sink in. I checked where we were sitting and he was already gone "

NKANYISO : " tell you what, I'll get him for you. Then he can explain further. Babe stop worrying too much, I'm here and I'll be right beside you throughout all the struggles and obstacles. Okay "

OKUHLE : " please babe, link me up with him. I honestly don't think I'll find rest until this whole mystery is solved. The child I was carrying. Do I maybe need cleansing for her or him? The obstacles are they somehow connected to my miscarriage. These are all the questions that are bothering me babe. If I need cleansing then who will do it for me? My family or the child's fathers side of the family. All these questions are driving me insane babe"

NKANYISO: " hey look at me, tomorrow we will have all the answers okay baby. Don't drive yourself insane with worry. Tomorrow all this mystery will be unraveled. Come here"

OKUHLE : " I hear you Mr me"

I see a smile forming on his face. Clearly he wasn't expecting all that. He's the one who always referes to me as 'Mrs me' . This man really is something special, just a minute ago he was worried sick about me. A minute later he has managed to calm my thoughts and worries down. Could this be true love? I myself don't know, guess time will tell. Why do I believe every word he said about going through all these forth coming obstacles with me. The sincerity in his voice and the truth in his eyes. That's all the assurity I need. My curiosity now to know about Sandiso's premonitions has gotten the better of me.

OKUHLE : " so babe, when did Sandiso start having these premonitions or visions"

NKANYISO : " he started having visions at the age of 9, but no one took him seriously. When he was 12 he told my dad, he'll be involved in a fatal accident which will have him in a wheelchair for a couple of months. Ofcourse no one took him seriously then, until two months later. Dad was indeed involved in an accident and he was paralysed for 3months. The family started taking him seriously, things went from bad to worse. His visions became more frequent and intense. He couldn't concentrate at school and he got sick. They consulted doctors, specialists no one could help. He underwent counseling and was put under medication. A family friend suggested a traditional healer, he was taken there and it was discovered he had a calling but his mom was against the whole thing. So the ritual was done for him. Something about connecting him with ancestors and pleading on his behalf. We were never really informed what that ritual was all about. He was taken for a cleansing ceremony, he was gone for a month or so. The visions and premonitions stopped or so we thought for the past 10 years. He led a normal life and 3 years back they started again. Apparently they are not clear and hectic as they used to be. But every now and then he gets them "

OKUHLE : " woow! That's hectic babe "

NKANYISO : " yep, he hardly talks about his visions or premonitions because they are not clear anymore. The elders were warned before the ceremony / ritual that the visions may come back even more stronger at a later stage"

OKUHLE : " that's a very heavy load to carry, I can't even imagine how he managed to cope with all this as young as he was"

NKANYISO : " our childhood was pretty normal, we got up to a lot of mischief and every other weekend we would visit him at his parents house or he would come to our house. We did things our peers did and ofcourse he'd zone out and stare into space. Then we knew he's having a vision but apart from that he was pretty much a normal kid"

OKUHLE : " shame babe, It's really not easy on his side. If the table were turned I would've lost my mind long ago. Having to carry all this burden and forseeing things. I'd be admitted in a mental institution right away"

NKANYISO : " I'd get myself admitted too if it means being with you"

OKUHLE : " ha ha ha! Imagine being completely sane among insane people"

NKANYISO : " I'd fit in just perfectly because I'm insanely inove with you"

OKUHLE : " what did I ever do to deserve a wonderful man like you"

NKANYISO : " you applied for a job, come to think of it. I was never sane from that day onwards"

OKUHLE : " come here, you handsome man you"

NKANYISO : " finally she notice"

OKUHLE : " Ow really now Nka"

NKANYISO : " shut up and kiss me"

I sit on his lap and devour his lips. Today I feel a different kind of connection towards him. Emotional connection, he's my sanctuary. The satisfaction that I get from talking to him, I was never good with expressing my feelings but with him it's quite different. I pull out from the kiss and stare deep into his eyes. The love that's developing inside of me daily for this man is greater than what my mind can comprehend. My heart sings a different tune whenever his beside me. The fact that I'd spend an entire week with him and miss him like crazy the second I'm away from him. I've never loved so intensely before.

NKANYISO : " and I love you more than you can ever know, my only mission is to show you everyday and take care of your mind, body and soul"

OKUHLE : " you are a mind reader now Mr me"

NKANYISO : " I'm a heart reader my love and everything in your heart is portrayed in you eyes"

everytime I stare at you. I see it, my heart feels it"

OKUHLE : " I love you Nkanyiso Nxumalo"

NKANYISO : " there's a sir missing in that statement"

OKUHLE : " let's go sleep you silly man, my silly man"

NKANYISO : ", you got that right Mrs me, let's get some rest. We have a long day ahead of us tomorrow"

OKUHLE : " ofcourse"

We had to bed and tonight I fall asleep in his arms. We connected emotionally today. No funny business. No hanky panky, no punishment. Just me in his arms. It feels good, I'm inlove and I'm not afraid to show it. My Mr me, my very own Nkanyiso Nxumalo. He complains about the whole Sir thing, let's just say I see him in a different light now. He's my man, my very own person. The mystery with Sandiso will be unraveled tomorrow and I'm at peace with everything. We didn't even touch our coffees, what the hell. I drift to Lala land with my man snoring lightly behind me. His snores are my sweet lullabies.

Insert 51

We wake up and prepare for work, Nka promised he'll organize a meeting for me and Sandiso. Nka has an early meeting, he drops me Off at the office and leaves right away. I really could use some type of distraction and what better way than office gossip with the ladies. I join them for a cup of coffee and Antoinette is already updating us on her newly found man. I honestly can't believe she has already moved on.

ANTOINETTE : "so ladies operation wining back the main dish can be aborted"

NOMZAMO : " have you guys fixed things, that was so quick"

ANTOINETTE : " listen I tried you know, but all my attempts went in vain. So that ship has sailed. Let's just say there's a new man in my life and I'm madly inlove with him"

OKUHLE : " rewind and start again, new man from where and when"

ANTOINETTE : " for a social butterfly like me sweetly, man aren't hard to find. They are always here at my disposal. That guy has always had a thing for me but he was way beyond my league.

Until I spent time with him this weekend at a friend's braai and the rest as they say is history"

NOMZAMO : " wow, you really are something else. I've been struggling to find a man for months now or is it years"

ANTOINETTE : " I don't know how exactly to explain this but I feel this one is my soul mate and I'm ready to walk down the aisle soon"

NOMZAMO : " hold your horses honey, don't be blinded by the honeymoon phase. It's still way too early don't let excitement blind you"

ANTOINETTE : " for someone who doesn't have a lot of dating experience you seem to have a lot of insight about others feelings and love life"

NOMZAMO : " Don't bite my head Missy, I was just pointing out the obvious. We all feel that way at the early stages of relationships"

OKUHLE : " ladies! no need for things to get out of hand, we all have different experiences and opinions when it comes to dating and relationships"

ANTOINETTE : " true, I appreciate your opinions ladies but please I shouldn't feel like I'm being judged for my choices"

NOMZAMO : " sorry if I came across like I'm being judgemental, thought I was looking out for a sister"

ANTOINETTE : " Don't sweat it doll"

NOMZAMO : " by the way I also met someone over the weekend. Please I shouldn't be judged for what I'm about to say next but I let him smash"

ANTOINETTE : " you don't waste time, do you?"

NOMZAMO : " Don't blame me, blame the hunger and the dry season and brother man was so good. I need another repeat of Saturday night, My God"

OKUHLE : " I knew there was a bad girl underneath that sweet exterior and soft voice"

NOMZAMO : " not as bad as you, Boss smasher. Don't pop your eyes out like that, we all know you are getting it on. The chemistry between the two of you is unavoidable"

ANTOINETTE : " we were just waiting for you to willingly come clean to us. I have to admit though you've scored yourself a good one"

OKUHLE : " can we change the subject plus I have a pile of paperwork to get through. Bye"

NOMZAMO : " run away, we see you Mrs Boss"

ANTOINETTE : " yeah run Mrs Nxumalo Junior"

I walk away, they laugh out loud. My God I'm so embarrassed, I knew Antoinette suspected something but as for Nomzamo. The chemistry they say, maybe it's a good thing it's out in the open now. Can't wait to see Nka's face when I inform him of my new findings, me being labeled as a boss smasher. It's quite funny, they probably call him the employee smasher. I find myself giggling, what a great way to start a day. I catch up on work, few hours later. I'm disturbed by my phone, Jase checking up on me as usual. He's worried about last night's incident. He even thinks we had a lovers quarrel while he was blessing the dance floor. I let him in on everything, he's just as shocked as I was. Who would've thought, Sandiso the seer. the thought alone is unsettling. I wonder how much of my past life did he foresee, maybe I'm just being ridiculous. I'm glad I came clean with my past life to Nka, imagine the pressure I'd be facing now. The rest of the day goes by smoothly with the ladies on my case. A bunch of inquisitive bitches, they even asked how he is in bed. Like I would disclose that to anyone else.

After work Mr me is already parked waiting for me. He pulls me in and kiss me passionately in front of the two nosey ladies. If only he knew what they were saying about him earlier, bet I'll be questioned about his kisses tomorrow. Nonetheless they are cool bunch to hang with. We first start at my place so I can freshen up, while he's busy raiding my fridge eating whatever his hands land's on. I finish and change into fresh clothes. We drive to his place, apparently Sandiso is already waiting for us there. I spot his car in the drive way. He's already seated comfortably on the couch and today he seems more relaxed and laid back. He greets me with a handshake. I suddenly feel like a glass of wine, I'm so anxious.

Nka gives us privacy so we can talk freely. I'm waiting for Sandiso here to start talking before I loose my mind. He drinks his juice very slowly. What choice do I have but to just sit here in silence and wait for Mr seer here. He's a good looking man and very down to earth. This gift has no chill, it doesn't discriminate whether you rich, poor, young or old. Guess he's the chosen in the family. He clears his throat, finally we've been sitting in silence for almost half an hour and my mind was wondering around.

SANDISO : " our very own Makoti, sorry if I gave you a fright last night but it wasn't intentional. You see I've had this gift or curse, I don't really know what to call it. It's been weighing heavily on me ever since I was a little boy. To cut the story short, I foresee things some aren't clear and some are crystal clear. I'm just gonna go straight to the point. You had a miscarriage earlier this year and you need to be cleansed. The child must be given a name. The father of your child

needs to be present, he is the one who must name the baby. This should be done at his home where his ancestors are laid to rest. The consequences if this is not done May result in you not having kids of your own. As a matter of fact he was supposed to introduce the child earlier to his ancestors, your baby would've survived. Unfortunately he only discovered a bit too late about your pregnancy "

OKUHLE : " so this would've been prevented had he known earlier about my pregnancy "

SANDISO : " yes it would've been prevented, as a matter of fact he rushed immediately to do the right thing but unfortunately it was too late. He's also in the dark about this whole thing. So I suggest you guys find a way to fix this or they'll be greater consequences "

OKUHLE : " I'm angry at the ancestors how can they punish me like this, my child was innocent. How can they take away an innocent life "

SANDISO : " I'm afraid I have no answers for all those but all will be revealed once the cleansing ceremony takes place "

All the pain I buried comes tumbling down on me, I sob. Why me, what did I even do to his ancestors that they will punish him through me. My child, why didn't Muzi save him or her. Why didn't he realize earlier. I'm shattered, what's Bra Muzi's story. I'm so drained, poor Sandiso doesn't even know what to do. He gets up, boils water and makes me a cup of warm sugar water. He gives me the water and I drink it at one go. Nka comes down stairs and he immediately engulf me in a warm teddy bear hug. I cry, thinking about my task at hand. Now it's my mission to find Bra Muzi and explain this mumbo jumbo to him. I honestly didn't think I'll ever be in contact with that man not after our last encounter and that disappearing act he pulled on me.

I hope Nka will understand this quest I'm about to embark on, afterall it's going to affect us in the long run. I get an instant headache thinking how am I going to locate Bra Muzi. Besides his contact number I have no other means on how to find him. What if he's dead already. This life thing and it's complexities.

Insert 52

Sandiso leaves and I decide to come clean and tell Nka everything. He's concerned, it's written all over his face. He makes two cups of hot chocolate, that little gesture when he wants us to have a serious talk. See, I know him very well. He brings the two cups and pull me to his lap. I

immediately feel better, there's a special type of healing that comes with his touch. He caresses my back, lift my chin and looks deep in my soul. His eyes are teary, he sees right through me. The pain I feel is reflected in my eyes like he usually says. We just gaze into each other's eyes and the tears comes univitedly flowing down my cheeks. I guess we are having a heart to heart conversation without even uttering any words. He pulls me closer to him and I bury my face on his chest. That's all the invitation I needed to cry my heart out. I let them flow and he let's me. After a while I manage to pull myself together, wait! I feel better. Crying in the arms of the one you love is theraupatic. I look at him and smile, he gives me one of his lazy smile.

NKANYISO : " feeling any better now Mrs me"

OKUHLE : " I think I'll feel much better after offloading what's bothering me and the message from Sandiso"

NKANYISO : " offload my shoulders are strong enough to carry both of our worries"

OKUHLE : " you always know what to say to lift up my mood"

NKANYISO : " it comes naturally, I even surprise myself most times"

OKUHLE : " yeah right"

NKANYISO : " offload babe"

I move from his lap and seat next to him. He change his position and we are now seated face to face. I start from the beginning, up to the last detail. He's listening to me attentively. When I'm done he takes my hands into his and gives me a perk on my forehead.

NKANYISO : " you know I'm here right, I made a promise to stick with you through thick and thin. That's exactly what I'm going to do Babe. We will find Muzi and we will do this ceremony and put all this behind us babe. Don't worry, you don't even know how I appreciate your honesty right from the beginning. We are in this together okay "

OKUHLE : " I appreciate your support Babe, my main concern now is finding that man. I don't even know where to start or how to start. If he changed his numbers then it will be difficult locating him "

NKANYISO : " leave all that to me, I don't want you worrying over such things okay. I'll use my dad's contacts if push comes to shove okay. We are in this together and this will not affect our future, I'll make sure of it "

OKUHLE : " whatever God or my ancestors did to make us cross paths , I want to thank and worship them forever. You truly are one in a million and I'm the luckiest woman on planet earth"

NKANYISO : " I'm the luckiest man to have you, that's the reason why I'll never let you go. Not even death will do us apart, I'll be your ghost husband and murder anyman that may try to take my place"

OKUHLE : " Don't joke like that, these things happen for real"

NKANYISO : " I know and I'm prepared to be your husband even afterlife"

OKUHLE : " this conversation creeps me out, can we have our not so hot chocolate now"

NKANYISO : " let me warm it up babe"

We sit and carry on with our weird discussions over a cup of hot chocolate. It's quite strange how we'd converse over weddings, family, death, economy, current affairs and financial matters. I don't ever get bored with him around, let's not even get started on music. He has introduced me to J. Cole, Kendrick Lamar, AKA, Yanga and stoogie T, I'm now a self proclaimed fan of Hip hop music. My eyes are burning, I'm yawning none stop. It's just past 11pm, all I need is that king size bed now . I don't know how I'll be able to fall asleep though, I'm so full. who eats after 10 pm? Well that was us tonight, he made sure that I ate before bedtime. He picks me up and tuck me in bed, he gets behind me and hold me in his arms. My sanctuary, peace haven I pass out immediately.

The rest of the week goes by quickly with no luck of finding Bra Muzi. The number he was using doesn't exist anymore. Nkanyiso's dad PI tried searching for him to no avail. It's frustrating, seems like the man disappeared from the face of the earth. We've really tried all that we can but this man is MIA. There's no trace of his last location or his past, imagine even the most experienced PI failed, there's really no hope. Sandiso left for one of his business trips, so Nka suggested we wait for him to come back. Maybe he might find an alternative way to fix this, there has to be another way. I keep praying for a highly intervention, maybe bump into him at the mall or somewhere. This has affected me somehow, whenever I'm in public. I keep searching, one might never know when luck might locate them. So Nka suggested that I relax and wait for Sandiso. He has seen how this has taken its toll on me, so we even avoid being in public for long period of time. I just can't help it, finding Muzi has become my obsession. I swear I even see people who look like him.

NKANYISO : " babe I'm really worried about you"

OKUHLE : " if we can just find him Nka"

NKANYISO : " see what I mean, he's all you think about. It's like you are obsessed now. I think you need counseling"

OKUHLE : " Ow so now you think I'm crazy, do I look like I'm mentally disturbed to you"

NKANYISO : " I don't like what this whole thing is doing to you, to us. Babe you are slowly slipping away into depression and I'd be damned if I sit around and do nothing about it"

OKUHLE : " ofcourse you'd say that, you are not the one walking around with some kind of curse and need cleansing"

NKANYISO : " can we just have a decent conversation without mentioning Bra Muzi name or the cleansing. I love you dammit but you are pushing me away. Baby please listen to me for once, I told you let's wait for Sandiso. There has to be another way, stop driving yourself insane please "

OKUHLE : " Nka I can't help it! everywhere I go, I see him but I can't get to him. Maybe I am going insane. I feel so helpless babe "

NKANYISO : " let's go for counseling babe, I need you. I want my woman back, we'll do this together babe I promise you "

I'm having a mental breakdown. I'm losing myself and I'm forever fighting him. My obsession with Bra Muzi's disappearance has me losing my mind in the process. I honestly think counseling will work better for me. I'm so drained.

OKUHLE : " Nka, I'm ready for counseling. I'm tired of all these emotions, I'm angry and sad at the same time."

NKANYISO : " and I'll be with you every step of the way love, we will go together"

I don't think I've ever healed from losing my baby. I just shifted those feelings aside and moved on, or so I thought. I'm on an emotional rollercoaster . I need counseling Bhut' Sipiwe was right from the start. I miss him and I have to talk to him soon. Mpilo's wedding is in two months time. I'm Nka's date, even more reasons why I should go for counseling. I'm tired , it's Saturday and Mr boyfriend has me on house arrest. Who can blame him after all the stunts, I've been pulling.

NKANYISO : " let's go for a walk love, we've been cooked up in this house for the whole day. Let's get some fresh air"

OKUHLE : " Amen to that"

NKANYISO : " put comfortable shoes we going to the ice cream shop it's further down the road about 30 minutes walk"

OKUHLE : " bring it on, I'm game for a challenge"

NKANYISO : " Ow really now, are you certain"

OKUHLE : " absolutely Mr Nkanyiso Nxumalo Sir"

We lock the house, okay this man was serious about the hour walk. I honestly thought he was joking. I'm really not a fan of walking or any exercise for that matter except for the sexercise ofcourse. Come to think of it, this man hasn't touched me in the past week. Tonight I'm getting what's mine. He holds my hand and we walk down the road. I feel so relieved, the fresh air is so refreshing and good to my soul. I find myself smiling. Life is really not so bad afterall.

Insert 53

The weekend went by pretty well. Let's just say I'm no longer stressing over the Bra Muzi issue. I choose to trust Nka and wait for Sandiso. I'm starting my counseling sessions after work. I'm anxious but Bae will be there with me. I honestly think speaking to a professional will help me a lot before I self destruct. The woman I was the past week was vicious and emotionally unstable. I'm grateful to have someone who is patient and cares enough to take this matter into their own hands. Speaking to a professional will help me find closure and healing over losing my baby. We are already preparing for work. I watch him coming out of the shower, water dripping all over his sexy abs. I'm hot and bothered but I'm on my own in that department. Did I mention last night he deprived me of some good loving. Apparently I need to be emotionally well before we can engage in some physical activities. whatever that means, he's a cruel man sometimes.

NKANYISO : " stop drooling and take a bath MaKhumalo, this is all yours. You do know that, don't you?"

OKUHLE : " why am I deprived what's mine then "

NKANYISO : " because Mrs me, I need you physically and emotionally fit. Making love is a beautiful thing and I have a lifetime to do all that"

OKUHLE : " yah, yah"

I sulk and have my innocent shower. What's a woman to do when she's being sexually starved. I'm done in record time. On our way to work, I keep thinking of this whole counseling thing. I sigh heavily. He grabs my hand and gives it a tight squeeze. That's a sign that I need to relax because he's here. I look at him and smile. My very own superman.

NKANYISO : " relax babe okay, I don't want you overthinking things. I'm right here okay"

OKUHLE : " I know my love and I appreciate your every effort and support. I'm a bit nervous that's all"

NKANYISO : " you are allowed to be babe"

OKUHLE : " I hear you babe, I'm glad you'll be with me throughout this journey"

NKANYISO : " and don't you ever forget that"

We arrive at work, he immediately rush to Mpilo's office. They have an early meeting regarding a very important case . I decide to join the ladies for a cup of coffee and some weekend gossip. As usual Antoinette is already on her second cup as soon as I'm seated. Nomzamo makes he grand entrance, she's dressed in a very sexy yet professional dress. She looks breathtaking and is very impressed with the compliments thrown her way. She makes her herbal tea, how she consumes that everyday is a mystery to me. I've tried it once, it's bitter all you taste is herbs.

ANTOINETTE : " look at your glowing sexy ass all dressed up on a Monday morning"

OKUHLE : " eyebrows on fleek, girl where do you get the time and patience for makeup every morning"

NOMZAMO: " forget about the outfit and the makeup. This weekend was very special and romantic to me"

ANTOINETTE : " atleast one of us had a great experience unlike me. First tell us all the details girl"

NOMZAMO : " this weekend was so special, we went on a holiday getaway in Capetown. I was wined and dined, it's safe to say we are exclusive now with the new Bae"

OKUHLE : " the Glow girl, I'm so happy for you. You deserve all the happiness coming your way"

NOMZAMO: " I honestly don't want to jinx it but this might be the one"

ANTOINETTE : " guess who joined singleville again, yep yours truly"

OKUHLE : " this I got to hear"

ANTOINETTE : " can you believe he had a pregnant girlfriend living with his mom this whole time. She decided to pay him a surprise and boom! She found me there playing wifely duties at his place. Mr was so shocked he couldn't even utter a word. After the lady introduced herself, I decided to dish all the food in the Tupperware and leave them with dirty pots. No ways! all my hardwork, slaving away in the stove. I left with no explanation from the guy "

NOMZAMO : " Yes girl, I Yes you! Leaving with all the food you prepared. You are goals maarn "

ANTOINETTE : " honestly I'm tired of dating, maybe it's best to take a break even if it's just for two weeks "

OKUHLE : " that I'll have to see"

NOMZAMO : " next week Monday you'll be singing a different tune"

ANTOINETTE : " I'll prove you guys wrong, watch and see"

OKUHLE / NOMZAMO : " mmmhm"

ANTOINETTE : " mxm, let's go work. Later"

Antoinette's life is very interesting, swear I've never come across someone with so much drama in my life. I get on with work. The rest of the day goes by with us listening to Nomzamo's lovely weekend. She's genuinely happy. After work, Mr me drives us to the counseling session. The first day went well, he just asked us general questions about ourselves, families and the professions we are in. It went very well , I'm looking forward to our next session. We pass by my place for more clothes, apparently I'll only be allowed to be by myself after we done with counseling. I don't feel like being by myself anyway, I'll probably drive myself insane with overthinking.

The rest of the week goes well, counseling is also going great. I'm allowed to vent, cry and talk openly about my miscarriage. The past two days have been a bit hard though, I've spoken about everything that made me sad, angry and happy all at the same time. Thursday we came back home and none of us even wanted food, we just ate fruitsalad and went straight to bed. So Saturday Bae decided we should invite Jase, his cousin Manqoba and paint the town red. I couldn't agree more, a change of scenery and a night of fun is very much Needed. Jase was so excited.

So tonight we are finally turning up. Manqoba arrives with his plus one. We pick up Jase and head to the club. Manqoba is quite a big spender, he buys drinks for all of us. Drinks start flowing and so is the conversation. I can't help but notice the girls sitting across us, they looking our way and giggle. I decide to just ignore them and have fun with my people. Jase, Manqoba and Nandipha hit the dance floor. Mr here is all touchy touchy and kissy kissy. I hope he will finish what he's starting. Im wrapped around him, too consumed with his lips. when all of the sudden there's a person clearing their throats in front of us.

LADY: " you've found yourself a new fling I see, so she's the reason why you stopped calling"

Wow she's really pretty and half dressed. Nka scans her from head to toe and turn all his attention back at me. I honestly don't know how to feel or say about all this.

LADY : " so you are going to ignore me as if I don't exist or we never fucked "

NKANYISO : " Bridget we were only fuck buddies, we were never exclusive and I've always been honest with my intentions towards you and all the others I was fucking back then. Can you kindly excuse me and my lady. We are in the middle of something "

LADY : " Don't think you are special girl, once he's done with that cookie he will abandon you like the rest of us "

She turns, shake her ass and join the ladies across the table. What was that all about? He looks at me and pull me onto his lap.

NKANYISO : " remember my history of being a fuck boy. she was part of all the other Gang, I was banging back then. I'm committed to you and only you"

OKUHLE : " we all have a past, it's okay babe. I'm glad we came clean from the beginning. What do you say we get out of here and finish what you started"

NKANYISO : " Mrs me that's one invitation I can't decline. What about Jase though"

OKUHLE : " I was thinking we can wrap up our business in the parking lot while they are still busy

dancing"

NKANYISO : " that won't work for me, I've been starving for two weeks. Believe me I plan on having our own night vigil in the bedroom"

OKUHLE : " say no more, let me inform Jase we leaving. I think my body needs sexual healing right now"

NKANYISO : " fuck LET-O! that dirty mouth of yours look at my trousers now"

OKUHLE : " please hide my tool with this hand bag I don't want all these thirsty bitches drooling over my buffet"

NKANYISO : " you are so going to pay for this"

Tonight I'm getting served. Amen!

Insert 54

Our escape plan worked out perfectly, we on our way home. His phone rings, the person on the line is so persistent. He pulls over and attends to it. I can overhear the whole conversation, His mom sounds hysterical over the phone. He's trying by all means to calm her down, after a while she's calm and manages to give the name of the hospital. His parents were involved in a car accident. He's shaking and in panic mode. I can't let him drive like this. We swap seats, he's a bit surprised. Ofcourse I can drive, all thanks to my older brother. I'm a good driver as a matter of fact, been driving since the age of 16. He's on the phone trying to reach Mpilo, with no luck. He calls Manqoba and he answers after 3 rings, he informs him. At this particular moment there's no further details, all we know is they were involved in an accident. We arrive in excalty 18minutes, all thanks to Google maps. As soon as the car comes to a halt, he opens the door and rush inside . I lock up the car, it's difficult catching up to him. I spot Mrs Nxumalo sitting by the waiting area, he's beside her in seconds and pulls her in his arms. She's wailing, I'm uncertain whether to join them. This seems like a family moment. Besides Mrs Nxumalo isn't fond of me, so I just decide to get 3 cups of coffee for now.

I serve them the coffee, it's still just us three. Surprisingly Mrs Nxumalo thanks me for the coffee and for my support. Okay, that was unexpected. Maybe I interpreted the whole first encounter wrong, so I decide to bury the hatchet and move on. She recites the whole story, they were having supper at a friend's place. On their way back there was a car tailing them. Mr

Nxumalo told her about the car but she thought he was being ridiculous. Mr Nxumalo picked up speed and so did the car, he decided to drive to the nearest police station. She says on the second stop sign the car came speeding towards them, Mr Nxumalo tried to get away from it but it was too late. The car bumped them repeatedly their car rolled twice and landed on the driver's side. It's only by God's grace Mrs Nxumalo came out without a single scratch, Mr Nxumalo was trapped and they had to use Jaws of life to rescue him. He was unconscious and he was bleeding a lot . I can't even begin to imagine what she must be going through right now. Nka is trying to be strong for his mom but I can see he's shocked and stressed.

Finally Manqoba arrives with Mpilo, Mpilo rushes to his mom and she starts wailing again. Manqoba is patting Nkanyiso's shoulder, that's mostly how men comfort each other. He tells me not to worry he dropped off Jase and his girlfriend and went to Mpilo's house to pick him up. I decide to get more coffee for everyone, it's the least I can do for now. We've been waiting here for the past 3 hours, the doctors are busy with Mr Nxumalo in ICU. Nka is sitting next to me now and his head is resting on my lap. Everyone is caught up in their own misery, no conversation whatsoever but who can blame them. Finally the Doctor makes his way to us. He asks to speak to the family on the side but he's given permission to speak openly. He tells us Mr Nxumalo is stable and is moved to his private ward. The family may see him for the next 15 minutes before he's sedated. Mrs Nxumalo and Mpilo are the first to see him . Nka remains with me, I don't even want to argue right now. He pulls me towards the ward with him.

We make our way in. Mrs Nxumalo and Mpilo are already making their way out. Mrs Nxumalo pats my back and gives me a weak smile. We sit in the same bench. Nka holds his father's hand, he looks down for the longest time. Without any warning he speaks.

NKANYISO : " Baba, Zwide kaLanga. My king, fight. We still need you, I'm here with your daughter in law. I know you'll pull through, remember you still have to name your grandkids"

He jumps, there's a huge smile on his face. What's wrong with him now.

NKANYISO : " my love he squeezed my hand, Baba come back to us, we need you. Thank you for giving me a sign Baba. Tomorrow I'll be back, my king and we will have a full on conversation"

The nurse comes in to sedate him, we have no choice but to leave. He tells the whole family

about the hand squeeze, it's like he injected them with a shot of hope. Everyone's mood is lighter now, I'm happy. Mrs Nxumalo instructs all of us to join hands for a prayer. She prays straight from the heart, by the time she says Amen. We are all in tears, such a powerful prayer. We all leave. Manqoba and Mpilo are driving with Mrs Nxumalo. Mr Me, gets in the passenger seat. Haaibo! this man can't be serious. I get behind the wheel, this fool is all smiles. There goes my luxury of being driven around. NO NO! he can't be serious he lowers his seat.

OKUHLE : " Don't you dare sleep on me Mr"

NKANYISO : " baby you drive so smooth. I can't help it, besides one down two to go. Remember the first time you slept on me and the second time again"

OKUHLE : " you're such a goat, so you were counting"

NKANYISO : "not until I discovered you were a good driver. Can I sleep in peace wifey"

OKUHLE : " if you don't mind sleeping in the car the whole night"

NKANYISO : " you wouldn't dare"

OKUHLE : " try me"

He mumbles something under his breath but I caught " we not even married yet but the bullying has already started". He better not start with me, if he knows what's good for him. Not that I'd let him sleep in the car, I'm not that cruel. Sometimes a little threat goes along way. He's pouting, such a lovely sight. I'm in the verge of laughing but I'm avoiding a possible lovers brawl.

There goes my serving session, I've realized my boyfriend here doesn't want to get physical if we aren't emotionally okay. Life is too short, I pray Mr Nxumalo pulls through. First impressions don't always last and they aren't accurate. Mrs Nxumalo is the living proof of that. He's snoring, my goodness. When did he even fall asleep.

I'm parked in his driveway. I sit for a while and admire this handsome man of mine. With his full lips, bushy eyebrows and long lashes. I wonder if my kids will take after me or him. I hope my daughter inherits those lashes and full lips. The tan complexion, the dimple just beneath his eye. The beauty spot just below the lower lip. He's a beautiful man indeed. I even forgot about our initial plan earlier on. There won't be any serving, sleeping next to him is satisfying enough. I take my phone and snap one Pic. I have no choice but to wake him now. There's no way I'm picking up his buff ass.

OKUHLE : " love, baby, babe, Nka"

NKANYISO : " mhmm"

OKUHLE : " babe we are here, get up"

NKANYISO : " mmmhmmm"

OKUHLE : " really now. Nka!!!"

NKANYISO : " do you have to be so loud babe"

OKUHLE : " do you have to be so fast sleep"

NKANYISO : " babe, carry me please"

OKUHLE : " ha ha ha, you are very funny. Get your ass in the house please"

He's mumbling something again but this time I don't catch it. This one and grumbling. I park properly inside the garage. I remind him to call his mom and Mpilo just to check if they got home safe. He does exactly that, we might ignore it for now but that accident was intentional. Someone wanted them dead. I feel it's still a delicate issue to discuss. Who could do such a thing ? How do you intentionally bump someone. Atleast Mr Nxumalo is stable and Mrs Nxumalo came out with no injuries. I wonder how are my parents, such incidents makes you appreciate life and the people around you. It's pretty late I'll check up on them tomorrow. He comes back, apparently everything is good. They had to give Mrs Nxumalo a sleeping tablet, she kept having flashbacks of today's incident. Shame man, that's hectic.

What a day, we retire to bed. Today he's holding me too closely and a bit tight. I'll just have to wait till he falls asleep and untangle myself from his arms. After what seems to be forever, I hear him breathing heavily. That's it freedom for me. I drift off to lala Land.

Insert 55

It's been three weeks of attending counseling without fail. Nka's dad was discharged a week ago, he has full recovered but the Doctor booked him off work for a month. The investigations are still ongoing but no arrest have been made as yet. There's security surveillance 24/7 in that road where the accident took place. Surprisingly that footage was wiped out where the accident took place. Mr Nxumalo only remembers the model and color of the car. Unfortunately there

was no number plate. Whoever planned this was very strategic and Immaculate with their plan, lack of evidence has slowed down progress of this case. The boyfriend and I haven't been spending much time together. He's swamped with work but still makes it to our counseling sessions . There's a chauffer now appointed to drive me around whenever Nka isn't available to drive me. I somehow feel his more of a security guard than a chauffer. Just thee other day he was parked outside my flat the whole night. These days I've been spending most nights at my place, without the boyfriends aproval ofcourse. What's the point of sleeping alone in that big ass house.

It's Friday today, can't wait to knock off and sleep. Lately I've been feeling more tired than usual, could be from lack of sleep. I've gotten so used to sleeping in my man's warm arms. Sandiso is spending another month overseas so we still patiently waiting for him. Tomorrow I'm having lunch with the Nxumalo's. I'm looking forward to it, we've been getting along pretty well with the Mrs. It's lunch time and I'm chilling with the ladies. What else do we normally discuss except for lovelife, fashion and gossip.

NOMZAMO: " so ladies today after work, yall will have the pleasure of meeting my man"

ANTOINETTE : " Mr big spender, I honestly can't wait to see the man behind that smile"

OKUHLE : " Amen to that"

NOMZAMO: " we flying straight to the Eastern Cape Tsitsikama lodge"

ANTOINETTE : " this explains the big bag you had this morning"

OKUHLE : " how I crave for a holiday right now, beach vibes, bikini, sipping on some cocktails.

ANTOINETTE : " all you have to do is say the word, your man is loaded sweetie. Just in case you haven't noticed "

OKUHLE : " it's quite impossible right now, you know after the whole incident"

NOMZAMO : " how is he by the way, Mr N?"

ANTOINETTE : " really now, the man was here just the other day"

OKUHLE : " she's forever day dreaming about her romantic getaways"

NOMZAMO : " if only ya'll were in my shoes ladies. You would understand exactly how I feel. That man occupies my mind 24/7"

ANTOINETTE : " let's hope the feeling is mutual. One can never know with those species"

NOMZAMO : " Don't hate girl, just embrace singleville. Some of us camped there for almost eternity"

OKUHLE : " enjoy it girl, can't I tag along. Promise I won't bother yall"

NOMZAMO : " maybe next time. Ladies let's get back to work, two more hours. Tsitsikama here I come"

We decide to carry on with our daily tasks . I'm thinking of invading the mall after work. Get a very decent dress for lueh tomorrow. They've been addressing me as their Makoti the past two weeks in hospital. My aim is to impress and please. It's knock off time,I can't wait to hit the mall .I'll probably pass by Jase for a little catchup get session . Another thing, I've been calling the Khumalo's more often than before. I'm thinking of paying them a visit next weekend. Nomzamo is doing the final touch up of her makeup. She changed an outfit as well. That's new love for you. We are now waiting in the parking lot, my chauffeur is already waiting for me. This man and time keeping yeerr. I'm not leaving till as yet, we have a Mr money spender to meet. I decide to explain to the chauffeur the whole situation and join the ladies again. Clearly this man wants to make a grand entrance. We've been waiting for the past 17minutes now.

There's a golf 7 Gti approaching us. it's red in colour with tinted windows. He's playing Blackmotion - Joy, all the attention is now on him . The music is playing too loud, Nomzamo is dancing and she's all smiles. He's wearing dark shades, wait he looks familiar. I could be wrong though. He steps out of the car, damn I don't belive my eyes. I know this scumbag, how did he become such a big spender. I wonder what illegal dealing he's into. He's all swaggered up, pulling that bloody side walk. Shame, wait till he notices me. Nomzamo is beside herself with excitement. Shame if only she knew what lying cheat this man of hers is. Where did he leave the wife and his child, busy spending money on new chicks. Last time I checked he paid lobola for the baby mama Mos.

He comes close, all of the sudden his smile fades. He looks like his world has come tumbling down. Nomzamo grabs his hand and pulls him closer to us. I'm certain he wish the world could swallow him right this moment. The first introduction starts with Antoinette he takes her hand and gives it a perk. Nomzamo is so excited, clearly his displaying signs of being a total gentleman. It's my turn and he can't even maintain eye contact.

NOMZAMO: " babe this is the love of my life"

OKUHLE : " Thulani right"

NOMZAMO : " so you guys know each other or was that a good guess"

THULANI: " it happens babe, apparently I have that familiar looking face and a common name"

I just look at him, speechless is what I am. This man dated my friend for years. I lived with them at some point, now he's denying his identity. Haaibo! Wonders shall never end. Wait till Jase hears about this, I'm torn right now. Don't know if I should expose this son of a gun or leave him. The truth will eventually come out, his lies will catch up with him sooner or later. I look at Nomzamo so happy, excited and inlove. What right do I have to ruin this moment and crash her heart. Maybe I should just let it be, the guy just acted like I'm a complete stranger to him. Scratch the whole idea of shopping. I'm going straight to Jase, he's definitely gonna give me the right advise. Maybe he might just expose him for me. He takes Nomzamo's bag, a gentleman he always has been. Pity he's just a lying cheat in real life. This is all an act, a role that he plays so well. Luring woman and man to fall inlove with him, use them and run back to his wife. Wonder how Nomzamo will feel hearing her man play for both teams. The shock that's about to hit her.

THULANI : " it was lovely meeting you Ladies, if you'll excuse us. Me and my lady have Tsitsikama to explore"

ANTOINETTE : " have fun guys and don't do anything I wouldn't do"

NOMZAMO: " trust me I'll be doing everything that you won't be doing and more"

ANTOINETTE : " behave Zamo"

All I manage to say is goodbye, Antoinette might have sensed a little sarcasm in my statement. She looks at me, shrugs her shoulders and leave. That won't be the only things she'll be shrugging the day this liar gets exposed. Mr chauffeur has been waiting for way too long now. He's still on the phone when I get in the backseat. I hear him saying

"don't worry boss, I'll make sure she's safe and protected at all times"

Must be nice whoever it is that he's referring to. I miss my man, it's been a week and half of starvation. Wonder when is he coming to fulfill his boyfriend duties. I direct my chauffeur to Jase's place, today I've got some juicy gossip for my Moghey friend. I ask Mr Bodyguard / driver to pull up at the nearest bottle store. I get 2 bottles of wine. He gives me a disapproving look. What the hell! I pretend as if I didn't notice the displeased look. Today we gonna need more wine

than this. A call from Mr me comes through, he reminds me of the luch date tomorrow. As if I will forget, wouldn't miss it for the world. My in laws a smile form's on my face. I wonder how will Jase take these news. I'll deliver them anyway

Insert 56

My chauffer drops me at Jase's house. As usual I don't knock, something smells divine. I'm instantly hungry. This man missed his calling, I'd pay a fortune to indulge in his beef lasagne at some fancy restaurant. Swear I've never met anyone who does it better than him. He's

Cooking half naked, what's new? We go crazy, hugging, blowing kisses. You'd swear we haven't seen each other in years. Food is served, so is the wine. We catchup as usual. Then I deliver the news like the pastor delivers a sermon, all Thulani's latest shenanigans. All his dirty laundry, out in the open . He chokes on his food, that was expected. His facial expression says it all. Shock, the man is flabbergasted. Who wouldn't be. He drinks water, comes back takes the bottle of wine and drink straight from it.

JASE : " the devils agent is still operating huuh"

OKUHLE : "he's Satan's last born that one"

JASE : " are you sure not Satan's consultant "

OKUHLE : " he's a shareholder in hell"

JASE : " ha ha ha, the devils advocate"

OKUHLE : " Satan's right hand man"

JASE : " I doubt he has the same blood as ours, maybe he's from a special galaxy. Where they don't have hearts or feelings"

OKUHLE : " he's probably the king of that planet hey"

JASE : " which makes me wonder where's that bitch karma. Is she under his payroll or something"

OKUHLE : " he probably seduced her"

JASE : " I wouldn't put it past him, plus his sex game"

OKUHLE : " yuck! spare me the details"

JASE : " his poor fiance probably thinks he's in some business trip, hustling for their family"

OKUHLE : " going out of her cooking, cleaning making their house a home meanwhile"

JASE : " he's wining, dining and laying his side dish"

OKUHLE : " she's genuinely happy Jase, the heartbreak that's about to hit her"

JASE : " she'll survive, we all did"

OKUHLE : " while he moves to his next project, the unfairness of life"

JASE : " karma will locate him one of these days"

OKUHLE : " how many lives would he have ruined then"

JASE : " he'll meet his match, watch and learn"

Shame poor Zamo, as Jase mentioned its not our place to warn her. Every man for himself. We continue with our crazy conversations. I'm intoxicated, spending a night will not hurt anyone Mos. It's almost 10pm and I make my way to the spare room. I'm so exhausted, Jase locks up. I'll definitely be hungover the next morning, went too hard on that bottle. I passout immediately after getting inside the covers. I wake up with a banging headache, wait didn't I sleep at Jase's place what am I doing here. Wasn't I dreaming, my heads heavy. Something smells nice, but I can't bring myself into lifting my head. He helps me balance with cushions. I'm given two painkillers, exactly what I need. Breakfast looks scrumptious and I'm ready to dig in. He lifts me up, we make our way to the bathroom. He hands me a toothbrush. After brushing my teeth and washing my face, he lifts me up again. The direction is going to the balcony, there's a little setup. Pretty romantic, he brings the food. I need no invitation for this occasion. We dig in.

There's no conversation, only sounds of cutlery and the refreshing morning breeze. He's usually talkative, why is he so closed off this morning. Hopefully I'm not behind his Sudden change of mood. We are done, he clears the table and leaves. Haaibo! He's doing dishes without me I take the dishcloth and wipe the dishes. The silent treatment, he's giving me. I can't take it, what's his problem.

OKUHLE : " Babe"

NKANYISO : " yes"

OKUHLE : " are you mad at me"

NKANYISO : " wow! Am I mad at you? I don't know, maybe the fact that I have to drive around at night worrying sick about you because your phone rings without being answered"

OKUHLE : " babe I'm sorry, I completely forgot about my phone. Promise it won't happen again, that was selfish of me"

NKANYISO : " love, your safety is my number one priority. I'd go insane if anything happens to you. All I ask is that you inform me of your whereabouts, is it a lot to ask babe"

OKUHLE : " not at all, I'm sorry love. Can I make it up to you"

NKANYISO : " I could think of better ways, but let's prepare for lunch with the family"

OKUHLE : " a boring boyfriend you are"

NKANYISO : " MaKhumalo I'm warning you"

OKUHLE : " what you gonna do about it"

NKANYISO : " you aren't playing fair"

OKUHLE : " life isn't fair"

NKANYISO : " fuck LET-O"

My favorite line, most might be wondering what I did. That shall forever remain my secret. I'm kidding, I pulled a strip show. His eyes says it all, I'm about to be served. I lead him to the kitchen, the mischievous smile on his face. I lift myself to the kitchen counter and expose all his goods. A meal fit enough for a king. He's beside me in a blink of an eye. He takes me on the kitchen counter, against the wall, on the floor, we moved to the couch and ended up on one of the guests room. I'm so exhausted after our sexrcise, we both pass out.

We get up three hours later, there's still two hours before lunch starts. The only challenge is that I have no clothes to wear. We prepare, he dresses up and I'm only wearing his loose T-shirt that looks more like a dress. We go pass the mall, he buys me a very beautiful expensive dress. His no fan of shopping, so I'm forced to buy at a boutique. From Bra, panty, dress and shoes with accessories. He definitely doesn't mind spending. We buy a very expensive whisky for the father, flowers and chocolates for the mom. I'm just swiping, black card baby. He's so amused by all this.

NKANYISO : " let me borrow you this card for the next 7 days provided I don't come along on these shopping sprees"

OKUHLE : " are you serious babe?"

NKANYISO : " dead serious, if you remain a good girl. I might just let you keep it"

OKUHLE : "let's make a deal if you let me keep it, I'd be at your services. Today's kitchen counter omnibus, everyday all day"

NKANYISO : " I love the way you think Mrs me, Mr Nxumalo senior is going back to work next week. Let's just say, I'll take your offer mam"

Yeeey! I'm back to being called Mrs me, the power of the V-jay - Jay. I'm looking forward to this family lunch. Especially since me and Mrs N senior are now in good terms. She's really not a bad person, maybe she thought I was just a fling. We arrive at the Nxumalo's residents. It's only the parents, mpilo, his fiance, Mr and Mrs me. It's quite an intimate lunch. We have lunch indoors, the conversation is flowing. Mr Nxumalo has fully recovered, I watch them in admiration. Their love story is so beautiful, today I got to hear all about it. Mpilo is so excited only 3 weeks left before they walk down the aisle. They all turn to Nka, he just looke down and smile. I get the feeling they are hiding something from me. Hopefully it's not another woman, I'd definitely loose my mind.

We spend the whole day with the family. I'm looking forward to more lunch and dinner dates with my second family. Nka kept having these secret conversations with his dad. I Was definitely part of the discussion, every now and then I'd catch them staring at me. I'll find out, I have my ways of getting things these days. Mr Me will know me very well.

We are making our way home, I'm super exhausted. All I want is that king-size bed. He's squeezing my thighs again, not tonight. I'm still very much satisfied with this mornings sexercise. I'm fatigued, the last thing on my mind is sex. The fact that I won't have a chauffeur anymore, excites me. My very own Nka will be driving me up and down once again. Matshepo, Mpilo's fiance asked me To be one of her brides maid. I couldn't dissapoint her, tomorrow I have a fitting appointment with her tailor. They need to take my measurements for the dress. We have 3 full weeks to practice the wedding step. The thought alone, is tiring . Things we do for families and our loved ones . Now I'm included in most of her planning from picking up the perfect bouquet to the deco colour selection. My goodness!

The wedding day has finally arrived, the excitement is beyond me. Feels like I'm the one getting married. I was so involved in all the planning, from deco selection, venue choosing, last minute bridal shower organizing. I personally feel like it's my wedding, except for the fact that I won't be wearing the white gown. Mr me is sulking, don't understand what's his problem. I foresee a punishment coming my way, who in their right minds wants their woman to skip a bridal shower. You guessed right only him is capable of such. He blew up my phone nonstop after midnight, clearly the Bachelor party wasn't as interesting as our bridal shower. I feel so refreshed, we got pampered real good. From manicures, pedicures, full body massages, facials and our male stripper surprise. We have a relaxed bride, I'm definitely having a similar bridal shower when I get married. We are booked at the Misty hills country hotel, this is where the wedding will take place.

Everyone is all dressed up, there's 3 makeup ladies. We are all done and ready, the bride is still getting dressed up. That's enough allowance to go crazy taking pictures. We snap away with our phones. There's a professional camera man, we take full advantage of him. Mrs N calls me in, my jaw is on the floor when I see Matshepo. She's drop dead gorgeous. She looks like some character from a fairytale movie. Her mermaid dress is a perfect fit, we were together when she went for a final fitting. Her perfect figure and the makeup combination, I'm speechless. No no! What is this woman doing? Why is she crying now.

MATSHEPO: " it's tears of joy, finally I'm marrying the man of my dreams. Ow! LET-O he's everything I've been praying for and more"

OKUHLE : " I'm so happy for you. You deserve all the love and happiness"

MATSHEPO: " I just wish my parents were here to witness and celebrate this day with me. I'm so emotional LET-O"

OKUHLE : " guess what, they are looking down and smiling at you. I'm sure they are very proud of their one and only daughter. Look on the bright side you've earned yourself two more parents"

MATSHEPO : " I know they've welcomed me with warm open arms. What more can a girl ask for "

Mrs N comes back with all the bride's maid, we all gather around and hold hands. She bless us with a powerful prayer. We get ready to walk our lovely bride down the aisle. I spot Mpilo standing in front and beside him is my person. Looking all sexy and handsome in his navy slim

fit suit, he adjust his tie as soon as its my turn to walk down. He winks at me. That smile only God knows how much I want to grab and have my way with him. Floods down there , he's so sexy. Lord have mercy such thoughts in the house of God. Our bride makes her way in, Mpilo's eyes are watery. Here I am ruining my makeup, this moment is too beautiful. I spot few people with tears in their eyes. Most ladies are in tears. The Priest starts with his ceremony, in an hours time we have our newly weds Mr and Mrs Nxumalo. Now we can start with the festivities.

We dance, eat, drink, celebrate with family and close friends. Everyone is having such a jol. Mr and Mrs Nxumalo senior are dancing to an old soulful jazz song. The chemistry between them is too strong, I want a love like theirs. He can't keep his eyes off her. After so many years, he still looks at her like it's the very first time. The type of love that you only read about in novels or watch in movies, that's exactly what they have. I feel arms around me. I catch his scent, he nibbles on my neck. If he doesn't stop, I will rip his clothes apart and take him here and now. He turns me around, his gentle touches are making me wetter than wet. That sexy smile, the bedroom eyes.

NKANYISO : " may I have this dance my beautiful lady"

OKUHLE : " ofcourse you may, Mr me"

He leads me to the dancefloor. Most couples have joined the dancing frenzy. He holds my waist and we swiftly move to the music. He's whispering sweet nothings in my ear, I'm a giggling and blushing mess. The effect this man has on me. I've fallen deeper inlove with him. We take more pictures with the newly weds . My feet are killing me now, I'm so exhausted. I'm so glad we spending the night in this beautiful hotel. Today I'm spending the night with my man. Earlier I spotted Fifi, Manqoba and Sandiso.

FIFI : " finally we get to chat, girl you are flames. There's someone I want you to meet. She's very special to me.come"

OKUHLE : " I can't wait, let's meet them"

She leads me outside, there's a beautiful tall, slim brunette smiling at us. This girl is busy licking caramel, who would've thought. They engage in a lip locking kiss. Haaibo! They've forgotten about me. Wonders shall never end. Fifi is way shorter. It's quite funny how she has to stand on her tippy toes for their intimate moment. Finally they pull out from the kiss. There's nothing

sexier than two woman kissing. I definitely didn't mind this show .

FIFI : "so LET-O this is Marlise Van Vuuren, the lady of my life. The one who holds the key to my heart"

MARLISE: " the beautiful LET-O, nice to finally put the face to a name. I've heard so much about you. Boy am I glad you family,at some point I thought you'd be the reason I get involved in a catfight. This one has been talking a lot about you"

OKUHLE : " it's nice to meet you too, don't worry about all that. I'm addicted to vitamin D, so we'll never get involved in a catfight"

MARLISE : " I'd drink to that"

FIFI : " speaking of drinking there's an open bar now and drinks are flowing. Can our feet lead us to that direction"

OKUHLE : " I'd drink to that"

We make our way to the bar. Two shots of vodka with lemon , I feel myself getting drunk real quick. I decide to befriend water now, cant afford to have a blackout. These two lovers are downing shots like there's no tomorrow. They keep daring me, I know my limit and right now I'm not touching any intoxicating beverages. These two are so lovey dovey, I miss my man right now. I better go, find him. I don't even inform them , they won't even miss me. I'm a bit tipsy, that's vodka for you. I'm busy giggling all alone. My mission right now is to find my boyfriend, these shoes, honestly! I can't anymore. One wrong step then it's over. I decide to take them off and walk bare foot. It's quite funny, why did I have to wear such high heels. Ow wait, they look better with this dress. Things we do for beauty.

I bump into Sandiso, he looks at with a smile.

SANDISO: " our future Makoti, why are you barefooted"

OKUHLE : " because of these"

SANDISO: " Ow now I see, how did you even survive in those the whole day. Dancing in them even"

OKUHLE : " the price we pay for beauty, the price we pay for beauty"

We both laugh, he has such a contagious laugh. I can't help but join in. A crazy thought just crossed my mind. He's probably seeing my life three years from now. I'm probably drunk, never mess with vodka. He looks at me and a smile breaks from his face. Right now I'd be happy if he tells me good news. As if he read my mind.

SANDISO: " you worry a lot over the cleansing thing, don't be. He will find you when the time is right. He's dealing with a lot but when the time is right he will find you"

A huge relief washes over me. My prayers have been answered, all this wasn't in vain. Atleast I dealt with the loss of my baby through counseling. I'm so happy I need to find the boyfriend and share the good news. I feel his arms around me. I turn and smash my lips on his.

I break the kiss and stare into his eyes.

NKANYISO : " I've been looking for you, you dissapered on me"

OKUHLE : " now that you've found me what are planning to do with me"

NKANYISO : " I prefer to demonstration it, Mrs me"

OKUHLE : " why don't we just dissappear, you've been sexually torturing me all day. You look good enough to eat and I'm craving for my buffet"

NKANYISO : " your wish is my command. Let's get out of here".

OKUHLE : " music to my ears"

Insert 58

Two months later everything is going well, we're done with our counseling sessions. I'm no longer worried over the cleansing thing, wonder when will Bra Muzi show up . This coming weekend its back to verulam for Bhuti Siphawe's lobola and engagement celebration. I'm exhausted as it is, maybe I should start my own bridal boutique, wedding planning events company. I've turned into an unpaid wedding consultant. Everyday It's me and Langelihle on watsapp choosing colours, venues and dresses for the engagement party. They decided to wait until their babies are born, before tying the knot. our poor Makoti looks like she's about to pop

any day from now but she's only 7 months pregnant.

Lately Nomzamo has been acting rather strange, she's always jumpy. Just the other day she was wearing a poloneck in this heat. Antoinette wanted to confront her, we both agreed not to get involved. Moghel will eventually confide when the time is right. The atmosphere is not the same, sometimes she'll skip lunch and bury herself with work. I could be wrong but that's just an excuse to avoid us. Whatever's bothering her has everything to do with that devil's advocate Thulani. She hasn't mentioned his name in a long while, she gets jumpy whenever his name is mentioned. Antoinette loves to pry in other people's business. Demanding details on their weekend away, that topic seems to make her more uncomfortable. She portrays signs of a woman who's being abused. I scratch that thought quickly, he's a cheat and a pathological liar. I doubt he's a woman basher, he's never lifted a finger on Jase. But Nomzamo's sudden change of behaviour is quite alarming.

We having lunch, just me and Antoinette. It's always just us two these days. I've been trying to convince this lady not to confront Zamo for the past two weeks. Today, seems like all my efforts are in vain. She's on some stubborn mode, only God knows how much I've tried. The door bangs behind her, I feel like vanishing into thin air. She comes back pulling Zamo by her hand. Haaibo! I don't think she came willingly. The banging of the door again. Zamo stands folding her hands, a disaster waiting to happen. I attempt to stand but the look Antoinette gives sends me straight back to my seat. Why am I caught up in this situation?

ANTOINETTE : " Zamo you've been ignoring us, did we do or say something that offended you maybe?"

NOMZAMO : " why don't you just leave me alone. Honestly I need peace in my life"

ANTOINETTE : " we've been getting along so well, I just miss our conversations. I don't understand how you'd just switch up on us without any valid or proper explanation"

I honestly don't think my two cents will make any difference. Keeping my mouth shut seems like the perfect choice. I don't want to blab out what I've been thinking and offend her for real. She's avoiding eye contact, my suspicions are rather confirmed. Maybe I read too many magazines and watch too many documentaries of abused women. She sighs heavily, I pray she doesn't confirm my suspicions.

ANTOINETTE : "sweety what's bothering you so much that you'd shut the whole world out"

NOMZAMO : "I don't even know where to begin, it's so hard"

OKUHLE : "you can always start from the beginning doll"

NOMZAMO : "he's not what I thought he was, he's a monster. He's pure evil, I don't even know what I saw in him"

OKUHLE / ANTOINETTE : "come here sweetie"

We embrace her in a group hug and she breaks down. I knew this was bound to happen sooner or later. Did she find out about the fiance and the child? She's devastated, this is too heavy for one to carry. A part of me feels guilty, maybe if I came clean. This would've been avoided, but then he could've turned it all around. The man even treated me like a complete stranger. Either way, we would've ended up with same results. Zamo was going to be hurt either way. At least there's no animosity between us. After a while she breaks free from the hug and seat down. We sit beside her in total silence. I'm lost for words, the guilt is not doing me any justice.

NOMZAMO : "he's engaged to be married with a child. How can I be so stupid, this love thing is not for me. I'm too gullible and everyman always takes from me . I'm just a piece of meat and a fun thing to pass time to them"

ANTOINETTE : "wow! Mr nice charming gentleman, what are you telling me"

NOMZAMO : "I introduced him to my family, he told them I was his future wife and they must expect lobola from him soon. I'm such a joke right now"

OKUHLE : "Don't be too hard on yourself, you wouldn't have known. People are good in pretending"

NOMZAMO : "this one is the master of pretence, he had me eating out of his hand like a love sick puppy. I believed everything he said"

ANTOINETTE : "so how did you discover his lies"

NOMZAMO : "my cousin bumped into him at some family gathering, the wife is related to my cousin boyfriend's family. My cousin confronted him, he denied it but they were later introduced to her as a couple"

ANTOINETTE : "that's fucked up"

NOMZAMO : "I know right, so my cousin informed me of her findings. I was in denial, not my

perfect man. Come to think of it, I've never been to his place. He always had stories, it was either hotels or my place. To cut the story short I decided to do my own investigations and what I discovered left me devastated and in total shock. I had him followed and the evidence confirmed my cousins story "

OKUHLE : " I'm so sorry, you deserve better. not a lying cheat like him. It might hurt now but imagine finding out two years down the line. It would've destroyed you "

NOMZAMO : " I guess you are right, when I confronted him he was so arrogant. No apologies, no remorse. He plain told me, he won't leave his woman for me"

ANTOINETTE : " he's a monster, he'll get what's coming to him"

NOMZAMO : " two weeks later, he rocked up on my door. Drunk, he demanded sex. Ofcourse I didn't agree to his demands. So he slapped me, still shocked. The man bashed my body and left me there bleeding and in pain"

ANTOINETTE : " what the fuck, I hope there's a case with his name and a police van on its way to fetch him"

OKUHLE : " definitely he must be counted tonight in jail"

NOMZAMO : " I was so down and confused. Thought I could just deal with this my way. You know but he came back again last weekend and he demanded we get back together, he was ready to slap me but I fought back. It felt so damn good, all the anger. He fought back of course "

What she does next, was quite unexpected. She took us by surprise, when she stripped her clothes. My God, she's bruised and has bite mark on her thighs. What kind of a man bites a woman? She laughs out loud. We end up joining her. This is no laughing matter but she narrates the whole story how she ended up with bite marks. This woman is dangerous, she was strangling him with her thighs. Only God know how they ended up in that position in the first place. She tells us, Thulani will only return if he has a dead wish. We laugh some more, she definitely was fedup. I'm glad she fought back, that son of a gun. Would've turned her into his doormat, always popping in just to smack her and have his way with her. She tells us how therapeutic it was to bash him. She felt all the anger dissappearing in the process. He deserved it, only a monster has the ability to turn such a lady into a fighting machine.

ANTOINETTE : " girl I'm coming to you for some defence lessons, there's a few people I want to strangle with my thighs. My first victim is will be that nosey neighbour of mine. I want to go all John Cena on her ass"

OKUHLE : " I trust you to turn a serious matter into a joke"

NOMZAMO : "all that's required is Thulani's picture, I swear those lessons will be free"

OKUHLE : " yall are too crazy, I give up"

ANTOINETTE : " if ever there's a bitch trying to come between you and Mr Nxumalo junior. Look no further call us girl. We'll be strangling that bitch in between our thighs"

Crazy ladies!

Insert 59

It brings me joy to have both my ladies back again. We are back to being tea and lunch buddies. Always gossiping, yesterday we almost got into trouble. Our little catch up session made us forget the duration of our lunch. We sat there for a full hour and a half, luckily Mpilo is a sweetheart. He only came to fetch us because the receptionist phone was ringing none stop. We decided to have drinks Wednesday night after work , it's payday after all. We will get plenty of time to sit and catchup for real. Jase was in shock when I delivered the latest Thulani's scandals. I was just as shocked, maybe he knew he didn't stand a chance with Jase. He might be gay but the strength he has is that of a man. So he thought twice, his poor fiance. She's probably a punching bag.

Today Mr me is accompanying me to the mall. I hate last minute shopping but I'm left with no choice. I have to get a dress for my brother's engagement party. The black card is at my disposal, I intend on maxing it out. I'll need a full week to achieve that. The pleasure of shopping with Bae, it's boutiques after boutiques. He hates standing in queeus with passion. Finally I find exactly what I'm looking for at the third boutique, I add a pair of shoes and accessories. He only buys a tie and shoes. I wonder how he managed to have a full wardrobe, he passionately hates shopping .

It's Wednesday night, everything is going as planned. We freshened up in Mr Nxumalo's seniors office, it has an ensuite bathroom. Ofcourse I had to make it happen, after convincing Nka and taking one for the team. He simply allowed us to use it, provided we leave it clean. These ladies they don't even know how I had to bend over for this favour. Nomzamo was a bit late today, she promised to inform us all about it during our dinner date. She hinted its dramatic, it probably has everything to do with Thulani. He's the only person who brings drama into Zamo's life.

We settle into this lovely restaurant. We order food and drinks. It's such a lovely environment, midweek not too full. I've never had girlfriends before, only Jase has been my friend . I'm kind of enjoying this new found sisterhood, it's quite refreshing. We are waiting in anticipation for Zamo to deliver the dramatic news. Guess she was waiting for us to finish eating first.

NOMZAMO : " so yesterday while preparing for work. There was a loud knock on my door. I open, only to find Thulani accompanied by the police . The shock!"

ANTOINETTE : " what the fuck, he's really a mental case. What did they want"

NOMZAMO : " apparently I assaulted him, the twisted version to his story. I was shocked "

OKUHLE : " wow! I thought I've seen it all"

NOMZAMO : " so they wanted to take me with for questioning but they were too many loopholes in his story"

ANTOINETTE : " girl get me this guy's address, he needs mob justice. The nerve"

OKUHLE : " he probably needed some sort of explanation for his wife, so what better way than involving the cops"

NOMZAMO : " he went about it the wrong way, because after delivering my side of the story. They actually wanted me to open a case and have him arrested"

ANTOINETTE : " I hope that's exactly what you did"

NOMZAMO : " I just decided to open a protection order against him"

OKUHLE : " serves him well, I hope he has learnt his lesson and stay far away from you"

ANTOINETTE : " I still say he needs the community justice"

NOMZAMO : " I need that chapter of my life closed now, I feel like going on vacation after all this drama"

OKUHLE : " you deserve it babe, after all the drama and surviving Thulani. You definitely need a vacation"

We hang around, discussing all the crazy things. I can't believe Thulani would stoop so low. Who does that, honestly his such a sore loser. Wait till Jase hears about this, he'll laugh till his stomach hurts . My phone rings, Nka is very sweet. He was just checking up on me, he wants to collect me after our date with the girls. I excuse myself, I'm really pressed I rush to the ladies. But what I hear next makes me stop on my tracks as pressed as I am. Wait, that voice. I know that voice too well. I follow his laughter, there he is. Sitting so cousy and laughing so freely. He's so carefree. I can tell this is a date judging by how close and cousy they are . Maybe I shouldn't disturb, but it's too late for that now. He has already spotted me. His signaling for me to come.

JASE : " whuu chomie, I'm guessing you are here with the boyfriend. Where is he? You guys can join us. The more the merrier is what they always say"

OKUHLE : " no I'm with my colleagues, we decided to have supper and drinks"

JASE : " I guess this is the perfect moment to introduce you to the man in my life, Lele meet George Nel my boyfriend. Babes this is Lele my best friend"

GEORGE : " such a pleasant surprise to meet you Lele"

OKUHLE : " likewise, I'm sorry but I'll have to excuse myself. I need the ladies, it's very urgent"

GEORGE: " it was lovely meeting you"

JASE : " babe, I need the ladies as well. Be right back"

This man has a different accent and he looks decent and matured . So long as Jase's happy right, nothing beats happiness. I can't wait to get him in a secluded space so we can gossip a bit. Wonder how long was he planning to keep his new found love a secret. Who am I to blame him? I also took time to inform him about Nka. Not that I was hiding him, but adulting got in the way. There's hardly time during the week to meet up and catch up with friends. We at the ladies, ofcourse he came with me. The nasty stares from other ladies, doesn't seem to bother him one bit.

OKUHLE : "chomie, the new man in your life huuh"

JASE : " I was still planning a very nice romantic double date dinner to introduce you guys to Mr

Nel"

OKUHLE : " look at you rolling with the Nel's, when, how and for how long"

JASE : " that's a story for another day, He makes me happy Lele, he's 52 originally from Holland but he moved this side three years ago after divorcing his wife"

OKUHLE : " so he's bisexual?"

JASE : " yes Lele"

OKUHLE : " if he pulls a Thulani on you, tell him Zamo Wil sort him out"

We burst out in laughter, the thigh strangler is what Jase calls her. I'm being rushed to finish my business because he can't miss the opportunity of meeting the thigh Strangler in person. Ofcourse Nomzamo doesn't know the whole story between Jase and Thulani. Jase can be such a bore, his excitement over meeting Zamo is beyond me. Guess she's a hero to him, Jase never seeked for revenge after breaking up with Thulani. He probably see Nomzamo as a hero for teaching him a lesson and putting him in his place. This I have to see. We are slowly approaching the table and Jase can't even contain his excitement.

JASE : " Hello I'm Jase, Lele's best friend. It's lovely meeting you Ladies"

ANTOINETTE : " I'm Antoinette and this lovely lady is Nomzamo. We are LET-O's colleagues"

JASE : " It was lovely meeting you Ladies, unfortunately I can't stay and chat for long. I'm here with Bae, let me go back before he start thinking I ditched him"

ANTOINETTE : " next time please do join us, you seem like a very pleasant person to hang with"

JASE : " I will definitely like that, let me get going before Mkhulu Bae start a search party"

NOMZAMO : " we are definitely inviting you next time, I need tips on how to find my very own Mkhulu Bae. Maybe a mature old man will do right by me"

JASE : " girl, mine is so laid back and loaded. The only problem is he's passed the partying and clubbing phase"

NOMZAMO : " I'm way pass that stage, so hook a sister up"

OKUHLE : " the search party has begun, here comes Mkhulu Bae"

JASE : " ladies let me love and leave you"

We watch him strutting his stuff all the way to his man's arms. They look good together, he definitely doesn't even look his age. He looks like he's in his early forties. The ladies can't stop commenting over Jase's fashion sense. He's a fashionista, wait till their second encounter.

Insert 60

We are driving to Mpumalanga with Bae, can't wait to see the Khumalo's. Nka has booked himself in at the guest house. Pity we won't even spend quality time together. I'll be hecticly busy as soon as I get home. It's always a pleasure going on a road trip with him. The random stops, the pictures, food and playful moments we have together are priceless. Saturday while the lobola negotiations are taking place, I'll be in charge of the deco and catering process at the hall. My Job is to make sure everything goes according to plan. I might just spend Saturday night with Bae. He's suddenly sulking, here we go again.

NKANYISO : " it's difficult being away from you babe, you complete me. Honestly I'll wife you sooner than I thought"

OKUHLE : " wife me babe, I'll definitely enjoy having you as my husband"

NKANYISO : " be prepared to have 5 kids"

OKUHLE : " 5 are you insane Nka"

NKANYISO : " initially I wanted 9 but I can't have my lovely wife pushing 9 heads so 5 will do"

OKUHLE : "you are completely insane, I want three kids or 4. We can have two sets of twins, that means visiting the labour ward only two times"

NKANYISO : " I love that idea we can have three sets of twins, two boys, two girls, then a boy and a girl or we can have sextuplets"

OKUHLE : " raising 6 kids at once, I'd go insane"

NKANYISO : " we'll have three nannies, We'll be sorted babe"

OKUHLE : " then I'll be forced to be a house wife and raise our kids"

NKANYISO : " that will make me the happiest man in the planet . Just draft a business plan down, then you can run that business from home babe. Life is too short, I need you to be financially stable if anything happens to me. This life is just unpredictable"

My heart breaks a million times over that thought, these are the kind of topic that I usually avoid. He takes my hand, looks deep in my eyes . HE can sense my uneasiness, I pray not to ever experience that in this lifetime. I don't know how I'll cope with 6 kids if God decides to take him from us .

NKANYISO : " I know you don't like speaking of such but my love, we have to face reality sometimes. These things happen, even to good people. That's why I need you to be well off before God remembers me. That's why I work so hard, there's business ventures that I'm exploring on the side babe. I'm also into property, all my trustfund money went directly there"

OKUHLE : " handsome with brains, you are a whole package babe"

NKANYISO : " I know right, so with all the interest coming through. I was thinking of sponsoring you with a capital so you can start your own business. Maybe your own spa, beauty salon or boutique just to name the few. Find your true passion then we can finalize this discussion "

OKUHLE : " I'll definitely do so, thank you once again for this opportunity. Promise I'll do my research and get back to you "

NKANYISO : " no rush babe, I just want to take care of you even beyond the grave "

OKUHLE : " you scaring me with this topic, are you dying babe. You wouldn't hide such information from me. Will you? "

NKANYISO : " I'm perfectly healthy babe, these are my own fears that I'm addressing. I doubt I'll even rest in peace if you'll be struggling without me"

OKUHLE : " I hear you my love, just so you know we will grow old together me and you"

NKANYISO : " ofcourse I'll still bend you over even in our 80's"

OKUHLE : " I'll be grey, wrinkly and very old"

NKANYISO : " trust me I'll still find you sexy and attractive my love"

OKUHLE : " you are one crazy being, do you know that"

NKANYISO : " ofcourse I know, now send my love to my in-laws. I'll definitely see them soon"

OKUHLE : " Ow yeah, take care babe. See you tomorrow night. I'm coming to spend the night since the engagement party is Sunday"

NKANYISO : " music to my ears"

He comes to my side, opens the door for me and pulls me into a warm loving hug. We passionately kiss, it's time for me to see the Khumalo's as difficult as it is to break away from this embrace. We are parked 7 houses away from mine. Somethings will never change, I spot the neighborhood gossiping squad some still in their sleepwear and gowns. It's 4pm on a Friday for crying out loud. All eyes are on us now, should I just mention that no fucks are given from my side. Mr me hands me my bag, he pulls me once again for another hug and a heated kiss. I hear the "wuuuu and the tjo's" from the ladies. The young boys are whistling on the side, the attention is on us. Such affectionate displays are quite rare in our community. What he does next leaves me shy, he spansks my ass real hard. I turn and walk straight home.he drives next to me slowly, showering me with compliments. soon as im at my gate, He hoots and drives away.

Home sweet home, my dad is sitting with two of his brothers and one elderly man. He's the only one, I'm not familiar with. Judging by their resemblance he's probably family. This means I'll be a tea lady for the rest of the day. My dad's face lights up when he sees me. I greet them with respect after a good 20 minutes of answering questions about my profession, my stay in joburg, safety precautions, my boyfriend. Was I glad when they finally released me,the mini interview was terrible. MaKhumalo is cooking as soon she sees me, she lowers the heat on the stove. I know exactly what it means, I'll have to continue with the pots. Not even half an hour at home, I'm already being bullied. It feels good to be home regardless.

I've received a message from my bhut' Siphwiwe, he'll arrive in two hours. Atleast I'll get to catch up with the twins father to be . I know for a fact that he's having difficulty separating from his fiance hence he hasn't arrived yet.It's going to be a lon weekend, my duty as a tea lady has already begun. so is the cooking duty. MaKhumalo is watching her gospel channel and barking orders. Now I agree with Nkanyiso, I'll have 5 kids. Imagine if I had two sisters. We'll be sharing duties equally amongst us. I wonder what made the Khumalo's to only have two kids, while their peers were having 9 or 8 kids. That won't even solve anything now, im the only girl and right now all the duties are solely my responsibility.

I check up on the boyfriend, he's settled in and as usual he's missing me not as much as I miss him though. I can't even stay for long in the phone, they are calling me. They are sending me to the bottle store to buy smirnoff vodka for one of the uncles. They are loud as it is, it will only get worse upon my return to the bottlestore. The funny part, they are sending me with my own money. I decide to get three bottles, billtong, peanuts for the man. For Makhumalo I get tennis biscuits, chocolates, snacks, fruits and different types of cool drinks. I know them once they send me once, I'll have to go again and again. So why not stock up and avoid unnecessary trips.

I'll drop these things, dish up and checkup on Jase's mom and sister. It's been a while and I might need a few goodies for them also.

Upon my way home a very fancy car pulls over next to me, the window rolls down. I don't believe this he has done so well for himself. He's buffed up a bit, clearly he visits gym too often . He smiles at me with those pearly whites.

SMANGA: " Lele, it's so good to see you. Looking beautiful as always"

OKUHLE : " you looking good yourself, you've become a gym fanatic I see"

SMANGA: " atleast someone notices, more motivation for me to carry on"

OKUHLE : " it's good seeing you, let me get going"

SMANGA : " how about we go out for lunch as friends ofcourse "

OKUHLE : " I'd love to, but unfortunately I'm swamped this whole weekend"

SMANGA : " maybe next time"

There will never be a next time ,I was only being polite. There's no room for exes, I'll never invite a complication in my life and risk losing what I have . That ship has long sailed.

SMANGA : " take care of yourself, just so you know I'll always love you"

To say I was shocked would be an understatement!

Insert 61

Bhut' Siphwe is already home, his car is parked in the driveway. What a relief, atleast they'll have someone to run their errands. Bottle store errands to be exact. I deliver their parcels and excuse myself. I'm instructed to close the door behind, they are probably having a meeting regarding lobola negotiations. MaKhumalo is taking a nap, just great. I browse my social networks, Jase just checked in PE, Wow nice life problems. Mkhulu Bae tagged him. a very

cousy pictures of them, captioned "love lives here" this is beautiful. I'm ready to comment when one of the comments catch my attention

" you left us for a fucken black man, you'll burn and rot in hell" my curiosity gets the better of me, it's the ex wife. She's one angry woman. I comment

" wow such a lovely couple, may God bless this wonderful union"

She replies on my comment with angry emoticons. Shame she'll be strong, this is my friend and I'll support him till the end.

I'm disturbed by a knock on my door. It's my brother waiting for me with open arms. We hug, gosh I've missed him. I make a way for him to come in. He sits in a chair next to my bed. He has gained weight, wow our Makoti is doing a wonderful job. This man is glowing, could be the pregnancy.

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " snorty face"

OKUHLE : " Don't start Bhuti, as an aunt I'm passing down that name to my two nieces or Nephews"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " Don't you dare, you'll always be my snorty face. Married or not, you'll remain my snorty face"

OKUHLE : "so tomorrow, we are officially fetching our bride. I'm so proud of you big brother. Soon you'll be a Father to two beautiful kids"

BHUT ' SIPHIWE : " God really outdone himself by sending an angel my way. I'm really grateful, I worship the ground she walks on. Looking back at my past, I'm glad to have met all the unstable woman. It made me mature and appreciate the good woman Langelihle is"

OKUHLE : " I know exactly what you mean"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " sounds like you talking from experience. Lele! earth to Lele"

OKUHLE : " I'm sorry my mind just drifted off somewhere"

BHUT' SIPHIWE: "if I didn't know any better, I'd say you relate to my last statement"

OKUHLE : " my big brother there's someone special in my life. He has showered me with love from day one. Honestly I'm incomplete whenever we are apart"

BHUT' SIPHIWE: " I must meet him first, he must prove himself to me"

OKUHLE : " my poor man Bhuti"

BHUT ' SIPHIWE: " wait till I ruffle him up a bit, he needs to know there's a man who will kill for you"

OKUHLE : " somehow I think you two will get along pretty well"

His phone disturbs us, he attends to it. I just hear by the sweetest names his uttering, its the love of his love. I'm so happy for him, honestly he deserves happiness. After all the drama queens he has been dating in the past. Bab' Khumalo just called him after his call. Might as well forget about him coming back. Tomorrow I have a very busy schedule, I'll probably be on my feet the whole day. The exhaustion has gotten the better of me. I lock up my room and take a nap. There's a knock on the door, how long have I been sleeping. I check the time, it's 5:20 am Saturday morning. Goodness MaKhumalo won't give me time to rest. I know her too well, she woke me up for chores and to help with breakfast. We are done with everything by 7am. All the Khumalo's are gathered in the table for breakfast, they take off after their meal . Dishes, yeeerr! What choice do I have. Perks of being the only girl child.

I wrap up everything, the boyfriend is already waiting for me. He drives me to the venue, they are already busy setting up. All the selected food are on the menu. The lady is so kind, she prepared each and every sample of food included on the menu for tasting. Nka is having a feast, he's literally eating big portions. Luckily it's just us two. After our tasting session, I have a very full and satisfied Man. We decide to go pass his place, today MaKhumalo will forgive me. I need shag from Mr Me. The initial plan was to spend the night but Mr boyfriend doesn't think it's a great idea . What's his problem?

We drive to the guest house that he's booked in. My goodness, I instantly fall inlove with this place. It's so peaceful, surrounded by nature. There's a big swimming pool , trees all over and mountains not so far behind this lodge . Wow, I wouldn't mind spending the whole weekend here. I'm so taken, even forget I was sulking just a few minutes ago. His face lights up by my sudden change of mood. He takes my hand and leads me to the back. There's garden chairs and swings not too far away from the garden. I feel like a small child in a factory shop. I run to the swings and he's right behind me barefooted. When did he even take off his shoes. I take off my shoes and immediately after sitting in the swing, he starts pushing it . The fresh air from the stream and trees. I'm so relaxed, he pushes me harder each time. I'm a giggling mess, why didn't he invite me over yesterday.

The swing comes to a complete stop, I'm so relaxed. It's so quite I haven't seen anyone the past 15minutes we've been here.

OKUHLE : " this place is so beautiful and peaceful. Why didn't you invite me yesterday"

NKANYISO : " yesterday you had to be with the family, so I figured today we will have enough time to explore this place"

OKUHLE : " wow babe, I'm inlove with this place. Can't I just stay at this peaceful and quite environment"

NKANYISO : " so you love it huh. I was thinking after two weeks. We can come back and have our mini vacation here"

OKUHLE : " really babe! You are not messing with me?"

NKANYISO : " no babe, this could be our little sanctuary. You know when we are tired of the city. We can always come here to unwind a bit"

OKUHLE : " wow babe, I'm speechless. I'm so excited! This is by far the greatest news I've heard all day"

NKANYISO : " anything for you my love"

I scream and jump into his arms. He catches me and smash his lips on mine. The kiss is so passionate he is taking his time exploring my mouth with his tongue. My legs are wrapped around his waist. His kisses have opened my flood gates. I'm dripping wet, doesn't even help that I'm wearing a flowing short dress. One hand of his grabs my ass. I gasp for air, the feeling is intense. We are outdoors, my naughty side is creeping in. I want him to take me here and now.

I have both my hands behind his head, I'm gently stroking his head with one hand of mine. I know how much that turns him on.

NKANYISO : " fuck LET-O, I really want to take you here and now. The old couple that owns this lodge are around. They might just walk in on us"

OKUHLE : " can we explore your bed instead"

NKANYISO : " ofcourse Mrs me"

My phone rings, really now. She's such a party pooper, there goes our plan of exploring this beautiful place. Seems like I won't be getting any action tonight or this weekend. What could be so urgent that I'm deprived an orgasm. I'm sulking once again, babe try to uplift my mood. He

just doesn't get it, I was actually looking forward to our sweating session. He pulls me to his room, slams the door behind us and pins me to the wall. He unzips his pants and pulls down my panties . He lifts one leg of mine and slams in. He kiss me ever so hungrily, this is rough and rushed. I'm enjoying every minute of it. The fact that we are still dressed makes it even more enjoyable. Gosh, I wrap my legs around his waist. The pleasure is kicking in, I feel myself the waves approaching . The friction of his denim against my thighs is doing things to me. My bare behind against the wooden door, how do I explain this feeling. His warm breath against my neck, his moans and the way he keeps squeezing my thigh with every pump. The pleasure is way too much, with one final stroke. I scream and release all my juices. He follows right after me, I'm too weak. My knees are shaking,we stay in that position for a little while. He picks me up and walk us to the shower. I'm sexed up good

Insert 62

He's driving me back home, I'm in such good spirits. I'm a woman who got served, a whole damn buffet. We are parked few houses away from my place, it's time for me to go home. It's always difficult separating from him. He's holding me by my waist, all I see is love in his eyes. Without any warning he attacks my lips, we kiss passionately ignoring all the chanting, whistles and cheers going on around us. My knees are weak all over again. See the effect this man has on me, I'm hot and bothered all over again. I can never get enough of him, the feeling is mutual judging by the bulge in his pants. I better get going before we get arrested for public indecency. Ow my goodness Bhut ' Siphawe saw everything, I can't even bring myself to look at him . To make matters worse the boyfriend, hoots and whistles driving past me. I feel a lecture coming . He's standing leaning against our wall fence with two of his friends.

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " My young sister, the kissing star"

OKUHLE : " Haa Bhuti, I'm sorry you had to witness that"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " when are we meeting this confident guy, who turns my innocent sister into a public kissing figure"

OKUHLE : " tomorrow Bhuti, he's my date for the engagement party"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " good I need to break his Jaws for the act, that I've just witnessed between the two of you"

OKUHLE : " Haaa Bhuti that's unfair I welcomed my sister in law with loving warm arms, return

the favour please"

BHUT' SIPHIWE: " too bad I need to ruffle him up a bit"

OKUHLE : " I'm no longer your snorty face"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " wow you love him that much"

I just blush, how did this conversation get to this level. I'm not about to discuss those details with his friends around. The other one is making me uncomfortable the way his scanning me up and down. I leave them there and attend to MaKhumalo. She looks surprised to see me home, Haaibo! Didn't she summoned me home.

MAKHUMALO : " you are home early"

OKUHLE : " only following your orders Ma, you said it's urgent"

MAKHUMALO : " wait, I wanted you to do something for me but now I can't remember. It's okay you can go back to your friends. I'll call you once I remember what I needed you here for"

OKUHLE : " hawu! MaKhumalo"

MAKHUMALO: " what's wrong, why are you having your hands over your head. Did I disturb you from something important maybe"

OKUHLE : " ofcourse, Ow never mind"

MAKHUMALO: " you can go back and finish up whatever it is that you were doing, promise not to disturb you"

OKUHLE : " think I'll go pass Jase's house"

MAKHUMALO: "send my greetings to his Mom, you know Lele, that's one strong woman. She fought against that evil uncle. He tried taking over his brothers house, that man is pure evil"

OKUHLE : " I know him too well MaKhumalo, he caused havoc during the funeral preparations. He's an opportunist that man"

MAKHUMALO: " I'm glad his plan didn't succeed my child, his day is coming"

OKUHLE : " karma will deal with him"

MAKHUMALO: " do you know what's the latest Lele, I was so shocked. Jase's father had an affair with ausie Mantwa. They've been at it for years, rumour has it that they have a boy child

together. Obviously she had to move that boy because he looks exactly like Jase"

OKUHLE : " that's heavy MaKhumalo, how can he have an affair with Ausie Mantwa their neighbour"

MAKHUMALO: " that's life for you"

OKUHLE : " he's an evil man, exactly like his brother"

MAKHUMALO: " Don't speak ill of the dead Lele"

OKUHLE : " I don't have any respect for a man who's unfaithful to his wife, worse having an affair next door. Sies! Dead or alive. No respect will be given from my side"

MAKHUMALO: " rumour also has it that Thandi the township drunk, use to be his booty call also"

OKUHLE : " aay MaKhumalo, what was wrong with Bab' Mbatha. Aay I don't want to hear any of his secrets. But the child his secret son, deserves to meet his siblings"

MAKHUMALO: " Aunsie Mantwa dismissed those news very quickly. apparently one of her family members approached the Mbatha's family because she believes a child deserves to know his family. They say the boy is a teenager and his Jase's replica"

OKUHLE : " poor Mrs Mbatha, wonder how is she taking all this. Imagine finding out your husband left a secret child behind. Let's not even get started on the next door affair"

MAKHUMALO: " you are still young to understand my child"

OKUHLE : " what if Bab' Khumalo also has a secret child"

MAKHUMALO: " I'm too old now to be fighting or throwing tantrums but I'll definitely poison him"

OKUHLE : " aah Mama, that's our father we talking about here. You'll be arrested Mos"

MAKHUMALO: " who said anything about killing, I'd just make him suffer from diarrhea for a month or so. That will be my punishment. Everytime he sits in that toilet seat, he'll have time to think about all the crap that he did"

OKUHLE : " I'm definitely punish my husband in that manner, he'll shit all the crap his been doing behind my back"

It's been nice catching up on some latest township gossip with mommy dearest. Even though she robbed me of some good orgasms. Now everything was rushed and for what! She can't recall what she needed me here for. It's unfair, she and Bab' Khumalo hit it whenever they feel like it. Those two old freaks, why is my mind drifting there in the first place. That's because I left my boyfriend and rushed home for absolutely nothing. Atleast I managed to have some private

time with MaKhumalo. Poor MaMbatha, finding out all these dirty secrets about your late husband. Wonder how I'd cope in her shoes, I'll probably have his body exhumed and give him a proper punishment. Yeses! My blood boils just thinking about it. Maybe some secrets are better left hidden, but it's such a small world. Imagine siblings dating each other, all because of situations like this one. They've been married for so long, what's marriage all about? Hiding dirty secrets, having affairs. If this is what it entails, then it can pass me by. I honestly don't understand how he slept next to his wife all these years and fail to tell her the truth. As much as it'll hurt me, I'd prefer knowing. Then it's up to me if I stay or leave.

I'm caught between a rock and a hard place. Maybe I should go visit MaMbatha and convince her to tell Jase about his newly found sibling. Well it hasn't been confirmed yet, but there's a way of finding out these things. I better get going before it's gets late. Good shot my brother has left with his friends. Especially that one who gives me the creeps. Before I could even reach Jase's house there's someone calling me. Who could it be. Lord no, how can you forsake me like this. I wish the ground can open up and swallow me. I can never, he's running towards me. Can I just say I'm already creeped out, this is proving to be a very long day. being disturbed from my orgasm session, to be totally creeped out by this guy.

CREEPY GUY : " I'm so glad I got this opportunity Lele, I've been meaning to talk to you. I've been watching you for a while, even the last time you were here but I didn't have the guts to stand before you and deliver what I'm about to say"

Dear God, No. I can already see where all this is going. Why do these things have to happen to me? Who have I wronged really? I'm trying to maintain my cool but I'm failing. He comes closer and grabs my hand, the way his looking at me like I'm some kind of a snack. He smiles, somebody kill me now. Are those grills that I see and three gold teeth. Maybe this is a hit with other girls, definitely not me. I'm so disgusted, he has a tight grip on my wrist. I feel like I'm being harrassed, why is he touching me in the first place.

CRERPY GUY : " Lele I know you might consider me as a big brother, since I'm friends with Siphwe. I've been watching you Lele and you've turned into this curvaceous little shawty and It got me thinking maybe we might kick it. I mean can you be my shawty"

Bhut' Siphwe is suddenly appears and the creep let's go of my hand. Wtf

Insert 63

Mr creepy guy looks a bit annoyed by my brother's sudden appearance. Serves him good, my brother just saved me from his sick twisted advances. My wrist is sore, this creep was on a mission to paralyze my hand. I ask to be excused and the creep winks at me. The nerve of this man. Bhut' Sipiwe is looking at me suspiciously. He takes my hand and inspects my wrist. Oh my goodness, here comes drama. The only thing I need is to get away from this creep, he suddenly looks uncomfortable. He knows exactly what my brother is capable of.

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " what happened to your wrist?"

He looks so concerned. Mr creepy guy is looking at me with merciful eyes. I'm caught between a rock and a hard place once again. This could get ugly real quick. My brother has always been overprotective over me. I decide to avoid drama. If I tell my brother, he'll murder this man with his bare hands. He can't spend a night in jail prior to his engagement celebration. I play it cool and tell him it's probably an allergic reaction from the cleaning detergents. He doesn't really buy my story, deep down he knows I'm lying. I know this discussion is not over, we will definitely revisit this topic again. Probably tonight, I can live with that. He pats my shoulder and leaves with his creepy friend.

I bump into Sis' Thandi, she looks really sick. She has lost a lot of weight but she's carrying 3 bottles of Heineken. This woman will drink herself to the grave, she probably has nothing to lose. The aroma that fills up my nostrils, as soon as I enter the Mbatha's residence. something smells so divine and I know who's responsible for it . The famous lamb stew, this woman knows her way around the kitchen. I let myself in without knocking, the bad habit I've mastered over the years. She's busy mixing her herbs and spices, the sudden hunger that takes over me is unmeasurable. Jase really takes after his mom, the cooking, friendliness and his big heart.

OKUHLE : " Mama, how are you"

MAMBATHA: " Lele you almost gave me a fright. Come here"

She embrace me in her warm loving arms. She really looks better than our last encounter. The compliments she's showering me with, has me blushing for days. The way this woman conducts herself, she's a definition of a lady. Her fashion sense, you'll never catch her wearing those sishweshwe dresses that all her peers are wearing. That's another thing Jase takes after her. I wonder where Ntombi is, but that's none of my business. I make two cups of tea for us, we sit in the lounge and catch up. Another mini interview about my love life, well-being, work and education. Finally my interview is over, now it's my turn to interview her. Ofcourse I won't ask about her husband's infidelities and secret child, just her wellbeing.

There's no exception even when I'm here, this is like a second home. I'm dishing up for the both of us. I know the dishes will be waiting for me as well, chores are my daily routine whenever I'm in verulam. We eat over a very serious conversation, today I'm getting all life's greatest advices and lessons. We touch up again on the love life topic, this time around Nka is the main topic. It wasn't my intention to go that route but we somehow how got wheeled in that direction, conversation wise. She tells me he's a keeper and I need to respect him, that way he'll shower me with love.

I watch this strong woman in total admiration. how she still manages to smile and laugh after so many heavy storms, remains a mystery to me. She's so easy to talk to, I can't even discuss my love life with MaKhumalo. This visit has been nothing but a blessing in disguise. She finally opens up about the secret child, but I'm spared the details on how the child came about. She indirectly ask for my opinion. I basically advise her to request a meeting and inform her kids of the mystery child. They deserve to know the truth, so is their sibling. I can't believe it's almost 8pm already, time flies indeed when you having fun. This reminds me of all the time when I'd get into trouble for coming home late. Bhut ' Sipiwe was always the one to save me from getting a hiding. He later took it upon himself to always fetch me before going home.

We end our discussion with prayer, Kneeling for 20minutes in a carpet is no child's play. She takes me up until the gate. I should've brought my phone, now I have to walk home in this dark. There's still people walking up and down, that brings comfort to me. It's a few houses from my place anyway. Not this again, guess who I bumped into. Yep you guessed right Mr Creep.

MR CREEPY GUY : " this must be my lucky day, two times in a row. This gives us plenty of time to finish what we started"

OKUHLE : " listen and listen to me good Kabza, we didn't start anything so there's nothing to finish. I suggest you stay the hell away from me or my brother will definitely hear about this"

MR CREEPY GUY : " why are you acting like a child shawty, you are a grown woman and you look ripe enough to eat"

OKUHLE : " you are a bloody creep and a pervert"

MR CREEPY GUY : " feisty I like, you know what they say about feisty woman"

OKUHLE : " do I look like I even care, stay away from me"

MR CREEPY GUY : " shawty you are mine and soon I'll have you screaming my name"

I turn to walk away, he grabs my hand. I loose all senses and give him a rough back slap. He let's go of my hand, he's in total shock. I'll go ghetto on his American fake accent, honestly he brings out the worst in me. Clearly he wants to be treated like a scumbag that he is. To think I even protected him earlier from my brothers wrath. He better think again before he mess with me. My brother makes another appearance again, probably he was on his way to fetch me. I don't even wait for him to talk. My anger is on another level right now.

OKUHLE : " this bloody pervert that you call a friend is making sexual advances on me. He's the reason for my bruised wrist earlier today"

Bhut' Siphwe doesn't even waste time, he pounce on him. He's down in a second , his nose is bleeding. His shirt is ripped, I don't even dare try to separate them. My brother is on beast mode and all I can do is shout for him to stop. This fool doesn't even know how to fight or defend himself, all he is good at is perving on young females. A passerby comes to his rescue. He finally manages to break free from his grip and he makes a run for it. My brother is so angry he can't even talk. I take his hand and he flinches, his knuckles are bleeding. This was one short, hectic battle.

BHUT ' SIPHIWE : " he better run every time our path cross. I'm so done with childhood friends"

OKUHLE : " I'm sorry for not coming clean earlier Bhut', it's just"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " I understand where you were coming from but never ever protect a pervert Lele. These people are sick Lele. I need you to promise me one thing Lele, promise first"

OKUHLE : " I promise Bhut '"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " cross your heart"

OKUHLE : " now you being silly"

BHUT ' SIPHIWE : " Pinky promise"

OKUHLE : " really now?"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " on a serious note Lele, this is for your own good and safety. Next time my friend or any guy for that matter makes inappropriate advances on you. Tell me immediately. I'll deal with them. I'm still not done with that fucker though, next time I'll mess his face for real "

This is exactly what I was avoiding but the creep asked for it. We get home and catchup for real this time. The topic drifts off to my boyfriend again, he still maintains the ruffling up story. He's so whipped every second word that comes out of his mouth is Langelihle. I hope the boyfriend goes on like that about me whenever I'm absent. Speaking of which, I better call and check up on him. My bed is calling my name, what a day. I send Mr me a message instead, my eyes are involuntarily closing. My brother will forgive me, besides he roughly spends an hour or so talking to his fiance over the phone. Lala land

Insert 64

The excitement is too much to contain, I have butterflies all over my tummy. After all the planning and the preparations, the day has finally come to celebrate with the two love birds. I'm up very early this morning. My main purpose for being so early is to make sure everything is in order at the venue. Our Makoti will only arrive before 10am today. It's 7am, I'm done with my chores and ready to leave. MaKhumalo is very impressed. I'll have to skip breakfast. I don't want any delays, not today of all days. I seriously need a car. I've just wasted 20 minute of my precious time, listening to BAB' Khumalo's instructions on how to handle his car. I arrive at the venue, my goodness. I'm instantly blown away. The red carpet leading straight to the halls entrance . They have some rose petal and flower thing going on the side walks. Wow, I can't wait to see the hall itself. The deco, the chandeliers, the flowers, crystal Centre pieces vases filled with crystal balls, some with lavender flowers others have the floating candle vibe going. This looks absolutely amazing. The deco ladies worked throughout the night, they get ready to leave. I check up on the catering team and everything is coming together.

I snap a few pics and send them to our Makoti. She calls immediately. she's impressed with the venue, so am I. They've really outdone themselves, wait till she sees the whole setup. The pics aren't doing any justice. Now that I'm satisfied with the whole setup. I think it's my queue to

have breakfast. I drive to the nearest shopping Centre, thank goodness for the local malls . I honestly don't have time to be driving far. I decide to order and have my breakfast in peace. I order my English breakfast, free wifi yeey! Messages are flooding in, Jase is on his way with Mkhulu Bae. Nka's messages from last night, mostly declaring his undying love and how much he misses me. There's a cute sexy selfie that he snapped just for me. I wish he would've dropped the towel and expose my goodies a bit. I'm still minding my business, when someone clears their throats disturbing my peaceful breakfast.

I look up and my mouth hangs open, standing in front of me is this handsome yellowbone guy. Lord I don't even find his type attractive, I'm more into dark skinned, tall and handsome. Nka is fair though, compared to the type I normally date. Lol who have I ever dated besides Smanga. Bra Muzi had a dip of the honey but that was all arranged. Then My Nka, my sugar and spice. My everlasting love. The clearing of the throat again brings me back to earth. What's with this handsome stranger and disturbing my peace this morning. He has a smirk on his face, exposing his white well aligned teeth. He licks his pink lips, the sight God is that a throb from my clits. The fuck! He still maintains that half smirk, half smile of his. What's his story so early in the morning.

HANDSOME STRANGER: " morning my lady, may I kindly join you for breakfast"

OKUHLE : ", so many vacant seats, yet you choose to disturb me

HANDSOME STRANGER : " not all vacant Seats can converse, all I need I ask is to join you. It's kind of lonely having breakfast all alone, when there's a beautiful lady sitting all alone"

OKUHLE : " I'm alone but not lonely, speaking of breakfast where's yours?"

HANDSOME STRANGER : " wanted to secure a breakfast partner before I could order"

OKUHLE : " mmmhmmm I see"

HANDSOME STRANGER: " please don't dissappear, I'll be right back and thanks again for accepting my request"

That was strange, he walks away. Orders and he keeps signaling that his coming back. Ow well, guess I'll be having company for breakfast. I sort of miss my eating buddy. Here goes nothing, I call him and he answers on the second ring. We chat for a while. He sounds so sleepy , guess I disturbed him. We conclude on meeting at the venue, since I'll be traveling with the parents. He hangs up first, I decide on concentrating on my breakfast. The handsome stranger makes his way to the table. There's no sign of meat on sight in his plate.

HANDSOME STRANGER: " vegetarian, that look I get it a lot hey"

OKUHLE : " interesting, I've never really had an encounter with a vegetarian. Is it by choice?"

HANDSOME STRANGER : " it's completely by choice since the age of 15"

OKUHLE: " I honestly can't live without meat, how do you survive"

HANDSOME STRANGER : " that's exactly what I thought till that silly bet. It was only suppose to last for a month. 12 years later, here I am."

OKUHLE : " so you took the bet serious huuh"

HANDSOME STRANGER: " ha ha ha! very hilarious. I knew there was something special about you"

Whatever that means. The handsome stranger is quite a comedian, I've been laughing ever since he settled down to eat. First it was about the vegetarian bet, politics and social networks. Damn it's almost 10am and I seriously need to get home and prepare. I'm suddenly panicking, the handsome stranger is trying to calm me down. I can't keep calm, I need to help Langelihle with her dress. I need to make sure the makeup lady arrives on time. I take my bag and rush, Mr handsome stranger follows me to the parking lot. Why is this guy running after me, wait I didn't even say goodbye after the lovely conversation we had. As soon as I'm in the car, he comes to my window.

HANDSOME STRANGER: " was I that bad, that you'd run off without saying goodbye"

OKUHLE : " I'm so sorry, I need to rush home. There's an emergency that needs my immediate attention"

HANDSOME STRANGER : " Don't I get to know your name?"

OKUHLE : " bye"

HANDSOME STRANGER: " interesting, I've never met anyone with such name before"

He's too late, I'm already driving off. I'm trying to get ahold of Ausie Portia the makeup artist. I can't afford any delays. This is one thing that completely slipped my mind. The lady was already informed but it was my duty to remind her. I really hope she diarised the date. If Bab' Khumalo could see how I'm speeding with his car, he will definitely kill me. Especially after all the

instructions he gave me this morning. Here I am breaking the first and most important one. Luckily there are no traffic cops on sight. I arrive home. The relief that washes over me, when I see Ausie Thuli. Finally I can prepare in peace knowing everything is running smooth and in order.

There is our Makoti, looking so ever beautiful. she looks like she's about to pop any minute from now. I'm not having twins, never. It's even difficult to hug her, the tummy just gets in the way. MaKhumalo is already dressed, she's the first in line for the makeup. Langelihle can't stop with the compliments, I didn't even lift a finger. I Was only there to make sure everything is properly done . I need to soak myself in a bubble bath with all my salts. After driving around and waking up so early, I deserve a relaxing bath with a glass of bubbly. But then again that won't happen, not under my parents roof. I prepare my bath, the aroma therapy lavender smell is doing things to me. As soon as my body sinks in, relaxation takes over me. This had been far the most busiest, beautiful, blessed weekend with a dash of drama ofcourse. MaKhumalo is already knocking, rushing me to finish. This reminds me again how much of a child she still thinks I am. The treatment says it all.

We are all done, the celebration start at exactly 1pm. We leave the house at 12 pm, MaKhumalo believes we need to bless the venue with prayers before any guest arrives. Not even my plan of staying being and catching a ride with a friend worked. Apparently we all need to be there, there's a few church ladies driving behind us. Her sisters in christ as she always refers to them. Everyone is taken by the venue, the church ladies and the red carpet. Goodness I'm suddenly the camera lady, what sucks the most is they all want pics snapped from their phones. The elders and technology, I mean we have share it to avoid such chaos. But who am I to explain the whole process, the unpaid camera-lady!

Insert 65

I'm being released from my camera - lady duties when we are being surmored inside for a prayer. Thank goodness. after the prayer, Welcoming drinks are served. I see some of the church ladies indulging in wine including MaKhumalo. Bab'khumalo is not impressed as a matter of fact he looks annoyed. He needs a chill pill, it's a celebration after all. Everyone is taken by the beauty inside the hall. Our very own Makoti, is in tears. Tears of joy judging by the smile on her face. My brother is right beside her wiping her tears away. Guests are arriving in numbers, there's 2 hostess leading people to their designated seats. Everyone has settled in. I'm missing two specific people to be exact, the boyfriend and Jase. Jase is probably waiting to

make a grand entrance. what worries me is the boyfriend though, he's always punctual. Seems like I need that glass of wine to calm myself down. We have a mini service, from singing to prayers. The Pastor bless the two love birds.

Jase makes a grand entrance, that was very much expected. All eyes are on him, especially since he's accompanied by a white man. Interracial relationships are still a taboo in our township. They join me in my table, it was getting a little lonely since I'm only seated with two unknown ladies. I'm really happy to see him and Mkhulu Bae, but where the hell is my person. Everyone is looking cosy with their partners. I excuse myself, there's a urgent call I need to make. What if he's involved in an accident or something terrible happened to him. Panick is taking over me. I rush outside, I'm fiddling inside my small purse for my phone.

" wow, you look even more beautiful now. This must be my lucky day. Two times in one day"

I'm shocked, I turn and there stood the handsome stranger. He's dressed formally in his navy blue suit. Wait, who does he know between the two lovebirds. He's scanning me up and down. He adjust his bow tie, he puts on his sunglasses. Honestly I urgently need to make this call, there's no time for chit chats. I try to get away from him but he blocks my way. Haaibo! This is a very urgent matter, life or death type of urgency. I can't afford any distractions. I excuse myself, shame he moves. I feel his gaze on me, I move further away. I dial the boyfriend but his phone rings and rings. I'm already thinking of the worst. My plan is to borrow my brother's car and drive straight to that lodge. I try him again while I'm putting my plan in motion. I'm consumed with panick, next thing I trip. Luckily Mr handsome guy is right on time to catch me. Imagine a dusty pink dress covered in dust, the stress will make you do all kinds of crazy things. I'm still in Mr handsome strangers arms. I think my ankle is sprained.

HANDSOME STRANGER: " are you okay, you are all over the show. What had you so stressed"

OKUHLE : " thanks, the question is who had me so stressed. I can't reach my boyfriend. He's a very punctual person, right now I'm stressed and thinking the worst"

HANDSOME STRANGER : " lucky guy, let's go find him. I can't afford to have such a beautiful lady stressing on this beautiful occasion "

OKUHLE : " really, you'd do that for me"

HANDSOME GUY: " ofcourse, I'm returning the favour"

OKUHLE : "say no more, let's go find my person"

He squint his eyes at me, probably the last statement. My ankle is a bit sore but that won't disturb my mission of finding Bae. I pull Mr handsome by his arm. my main purpose is for him to lead me to his car, so we can start our quest. As soon as we approach the parking lot, I spot him. He's with Mpilo and Matshepo. That's a very pleasant unexpected surprise, this explains why he's late. Relief washes over me and excitement takes over. He already has his arms open as I run to him. That warm embrace, I'm close to tears when my body collide to his. It's confirmed this man will be the death of me. I hold on a bit longer, he doesn't understand how my life was upside down just a few minutes ago.

NKANYISO : " Mrs me, did you miss me that much"

OKUHLE : " you have no idea, I was losing my mind thinking something awful happened. I was organizing a search party. Speaking of which"

Mr handsome is nowhere in sight, I wanted to introduce him to Nka. The man we were prepared to search the entire Mpumalanga for. He disappeared on me just like that. He probably didn't want to disturb the perfect reunion. Well guess I'll still get the opportunity to introduce them, since we are in the same venue. I greet the two newly weds, we make our way to the hall. Luckily Jase kept our seats, it's really by luck that we all manage to find seats in the same table. Nka seats very much closer to me, he's whispering sweet nothing to my ears. The dress is not making things easier for me, the exposed thigh it's now his arms rest. I look up and MaKhumalo is staring at us with an amused look, luckily Bab' Khumalo is too occupied by the Pastor.

OKUHLE : " babe my mom is watching us"

NKANYISO : " dammit babe, you look good enough to eat. I'm struggling to maintain my composure, you are doing things to me woman"

OKUHLE : " wait till Bhut' Sipiwe ruffle you up"

NKANYISO : " let me behave, I don't want to give my in-laws even more reasons to dislike me. More especially Bab' Mntungwa"

OKUHLE : " why would he dislike you in the first place"

NKANYISO : " I'm fucking his daughter for one, I don't think I'll like my son in law either"

OKUHLE : " you are very dramatic"

NKANYISO : " it's a mans thing, you won't understand wifey"

OKUHLE : " wifey?"

NKANYISO : " you are disturbing me babe, I really need to listen to these heart warming speeches"

OKUHLE : " wow"

He winks at me, this is what I was prepared to risk my life for. Speaking of which, I don't know Mr Handsome too well. This is how woman end up dead in the ditch or somewhere in the veld. Clearly I had lost my mind, climbing inside a stranger car. Starters are served, Mr me is already half way through his plate. This man and food, today I'm sticking to small portions. My eye is on that chocolate fountain cake, they promised it will be part of dessert. Now you understand where the small potion comes in.

There's a long list of people delivering speeches and advises, just like they do in weddings . I've never attended an engagement party before but this sure feels like a wedding. The dj is doing the most, we already had the main meal. I take Nka's hand and lead him to Bhut' Sipiwe. It's now or never, I stand before him and his wife. Seems like he's already figured out what's happening. I formally introduce him to my Brother and our Makoti. Langelihle is very bubbly and welcoming, I feel Nka loosening up a bit. Bhut ' has a serious face on, he's worrying me. He takes his hand and pull him into a brotherly hug. He's whispering something to him, I see the way Nka is nodding. He's probably threatening him, aay my brother sometimes. But I choose not to get involved, it's probably a men's thing.

Everyone is having fun and dancing now, I don't see the Khumalo's anywhere. They probably left, I know my dad is quite a fussy person. Shame my poor mom was probably forced to leave even though she was still having fun. I mingle with Langelihle, Matshepo and Jase. I spot my brother, Bae, Mpilo chatting and laughing like old buddies . That sight alone improves my mood even more, my two favorite people getting along. Mr handsome makes an appearance, he's making his way to us. Probably to explain why he disappeared earlier. Langelihle gives him a brief hug, it's quite impossible for her to dish out hugs in her condition.

LANGELIHLE : " ladies, meet my cousin Vuyo"

OKUHLE : " Vuyo, nice to formally meet you. You dissapered on me earlier"

VUYO : " I was only returning the favour, you ran out on me this morning"

LANGELIHLE : " wait, what's going on here"

VUYO: " this is the breakfast lady cuz"

LANGELIHLE : " the perfect beautiful stranger, oh no"

Langelihle has her hands above her head. And then?

Insert 66

Langelihle looks flushed for some unknown reason, Vuyo bids us farewell and he dissapeares again. What just happened, Langelihle excuse herself and goes after Mr dissappearing guy. Jase's favorite song comes on, the guy loose his mind and pulls me to the dance floor. I just follow suit, dancing is not one of my strong points. Since it's a celebration and the drinks are flowing, I'll make an exception. We are having so much fun, five songs later my feet are so sore. I honestly can't take it. I leave Jase , those three seem to be getting along quite well. I'm pressed, I need the ladies. I make my way in there, when I overhead something that I wasn't mean to hear. These two are behind the toilet, the windows are open. It's really quite so you can hear people clearly when they are talking. It's Langelihle and Vuyo.

LANGELIHLE : " please stop this nonsense, she's very happy in her relationship. You can't persue her"

VUYO: " you don't understand, I felt something this morning that I've never felt towards any female. She was all I thought of after she ran out of me. I chased after her trying to get her name atleast or her digits"

LANGELIHLE : " when you called, telling me about the mysterious lady. I advised you to follow your heart, little did I know it was Lele. Please brother I beg you just forget about her"

VUYO: " honestly I tried but seeing her again was a confirmation that I needed to follow my heart. It was some sort of a sign"

LANGELIHLE : " I honestly think you'll be wasting your time. Please listen to me and leave her alone. There's lots of good woman out there and you'll find yours when the time is right"

VUYO : " what must I do with all these feelings"

LANGELIHLE : " I doubt it's love that you feel for her, it's just infatuation it will pass"

VUYO : "easy for you to say, you've found your soul mate. What if she's my soul mate?"

LANGELIHLE: " trust me she's not? try to forget about her. She's family to us now . Family can't be romantically involved. Besides she's head over heels inlove, you don't stand a chance "

VUYO : " talk about kicking the man while he's down "

LANGELIHLE : " those are facts Bro. what Kind of a sister would I be if I can't be honest with you "

VUYO : " that's very brutal honesty, it hurts but I appreciate your honesty. Hoping to meet my Mrs right soon. I'm not getting any younger you know. A man must settle down and build "

LANGELIHLE : " just pray for her brother, remember those two jerks I dated before meeting my soulmate "

VUYO : " let's not even go there, I almost caught a case panel- beating that excuse of a man. What was his name again "

LANGELIHLE : " I don't even want to mention his name, not today of all days "

VUYO : " yah it's bad omen, listen let me go and drown all my sorrows with a bottle of whiskey. Mourning Lele, my beautiful perfect stranger "

LANGELIHLE : " soon you'll find your one, don't despair"

VUYO : " let me walk you back inside, I don't trust this big tummy of yours. You might fall and hurt my nieces or nephews"

LANGELIHLE : " now you starting with me, you not too old to get a hiding"

They both laugh while walking away. Wow! Who would've thought. I pray he find his soulmate because it's mission impossible with me. I'm genuinely happy with Nka and I wouldn't ruin it. Not in this life time, can't believe I've eavesdrop throughout the entire conversation. I do my business and join the rest of the party people. Jase is still on the dance, there's a few people now gathered around him and cheering him on. I should've known, the life of the party.

Few hours later, the presents have already been handed over to our lovely couple. Langelihle looks exhausted though, must be the pregnancy. They prepare to leave, I have a brief discussion with my brother. He seems quite impressed with my choice of man this time. Next time, he'll

formally meet the parents. This was not the time nor the place. Mpilo and Matshepo are next to leave after Langelihle and my brother. Jase says they've booked in at the nearby lodge, so he'll still party some more. Poor Mkhulu Bae is really over the party scene, he looks so bored. We join Mkhulu Bae, they are chatting about business. Nka's favourite topic. I'm really exhausted, honestly where does Jase get all his energy. Probably making up for all the times he missed partying, his partner is not about that life. As a result he hasn't set foot at a club since the beginning of their relationship.

Three hours later, most people have left. I'm a yawning and exhausted mess. Tomorrow is Monday, why is everyone so relaxed. I also don't know how I'm getting to work tomorrow, it's already 7pm. Seems like the fun has just begun. Mkhulu Bae has had it now, he makes his way to the dance floor and pull Jase. Much to the crowds annoyance. Finally I have all my man's attention to myself.

NKANYISO : " Mrs me, tonight I'm taking you home with me. Have you packed already?"

OKUHLE : "ofcourse, then I suggest we leave right now so I can inform the parents"

NKANYISO : " your wish is my command"

OKUHLE : " what about work tomorrow, babe"

NKANYISO : " the only person I'd be working is you starting from tonight. Don't worry yourself Mpilo got it covered love"

OKUHLE : " so we taking this party to your place"

NKANYISO : " absolutely my person"

We leave the same time as Jase and his partner but they take a different route from us. First stop is home, luckily the parents are still awake. They are watching their gospel channel, I inform them I'm leaving with a friend. Bab' Khumalo is worried that we driving at night but I assure him, we'll be perfectly fine. He wants to meet this mysterious friend but Mam'khumalo comes to my rescue. That was close, I pack up my staff as quickly as I can. Mam' Khumalo is looking at me in a very funny way. I bet she's figured out which friend is driving me at night. I promise to call them as soon as we arrive, that means I'll have to setup an alarm just to cover my tracks. A message from Langelihle informing us of their safe arrival. They take one last advantage of me, I have to make them tea before I leave. I text the boyfriend and update him of my tea-lady duties. He doesn't seem to mind, he text back and tell me to relax. We have the whole night together.

BAB' KHUMALO : " so when are we meeting our son in law, Lele? "

He catches me off guard right after I serve them tea. Wait! He was so occupied, I was certain he didn't even notice me. I look at MaKhumalo suspiciously, she shrugs her shoulder and looks away. So my dad saw all that affectionate display earlier. Well I might as well come clean, no use lying now.

OKUHLE : " soon Baba"

BAB' KHUMALO : " okay Lele you can go now, thanks for the tea. You can't keep him waiting for long. It's not safe out there, he might get hijacked"

My mouth hangs open, my mom is laughing her lungs out. Wow! So my dad has been watching me the whole time and pretended like he was clueless. I kiss both of them goodnight, I wheel my suitcase. As soon as I'm out of sight, I hear them both laughing. Really now, I'm sure they've been gossiping about me. They are probably finding my reaction funny. The boyfriend must know how I was being tortured back there. He meets me halfway grabs my suitcase, opens my door. This I've missed, no one was opening doors for me the whole weekend.

NKANYISO : " what's wrong babe"

OKUHLE : " the parents know about you, about us. Mom saw us being all affectionate and all. But my dad decided to ask about you now"

NKANYISO : " I hope I didn't get you into trouble with my future inlaws"

I narrate the whole story. I'm glad he's finding humor in this whole situation. I was shocked, to say the least. We drive to our designated destination. That hand is back in my exposed thigh, his voice is husky now and his eyes are small. Lust has taken over and I'm just as affected as he is. I doubt we'll even make it inside his room. Atleast we manage to drive inside the premises. Gosh! I'm about to get served.

Insert 67

Two months later, Langelihle has popped and welcomed two boys named Ndalo and Mvelo. I've visited them a couple of times and I'm certain I don't want twins. Bhut' Sipiwe had to hire a live in nanny to assist our Makoti. Ndalo is restless, he loves attention. Mvelo is sweet but he also has his times. Can I put it out there how exhausted I was baby sitting them while their parents went on a date. We just wanted to give our Makoti a break, so I offered to look after them. The nanny was off, she normally gets off on weekends. Let's just say those two boys gave me a tough time. Ndalo showcased his talent, I've never been so frustrated. I had to call MaKhumalo crying, just couldn't bring myself to disturb their parents date. What's funny they slept an hour upon their parents arrival, that night I passed out and I heard Ndalo's cries in my dreams. That's just how traumatized I was. I left first thing tomorrow morning, made some work related excuse. Haa! I couldn't stay a day longer, those cries would've had me admitted at a mental institution. We didn't even get around having a baby shower, they decided to come while the planning was still in motion. We opted for a welcoming shower but it was also an epic fail. Since they were admitted for three weeks after birth. Nka laughed so much when I told him about the whole twins experience. He still maintains on having twins though or triplets but the catch is I must have a c-section because he doesn't want those big heads anywhere his cookie. See what I have to deal with.

This weekend Nka's officially meeting the parents, he's a bit nervous. We arrived together but he booked at his favorite lodge while I had to be home and help mom with lunch preparations. Well, I had to cook all alone since the Khumalo's are attending church today. At least Bhut' Sipiwe and Langelihle are joining us with their little rascals. Apparently they don't cry as much, now it's Mvelo who's restless. Talk about switching roles, even more reasons why I don't want twins. Nka was relieved when I informed him of Bhuti's presence. At least there's one person he's comfortable around except me. He's very fortunate we are not a big family. I'm done with everything, today I went all out and prepared a three course meal. I freshen up before everyone arrives. I take my time, soaking in that bubble bath with a glass of bubbly in my hand. It's not everyday I get to consume alcohol under my parents roof. I make a mental note to empty all remaining contents of this bottle to my water bottle. Let's just face it, if I can finish this 750ml all by myself. I'd be a drunk mess by the time everyone gets here. This was just a reward for my hard work.

It's finally sinking in how serious things are between me and Nka. It's not even a year, yet we've met each other's families. He has been nothing but loving, supportive and a complete sweetheart to me. The love you read about and watch in the movies. I'm receiving it on a daily basis, he's showering me with love. I swear I've never experienced this kind of love before. It's pure bliss. This bubbly is getting in my head. I finish quickly, now the challenge I have is

picking up the perfect dress for this beautiful occasion. Let's just say I've picked up weight from a size 32 to 36. I haven't set foot at the gym, the tummy is not flat anymore. But I'm not complaining, the boyfriend likes the extra meat on me.

Finally I settle for this yellow over the knees dress and gold stiletto's. That 360 degrees in the mirror confirms what my mind already knows. There's something about me since I gained weight, don't mean to blow my own horn. But I look more sexier, I've been getting compliments. MaKhumalo even thought I'm expecting. Well, I'm not pregnant. You glow differently when you are being loved correctly. I'm done with everything, just waiting for the family and Bae. Just then my phone rings, it's my man.

NKANYISO : " my love I'm parked few houses away from your place. I'm waiting for the in laws to arrive then I'll come minutes later.

OKUHLE : " come baby, I doubt they'll have a problem finding you here "

NKANYISO : " no my love they must settle down first, It doesn't feel right for me to arrive before them. Tell you what, why don't you snap a Pic for me. Let me see what my baby is wearing "

OKUHLE : " one photo coming right up. Mr me "

I hang up the call, there's someone hooting at the gate. My brother is extra, why doesn't he open the gate. No wonder his gaining weight. I open the gate for them and I see Bab' Khumalo's car also approaching. Another 5minutes of me basking in the sun. I spot babe's car parked further down the street. I attend to my nephews. my goodness these kids are heavy, what are they feeding them. Ndalo looks at me with so much adoration, I pick him up. He's busy nibbling on my chick. He loves his food. We make our way into the house. Bab'Khumalo and Mam'Khumalo are freshening up first in the shower. I hope they don't indulge in the nasty. I don't trust those two together.

I catchup with my brother and Langelihle, they are already complaining of starvation. The parents are done and dressed in different outfits. We are seated in the lounge, relaxed and fussing over the two little fellas. They've more settled now, they haven't cried not even once. There's a knock at the door. My brother attends to it. His voice and scent, they are laughing and chatting. Gosh am I wet or what? This guy is all kinds of sexy. His dressed in a slim fit black chinos, a black short sleeve shirt and black loafers. The charcoal steel watch, I'm undressing him. I'm brought back to earth by Langelihle's laughter. He greets my parents with a handshake,

it's a sign of respect in our culture. He's ordered to sit down. My dad formally introduce himself, his wife, us his children and his grandkids. Nka nods, he only speaks after my dad ask him to introduce himself.

He says his name, surname and chants his clan names. My dad seems impressed by all this, MaKhumalo is all smiles. He goes on and touch a bit of his history, origin and also touch on his upbringing and his parents surnames. Haaibo! Bab' Khumalo doesn't waste anytime, he welcomes him into his family and MaKhumalo is smitten. He answers all my fathers question with utmost respect, I feel like they are digging too much into his life. But he has no problem or doesn't even seem uncomfortable with questions coming his way. He clearly makes his intention with me known to my family. He's being forward now, my mom and Langelihle start ululating when that topic is discussed. I'm suddenly shy, why am I being discussed like I'm absent.

My dad orders me to put Supersport, there's a soccer game that's about to start. All the boys gets excited including the two rascals, what do they know about soccer anyway. I decide to start serving them before this so called game starts. I serve everyone my starters and the compliments are thrown my way. I'm getting good at this cooking business. I clear the table , after 15minutes I serve them with main meal. Compliments again, if they carry on like this I might just open my restaurant, plus I have a sponsor willing to fund my business. The desert I'll serve after an hour or so. I do the dishes, Langelihle helps me. It's really nice having a sister. We are done in no time. MaKhumalo decides to take a nap, this gives us enough time to catchup with my sister in law. She's preparing for their white and traditional wedding. I'm included once again in her plans, atleast the wedding is in 6 months time. We have plenty of time to hunt for the perfect white dress, she wants to hire one. So now my homework is to help her with her quest. It's so exciting, we browse the internet and already she has a few that she likes. All we need to do is locate the stores and go for the fitting. The boys are having fun judging by the noise in the lounge. I swear I've never been so happy. This feels right, my family under one roof!

Insert 68

Lunch with the Khumalo's was a success, it was even difficult to leave that day. The boyfriend and my brother have become friends. They check up on one another every now and then. Langelihle and I we've made so much progress with the preparations, she's found two dresses that she absolutely loves. I've approved on both of them but choosing one between the two is proving to be difficult. We are sticking with the same people that catered and decorated the hall

for the engagement party. This has by far been the most easiest wedding to plan. I guess it gets better with time. The couple have already selected their wedding venue. What excites me the most is that Nka will be my partner. These days we taking regular trips to Mpumalanga its not even funny. We had to go down for measurements and our mini vacation.

He wants to send the letter to my family for lobola negotiations. I feel we should wait and do it after the wedding. He definitely wasn't impressed, honestly I wouldn't stall him on purpose. It's just been hectic preparing for the wedding. After the wedding everything will be settled and we can carry on with the negotiations. Did I mention that I'm only renting my flat, it's been a while since I've spent a day never mind a night in there. The other day he fetched me around 12am, even though we both agreed that I'd be spending a night at my place. Apparently he couldn't sleep, so he decided to come fetch me at such ungodly hours. I'm forever tired these days, all I want to do is sleep. After work, I decide to pass by the mall and get something from the pharmacy. I honestly can't live on energy drinks, I need pills or some kind of medication. Maybe I need to change my diet as well. It's probably all the weight I've gained over the past couple of months. Nka has been complaining also of fatigue, maybe I should hit the gym again. I can't go on like this.

The heat is not doing me any justice. All I need is something cold to drink. I sort of miss the boyfriend right now. Today he has back to back meetings, I decide to go to the first restaurant my feet lands on. I first ask for water before I could order anything. I gulp that Glass down in one go and ask for another glass of water, second glass down. I'm still thirsty, my waiter is quite sweet. He brings the whole jug of ice cold water. This is more like it, I have two more glasses. Finally I've quenched my thirst. I'm still browsing through my menu, busy typing on my phone informing my person of the sudden thirst and exhaustion. When I feel a gaze upon me, this person is standing on the other side of the table.

That scent, I know it too well. It's so difficult even lifting my head. I'm suddenly nervous, after so many months of searching with no luck or hope of ever finding him. Even a PI failed to track him down, maybe I'm dreaming. It's probably someone wearing the same cologne. I lift my head and standing before me is Bra Muzi. I'm in total shock, my heart is beating so fast. He's really standing here in person. My goodness, he still looks as fine as he did the last time I saw him. He's wearing a white shirt, formal pants. The scar just above his chin is not visible. He has grown a beard. He stares me for the longest time. I'm speechless, there's something about this man's presence that paralyzes me. I'm weak, I open my mouth to speak but no words comes out.

My lips are dry, I've lost the ability to speak. This whole time he hasn't said any word. He's just staring deep in my eyes. The emotions are getting the better of me, this man left me when I needed him most. He reappeared, turned my world upside down and vanished. He pulls a chair, seats and signals for the waiter. He orders for the both of us, cranberry juice for me. He's typing something on his phone and puts it away. My phone is vibrating none stop, message alerts. I can't even bring myself to look at it. I'm so lost for words.

He clears his throat, we get served our drinks. He waits until the waiter moves. There's a part of me that's in denial, my mind can't grasp the fact that he's right here with me. I close my eyes and release a deep sigh, okay it's real he's right here in flesh. He let's out a giggle. I swear my floods are flowing freely now.

BRA MUZI : " Kuhle, I'm not even gonna ask how you've been, it's quite apparent you've been good. The Glow, the beauty.you still as beautiful as the first time my eyes landed on you "

I take a sip of my juice, words just fail me. This man has the ability to cripple my ability to speak or express myself. I fail to understand after so many months of him being away. Still nothing has changed, he still makes me weak. I become like a putty in his presence. He expects me to say something to him. There's a lot that I want to say but words just fail me at this present moment.

BRA MUZI : " this is probably not the time nor the place. You are still in shock, can we have a proper meeting maybe sometime during the week. There's a lot to be discussed. Here's my number, call me whenever you are ready to sit and talk. I'm only in town for two weeks. Take care "

He stands up and leave. My phone rings is the boyfriend, he has been calling for the past 15 minutes or so. He's probably stressing since I didn't reply to his watsapp messages. I finally gather enough strength, to text him. I tell him, I'll return his call just now. My mind doesn't seem to be functioning properly right now. I need time to indulge on all that just occurred. His scent feels my lungs again.

BRA MUZI: " kuhle come let me take you home"

I'm up on my feet without any hassles or complaints. He takes my handbag, even this phone on my hand feels heavy. He takes it, I'm weak. That's exactly what I am. My head is spinning. He's talking but I just don't hear what he's saying. I feel myself getting even more weaker. I can't even lift my legs. He scoops me in his arms, I bury my face on his neck. What's happening to me. He's promising to get me home safe. Hey! That's his driver, I remember him too well. He gets at the backseat with me. He let's me rest on his lap. This feels so wrong yet so right. Right now, I've completely forgot about Nkanyiso.

We get to my place, he carries me again. The driver gets my keys. He opens the door for us. He takes me straight to my room. He tucks me in, he disappears to the kitchen and comes back with a bowl of cereal. He doesn't even orders me to sit. I willingly do so. He feeds me until the bowl is empty. He goes to my first aid kit, comes back with paracetamol. He hands me one with a glass of water. I drink it without any complaints. I get between the covers, he sits next to my bedside and watch me. Creepy but it doesn't bother me, not even one bit . I feel myself drifting off to sleep.

I wake up sweating and screaming from a very disturbing dream. There's a figure sitting in the dark. I scream my lungs out. He rushes next to me, it's Nkanyiso. Why am I disappointed, he holds me closer and rock me back and forth. When did he get here? He has my spare key, incase of emergency. I hold on to him for dear life. I'm so shocked, the dream I had felt surreal. Who's that beautiful woman handing me a beautiful baby girl. She was standing at the edge of my bed, telling me I'm the chosen one for her husband. Which husband did she refer to, as far as I know Nka was never married or involved in a romantic relationship before me. This was probably a nightmare, it creeped me out no lie. There was a pretty baby girl next to her. Weird dream I tell you . When did I even fall asleep. Nka looks at me with so much concern. The tears I can't stop them, why do I feel so guilty though.

NKANYISO : " my love you had me so worried, I couldn't get ahold of you. You promised to call me again, when you didn't. I panicked and left in the middle of my meeting. I roamed the mall and something said I should come straight here. I found you sleeping so peacefully"

My mind is wondering, the creepy dream!

Insert 69

I'm so exhausted, I hardly slept last night. That woman is haunting me in my dreams. She appeared two consecutive times in my dreams. Out of all the nightmares I've had including childhood one's, none of those combined have ever left me so scared. The second time around, I woke up and felt a strange presence in my room. Nka was fast asleep then, maybe I was just imagining things. I'm not taking any chances tonight, the entire week I'll spend at the boyfriend's house. Maybe there's a spirit roaming around in this flat, it's possible since this flat has been vacant for a couple of months. Well, that's what I've read and watched from those paranormal activities shows. As to why this spirit didn't bother Nka remains a mystery to me. Maybe it's one of those ghosts that are against other women. One can never know. I've been awake for the past 3 hours. I probably have dark circles around my eyes, it's no child's play being tormented by a ghost.

The mirror confirms my suspicions, I look terrible. That sight is enough to make me run to the bathroom and vomit. I'm probably coming down with a tummy bug or something. Maybe the milk from that cereal or the cereal itself was off. I haven't done groceries in months for my place. This explains the vomiting or maybe this ghost has taken over me. I've been watching too many horror movies with the boyfriend. To think I was never a fan of horror movies. Look at me now! Luckily there's still toiletries in this flat, pity there's no food. I'll be making a mean breakfast for my Bae right now. This is a perfect time to soak myself and absorb this whole Muzi situation.

I'm sitting in this bubble bath but my mind is miles away. There's a war going on in my head. There's a huge part of me that wants to tell Nka everything but another curious part wants to know more about this mysterious man. Maybe I'm being selfish, after all the sacrifices this man has done for me. Getting his father involved in a search of an unknown man just so I can get the help I need. Not only will I be deceiving him by being dishonest but the whole family. Another part wants closure, maybe if we can have that meeting first. Without any distractions from third parties. I know keeping secrets might ruin what me and Nka has built. I just can't help it though, don't I deserve to have closure. I'm so torn, him being here doesn't make things easier either. Maybe if I can be alone, I'll be able to think clearly. He clears his throat, wonder how long has he been standing there for.

NKANYISO : " good morning My love, how is my person this morning"

OKUHLE : " I don't feel too good this morning. Maybe I'm coming down with something"

NKANYISO : " were you vomiting earlier?"

OKUHLE : " yes love, I think the milk or cereal was off"

NKANYISO : " I suggest we visit the doctor, we can't afford to take chances. The doctor will prescribe something for the bug before you get worse"

OKUHLE : " no babe, I'll be fine don't worry"

NKANYISO : " I'm not taking any chances"

That was expected, this man is naturally dramatic. I just didn't get enough sleep, all I need is proper sleep. He feels my temperature with the back of his hand.

NKANYISO : " this water is ice cold LET-O how long have you been sitting here"

Honestly I don't know how long have I been soaking in this bath. He's looking at me with so much concern, there's no way I'm getting out of this one that easily. He brings my gown and carries me out of the bath. What's happening to me, I'm shivering. He disappears to the bedroom, I'm literally shaking. I can't even standstill, he brings a blanket but first he lotions my body. Wraps me in the blanket and tuck me back in bed. He takes his phone, I wonder who his calling. Hopefully not a doctor, all I need is sleep. He's informing Mpilo we will be absent at work today because I'm not feeling well.

Thank God, finally I'll get the sleep that I deserve. He's on his phone again but this time around his ordering food. It's funny how one never know just how hungry they are, until food is mentioned. My tummy is even growling now. He's still insisting on visiting the doctor, I just agree for peace sakes. I'm not setting foot in there, not today of all days. After debating for a good 15minutes, he finally takes a bath right after breakfast is delivered. This man treats me as if I'm gravely ill, he didn't want to leave my sight. Even now he's making small talks just so he can be certain that I'm good.

After his bath, we have our breakfast in bed. I'm so enjoying this, I need more. The mushrooms are going down pretty well unlike eggs. He seems surprised by my sudden liking of mushrooms. Another delivery is on its way, there's something about these mushrooms and herbs. He ordered extra mushrooms, they are delicious. I also feel like orange juice, he's shocked. I'm not an orange juice type of person. It's very bitter but right now I'm craving that bitterness. Freshly

squeezed will do me good.

I'm satisfied after the breakfast. Nka was still prying, trying to get to the bottom of what's bothering me. I'm too ashamed to confess that I fell asleep during our conversation. We only woke up after 12 midday. I was feeling much better, so we skipped the doctors trip and spent the whole day in bed. I didn't get any nightmares this time around. That crazy ghost will get a shock of her life, I won't be available for her tortorous games tonight

I'm able to think clearly now that I managed to sleep properly. I've concluded to only inform Nka of Bra Muzi's return after my meeting with him. I felt like what he wants to discuss is very personal and confidential. After the meeting I'll come clean with every detail. I hope he will forgive me for keeping secrets.

NKANYISO : " my love what's bothering you so much. I tried ignoring it but I can't ignore my intuitions. I feel like you are hiding something from me"

OKUHLE : " babe, honestly there's something but I can't share it as yet"

NKANYISO : " are we pregnant LET-O"

The sparkle in his eyes when he mentions pregnancy . There's no such, I'm still taking my shots. It's impossible for me to fall pregnant while. Oh snap! When last did I go for my shot? I try to retrace my doctors visits but I'm blank.

OKUHLE : " no babe we are not pregnant"

I answer with uncertainty in my tone. I'll have to check properly before getting this man all excited. My life has been hecticly busy, planning engagement parties and weddings. It's possible that I might've missed my date along the way. Atleast this pregnancy assumptions has steered him off the real topic. I need to meet Bra Muzi, rather sooner than expected. I can't go on like this, as much as I hate lying to Nka. I honestly need closure with the whole bra Muzi thing. I feel there's more that needs to be discussed than just the cleansing thing. Nka insist that I'm on bed arrest today. He's leaves to fetch his clothes, toiletries and get us food.

I completely forgot about my phone. I reach inside my bag. It's flat, no wonder Nka couldn't get hold of me. Bra Muzi must've put it there, when he was bringing me home. A little piece of paper falls off when I take my phone out of the bag. Bra Muzi's number, I sigh heavily. It's now or never. The sooner I deal with this, the better. I need to do this cleansing thing and move on with my life. I hate keeping secrets from Nka, so here goes nothing.

' we need to have that meeting, when are you available'

Message delivered, I still feel guilty for not coming clean to Nka. All this mystery will be unravel after this meeting. I'm suddenly so tired, what's happening to me. My eyes are voluntarily closing. Maybe I need to see the doctor. I gather all the strength to get up and inspect the door. Luckily it's locked, I don't feel too well. I vomit before reaching the bathroom, I'm getting weaker with each passing second. if only I can reach my phone and call Nka. What's happening to me!

Insert 70

I can hear my phone ringing from afar, I'm freezing cold. After few failed attempts, I finally manage to get myself up. I'm having a mother of all headaches, migraine to be exact. I'm thirsty so the phone will have to wait. After quenching my thirst I feel a bit better. I scratch through my first aid kit bag, there's syndols and panado tablet. I opt for panado's, after our earlier discussion with Nka. What's worse I can't even track down my last doctor's appointment, on second thoughts I take panado syrup instead. I need to clean the mess in the floor. Honestly I need to consult a doctor, vomiting, tiredness and passing out. Something is definitely wrong with me. After cleaning the mess, I get carried away and mop the whole flat. There's too much dust, no wonder I'm feeling so sick. It's because of the dirt. I'm so furmished , where's the boyfriend with my food? I'm craving something salty, spicy and meaty. I decide to get my phone and give him a call. There's 3 missed calls from my person, he's already on his way. He's held up at the restaurant, apparently he needs to feed me veggies and all the healthy stuff. I'm smiling from ear to ear, so long as it's good scrumptious food I'm down for it.

There's another message from Bra Muzi, he sent me a location for our meeting tomorrow. Wooow! That's quick, the sooner we meet the better. I can't stand lying to Mr me anymore, the guilt is too much to bare. I'm patiently waiting for my food, there's absolutely nothing to eat in this flat. The hunger is getting the better of me, I decide to go across the street and grab few fruits from the auntie's Mini stall. After rinsing my mouth, I change into a T-shirt dress and flip

flops. On my way back, I bump into Mbuso. He has gained a bit of weight or is it muscles, I can't differentiate which one between the two. He looks genuinely happy to see me, I'm already eating my second banana.

MBUSO: " I'm so happy to see you Nkosazana, are you still well. I thought you've long moved, where are you hiding"

OKUHLE : " I'm around, how have you been"

MBUSO: " I even came around your flat the other day but there was no response"

OKUHLE : " I'm hardly in my flat these days"

.MBUSO : " well I'm happy to see you alive and beautiful as ever. Please take good care of yourself. See you around"

Thank goodness our conversation was short today, honestly I struggle to hold a conversation with this guy. Now I see, he was rushing for the lady standing by the gate. They indulge into a romantic kiss after their hug. Who would've thought, farm boy showing affection in public. This means he won't be bothering me with small talks and boring conversations. I'm happy, once inside I lock up immediately. I rinse my fruits and enjoy them while Channel hopping. There's absolutely nothing interesting to watch. No matter how much I sleep, the tiredness just won't leave me alone. I'm yawning once again, for someone who slept throughout the day. I sure am tired.

There's someone fiddling with the keys, it's probably the boyfriend. I forgot to remove my keys from the door. I peep through the hole and it's definitely him. Boy am I happy to see him! I attack him with a hug as soon as he's inside. I don't know if it's his presence, food or both that makes my heart jump for joy. He orders me to prepare plates, he doesn't have to ask me twice. We indulge in this delightful dish, I feel so much better. I'm debating on whether to inform the boyfriend of my passing out earlier. My goodness, so many secrets I'm keeping from him lately. This is so wrong of me, but I know he'll definitely panic and drag me to a Doctor. Maybe I should just share but leave the passing out part out.

OKUHLE : " babe"

NKANYISO : " My love"

OKUHLE : " after you left I vomited and passed out for 15-20 minutes. I'm not really sure"

NKANYISO : "what and you only telling me this now, why didn't you call me immediately after regaining consciousness LET-O"

This reaction was very much expected, he's panicking over nothing. Well maybe something but I'm good now, or am I? He's already on his feet, my goodness the plan was to only inform him of vomiting. I don't know why did my big mouth decided to blab out that other information. He disappears to the room, comes back with my handbag. Haaibo! So dramatic. He grabs my hand, I haven't even finished eating for crying out loud.

OKUHLE : " babe, I'm not done eating. Where are we going?"

NKANYISO : " to see the doctor, something we should've done early this morning"

OKUHLE : " but I'm fine babe, feel my temperature. Im so much better now"

NKANYISO : " the doctor will confirm all that LET-O, you are not fine babe. Passing out and vomiting, that's a sign that you are definitely not okay. Don't argue with me on this one. Let's go"

OKUHLE : " okay Mr Doctor, let's go"

He looks so annoyed by my last statement. I bet he won't argue with me right now. His only mission is to get me to the doctor as soon as possible. He's driving fast, I feel nauseated already. I ask him to pull over or else this beautiful interior will be filled with the remains small particles of our supper. He pulls over, I'm out in a blink of an eye and emptying all my stomachs contents in a trash bin nearby. He's beside me in a second. Okay I'm really sick, the stubbornness won't help me now. He offers me a bottle of water. I rinse my mouth and drink . I'm a bit light headed, I lean against his shoulder. It's even difficult talking, my whole body is burning. He picks me up, straps me in my seat and drives off in a very high speed. He calls his dad, Mpilo, Bhut' Sipiwe and informs them of my current state. I'm sweating profusely, he keeps making small conversation. I need to sleep, my body is giving in.

The car comes to a complete halt, he picks me up and rushes in screaming for help. Im being wheeled in a hospital stretcher. Nka has my hand in his, I think I'm being rushed to an emergency room. They keep asking Nka to leave but he's not budging

"please don't leave me LET-O"

That's all he keeps uttering, those are the last words I hear before darkness befalls me. Where am I . This feels like a dream once again. I'm standing at a crossroad, there's a very beautiful car containing a man, woman and a beautiful girl. Such a beautiful happy family, the girl keeps singing this nursery song. The parents join in, the car stops at the robot. They are all singing and happy, the car start moving again. Just then a speeding range rover comes and bumps this car. The girl wasn't strapped in, she flies from the back and goes through the windscreen. The man is unconscious, the woman is badly injured. She still manages to get out of the car, she's rushing to her baby girl. She reaches her daughter's lifeless body, she bends down trying to awaken her . She looks at me, just before another car hits both of them.

I scream so loud. I'm beyond shocked.

" we have her back"

NKANYISO : " thank you God for bringing my love back. Baby, thank you for coming back to me"

MPILO : " thank you LET-O, the trauma of seeing this ugly man of yours in tears"

NKANYISO : " as if you didn't shed a tear right now"

Wait, why do they look so sad. Nka was definitely crying, even Mrs Nxumalo is here. The doctor and the two nurses they look so relieved. There's defibrillation next to my bed. This explains why everyone is so emotional. I smile, this fool devours my lips in front of his mom. I'm so embarrassed, Mpilo had to pull him away from me. As if that worked, instead he just decides to join me in bed and instructs everyone to leave.. Haaibo this man, luckily they don't even take him seriously.

Nka request for another bed, this man is prepared to spend the night in hospital. If this isn't love then I don't know what is. Guess the doctor will only tell us the results tomorrow. I feel so safe in my man's arms. Something still bothers me though. The woman from the dream, is the same woman in that car accident dream.

Creepy

Insert 71

I slept throughout the night after the heavy medication I consumed. There were no strange creepy dreams. I only woke up after the nurse came to check up on me. This silly man is giving me a bath, he keeps on touching my feminine parts tenderly. The pleasures of having a private room, Mr right here is taking full advantage of it. I constantly have to remind him of my doctors check up. I'm praying it's not cancer or diabetes, don't know why my mind is thinking the worst. One can never be too sure after mysteriously falling ill. Judging by how I'm feeling today I should be discharged. We get done, I'm dressed in yesterday's outfit. I can't wait to have a change of clothing.

The Doctor comes in, after formally greeting and introducing himself. He gets straight to the point, surprisingly I'm not pregnant nor am I sick. All the test that were done came out negative. They pin it on exhaustion and stress, How convinient. I'm being discharged and ordered to come for a check up in few days. What's the point , honestly I'm not gonna waste my time coming here for nonsense. If it's exhaustion or stress, I'll find a way to manage it somehow. Maybe the stress part is partly true. The re-appearance of Bra Muzi might have lead to my stress level being high. The secrets I've been keeping also. The sooner I meet this man the better. After the doctor leaves, a very young nurse comes in. She's so beautiful and humble. She first introduce herself as Nokubonga Ngobese, I'm finding this so strange. She's not making eye contact as she speaks, what's her story. After her introduction, she tells me to look after myself. My little one requires me to be calm at all times.

She leaves right after delivering that speech, what jibberish is she speaking off. What little one, very confusing since I'm not pregnant. We are left shocked and confused. Something tells me to run after her. I try but she's nowhere to be seen, maybe this is a sign to just forget of this mumbo jumbo. I find Nka still puzzled, can we just go home. I'm so done with this place, the riddle talking nurses and the smell is driving me insane. Nka tries to find the nurse before we leave but she vanished . Even more reasons why we should forget about this whole thing. It's amazing how they can't locate a nurse by that name. Like what the fuck! Am I a ghost magnet these days. Thought they only invade my dreams but now they are appearing in physical form as well. Who would've thought.

Second day being absent at work. We grab something to eat before heading home. This medication is only a waste of time, I can't be drowsy over stress and fatigue. All I need is a good sleep. The egg smell sets me off, I honestly can't eat here. We order takeaways instead, I'm on

that heavy meal tip this morning. I feel like cooking, few ingredients are needed for the meal I plan to make. Mr here insist I write a list, he can't afford having me collapsing in the shops aisle. He drives me to his parents home first. I was never ready for this sudden change of plan.

NKANYISO : " Ma will look after you while I run your errands babe"

OKUHLE : " but babe, I'm perfectly fine. There's no need to bother Mrs Nxumalo"

NKANYISO : " last time you said those words, I found you gravelly ill. I'm not taking any chances, not this time around"

OKUHLE : " let your will be done Mr Nxumalo"

NKANYISO : " Mrs me, your health and wellbeing comes first to me. Let's not argue over this, right now I feel leaving you alone is risky"

OKUHLE : " I understand love, let me get spoiled by my future mom in law"

NKANYISO : " nothing makes me so happy than seeing my two favorite woman getting along"

We drive in the premises, the Nxumalo residents. I start wondering just how rich these people really are. Mr Nxumalo is away on some business trip, this woman and gardening. I was very shocked when I discovered she's the one responsible for this beautiful garden. She's really a nature person. Her fashion sense though, she's really dressed up for someone who's just gardening. I'd love rading her wardrobe one of these days. That warm smile, her arms are already wide open. After that warm hug, I'm glad Nka brought me here. Looks like my wish of raiding the wardrobe came sooner than expected. She's having a mini fit regarding the fact that I'm still in yesterday's clothes. I'm dragged to her bedroom, the walk in closet. Good Lord this woman has it all. Everything is in order from the shoes, hanged clothes and neatly folded clothes. Everything here screams expensive, I feel like I'm in some classy boutique. She's watching me in pure amusement and adoration as I go through each and every item of clothing. Some still have tags on. Finally I find this beautiful dress, looks like it was specifically made for me. She tells me to keep it, the excitement is beyond me.

We have breakfast over a very interesting conversation. She's giving me advices on how to handle Nxumalo man. I'm loving this topic, she really knows her kids. Why can't I have such topics with my mom? Judging by the challenges she's experienced in her marriage. I've got to say, she's quite a strong woman. Don't let all this femininity fool you. Now I'm being ordered to rest, but I was still enjoying our bonding session. I don't dare go against her wish, that serious face says it all. She also advise against drinking medication. She makes chamomile tea and

prepares my bath. I don't know what kind of herbs she used but I'm relaxed the minute I'm inside this steamy bath. This really feels like home. I'm so sleepy and relaxed by the time I'm done with my bath. She leads me to Nka's bedroom. I pass out the minute my head hits the pillow.

I'm woken up by Nka busy kissing me all over my face. I'm well rested, apparently I've been out for the past 5 hours. His mom kept him strictly downstairs because I needed my rest. He feels I've rested enough. I'm ordered to freshen up because lunch is ready. I want to permanently move in here. The table is set, I help myself with all the greens. My Relationship with veggies these days. I'm a happy woman, my visit was quite too short. Nka is driving us home now. We call my brother just to update him of my wellbeing. We decide not to inform the parents, no need for them to get worked up over nothing.

I guess today we spending the night at Nka's place, I'm being pampered all the way. The boyfriend stocked up on all my favorite food, he catches up real quick. I'm loving all the greens, the orange juice. We pass by spur for some ribs and Buffalo wings. Apparently I'm booked off work for the rest of the week. Music to my ears, I'll get all the rest I need. Something just crossed my mind. The meeting with Bra Muzi was suppose to take place today . I completely forgot all about that, as soon as I get ahold of my phone. I'll have to reschedule. The man is only here for 2 weeks max, that's exactly what he said. I can't afford to miss this opportunity, chances of finding him if he decides to leave are zilch. He's impossible to find, he probably uses a different name all together. Why am I so consumed in these thoughts again. This is exactly what led me to hospital in the first place. I'm brought back to earth when he squeeze my hand.

NKANYISO : " love are you okay, something seems to be stressing you. I've caught you a couple of times absent minded"

OKUHLE : " it's this nurse thing earlier at the hospital"

NKANYISO : " thought we both agreed on letting it go babe, do you think we should track her down maybe"

OKUHLE : " nah babe, don't worry I'll get over it"

NKANYISO : " Don't worry Mrs me this whole thing will pass"

Lying to him has become a habit. The sooner this meeting takes place, the better my life will get back to normal. I'm not proud of my lying streak. This selfish act will come to an end. Speaking of my phone, where is it. It's probably in my handbag, flat. I'm definitely rescheduling this

meeting, without the boyfriends knowledge ofcourse.

Insert 72

Nka's preparing for work, there's an urgent meeting he has to attend. He promise to have his phone with him in case of emergency. Honestly I feel perfectly healthy but convincing him is a difficult thing to do. There's another option of the driver picking me up and dropping me by his parents house. I don't mind the second option. He makes sure that I take my breakfast before he left. He even called his house helper to keep an eye on me. All this is unnecessary, either way I'm not going to win this argument. So I weigh my options, this could work in my favour. I'll have to make arrangements with Bra Muzi and kill two birds with one stone. After his departure I scratch in my handbag, after charging a message pops up from Bra Muzi.

" guess you changed your mind in regards to our meeting. Whenever you ready I'm a phone call away"

He's clueless of what I've been through the past 24 hours. I'm close to tears, thinking how Nka has been there throughout the most critical hours of my life. An image of him with tears when I regained consciousness. I can't bare lying to him any longer . What's gotten to me lately, I can't recognize the person I've become . Bra Muzi left me when I needed him the most, he completely shut me out and dissapeared. If tables were turned Nka would've been there no doubt about it. The emotions are getting the better of me. I honestly can't go on like this. I take my phone and dial Nka's number, it rings 4 times before he answers.

NKANYISO : " babe are you okay"

OKUHLE : " love I have been lying to you, I'm sincerely sorry"

NKANYISO : " what are you talking about babe, can we discuss this later love I'm in the middle of a meeting. The driver will pick you up in few minutes. I'll pick you up from my mom after my meeting okay"

OKUHLE : " no problem, I'll tell you all about it later. Please forgive me"

NKANYISO : " whatever it is you are already forgiven, now wipe those tears and get ready. The driver will pick you up in half an hour"

I'm on a emotional Rollercoaster, my emotions are all over the place. I've been cooked up in this bedroom since that phone call. Aunty Mirriam has been knocking, probably to make sure I'm okay. My phone rings, its Nka. I pick up immediately . He's worried sick and is already on his way home. Last night I hardly slept, my conscience was getting the better of me. Many times I stopped myself from waking him up and confessing all my sins. Even though I was prepared to meet Bra Muzi in secrecy something just didn't feel right. I hear him begging me to open the door, that was quick. What's with me and selfishness these days. He had to leave his meetings and skip work just for me. That alone sends me to another crying frenzy. Upon opening he engulfs me in a warm hug.

OKUHLE : " I can't keep on lying to you babe, I'm sorry for lying to you"

NKANYISO : " baby I'm confused, what are you on about"

OKUHLE : " please promise you'll forgive me baby, I need you to promise me"

He looks even more puzzled by all this. I'm a mess, a lying emotional mess. I come clean with bumping into Muzi, my plan to secretly meet with him. Shock is written all over his face, I sense disappointment as well. What have I done, my lies have caught up with me. He's pacing up and down, seemingly frustrated. Honestly I can't blame him, who in their right mind will be sane after hearing the news that I've just delivered. I'm waiting for him to have an outburst, for him to throw me out in the streets. He sits in the edge of the bed and bury his face in his hands. I'm not quite sure how to approach him in this state. He gets up, take his car keys. He's walking out on me, this feels worse than death. My spirit is crushed by his reaction, but maybe I deserve it.

NKANYISO : " LET-O I need to get some fresh air, maybe we need time apart. I don't know what hurt me the most, maybe the fact that I've asked you countless times and you continuously lied to me."

OKUHLE : " Nka please"

That comes out as a whisper, I need him now more than ever. He bangs the door behind him, the fright I get. That was quite unexpected, maybe I should cook him his favorite dish. Wear a sexy lingerie, run him a bubble bath. The old me would've packed up my things and left. This is my man, I'll stay here and fix this mess that I've created. I shower, change his bedding and make my way to the kitchen. Aunty mirriam has already left, I start my cooking spree preparations. I

make my stuffed cheese and chives chicken breast, roasted veggies and savory rice. He's crazy over my beef lasagne, I prepare that as well. Just for control. I set the table, nothing like scented candles to set the mood right. He just Parked his car. I light all the candles, the main light is off.

He switches on the light, the sight in front of him. clearly he didn't expect it, tonight we'll make up and make out. I walk towards him exuding so much confidence, he's finding it hard maintaining his composure. That's more like it, today I'm going to use my lady bits to soften him up. His member is ready for action, not so fast soldeir. I need this man clean and fed. I take his hand and lead him to the bathroom. He smells of sweat his knuckles are swollen. Tonight I plan to take care of my person. He strips and settle in his Buble bath, I help clean his knuckles. This whole time he hasn't said a word to me. I decide to leave him to his thoughts for now, I'm already reaching for the door handle when he suddenly speaks.

NKANYISO : " LET-O I'm really disappointed in you. I thought we've both agreed on being honest at all times"

OKUHLE : " I don't know what came over me, I'm dissaponted in myself"

NKANYISO : " come here babe"

He takes both my hands, looks straight in my eyes. It's like he's searching my soul, trying to find answers to the questions he should be asking me. I make a vow to always be honest and transparent. That's what our relationship is built upon, this man has been transparent and honest from day one. I regret it all, the lies and secrets.

OKUHLE : " I'm sincerely sorry babe. I just don't know what came over me, what I was trying to achieve or gain by lying to you. As a matter of fact I don't understand why I chose to take that route in the first place"

NKANYISO : "all I'm asking is for you to be honest at all times. The rest we will figure out along the way. No one is perfect babe, I'm far from perfection but to make us work we need to work hand in hand babe"

OKUHLE : " I LET-O vow to be honest and transparent from this day onwards till death do us apart"

NKANYISO : " so you like the LET-O name after all, who would've thought"

OKUHLE : " now you are being forward, finish up so I can feed you"

NKANYISO : " can't we skip the main meal for dessert tonight"

OKUHLE : " Don't you even think about it, after slaving so hard in that kitchen. You have 15minutes tops. Now get done"

My hearts at peace, to have a man who talks about his emotions and feelings its a blessing. There's no way I'm ever messing this up, I'll have my meeting with Bra Muzi still but not in secrecy this time around. The only thing connecting me to Bra Muzi is the cleansing ceremony. After the cleansing there will be nothing linking us together ever again. Speaking of which I'll explain the dreams to Nka as well. I didn't think much of them but since we are being open and transparent. I might as well share all the things that are bothering me. Something about what that nurse said still bothers me though, as much as I know there's no little one but I might as well take care of myself. Look how I mysteriously fell ill. I can sense his gaze behind me,

OKUHLE : " Mr me, come join me please before this food gets cold"

We have our supper over serious conversation. My person is really disappointed, he keeps emphasising over the honesty topic. We touch up on the Bra Muzi topic, he doesn't have a problem with us meeting in a public place and discussing our cleansing process. My superman!

Insert 73

Honestly to say I'm blessed would be an understatement, he forgave me that easily. Whoever is looking out for me up there is doing an exceptional job. We've made up, he was specific about secrets. I vowed never to make that same stupid mistake ever again. No more gambling with my blessings. this man was sent from above, Specially for me. I've always heard people speaking of soulmates. At some point I thought it was just a fairytale, it exist. I've heard majority of people complaining about love and its existence. I've found myself one of the few good one's. Come to think of it, his past squeezes wouldn't agree with me. The man was a self proclaimed fuck boy and now he's my amazing better half. We probably meet people that aren't meant for us, and assume they'll forever be screw-ups. Where as they were never meant for us. All these thoughts are roaming through my mind while he's sleeping so peacefully beside me. I'm just laying next to him counting all my blessings and he happens to be part of the list. Sometimes I fear we moving way too fast, he might change on me and expose his true colours. Most times that's the risk I'm willing to take. one can never really know. This life doesn't come with a manual. If there's one thing I'm certain of, my heart is at peace when he's next to me. He's my safety sanctuary, with him I'm comfortable being myself and complete.

The emotions again, I dry my tears. Couple of sniffs. I'm too emotional these days, this is all foreign to me. Maybe this is the part of growth nobody mentioned or prepare me for. My mom and aunt always shed tears whenever there's a celebration or saddening news. It's crystal clear I've inherited all these emotions from them. One way or another I'll find a way to control or minimize these tears. It's quite embarrassing. I'm glad last night we came to a conclusion of meeting with Bra Muzi as soon as possible. This cleansing ceremony must take place soon. I can't afford another setback, I'm ready to be Mrs Nxumalo. After my brothers wedding the lobola negotiations will resume. The thought alone is exciting, my dad will accept the rightful cows this time around. The constant midnight trips to the bathroom are tiring, another foreign habit.

Someone is kissing my face all over . He's fully dressed and ready to leave for work. can't even recall when I fell asleep. I'm still sleepy, he kiss me goodbye and leave. I wake up three hours later, furnished my relationship with food as of late. I get a shock of my life, there's someone busy humming and moving around. I rush back to the bedroom, reach for my phone and dial Nka. After he explains about aunt mirriam being on duty, it's only then that I get relieved. He reminds me of eating, getting rest and scheduling a meeting with Bra Muzi. We say our goodbyes, I freshen up and rush downstairs. Mom Mirriam made veggies, I'm thinking Nka is definitely behind this. I love him even more, this doesn't count as breakfast. I'm having a proper meal at 9:30 am, my orange juice. I'm a fed and happy mess. I decide to give Bra Muzi a ring.

I'm absolutely surprised when he answers in a second ring. I strictly get down to business. He's willing to meet up today at 12: 30pm at a Cafe in town. It's confirmed, he sounds very laid back. I decide to update the boyfriend through text. No point in disturbing him, he replies ' the driver to drop me off and pick me up after the meeting' Sounds good to me, I laze around and later prepare for the meeting. The driver has already notified me, I decide not to keep him waiting it's almost 12 when he drops me off at the desired destination. I decide to order a juice and call Jase, my moghey has been scarce lately. We ring each other every now and then, but I miss the face face chats. They are always on some adventure almost every weekend. Pecks of dating a vanilla they are adventurous beings. I'm updating him of my latest shenanigans, he gives me a piece of his mind about keeping secrets. Haaibo! It doesn't count for something that's I've come clean and we've made peace. Jase doesn't hold back, he's one of the realest people I know. See why I love him.

After listening to a long speech about loyalty, honesty and good man. We finally say our goodbyes. People probably think I'm crazy laughing so hard over the phone, well who cares?

Definitely not me. This man has a strong presence, he just walked in and few ladies are drooling over him. His dark skin, broad shoulders and fashion sense. Let's not even get started on his cologne, it's undeniably a strong sensual smell. He pulls a chair and settle opposite me. Same group of ladies are looking our direction, what the fuck. They were giggling and having a very lively conversation until he walked in. He formally greets me, now that we done with the formalities. I need to discuss the real reason behind this meeting. He calls the waiter and place an order for drinks for the both of us. There's no chit chats this time around, he's back to be the closed off Bra Muzi that I know. My bad, that I used to fuck.

BRA MUZI : " okuhle first and foremost I'd like to apologize for disappearing on you like that and leaving you to deal with grief alone. You see okuhle I'm"

He pause, clears his throat. Whatever he's about to deliver next seems to be difficult. His face has changed from being relaxed to being sad. This man has never shown any emotions except that of lust throughout our entire relationship . It's like he went through a mini trance, he's brought back to earth when I reach out and touch his hand. He's deep in thoughts still, seems like his debating with himself.

BRA MUZI : " after the miscarriage, my family was suppose to do a cleansing ritual for you. Look I have to go. This needs to be done to avoid having problems conceiving in the near future. I've already informed my family, whenever you are ready then inform me. Another thing the ceremony we'll have it back at home, look okuhle I need to rush. I'll hear from you once you ready so we can set the date. Take care "

He gets up grab his car keys, just like that he exits the Cafe. He didn't even touch his drink, the time is exactly 12:40pm. No use sitting here alone. I settle the bill, gulp my juice and leave. That man has deeper demons than anyone I've ever met. He didn't even settle the bill, that's definitely not his style. The driver takes me home, I send my man a text informing him that I'm done with my meeting. He calls immediately, he thinks the meeting never took place. He sounds relieved when I tell him it took place and I'll share the details later on. The disappointment , I thought there was some kind of deep explanation. Well what did I expect. I was a merely highly paid call girl. It's a bitter pill to swallow, it's all in the past now. The man doesn't owe me any explanations. We had a contract, beside this cleansing ritual there's no reason for us to keep in touch. Even more reasons why I appreciate my man.

The rest of the day I spend stuffing my face, lazing around and catching up on some reality shows. I'm exhausted but first a bath is required. After my bath I decide to take a nap, at least when I wake up Mr me will be home.

NKANYISO : " babe wake up, what's wrong? you are sweating and screaming for someone to stay away from you"

I feel light headed, the ghost woman is haunting me once again in my dreams. What does she want from me. This time she wanted to take away my baby. This dream felt surreal, this is disturbing. A problem shared is a problem solved right. So I come clean with this woman in my dreams, at first Nka doesn't think there's more into it. Until I mention all the dreams I've had of her. He thinks we should inform Sandiso, I couldn't agree with him more. These dreams gets more hectic each time. Maybe they are meaningless, it could be connected to the cleansing thing. There I go blowing things out of proportion. I'm not even pregnant!

Insert 74

The only form of communication that I received from Bra Muzi was a confirmation text assuring me he will be reachable for the next two weeks. I must notify him as soon as the date is set. This was sent two days after our very short meeting. This all led us to a rushed visit to Mpumalanga to inform the parents. Bab' Khumalo will be attending a church conference on the Saturday we picked for the cleansing. As a result only my mom will accompany me, besides my dad doesn't follow tradition that much. Apparently I'm the only party needed for the cleansing but Ma Khumalo wants to accompany me to offer her support. Mrs Nxumalo also wants to join us. I informed Bra Muzi of the date we picked and he's okay with it. He will arrange for his driver to pick us up and drive us to his home. The sooner we do this ceremony the better.

The trip to Mpumalanga was a success. Sandiso is unreachable, Nka even left him an email. I had a very disturbing dream back at home. This woman was on her mission to snatch my baby away. Just then another woman came to my rescue, I was standing behind her the whole time. Ghost woman ended up giving up. The women who rescued me, smiled at me and left. I must've been screaming because MaKhumalo woke me up. I ended up sharing the disturbing dreams. She called her sisters in christ, they prayed for this evil spirit to leave. I was given strict instructions to pray using a white candle. They even gave me holy oil and water. It's been helpful, one of the church woman. I think she's a seer of some sort, assured me all will be revealed but I

must not stop praying.

I'm forever exhausted must be the midnight prayers. Ever since we started praying I haven't had any nightmares. The days for the cleansing are getting closer. I just want this to be over and done with. I'm hardly coping at work also , I've come to a conclusion that it's exhaustion. Mrs Nxumalo even suggested that I stop working for a while. She wants me to move in temporarily with her. Nka is also in favour of me not working for a while but he's not so fond of me moving temporarily with his parents. He even came up with an alternative of me being picked up in the mornings and dropped off at home later. I cant believe tonight we are leaving for the cleansing. Bra Muzi texted me the drivers contact numbers, it's easier this way. We decided to leave Thursday afternoon, it was Mrs Nxumalo's idea. Atleast we can get settled and rest before the whole thing takes place. MaKhumalo arrived yesterday.

I'm all packed and ready to leave . The driver is already waiting for us. Apparently we are heading to Mondlo in KZN. The driver says it's a 5-6 hours drive, Bra Muzi has booked us to the nearby guest house so we can rest properly before the ceremony. I'm not looking forward to the long drive but we traveling in h1 so there's enough room for the three of us. Mrs Nxumalo and Mrs Khumalo are getting along pretty well. Who would've thought. Apart from living a luxurious lifestyle, I've come to know Mrs Nxumalo as a very humble, down to earth woman. She's a true definition of never judge a book by its cover. My mom on the other hand is a simple, housewife. She's not into dressing up, come to think of it I've never seen her wearing makeup except for my brother's engagement party. She's the most natural woman I know, who loves baking and taking care of her husband. Both these woman are gorgeous in their own way, they are content with their lifestyles. Isn't funny how we desire different things in life but we all reach the same level of satisfaction and contentment.

We are being spoiled rotten. We don't make usual stops at filling stations. But our stops are at the malls in fancy restaurants, the driver gives us stacks of R200 notes and leave us to eat in peace. I can already see my mom is questioning this whole setup, Mrs Nxumalo is not even bothered. She's so used to money being spent, this is a norm to her. Ma Khumalo is looking at me with suspicious eyes, I've been indulging in veggies the whole trip and downing them with my orange juice. Restaurants offers the best, freshly squeezed orange juice. A happy woman is me at this hour.

It's been 4 hours in the road.The driver tells us our next stop is the guest house. Thank goodness, I'm exhausted from nothing but stuffing my face, browsing the social networks and

dozing off every now and then. The vehicle comes to a stop and I'm the first to get off. We are handed the keys. The driver promise to pick us up again the next day. He says the fridge and the cupboards are stocked up on things we may need. He first takes us on the house tour first, I get the feeling this is not a guest house. It's probably one of Bra Muzi's many properties, that man is loaded. This house has a homely feel. It's located in a suburban area, there's a pool at the back. It's so hot I'm tempted to go for a swim. I erase that thought quickly, besides having no bathing suit. I don't want to give MaKhumalo even more reasons to talk. The whole trip, she's been staring at me suspiciously. It's as if she wants to tell me something, maybe she wants to enquire more about Bra Muzi.

All will be revealed tomorrow, hopefully they won't judge me for my past mistakes. Luckily Bra Muzi doesn't even look that old. The funny thing I don't even know how old he is. He's one of those strict, no nonsense type of guys. Roughly he could be in his mid thirties, well that's my assumption. All I need is a bath and a bed. I video call the boyfriend while I'm soaking in the bath. He's being naughty tonight, asking me to show him my lady bits. It's video call so I oblige to his every demands. The only thing missing is a bubbly right now, I'm giggling when the door suddenly open. What happened to privacy. I'm being surmored to get out of the bath before I catch a cold. The firm tone, this is unnecessary. Really now, MaKhumalo is such a mood killer. Luckily I was done playing nudist over the phone.

We settle on the couch after our prayer session, the focus is not even on the television. I'm in the presence of greatness, the guidance I'm receiving tonight. The topic spiral out of control, they are questioning me about Bra Muzi. Ofcourse I have no choice but to lie. How do I tell them about the contract and the nature of our relationship. Sometimes we lie to protect the ones we love. So long as Nka knows the truth, the rest can settle with my explanation. I'm extremely fatigued, besides I want to escape these unexpected questions. Now they are questioning the financial state of this man, this is my queue to leave. Finally I'm free, a call comes through from Bra Muzi. Why am I shocked by all this. No greeting, this man can be rude. he wanted to know if we settled in well, also to tell me about the panic button and all that safety jibberish nonsense. He concludes there's nothing to worry about its a quite neighborhood with very few break in's. What was the point of this call in the first place.

I'm puzzled by the sudden caring nature, this man has serious issues. A message from Jase he won't make it they are flying to Thailand Friday. Talk about nice life problems. My moghey is living it up. Another video call from the boyfriend this time I made sure the door is locked. I can't have our private moments being disturbed once again. Besides there haven't been too much action lately. In-between being haunted and fatigued where does one get the time for intimacy. Once this cleansing get done, I want my buffet everyday. I want to be served to the point where I

can't feel my knees and I instantly pass out. Those two ladies are chatting, laughing like old friends. Maybe this trip was meant to bring both families closer. I wonder will my dad get along with Mr Nxumalo, there's only one way to find out . A text from Bra Muzi wishing me a goodnight sleep, what's with this man and pretending to care all of the sudden. I fall asleep fantasizing about Nka.

Insert 75

Morning comes, it's Friday past 8am. Why is it so quiet. They are still sleeping, that's a first. MaKhumalo is usually awake round about this time. I wonder when did they sleep last night, they were still laughing and chatting the time I fell asleep. I jump in the shower, the plan is to surprise them with breakfast in bed. I'm done, the fridge and cupboards are filled with groceries for months. Everything is sealed, this groceries has been recently bought. After going through every expiry date carefully, everything is still in good condition. How do I do this? I honestly can't stand the smell of eggs as of late. What kind of breakfast will I make that doesn't involve eggs. Screw this! I'm on a proper meal tip. I defrost the meat, chop the veggies, prepare pap. They can always settle for cereals if my food will be too much for them. I'm halfway done, still no sign of the two ladies. Atleast MaKhumalo gets to rest, this thing of waking up early in the morning as if rushing somewhere must stop. Apparently it comes with age, that definitely won't be me.

It's past 10 when Manxumalo, makes her appearance. She's already dressed up, pecks of having ensuite bathrooms in every bedroom. She looks impressed by the sight in front of her. Isn't it obvious every mother in law wants a domesticated daughter in law.

MA NXUMALO : " something smells divine, I'll finally have the pleasure of tasting the food Nka has been raving about"

OKUHLE : " I'm sure he's exaggerating, let's hope it taste as good as it smells"

MA NXUMALO: " let me be the judge of that, small portions for me. I'm still watching my figure"

This woman is full of jokes, what figure. She's naturally gifted with a small waist. Well she's slim, small waist, small breasts, your typical slim woman. She's probably a 34 and here I am gaining kilos by the week. Who cares, my man appreciates the extra meats. They make great cushions. MaKhumalo joins us after a few minutes, I decide to dish up for all of us. Ma Nxumalo keeps reminding me of the portions. We eat over a light conversation, surprisingly both of them are

clueless of the cleansing ceremony. I'm trying to have an idea of what's awaiting me, with no luck from both parties. Now the topic is about how much of a big eater I am. Can I be left alone to enjoy my food in peace. Saved by the call.

My man is so sweet, we spoke for over an hour. Declaring our undying love for each other, wonder when does he get his work done. After our lovely conversation I do the dishes, today I'm taking a dip in that swimming pool. There's no way I'm letting this opportunity miss me. Plus it's very hot. A message from the driver comes through, he will pick us up at 2pm. I'll use the remaining time to explore this pool. I rock my bra and short tight. Luckily I brought those along. I dive in the pool, the two grannies are looking at me like I've lost my marbles. It's hot and I couldn't be bothered. Few minutes later they are also in their tight and bras. Now I'm the one watching, this is crazy. We are laughing, having fun. This is lovely. I rush out, grab my phone and snap few shots. We end up taking more selfies in the water. I don't ever recall seeing my mom this happy and carefree.

I remind them of the driver and the time he's picking us up. We had so much fun, I don't regret jumping in that pool. We prepare once again, the whole way. We are dwelling on the fun we had earlier, the pool is our main topic. We drive for an hour or so. We finally stop at this beautiful big house. It's a big house that consist of 5 modern rondavels outside. There I thought we were coming to the bundus, we are welcomed by this very friendly elder man. He calls two young boys to help us with our bags. We don't even have too much luggage. He greets us in a very respectable manner. We are being led to the main house all the way to the lounge. There's two older aunties, Bra Muzi and another elder man. After the introductions, I've come to learn the older man sitting next to Bra Muzi is his dad. Now I see where he inherited his looks from. One of the aunt is his stepmom, the other his father's sister and the friendly man is also his father's brother.

Once my name is mentioned his aunt wails and engulf me in a hug. What's this all about. We are being seated down and they explain the whole process regarding the cleansing. That's no train smash, they are waiting for an elder aunt. We are given one of the rondavels to use. We settle in this is very modern, it's even air conditioned. Mrs Nxumalo is a very free spirited person. She's already complimenting Muzi's good looks. The cleansing will be done early hours of the morning. MaKhumalo and Mrs Nxumalo join the two aunties in the lounge. I decide to take a little tour and explore this yard. It's such a big yard.

There's a lovely vegetable garden, this is interesting. Whoever is responsible for this must be

passionate. I settle under the big tree, the shade is just too nice. I should've brought my phone with. I'm certain the boyfriend is losing his mind trying to reach me. The peaceful environment is doing things to my soul.

BRA MUZI : " this is where you are hiding"

OKUHLE : " you almost gave me a fright"

BRA MUZI : " It wasn't my intention , this is where I also find my solace. Right under this same spot"

OKUHLE : " there's something peaceful under this big tree"

BRA MUZI : " I once spent three months under this big tree , everyday a part of me received healing"

OKUHLE : " three months, that's a long duration to spend under this shade"

BRA MUZI : " I don't usually share my personal life with anyone. Kuhlle I was once married,happily married to a beautiful woman. We had a beautiful daughter named Thandolwethu. She was 4 years when we were involved in a fatal accident. One minute we were all happy singing one of her favorite nursery rhymes. The next there was this huge bang, I banged my head on the steering wheel. It was lights out. Next thing I woke up in the hospital. I was told both my wife and kid didn't survive "

OKUHLE : " what nursery rhymes was your daughter singing "

My question took him by surprise. After everything he has shared with me that's the first question that crossed my mind. I swear what he just told me was the same dream I had back in the hospital. The most disturbing part is that I saw how his wife and kid lost their lives. He's really puzzled by this whole thing.

OKUHLE : " do you have a picture of your late wife and kid"

He pulls out his wallet and checks something. He stands up and offer me his hand. I stand up without asking any questions. He leads me to one of the rondavels. He takes out the key from his back pocket. He sighs heavily once the door is open. I follow behind him and there in the wall hangs the biggest picture frame of both his wife and kid. I start shaking, my whole body feels numb. My goodness, this is the same woman that's been haunting me in my dreams. What does

she want with me. My head is spinning, I need air. My mouth is dry, I'm struggling to breath.

BRA MUZI: " okuhle are you okay, come sit down a bit. Let me get you water"

All I do is nod, I can't find my voice. He gives one bottle of water in the fridge. I take huge gulps, I'm trying all means to calm myself down. I can't afford to pass out, after almost half an hour. I'm calm now. I stare at that Pic for the longest of time. This is the same same outfit she had on the time of the accident. Bra Muzi is looking at me all confused. This is more challenging, how do I tell him about my nightmares. The fact that I saw how her life ended while he was unconscious. Why did she revealed all these things in my dreams.

BRA MUZI : " okuhle are you okay?"

OKUHLE : " I saw her, I saw how both of them passed on while you were unconscious. I saw how the whole accident unfolded"

BRA MUZI : " no! Shit this can't be"

He has his hands over his head. I'm wrapped up in my own world. What the hell does this woman want from me!

Insert 76

He keeps repeating the words " it can't be". Wait! What does he mean it can't be. What exactly does he know? Could this be connected to what his wife was saying in my dream, about me being her husband's chosen one. Wooow! I honestly can't stand this anymore. I'm being in denial somehow I've already connected the dots in my head. There's still a hopeful part that prays I'm wrong, hopefully my theory is totally wrong. This explains why she chose to reveal everything to me. I'm in love with someone else, my heart beats a different tune for somebody else. If my theory is true, then what's the meaning of her giving me the baby at first and later trying to snatch her from me. This all so confusing, I need fresh air. This man has been pacing up and down, that alone is making me dizzy. I try to leave but he grabs my hand.

BRA MUZI : " please don't leave, sit we need to talk"

OKUHLE : " I need fresh air"

BRA MUZI : " I got you"

'please' he's never begged me before. I get the feeling he has answers to some of my questions. He switch on the aircon. He pulls a chair and sits opposite me. This man has never been vulnerable and so open with me before. He's a mess, his eyes are glistening with tears. Dear God. no! Somehow my assumptions has been confirmed. His eyes are already saying what I've been dreading and avoiding since learning the ghost woman was his wife. He clears his throat, I'm busy shaking my head no and his nodding. This is too much for me to handle. Why me? I mean me and her husband only had a physical relationship there were no emotions involved. Yes we lost our baby. doesn't me being inlove with someone else counts for something.

BRA MUZI: " okuhle, what else did she show you in the dreams. What else did she tell you?"

OKUHLE : " she handed me a beautiful baby girl but lately she was violent. She wanted to snatch the baby from me. She told me I'm the chosen one for her husband"

BRA MUZI : " how did she pass on, how did they leave this earth okuhle. No one told me. you know, I've begged her to reveal that to me. One day she told me that can only be revealed through the chosen one"

OKUHLE : " what! No I can never be the chosen one Muzi. Talk to her, there must be a way"

BRA MUZI : " I'm just as confused okuhle, the moment I developed feelings for you. I chose to end the contract altogether but then I came home and my grandfather told me I needed to find you and save the baby. I tried by all means to get to you as quick as I could but then it was already too late "

OKUHLE : " your grandfather where is he? How did he know about the pregnancy. I also didn't know. Where is he Muzi"

BRA MUZI : " we buried him last month, he told me to find you and do this cleansing ceremony in order to save your baby"

OKUHLE : " what baby Muzi, I'm not pregnant. The doctor confirmed that"

BRA MUZI: " how many doctors did you see, didn't you seek a second opinion"

OKUHLE : " I - I, O' my God, it can't be. I can't be pregnant"

BRA MUZI : " this explains why she wants to take the child away from you"

OKUHLE : " she must not start with me Muzi, speak to that wife of yours! Im not going to loose my baby over her madness"

BRA MUZI : " calm down okay, she can't hurt your baby. After the cleansing she'll leave you alone"

OKUHLE : " what about the chosen one story then? Why did she even choose me in the first place?"

BRA MUZI : " because you are the first woman I developed feelings for after her passing "

I'm left shocked, he looks down after delivering that statement. When did he even fell for me, why didn't he tell me. Why am I finding this so hard to believe. This man has been so closed off, he had me thinking he was married. He never took me to his place, it was always different hotels. Heck I don't even know his surname. He was very generous where money was concerned apart from that time he spent the night at my place. I was nothing but a sexual object to him. Why am I so sad, he loved his wife that much. I know guys who even bring their side dish to their maternal beds. The loyalty towards his wife is plainly insane. I doubt he'll ever love anyone as much as he loved his wife. How come did our baby die then, wasn't his wife somehow involved.

OKUHLE : " was your late wife involved in me miscarrying our child"

BRA MUZI : "no!"

OKUHLE : " how can you be so sure"

BRA MUZI : " because she chose you for me, she wants you to carry my seed. Hence your baby's life is in danger okuhle. She wants no one else for me but you"

OKUHLE : " Muzi No! what did I do to your wife to make my life so difficult?"

BRA MUZI : " like I said relax, this will be sorted out okay"

OKUHLE : " this is fucked up!"

BRA MUZI : " tell me about it?"

This better be fixed. This explains why he chased me away the minute I delivered news of miscarriage to him. He was already dealing with so much and here I was adding on to his pain.

How was I to know, all I needed was a shoulder to cry on and he threw me out like thrash. I was also going through a hard time. I needed him more, the emotions. I ask to be excused and he let me go without any hassles this time around. I just remembered I'm a pregnant woman, even though I'm finding it hard to believe. I need to calm down, can't afford to stress and risk my baby's life.

I go straight to our rondavel and throw myself on the bed. What a day! I take my phone and text Nka.

'you are the best thing that has ever happened in my life. I love and appreciate you my Zwide. Can't wait to come back home. There's a surprise waiting for you'

Message sent, I smile alone. I'm too exhausted, I'll eat after my nap. I fall asleep immediately. There she is again in my dreams, this time she's standing in the same room that I'm sleeping in. But she's standing from a distance. I'm fuming, why does she keep stalking my dreams. I ask her what does she want from me. She turns around and points next to the headboard. There's my guardian angel, she's looking down on me smiling. That's who she's afraid of. I tell her straight up I'm happy with my boyfriend and she needs to stay away from me. She must choose someone for her husband. She disappears once again. I look up at my guardian angel, she looks familiar. She's gorgeous, she smiles at me before disappearing. I wake up from my dream feeling lighter. I hope this woman got my message loud and clear. I'm not about to leave my supportive loving man for Muzi or any man for that matter.

I'm furchished, craving for cream spinach, raw cabbage maybe coleslaw, green salad, mushroom, pumpkin and my orange juice. I brush my not so visible tummy

"I think we are going to drive your father insane with all these weird cravings, maybe he must start planting vegetables and stock up on some oranges. Lol thank you for choosing me, I promise to love, protect and take care of you"

Maybe I should move in with Mrs Nxumalo when we get back home. Maybe I should also stay off from work until my baby is born. That nurse from the hospital, my goodness today I'm solving so many mysteries. All that's left now is for the cleansing to occur then I can focus on my pregnancy. Wait till Nka hears about these great news. First we need to seek for a second opinion. But I feel pregnant already. The cravings, the fatigue, the vomiting. It's all making sense

now. Now I need to know who's my guardian angel. The woman who protected me from Ghost woman. Who is she? How is she related to me or Nka?

She remains another mystery to be solved. MaKhumalo comes to check up on me, she brought me food. I'm excited until I see what's in the plate. Tripe the smell alone, sends me straight to the bathroom. Here we go again, this is going to be the longest first trimester. I hate vomiting with a passion but the life growing inside me is more precious.

Both MaKhumalo and Mrs Nxumalo are looking at me with so much concern. The smell of tripe has filled this room. I think I'm gonna be sick. Another bathroom trip!

Insert 77

Thank goodness they removed the tripe, I had to stay in the bathroom for almost half an hour. The whole time I was communicating with the Mrs explaining what got me sick in the first place. They had to remove the tripe from the room. The minute I get out, Both woman are looking at me suspiciously. I hope I'm not questioned. I'm not willing to share this until I'm absolutely sure of my story. I believe me and Nka should first absorb this, celebrate first before informing the whole family. They ask me what would I desire to eat, something tells me they have already figured out what's happening . So long as they keep it to themselves. I get carried away with my veggies and orange juice. They both look at each other and start giggling. Whatever! Mrs Nxumalo ask one of the helpers to prepare me my food. I'm impatiently waiting, the minute the food is delivered I want to dig in. But Mrs Nxumalo and both MaKhumalo first taste the food and they ask the lady to taste as well. They are complaining about the salt, the lady says the salt is fine. They both wink at each other and give me my food to eat after thanking the lady. I saw what that was all about, I'm glad they have my back like that. Seems like this little one has more protection from everyone .

We retire to the bed since being informed that the cleansing will take place early hours of the morning. I for one I'm very much exhausted. It's been one heck of a day. I doze off without speaking to the boyfriend. We are woken up at 4am. All the elders are already awake, first they burn the incense and recite our story to the ancestors. The baby I miscarried is named Nkazimulo, I cry. Such a beautiful name. Atleast now I'll have a name to remember him by. They've already mixed some herbs in a big bucket. One elderly woman orders me to get completely naked she pours the water from my head and washes my body. She's reciting something to the ancestors. I'm shivering to the point where I don't even hear what she's saying. She repeats the whole process all over again. When she's done, she tells me I mustn't dry my

body or use any ointment. This is all new to me, they cover me with a blanket. All I can think of is my baby right now. There are other rituals that they did, by the time we are done all I want to do is sleep.

By the time the sun comes up we are done with everything. That's was one hectic morning. I'm glad this is all behind me. I can now focus on my life going forward. We are leaving midday, they've prepared a nice lunch and asked us to join them. After their hospitality and welcoming us with warm hands , who are we to deny them of their request. First I take a much deserved nap, I honestly need it after being robbed of my sleep. I'm woken up later to freshen up and join everyone for lunch. Did I really sleep that much?

I join everyone and surprisingly everyone is going on about my glow. Muzi's dad looks somehow disappointed, clearly he was siding with ghost woman. After our lunch just before we leave Muzi ask to have a word with me. I figure this is the last we will ever talk or be in the same room so why not. Mrs Nxumalo and MaKhumalo are still distracted by Muzi's aunt. That woman can talk for days, they seem to be enjoying whatever story she's telling them. This is my queue to leave.

I see him under that big tree, there's something about that tree. It's therapeutic, it feeds the soul and bring about peace. I can't be attached to it, just incase It starts haunting me. Who would've thought? Imagine being haunted by the leaves and branches. Lol! I'll probably be blown off the bed. Sometimes my mind wanders around. I settle next to him, he hasn't made any sign to acknowledge my presence. I don't have the whole day besides I don't want another episode of ghost woman.

OKUHLE : " you asked to see me, are you okay?"

BRA MUZI : " I can't let her go okuhle, I'm struggling to let her soul rest in peace"

OKUHLE : " that's hectic, have you tried counseling or seeing a therapist.talking helps. you know especially with a stranger"

BRA MUZI: " I just can't find peace, I feel like a failure okuhle. I couldn't protect them when they needed me most"

OKUHLE : " it's not your fault, you were unconscious there was nothing you could've done about it"

BRA MUZI : " I'm the reason she came for you okuhle, I don't want to let her go"

OKUHLE : ", what do you mean, you are the reason she came for me"

BRA MUZI : " she's desperate okuhle, you were her only hope of crossing over"

OKUHLE : " I'm lost, what's her desperation got to do with me. How is she not crossing over?"

BRA MUZI : " she's sad okuhle, she wants to cross over and be with her daughter"

OKUHLE : "what's stopping her from crossing. What do you mean her daughter"

BRA MUZI : " I'm sorry you had to be dragged in the middle of this okuhle. The only way she can cross over is if I release her from my heart okuhle"

OKUHLE : " Ow my God"

BRA MUZI : " you are not my chosen one okuhle, she had to manipulate you in order for me to let her go. I just can't okuhle. I refuse to"

OKUHLE : " why don't you want to let her go, why are you punishing her even beyond her grave"

BRA MUZI : " she had an affair with my business partner, when news started circulating that the child might not be mine. I had test done, results only came out after their funeral. Turns out the baby is not mine. I want her to suffer and this is my way of punishing her. Her soul will roam and follow me around. She will watch me living the life that she decided to take from me. Don't ask me to let her go, I want her to suffer and my mission is to punish her till I die "

My mouth hangs open. He means exactly what he just said. Veins from his forehead are popping out, his eyes are bloodshot red. His sweating profusely. I can't be in the presence of such hatred and evilness. I stand up to leave, this man is completely insane. Who punishes a dead person in that manner. The poor wife, no wonder she got so aggressive with me. I was her only hope, to think I was against her. My goodness I just want to get out of here. The coldness in his eyes when he said he will never let her go. That look alone sent shivers down my spine, I almost got in the middle of a cross fire.

I go straight to the rondavel and packed all my clothes. I went to the bathroom to gather all my toiletries. I looked up in the mirror, there she is standing behind me. Tears falling freely from her face, she looks sad. I want to reach out for her and comfort her. What kind of a human being does that to another. She had an affair, does it mean she must suffer for the rest of her after life. I turn around and she has vanished. I can't stand being here anymore. To think I even felt sorry for Bra Muzi 24hours ago. Who keeps a mother away from her child. This place will drive me insane. I'm impatient, let me fetch these two woman. I bump into Bra Muzi on my way to call the two Mrs. He looks at me and smile as if he hasn't just confessed such dirty secret. The driver is

already waiting for us, we bid our farewell to everyone. The minute the car takes off I block Bra Muzi's number, I don't want anything to ever do with him or his evil ways.

The driver suggest that we can spend the night at the guest house and he will pick us up tomorrow morning. Everyone gets a shock when I scream over my dead body. They look at me as if I've lost my mind. Fuck this shit! I want nothing to ever do with Bra Muzi, his property or money. This driver must drop us home. I wonder who is Bra Muzi's next victim, clearly his wife won't stop trying to cross over to her daughter. Whoever girl he meets next is in trouble. Maybe it was a blessing in disguise that I miscarried, they always say everything happens for a reason and today I can attest to that statement. What could've become of our baby in this battle between the living and the ghost that's desperate to crossover.

Today I don't even want the fancy restaurant stops, fuck I want my man

Insert 78

I'm still in disbelief regarding Bra Muzi's confessions. I might have overreacted earlier due to shock. Now that I'm a bit calm, I feel bad. He probably needed someone neutral to offload all his buggages. He probably didn't expect such reaction from me. Especially since the wife made contact and revealed such delicate information to me. Maybe I had the will power to save her, all it would've took was some convincing. Now I really feel bad, guilty to be exact. Both of them trusted me with their deepest darkest secrets. Had I stayed a minute longer and took time to absorb everything, maybe I would've come up with a solution to benefit both parties. I somehow feel like getting involved would've put my baby's life in danger. Who knows what ghost woman is willing to sacrifice in order for her to cross over. Already she had threatened my baby's life. I hope things will work out between the two of them. Maybe one day Bra Muzi will realize holding on to anger is delaying his progress in life. This explains the contract, the man definitely doesn't want to let anyone in because he's still dealing with a lot of pain. My miscarriage probably triggered all the pain and anger.

I sigh heavily, this is a lot to take in. Still one thing bothers me though, now that everything is out in the open. Who's the mystery woman who protected me and my baby from the dreams. She looked very familiar but I can't seem to figure out who she resembles. Maybe it's my imagination, that smile. She's a very beautiful woman, I just hope she remains friendly and protective towards my baby and me . I honestly don't want another haunting episode, especially

with the little one growing inside of me. A smile forms on my face, my hand involuntarily brushes my not so visible stomach. I catch the two woman looking at me inquisitively. They look at each other and start giggling. Here we go again, these two are definitely behaving like teens. I'm sure they are confirming their suspicions. I need to be one hundred percent sure before delivering the news.

Bab' Khumalo has been calling none-stop wanting to know how far we are. My mom has been gone for only 3 days, but He's already going on like she's been away for months. I watch how she still blushes during their conversation. Apparently dad can't sleep without her tonight. That naughty man, what kinky stuff is he planning to do to my mom. We reach our destination around 8pm, pretty late for someone to travel all the way to Mpumalanga. MaKhumalo is hearing none of that. Manxumalo has already organized their driver to drop her home. Such craziness, my plan was to bond and spoil my mom tomorrow. Guess the D is much more interesting than shopping. We make one stop, these two ladies are enjoying the money at our disposal. What the heck! I'm hungry so I join them.

It was smooth sailing, we reached our destination safely. We thank the driver and bid him a safe journey back home . My dad is such a nuisance he's been calling my mom every other five minutes . MaKhumalo settles at the back seat of the car and the driver takes off. I miss her already, we had so much fun over the weekend. She was so lively and carefree. Wifely duties are calling, she's so eager to go home. I would've loved celebrating the good news with her. Nka is also waiting for me. Right after MaKhumalo leaves, we also decide to hit the road. His excitement to see me improves my mood instantly. He's all smiles, he keeps stealing glances at me while driving. I'm happy to be home.

As soon as we are parked in his garage. He gets off the car, opens my door and pulls me off the car. He wraps his arms around me, I've been craving this the whole day. We stay in that position for the longest time. He keeps repeating the words ' I missed you, I missed you so much'

He's clueless, I've missed him dearly . My safe sanctuary, my peace haven.

NKANYISO : " let me run my lady a nice bubble bath, then we can cuddle and you'll tell me all about your trip"

OKUHLE : " trust me you don't want to know"

NKANYISO : " it can't be that bad babe"

OKUHLE : " are you joining me, in the bath?"

NKANYISO : " that's one invite, I can't decline"

We make our way inside the house. Wow this is beautiful. There's a welcome home banner, a little table setup and roses leading all the way to the bathroom. He runs the bath and mix all my salts in there. He's busy complaining about the feminine products he must use. That's another sacrifice he has to make for love. He strips all my clothes, I get in the bath. He later joins me. I'm sitting comfortably in between his legs, ignoring his poking tool. I'm receiving this relaxing massage from him. This is the perfect opportunity to let him in on everything. So I start from the beginning up to the last detail. He's shocked over the whole ghost thing. I left out the part of me being pregnant though. The plan is to lure him to the doctor so we can make the shocking discovery together . I for one still is doubtful over the pregnancy assumptions.

We are both still trying to resolve the mystery of my protector. It's no use stressing over such issues, these things have their way of coming out. right? All will be revealed in due time . I'm really not hungry but I can't disappoint my man. After all the effort he put into making this special little surprise for me.

NKANYISO : " babe there's something different about you, your face is much fuller now and you are glowing"

OKUHLE : "are you trying to say I'm fat?"

NKANYISO : " hell no, just so you know you'll be my fatty"

OKUHLE : " well I need you to accompany me to the doctor tomorrow"

NKANYISO : " doctor, what wrong? Are you sick love"

OKUHLE : " no babe, just a usual check up. Nothing major"

NKANYISO : " really now, must I be present for all those things".

OKUHLE : " well, my male gynecologist will have to inspect the cookie in your absence then"

NKANYISO : "what! Over my dead body. Starting from tomorrow we are seeking a new female gynecologist. What time is your check up?"

OKUHLE : " I'll call in the morning and book our appointment"

NKANYISO : "damn right you will, start searching for female gynecologist while you at it"

OKUHLE : " okay Mr me, even though I don't get what's the big deal having a male gynecologist"

NKANYISO : " LET-O we are getting a female gynecologist and that's final"

Im battling holding my laughter in. Talk about a real switch up. We spend hours talking, it feels good being home. We are disturbed by my ringing phone, it's mommy dearest. She's home safe. I can't believe it's 12:18am, time flies when you having fun. I'm fighting the orange juice craving, so I drink water instead. I'm not ready as yet to raise any suspicions . I'm really exhausted and sleepy. Bra Muzi's wife crosses my mind just as I'm about to sleep. The thought doesn't creep me out anymore but her desperation to cross over bothers me. I wonder until when will her soul be held captive, what's stopping her form crossing over. What hold does Muzi have over her. Maybe if she can admit to her wrongs, apologize. What if an apology it's all it will take to set her free. Instead of her trying to manipulate Bra Muzi into taking a wife, maybe she must just apologize and see what the worst that could happen. My mind is working over time. I'm beyond exhausted but still trying to solve mysteries.

It's Sunday morning, 3am to be exact and I'm struggling to fall asleep. My body is tired but my mind is just not cooperating. Under usual circumstances I would've drugged myself with allergex and syndols. Just two of those pills would've done the trick, due to the unconfirmed pregnancy. I can't take that risk. Nka is snoring lightly beside me. I watch him peacefully sleeping. This right here is the father of my child, my future hubby and my confidant. I browse through social network, I'm stalking Jase to be precise. I really miss him. I'll go pass his place sometime during the week.

Insert 79

I don't know when did I fall asleep after struggling and contemplating of what I should've done. The light is piercing through the room making it difficult to sleep. What's that smell, gosh I think I'm gonna be sick. I run to the bathroom and vomit last night's supper . After I'm done rinsing my mouth, the smell gets even more stronger. I think I'll be trapped in this bathroom for a while.

NKANYISO : " babe, don't be long brunch is ready"

Now it makes sense, the strong smell. He seems so excited how do I do this without raising any

suspicions. One step in the bedroom leads me straight to the bathroom again. He's beside me in a second.

NKANYISO : " babe what's wrong"

OKUHLE : " the eggs babe, I can't stand the smell of eggs"

NKANYISO : " let me quickly get rid of them, I'll be right back "

He's moving around like a mad person. All his efforts went to waste, I really hate this. I use to enjoy eggs and the boyfriend mastered how to make mine. I'm really hungry now. I feel like indulging in brown sour mabele soft porridge with a spoon of butter and milk. My eyes are closed I'm fantasizing over this brunch that I'd love to have. I lick my lips. upon opening my eyes the boyfriend is staring at me with so much lust in his eyes. Hell no! I don't want no vitamin D.

NKANYISO : " Mrs me, seems like you ready for me"

OKUHLE : " sex! Why does everything has to revolve around sex with you! All I need is a bowl of mabele soft porridge. I'm hungry!

NKANYISO : " what? Let me make one thing clear. Lethokuhle Khumalo. You will not address me in that manner whether you are sick or not. I hate being shouted at, we are adults and if you have issues we sit and talk like adults"

The emotions, I wail right at that spot. I don't even understand where the outburst came from. I'm irritable and emotional. He's angry but the tears are softening him up a bit. He hugs me briefly, I cry even harder. Maybe I need to move in with his mom for a while, until I can control my emotions. I feel like these emotions will drive him away. On a serious note, I'm really hungry. Can I be fed already

OKUHLE : " baby I'm sorry for shouting at you. I honestly don't know what came over me"

NKANYISO : " there has to be a reason for that outburst, talk to me baby"

OKUHLE : " I'm hungry, please feed me"

NKANYISO : " what would you love to have babe"

OKUHLE : " mabele sour porridge with butter and milk"

NKANYISO : "are you fo real? It's Sunday where am I going to get all that"

The tears again, he makes it seem impossible. I'm not asking for the impossible now, am I? It's just a mere brown porridge. Now he's going on like I'm asking for oysters, crabs and prawns. He sees the state I'm in and grabs his car keys. I'm right beside him.

NKANYISO : " babe you are not dressed"

OKUHLE : " wait let me grab a gown"

NKANYISO : " really at 12pm in the afternoon, in this heat"

I ignore him. whatever he utters after, my ears chose to blatantly ignore it. I grab one of his t-shirt, it's sitting nicely on me. More like a t-shirt dress. His eyes when he seems me, who cares. All I Need is my soft porridge. He makes few calls, he seems rather frustrated. I'm watching all this action, it's quite funny.

OKUHLE : " little one, we are going to drive your daddy crazy. Let's make a deal right now, let's take it easy on daddy"

He half runs to the car, excitement all over his face. Wonder what's got him so excited, so long as I'll get my porridge. He kisses my cheek and starts the car.

OKUHLE : " what got you so excited love"

NKANYISO : " we are going to feed you my love"

OKUHLE : " yippie, I'm happy. Let's go"

We drive all the way to the township, it's hip and happening. The vibe is so alive, my mood has improved. We arrive at this busy taxi rank, I smell my brunch form afar. My tummy grumbles, there's a granny with a mobile kitchen just next to the taxi rank. It's so clean and neat, she

greet me with a smile. There's a table with chairs next to the mobile kitchen. The granny dishes for me and add my butter, sugar and milk. Just like she read my mind. I'm the happiest woman on earth right now. I sit and dig in, she's staring at me with suspicious eyes. What's the saying again, elders have a way of sensing things. Probably comes with experience and wisdom. She winks at me, this fool goes straight inside the taxi rank. He comes back with a take away plate. What the hell, I thought he'll join me. He seats across me, dear lord. Not tripe again, my senses are extra sharp these days.

The Granny is such a sweetheart, guess she can foresee what's about to go down. She stops him from opening the take away and orders him to eat his food from a very safe distance from me. He's puzzled by all this but clearly he won't question her. He's busy eyeing me, it's quite cute how respectful he is towards elders . I've been exposed to few trustfund babies and the manner in which they treat people in general is appalling . I go for seconds, something tells me this was is not my last visit in this place. I'm full and happy. We are driving back home and the boyfriend seems lost in thoughts. The granny whispered something in his ears just before we left but I couldn't catch a single word. He makes a turn by the chemist.

NKANYISO : " baby there's something I need us to get, please come with"

OKUHLE : " okay babe"

NKANYISO : " baby this morning I had my suspicions after the whole breakfast thing, the sudden outburst and the emotions. At first I thought I was imagining things but the granny just somehow sparked my suspicions even more"

OKUHLE : " I honestly wanted to be a surprise and not raise false hope. Yes I'm an emotional wreck half the times for the past week. I don't know whether I'm coming or going. The crazy cravings and certain smells that I can't suddenly stand"

NKANYISO : " why don't we get the test and tomorrow go to the doctor. I mean today it's Sunday right. Let's just get the home test for now. I think the suspense will kill me if we have to wait till tomorrow"

OKUHLE : " let's just keep an open mind baby please"

NKANYISO : " the exhaustion, man I'm going to be a father"

This is what I was avoiding from the begin im ,he's already celebrating. Dear lord I just pray the test is positive, I'm still trying to track when last I got my shot or periods. Still as blank as ever, that's just one thing I can't seem to remember. He leads me to the chemist, it funny he's already

handling me as if I'm fragile or sick. Why do I get the feeling I'll be spoiled rotten with this pregnancy, oops! Not confirmed yet, but you get the drill. We are behind the counter and this man is going crazy. he bought 6 different pregnancy tests, 2 clear blues among the mix. I know he won't hear my opinion in this regards instead he turns and asks if they'll be enough. Like dude, will my urine even be enough for all these tests. The assistant is looking at us trying to suppress her laughter, as if that's not enough he's asking if these are the only different kinds they have in stock. Haaibo! Me and the assistant burst out in laughter. He doesn't seem bothered, not even one bit.

We are home already, he's beside himself with excitement. I'm nervous now, my only worry if all these test comes out negative. His going to be so heartbroken, I'm dreading that sight. Seeing him broken will actually break me too, no doubt about that. I'm done peeing in the bucket, this man takes all the urine samples and carefully squeeze each drop in the each test. The nerves are beyond me, my eyes are closed. I'm silently praying for good news, he's holding my hand. No let me rephrase that, he's squeezing the life out of my small hand. The nerves I assume.

He pulls me so we can see the results together, did I mention we had to wait 20 +minutes long before I could pee. I swear there's a point where I heard him begging my pee to come.

The next thing I hear him screaming with excitement, all the test are positive. Parenthood!

Insert 80

I'm overwhelmed by the pregnancy news. Even though I was semi-prepared, seeing the results. all of them positive is quite overwhelming . He's really excited, reciting all his clan names, kissing my tummy, lifting me and spinning us around. Does this man understand I'm a pregnant fragile woman. He's kissing me repeatedly and talking to my tummy as if the baby can already hear him. Apparently there's a celebration plan on the pipeline just for the both of us. We take a bath together, a very innocent bath for my liking. I don't think this man understands how much sex I'll be demanding from now on. Goodness, I'll be chowing that buffet like the world is about to end. He's already on the safe tip. He turned down my sexual advances, claiming he doesn't want to hurt his children. He can't deprive me of the same tool responsible for forming those children in the first place. He's praying for twins or triplets. I'm certain this man has never spent a day with a newborn baby. Wait until the sleepless nights and lack of hanky panky comes. He will be singing a different tune. He's adamant on his statement of twins, That statement alone sends me in panic mode. Twins, I can't handle two babies at once. Besides my brother's kids were quite a handful, that experience alone left me not wishing to have twins.

We are driving to this secret location , he keeps insisting its a surprise. I'm not so fond of surprises. I'm so lazy lately all I want to do is sit at home, eat and sleep. So you can imagine how irritable I am when we drive out of Joburg. The heat isn't doing much justice as well. He keeps squeezing my thigh assuring me we'll be there any minute from now. I'll have to take his word for it. After driving for 2 hours we arrive at this lovely guest house Bali at Willinga Lodge Hartbeespoort. I'm loving the atmosphere already. This man never ceases to amaze me, I'm loving the surprise . We check in and we are shown to our room. We freshen up, that's just how hot it is today.

The plan is for us to explore this place as soon as possible. After all I'm not even sure how long our stay here is, tomorrow is Monday. I'm in a mini loose dress and sandals. I'm relaxed. I get the feeling the boyfriend has been here before. The way he's so familiar with this place's surroundings. He leads me to a different direction all together, my goodness I'm so excited. There's a spa, seems like I'll be pampered and spoiled. Two very friendly ladies welcome us with grape juice, there's finger foods and a fruit platter. I've never tasted creamy spinach wraps before, that's all I'm indulging on and fruits. First it's the mani and pedi followed by a full body massage, this is all the break I need after everything I've been through.

I honestly thought that was the last of the surprise but boy was I wrong. There's a picnic setup just by the pool. Goodness, I'm so overwhelmed with so much joy. The emotions aren't doing me any justice. I'm shedding tears like nobody's business today. He carries me all the way to our little setup. We settle down, there's a nice meal right in front of us. Different type of meats and veggies. They are freshly prepared, I wonder how much he popped out to pull out this huge favour. But I'm not bothered, he catches on too fast. I indulge in this delightful dish.

NKANYISO : " my love, having you in my life has been the greatest blessing of all times . Now that we are expecting our bundle of joy together. I'm beyond happy"

Tears again, he wipes them with the back of his hand. He's all smiles, I'm glad he can sense these are tears of joy.

OKUHLE : " you know I love you right"

NKANYISO : " I can bet my life on it"

OKUHLE : " I have a feeling me and little Zwide here are going to drive you insane"

NKANYISO : " there's always a mental institution as a solution, permission granted. drive me insane"

OKUHLE : " we can't stand the smell of eggs, we eat veggies, mabele soft porridge and we absolutely love orange juice. Freshly squeezed is even better"

NKANYISO : " done I promise to have all that available at all times"

OKUHLE : " for now babe, maybe we might decide to like something else and tripe smell babe, we really can't stand it"

NKANYISO : " my people, I'm loving the term we"

OKUHLE : " I'm still in disbelief, this feels like some kind of fantasy. A supportive, loving partner and the baby on the way"

NKANYISO : " best believe it, I'm here to stay babe"

OKUHLE : " when are we informing the parents babe"

NKANYISO : " in two to three days time. Can we be selfish and celebrate first. It still feels surreal, like I'm in some kind of a dream"

OKUHLE : " let me pinch you"

NKANYISO : " the abuse has started already, please don't. Rather kiss me"

After our lovely picnic we retire to bed where buffet was served till the break of dawn. I'm beyond exhausted. We spent two more days at our mini gateway location. I'm not among the lucky one's when it comes to morning sicknesses. I'm also a victim. We have an appointment with my gynecologist, apparently it's the last time I'm consulting him. The guy was serious on getting me a female gynae. I decided to let it be for peace sakes.

We arrive just in time, it's confirmed I'm 7 weeks pregnant. Wow! This explains all the fatigue. We go pass his house and inform the parents. They are very happy for us. Mrs Nxumalo wants me to move in with them, Nka isn't hearing any of that. I'll have to inform my parents face to face though. MaKhumalo is going to be ecstatic. My lobola negotiations are approaching fast. The Doctor promised the morning sickness will get better after the first trimester. I honestly can not wait. Vomiting every morning is no child's play. I'm officially on maternity leave, it gets pretty boring during the day.

Jase has been Missing in action, he always has some lame excuse for us not to meet. It's either he's too busy or unavailable. It's a Thursday afternoon. Today I'm going to arrive unannounced at Jase's place. I can't stand his excuses anymore. The driver drops me off at his flat. Just as usual I don't knock, I'm inside seems like there's no one. But why is the door not locked Jase isn't that careless. The flat is filthy, this is very alarming judging by how neat Jase is. This whole situation is making me feel uneasy, I get my phone ready. Nka is on speed dial. Something tells me to turn back but there's that stubborn part that needs to get to the bottom of this. Did this man move out without even informing me but all his stuff are still here.

His bedroom door is slightly open, this gives me an opportunity to peep through that small space. What my eyes witness leaves me shocked. What the fuck is this man doing. I push the door wide open, the look in his eye. Clearly he's shocked, to see me or me catching him right handed. This is the reason he's been distant lately. This is one thing we swore we won't even try experimenting with. I'm failing to understand at what point did he wake up and decide 'Ow today I'm gonna try sniffing drugs " he still has the card in his hand, the white powder is all over his nose. I'm really dissapointed in my best friend.

OKUHLE : " why "

That comes out as a whisper. I keep praying someone would wake me from this nightmare. I don't understand, when did all this madness start, has he always been a user? It's impossible at some point I was living with him. He's speechless and seems somewhat ashamed. There's no spark left in his eye, he's wearing baggy tracksuits. This person right in front of me is the shadow of my friend. Living in a pigsty and doing drugs. My best friend is a neat freak, he loves dressing up and looking good. I can't see Mkhulu bae anywhere in sight. Where is he? Are they still together? What happened that got Jase so down and out, resorting to substance abuse. All these questions, the person who should be answering them is half high and seemingly not in good state to answer my questions. He needs help real quick.

Insert 81

I'm still rooted on the same spot, shocked and in disbelief. Why resort to substance abuse though. He's struggling to maintain eye contact. I see the drugs are kicking in, he's as high as

fuck. He starts giggling like a crazy person. He's hyped up, he's on his feet now. Fixing himself, staring at the huge mirror. He wipes his nose, gets rid of the card. The smile on his face, you'd swear he wasn't down and out a few seconds ago.

JASE : " doll, why wasn't I informed of this pleasant visit, goodness Lele you've picked up weight. The Glow moghel "

Wow! That's all I faintly manage to say. This very man standing in front of me is verh high. He raids his wardrobe, throws a couple of clothing items on the bed. I'm surprised by this act. The hype his in, so this is what drugs do to a person after the whole emotional display. He's on cloud nine now, carrying on as if I didn't just catch him doing a disgusting act.

JASE : " finally, what do you think of this outfit Lele?

OKUHLE : " Jase what's wrong with you? "

JASE : " honey I'm preparing for my date with Mkhulu Bae "

OKUHLE : " wow! After catching you sniffing drugs, you must be out of your mind thinking I'll ignore what I saw"

JASE : " darling sometimes you just have to go with the flow and live it up"

OKUHLE : " I don't believe this, I don't believe you right now"

JASE : " well it is what it is"

OKUHLE : " Jase are you hearing yourself right now"

JASE : " Lele you need to let loose and live for the moment. I swear that man of yours will have you aging before your time"

OKUHLE : " I'd rather age before time, than turn into a junkie"

JASE : " Babe If you'll excuse me, my man will be here any minute from now"

OKUHLE : " so he's the one that introduce you to this nonsense"

JASE : " introduced me, yes. Forced me, no. The choice was mine"

OKUHLE : " are you hearing yourself Skhumbuzo Jason Mbatha!"

JASE : " jeez woman, please don't judge me. You are not my mom"

OKUHLE : " What's happening to you my friend, I don't recognize this person standing in front of me. What happened to our promise of not experimenting with drugs"

JASE : " that was then, this is now. Besides drugs will never control nor overpower me. I only take them for fun Lele. I can stop at any given moment."

I'm so powerless, seems like my two cents won't make much difference. This man has already made his choice but there has to be another way to get through to him. Maybe I need to seek professional guidance. I decide to go ahead and voice my opinion hoping to get through to him.

OKUHLE : " the drugs are already controlling you Jase. Look around you, this pigsty and dirt. This is definitely not my friend. The baggy tracksuits, the baggy dark circles around your eyes. You look terrible"

JASE : " It's not as bad as it looks doll"

OKUHLE : " it's extremely bad take a look around this flat, it looks deserted. I was so convinced you've moved out. This is not how my friend lives.

I drag him to the mirror and make him stare at his reflection for the longest time. His eyes are glistening with tears as he runs his hand all over his face. I'm hoping to get through to him. I take his hand and lead him to the lounge, the clothes on the couch. The dirty dishes on the zinc. Clearly the substance has taken over him. If he had control then I wouldn't even suspect a thing let alone catch him right handed during the act. I seem to be getting through to him or atleast it seems so.

OKUHLE : " when did you start using and don't lie to me"

JASE : " it started as a fun thing Lele at first I didn't know he was using. He introduced it slowly throughout all our vacations. We would have fun listening to music and just before bed time. He would take it and ask me to join him. I always declined his offer until that night of Bhut' Siphilwe's engagement party. We had so much fun and I dint want to be a party pooper, so I joined him and as they say the rest is history"

OKUHLE : " My goodness, so it has been that long. How often do you use doll"

JASE : " it used to be just weekends, now it has escalated to few days 4 to 5 days in a week"

OKUHLE : " Noooo! Jase you are an addict now"

JASE : " not as yet but I'm heading towards that direction real quick"

OKUHLE : " we need to seek help babe, I'll be with you every step of the way. I don't want my child having a Godfather / Mother of a junkie"

JASE : " my goodness Lele are you? No ways so quick. Lele you don't waste time, do you?"

OKUHLE : " you don't know what I've been through babe.. We need to get you clean so I can share with you my experiences"

JASE : " you were probably chowing that guys money and dick. You sly bitch"

OKUHLE : " obviously, I'm even on maternity leave already but that's beside the point. I was even haunted while your ass was getting high on Crack, coke or whatever you are busy sniffing"

JASE : " so all those details will pass me until I'm clean"

OKUHLE : " definitely, Crack bitch"

We laugh like old times, only this time we both have serious issues to deal with. He needs to get rid of this bad habit and I need to look after myself. Even though I did the whole cleansing but there are days when I fear being haunted again. Sometimes I fear Bra Muzi might come for me since I know his secrets . It's crazy right, but I can't help these thoughts visit me time and again. Most often I wish he didn't confide in me. It's true what they say about sharing making the buggage feels lighter, I'm now carrying half of his buggage. We are seated in one of his messy couches. I start tidying up, he doesn't even wait for my invite. We tidy, do the dishes and he mops the floor. Half the food in the fridge was off, we dispose of those in the bin. So much food went to waste.

We are disturbed by my phone, it's the boyfriend. It's almost 7pm and he's worried sick. Which is understandable, the way he's so overprotective of me especially now that I'm pregnant . Luckily he has to work or he would be driving me around everywhere I go. I don't know if it's a good idea leaving Jase here all alone. I decide Mr me can pick me up past 8pm, he finally agrees after giving me a hard time. Jase takes a bath, while I'm fixing something for us to eat. It's not much just a simple sandwich. Mine contains extra cheese, tomato and a whole lot of the ranch sauce. His eyes pops out when he sees my sandwich, what's his problem. He looks better now dressed up, clean and smelling so divine.

JASE : " Lele you eat a lot doll, you'll pick up a lot of weight"

OKUHLE : " I'm eating for two please leave me alone, maybe for three or four who knows"

The look on his face is priceless, I'm laughing once again while silently praying. Hopefully I'm not carrying twins, triplets, quads or sextuplets. I'll lose my mind. We are still enjoying our meal over baby conversations. There's a knock on the door, Jase immediately gets uncomfortable. I carelessly tell the person to come in. He waltz in so comfortably, his full of smiles. He does the whole gentleman hand kissing greeting . Right now he's not my favorite person. This is the same man who exposed my best friend to drugs. I honestly can't stand him, his very sight makes me sick. He whispers something in Jase's ear, probably telling him of the drugs he had for him. He's all smiles, this is my queue to leave. I just lost my appetite after taking only 3 bites of my humongous sandwich.

I excuse myself, they aren't even bothered. They are caught up in their own world. I make a phonecall to my boyfriend. He sounds like he was already on the way, music to my ears. I fear staying too long, there's an outburst brewing deep within directed at Mkhulu bae. This is not the last Jase has seen of me. One way or the other I'll get through to him and get him the help he needs. I go back in just to say my goodbyes. Jase is really not comfortable around this man anymore, everything seems forced . He's trying too hard to laugh and smile. Finally, Mr me is here!

Insert 82

The whole way home I'm absent minded, this whole Jase thing is really bothering me. A problem shared it's half solved, right? so I come clean to Nka about Jase's habit and what I've observed between the two couple. He thinks this man has gained some sort of control over Jase and is using drugs to control him. His theory makes sense somehow. He advise I should get Jase away from him. Probably have a lunch date just the two of us. He strongly believes Jase will be able to open up if it's only us two. I totally agree with him, Jase has always been bubbly and lively outdoors. The whole way I'm thinking of ways to get Jase away from that disgusting man. My only challenge right now, getting Jase over the phone. He hardly use his phone lately, seems like I might have to stalk him and approach him when his alone.

I'm emotionally exhausted and hungry. This Jase thing will cause me unnecessary stress. The sooner I find the solution the better for me and my babies. I know what you thinking lol the senior baby and our unborn baby, those babies.

NKANYISO : "love please don't stress, tell you what I have a plan. Tomorrow we will fetch Jase together, then I'll drop both of you at the mall or spa"

OKUHLE : " you'll do that for me babe?"

NKANYISO : " definitely I don't want my babies stressing okay. Now come here"

OKUHLE : " can we be fed first please"

NKANYISO : " what are my babies craving"

OKUHLE : " Nkomazi with brown bread and sugar babe"

NKANYISO : " I doubt there's Nkomazi in this house"

My eyes are already glistening with tears. He quickly takes his car keys. Shame my baby is going to loose weight. We are definitely driving him insane. He kiss my forehead and promise to sort my craving shortly. He's already running out the door. I feel bad but I just can't help it. The tears flow so freely and easily. Tonight It's not just cravings but Jase's addiction and the fact that he's in danger. I can't help but feel Mkhulu bae is really abusing my friend. The thought alone sends me on a crying frenzy. I'm crying so much lately. I drink 2 glasses of water and practice some breathing exercises. I'm calmer now. The boyfriend is back with the Nkomazi and brown bread. My mood improves instantly. He makes two bowls, I'm surprised. He brings them, I dig in as soon as he hands me mine. He's also eating the same meal, it's very funny. He doesn't seem to be enjoying his but the plate is clean in the next fifteen minutes. I finished first, proof that he wasn't enjoying his food.

We sleep so peacefully, tonight I'm in no mood for the deed. His hands around me are all the comfort I need. Saturdays are normally spent outdoors lazing around, swimming or visiting the Nxumalo's. today we are on a mission to get Jase alone. After breakfast, we take a bath and drive to Jase's block of flats. I try his phone but it rings with no answer. We finally decide to just go and knock. After knocking for a while, Jase finally emerge from the door. He looks a bit better than yesterday, he invites us in. He promise to join us after taking a bath. The flat is still neat except for traces of white substance all over the coffee table. It doesn't even take Nka a minute to notice what I've seen already.

30 Minutes later Jase joins us. he's all dressed up. He looks like the Jase I know except for the dark circles around his eyes. I'm assuming from lack of sleep or maybe it's one of the symptoms from whatever they are sniffing. Nka nudges me with his elbow. Ouch, that's sore but I know what it means. We need to get out of here real quick before Mkhulu bae comes back.

OKUHLE : " doll I've asked Nka to take us to the spa just a little something to spoil my best friend and we can catch up. What do you say?"

JASE : " I'm not sure Lele, I'm really not in a mood for crowds"

OKUHLE : " hence we are doing a spa Jase, grab your bag. I'm not taking no for an answer"

JASE : " woow! poor Nka if she bullies me like this, I can only imagine what you go through on a daily basis "

NKANYISO : " now imagine if you turn her down, who will suffer. Please go with my woman to the spa Jase. Take one for the team"

JASE : " just this once because I like you and you love my girl"

NKANYISO : " thank you Jase"

JASE : " let me grab my bag"

We wink at each other, we make a great team. A little manipulation is necessary at times. Nka drives us to the spa. We will have our lunch here as well since Jase doesn't want to be in between crowds. Luckily it's empty and they attend to us. We get our full body massage, by the time we are done. I'm so relaxed and so is Jase. We decide to try this mud pool apparently it works wonders on skin, wine is offered but I opt for cranberry juice instead. Life of a pregnant woman. I would be enjoying my wine with this fruit platter. It's so refreshing this new experience. I'm glad Jase agreed to this. After 3 glasses of wine he's free and speaks freely of his life.

JASE : " Lele I need to leave this man but he keeps finding me. I've thought of changing flats, honestly I'm tired Lele"

I listen attentively with an open mind. I'll ask questions later, right now all I need to do is listen and be a shoulder to cry on. I get the feeling what he's about to say next is hectic. I know my friend pretty well, he's a chatter box. Seeing him taking breaks in between and sighing is a sign. I just pray for the strength to be strong enough to handle what's about to be delivered next.

JASE : " Lele that man is toxic, I honestly think his not really gay but fulfilling one of his dirtiest sexual fantasies with me"

OKUHLE : " I'm all ears babe let it all out"

JASE : " I honestly thought it was love Lele, now I even doubt us meeting was by fate. I think he planned all this from the start"

I'm beyond shocked right now, I've actually heard of such stories. People doing their research and when they finally meet you, they know all there is to know about you. It becomes easier then for them to control and carry out their evil plans when they've gained your trust. I always thought it was just stories people create seeking attention. Well some I believed but to have the very same thing happen to one of the people I'm very close to is shocking. I'm left stunned.

JASE : " one day while we were drunk he mistakenly mentioned all of my hangout spots. I was shocked but later blamed it on alcohol, maybe I might've somehow mentioned all those places to him"

We ordered another bottle of wine and a litre of cranberry juice, seems like we will discuss everything in this muddy pool. He refills his glass and drinks it at one go.

JASE : " Lele I honestly think getting me addicted to drugs will somehow make me agree to his sexual fantasies"

OKUHLE : " and what are those, has he mentioned them before"

JASE : " he wants a drunken orgy of only black gay guys, he believes he'll achieve that with me since I get along with a lot of black gays"

OKUHLE : " he's a sick old man"

JASE : "Lele the sexual things he's doing to me, it's only now that I'm realising he only wanted to fulfill his fantasies."

OKUHLE : " hence the drugs, he wants you fully dependent on him so he can carry out his dirty fantasies"

JASE : " and he's supplying me daily these days, but every time before I sniff. He makes me aware that I'll pay for his supply in a big sexual way. I don't know what his planning to do next. His touch alone sends shivers through my body. I'm terrified of him Lele, yesterday he chained me as a form of punishment. I'm no longer allowed visitors and he's forcing me to resign at work "

OKUHLE : " I hope you haven't considered doing that"

JASE : " ofcourse not Lele these days I take drugs to forget all the things he's doing to my body"

OKUHLE : " just dump him Jase, what hold does he have on you"

JASE : " he's slowly breaking me Lele, the things he sexually do to me are breaking me. Not even fancy clothes makes me feel better"

OKUHLE : " This old man will get what's coming to him"

Insert 83

We leave the spa with a plan in motion. Jase is moving to my flat for a while. I wanted him to move in with us but he plain refused that offer. He feels we are already doing a lot for him. The first stop is the mall, we grab few groceries, toiletries. Nka will send the two drivers to fetch his clothes later. We still haven't discussed the work thing as yet. After a long argument and lots of convincing Nka agrees with me spending the night at my flat provided he sleeps over too. I just want to be closer to Jase especially after everything he went through. He was there for me through the days of Smanga. When I was badly crushed, he was all I had.

I'm starving the boyfriend and Jase are to be blamed . This situation would've been easily avoided when I suggested we get takeaways but no! Jase wanted to treat us to his favorite dish as a result I was out voted. He's chopping and mixing all the ingredients. The smell of all the peppers, onion and herbs are softly killing me. In a good way though, we are having stir fry chicken, savoury dumpling and chakalaka. This man really missed his calling. A great idea just crossed my mind, the business idea I should come up with. Mr Me is ready to fund any business I'm willing to venture in. A bridal botique/restaurant /events planning / okay I'm getting carried away but an idea just hit me.

We are having supper, enjoying ourselves. Jase doesn't seem to have an appetite, he's acting rather strange. He's edgy, scratching his head every other second. He goes out for fresh air. I'm worried, after this scrumptious meal he just prepared for us. He comes back, goes straight to the fridge and start chewing on ice cubes. Nka is watching him closely, I get a feeling he has an idea what's bothering Jase. He puts back the ice cubes in the fridge and goes to the bathroom. Okay that's very strange, what's up with him. I look at Nka and he shrugs his shoulders. Goodness this is rather frustrating, could he be craving his fix maybe? Just as I'm about to consult uncle Google, he rushes back in.

JASE : " Lele and Nka I can't do this, the craving is way too much. Please guys help me, I need to be admitted to a rehab programme or else I won't cope. I'm struggling as is"

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OKUHLE : " come here my friend"

I give him a bone crushing hug and he breaks down. It's really hurting me seeing him like this.

I'm just grateful for his honesty, he would've simply made an escape plan just to get his fix. The hate I have towards that excuse of a man is slowly consuming me. What kind of a person destroys another person's life like this. Worse part he's a parent, how would he feel if another person did the same to his kids. There has to be a way to make this man pay. I won't rest till he pays for what he did to my friend. He needs to be stopped before he finds the next victim. This whole time Nka has been busy talking on his phone. I'm praying whatever friend comes through for us.

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We rush to Jase's flat to get his ID documents, we rush to the rehabilitation Centre. I'm impressed, this really seems like the best rehab Centre in town. I suspect Nka will handle the bill even though he hasn't said so. This man has a heart of gold, how he managed to pull this huge favour in such a small frame of time is quite impressive. They load Jase's details in the system, they hand him pyjamas. My heart breaks into small pieces leaving him there. He was given an injection and drip. The urge is slowly disappearing he is no longer scratching his head that much. He's more calmer, as much as we still wanted to spend time with him. We were advised to leave, standard procedure. He won't be allowed visitors till progress is visible. I wonder when that will be. It's so difficult separating from him, one part feels like I'm neglecting him when he needs me the most.

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Insert 84

Two weeks has passed since Jase has been admitted to the rehabilitation programme centre.

Today Nka is getting the results from their PI regarding Mkhulu bae. I'm anxious, time is moving so slow. I keep checking the clock every now and then. I've joined the pregnant ladies dance class, it's quite fun. It keeps my mind off things. I always look forward to my daily classes. Mrs Nxumalo suggested this class to me, one of her friends daughter in law was a member during her pregnancy. Life of the rich . I was sceptical at first. she literally dragged me out of the house claiming we going shopping . It's been only two weeks but I'm loving the results. I've learnt a lot from my fellow dance mates. After our hour session we normally relax, exchanging ideas and pregnancy tips. Let's just say I don't bother Mr me that much where cravings are concerned. I usually stock up after my class, these days I'm on some healthy eating tip. I'm engaging in yoga as well. A healthy mind, a healthy body equals to a healthy bouncing baby.

Today is no different than the other days. After my session, I hit the mall and stock up on everything I might need. Perks of having a chauffeur on speed dial, makes running errands easy . I receive a call from Nka, the PI just dropped an A3 envelopes at his office. Apparently it's heavy too. Makes me even more anxious. There must be juicy details in there. He's making his way home. I wrap up my shopping quickly. The driver seems to be driving in slow motion, that's just how impatient I am.

His car is already parked. Great! All will be revealed. I quickly rush in the house. All the envelopes contents are spread all over the coffee table. He looks so drained, now I'm dreading seeing the results. Clearly Mkhulu bae's skeletons are darker than I thought.

OKUHLE : " Love"

NKANYISO : " I'm speechless babe, this man is sick, he's twisted. I'm not even sure you can handle this."

OKUHLE : " let me see"

There's naked pictures of him with underage boys. That bastard took these pics in an angle where you can't see his face but the young boys' faces are very much visible. There's slips of different hotel rooms. There's a lot of pictures of him with this particular young man. He's a very handsome boy, there's probably about 30 pictures of this young man. He was a University of Lesotho chartered accountant student. There's a whole bio of his life. He resembles Jase a bit from the fashion sense to the lifestyle they are living. There's documents also, I go through them carefully. His name was Bokang Mokoena, he filed a harassment case against Mkhulu bae.

Wow! That's all I manage to say after going through everything. His statement on the case against Mkhulu bae, he mentioned how obsessed and controlling Mkhulu bae was. Apparently they only had a fling, when he ended things with him. Things took a wrong turn, he became extremely obsessed with him. The stalking became excessive, he even threatened exposing his naked pictures on the net. Seemingly Bokang wasn't shaken by all the threats. There's printed proof of those threatening smses. Bokang was last seen leaving a friend's house, never to be seen or heard of again. He was arrested and later released due to lack of evidence.

After the Bokang issue he laid low and moved to PE. That's where he met Luvuyo, he was only 18 when they started dating. Luvuyo was waiting tables at the hotel he was residing in during school holidays. Apparently he became obsessive and abusive towards him. Another case was opened but later dropped. Two months later Luvuyo was hospitalized due to drug overdose, he's been a junkie ever since. He's been to almost all 9 provinces, the pictures of these boys. There's something familiar with all these boys. They all have the same resemblance as Bokang, their facial features. You'd swear Jase, Luvuyo, Lesego, Vukani, Mangaliso and Sinethemba are long lost brothers. I lay all the pics together on the table.

OKUHLE : " tell me what's familiar with all these boys Babe"

He looks at them closely, they are all 2 to 3 years apart age wise, the youngest being Luvuyo. Upon realizing what I've discovered. He looks at them closely again. I bet he doesn't believe his

eyes.

NKANYISO : " O' my God LET-O, what's happening here. All these boys look alike"

OKUHLE : " Bingo! It all started with Bokang after his divorce. Are you thinking what I'm thinking?"

NKANYISO : " his obsession with this Bokang boy led him to all these other boys"

OKUHLE : " it wasn't by fate that he met all of them. This man specifically researched and carefully selected his next victim"

NKANYISO : " I don't think Bokang is still alive wherever he is. He probably killed him and now he wants to relive each and every of their moments through these other victims"

OKUHLE : " my goodness he's so sick and twisted. I can't believe one person can be so heartless. How many lives is he willing to destroy"

NKANYISO : " my goodness he's on a mission to destroy the lives of these young man"

OKUHLE : " we need to stop him babe, he's already on to his next victim. Bokang has been missing for the past 2 years now right?"

NKANYISO : " he's probably lying dead somewhere, this heartless bastard probably chopped his body into pieces. No wonder they can't even find him "

OKUHLE : " what if he's not dead Nka, what if this man is torturing him daily somewhere? "

NKANYISO : " you could be on to something babe, but why seek for other victims when he's obsession is still alive "

OKUHLE : " There has to be a way to bring this low life down babe. There's gotta be a way "

NKANYISO : " there's a way babe. This is no more about Jase only, justice will prevail for all the other victims. "

OKUHLE : " to think I wined and dined with that sick bastard makes me sick to my stomach "

NKANYISO : " Don't even blame yourself babe, people aren't what they seem "

That's the hardest thing about life. We don't always know people's intentions with our lives. Wolves in sheep skin, imagine if we all have the ability to see people's hearts. We could've been spared from all the heartaches that we've all experienced through the hands of people who have claimed to love and protect us. I can't even imagine what Bokang's family might be going

through or went through over the years. It's very heartbreaking not knowing whether your child, brother, sister or next of kin is still alive or suffering wherever they are. Such promising lives, lost because of this sick bastard. I won't rest till he is put behind bars where he belongs. He is a fucken monster. To think he fathers two boys, the thought alone is disturbing.

I keep looking through all these pics. I wonder how does he manage to locate all these young men. They all resembles Bokang. Couldn't he take rejection like any other man? Why does he still feel the need to hurt and destroy every young man that resembles Bokang. I need to do my full research on this Bokang kid. Maybe get the PI to follow this man everyday. My instincts tell me there's more to this story than meets the eye. Why does he feel the need to destroy their lives though. We both agree to have the PI tail him till we discover something. His next victim will not be a victim, we are definitely gonna catch him before he carries out his evil ways.

The wife, she might play a big role into nailing this bastard. I wonder what led to their divorce, her nasty comments on that's post. She really is a woman scorned. There's still no communication with Jase. This is working in my favor. This would've definitely crushed him. At some point I thought Jase had found his soul mate in Mkhulu bae. Why do bad things happen to good people. The thought of losing him over drugs. Even worse having him missing without a trace. My heart is bleeding for all these young souls, Bokang is missing and the rest are drug addicts. Only Mangaliso managed to beat the whole drug addiction, he's a working citizen. This man will pay for all the lives he destroyed.

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It's been a month since Jase has been admitted to the rehabilitation programme centre. The doctors are quite impressed with his recovery, phone calls are now allowed. I've been blowing that rehab centre's line like crazy. First thing he wants to do when he's discharged is visit his mom. He wants to come clean to her face to face. I can't get enough of the gossip from the rehab centre. There's juicy gossip everyday. He has made quite few friends in there and there's a male doctor interested in him. He brings him flowers, chocolates but my moghey is not hearing any of that. He's staying away from dating for the next 5 years, his exact words. Apparently booze and clubs are more fun than his choice of man, his words again. I seem to agree with him on that. I've been hinting this business idea thing on the low. These days I've been going hard on that research. The boyfriend still has no idea, I'm taking my precious time with this business venture. I terribly miss spending time with Jase though.

My morning sicknesses have drastically decreased. I'm no longer vomiting at all but there's still some certain smells that I can't stand. I'm starting to enjoy this pregnancy, even though my face breaks out every now and then. Pimples are my worst nightmares, to think I've never experienced this problem during my teen years. Luckily I have products I'm currently using to help with the recent skin problems and they are helpful. I've been lazy also these days. My dance classes have also been minimized from 5 to 3 days in a week by yours truly. But I still enjoy them very much. My appetite has also dropped, sometimes I'm forced to eat something for my baby's sake. I enjoy sleeping during the day then comes night time, I'm struggling to sleep and bothering Nka. Mrs Nxumalo brought me few novels she enjoyed reading. This worked for both Nka and I. At least I no longer wake him but opt to read instead.

The past two weeks the PI has been tailing this excuse of a man. He even involved two undercover police to keep an eye on this wicked man. They've discovered this man's secluded deserted building that he usually visits. The deserted building is remotely three hours away from where he resides. He visits that place 3-4 times a week. Other days he even drives there in the middle of the night. They believe he's hiding something major in that building. Sometimes he'll stock up booze and drive there, when that happens he'll even spend the night in there. Apparently he's been lying low in terms of seeking the next victim. While the two undercover cops were busy tailing him, Mr PI took it upon himself to find Mangaliso. The only surviving victim who managed to get back on his feet.

Mangaliso was a UKZN student when they met. He was coming from the library one rainy day when this man offered him a lift. He declined it for obvious reasons, but they bumped into each other again at the club. That was his favorite hangout spot with friends every weekend. He approached them and bought them drinks. Mangaliso didn't even think he was interested in him since their group consisted of 4 females and two gay guys. But the guy made his intentions clear from the first day. Due to peer pressure since the guy was a big spender, he ended up giving him his contact details. He claims he was initially in it for the money but along the lines he fell for him. Simply because the guy seemed legit he took care of him financially emotionally and otherwise. He would also take him on weekend getaways so he slowly drifted away from his friends. He depended solely on him and that's when drugs were introduced, he thought they were exploring and experimenting something new.

The controlling and sexual demands increased, as well as stalking. He would stalk him everywhere so Mangaliso ended things because he felt it was too much. It didn't last for long though, the breakup because he was already hooked on drugs. Apparently that's where the abuse started as well. He would be locked up sometimes and miss his lectures. He recalls one day when he brought him an outfit and demanded him to wear it. He called it role playing and he

was shown a video of a young man. Mangaliso couldn't believe his eyes, the resemblance between him and the young man. He claims this Mkhulu character demanded he talk, walk and dress up like the young man on the video. It was rather strange but the abused he suffered upon failing to carry himself like that specific young man was an opener. When he finally allowed him to attend class, that's when he managed to escape and ran to his grannies place for hiding. The friends updated him of the Mkhulu's car always passing the varsity premises. He was clearly searching for him but to no avail. I guess that's when he finally gave up and went on another quest searching for the next victim. Mangaliso stated how dangerous and twisted that man is. He never filed an assault case against him because he feared for his life. Fast forward he went back to varsity after hiding for the whole year, 2 years later he graduated and never looked back.

When the PI interviewed the wife, she claimed all these young boys are the one's who seduced her husband because he's loaded. Apparently they are gold diggers who are only interested in his money and nothing else. She claims, the sons friends accused her husband of sexually molesting him every time he slept over their place. She dismiss all the claims against her ex husband claiming, they were jealous because of his success hence the false allegations. She still blames that boy for her divorce. She believes her husband will come back oneday. Right now it's all these boys fault, they are always seducing her husband. It's quite sickening how she's defending him. Clearly she doesn't know her ex husband as much as she claims to know him. Their eldest son wants nothing to do with his dad. Apparently he walked in on them one day. He caught his dad right handed busy molesting his friend. That's the reason why he was disowned by both parents. This is really hectic, I can't believe there are woman who turn their backs on their kids in the name of protecting and saving their marriage.

The PI also informed us today they are raiding that building. This whole thing is making me feel uneasy, what is he hiding in there. Maybe there's already dead bodies buried there. Probably there's unknown victim of his buried in there. What if he picked boys up in the club for one night's stand and later buried them in there. My mind is racing right now, all these findings makes me believe this man is capable of killing as well. We concluded not to inform Jase of all these discoveries. We don't want anything to hinder his progress, especially since his doing so well and the doctors believe he will be out in no time. Obviously he doesn't know all this information even Nka was told in confidence but later shared the news with me. He probably saw how this thing affected me as well.

Today I came straight home after my class. I'm quite lazy and in need of a good nap. Nka is at work. I make a mental note to prepare a mouth watering dinner for my man. He's been very supportive and not even once has he complained. He's taking care of Jase's medical bills without any complaints . I honestly don't know what I did to deserve such a good man. I'd

always debate about all man being the same due to a lot of women complaining how man cheat and mistreat them. I never thought in a million years I'd end up with someone like Nka. Speak of the devil

OKUHLE : " My person I was just thinking about you"

NKANYISO : " babe I'm on my way to you right now"

OKUHLE : " you sound so worried, what's wrong"

NKANYISO : " not really I just miss you, in fact I'm at the gate as we speak"

OKUHLE : " really babe, I know you by now. You sound somewhat stressed"

NKANYISO : " open the door for me Mrs me"

He attacks me with a bone crushing hug. We stay in that position for the longest time. Now I'm worried

Insert 86

I'm still wrapped around his arms, when his phone rings. He answers it and I can hear the conversation. It's the PI telling him to watch the news channel. He pulls me to the lounge, we turn on the news channel and Mkhulu has made headlines. There's investigation team, reporters, police, the whole place is buzzing. There's a young man who is found in this deserted building. The reporter says they can't reveal the young man's identity, but they confirm a man in his late 50's has been arrested for kidnapping, sexual assault and murder. Two unidentified were discovered at the premises. Apparently they are still searching the whole building since they believe they could be more hidden bodies. This is too much to take in. He is cuffed and taken away, his face is hidden and the journalist are trying to get a clear image of him. I'm suddenly overwhelmed thinking this could've been Jase. My tears are flowing freely, this is too much to bare.

They haven't disclosed the identity of the young man found but the Private investigator has already mentioned its Bokang. He's in a very bad state, he's been tortured, abused physically and sexually. He was starved as well. He's admitted for further test and treatment. The poor guy, his only crime was falling inlove with a psycho. How did he even manage to skip a country with him.

Our justice system is failing us on a daily basis. He probably bribed his way into the country. They are showing the cage where he was kept. This is barbaric, he was chained throughout his stay in there. There's a sponge, 2 blankets, there's a toilet and tap water where he was kept. There's basic toiletries like soap, roll on, toothpaste, toothbrush and body lotion. There's empty takeaway containers and mostly plastics of bread. Seems like he mostly survived on bread and water. The media is having such a buzz over this headline. Different headlines over the same story coverage.

I'm disturbed by my ringing phone. It's the rehabilitation centre's contact number. Atleast I'll hear of the juicy gossips happening over the centre. I answer on the 3rd ring, he is just breathing heavily. No words are spoken, shit! It hits me they have TV access and the news channel seems to be the most watched channel. I remember how he was complaining just few days ago. Clearly he's fully aware of what's going on. I honestly thought this could be hidden until his release but fate had other plans.

JASE : " Lele it's him, even though his face was covered and the identity was with held. That's definitely my ex Lele"

OKUHLE : " it's definitely him babe, he's going to be locked up for the longest time"

JASE : " may they lock him and throw away the key in the deep blue sea."

OKUHLE : " there's no doubt about it, he's going away for good. Not even money will save him from this"

JASE : " Lele I would've been next, it's now sinking in . I can't believe the same man I was head over heels inlove with months ago, is a ruthless cold murderer"

OKUHLE : " babe you survived that's the most important fact. I honestly don't know what I would've done, had I lost you"

JASE : " you are my superwoman do you know that Lele, you came to my rescue. I had neglected you but babe you came right on time"

OKUHLE : " that's what friends are for, besides you are my brother. Who happens to be my sister. You are my all in one"

He laughs for the longest of time, I join him. That's just how contagious his laugh is. Jase is one of the strongest people I know. I'm certain he takes after his mom. My only concern was him finding out while still dealing with the addiction thing. I should've had more faith in him. That's

just how protective I am towards him. He's definitely handling this better than I thought.

JASE : " Lele the guy they found. He had hard copies pictures of him and he carried them everywhere he goes . When I confronted him about them he lied and said that was his late lover. This whole time I didn't think competing with a ghost was bad. Discovering the guy was actually held captive and tortured is scary"

OKUHLE : " The guy is originally from Lesotho and they are many more victims, what's more scary is he targeted guys who look similar to Bokang"

JASE : " Is that his name, Bokang?"

OKUHLE : " yep, his been missing without a trace"

JASE : " I honestly don't believe this. Is it possible for someone to be so obsessed with a person that they will use their name as their passwords. Wow I'm beyond shocked"

OKUHLE : " I'm just glad he is caught and Bokang can finally be reunited with his family"

JASE : " who would've thought that one day I'll date a serial stalker, rapist and murderer"

OKUHLE : " life is just unpredictable doll, I've also had my fair share of people hanging on to ghosts"

JASE : " say what! And why didn't I hear about those news?"

OKUHLE : " you were busy dipping your chocolate in that vanilla. "

JASE : " A rotten vanilla for that matter, remind me never to ever date again "

OKUHLE : " how can I, when you've scored yourself a Doctor in there?"

JASE : " please don't remind me of that nag, he's my motivation to do better and get away from this place. I'm so glad it's his weekend off, he rubs me off the wrong way. Especially after all I've been through "

OKUHLE : " He might be your future husband who knows? ".

JASE : " mark my works darling, I'd rather die. Do you hear me, I'll even dig my own grave. Speak of the devil. Doll we will talk again later, go to go "

OKUHLE : " bye babe "

It's been eleven minutes after hanging up yet I'm still laughing. That Doctor has a really long way

to go, if he's trying to impress Jase. An image of him rolling his eyes just crossed my mind and I start laughing again. Can my friend be discharged already. I can't wait till we are granted visiting rights. I really want to see this doctor who's head over heels in love with my friend. They usually say the best love stories start with the other party being totally annoying and you can't even stand them. If that's the case I will definitely remind Jase of our conversations. He honestly can't stand this guy, he's annoyed by every little thing he does. I feel sorry for him though because Jase is dealing with heavy stuff. Dating is out of the question.

There goes my plan of preparing a delicious meal for my man. I'm so drained after everything that's happened. If there's one thing I'm grateful for is that Bokang is finally free and that monster is behind bars where he belongs. I feel sad though of those families who will only be united with their loved ones remains. It's really sad, I wonder how many other victims are out there. Seems like this man was on a serious mission to destroy as many lives as he can. It's true what they say in every bad situation there's also a bit of good in it. Jase's addiction led to Bokang being rescued, families finding their loved ones remains and that monster being put away. I hope once the trial starts more of his victims show up and testify against him. That man deserves a lifetime in jail.

He snuggles closer to me. Now I understand why he was so down earlier. I've noticed Nka is sensitive, he was probably informed him of the discoveries earlier on by the PI. The PI and the two undercover cops did an outstanding Job. I wonder how will this Monsters wife say regarding the latest "allegations" as she formerly named them. Only this time around there's proof that comes with the so called allegations. My stomach grumbles, we both look at each other and start laughing. I guess today the appetite is back. He gets his phone and start ordering a bit of everything. I'm sitting watching him pace up and down, he looks so yummy wearing his white shirt, slim fit trousers. The way his pushing his hair back while trying to involve me in the ordering. All I can think about now is the dessert, my very own buffet. He's still unaware where my mindset has drifted to. He pause for a while and ask what kind of salads I'd love to eat. My inner hoe screams, you!

Insert 87

Three Months later, everything is falling into place. Jase was discharged a month ago. His leading a healthy and positive life. Every weekend he's offering his services freely by volunteering at the rehabilitation centre. He explained how healing and satisfying it is to help the needy. Just the other day he was exploring and researching in the adoption subject. He wants to

adopt his newly discovered brother. His biggest challenge now is presenting that idea to both families. I'm very much supportive of this idea. Sinner or later he must inform both families of his plan. This whole Mkhulu bae situation is the reason behind the adoption. He feels the only way to look out and protect his brother is by having him closer. For now he's rather focusing his energy on the centre and helping these young boys who are admitted for substance abuse. I'm really proud of him. He's doing what he loves helping others. I guess it's second nature to him. I remember when he couldn't bare being there because of that Doctor. They've made peace and work well together. I guess after Jase explained nicely to him, how he doesn't see him in that light. I guess the guy finally accepted there won't be romantically involved not in this lifetime atleast. I sometimes offer my services that's if I'm not lazy or too tired. I'm just looking forward to my brother's wedding taking place in two weeks time. Nka is over the moon, the lobola negotiations are taking place two weeks after the wedding. I'm going home in the next two days. I can't wait to be spoiled rotten. The Khumalo's are impatiently waiting for me.

Mkhulu bae was denied bail, his trial was postponed after 5 more bodies were discovered in and around that building. Investigations are still continuing seeing he has been around different provinces in the space of two years. They believe there's more to discover since Mangaliso came forward and gave his statement. There's also another 16 year old boy, he was almost molested by him a while back. This man is definitely spending the rest of his life behind bars. Bokang was reunited with his family, he requested to meet us before heading back home. Such a down to earth young man. He looked so pale, fragile yet so handsome. Only an evil person has the ability to torture another human being to this extent. Looks like he was rescued right on time, even though he went through the worst. He is still alive and with the right help, he will bounce back. It's unfortunate for the other 7 victims though. Jase couldn't believe his eyes when he was shown the other victims pictures. How he managed to find all Bokang's look alike remains a mystery to everyone. Guess he's the only one with answers, apparently he's willing to plead guilty to all the charges. Whether he pleads guilty or not he's definitely getting a life sentence, that's for certain. The ex wife still believes her ex husband was framed, especially since all the victims are black young men. She was making racist and homophobic comments. I don't know if she's desperate to get her husband back or what. Karma will deal with her.

Finally the time has come for me to go home. Spending time with the Khumalo's for the full month will definitely do me good. I'm missing MaKhumalo more than usual lately. Even though we don't have that open mother to daughter relationship. It's really not easy asking for relationship advice from her or discussing one's love life. MaKhumalo is the typical old age wife, she's the submissive wife who won't dare go against her husband's wishes. Growing up I honestly thought that's all a woman has to offer. Looking back I can't help but giggle, at some point in my life I was willing to follow in MaKhumalo's footsteps. Funny how life works out, everything I went through led me here.

My baby bump is very much visible. The scan confirmed, I'm carrying one baby. Nka was a little disappointed at first, brother man honestly thought he had scored twice in one go. He still vouch its the boy I'm carrying, honestly I don't mind so long as the baby is healthy. The baby's sex is still unknown, by choice though. Me spending the whole month at home, doesn't sit well with Mr me. I get the feeling he will be driving down every weekend just to see us.' wait till you are officially mine' that's his favorite quote as of late. I don't even know when I fell asleep, he's shaking me lightly. I open my eyes and we are already parked at my gate. I'm really exhausted and in need of my afternoon nap. He helps me with my bags and take them all the way to the house. MaKhumalo meets me halfway, she seems genuinely happy to see me. She kisses me all over my face and singing praises to her unborn grandchild. The way this little bugger is kicking me. she /he is happy to be welcomed home.

She orders Me to sit on the couch, she immediately disappears and gets back with a basin with lukewarm water. She pours two table spoon of bicarbonate of soda. I soak my feet, they are swollen. Maybe it's because of the long drive. Serves me right for refusing a flight. Call me crazy but I enjoy the road trips. MaKhumalo is massaging my feet, this feels like heaven on earth. Such tender hands, there's magic in them. No wonder Bab' Khumalo is always suffering form back pains , sore feet, muscle stiffness. I always suspected exaggeration in those statements because every other second or third day, he will complain. I wonder where is he by the way. I miss him .

MAKHUMALO : " what would you like to eat my baby. I see you are exhausted, eat and rest"

OKUHLE : " where is your boyfriend today"

MAKHUMALO : " running errands for me, he's probably on his way as we speak"

OKUHLE : "I'd love to eat a fruitsald, mixed berries youghurt with peanuts and raisins"

MAKHUMALO: " aay lele I can only help you with fruit Salad, the rest make a list. I will send Thokozani from next door"

OKUHLE : " can I please have kiwi fruit and pineapple slices included in the fruit salad"

MAKHUMALO : " write all those things down Thokozani will get them for you, meanwhile I'll make you a sandwich so you can rest"

This woman has no chill whatsoever, I'm forced to eat ham and cheese sandwich with rooibos

tea. She's sitting right beside me making sure that I empty all my plates contents. It takes me a good 30 minute to finish my sandwich. I make my way to my bedroom, first let me update the boyfriend. Even though he already knows I'm home safe . He's sulking over the phone, making me miss him even more. I lay comfortably in my old bed, soon I will need a new bed just so I can accommodate my little bugger. I'm slowly drifting off to sleep, I hear MaKhumalo saying something about getting Thokozani she will be back in a few minutes. I want to reply but sleep gets the better of me.

I'm awakened by the noise in the house. I can't believe I've slept for 3 and a half hours without any distractions. My Feet feel better now , it's the Khumalo's debating over some TV programme. I make my way to the living room and formally greet Bab' Khumalo. Being pregnant doesn't save me from my tea duties though. I'm already making tea for daddy dearest. My mood goes from 22-100 percent real quick seeing all my fruit salad ingredients . I can't wait to see the twins parents. My dad is whispering sweet nothings into Makhumalo's ear and she's blushing non stop. I wonder what this old man is up to. They better not subject me to their intimate moans. I don't think I'll ever forget that day. They invite me to join them. I seriously can't stand this sport Channel, I make an escape plan and it works perfectly. Im craving disconnected pap and Maas, there's neither and I'm too lazy to make stiff pap guess I'll have to settle for the fruit salad. Right now I miss Nka and how he goes out of his way to satisfy my cravings. One tear escape my eye, how am I going to survive a month without my man. MaKhumalo has no time to entertain my cravings, she will rather feed me something else.

Insert 88

It's been one crazy week of my cravings being totally ignored. MaKhumalo is taking no prisoners, it's soft porridge every morning followed by a heavy lunch. By heavy I mean your pap, rice, meat and veggies. There's snacks in between but I'm only allowed to snack on fruits or salads. My daily naps have been cut short also, apparently the baby will sleep during labour. Hence I'm being deprived of my four hour nap. It has been reduced to two hours max. Thursday when she was attending the woman's prayer at church. I slept for five hours just to make up for lost times. Thank goodness for my alarm, I would've been caught if it wasn't for the alarm. Maybe that statement it's true, I've heard of such stories of babies falling asleep during labour. I feel abused but I know better than to question her ways . She's done this giving birth business twice and I'm totally clueless. I've decide to keep my mouth shut and take it as it comes. I always question such things but with growth comes knowledge, understanding mixed and respect. I'm not even allowed to drink three glasses of cold drinks in one go. The house chores are also part of exercise including the dishes. I'm slowly adjusting to the routine, might as well stop complaining. It's one week down, three to go. Ofcourse I'm on a serious countdown, it's what

keeps me going. Jase always calls for daily updates, he's loving how strict MaKhumalo is on me. Wait till I go back to joburg, that's my favorite line when I'm consoling myself.

Today it's the first Saturday and I'm having lunch with the bride to be. I'm actually looking forward to it, a breath of fresh air. I've been cooked up in the house the whole week. I'm in such high spirits today, a few hours away from MaKhumalo

She's even monitoring my meals. I make a mental note to visit Jase's mom this coming week. I'm waiting for Langelihle in Nando's, that's her request. We are seriously going to have a problem if she plan on keeping me waiting. I hate waiting honestly. She comes strolling after a few minutes of me settling down, the woman is glowing. She has gained a bit of weight since our last encounter. Luckily she has spotted me, she's coming towards my direction.

LANGELIHLE : " girl, you've changed since the last time I saw you. The Nxumalo junior is treating you well"

OKUHLE : " way good, it's only the first trimester that was hectic. How are the twins"

LANGELIHLE : " let's not even go there Lele, they are very naughty these days. I can hardly keep up, do you know how grateful I am for Ma Grace"

OKUHLE : " am I glad I'm not expecting twins"

LANGELIHLE : " I'm praying it's not twins this time around"

OKUHLE : " hold up, rewind that. This time around, are you pregnant?"

A smile forms on her face, she's suddenly shy. This answers my question. Wow! These two aren't wasting anytime, they are seriously expanding their family. I thought something was different with her but pregnancy was nowhere near my suspicions. She was heavily pregnant with her engagement party, now she's a pregnant bride.

LANGELIHLE : " Don't look at me like that, I can't keep my hands off your brother. His tongue and dick game"

OKUHLE : " yuck! I will not partake in this discussion. That's my brother we are talking about, sies maarn"

LANGELIHLE : " He's yummy, sexy and all mine"

OKUHLE : " can't we discuss baby stuff, like hello! I need all the information about nappies, baby formulas and all that stuff instead of discussing Bhut' Sipiwe "

LANGELIHLE : " The way he moans when I'm taking charge"

OKUHLE : " that's it, I'm out of here!"

She fails dismally to suppress her laughter now. She burst out in laughter with that high pitched voice, I was already on my feet, she pulls my hand and I immediately sit down. She purposely went on and on just to get a reaction from me. Yuck, who wants to know about their siblings bedrooms tales. Certainly not me, her eyes are completely shut. Tears are streaming down her face, that's how funny this whole situation is to her. This woman is absolutely gorgeous. I can't help but join in the laughter. We have our lunch while discussing the weddings final preparations . Everything is going well, it's only the bouquet selection that's left. There's so much variety to choose from and she's having difficulty selecting just one. An idea pops up, she can have a bit of everything. She's excited over the idea. Everything is sorted from the dress, to the deco, the venue. I had such a lovely day with my sister in law, they haven't informed the parents yet of their pregnancy. They will break the news at their wedding. Back to tea girl duties and dishes chores. Not even pregnancy saved me from the chores list.

These days I'm obsessed with baby shops. I decide to browse a bit, what's the point of rushing home anyway. MaKhumalo has called enquiring of my whereabouts. She's forgiven let's just blame it on the pregnancy. Langelihle rushed back home to relieve Ma Grace of her duties since she only goes home every weekend. I'm disturbed by my ringing phone. I carelessly answer without checking the caller ID, it's the boyfriend. He sounds so disappointed by the manner in which the call was answered. I apologies and sing him his clan names, his mood has improved. He wants to know about my whereabouts, what I'm wearing, what I ate and all those things. By the time he hangs up, I'm no longer in the mood for window shopping. I'm exhausted and in need of a serious nap. That's just wishful thinking, MaKhumalo will definitely have a fit. I honestly don't mind doing the chores and making 100 cups of tea provided I get my undisturbed sleep during the day.

The window shopping will have to wait, I'll do it some other time. Another great idea pops up, maybe I should book myself in a guest house Or hotel and get my well deserved nap. Desperate times calls for desperate measures. There goes that sms to MaKhumalo. ' Bumped into a high-school friend, I will be home later' delivered that's more like it. I still have a number from that guest house Nka normally books into whenever he's in town. I call and make reservations for one of their rooms. I'm ecstatic, four hours of undisturbed sleep. I'm still busy on my phone

trying to request an Uber. The network is really not on my side. My phone rings again, it's Bae.

OKUHLE : " Mr Nxumalo Sir"

NKANYISO : " Mrs Me, I've been impatiently watching you with your sexy Yellow dress. Can I kidnap you for a few hours?"

My eyes wanders around in the parking lot. I spot his car from a distance. I wonder how long has he been parked there, watching my frustrated self struggling with network. Ofcourse I'm willing to be abducted by him. I seductively walk towards his direction, ofcourse I'm shaking my behind. What a great way to end my day. I'm about to be served and get my nap inbetween. I'm more than happy right now. My very own Nxumalo Sir drove all the way to cater to my personal needs. Nothing makes one relaxed like some sexual healing. He needs to give it in abundance just so I can cruise through the second week relaxed AF

Insert 89

Finally the Saturday of the wedding has arrived. Jase had to be present for the dressing up part. I'm not into dressing up and looking fabulous lately. A simple dress, leggings and loose t-shirts are the most comfortable clothes for me. Today I'll make an exception big Bro weds the downlow freak, with a very dark sense of humour. I enjoy spending time with her, our pregnant Makoti. She's been very generous with pregnancy information, the best retail stores to shop for quality clothes, baby toys, nappies and baby's formulas. Not forgetting the sex advice, which styles are suitable for certain trimesters and she emphasise the importance of dishing up the cookie to your partner. She's the living example of a cake disher. Hence she's already expecting her third bundle of joy or is it her second. One can never be too sure of these things. I'm definitely not following in her footsteps. Not anytime soon, especially after she delivered twins. Her favorite line 'a well fed man won't look for satisfaction elsewhere' . I beg to differ though, some men love dipping their fingers in different cookie jars , regardless of whether the cookie is served daily. They just want different variety of cookies. Why am I thinking of such in such a joyous day.

JASE : " there's no way you are wearing that hideous dress doll. Not while I'm still alive, even on my funeral day. I'll wake up and smack the living shit out of you in that ugly dress"

OKUHLE : " Don't start, this dress is beautiful. I chose it among many dresses"

JASE : " my goodness this pregnancy has sucked the fashion sense out of you. Never, I repeat! That dress needs to be donated to some old age home. I'm sure there's an old woman who have the same fashion sense as you"

OKUHLE : " you are so mean, do you know that?"

JASE : " I'm a good friend and brutal honesty is what I will forever serve especially when it involves you"

OKUHLE : " we need a third opinion because I'm struggling to point out any fault in this dress"

JASE : " be my guest honey"

There's absolutely nothing wrong with my dress, it's comfort I'm after these days. Well I admit it's not a very stylish dress one can wear to a wedding. It's a simple dress that's comfortable and suitable for a pregnant lady like me. He comes back with one of the church lady. I'm ordered to wear this dress, so the third party can give her two cents opinion on my dress. Why am I even going ahead with this . I confidently slip inside my comfortable dress, the lady is shaking her head as a sign of disapproval. The satisfaction in Jase's face right now, he has that I told you so look. Clearly Jase has managed to blackmail this lady secretively. I'm still not convinced, let me rather get my own judge. I don't trust these two. I bump into MaKhumalo and she's in a rush.

MAKHUMALO : " Lele time is not on our side, you need to get dressed. Our transport is leaving in half an hour"

OKUHLE : " really Ma"

MAKHUMALO : " stop asking silly questions and get dressed. We need to bless the venue with the church ladies"

Wow! Well maybe Jase and the lady were right. I mean MaKhumalo is not a very fashionable person I know but she thinks I'm not dressed as yet. Guess this dress has to go. I'm disappointed, what am I gonna wear now? Where do I even find a comfortable dress for this occasion. I'm sad, I feel the tears threatening my eyes. The emotions, even the smallest things triggers my eyeballs fountain. Why wasn't I warned of these unstable emotions before the pregnancy. Maybe prepare myself mentally, emotionally before the pregnancy. But then again, this wasn't even planned so I was doomed either way. I make my way into the room with my head held down.

JASE : " I was prepared for this reaction, hence I took it upon myself to sort you out"

OKUHLE : " please don't rub salt into my open bleeding wounds. What am I gonna wear Jase? I'm doomed"

Tears are streaming down my face freely, I'm glad it's just us two. Atleast with him, I'm free to be as vulnerable as I can be. He pulls out a suit cover, the smile that lites up his face, brings me hope. I'm praying its a dress that can fit me. It must be stylish, never mind comfort. I'll suffer for only few hours, right? He unzips it and reveals this emerald green stunning dress.

OKUHLE : " wow! This dress is beautiful, who does it belong to?"

JASE : " you doll, you are the owner of this dress"

OKUHLE : " this is no time for jokes Jase?"

JASE : " when I saw this dress it spoke to me and doll I miraculously saw you in it. It was hanged outside this expensive boutique store . So I thought my bestie will look gorgeous in it. I went inside the store and bought it, okay. Somehow I knew you'd love it"

OKUHLE : " I swear I'd kiss you right now, I'm speechless. Words are failing me, I love you Jase"

JASE : " chill your titties, I don't swing that way. So I'll pass the kiss but I love you more"

OKUHLE : " I swear you say the randomest things, you are my fool okay"

JASE : " get dress so I can style your hair, girl this child of yours is allergic to beautiful things. I'm convinced you are carrying a boy. No girl child will allow her mom to choose such a hideous dress and look so plain for such a spectacular event"

OKUHLE : " It doesnt matter what sex I'm carrying so long s the baby is healthy"

JASE : " so you guys were serious over this hidden sex nonsense, I honestly thought it was a phase and it will pass"

OKUHLE : " nope, we even have a serious bet over the baby's sex"

JASE : " Poor baby, your parents are something else hey"

He utter those words while brushing my tummy. The baby kicks as sign of acknowledgements or maybe he or she is agreeing with Jase's statement. This baby always reacts to Jase's touch, it's amazing . He's already dressed so I'm being rushed to dress up with his help of course. I'm

extra slow these days and MaKhumalo is shouting for us to hurry apparently our ride is outside . Our makeup Lady does a natural look on me. I don't even want makeup, Jase and that speech of my baby rejecting beautiful things. He still insist I'm carrying a boy, Nka would be so happy hearing someone supporting his statement. We are done and chauffeured to the venue, the car hooters and woman ululating gets me in a celebratory mode. We arrive at the Zebrina guest house in Nelspruit, goodness the beauty that is this place. The beautiful setup, I honestly thought the deco people did their best in my brothers engagement party but this is breathtaking they've really outdone themselves. The silver and lilac theme going is absolutely stunning. It's a garden wedding, there's a reception area . We are here very early with church ladies, the groom is also on his way. We are surmored to join hands in prayer. It's only me Jase, the parents and few church members.

We get the pleasures of exploring this beautiful place, perks of rolling with the sisters in Christ. Jase is the chosen Camera man for the church ladies. They don't know what they got themselves into, I watch all this unfolding in amusement. How he's ordering them to change styles, smile with their eyes, push the cleavage forward and tilt their heads to the side,do the side way pose, face backwards, turn around and face the camera, the Naomi Campbell famous pose. He's going on while clicking away. I hear one of the church ladies complaining about all these poses. She better not complain, the last time she was the one who wanted to take most pics. What's her problem now. To think I wanted to drive with my Nka but MaKhumalo wanted us at the venue early . She mentioned something about the importance of prayer before the ceremony takes place.

The Groom and his groomsmen have graced us with their presence, more guest are arriving in numbers as well. Last time I checked on our bride this morning, she was getting a full body massage. She's booked in at some spa last night for some pampering with her bridesmaid. The life!

Insert 90

I catch a glimpse of Bab' Khumalo fixing Bhut' Siphwe's Tie, behind this act is wisdom passed down from generation to generation. I see how my brother keeps nodding his head that he is getting all the valuable advices, probably about life in general and marriage. The inquisitive me wishes to hear their conversation but I'll just gather my nosy self and watch this beautiful sight. Jase is taking generous gulps of wine next to me, there's a grooms man that caught his eye. It's quite funny how he keeps reciting " honey you look good enough to eat, pity I'm not about that

life anymore". I find myself giggling to his statement. Mkhulu bae did a number on my boy, he's really not into dating anymore. He's still nursing his heart and taking a break from the dating scene altogether, not permanently though. I kind of agree with him his eye candy for the day is really an eye candy. The typical, tall, dark, handsome with Chinese eyes and kissable lips. He visits the gym often, the bulgy arms and that muscled chest. Why am I even describing him, hormones. Then Jase complains about this pregnancy clouding my eyes to beautiful things, I mean my eyes aren't blind to this beautiful creature in front of us. Lord the way he laughs and rubs the back of his head. No fuck this, let me get some fresh air.

Jase is complaining because I'm pulling him outside with me. Whoa, What a relief! Goodness why am I so hot and bothered? Is it possible to develop a roving eye, due to pregnancy? If I had spent any minute in there. I don't even want to think about it.

JASE : " really Lele, you just have to disturb my eyeing sexual encounter with that hunk"

OKUHLE : " eyeing what?"

JASE : " Moghirl just because I'm currently celibate, doesn't mean I shouldn't be eye fucking a couple of potential bae's"

OKUHLE : " how far did the encounter go? did you cum atleast? "

JASE : " I was on the verge of cuming before a pregnant stunning beautiful annoying friend of mine disturbed my session"

OKUHLE : "I'll forgive the annoying part simply because of the compliments you've showered me with"

JASE : " ofcourse you are beautiful even with your big tummy"

OKUHLE : " it's getting bigger everyday, I can't even see my nuna now"

JASE : " really, what's with the tears now. Is it because you can't see your coochie pie?"

OKUHLE : " No, that's because I'm horny. I'm crying because I'm horny"

We laugh so much with tears streaming down my face. Jase is beside himself, he can't even stand straight. He probably thinks I am joking, but I'm not. I'm really horny and it's making me emotional. I haven't been served in a week. I'm craving for some vitamin D, speaking of the D. Where is my D supplier, last time we spoke was last night after he had checked in at his usual guest house. He probably tried to call me, my poor man. I can't even remember when last I had

my phone . The venue is buzzing now with all the guests. My brother is making his way to me, I meet him halfway. It's difficult hugging these days, he brushes my tummy and kisses me on my cheek.

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " my little snorty face"

OKUHLE : " Bhut' no, we spoke about this. I'm somebody's aunt and mom to be "

BHUT ' SIPHIWE : " you are my snorty face, there's a special meaning behind that name"

OKUHLE : "okay then, can we pass it down to the next generation. Besides, I know what you did last summer"

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " what did I do last summer?"

OKUHLE : " Don't look so surprised Bro, you knocked her up again."

BHUT' SIPHIWE : " we are expanding our family Lele. Hopefully it's twins again or triplets . I want 5 in total"

OKUHLE : " Boy, am I glad I'm not your wife. Come let's get you married now"

We are all ordered to take seats, the bride is making her way into the venue. There's woman ululating. We all watch in the direction of the noise. My brother is already standing at the alter surrounded by his groomsmen. There's soft music playing in the background. It's fortunate - maxwell to be precise. My brother is all smiles, this is exactly how I'm picturing my husband on our wedding day or else I'll pull a U-turn on that red carpet. I spot Mr me with Fifi, Mpilo and his wife. They are dressed to the nines. Fifi has a slim body to die for, that figure hugging dress revealing her petite hips will confuse half the men in here. I instantly get wet when my eyes land on Nka. He made the situation worse by winking and licking his lower lip. I'm avoiding looking at his direction just so I can survive this.

The flower girl is throwing the flower petals all over. She's doing all this in a very fast pace , it's quite funny and cute . Everyone is giggling on the low, the bridesmaid follows right after . As soon as the bride walks down the aisle everyone stands and gives her a round of applause, the Men are whistling and elderly women are ululating. She looks extremely beautiful in that mermaid dress, her natural makeup and flawless skin. Okay, no more bridal party for me. I want to be pampered and relaxed like her. She's absolutely gorgeous. My brother's eyes are glittery, here goes another point of my husband on our wedding day list. If his eyes are not glistening with tears, another u-turn on my wedding day. Tears again, see these hormones. This is such a

beautiful sight I'd probably be crying even if I wasn't preggies. He takes her hand and attacks her with a kiss. The elders are in total shock, most of us find this amusing. He release her from his grip and the Pastor starts with the ceremony. Their vows my goodness, clearly they didn't practice but spoke from the heart. Somehow the pregnancy news were delivered along with the speech indirectly so. After an hour we have our newly weds, pics are taken. Goodness the compliments I got, mostly because of this stunning dress. I'm extremely tired from all the pictures, standing in heels is no child's play in this state I'm in. We all go inside the hall, food is served there. Soon after, drinks starts flowing. our couple bless us with their dance. Everyone is in celebratory mode. I've managed to slip into my comfortable shoes, the relief. His scent fills my nostrils, he embrace me in his arms. My head falls on his chest, I've missed my person so much.

NKANYISO : " standing over there I could tell my lady needs a foot massage"

OKUHLE : " you have no idea. I'm yearning for a full body massage and that other massage"

NKANYISO : " why don't I just kidnap you tonight and attend to your needs"

OKUHLE : " and the best boyfriend award goes to, drumroll"

FIFI : " if isn't the two love birds, no wonder you guys fell pregnant. You just can't keep your hands off each other"

NKANYISO : " Fifi, why didn't you bring your girlfriend with? Now you are bothering me and my lady"

FIFI: " I'm as single as they come Bruuh, I'd rather remain single than being cheated on"

OKUHLE : " you don't say?"

FIFI : " it's life, we all get screwed somehow. Turns out she was only a lesbian during the day. After nine she was having her sausages, viennas, Russians and boereworsies"

NKANYISO : " so you were licking others guys mmhmm during the day"

FIFI : " fuck you Nka, don't even mention it. That thought alone is motivation for me to hunt her down and finish her off"

NKANYISO : " it still doesn't change the fact that you've licked the opposites sex fluids"

OKUHLE : " yeeuw, Nka stop it"

FIFI : " and you still want to marry this fool, girl it's not too late to change your mind. It's a pity you are already carrying one of his big heads"

NKANYISO : " still doesn't change the fact that you've exchanged saliva with"

FIFI : " let me go before I catch a case, this fool will turn a sister into an inmate"

These two are very funny, they always go on like this. It's even worse when their cousins are present. Now I'm just imagining them as kids, all the fun they had. Fifi mentioned a guy that's bothering her. I don't blame him though, this girl is flames. Miss femme herself

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Insert 91

Bhut ' Siphwe has kidnapped my boyfriend, whatever they are discussing seems quite serious judging by their facial expression. The nosy me again, I don't understand this sudden curiosity of wanting to hear what they are discussing. MaKhumalo has hinted I'm carrying a girl judging by how nosy I've become lately. I even eavesdrop on my parents conversations. I've been caught twice already, I can't help myself. Some of the things they discuss though. Bab' Khumalo is a freak. Jase is mingling with Matshepo, Mpilo's wife. They talk the same language fashion, shopping, celebrity gossip and Instagram feeds . Those topics are a bore as of late, regardless I'm forever exposed in them whenever Jase is around.

I'm on a woman hunt right now, there's a lady who will keep me entertained. I really need to hear all the details of her lover or ex. Imagine if everyone was open and honest about their intentions with us where relationships are concerned . Many hearts would be spared. Now my lady is heartbroken, her after 9 ex. I wonder how many people are involved with after 9's without their knowledge. Your man being stressed by his boyfriend and your lady being stressed sby her girlfriend, Vice versa. life is just full of surprises. where could Fifi be? She's probably smoking her blunt somewhere in a cozy corner. That woman and her weed, she's not much of a drinker. She's addicted to her weed.

OKUHLE : " thought I'd find you somewhere smoking your blunt, why are you sitting here by yourself?"

FIFI : "Just thinking about my fucked up love life LET-O"

OKUHLE : " I know exactly what you going through"

FIFI : " Don't tell me that big head went back to his ways"

OKUHLE : " definitely not but I was once in your position"

FIFI : " I doubt so. I've been fighting for our relationship. You know how the elders don't understand interracial relationships. Meanwhile the bitch was being a community pussy"

OKUHLE : " atleast she never got married while you guys were still exclusive"

FIFI : " that's fucked up. I'm glad that fool messed up because my brother is now happy. I've never seen him this happy LET-O. He was just a fuck boy with no direction"

OKUHLE : " He was honest of his fuckery from the get go"

FIFI : " I'm glad you've met your soul mate, some of us still have to kiss few frogs before finding the one"

OKUHLE : " atleast you are kissing feminine frogs"

FIFI : " I won't be kissing any frogs anytime soon, a break is very much needed"

OKUHLE : " take your time girl, there's nothing new except for someone new anyway"

FIFI : " amen to that. Can we get sloshed right now!"

OKUHLE : " Go right ahead, I'll watch you"

FIFI : " Ow the pregnant security, isn't life hectic?"

OKUHLE : " I need the ladies, I'm so pressed"

FIFI : " you know where to find me, right?"

OKUHLE : " yeah see you just now"

These constant bathroom trips are exhausting, but I can't help it. Fifi may act all strong but this breakup has left her heartbroken. This is the reason why I ended up being binded by a contract in the first place. Atleast I knew what I was getting myself into. It's better than being manipulated and lied to in the name of love. At some point I had concluded love didn't exist. Until I met my person. I wonder how smanga's life turned out, why am I even thinking of him. I definitely don't need such vibes in my life. People are consuming intoxicating beverages and here I am with my 100%juice. I honestly don't mind though. Let me find my broken hearted girl and cheer her up. Someone pats me on my shoulder and it's Vuyo. It's quite awkward since I overheard their conversation. It's been a while hopefully he's over that little crush he had. He

smiles revealing his well aligned pearly whites , the pink lips. The whore in me better behave, my liking of man lately is quite alarming. I don't know if it's the hunger or just a phase. Hopefully it will pass.

VUYO : " the ever so beautiful miss Khumalo"

OKUHLE : " Mr Vuyo, are you good?"

VUYO : " congratulations mom to be, you still as pretty as the first time I saw you. Not even pregnancy changed you"

OKUHLE : " Thank you"

VUYO : " then she blushes, damn. Some guys are lucky, no let me rephrase that other guys are fortunate"

OKUHLE : " so are some ladies"

VUYO : " maybe, hopefully soon"

OKUHLE : " it was lovely seeing you, let me find my friend"

VUYO:" take care of yourself MaKhumalo"

I feel his gaze on my back. I walk very fast fighting the edge to turn my head back. He is a good man and I hope soon he finds his match. I honestly thought he was over his infatuation phase especially after Langelihle made it crystal clear that I was in a happy relationship. He looked at me with so much adoration in his eyes, it's quite scary. Maybe I'm overthinking, probably the man was being polite. I doubt there's anything attractive with my big stomach. I don't look nor feel sexy except for today. This dress is doing wonders to my not so visible figure. It's a perfect fit, Jase is really good at this. Maybe one day when I'm all rich, I'll have him as my personal stylist. Nice life problems

NKANYISO : " here you are, I've been searching for you my love"

OKUHLE : " the best place to search is the loo these days"

NKANYISO : " I'm sorry my love, how about we get out of here. I bet no one will miss us"

OKUHLE : " Mr Nxumalo Sir what are you planning to do to me"

NKANYISO : " well, I plan to soak you in a bubble bath, give you a nice foot rub, serve you all the

cravings you've had this past week and later on. Nah let me not expose the last details"

OKUHLE : " how soon can we pull that disappearing act?"

NKANYISO : " soon as we bid farewell to everyone"

OKUHLE : " what are we waiting for then"

NKANYISO : " thought you'd never ask"

Our newly weds can't keep their hands off each other. Their flight is departing early hours of tomorrow morning. They are going to Dubai for their honeymoon. Apparently Langelihle has been wanting to go there ever since she was in matric, so her husband is granting her wish. Their two little rascals left with the Khumalo's earlier. Goodness one full week with those busy twins. That's even more less sleep for me, the thought alone is draining . I'll see them Monday morning right now it's just me and my man.

The excitement is way too much, luckily the Khumalo's have left already. Which works to our advantage because there's few people we must bid farewell to. We are done in thirty minutes, we'll it could've been minimized to 10 minutes if the boys didn't get carried away with their soccer debate. Fifi was looking at us with suspicious eyes the whole time. I'm so excited, finally I'll have my man all to myself the whole damn night.

Insert 92

It's been one chaotic week with the twins around. There must be a scientific explanation behind these two rascals energy. They always blame the sweets but these two are naturally energetic. I honestly can't keep up with them. The fact that I've been depriving them sweets didn't even count. The lack of sleep I've been suffering from lately, it's enough to drive me insane. These kids sleep late around 10 and they wake up before 6am. MaKhumalo is the happiest amongst all of us. Bab' Khumalo has had enough, I overheard him complaining about the twins sleeping on their bed. Like where are the suppose to sleep, clearly not with me. The joy I felt in my heart discovering I'm not the only one suffering. Their parents are landing today, now I'm certain twins are not for me. They are too much work, for me. I can only cope with only one rascal at a time. I don't know how Langelihle will cope with a new born and these two. Luckily she has a live in nanny. Jase has been avoiding my calls the past two days. He's tired of listening to me complaining everyday, about the twins and their unusual habits. The energy, sleeping late Nad waking up early. Atleast he still checks up on me during the day.

I'm a bit disappointed because the boyfriend won't see me this weekend. He mentioned something about fetching their elderly uncles in the bundus for next week's lobola negotiations. The following week will be just as hectic with the lobola preparations. MaKhumalo has already made it clear that Monday we are going shopping for everything we'll need. She must brew the traditional beer for the ceremony. The thought alone is tiring. Jase is currently organizing a beautiful traditional dress for me. I'm truly blessed to have him as a friend. I was probably going to wear one of MaKhumalos sishweshwe that's just how less I care about fashion lately. Jase was going to have a fit, hence he decided to take matters into his own hands. I trust him in that department.

Chores again all in the name of exercise. I'm on a serious countdown now. Just one more week to go. The other day my feet were swollen. No one cared to give me a foot rub, she just told me to put bicarbonate of soda in warm water and soak them. I thought she'll be spoiling me left right and centre. Boy was I wrong. My baby has been cooperating shame. We haven't been craving for anything simply because no one will attend to our cravings. Here we eat what's prepared, end of story. not unless I send the neighbour's son. He's also another one who's hard to find. I don't blame him though being a teen comes with exploring. The saddest part is I have funds to blow on my account and Nka is very generous with the weekly pocket money. He calls it the cravings allowance. Saving is not such a bad idea. I've opened a different account where my cravings allowance are deposited. Did I mention I'm still receiving my monthly salary. I choose to save and not waste on unnecessary things.

MAKHUMALO : " Lele wake up, you can't sleep until late. You need to take a bath and prepare breakfast for the twins and yourself. Me and your dad will grab breakfast at wimpy, we going shopping"

OKUHLE : " MaKhumalo I'm exhausted can't you take them with you"

MAKHUMALO : " Your dad will lose his mind if we take them with. He even offered to take me shopping. Can you believe it"

OKUHLE : " wow, now I'll have to run around those two big heads. Please take them with Mama I'm begging you".

MAKHUMALO : " Lele this is the perfect opportunity to get training you know, a little practice so you don't struggle when your little one arrives"

OKUHLE : " I've had enough training for the whole week MaKhumalo"

MAKHUMALO : " what training, I did everything by myself. You only played with them for a few minutes and send them to us. They are hungry Lele, get up and prepare their breakfast"

OKUHLE : " this is unfair, a person hardly get any sleep and now I must feed the kids"

She pays me no mind and slams the door behind her. I hear Bab' Khumalo rushing her to leave. Wow! I can't believe these two grandparents, having breakfast at wimpy nogoal. I drag myself out of bed and freshen up quickly. I'm dressed up in my leggings and big t-shirt as, most comfortable pregnancy outfit. My door handle turns, MaKhumalo peeps in with a huge smile on her face. Soon after the two rascals follows, so my nanny shift has officially began. My Dad's ignition is already running. I won't forget this day, when my parents decided to treat themselves to shopping and English breakfast while I run around these two minions. They are smiling at me, I'm not fooled one bit. That's just bribery for me to feed them so they can drive me crazy. I decide to put my motherly talent into action. First I prepare soft porridge while keeping a very close eye on them. They are my little prisoners the last thing I want is them getting hurt under my watch.

While waiting for the porridge to cool down, I give them a bath and later feed them. Today we are getting along with these two rascals, they are behaving.

Scratch the behaving part as soon as their tummies were full. They got back to their usual self. Which led me to running around like a headless chicken, not even cartoon network came to my rescue. I have total respect for people who look after children full time. I wouldn't survive a day, imagine looking after 15 energetic rascals running around, screaming, crying and jumping around. It's not even 11am yet I'm exhausted. My only motivation is the countdown, only one week to go. That line keeps me going, I'm 7days apart from getting a proper well deserve sleep, foot massage and all my cravings being attended to. A call from Jase comes through he's laughing at my current situation. He insist on a video call, I'm glad he's finding humour in this whole situation. He watches in amusement at the twins busyness.

They finally get tired of playing with their toys. Around 1pm I give them another bath, feed them and put them to bed. Their afternoon nap feels like a holiday to me. The peace and quite is so refreshing, I take a well deserve bath After cleaning the house . I love bath times

this is the only time I get to bond and have a full on conversation with my unborn child. So the Khumalo's are planning to spend the whole day at the mall. I guess they deserve a little treat, this gives me a brilliant idea. I should book them in at the spa for full body massage for the whole day. This could work for all of us, the twins will be picked up later today. Tomorrow after church I could book them in for a full body massage and nice lunch. Since I have funds why not just take them for a little treat. Atleast I'll sleep almost the whole day without any disturbances. This is brilliant why didn't I think of this before. Day before the lobola negotiations I'll book

myself in and be pampered

The idea is exciting enough. I check on the boyfriend and we indulge in the longest chat. I send him videos of the twins causing havoc earlier today. According to him I'm a natural at this mothering business. If only he knew just how exhausted I am, he'll be singing a different tune. I almost got carried away with my bath session. Shit! the kids, I quickly dry myself and get dressed. Hopefully they are still sleeping, that was just wishful thinking. They are already giggling and playing on top of the bed. I check at the time and it past 3. I'm secretly praying the Khumalo's or their parents arrive. The only form of communication I got from MaKhumalo was an sms telling me to have fun with her grandkids. One of them did a poopoo now I must change nappies again. Goodness I'm so over this baby sitting business

Insert 93

Four months later. I'm extremely big and beyond exhausted. I've temporarily moved in at the Nxumalo's residence. My Lobola has been fully paid and Jase is pestering me with wedding preparations. He just doesn't get it, I'm irritable and a time ticking bomb. I hardly get any sleep, it's uncomfortable. I'm constantly struggling finding the perfect position to sleep in. Let's not even get started on sex. I can't stand being touched so that chapter is temporarily none existent. I fought Nka almost everyday hence moving here was a better idea. The poor guy was always tiptoeing around me. Always wary of his actions because even the slightest wrong move would result in him being shouted at. He's definitely not my favorite person at the moment. I can't point out exactly what he's doing wrong but the sight of him always makes my blood boil. Manxumalo is definite that I'm having a girl. She claims my behavior is giving it away. The way I get bored whenever she starts with that topic. Mr Nxumalo is also keeping his safe distance form me. There's something that annoys me about these Nxumalo man lately . Even my father in law and Bab' Khumalo also have the same effect that Nka has on me. I genuinely dislike men in general at this point.

I've discovered my sanctuary place in this yard, that's Mrs Nxumalo's garden. This place brings about so much peace and relaxation. My spirit gets uplifted whenever I'm at this place. I've stopped going to the dance class altogether. The laziness that's taken over me is way too much but who can blame me. Even taking a bath counts as exercising that's how exhausted I am. The doctor said I'm due in the next two weeks. I swear these weeks are not moving fast enough. It's time for my midday nap. Am I glad this bedroom is air-conditioned. I pass out the minute my head hits the pillow. Two hours later, I'm hungry, thirsty and angry. I honestly don't know who to

blame for my anger. All I know is that I'm angry and if I don't get food right away, someone will suffer from my outburst.

I walk down the stairs but stop dead at my tracks when I overhear Sandiso's voice. When did he get here? It's been a while since he has graced us with his presence. Sounds like they are having a serious conversation and Sandiso's voice sounds panicked.

SANDISO: " This is what they've revealed to me Aunty. It's time now, He deserves to know the truth"

MRS NXUMALO : " This will change everything, isn't there another way"

SANDISO : " unfortunately not, this is the reason why I had to put my things on hold and deliver this message as soon as possible"

The nosy me, this doesn't sound like the news I should be eavesdropping on. Whatever it is sounds very serious but curiosity got the better of me. So I remain rooted in that position, this is so wrong in so many levels but I can't help but listen. I sit on the third staircase, the tired gossip listener that I am.

MRS NXUMALO : "I can't believe this is happening, it's going to tear my family apart. There must be a way to work around this. I can't afford to lose my son over this"

SANDISO : " this is the only way, I'm afraid if this isn't done then blood will be shed. Innocent blood for that matter"

MRS NXUMALO : " I honestly thought this was dead and buried. Good Lord please there has to be another way Sandiso, can't we slaughter to appease the ancestors"

SANDISO : " she protected her grandchild ever since she was conceived. All she need is to be acknowledged and for the truth to come out"

MRS NXUMALO : " what's going to happen if her demands are not met"

SANDISO : " she will take away her away from us"

MRS NXUMALO : " have you informed uBaba about this"

SANDISO: " yes, I told him a few days back and I promised to fly down and properly discuss this with the both of you"

MRS NXUMALO : "I'm so confused right now, my head is spinning. I mean why now after all these years"

SANDISO : " I wish I had all the answers,maybe it was meant to happen now. It was only revealed to me in my dreams few months back but the dreams weren't clear until the past week."

MRS NXUMALO : " how accurate are your dreams though, shouldn't we seek second opinion?"

SANDISO : " they are crystal clear but you are more than welcome to seek second opinion "

MRS NXUMALO : " this is messed up big time "

SANDISO : " tell me about it "

There's silence now. What the fuck are they on about? The more I listen to them, the more confused I get. You see this thing of being nosy doesn't always end up well. Now I'm trying to unscramble and make sense of this. Everyone has skeletons in their closet doesn't matter whether rich, poor or in between. I'm consumed with guilt after listening in on them. What if Sandiso sensed my presence and decided to speak in riddles. I mean the man is a seer after all. What woman are they talking about and what secret is going to tear the family apart if revealed. Maybe if I came down earlier, I would've gotten more information. Why is this matter bothering me so much?

The thirst is too real. I have no choice now but to reveal myself. Why am I nervous all of the sudden, that's probably my conscience alerting me of my wrong doing. How am I even going to face them, the guilt overwhelms me. I slowly approach them, they seem to be deep in thoughts. This issue is more serious than I thought. I doubt they've noticed my presence. I clear my throat. They both look at my direction, Mrs Nxumalo is still deep in thoughts. She usually assist me whenever I'm in the kitchen but today her eyes are fixed elsewhere.

SANDISO: "our beautiful Makoti"

OKUHLE : " now you teasing me, all the beauty faded away with the pregnancy"

SANDISO : " you are still beautiful thought, in a big fabulous way"

OKUHLE : " wow, big fabulous manner."

He's just revived my hatred towards Nxumalo's men. What the fuck, I'm all worked up. Sad is what I am. Big fabulous manner. Who would've thought. Just then Nka waltz in, looking all kinds of sexy and annoying. He hasn't uttered a word as yet but I'm already on attack mode. I gulp down two glasses of water. Our eyes meet and I'm instantly angry. Sandiso is watching all this in total amusement. Nka is looking at me with pleading eyes. He has a nandos takeaway in his hand. I get closer to him, he opens his arms but I just grab the takeaway out of his grip and walk away. The shock written all over his face is priceless. Screw him and all the Nxumalo men, ofcourse I swore at them internally. I wouldn't dare utter those words but yall know how I feel.

Insert 94

Mrs Nxumalo is keeping a very close eye on me. I've been having a runny tummy, nausea and lack of appetite. It's been going on for the past three days now. The morning sicknesses are back all over again, it's quite strange though. Not even watermelon is going down. I've been surviving on rooibos tea, ginger cakes and bananas. Let's not even get started on my sleeping pattern which is none existent. These days I sleep three to four hours max a day . It's even better during the day, at night I keep myself occupied by reading. I've read almost every interesting diary there is to read . Exclusive books has become my one stop shop, perks of having a chauffer. Jase has been visiting me more than usual, he's inlove with the Nxumalo's house. The pictures he takes of us during his visits, don't know what is his obsession with my big tummy.

MaKhumalo's phonecalls sounds like a stuck record. " Lele you must exercise, clean, do the dishes, take walks. Don't just sleep, the baby will sleep during delivery in labour ward". Reasons why I avoid going home, that woman has no mercy, chores would be my daily bread. I'm cooling myself in the pool. Today I feel more uncomfortable than most days, my tummy feels heavy. Unexpectedly, a sharp pain hits me on my lower back . I normally take my phone with whenever I'm out doors , my eyes start wandering around in search of my phone. It's nowhere in sight, panic washes over me immediately. Today of all days, I only brought a book, sunhat and a jug of juice. Another pain strikes again right at that same spot. My only mission is to make it out of this pool and get help immediately. I practice my breathing exercises just to calm myself down. Panicking will only make things worse.

Could this be it? I've heard of water breaking and all that nonsense before contractions starts. Apparently not everyone's water breaks, I gather enough strength to pull myself out of the pool. It's no easy task provided the position I'm in. It takes me a good 20 minutes to drag myself out

of the pool. The disadvantages with this big houses and yards, no one will hear you even if you scream. It's more wiser to save my energy and walk into the house. I'm praying Mrs Nxumalo hasn't left for her usual spa treatment. She doesn't leave without informing me first or bullying me into going with her. I'm getting sweaty and weaker with each step I take. My main concern is my baby, the sooner I get help the better chance of my baby's wellbeing. Right now I'm avoiding any negative thoughts. Finally I reach the door. The relief that washes over me when I find her making tea in the kitchen.

MRS NXUMALO : " you just spared me the trip of fetching you from that pool"

OKUHLE : " Ma, Ma. The baby"

MRS NXUMALO : " Ow my baby what's wrong"

OKUHLE : " the back pains, my baby."

MRS NXUMALO : " Ow my God! let's get you to the hospital"

She feels my temperature with the back of her hand. Her eyes are giving it away, my body is on fire that's just how hot I am. She promise to be back soon. It's the first time seeing Mrs Nxumalo running, it's quite funny. She's such a lady even when she's running. I can't believe I've left my phone in my room. Another pain again. I start praying for my baby's life. I hear footstep, she's back with the driver. I'm still wearing my bikini. The driver scoops me in his arms, the engine is already running he gently puts me at the back of the car. Mrs Nxumalo follows after us she hands me the gown. She's on her phone, letting Mr Nxumalo know their grandchild is on the way. So much exaggeration from the Mrs, next it's Nka and Mpilo. She's on the phone while barking orders, first the driver was too slow now he's too fast. Shame the poor man is following orders promptly. I don't even know what to do with myself at this current moment. I'm just uncomfortable, the pains are persistent From the lower back to my pelvic area now.

Nka wants to speak to me over the phone. I'm just nodding to whatever he's saying. I've suddenly lost my ability to speak. I have so much to say to him. Like how I'm praying for our baby's wellbeing. How I'm afraid and in need of his love and support at this current moment. I want to cry and tell him to rush to me, to us. But no words are coming out. He keeps assuring me all will be well. His words are food to my soul, they are reviving my faith and hope. I want to hear his voice till this ordeal is over. He keeps begging me to say something, my throat is dry and I can't utter any words. The car comes to a halt, we are here already. I'm still not dressed, the gown is lying on my thighs. I hangup without saying anything, I'm not even angry anymore. I need him right beside me. Mrs Nxumalo helps me with the gown, the driver gets help. He comes

back with a wheelchair, atleast I look a bit decent with the gown on .

I'm being wheeled in, Mrs Nxumalo is right beside me. She's patting my back and assuring me all will be well. Her phone keeps ringing None-stop. The nurse directs the driver to one of the wards, she promise to attend to us soon. I'm officially a mute, not by choice though. The voice is somewhere warming up to scream maybe. The cramps are not getting any better. She's back with the doctor. Our driver leaves the room immediately, the doctor examines me. The baby is healthy, apparently I'm still far and not fully dilated. They'll keep me overnight for further examinations. My blood pressure is also high, which comes as a shock to all of us. I haven't been stressed lately what could be the cause.

The doctors are also failing to explain what's the cause of the pains. This is rather strange, there must be a medical explanation to all this. Mrs Nxumalo looks rather stressed and uncomfortable. She's probably just as worried as I am. The commotion outside my ward, I hear his voice loud and clear. My eyes gets teary as soon as he makes his appearance through the door. That's all the invitation he needs. I'm wrapped in his warm loving arms. He keeps assuring me all will be well. I hang on for dear life, this man has never let me down. He's right here when I need him the most. Mrs Nxumalo is informing him on the doctor's findings. He's just nodding, I guess he's also relieved that me and the baby are well. After the long embrace he asks if I'm still experiencing any cramps or pain.

MRS NXUMALO : " give her a break son, she needs to rest"

NKANYISO : " babe, are you still experiencing any pain or cramps"

OKUHLE : " they come and go but now there's absolutely nothing"

NKANYISO : " what could be the cause though?"

MRS NXUMALO : " the Doctor failed to give us an answer hence she'll be kept overnight for further examinations"

NKANYISO : " well let me make myself comfortable, I'm going to organise another bed"

MRS NXUMALO : " I guess it's my queue to leave, I'm only a phone call away my children."

NKANYISO : " please ask Mpilo to bring us proper food, what would you like to eat babe?"

Here goes an opportunity to skip supper. I'm really not hungry but for the sake of my baby, I

must eat something. Nka has already conjoined his bed to mine, perks of having a private room. He runs the shower and complain about the cold water but I join him anyway. His manhood better behave, I'm a patient and so I won't partake in any other activity unless my doctor grants me permission. We finish showering quickly before the doctor comes back for his final examination.

Mpilo brought proper meal, the aroma. I get instantly hungry, Mr here is feeding me. Seems like tomorrow I'll sleep home. I decide not to inform MaKhumalo and stress her over something the doctors are obviously failing to explain, it was probably a false alarm. I almost forgot just how good it feels to sleep in my man's arms. The satisfaction I get just by being in his warm embrace and listening to his heartbeat even the baby is kicking none stop. I've missed my man.

Insert 95

I slept like a baby, no pains nor cramps. I was discharged the following morning without any medical diagnosis. Guess we'll just leave it at false alarm. Nka wasn't so pleased with the doctor's explanation. He wanted to know what was the cause of the cramps and what can be done to avoid them. I had to literally drag him out of the doctors office. I completely understand where he's coming from. I'm also not completely satisfied with their explanation but grateful for my baby's wellbeing. He's concentrating on the road, this thing is definitely not sitting well with him. He takes a different route wonder where is he taking me? I'm too drained to even ask him. My tummy starts grumbling, he looks at me and smirk. Surprisingly I'm yawning after sleeping throughout the night. He makes a stop at some bakery shop, it's in a very secluded place just out of town. After opening my door, he leads me to the bakery. I smell nice freshly baked scones, my hunger levels go from 0-100 real quick. We are met by a very friendly old lady. She looks familiar I can't quite figure out where I know her from. Maybe she has one of those usual looking faces.

She gives Nka a very warm loving hug, it's one of those I usually get from MaKhumalo after being away from home for a very long time. She also embrace me into her warm loving hug. After our hugging session she has tears in her eyes. Now I'm also shedding a few drops of tears. See what these emotions are doing to me. Old age, pregnancy and emotions, deadly combination . She orders us to sit down, we are served those freshly baked scones with coffee. We'll I'm only having rooibos tea. I'm avoiding caffeine at all costs due to lack of sleep. Judging from their conversations they know each other from way back. She used to be their helper for the longest period. She keeps asking about everyone, some names I'm not even familiar with. Maybe it's the long distant family members that I haven't met yet. She's very pleased to meet me, her emotions are quite unstable though especially after hearing of my hospital false alarm.

I'm enjoying her company so much, especially how she narrates the stories of Nka growing up. She gets uncomfortable when Nka wants to know why she left so mysteriously without a proper goodbye. She says something about family emergency and change the subject quick. She's very much interested particularly in Nka's life. It's funny how they met up years later, how she ended up on his doorstep thirsty and stranded for transport fare. The bond between these two is stronger than Nka and Mrs Nxumalo's . Nka becomes absolutely vulnerable to her, he addresses issues I didn't even know about. His fears, worries, plans and so forth. This is how I am towards Mrs Mbatha Jase's mom. She's so easy to talk to, I'm completely open and more honest towards her. I'm glad Nka has someone like her in his life. I'm only learning now that he came here after our big fight. Her insight on life in general. Wow! Can I be as wise as her when I age.

I'm so comfortable around this old woman. There's something about her that resonates with my soul, I can't really explain it but my heart is at ease. The baby has been kicking more than usual. There's a manner in which she addresses my baby and the baby relaxes right after she utters those words. I can spend the whole day in this peaceful environment listening to Gogo narrating her childhood stories. She's a very interesting old lady. Our time to leave comes and I'm having difficulty separating from my old lady. Well what's Nka is mine, now his old lady is mine also. Nka promises to bring me back soon, that's if I behave. Whatever that means. Why did this man keep our old lady a secret for so long. We are driving back home and I'm all smiles. He's also relaxed now after our bakery visit. We spent four hours in there but it still feels like minutes, that's just how nice her company is.

NKANYISO : " somebody enjoyed themselves"

OKUHLE : " ofcourse why did you hide such a great lady from me"

NKANYISO : " I haven't been visiting her alot lately babe and last night I kept thinking about her. So I thought why not, let me introduce her to my family"

OKUHLE : " she has one of those familiar faces, I feel like I've seen her before"

NKANYISO : " she's such a warm loving wise lady"

OKUHLE : " definitely, I miss her already"

NKANYISO : " haai I'm not bringing you back anytime soon, you are on a mission to take her away from me"

OKUHLE : " no babe we will share her equally"

NKANYISO : " mhhmm babe, when last I heard those sweet words".

OKUHLE : " now you starting. How was it like? Getting raised by our Gogo?"

NKANYISO : " it was epic babe, she was stricter than mom but we loved her dearly. She was a firm believer of corporal punishment. As you can see our dad is hardly around, even when we were growing up. Mom was more concerned with being the perfect wife, book clubs, gym, spa treatments . She would only ground us when we were naughty but Gogo. Damn that woman played the motherly role. She would wipe our tears and give us a good hiding whenever we were naughty. "

OKUHLE : " mothers love "

NKANYISO : " then one day we came back form school and she was gone. I was so devastated, no one cared to explain her reasons for leaving us so mysteriously "

OKUHLE : " does your family know of your reunion?"

NKANYISO : " as much as they failed to explain her departure, I decided to exclude and meet Gogo secretly. It's better this way"

OKUHLE : " not even Mpilo knows of this?"

NKANYISO : " not even him babe"

OKUHLE : " okay I get you my love"

NKANYISO " my love, this is the happiest day of my life"

He's genuinely happy, it's even rubbing off on me.

I can't shake the feeling that I've seen our old lady before. Her face looks very much familiar, I just can't put my finger in it. There's some sense of security and protection when I'm around her. Nka is on a mission to make me happy today, now we are driving to his place. I want to be alone with him today. My heart is at peace, my body is relaxed. I'm sleepy, there's soft music playing in the background. I lower my seat a bit. I doubt I'll make it home with my eyes still open. The urge to sleep is beyond my control. After suffering from insomnia for so long. Sleep has finally recognized me, it has allocated my address and I'd be damned to let it slip away from me. Not after the struggle I've experienced the past few weeks.

NKANYISO : " no ways woman, you can't do this to me. LET-O, babe, my love. Wow! seems like I'll be talking to myself all the way home."

I hear him from afar, he sounds like he's two blocks away from me. The smooth driving is not doing any justice also. He doesn't have any idea how much I've been struggling to sleep at night

OKUHLE : " mmhhmmmm "

That's all I manage to say before succumbing to sleep.

Insert 96

I'm woken up by his kisses all over my face. He puts cushions to support my back. I appreciate the setup in front of me but I'm pressed, nature calls. I try to move as quickly as I can, this is so embarrassing. I'm almost in tears. No scratch that I'm crying right now. He's holding back his laughter , he better keep it in. if he knows what's good for him. I just stand in the pool of my own pee. These are some of the things they don't share on social networks. They make this seem so easy and enjoyable. He runs a bath and helps me undress, immediately after I'm inside the bath. He rushes to wipe the floor, cleaning up my mess . He takes my clothes and disappears. I'm overwhelmed with emotions, this man is cleaning after me. His family members would have questioned his kind and caring act. You see in our society man who genuinely love and care for their partners are suspected of being fed love potion. I don't recall how I ended up in bed yesterday , last things I remember was me lowering my seat. My body feels revived after having a good night's sleep. The short bath is motivated by the breakfast awaiting me in the bedroom. I'm wearing my comfortable clothes. Atleast now I also smell fresh, thanks to the embarrassing accident that took place earlier.

NKANYISO : " I've been staring at this scrumptious breakfast wondering when are you coming to join me"

OKUHLE : " it smells and look divine babe, I can't wait to dig in"

NKANYISO : " words I needed to hear"

OKUHLE : " babe I'm so sorry about earlier, it wasn't my intention to mess on myself"

NKANYISO : " it's water under the bridge Babe, besides we have a lifetime together. You'll return this favour when we Grey, old and our bladders are failing us"

OKUHLE : " I'll be rolling with the young one's then, maybe a sexy 27 year old".

NKANYISO : " keep dreaming, you see all this. It's yours to enjoy for lifetime. There won't be a ben 10 touching my property"

OKUHLE : " property, even more reasons to start looking for my ben 10"

NKANYISO : " shut up and eat before I loose my appetite"

OKUHLE : " jealousy makes you nasty"

He won't entertain this argument anymore, I know him too well. Nka makes a mean breakfast, it's his specialty. Which makes me wonder what time did he wake up. I indulge in the fruit salad, muesli, yoghurt with a dash of honey . I'm staying away from the greasy stuff. The man sacrificed eggs because of me. We are enjoying our breakfast in peace when the gate buzzer goes crazy. Who could it be? We both look at each other. He carries on eating and the person buzzing is persistent. He's a bit annoyed judging by his facial expression. Being disturbed while eating is not nice at all. The food doesn't even taste the same once you get disturbed. The damn buzzer again, he's left with no choice but to attend to it. The owner of the house must attend to it, it's only fair.

NKANYISO : " this better be good"

Those words are uttered with annoyance as he makes his way out of the bedroom. I'm too lazy to even peep through the window. Whoever was buzzing the gate like crazy has just drove in the yard. I will wait until Nka gets back. A crazy thought cross my mind. If there's a burglary I'd be completely useless, they'll find me right here in this bed. Why am I even thinking of such. I carry on with my breakfast. Surprisingly my appetite is back after my Goodnight sleep. These pains were worth it then, even though I don't wish to experience them again.

NKANYISO : " babe, your mom in law is here to see you. She's a bit concerned but I assured her you are good"

OKUHLE : " carry me downstairs please"

NKANYISO : " now that's pure abuse babe, come babe I'll hold your hand"

OKUHLE : " let's go then"

He definitely wasn't joking about holding my hand. He's walking beside me, I stop for mini breaks along the way. Why so much stairs though. We need to move to the bedroom downstairs, I can't cope with this going up and down the stairs. I swear there's never a day where this woman is under dressed. Maybe it's her body structure. Mrs Nxumalo is always dressed to kill. I swear she's never repeated an outfit, even if she does it's probably after months.

She's genuinely concerned shame, the relief that washes over her face as soon as I smile at her. She attacks me with a bone crushing hug.

MRS NXUMALO : "Nka please make me a cup of tea, rooibos, no sugar, no milk"

NKANYISO : " One cup coming right up"

MRS NXUMALO : " make one for LET-O as well"

OKUHLE : " No thanks babe I'm good"

We settle in the couch. She gets ahold of the remote. Here we go again, she's obsessed with cooking, home and fashion channels. I thought as much we are watching the fashion channel. She's asking me about the Doctors report after being admitted. Her eyes grows wide when I tell her of the doctors failing to diagnose me. She quickly recovers from her reaction and agree with the false alarm conclusion. She's complaining of boredom since I'm no longer around. I kind of miss her garden and being spoiled. I'm enjoying being spoiled this side as well. Nka returns with her tea. I watch her in amusement, she's definitely not enjoying the rooibos. Unfortunately we don't keep those herbal tea of hers. They smell funny too.

NKANYISO : " you don't seem to be enjoying that cup of tea"

OKUHLE : " I've noticed as well"

MRS NXUMALO : " I'm trying to be polite, I'm craving my herbal or green tea but since you guys don't have. I'll settle for this. If there's one thing for sure, I'll finish this cup. It's called being polite"

NKANYISO : " I wouldn't suffer for the sake of being polite, besides we are your children feel free"

OKUHLE : " Yes ma you don't have to suffer, it's only us"

MRS NXUMALO : " I will finish this cup my children, its a little appreciation for all the time and effort put into making this tea"

The cup is empty, this lady was serious. There's a lesson learnt from all this. Being polite and appreciating the effort and time. We learn something new everyday. Tomorrow I have a date with Mrs Nxumalo a full body massage. She deliberately mentioned this in front of Nka and convinced him this will benefit me and the baby. I'm extremely lazy but sometimes we have to be polite and appreciate the little effort. See what I did there. The rest of the day was laid back lazing around indoors after our guest left. We've been laughing over my embarrassing accident this morning. How did I get so fortunate. It's quite funny now. I'm glad this occurred indoors with my love. Imagine in a public place, I'd be trending by now. The society has zero tolerance of people's feelings and their privacy. Never mind their reputation. Social media is buzzing with such videos.

Jase was alarmed over me being admitted to the hospital due to false alarm. Even more reasons not to inform MaKhumalo. Why raise her blood pressure with something the doctors failed to diagnose. Sleep has truly located my address. I'm yawning none stop. Getting to the bedroom is another challenge. Maybe I should fall asleep right on this couch. Nka will have no choice but to carry me again. But I definitely wouldn't do that to him. I have a trick under my sleeve, something I've been depriving myself off. This man hasn't been making it easy on me today, walking around half naked. Looking all ripe with those buffed up arms and sexy six pack. Fuck! Right now all I want is my buffet, it's been a while.

Insert 97

Nka's fast asleep after our last night's session. The man cherished every ounce of my body, he made up for the past weeks of intimacy deprivation. I should be snoring beside him after that sexercise but no! My tummy has been bothering me for the past 3 hours. I don't remember eating anything out of the ordinary. I'm exhausted, drained and slowly getting weaker. I feel drowsy and in desperate need of sleep. My eyes are involuntarily closing, when I experience a shooting pain on my lower back. It's nothing like those minor pains I had the other day. I immediately sit on the bed my brain trying to grasp what just happened. Without any warning another sharp pain sends me screaming. Shockingly he's still sleeping, not even that scream woke him. I shake him vigorously before these pains overpower me. He's mumbling something, I don't quite catch it. Another pain strikes and I loose all sense of self control. I scream so loud, resulting in him jumping from the bed and running to my side. It's quite funny I mean he could've

just reach me from his side. But there's no time for jokes.

He is right beside me in a flash. Asking all sorts of questions that I'm failing to answer. The only logical thing right now is me controlling my breathing patterns by counting and calming myself down. He quickly gets dressed, it's quite a mission dressing me up. I can't stand straight, it's impossible with these pains that keeps on taking me by surprise. Regardless he accomplish his mission of dressing me up. Next he scoops me up and effortlessly goes down the stairs with me in his arms. He straps me in my seat and runs back in the house. His back with his phone. As soon as he's strapped in, he takes off. I don't even remember seeing him locking up the house. I don't know why I'm also thinking of such, maybe to distract myself from the pains I'm feeling. We are cruising smoothly since it's the early hours of the morning. No traffic, no cops. The faster he drives the lesser I feel the pains. My mind has completely blocked the life threatening situation I'm possibly in.

NKANYISO : "we will be there, just couple of seconds babe, how are the pains?"

OKUHLE : " drive faster"

NKANYISO : " Babe I can't risk your life and our little life hang on love"

I grunt my teeth in frustration, why can't he just listen to me for once. He's driving the fastest car after all, why not use it to the max. He squeeze my thigh and assure me all will be well. There's something that soften me up a bit. The manner in which he's saying it, his calmness and confirmation in his statement. We are parked outside the emergency entrance. The pains have seized a bit but there's still discomfortness in my lower abdomen. The doctor needs to come with a proper explanation as to why these pains are occurring. He runs like a madman to get help, his actions doesn't match that calm statement he said just now. Few minutes I see him rushing back with two nurses and three porters with a stretcher. Here we go again, me being wheeled in. My details are already loaded on their system its only been less than 48 hours and I'm back again.

Private room, the examination proves the baby to be healthy. The cause for the pain is still a mystery. Nka is having none of it today. There's three Doctors working on getting the cause of these pains. They are working under pressure trying to establish what triggers these pains and cramps. I'm a bit relieved that our baby is fine but I'm concerned now with these pains. They could potentially harm my baby and what if one day I'm all alone when they start. It's really disturbing if Doctors can't find the cause then I'll start decorating one of these rooms and make

it homely as possible. Nka is pacing up and down while we wait for the results. I'm getting dizzy watching him. Elders are good with these things and our Gogo comes to mind. It's just us two, we forgot to inform the parents.

OKUHLE : " babe we forgot to inform the parents"

NKANYISO : " it completely slipped my mind Babe, my main focus was getting you here as quickly as possible"

OKUHLE : " maybe we can call them in the morning"

NKANYISO : " it's 4:55 am babe, I might as well call them. what's taking these Doctors so long"

OKUHLE : " we might as well get comfortable you know these tests usually take time"

NKANYISO : "they better find whatever it is that's causing these pains, I can't bare seeing you suffer like this babe"

OKUHLE : " I was even thinking of decorating one of the rooms and making it homely just incase there's no explanation then I'll camp here every other 48hours"

I thought my dark humour will cheer him up a bit. it has the opposite effect instead, he's seriously not finding any of this funny . I doubt there's someone who will enjoy being admitted to hospital every other second day. He gets up and make his calls. He leaves me for a while , I'm starving yet scared to eat. I'm yawning seems like sleep is recognizing me again. I find the most comfortable position and before I know it, it's lights out. There she is standing right beside my bed, my guardian. I see her face clearly now. She's a gorgeous woman, I smile at her. She goes to the baby court and picks up a baby girl. The baby's giggles are heartwarming. She's Carrressing her little cheeks and keeps uttering the words

"you look exactly like your father, my son, my light Nkanyiso, my little Lisakhanya "

This is puzzling, how does she know Nkanyiso and who is Lisakhanya. I feel my tummy and it's flat. When did I give birth? Wait, that's my daughter. We are still in hospital. This is my daughter, in our ward, that's her baby's court.

OKUHLE : " please, can I hold her "

She caress her little cheeks and the baby giggles some more. I doubt they can hear me. She doesn't even look at my direction. Am I invisible? but I'd love to hold my baby. I scream for her to hand me back my baby, but she pays me no mind. I press the hospital buzzer and the securities come flooding in. Instead they hold me down and she leaves with my baby. I keep screaming for her to bring back my baby but my cries fall on deaf ears. My baby, my baby girl.

NKANYISO : " babe, wake up. My love you are having a bad dream"

I open my eyes and the Nxumalo's are staring at me with so much concern in their eyes. My baby girl. I touch my tummy and it's still as big as it was few hours ago. The dream felt surreal, my baby girl. My Lisakhanya. I narrate the dream to everyone. Mrs Nxumalo has her hands over her head. Mr Nxumalo has his face buried in his hands. I didn't share the baby's sex or the name though. Nka is convinced it was just a bad dream. Mpilo seems lost in his own thoughts. How long was I sleeping? were they watching me sleep the whole time? Goodness maybe I was snoring or farting the whole time. The door fly open and in comes Sandiso. His eyes are fixed on my tummy. He is one of the strangest human beings I've ever come across. There's a sudden aura in this room. I instantly get cold maybe it's in the way he's staring at my tummy.

SANDISO: " we don't have much time, the innocent life is being threatened. She needs to be acknowledged, failure to do so will have deadly consequences"

I don't want to lie. I'm scared, this is rather unsettling. Why does he keep on staring at my tummy. Mpilo and Nka are just as puzzled and scared as I am. Mrs Nxumalo is in tears. Mr Nxumalo hasn't changed his position ever since Sandiso got here. What innocent life, the only innocent life here is the baby that I'm carrying. My heart is beating irregular. I nervously reach for Nka's hand. His palms are sweaty, for the very first time He is nervous . Sandiso needs to explain himself, I don't like where this is going at all.

SANDISO : " Uncle this can't be ignored or postponed any further"

Those words are directed to Mr Nxumalo who hasn't moved or shifted from his position. I definitely can't handle any bad news at this given moment.

Insert 98

The tension in this room is as heavy as my tummy. Mr Nxumalo hasn't moved one bit, Mrs Nxumalo is on the verge of crying. Nka, Mpilo and me are the only clueless one's . Sandiso has his eyes fixed on Mr Nxumalo. The awkwardness is too much, I honestly wish they can get to the bottom of whatever it is that's troubling them or better yet go home and solve this issue. The Doctor comes through carrying a piece of paper with him. All our attention is shifted to him. He goes straight to the point, it's the test results regarding tests they ran earlier. After explaining everything he hands me the paper. Still there was nothing unusual with the results, meaning nothing was found. The doctor even went an extra mile as suggesting we consult traditional healers and emphasize on prayer because this is mysterious. It happens in 1 out of 10 cases which is very rare. There's no further questions or any debates. The man has explained himself and suggested other alternatives. He excuse himself and leave all of us in our own thoughts.

MPILO: " Sands I know you wouldn't cancel all your overseas business trips if it wasn't a deadly emergency. So you better talk"

NKANYISO : "please tell me this doesn't involve my wife and kid in anyway"

MPILO : "Somebody better talk, right here, right now!"

Sandiso has maintained his gaze upon Mr Nxumalo, it's not even funny. Mrs Nxumalo is a sniffing and crying mess. Mpilo is pissed, I'm shocked. For someone who joke and laughs all the time, this side of him it's scaring me. Nka appears to be calm but the rapid movement on his chest screams trouble. Why am I suddenly nervous. I just pray that whatever is about to be revealed doesn't upset the two brothers more than they are. Wait, the conversation between Mrs Nxumalo and Sandiso. I remember her emphasizing the secret will tear her family apart. Can't I vanish and resurface after everything is revealed and dealt with. I hate being caught up in messy situations and I get the feeling this will turn ugly. I hear Mpilo cursing under his breath a couple of times.

MR NXUMALO : " You know some secrets don't remain buried forever, this one I wanted to take to the grave with me"

He pause and draws in air. My heart is in my throat, that's just how uncomfortable and nervous this whole situation has got me. Sadly no one is comforting Mrs Nxumalo, she's been crying ever since the doctor left the room. She's sitting far from me, I would've offered her a shoulder to cry on. Mpilo is usually next to his mom but today he's as serious as this current situation.

MR NXUMALO : "what I'm about to reveal doesn't change anything. I'm hopeful this won't break our bond as a family. I know we will overcome this as we've conquered all the obstacles we faced in the past as family. Nkanyiso this has everything to do with you. You and Mpilo are two years apart, you are both my sons but you have different mothers "

NKANYISO : " what ! this is one big joke right? "

MR NXUMALO : " five years into my marriage I had an affair, as a result you were born "

NKANYISO : " This is one fucked up situation "

MR NXUMALO : " This doesn't change " .

NKANYISO : " doesn't change anything for who dad! It definitely doesn't change anything for you! So who's my mom, some loose woman you picked on the streets ! " .

MR NXUMALO : " I'm still your father and you will not address me in that manner and don't you dare speak ill of the dead "

NKANYISO : " she's dead "

MR NXUMALO : " yes she passed on after giving birth to you. She named you Nkanyiso few seconds before she withdrew her last breath "

MPILO: " so you saw it fit to keep this a secret from all of us, why? "

MR NXUMALO : " honestly yes, this was one secret I wanted to take to the grave with"

MPILO : " what other secret should we know about, since today we are exposing skeletons "

MR NXUMALO : " that we buried Nka's mom as our own since we couldn't locate her family but we later discovered her mom was alive and searching for her "

MPILO : " you meaning to tell me with your connections you failed to locate an old woman. This is unbelievable!"

MR NXUMALO : " Her only request was for Nka to know about her once he has met his soul mate. I knew somehow she meant it but my selfishness resorted in her almost taking what she holds dear and that's your baby "

NKANYISO : " us being here is because of your selfishness Nxumalo! Because of your

selfishness, I almost lost my baby. Isn't it enough that I lost my mom at birth, now I almost lost my child at birth too . Can one person be as selfish as you Nxumalo! "

His veins are popping, his voice is firm there's so much anger carried out in every words uttered. Nka is livid, anger is written all over his face. This is too much for me to bare, the emotions are getting the better of me. I'm avoiding blinking for obvious reasons.

NKANYISO : " so if it wasn't for the circumstances you wouldn't tell me about my mom"

MR NXUMALO : " yes"

He says it with no hesitation with so much declaration. Sandiso is watching Nka very closely.

MRS NXUMALO : " I'm sorry son, I'm partly to be blame as a mother, I should've known better"

NKANYISO : " clearly you knew no better because you aren't my mom"

SANDISO : " Nkanyiso that's no right manner to address elders"

NKANYISO : " fuck you Sands, fuck you man! How do I respect people who diprived me of my rights to moan and know where my mom has been laid to rest"

MPILO : "come let's get fresh air, just like old times"

These two brothers genuinely love and care for each other. Mpilo pulls Nka outside. I definitely feel he needs time to digest everything that just happened. I'm as shocked and my brain is blocking the part where my baby's life was in danger because of secrets. It makes sense now, the guardian angel is Nka's mom. Wow I love her so much, she has protected Lisakhanya from day one and I understand her frustrations. She only wanted her son to know about her probably to visit her grave once in a while. There's a huge relief and sense of peace that has taken over me. I'm so sleepy though. Is it rude to sleep while you have visitors? I can always blame it on my condition. I'm struggling to keep my eyes open. Sandiso comes closer to me, he touches my shoulder and nods. This is another one who's strange. What does nodding mean, does it mean all is well now? He murmurs the words sleep. Just like that it's lights out.

There she is my guardian angel, looking pretty and very happy. She's staring down at the babys cot. The baby is giggling, she turns her head towards me. Her lips stretch widely exposing most of her teeth. She has that dimple just below her left eye. The baby starts crying, she picks her up and rocks her while singing this soothing lullaby. Her melodies are soothing I find myself dozing off. I feel a figure hovering over me, my eyes are too heavy. I'm failing to open them. I feel a very gentle touch on my face, the forehead kiss followed by the gentle rub on my tummy . I feel the figure moving away from me. A greater force of deep sleep consumes me. I must've fallen fast asleep. I wake up thirsty and pressed. I clear my throat and he jumps from his seat. Shame poor Sandiso, is the only one left.

SANDISO : " let me get you water Nkosazana"

OKUHLE : " please help me, i need the bathroom"

There's panic in my voice thinking of the last accident I had. I cant afford going through that embarrassing moment with Sandiso, with Nka it wasn't bad. He didn't even mind cleaning after me. He rushes quickly and help me into the bathroom, he quickly rushes out. Such a gentle soul. I find him ready with a glass of water when i return. I gulp down the first glass and he refills it immediately.

SANDISO : " What would you like to eat"

OKUHLE : " I want eggs, avo, cheese, tomato sandwhich, fried chips, green salad and orange juice"

SANDISO : " wow, the Doctor discharged you already but I didn't have the heart to wake you. I suggest we get going so we can feed you girls"

OKUHLE : " Girls?"

SANDISO : " will you be able to walk on your own or should I organise a wheelchair till the parking lot"

OKUHLE : " I'll manage to walk"

SANDISO : " are you sure, don't want to have you girls sweating"

OKUHLE : " girls?"

SANDISO : ", right after you Nkosazana"

He blatantly ignores me regarding the girls question. We drive quietly to the nearest mall. I suppose to get my food. It's only now that I realise I'm actually craving something meaty and messy. Spur ribs to be exact, the man drives to my designated restaurant. By the time we done I'm a happy woman with four takeaway bags. I've started indulging on my buffalo wings and cream spinach. He keeps stealing glances at me and shaking his head. Whatever he's thinking right now has absolutely nothing to do with me but my cravings . I don't know where all this appetite is suddenly coming from but I intend on attending to each and every craving.

It's dark by the time we pull into the driveway. Nka's car is nowhere in sight, the house is dark. clearly there's no one in there. Suddenly it hits me now, my man is devastated wherever he is. He needs me more than ever. The ribs don't taste as nice as they did few minutes ago. Before remembering the love of my life. Im sad, I dont even know where my phone is. What kind of a lover am I? My mood becomes sombre, the bloody hormones. Gosh, the tears comes flooding down uninvited. It hurts so bad, I can't help it. Sandiso instantly panicks. he's unsure whether to comfort me or not, maybe he's struggling on how to comfort me . I honestly understand where he is coming from. I wouldn't be comfortable, comforting my sisters boyfriend. Its just out of respect. I've put this guy in a very awkward position it's even funny. I might seem as a mad woman because now im laughing with my tears running freely down my face.

SANDISO : " please dont panic. He's safe with Mpilo. He just needs a bit of time to process everything. As long as we know he's safe, we shouldn't worry"

OKUHLE : " You always know what to say. What kind of a lover am I? I couldnt be there for him when he needed me most. He still needs me"

SANDISO : "I know Nka, he will certainly pull through this. He is the strongest man i know"

OKUHLE : " How sure are you?"

SANDISO : " as sure as I am about your babys sex. Lets go inside before you catch a cold. I wouldn't forgive myself and Nka will definitely rearrange my face"

OKUHLE : " after you Sir"

SANDISO : " ladies first"

OKUHLE : " not when the house is dark and empty"

He shakes his head and ask for keys. Luckily I know where the spare keys are kept. He invites me after inspecting and making sure there are no robbers, he calls me in. I have been freezing my ass off outside. He begs me to eat in front of the warm heater. I'm laughing throughout our conversation. The childhood memories are even better recited by him. His facial expression when he imitates their elders is everything. I ate almost all my takeaways. All I need is a bath, he runs me my bubble bath. He is clueless, reminds me of Nka when we first got together. I had to tell him what to add. He gives me my private space and promise to check up on me before going to bed. He's sleeping in the bedroom downstairs. His number is on speed dial, he claims we should be well prepared incase of emergency. He put my mind at ease the moment he confessed into being a very light sleeper.

I soak myself in the bath for the longest time. Wondering if Nka is okay and what he might be going through. I know Sandiso assured me of his wellbeing. Maybe I shouldn't stress and trust Sandiso on this one. He knows them better than me besides the man has special powers to forsee things. I make a decision right there to stop stressing and give the man time to deal with this in his own terms . Mpilo will know exactly how to handle him, whenever he is ready then I'll be waiting with warm loving arms. Secrets, they always have a way of coming out. This could've been avoided had they told Nka from the beginning. When was the right time to tell him though? I sort of get where his parents were coming from, as selfish as their act was. The water is cold and Nka was going to have a fit. There's a knock at the door, that's probably Sandiso keeping his promise of checking up on me before he sleeps.

I quickly dry myself with a towel and grab the nearest robe my hands lands on. Damn his scent feels up my nostrils. Now I really miss him, this is the closest I can get to him at this particular moment. The knock is persistent and a little louder now. Let me put this man off his misery before he breaks this door down.

SANDISO : " finally, I was getting ready to break down this door"

OKUHLE : " very funny, I took an hour"

SANDISO: " Definitely that was not an hour, it was almost two hours"

I'm ready to defend myself when he takes out his phone and dials Mpilo's number. He answers on the 4th ring. I can hear Nka singing in the background, he sounds very drunk and so does Mpilo. They are having a full on conversation, the phone is on loud speaker. They are at Mpilo's house getting fucked up drunk. Mpilo assures Sandiso all is well, they are just drinking their

sorrows away. I dont think he is aware that I'm hearing everything because he keeps on asking Sandiso to make sure that im okay. Nka comes on the phone, he's busy telling g Sandiso how fucked up his life is. How he hates his parents.

He tells him to look after me, he loves me and our baby. He sings the last part, it's so sweet. Im shedding tears again. This time Sandiso pats my back, I guess that's all the comfort I'm getting from him. Now I'm relieved he is in good hands, apparently Mpilo's wife doesn't take any nonsense. So they won't even go out anymore. So long as they drink indoors, I'm cool.

Sandiso made sure my phone is fully charged before going to bed. Nxumalo men aren't so bad after all. It was the pregnancy talking, definitely not me. Tonight I get the chance to bond with my baby. My baby girl, I tell her all about mommy's stress and daddys heartache. I cant wait to meet her. I feel she will bring about so much peace and unity into this family. I know Nka will come alright , he will soon forgive his parents. I wonder how Mrs Nxumalo is feeling about all this. This must've awakened so many wounds. Accepting an illegitimate child and raising them as your own, This life.

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Insert 100

Last night ended up with me calling and talking to a drunk Nka. He sounded so broken, the temptation to drive there was beyond my control. If it wasnt for my bodygurad downstairs. He caught me right handed sneaking like a naughty teenager. I was mad at first but im grateful, driving under the condition I was in would've resulted in me causing an accident. That's what led to an hour phonecall with my drunkard of a man. I swear he passed out during our phone call. He is forgiven, just this once. I dont take kindly to people passing out or hanging up on me during phone calls. I struggled sleeping afterwards. Too many thoughts were roaming my mind. Mostly of Nka's upbringing, the Nxumalo's marriage, the mistress, the secrets. The trips to the toilet weren't giving me peace either. I'm ready to give birth, this is pure torture. The discomfort in something as pleasurable as sleep. I honestly wish my man was next to me right now. The crazy thought of sneaking cross my mind again , what's the point I'll be caught before making it to the door. Only one thing makes sense to me at this moment. Prayer, I find myself kneeling and giving it all to God.

The sun rays penetrates the room making it difficult for me to sleep. MaKhumalo would've long woken me up by now. She doesn't even know half the things I'm facing, let alone going through.

I should've went home a month ago, imagine all the drama one could've dodged. Chores are better than facing the Nxumalo's secrets and their drama. I'm home sick this morning. The fact that Nka is absent makes it even worse. Dragging myself to the bathroom is the hardest task these days. Everything has become a mission as of late. There's also stairs to tackle after this task. This is another motivation to stay in bed and starve to death. I'm still contemplating making my way to the kitchen when a knock disturbs my thoughts. He is standing right there looking all kinds of concerned. His facial expression is enough to drive me into depression.

OKUHLE : " Sandiso what's wrong you are worrying me"

SANDISO : " You are starving my niece. I have to physically fetch you. I made breakfast, come eat"

OKUHLE : " that's so kind of you, I wont say no to that"

He half runs all the way and I'm still on my second staircase . Nxumalo men and fitness. I rest after every seventh step just to catch my breath. Finally, I'm starving. He made oats, fruit salad and toasted cheese and ham sandwich with orange juice. Its either he got heads up from Nka or he's very attentive. I indulge my food, without any conversation whatsoever. Sandiso is quite strange or rather interesting. The fact that he forgets about his surrounding and concentrate entirely on his food. I tried making conversations in between but failed dismally. He place the dishes in the dishwasher, only then does he engage in a conversation. He's a different breed altogether this one.

SANDISO : " you look better than yesterday , did you get enough rest after being caught trying to sneak out"

OKUHLE : " I had to see him, talking over the phone wasn't enough. When last did you speak to them?"

SANDISO : " tried calling them but both their phones rings without any answer but don't worry. Mpilo's wife checked on them. They are fast asleep"

OKUHLE : " please drive me there Sandiso, I'll have to be the first person he sees when he wakes up"

SANDISO : " let's go before you start your sneaky ways."

OKUHLE : " I need my bag. Goodness not the stairs again"

SANDISO : " , let me quickly get it for you"

He is back in the blink of an eye. I would've taken an hour altogether, that's just how slow and big I've become these days. I reach the door first. I honestly can't wait to see Nka. Surprisingly Mr Active is not behind me. My patience is running out. I can't afford such delays. What's the point of me waiting alone in the car. I find him leaning against the kitchen table. He's struggling to breathe, what the fuck. I rush to his side, the panic is real. I'm completely useless and tears are threatening my eyes. He seems to be calming down judging by his breathing pattern. He looks at me and smiles. Pain is written all over his face yet he's acting all strong.

OKUHLE : " what's wrong Sandiso, you don't seem okay"

SANDISO : "please get me water, I'll be fine just now"

OKUHLE : " are you sure, shouldn't I call the ambulance or drive you to the nearest hospital"

SANDISO : " a glass of water please Nkosazana"

Getting that water and keeping an eye on him, should be added on 1000 ways to die. The way my neck is pulling that 360 degree is not even funny. I couldn't afford having him passing out on me. He seems a bit better after gulping down his glass of water.

We sit for a while, probably to be certain he is hundred percent okay before driving out. After half an hour we leave to Mpilo's place. I'm very disturbed with what I've witnessed earlier on today. Will I be wrong for asking? I'm failing to ignore what I saw earlier. My heart is not at peace, he takes a different direction, maybe it's a short cut to Mpilo's house.

OKUHLE : " Sandiso forgive me if I'm prying but earlier today. I found you struggling to breathe, what was wrong? Aren't you worried it may happen when there's no one around, how often does it happen?"

SANDISO: " it doesn't happen more often, as a matter of fact. It's the second time this is happening. This time around it got intense than the last time "

OKUHLE : " why? What's the reason behind these attacks?"

He blatantly ignores me and tops it off with laughter. Sandiso will ignore your question indefinitely without even changing the subject. It's very rude of him but who am I to judge. It's only when the car stops that I realize we are parked outside the hospital. I look at him puzzled,

then panick takes over. Could it be Nka, maybe he got alcohol poisoning since last night he drank himself to sleep. Maybe his livers failed, my eyes are glistening with tears. I'm too weak for whatever is awaiting us in there. He calms me down and tells me the reason we are here is because of his attack earlier on. I cry even more, this whole time he was in pain but managed to hide it so well.

OKUHLE : " have you informed the family?"

SANDISO : " Yes they'll arrive any minute from now. Are you calm now?"

OKUHLE : " yes a bit, you don't seem too bad"

SANDISO: " it's nothing they'll probably give me pain killers and send me back home. Im more worried about you though? Are you sure you are calm? No cramps or pains as yet?"

OKUHLE : " none whatsoever, I'm just thirsty. Let's grab something by the tuck shop"

This one is a good actor. I don't understand whats the reason behind this delay. He probably wants everyone to get here before consulting the doctor. Whatever I'm thirsty and all I need is that orange juice. I feel weird though, my legs are getting stiffer the more I move. Am I really sweating so much. It could be the heat, it's really sunny today. Sandiso is beside me looking all kinds of concern. Why is he walking so close to me, it's as if he's ready to catch me if I fall. Maybe I'll faint, who knows? I start fanning my face. Just one look from his face then it all makes sense why He drove here in the first place. How did he know? The lady looking at my direction is still screaming. Did I accidentally pee on myself in public, is that even pee. I look down and panic overwhelms me. My water just broke, I scream in shock. There are no contractions as yet but this is scary, so much water.

OKUHLE : " call Nka, I need Nka please Sandiso!"

Insert 101

Everything after that is a bit of a blur. An elderly woman rushed to my side, the two porters were running towards my direction. I remember being lifted and wheeled into the ward. The nurse helping me take off all my clothes. It all happened in the speed of light. Sandiso was nowhere in sight the whole time. I wonder where he dissapered to. I'm wearing the hospitals gown , it's been half an hour after my water broke. The discomfort has started, feels like my lower back is

on fire. I can't even sit straight. Ouch! the Sharp pain hits me. Wow! I might be clueless about all this but the labour pains have officially invaded my body. I can't sit still, within few seconds I'm walking up and down the ward. It seems to be doing the trick. I pace up and down like a mad woman. The second contraction hits me unexpectedly, I remain in that position. My mind trying to digest all these foreign unkind feelings roaming my body. This baby better come before I lose my mind, my back is burning. I'm sweating and having a full dialogue with myself. One nurse comes in and orders me to sleep on the bed, apparently the Doctor is on his way to check the cervix dilation. She's begging me but all her pleas are falling on deaf ears. She definitely doesn't have any idea of what I'm going through right now. I mean how can I possibly lie on my burning back. She finally gives up and leaves the room but promise to be back with the doctor.

OKUHLE : " I'll be back with the Doctor in a few minutes"

I imitate her polished English accent. Whatever maarn! That Doctor will find me right here pacing up and down. The only time I'm prepared to lie on that bed is when I finally push the baby out. I pace up and down like a possessed woman, if these walls could talk. I only pause when the pain makes its debut entry into my body. Then I'm back to my routine as soon as it disappears. Where the hell is Nka! He was with me when this baby was conceived, now I'm suffering alone. I'm suddenly infuriated, even Sandiso pulled the disappearing act on me. I can't believe I'm all alone at this hour. I regret not going home to MaKhumalo, she might punish me with chores but she would've been by my side during this hour. I'm sad but my mind refuses to dwell on the emotional pain, the physical pain is great. It overrides all the pains I'm feeling right now.

There's commotion outside my ward. I hear his voice and all the sadness vanishes. All eight of them fill my ward. Mr and Mrs Nxumalo, Nka, Mpilo, Sandiso, the Doctor and two nurses. Sandiso is always the voice of reasoning among this family. The peace maker role suits him very well. Nka didn't want his parents in the ward but as always Sandiso calmed him down. He's still going on and Mpilo is supporting him all the way. Okay I get it still too soon. But these people are wrapped up in their own feelings. I'm really pressed and in need of the bathroom. The nurses and the doctors are caught in this ongoing argument. It was better when I was here alone pacing up and down, than this unnecessary arguments. I swear the more they argue the worse the cramps get.

OKUHLE : " shut up! Please I want everyone out of here right now!"

Silence fill the room, everyone's eyes are on me. Mr Nxumalo is a bit shocked by my outburst and so is everyone else. I give zero fucks at this current moment. I want them out and I need the rest room urgently. I try moving but my screams fill the whole room. There's commotion all over again. My plea to use the ladies falls on deaf ears. The doctor ask the two nurses to help me climb the bed. How will climbing the bed help me from this situation I'm in right now. I hear one nurse saying there's no pee but its time to deliver the baby. Mr Nxumalo, Sandiso and Mpilo leave the room immediately. Nka looks so scared, its like he is ready to pull a Caster Semenya on me. He better not even entertain that thought if he knows what's good for him. Mrs Nxumalo feels sorry for me, its written all over her face. She quickly pulls herself together.

Within few seconds I'm on top of the bed with my legs wide open. This right here is no childs play, why did I even have sex in the first place. I doubt there's blood circulation in Nka's left hand. It suffers with every push I make. Mrs Nxumalo is wiping my forehead while motivating me to push. I can't anymore but the motivation I'm getting, is enough for me to keep pushing over and over again. The breathing exercises and pushing is my main routine. Just one final push and the bouncing baby girl is safely delivered. The Doctor and both nurses are in full panic. The baby hasn't made a sound. No this can't be happening. The doctor finally laughs and announce this lazy baby is sleeping. How is that even possible, one nurse pinch her because we aren't convinced of the doctors story. With just a light pinch, the screams fills the room. She's quite a feisty one, that scream pierce my heart. I just want to hold her.

She's quite big weighing 3,8KG. Just one look at her and I'm deeply inlove. It seems like time has stopped and everything and everyone dissapeared. Im in the world of my own. A world of perfection, I've never laid my eyes on anything or anyone as precious and beautiful like her. She's a true definition of perfection. She resembles her, the lips and nose. Now I remember who our Gogo resembles. She looks like my guardian angel, Nka and little Lisakhanya. I can't wait to see her eyes. Nka wipes the tears away from my face. This moment has been nothing but blissful. He embrace both of us, I cry even more. Our little creation has finally arrived . He's looking at me with total adoration in his eyes. I hand him the baby and its my turn to wipe the tears off his face. Mrs Nxumalo is very emotional sitting right next to me. I take her hand and give it a tight squeeze. Im lost for words, she's been right beside me throughout this whole pregnancy. The dancing class, the spa trips and the shopping supprises. There's so much I want to say to her but I guess this is not the right time.

Her attention is solely on the baby and Nka. The most unexpected thing happens. Nka hands the baby over to Mrs Nxumalo. She's unsure at first but his nod is the confirmation she needs. she's also in tears what's with this baby and tears. We haven't discussed the name of the baby as yet. Mrs Nxumalo accompanies the nurse that will be bathing Khanya. Nka remains behind and

makes a run for it before I get my stitches. I'm exhausted but the excitement prevents me from sleeping . Mrs Nxumalo is back and the baby is in her arms the whole time. Soon the rest of the family are back, this ward is suddenly small. I remind Nka to inform the Khumalo's, my brother and Jase.

Its lovely seeing everyone in the same room laughing and joking. They are going about how identical this child is to Nka. This is what I've been praying for peace and unity. Lisakhanya has finally shone her light of hope amongst the Nxumalo family. Just a few minutes ago they were at each other's throats, now they are sharing jokes and passing Lisakhanya around. My poor baby, I can't wait to see Makhumalo's face when she meets her granddaughter. Maybe after a month I must visit home for a month or so. Jase already bought few items of clothing, he was waiting for the baby's sex to be revealed before going all out. I can barely keep my eyes open, delivering a baby is no child's play. Labour ward can miss me, I'll only come back after 5 or 6years. Im sure Nka will agree with me especially after he saw all the struggles i went through into delivering our first blessing. I hear them speaking from afar, a familiar touch caresses my face and just like that I fall into deep sleep.

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one year later baby Lisakhanya Alwande Nxumalo is bubbly, chubby and very energetic. Nka has completely healed and forgiven his parents. A ceremony was done to appease the Sibiyi's family. We visit gogo Sibiyi at her bakery every other second weekend. She also pops by at our place every now and then. It wasn't a smooth journey but there's peace love and harmony among the two families now. I've been a stay home mom for the past year and now I'm ready to start my business. The wedding plans have been put on hold until my company is up and running . We've also welcomed my brothers daughter six months ago. Today I'm preparing for my drink date with Jase. I'm grateful for maMokoena, she always avail herself for my last minute plans. Honestly I'm not very social these days. I'm very much comfortable with being cooked up in the house making sure everyone is well taken off. I've gained so much weight half my wardrobe doesn't fit me anymore.

Let's just say Jase didn't take no for an answer he even threatened to come drag me out of the house. That's the reason why I'm frustrated right now, half of the clothes are lying on this bed and I still can't find the right outfit to wear . If its not too tight then it doesn't fit at all. The struggle is real.

MaMokoena and Khanya make their way into my bedroom. MaMokoena is looking at me with

disbelief and I stare back hopelessly. The temptation to take my phone and cancel all plans is invading my mind with every passing second. Only the thought of being dragged stops me from canceling the date.

MAMOKOENA: " No girlie, you need to get dress and get fresh air"

OKUHLE : " The biggest challenge Ma is finding clothes that can actually fit me, at this moment"

MAMOKOENA : " Children of today, so many clothes yet you still complain. I will find something to wear for you now. You are getting out of this house today"

"mama" that's Khanya kissing my cheeks. With her bushy eyebrows and long lashes. She's so carefree, now she's helping MaMokoena in finding me an outfit. My phone beeps, Jase reminding me of our date. The last message reads "remember I'm ready to come drag you from that mini mansion of yours " with laughing emojis. Guess the only choice I have is finding atleast one outfit that still fits. After trying several dresses I settle for my jeggings sneakers and loose top. This should do, a curly weave to finish my look. My hair is a complete mess, half an hour before our date I pull up at the designated restaurant. I order a glass of wine and just watch people around me. My eyes lands on the young couple sitting at the far right of my corner. They are so affectionate kissing, giggling and their eyes are glued together . Reality hits me as much as I want to ignore this sensitive subject, things haven't been rosey between me and Nka. The emotions are getting the better of me. I gulp down the contents of my glass and order the whole bloody fucken bottle.

The moment the ice bucket lands on the table, I order the waiter to open the bottle. Right now I'm fantasizing drinking straight from the bottle but my surroundings and manners won't allow me. I pour the glass full, the waiter is staring at me with questioning eyes. I stare back, flash him half a smile and gulp down my glass.

OKUHLE : " why are these glass so small, don't you have a bigger wine glass"

WAITER : " Mam whatever you are going through it will pass. Are you by yourself?"

What is his problem? Didn't I ask for a bigger glass of wine? I stare back at him and the man looks genuinely concerned . Do they still make them like that or is it just an act. Wait till you give birth then, you get neglected. I flash him another smile just to be polite. He's invading my private

space and asking me personal questions that are nothing of his concern .

OKUHLE : " No I'm waiting for my friend, he will be here any moment from now"

He sighs heavily and nods. He stares at me for quite a while before walking away. Shame even strangers seems to care more than that man. You know what, fuck him. I pour another glass then sip it like a lady. I check the time its two minutes after our agreed lunch time. Jase shouldn't piss me off. For someone who's very punctual this is unacceptable. It's not his fault that I arrived an hour earlier though. I take my phone and check up on my girl. Our unclear conversation are injecting life to my soul. I feel better after talking to her. Jase just made his grand entrance , all eyes are on him. I dont blame them, the man looks like he just came from a photo shoot or a cover of some fancy magazine. The cologne I can smell it from here. The confidence is on hundred percent, the way he carries himself draws you in. He lowers his glasses and inspects me from all angles just before settling down.

JASE : " Bitch don't tell me you are expecting another one"

OKUHLE : " Hello to you too, don't even hold your breath. It's highly impossible to conceive at this rate we going in"

JASE : " doll, isn't still a bit early to worry about conceiving. I mean Lwalwa should atleast reach the age of four"

OKUHLE : " you are not hearing me doll, let me rephrase my sentence. I will not fall pregnant because sex is very scarce in my bedroom it is close to none-existent"

JASE : " good to know I'm not the only one suffering from drought, looks like the dry season is hitting most of us"

OKUHLE : " I don't know hey, something just doesn't add up. It's frustrating me, the more I get frustrated the more weight I gain."

JASE : " we are definitely doing something about that weight starting from tomorrow"

OKUHLE : " I cant doll, Khanya demands all my attention and I dont want to leave her sight"

JASE : " Lwalwa has a granny, a nanny and aunts. There's no excuse besides leaving her for two hours max won't do her any harm"

OKUHLE : " you just don't understand Jase"

JASE : " I understand perfectly just because your man isn't giving you any attention or affection doesn't mean you should let go of yourself"

That line just hit a nerve, I'm emotional all over again. Jase doesn't understand, I'm too ashamed to even share all the details. The fact that my mind has concluded that my man is having an affair and his actions are proving it, kill me. That part kills me almost everyday. The fact that I'm trying to cope with this situation and hiding everything from my inlaws, kills me also. Pretending that all is well during family lunches and diners, is taking alot from me. All these emotions are getting the better of me. Maybe I've been strong for too long and its only now that im allowing myself to feel all the depths of my pain. Jase has moved his chair next to mine, the minute he hugs me. I let it all out with no care that we are in a public place. They are probably staring at us but who gives a damn. Right now I need a shoulder to cry on, someone to just lend me an ear. I regret all the times I've delayed this hook up, the excuses I cooked up while wallowing around the house and allowing misery to consume me. I could've offloaded bit by bit, shared all my suspicions and received advice instead drowning in self pity.

JASE : " babe let's get out of here, find a chilled spot where we can talk. I hate seeing you like this"

He settle the bill, my bill. I'd be damned to leave the rest of my wine here. I grab it while he takes my bag. The waiter that served me earlier waves me goodbye. I just nod my head, it's difficult even lifting my hands. Everything feels heavy, yet i still find enough strenght to lift the bottle and drink straight from it. I hear Jase saying " wow" behind me.

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We found a very quite spot next to the parking lot. Jase allowed me to be as emotional and vulnerable as I can be. I cried my eye balls out while reciting the whole story. This all led us ordering from a drive through and eating at the park. He drove me back home as late as I arrived my fiancé wasn't home. What's new, this started as soon as Khanya turned 9 months. Three months down the line it got worse. He only on his best behavior that week of her first birthday, clearly because our families were here after the birthday celebration the man was up to his old tricks again. I can't remeber when was the last time we had dinner as family. I'm so over the office meetings delay excuse, it's not even funny. I'm a bit tipsy and relieved Khanya is fast asleep. What's the point really of sleeping in that big ass cold bedroom . Maybe I should move

out from that bedroom permanently. I laugh at this and jump in the shower. The cold water resembles my heart. I stay there for so long trying to figure out the next step from here. The minute I step out of that shower, there he is stripping off his clothes. Those muscular arms I long to be in, he gives me one look and carry on doing his business.

OKUHLE : " you are back"

NKANYISO : " mmmmmh"

OKUHLE : " where are you coming from this late"

NKANYISO : " here we go again, a person can't find peace in his own house"

OKUHLE : " wow, in your own house. What exactly are you trying to say Nka"

NKANYISO : " I've had such a rough day, the last thing I need is coming home to a nagging wife"

OKUHLE : " listen here Nkanyiso Nxumalo and listen to me real good. If I'm no longer attractive to you or you've fallen out of love just be man enough to say it to my face. We really don't have to live like this. Since I'm a nagging wife when last did you do your duties as a husband Nka!

NKANYISO : " I seriously dont have time for this"

OKUHLE : " Don't fucken walk away from me"

He bangs the door behind him. I'm shattered all over again, this happens all the time when I confront him. I stop myself from dialing Jase, the man needs a break. After listening to my sappy story and giving me a shoulder to cry on. I rush downstairs straight to his wine cellar. The whole point was to find a wine bottle to drink but one smash of that wine bottle down leads to the next and the next. The aroma of these different wines is intoxicating enough, it's a whole fiesta of different bottle pieces. He is staring at me in total rage and disgust, that doesnt even scare me at all. I've lost my mind and he is the one to be blamed. I move as carefully as I can and walk pass him with no care at all. I bang the door behind me and start laughing , I'm insane. I've completely lost my mind but the satisfaction I got from smashing those bottles is beyond me. I'm sweating after that whole exercise but relieved as fuck. Kudos to my new venting way. I hit the shower again, the water is soothing to my body and soul. I'm still absorbed in this great feeling when the shower door roughly opens. He's fuming and I'm not even bothered. He can replace that whole cellar collection without denting his bank account. What about the scars within me.

Our eyes meet, he moves closer to me. My heart skips a bit, this man has become a stranger

and right now I can't predict his next move. Tall and confidently I stand. I won't be intimidated by him. He's breathing heavily, something about him turns me on right now. My private parts are failing me right now, I'm getting weaker with each and every breath I take. I try to move but he grabs me roughly and pins me against the wall. The water is still running.

OKUHLE : " Nka, let me go"

He fans my face with his breath and licks both my lips. This man has turned this around, seconds ago I was in charge . Now I'm weak, Lord have mercy.

NKANYISO : " do you LET-O, do you really want me to let you go"

He whispers the last sentence in my ear. While planting soft kisses on my neck. He cups my right boob and start sucking on my left boob. I'm falling apart and enjoying this moment so much.

He stops and lift my chin with his index finger. I stare at him with my eyes full of lust.

NKANYISO : " I asked you a question Maka-Lisakhanya, do you want me to let you go?"

I resort to nodding, my ability to speak has vanished. Why am I tortured, this man is on a mission to make me beg of what's rightfully mine. He lifts me all the way up and spreads my legs. My legs are hanging over his shoulders. He kiss my nuna first and I'm already dripping he separates my folds with his tongue and starts licking. I haven't had action in a long while. My breathing pattern change, I'm panting and moaning. He use his tongue and dive in. The pleasure is so good, I squeeze my thighs and he bites on my nuna playfully. I spread my thighs wide and allow him all the access he needs. He eats me up like his life depends on it. I'm using the shower head for balance, this feels like the good old times. My whole body vibrates as I release all my juices onto his face. Gosh he licks me clean and start licking all over again. It's only when I start moaning that he lowers me from that position. He pins me against the shower glass door and slams into me hard. One hand is cupping both my breast while his other hand is rubbing on my clits, his mouth is sucking on my neck. He do it circular motions, up and down, he goes in deep, hitting all the right spots. I'm a moaning and screaming mess. The man has no mercy on my coochie. I fall apart once again and he is still going. Goodness his stamina is on steroids.

After regaining my strength he picks me up bridal style and gently puts me on the bed. He rushes back to the shower, He must've turned off the shower water. I turn and sleep comfortably on my tummy.

He makes his way to the bed, walking slowly and sensually rubbing on his erect manhood. I definitely can't handle anymore of this. He pulls my legs all the way to the edge of the bed and turns me around. My pussy is already throbbing from the shower session we just had but this man is still on a mission to finish me off. My legs are all the way up, he first rubs his member against my Vee-jay jay. He teasingly rubs on it countless times, I'm dripping wet when he finally slides in. Long deep strokes with eye contact, guess he's on that slow love making tip. Our room is filled with sweet moans from both of us. Luckily this room is sound proof, wouldn't want MaMokoena hearing all the nasty deeds. He turns me around and hit it from the back. Im tired as hell but the pleasure is way too much, he finally release all his load inside me . I sleep peacefully on my man's loving arms. Guess we will talk properly tomorrow morning.

The following morning I wake up in good spirits . Your girl got served real good last night. He is not in bed. Khanya comes to me all smiles, she brightens my morning even further. I play hide and seek with her. She enjoys that game so much. I run the bubble bath and we take the bath together. I enjoy taking the bath with my baby girl. We head downstairs something smells divine. Oh no, He didn't. I'm all smiles but the smile is quickly washed away when I realise it's MaMokoena preparing our breakfast. After greeting MaMokoena I peep through the garage sliding door, his car is not parked in. The man is Missing in action after our sweet love making. Hr leaves me yet again questioning his love and loyalty.

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Saturday where could he be rushing off to so early. I don't want to lie it hurts like hell. Today I wont be cramped up in the house and be miserable after our talk with Jase last night. I release MaMokoena from her duties and give her a whole week off. After breakfast I pack up Khanya's bag and drive to the mall. On my way there I invite Jase to join us. My first stop is at the gym, I fix my gym membership. I receive my meal plans and our next stop is gym gear shopping. We reach the mall and I immediately start with our shopping. I get an extra size of a bit of everything. I got the black card at my disposal and there's no limit. Retail therapy all the way. I shop till my feet hurts. I add all my veggies and everything I will need for my new eating plan. I receive a call from Jase saying he's waiting at our favorite restaurant.

Moghey has already ordered drinks, Khanya jumps on his lap that's how fond of him she is. We order our lunch and indulge while catching up on my latest shenanigans. He also updates me on the guy who's been asking him out for the past six months. They are finally having their date tonight. Shame Mkhulu bae really did a number on my friend. He has trust issues and it's totally understandable. We hang around for four hours straight eating, ordering drinks. Khanya has fallen asleep comfortably in her stroller. I settle the bill before we go our separate ways. Coming home to an empty house has become a norm these days. Khanya is still sleeping, I put tuck her in bed and pack all my clothes in the wardrobe. I go downstairs to prepare supper. My healthy eating plan doesn't allow alcohol so I might as well get accustomed to this new setup. I prepare an outfit for tomorrow's lunch with the Nxumalo's. The rest of the day is spent with me preparing and bonding with my baby.

I slept with my baby in her nursery, it's Sunday morning. I'm busy preparing Khanya's food when he suddenly appears in the kitchen looking all kinds of tired. He plays with Khanya, she's giggling all the way. I watch them playing so nicely, it suddenly dawns on me that my little family is falling apart and there's absolutely nothing I can do about it. He makes small talks while I'm preparing his breakfast, we've grown apart. So disconnected the conversation even sounds rehearsed if not forced. I wonder what time he got home or even if he came back home at all. It hurts but I remember what's more important now. Me and my daughter. We retire to the guest bedroom to prepare, I can't stand being around him. His presence disgusts me. We are done after two hours, that's just how enjoyable our bath time is.

He's waiting for us, we drive to the Nxumalo's residence listening to music. Our little person is fast asleep at the backseat. The formal greeting takes forever all the attention is focused on Khanya. Nka is having a private conversation with his dad. I take this opportunity to ask Mrs Nxumalo to babysit for two hours for the next coming week while I hit the gym. She's so excited, she even suggests Khanya should spend the whole week with her. I'm really not in good space and having my daughter around keeps me on track so I politely decline her offer.

We are having lunch indoors, it's quite chilly outside. Winter is slowly but surely creeping in.

We settle in the table to eat and just like the past couple of Sundays. I pull the most precious smile and pretend all is well in the name of love. Mrs Nxumalo has her eyes fixed on me, almost as if she's searching my soul throughout lunch. Nka is at his happiest smiling from ear to ear, every now and then he peeps through his phone. I think Mrs Nxumalo has noticed my body language towards her son. Dessert is served and I'm indulging for the very last time. Tomorrow I cut down on starch all together, dessert, ice cream and all the sugary stuff. Good thing I stopped breastfeeding a couple of weeks ago. I enjoyed every minute of it though. After lunch Nka rushes us to get home, I know this stunt too well. He will drop us off and leave afterwards. We leave immediately after dessert was served, he hardly said any word on our way home. He helps

carry Khanya who's fast asleep, while I carry our bags in. He comes back running down the stairs, no goodbyes. He runs past me and I hear his engine roaring outside. Wow, I get my tub of ice cream. Settle next to my baby and eat my loneliness away.

I chat with Jase and Langelihle. During winter holidays I'm visiting the Khumalo's. Im certain MaKhumalo will be so happy having us home, the funny part she's usually the one calling demanding to speak to her Lwalwa. Something she never did with me before, funny how my family and Jase prefer that name over Khanya. I indulge in this ice cream and when I'm satisfied I put it back on the fridge. I lock up the house. If I don't take our safety seriously, no one will. I change Khanya's nappy before taking the bath. This is the only time I allow myself to feel, the only time I cry till I'm satisfied. When did we get here? All was well a few months ago. He use to rush home to us, even skip work sometimes just so we can spend the whole day together. How did things take a wrong turn so quickly. After my shower session. I sit down and draft my business plan. I've saved up so much money on my account, there's a healthy balance with a couple of zeros . A crazy thought cross my mind, maybe I could start afresh somewhere. Relocate even to a different province. Have a fresh start without Nka. I laugh at this crazy thought.

I cuddle my daughter, her sweet scent and soft snores. I have to do better, I need to be better. There's someone who needs me and looks up to me. This life really has no manual, I've heard of woman complaining of their partners after giving birth. But never in a million years did I think I'll also be a statistic. My main focus is working on my wellbeing. Maybe even move out, I mean the guy mentioned He can't even have peace in his own house. So why not give him permanent peace that his heart is yearning for. That's just a great idea. I'll take my time looking for a house, moving back into a flat with a baby is not an option. Maybe find a rent to buy, with a low monthly installments . I'll definitely bounce back from this. I browse through property 24 and there's some interesting options. I'm certain in two weeks I'd find the perfect place just for me and my little one. The thought is sad but exciting. I might as well move out. I'm forever alone anyway. I'm drifting to sleep when I hear his car pulling up the driveway. Well he is back early tonight. I usually fall asleep and only see him in the morning. He sounds a bit drunk singing one of those annoying sing along club tunes. He goes straight to our bedroom, finally he has stopped singing that annoying song. I hear footstep coming towards our direction. He opens the door and whispers my name, couple of times. I keep quite, he comes closer and plants kisses on little Khanya's face. I shut my eyes, pretending to be fast asleep. He kiss my forehead and whispers I love you. I can feel his gaze on me. He sits for the longest period. Finally he leaves the room. Sleep can you recognize me.

My Mondays usually start off with me dragging myself out of bed so I can prepare, my man's lunch box. Old habits are so hard to break, referring to someone's son as my man. This day is unlike any other Monday, the excitement didn't allow me to rest any further. It's 5:30 am, I'm done showering and preparing my fiancé's lunchbox. Funny thing is every muscle will be aching tomorrow around this time. I don't even intend on him finding me in his kitchen. I rush to the nursery to pack Khanya's bag. Call me paranoid but I've packed her meds, favorite toy, fleece, nappies and milk to last the whole week. Kids are so unpredictable. One minute they are happy and playing, the next they have fever or runny tummy. So I'm well prepared for any emergency that may arise. The only challenge now is getting my gym bag from the main bedroom. Why didn't I think of this last night, aay now I must face this man. Another option is to wait till he's done and grab my things after he leaves for work. I'm pacing up and down the nursery like a mad woman. Fuck this! I'm going to that bedroom, he won't have to put up with me much longer anyway.

I'm debating with myself on whether I should knock or just budge in. I've become a stranger in what was supposed to be my home. A few months back this was more than a house, it was a warm loving home. I just budge in and this man is fast asleep. One part wants to ignore all this, grab my gym gear and leave him just like that. I didn't send him out partying on a Sunday, but another part feels sorry for him as much as I didn't send him to the club. My heart just refuses to leave him like that.

OKUHLE : " Nka! Nka! Nkanyiso Nxumalo!

NKANYISO : " mhhmm "

OKUHLE : " wake up, you are running late "

NKANYISO : " mhmm "

OKUHLE : " wake up! "

He still carries on with that "mhhmm". My plan was to shout as much as I can without shaking him. My attempts are failing dismally, seems like I must shake him. On second thoughts this could work on my advantage. A little revenge for all the stress and heartache he has put me through. I make my way to the kitchen, grab a jug and fill it with ice cold water. The bastard deserves this, the evil laugh follows. The lady in me refuses to carry out this evil plan but the bitter LET-O goes ahead. He jumps out of bed, shocked.

NKANYISO : " what the hell!"

OKUHLE : " you are running late"

NKANYISO : " but why"

OKUHLE : " but nothing, hurry up. Your lunch is already packed downstairs"

NKANYISO : " Maka-Khanya"

I grab my bag and leave him standing there reeking of alcohol and puzzled. I find my little one awake. I prepare, feed her, grab our bags and rush to the car. Dammit he parked me in. I have no choice but to wait for him. I find him fixing himself a cup of coffee, probably nursing his hangover . He seems suprised by the bags and everything. Khanya goes ballistic, she wants to play with her dad. He picks her up and they start playing.

NKANYISO : " where are you guys off to, so early"

OKUHLE : " I have a couple of things to sort out"

NKANYISO : " what things are sorting out ao early"

OKUHLE : " personal stuff"

NKANYISO : " what personal stuff requires you to be up so early"

OKUHLE : " it's too personal to share"

NKANYISO : " are we keeping secrets from each other now?"

OKUHLE : " you are the fine one to talk"

NKANYISO : " wow"

OKUHLE : " my sentiments exactly"

He's staring at me in a funny way. He won't ask any further questions that's one thing I'm certain of. His focus is back on Khanya, he's delaying me on purpose. The plan is to remain as cool as ice. His plan is to provoke me into exploding, he knows how much I hate waiting. His plan won't prosper, not today of all days. After fourty five minutes he hands me Khanya, grabs his keys and gives me a peck on my cheek. I'm right behind him. He drives out and so do I. He stops for a

while but I instantly takes off. I check the rear view mirror and he's not behind me. I play our cartoon sound track playlist. My little person starts singing and dancing in her carseat, that sight is enough motivation for me to get my life back on track. Really now! I don't believe this. Such a petty and pathetic move. Nka is tailing me, he's keeping a very safe following distance. But I know his car. This one doesn't know me, I'll teach him a lesson. My tank is full, lets just say by the time I'm done he will be extremely late at work.

I change the route and direction all together. I drive around the block in circles, we are at another suburb now. Curiosity must be killing him. By the time I'm done with him, he would've missed two meetings if not more. I drive to the nearest mall, lock my car and take Khanya with. I spot him parked very far from me. For someone who neglects me, he sure cares about my whereabouts and who I hook up with. I wonder how will he cope once I move out. Will he stalk my each and every move. I decide to spoil Mrs Nxumalo she's crazy about Woolworths Blue Berry muffins. I might as well grab some for her, they are freshly baked. All thanks to her stalker son. I browse around the store for a while. It's almost 8am, he should be preparing for his meetings right now.

I stall till half past eight. I don't see his car by the time I leave. Good for him. This should teach him not to tail people, more especially me. Mrs Nxumalo is watering her beautiful garden, the attention and dedication this garden is receiving makes me jealous. As usual she's dressed to the nines, such a gorgeous woman. It beats me how Mr Nxumalo cheated on her. She meets us halfway with her arms wide open. Khanya is jumping up and down with excitement. These two, they have a special relationship going. She probably gets spoiled rotten within these premises. All the attention goes to Khanya, this is my queue to leave.

MRS NXUMALO : " are you running late?"

OKUHLE : " Not really but I wanted to warm up before my class resumes"

MRS NXUMALO : " I thought we could grab a cup of tea and talk but its not a problem. I don't want to delay you. We will talk later"

OKUHLE : " much appreciated Ma, I packed everything she will and might need"

MRS NXUMALO : "No wonder you have such a big bag"

OKUHLE : " All her medication is packed inside"

MRS NXUMALO : " relax my love. Before I dedicated my life into being a permanent house wife. I was once a pharmacist"

OKUHLE : " wow, how come I'm hearing of this now"

MRS NXUMALO : " That was two decades ago, feels like another lifetime. But my knowledge of medicine is still intact"

OKUHLE : " I'm still suprised"

MRS NXUMALO : " let me not keep you, enjoy getting back in shape. Do you know what that means"

OKUHLE : " no"

MRS NXUMALO : " it means shopping spree loading soon"

OKUHLE : " Ma"

MRS NXUMALO : " what! You must spend Nka's money, if you don't. There's a floozie out there waiting to do it on your behalf. Let's not delay you from your fitness schedule"

OKUHLE : " bye Ma, see you just now"

I give Khanya a perk on her cheek and head to the gym. I cant seem to get over "we need to talk statement". I feel Nka will be the main topic of our discussion. I saw how she was monitoring our behavior towards each other yesterday during lunch. I was dreading this talk but maybe it will do me good, speaking to an elder. They are known to be wise with experience. Maybe she'll advice on what step to take next. It's certain situations that makes me wish I had a close relationship with my mother. Sometimes all a woman need is to confide in her mother . Receive guidance and advice from her, but where will I even start. MaKhumalo is all about her man. she probably discuss and seek approval from my dad first. It's rather too late now for us to have that mother and daughter relationship. I don't want to burden Langelihle too much with my problems. Jase is also a very good friend but this needs elderly advice. The vibe as I walk inside the gym. Maybe sweating my problems away is all I need right now.

Insert 106

I walk out of the gym feeling a brand new woman. Nothing beats the sauna and steam room after each session. Tomorrow I'll be singing a different tune. Driving back listening to when a woman's fedup, funny how I relate to the lyrics of this song. Same reasons why I opted for a contract with no strings attached, was avoiding such things. I'm parked outside. "the talk" , just great. The house is rather quite, it's Khanya's nap time. No wonder it's so peaceful. Mrs Nxumalo is watching the Fashion channel, or is it watching her. She hasn't acknowledged my

presence. I clear my throat and she snap back to reality. she pats the space next to her.

MRS NXUMALO : " What's going on in your household and don't you dare lie because I've been observing for a while now"

OKUHLE : " where do I even start?"

MRS NXUMALO : " it's that bad?"

OKUHLE : " to the point where I'm even planning on moving out"

MRS NXUMALO : " He's cheating, isn't he?"

OKUHLE : " all the signs are there, even ththrough there's no proof"

MRS NXUMALO : " Nxumalo men and woman"

OKUHLE : " It hurts really bad, Ma"

MRS NXUMALO : " cry my child but never allow him to see your tears. Never give him that satisfaction to see the impact his actions have on you"

OKUHLE : " he's always out until late Ma, even on weekends."

MRS NXUMALO : "what's stopping you from going out LET-O?"

I'm stunned, her question took me by surprise. As a matter of fact, what is really stopping me from going out? Jase had to threaten me in order for our date to take place. Why didn't I come to Mrs Nxumalo earlier? Honestly I have no answers.

MRS NXUMALO : " I asked a questiom and expect an answer"

OKUHLE : " Honestly, I don't know. Guess I was focusing on raising my baby"

MRS NXUMALO : " Don't get me wrong, that's an exceptional thing a mother should do. Raising their kids. when was the last time you went out with Nka as a couple?"

OKUHLE : " I don't know Ma"

MRS NXUMALO : " when was the last time you did your hair, nails and went out with your friends without Nka"

OKUHLE : " only last weekend"

MRS NXUMALO : " My child in life there's something called balance. Being a mom doesn't limit you to do the things that you enjoy doing"

OKUHLE : " my only focus was building and catering for my family"

MRS NXUMALO : " and what about you my baby, you can't pour from an empty cup"

OKUHLE : " I hear you Ma"

MRS NXUMALO : " I honestly wish someone would've told me this at the early stage of my marriage. I really got burnt hence I'm reminding you to take care of yourself first."

OKUHLE : " why does life have to be so complicated?"

MRS NXUMALO : " it's not complicated my love, life comes with the good and bad. Hence good times are celebrated "

OKUHLE : " you make it sound so easy Ma, Ive been crying myself to sleep the past three months. I don't understand the new sudden change. Where did I go wrong "

MRS NXUMALO : " Don't even blame yourself, if he can't explain himself to you. Then embrace the change and look good while you at it. I'm glad you went back to the gym. Focus on yourself and forget completely about Nka. "

OKUHLE : " easier said than done, how do I forget when we are living under the same roof. "

MRS NXUMALO : " It's not easy but doable, get busy. Bath look good go to the mall, Khanya has a granny that doesn't mind looking after her. Go out with friends. Don't even explain yourself, book yourself in a hotel or spa and switch off your phone while you at it."

OKUHLE : " I thought moving out will give me peace Ma "

MRS NXUMALO : " Moving out and giving the next woman power over your house. Never! Try my strategy, make him sweat a bit. After a month or so then you can move out. Right now serve him a taste of his own medicine"

OKUHLE : " I don't know Ma. Does he even find me attractive anymore?"

MRS NXUMALO : " Do you need his validation to feel attractive. Be sexy in your own terms. Spend his money, shop, pamper yourself, don't be too available. They all get comfortable and take you for granted if you are always available . Keep him on his toes and beat him on his own game "

OKUHLE : " remind me again why I didn't come to you earlier "

MRS NXUMALO : " Because you are a strong will woman who was trying to protect her family "

OKUHLE : " forgive me for what I'm about to ask, but how did you cope with the whole affair and

the baby "

MRS NXUMALO : " that's another story for another day. I will tell you all about it in good time. "

OKUHLE : " I'm sorry for asking "

MRS NXUMALO : " Don't sweat it, remember focus on yourself. I'm looking forward to spending more time with my grand daughter"

OKUHLE : " Thank you Ma for your advice, at first I thought you will pick sides. How wrong was I? please forgive me"

MRS NXUMALO : " You won't suffer the same fate as I did"

Our talk gets disturbed by Khanya's screams. I honestly can't get enough of our chat. Elderly advice was long overdue, instead of eating myself into depression. I would've been out and about popping champagnes . Did I mention she attended to Khanya and left me to absorb what we just spoke about. Wow, my mom would've probably advice me to cook, be submissive and never question my man. The same generation, different upbringing and different opinions. Were things always this rosey between my mom and dad? That's what I initially thought of the Nxumalo's before their secret got revealed. They looked like a perfect couple and family. Seems like every family has skeletons in their closet, look with the Mbatha's family.

Which makes me wonder how much secrets is my family harboring. I don't even remember seeing my parents arguing in our presence. I don't remember seeing my mom mad or moody towards my dad. These thoughts are racing through my mind. No family is perfect, why is ours so perfect. What if I'm not even a Khumalo or MaKhumalo is not my biological mom. I'm brought back to reality by little Khanya, shouting 'Mama'. We stick around for lunch and I'm being served salad and chicken breast. I would've loved something greasy, maybe ribs or hot wings. Clean eating, it is. The attention is now on Khanya and she's enjoying every minute of it. This child is dramatic, spending half a day with her Granny clearly wasn't enough for her. She's kicking and screaming but I manage to strap her in her seat.

MRS NXUMALO : " I've packed supper for you, don't cook tonight or prepare his lunchbox the next morning and every following morning."

OKUHLE : " But Ma, that's cruel. He will starve"

MRS NXUMALO : " It's not cruelty but life lessons. Such luxuries are deserved by husbands. Loyal, respectful and loving husbands. He wants to be a boyfriend or housemate. Treat him like

such"

OKUHLE : " I hear you Ma"

MRS NXUMALO : " Don't just hear me, practice what I'm teaching you"

OKUHLE : " Thank you for everything, see you tomorrow Ma"

MRS NXUMALO : " take care of yourself and my grandchild"

OKUHLE : " Bye Ma"

Another session of winnie the poor sound track. She forgets about the little tantrum and dance to the music. Things we are subjected to as parents, this music is terrible but my eardrums will have to bare the abuse. Nothing makes me more happier than seeing her happy. I drive back home with a different perspective on life. I'm craving more talks with the senior Mrs Nxumalo. She's quite something else. I'm extremely relieved and happy. She's absolutely right. I need to focus on myself and go out more often with Jase or the office squad. Goodness I'm such a bad friend, don't know when last I checked up on them. I hate to admit it, but I do miss work. I make a mental note to call Jase and plan our next date. I'm so exhausted from the workout earlier, under normal circumstances I would be rushing home just to prepare supper for my housemate. The pain accompanied by that statement. I ignore my pain and focus on Myself and daughter . He will be back in three or four hours. The surprise he will get in the kitchen, the shock tomorrow morning. I just love Mrs Nxumalo.

Insert 107

Last night I moved most my clothes, well all my clothes from the main to the guest room. In order for the housemate deal to work, we shouldn't be in each others space . My morning routine consist of me bathing, packing our bags, bathing the princess, feeding her, dropping her off and driving to the gym. At first it was difficult adapting to the new setup. I found myself preparing his lunchbox the very next day. MaKhumalo will definitely have a fit, especially where supper is involved. Let's just say, I still cook for four people. Sometimes he sneaks in our bedroom and stand there for the longest of time. Mrs Nxumalo suggested I drop Khanya off friday late and pick her up after our sunday lunch. Such a drastic step, we argued till we reached a mutual agreement. I'm so used to having Khanya with me everynight, so the conclusion was I'll send her saturday afternoon then fetch her sunday after lunch. I'm looking forward to my dinner date with Jase and his colleague.

It's Friday! After picking up the princess, I decide to do a little shopping, plus I need an outfit for tomorrow's late dinner. The pressure of going out with fashionistas means you also have to look the part. The mall is buzzing, weekend vibes loading. I finally find a perfect outfit. It's already dark by the time I drive back home. The princess is fast asleep at the backseat, I'm just as tired. Coming back to an empty house doesn't bother me anymore. Unlike few months back when I used to worry and cry myself to sleep. The house is a clear indication that there's no one. I've overcome the fear of darkness. I always make sure to lock before going upstairs. As soon as Khanya is tucked in, I play dress up and snap a few pictures. "Wait till this body gets back into shape" I utter those words to myself.

The following morning I'm up early getting domesticated around the house. I clean every room except the main bedroom. We don't clean after our roommates now, do we? After breakfast, we play, laze around. He hasn't come out of his room, curiosity gets the better of me but I quickly ignore it. I start preparing for my dinner date with Jase. I'm rushing downstairs when I bump into him. He looks terrible, parading in his boxers. He stops on his tracks, the expression on his face says it all. I look, smell and feel good. "Baba!" Khanya loses her mind around him. He takes her but his gaze is fixed on me. Goodness I'm going to run late at the rate these two are going. I get the feeling he's delaying me on purpose. Good thing I look great for that grand entrance. I remain as cool as ice, an hour later we leave a very curious Nkanyiso Nxumalo behind. I drop off Khanya with her granny.

I find Jase and the bubbly Wandie waiting for me.

The stares I receive confirm what my mirror reflected earlier. We have our late dinner over wine and very interesting topics. We decide to take the party to a club in town. Club or going back to that lonely house. We drop off my car at home first and catch a lift with Wandie. The choice is easy, club it is. We paint the town red, club hopping, drinking and having fun. Few months back, I was so over the clubbing scene but tonight was an exception. Even though I kept thinking of Khanya, I called them a few times until Mrs Nxumalo threatened to switch off her phone because they are sleeping. It's exactly past 3am when I'm being dropped off at home. Wandie's music is playing on maximum volume, we sing and dance before they drive off. I fiddle with the key, the laughter that follows because I can't seem to get it right. When was the last time I had so much fun, crazy harmless fun.

Finally I'm inside, the lights come on and I stop dead on my tracks. After struggling to locate the lights switch there he is, his death stare fixed on me.

My drunk self finds humour in all this. Who sits in the dark alone, in the early hours of the

morning. Definitely not me, I love my sleep way too much. Even if it means crying myself to sleep. I still sleep at the end of the day. I miss one step and land on the floor. The drunk me and humour. I laugh it all off. I take off the heels and walk up the stairs bare foot. The man is following me, breathing heavily. My housemate can be dramatic sometimes, breathing exercises comes in handy in such situations. I go straight to the nursery, switch on the light and start undressing. Im too lazy and tired to take a bath. He watches me taking off my clothes. I avoid eye contact at all costs but his gaze makes me uncomfortable. He clears his throat

NKANYISO : " MakaKhanya, where are you coming from"

I don't owe him any explanation, so I carry on undressing. I'm left with my lace thong. I hear him clearing his throat and swearing a couple of times. I use face wipes to wipe away my make-up.

NKANYISO : " LET-O, I asked you a question. Where are you coming from and where is my daughter"

OKUHLE : " Khanya is with her granny"

NKANYISO : " o - okay, so where are you coming from?"

I don't understand what he is still doing here. I've answered the most important question regarding our daughter. I stumble and land on the bed. This is the most funniest shit ever.

NKANYISO : " you won't answer me LET-O? You come home drunk early hours of the morning, making noise with your drunk friends. Is this how you carry yourself lately"

OKUHLE : " please switch off the lights and close the door on your way out"

NKANYISO : " LET-O, I'm still talking to you."

OKUHLE : " I want to sleep please leave"

NKANYISO : " so you wont answer me LET-O? I'm talking to you. I don't appreciated your sudden change of behavior."

OKUHLE : " you don't have to put up with my behavior for long , I'm moving out anyway."

Oops! I said that out loud, Alcohol. He's been pacing up and down the whole time he was speaking. I don't hear his footsteps anymore. I can't even lift up my head, its heavy. That's bloody mary for you.

NKANYISO : " What"

The "what" part sounds so faint. Guess what! I dont even care. All I want is for that bloody light to be switched off and the door closed. He switch off the lights, I assume he is standing by the door, trying to come to terms with my last statement .eventually the door gets closed and I immediately embrace lala land.

Insert 108

After three attempts of lifting my head fail, it was proof that I have mothers of all hangovers. I'm craving a strong black coffee with greasy breakfast. I must've passed out last night. I'm grateful for Mrs Nxumalo for suggesting leaving Khanya with her. I don't know how I would've possibly cope with an energetic child at this present moment. One way or another I have to get out of this bed, mother nature is not so kind to my bladder. It takes me a good half an hour getting off my comfortable bed. I figure showering will help to refresh my body. My body feels paralyzed from waste down. I'm never taking part in any twerking contest with Jase and Wandi. A smile creeps up my face when flashbacks from the reggae club we found ourselves in during club hopping . That was an amazing experience, the twerking contest took place there. I seriously wouldn't mind finding myself in that club again. The weed smell and everyone moving sensually to the slow rhythms. This reminds me, last night I forgot to check up on those two. Hopefully they arrived home safe . The water has done a bit of justice atleast, the headache is the constant reminder of last night's shenanigans.

Seems like I have the house to myself. I can't spot my nosy roommate anywhere. I fix myself a very strong cup of black coffee with no sugar, while preparing my greasy breakfast. For the very first time since becoming a mom. I'm up and its strictly about me. No changing nappies or preparing cereals or soft porridge. It feels so strange yet so enjoyable. I took my precious time in the shower with the door closed. I terribly miss her, I'm too attached. They are still sleeping or maybe Mrs Nxumalo switched off her phone intentionally, not that I blame her. I was a pain last night, blowing up her phone every fifteen minutes. I resort to an sms, she will forgive me. I'm doing my motherly duties. The coffee seems to be playing a vital part in fixing the hangover.

After my breakfast I'm heading back to bed, I could do with three hours of sleep before attending lunch. I dish up my greasy breakfast, if my personal trainer can see this plate. He will punish me severely with planks, pushups and the terrible spinning class. I'm allowed to cheat the diet every now and then, I console myself. I decide to check up on Jase, he answers after fourth attempt. My phone is on loud speaker.

JASE : " really now Lele, blowing my phone so early. What's the emergency "

OKUHLE : " Hello to you too Mr Grumpy"

JASE : " Normal people are still sleeping at this hour, especially the one's that partied the night away"

OKUHLE : " my insomniac ass was worried about you"

JASE : " especially after reintroducing you back to the fun side of life"

OKUHLE : " highlight of the night the reggae club, flashbacks of us twerking. Can we do it again please doll"

JASE : " Definitely, naughty Lele. Was it the club or the stud who was moving sensually behind you. Yes, I witnessed that moment. Looked like an unfiltered sexual scene from a tyler perry movie"

OKUHLE : " ow my goodness, his erect member was poking my butt vigorously . I almost climaxed"

JASE : " this moment deserves a champompo, finally my bad bitch is back."

OKUHLE : " This bitch is about to get her groove back"

JASE : " we are definitely going back to that club, the vibe there is crazy"

OKUHLE : " I feel like dancing on top of this table, right now"

JASE : " as much as I love you, I need my beauty sleep more"

OKUHLE : " sweet dreams handsome, I'm going back to sleep after my greasy breakfast"

JASE : "night doll or morning. Whatever I'm sleeping now."

OKUHLE : " It's morning drunkard"

He clears his throat behind me. Wow, thought I had the house all to myself. It's almost 9am ,

lunch is four hours away. I could do with the three hours of sleep. He sits accross me and stare deep in my eyes. Two months back this act would've melted my heart, leading to my knees being weak. I carry on with my breakfast with my audience this time around.

NKANYISO : " LET-O, we need to talk"

OKUHLE : " I'm all ears"

NKANYISO : " it's about what you said last night. Did you mean it"

OKUHLE : " mean what?"

NKANYISO : " so you don't remember what you said?"

OKUHLE : " what did I say?"

NKANYISO : " never mind?"

OKUHLE : " What exactly did you want us to talk about?"

NKANYISO : " Is there any breakfast left for me"

OKUHLE : " I dont know"

NKANYISO : " LET-O"

He shouts after me, I'm taking my well deserved nap. I seriously dont have time for someone who still talk in circles. That breakfast fixed the hangover. I take one adcodol and sleep soon recognizes my name. I Wake up three hours later, thanks to my alarm. My body is still yearning for more sleep. One part of me wants skip the lunch but I decide against it. I'll go to bed early. I'm done bathing, the feeling of dressing up is so fulfilling. Playing around with different eye shadows. Flip! I'm running late. I rush outside, he's long gone. Guess everyone is already seated, I think to myself as I park next to Mr Nxumalo's Bentley continental Gt Convertible. 'One day is one day' . I utter those words while pointing at his car. It wasn't my intention to make the grand entrance, all eyes are on me now. Mrs Nxumalo winks and shows me a thumb up sign. Khanya Screams "Mamami" everyone laughs. The pleasures of having a little one in the house. Atleast all the attention gets directed on Khanya.

Mrs Nxumalo's confirmation means a lot to me. It Means I'm definitely on the right path. That woman's fashion sense is on another level. I doubt she even get tips from that tv show, she religiously watch . she's naturrally gifted in that department, even Jase was impressed. Nka's

gaze is making me uncomfortable, our eyes meet for a second. He keeps staring even though I'm trying by all means to avoid eye contact. Mpilo is amused by this whole display, his eyes keeps traveling from me and Nka. The awkwardness, every one is engaged in some religious debate except for Nka. He doesn't move his eyes from me. I join in the debate, ignoring the creep and his stares.

Insert 109

It's been a month of nothing but hardcore training, I'm loving the results already. I've been doing extra research of the company that I want to start. Mrs Nxumalo hooked me up with a job while I'm still undecided on the business idea. There's alot of options but I took the job offer so long. One of her friend's husband is running a very successful logistics company. I'm doing accounts and payroll, the salary I was offered was very good to turn the offer down. Khanya started attending day care a month ago. I'm planning on moving out this month end . Let's just say I'm enjoying my new lifestyle, being a working citizen once again is quite fulfilling. I'm preparing to enrol for a logistics management course very soon. Things between me and Nka are pretty much the same. We are still living as roommates but I'm over this whole setup. The other day he was drunk, came to my room and started blubbering about the child he didn't know existed. He was uttering a whole lot of nonsense that didn't make sense. Which led me to this conclusion of moving out. He can't barely keep eye contact but whenever he's drunk, he always ends up in my room. We've moved from the nursery to the guest room but he still bothers me. Suprisingly it happens when he's drunk.

The excitement that runs through my veins thinking of what awaits me after work. I'm beside myself with excitement, there's a house I'm viewing after work. I went from flat hunting to proper house hunting . Mr and Mrs Nxumalo wanted to buy the house for us, but my independent woman pride turned down their offer. I've opted for a rent to buy option. It's in a decent neighborhood, not far away from my work and Khanya's school. With a healthy salary that I'm receiving, I'll be able to live a comfortable lifestyle not luxurious but comfortable. My work is not really demanding, it's only towards month end where I get to put a little effort and make sure everything runs smoothly. I'll forever be grateful to Mrs Nxumalo for helping me gain back my independence. I mostly work with guys, the only two females are myself and the receptionist lady by the name of Grace. She's very shy and down to earth. I've tried making conversations but she only answers whatever I'm asking. I've given up on her now, it's only good morning and goodbye.

After work I receive the gps coordinates from my estate agent. I receive a message from Nka informing me that he has picked up Khanya, minus one trip. I allow the gps to lead me and in half an hour. I'm parked outside this lovely house, my estate agent is already waiting excitedly for me. Her wide smile gives me hope, maybe she has found what I've been looking for. The house looks inviting outside. She's one talkative lady. It's a three bedroom house, with a small kitchen, a co-joined lounge and sitting room. I instantly fall in love with the garden and a swimming pool. Hello Mrs Nxumalo, you better be on the lookout the next garden lady is about to be unleashed. I can already see it, me doing the garden while Khanya is playing by the pool. Or maybe one lazy Saturday I'll teach Khanya how to swim. I'm so wrapped up in my own fantasy when Melinda my estate agent pats my back.

MELINDA : " I knew you'd love it, isn't it perfect"

OKUHLE : " I'm definitely taking it and moving in Saturday"

MELINDA : " How I love happy clients, there's just paperwork we need to go through. Then the house is yours, you can even move in tomorrow"

OKUHLE : " well lets sort the paperwork first ,saturday I'm moving in as early as possible"

MELINDA : " well what are we waiting for, let's get started on the paperwork"

OKUHLE : " this calls for coffee, I saw a small cafe just down the road. What do you say we go through the paperwork over a cup of coffee"

MELINDA : " Girl you are heaven sent, I haven't had a proper meal today"

OKUHLE : " what are we still waiting here for then"

MELINDA : " let's go sister"

We opted for a restaurant instead, Melinda ordered her meal while I indulged on my Caribbean chicken salad. We went through every paper work and after two hours, I walked out in there feeling like a boss. What an achievement, being a house owner. There's a lot I need to do before having a proper house opening. The first person I called is Jase, he almost destroyed my eardrums by his screams. Now he's planning the house warming party, talk about having zero chill. I'm dying to share these news with my brother and parents but that means I have to explain everything from scratch. I chose to wait till I'm certain it's officially over before informing them. The topic itself is depressing especially when MaKhumalo crosses my mind. She'll probably warn me against leaving Nka, maybe it's a good thing to keep this whole thing a secret. My main focus now is getting my life together and providing a better life for my baby. The money Nka deposits for Khanya alone covers the house expense but I still save for rainy days. The last

thing I need is running to my estranged fiance for financial support.

I'm driving back home in a jolly mood. I decide to drive to the nearest woolworths for my favorite wine. This calls for celebration even if it means having two glasses while Khanya is asleep. I'm definitely celebrating this. I arrive at home after 7pm, winter has finally crept in and its chilly outside. I open the door, my brain can't comprehend what's in front of my eyes. There's a whole romantic candle lit dinner setup, with rose petals. I almost think I'm in the wrong house. I was certain we no longer do romantic setups in this house. He's standing there looking all kinds of sexy in a crispy white shirt. This was deliberately done, he knows my weakness. A good smelling man wearing a white shirt, that wrist watch is also screaming sexy. He's offering me his hand, what the heck I'm in celebratory mood anyway. Let me just go with the flow. He pull the chair for me and I follow suit, he settles opposite me. Today he mantains eye contact and I trace a bit off sadness, guilt and shame.

NKANYISO : " I took Khanya to her granny and thank you for joining me"

OKUHLE : " what's this all about?"

I'm not so pleased with his decision to take Khanya without informing me. I'm so used cuddling with my baby. I forsee another sleepless night. He seems shaken by my question, what was he expecting. I won't sing him praises for this mini setup. After a long pause he finally speaks.

NKANYISO : " I owe you an apology MakaKhanya, for the jerk I've been lately. For keeping secrets, being absent and neglecting you"

OKUHLE : " really, what changed now? Why do you feel the need to apologize now?"

NKANYISO : " I haven't been a loyal and caring Fiance. I don't know how many times. I've been beating myself for this, I'm ashamed LET-O. The things I've done are nothing but a disgrace to me, you and our daughter "

OKUHLE : " I'm failing to understand when did you become so selfish, so self centered Nkanyiso "

NKANYISO : " I acknowledge all my wrongs and its

time I owned up to my mistakes. I need to come clean because this has been haunting me since day one LET-O. Please promise you won't leave after this. Punish me like you've been doing, drive me insane with your partying or clubbing. Just promise you won't leave. I'm begging you "

OKUHLE : " I'm sorry but I can't promise you that"

NKANYISO : " I deserve it MakaKhanya, I deserve whatever is coming my way"

OKUHLE : " please get to the point, I certainly don't have the whole night to sit here and listen to you going in circles"

NKANYISO : " Can we eat first then, I've prepared your favorite meal"

I roll my eyes, my time is being wasted. I have a bottle of wine in my hand back that needs all my attention. There's so much that needs to be celebrated, me scoring that job even if it was by connections . My house, my very own home. I'm still in disbelief, this week must fly. I honestly cant wait to move in. My phone has been vibrating, mesage alerts. That's definitely Jase

He calls my name bringing me back to life. I've been craving honesty but now I'm dreading it. Something in his eyes verify my suspicions . I don't think I'm ready to discover all the hidden skeletons this man have in his closet. Guess we can't run away from the truth especially after I've been seeking it for so long

NKANYISO : " LET-O, I have an 8 year old son"

OKUHLE : " what!"

NKANYISO : " he's mine LET-O even the dna test confirmed it"

OKUHLE : " thought this whole thing was based on honesty Nka. God I feel like such a fool"

NKANYISO : " It is based on honesty, trust me I never lied to you not even once"

OKUHLE : " then how do you explain an eight year old son Nka, did you forget to inform me about that important detail of your life"

NKANYISO : " I didn't know about him all along MakaKhanya. My son was only brought to me three months back LET-O"

OKUHLE : " And you only choose to tell me now Nka, Weren't we suppose to share everything, me and you. Didn't we promise each other honesty and transparency. Talk to me Nka!"

NKANYISO : " I couldn't bare the thought of hurting you LET-O. I didn't want to destroy our family but now I realise that same secret has caused a rift between us "

OKUHLE : " Wow, I thought we had something special. A bond that's unbreakable but now I'm not

so sure"

NKANYISO : " That's completely my fault MakaKhanya, I realise now that I suppose to come straight to you. I thought I had it all figured out, honestly. The plan was taking the paternity test and coming clean right after getting the results"

OKUHLE : " what stopped you then Nka, what stopped you!"

NKANYISO : " honestly guilt LET-O after dismissing my son and his mother, the second time when they approached me. I was angry MakaKhanya, after dealing with my family situation. When they approached me the third time, I didn't even look nor talk to my son the whole trip to the doctor. After the test I requested the uber for them and went on a drinking spree."

OKUHLE : " while I was cooking, cleaning and looking after our baby "

NKANYISO : " when test results came back positive, I was ashamed and guilt ridden LET-O " I wanted to make up for all the times I've missed in his life. That's where I've been spending my time MakaKhanya"

OKUHLE : " what's his name"

He seems surprised by my question, so am I. That's the first question that came to my mind. My feelings about these new findings are unknown, even to me. I'm numb and drained. This is the only part I hate about being an adult, facing such situations. Looks like this bottle will come in handy after all. He looks at me and a little smile forms upon his face. I'm being tested tonight

NKANYISO : " lindokuhle, his name is Lindokuhle Ayabonga soon to be Nxumalo"

OKUHLE : " those are lovely names"

That comes out as whisper, why am I so hurt by all this. Maybe its the sparkle in his eye when he mention his name, especially the declaration that comes with a Nxumalo surname. I don't have the stamina to deal with all this , it's too much.

NKANYISO : " I know it's a lot to take in now. It took me a couple of weeks to acknowledge my son's presence in my life"

OKUHLE : " I'm struggling to process this whole information . My mind is rejecting the reality I'm presented with right now"

NKANYISO : " I completely understand LET-O, my only regret is not coming clean earlier. I turned into alcohol because of my cowardly ways. I've lost count of all the times, I stood there drunk trying to find a way to tell you. I waited for the perfect time, trying to find the right words. The longer I kept this secret, the harder it became to spill it "

OKUHLE : " I'm exhausted, I need to sleep and process all this. I don't know what hurts me the most, the fact that you neglected us while bonding with your son or you proving that I'm not important enough to be informed of a life changing situation. "

NKANYISO : " I'll give you all the time you need. Please dont "

OKUHLE : " Don't what Nkanyiso! Don't leave! Is that all you care about! Me leaving, is that more important to you! "

NKANYISO : " I can't do this without you Makakhanya. I need my family now more than ever"

OKUHLE : " Ha ha ha! Wow your family! Do we now matter to you! After three fucken months, wait make it four months Nka! Four momths of being neglected while you were playing happy family with your son!"

NKANYISO : " my love please, I promise to change all my ways. Let's start on a clean slate,promise I'll be a better man this time around. No more secrets, please give us another chance "

OKUHLE : " Did you fuck anyone during this period we were apart "

He shamefully looks down. That feeling again, I swore never to let another man crush me. The pain is worse than what I've experienced with my first heartbreak. My lungs are closing in, I'm sweating. My knees feel weak. I'm heartbroken, right now I need my own space to process, cry, scream and be as vulnerable as I feel. I gather enough strength to stand up. The fool also stands. Why is my patience being tested tonight. Can't I be left alone just this once. He falls on his knees and starts begging. I'm drowning in my own pain to even entertain this petty act. I turn my back and walk away as weak as my knees feel but I manage to drag myself to the guest room. I lock the door behind me. I throw myself on the bed, bury my face in the pillow and scream my lungs out. The pain is too much to bear. He's knocking and begging me to open the door. Eveyword he utters is followed by a sniff.

NKANYISO : " my love please open for me. We don't even have to talk. I just want to hold you tonight. Please Makakhanya don't shut me out. We both need each other. You don't have to deal with this pain alone. Please allow me to fix this, to fix us"

This man had no difficulty in leaving me all alone for the past three months, now that I seriously need him to leave me alone he's nagging. Doesn't he have somewhere to be, can't he attend to his other family. Why is he so desperate for us to fix things now. There's something definitely wrong with the opposite sex in general. He was missing in action when I needed him the most, now that I desperately need him to leave me alone he can't. An extremely good day ended on a bad note. Is it bad though? I've finally received the truth my heart was yearning for, now I can't handle it. My handbag, shit I forgot it under the table. That wine would've come in handy right now. What sucks even more my phone is also trapped in that very same bag. Why is the universe so against me tonight.

NKANYISO : " my love please let me in. I promise not to nag, can I just hold you tonight please"

I've survived three full months without cuddling. What makes him think I need to be held, especially tonight. I take two panados, the headache from crying. The mirror reflects a woman that's broken, sad and vulnerable. I look closer and what I see is a very strong woman, who has been through a lot but managed to rise back up. With her swollen eyes from crying. "This too shall pass" I utter those words to myself. A smile that creeps up my face when an image of my new house pops up in my head. That's it I'm leaving this miserable house, only few more days to go

Insert 111

Three weeks later. The pleasure of carrying my house and car keys in one hand. It's been a challenging three weeks of furnishing my home, juggling work and motherhood all at once. I've skipped two Sunday lunches with the Nxumalo's simply because of Lindokuhle's presence. Don't get me wrong, I have nothing against him but I'm not ready to meet him as yet. He's my daughter's brother and has every right to visit his grandparents. Khanya is crazy about him, she randomly shouts his name. From what I've heard he sounds like a good boy. One day hopefully soon when I'm healed and emotionally stable I'll love to meet him. Jase is planning a house warming in the next coming two weeks. He has this whole pool theme going, how will he persecute all that in this cold. I'll probably be sitting next to my heater watching all the pool madness unfolding outside my window. Winter is not my favorite season, to make matters worse I'm single. Not that I mind, rather that than spending cold nights alone. No matter how much I try to avoid Nka's infidelity, who he shagged still Sparks my curiosity. Sometimes I lie awake wondering how many women did he get it on with while I was keeping our bed warm. These thoughts are always accompanied with the "fuck it" statement.

Everyone in this office has been going insane preparing for the boss's son return. Apparently he's an asshole who thinks the world revolves around him. He's fussy and want things done his way. Grace has been too generous with that information. She's more worked up by this spoiled brat coming back. They say never judge a person according to other people's views, but I don't like him already. I decide to leave them discussing how miserable life is about to become in the office. I'm being called at the receptionist for a delivery. It's probably work related, I hardly receive any parcels. There's a guy with a beautiful combination of red roses and white lilly bouquet. Mxolisi and brian are teasing me of having a secret admirer, Grace is all smiles. The sarcastic laugh thinking the secret man behind this is admiring on the wrong person. It's a beautiful gesture between lovers, not me. I locate the note and it reads " Hope these flowers will brighten up your day. Khanya's dad" everyone is curiously waiting for me to read out loud the message. I just smile and leave them there curiosity killing them. The "wow, really now" follows. Bunch of nosy people.

I'm taking my flowers home. I love the combination and the message excluding the sender. It's the same routine after work but tonight Khanya is spending the night with the Nxumalo's. So it's just me, myself and I. The first two week days of Khanya's absence ended up with Jase getting an invite. But not today some me time is seriously needed. This means no cooking also, so take away it is. After grabbing my comfort food, the trip home is enjoyable listening to my uncensored hip hop jamz. It's not everyday where I get to sing along to nicki minaj's ganja burn freely. Once I'm parked and made sure all the doors, gates including windows are locked. I soak myself in a bubble bath and dwell in my own thoughts. I need to add an extra blanket, my cuddling buddy is not around. I indulge in junk, calling Khanya before bedtime results in me and Mrs Nxumalo catch up session. The plan was to watch a chick flick in my bedroom until I fall asleep but a knock disturbs me.

I hardly know anyone in this neighborhood and Jase normally calls before coming. The plan is to remain silent as possible until whoever is on the other side of the door gives up and leave. Besides how did they even get in. My heart rate goes on hundred real quick, thinking of the danger I'm possibly in. With the high rate of woman being raped and killed. I grab a butcher knife and prepare for war, atleast I'll die trying. I'm not about to make things easier for my attacker. I'm signing up for those defence class lessons.

Finally Nkanyiso shouts my name from outside. He starts begging me to open the door for him. My plan to ignore him fail dismally when he starts getting loud. This is not the impression I want to be famous for in this neighborhood. I'm faced with a very tipsy Nkanyiso upon opening the door. By the look of things he fell, that's exactly what you get climbing over people's high gates. You'll end up biting the dust, I'm definitely putting the electric fence over this gate and walls

month end.

NKANYISO : " can I please come in, it's freezing outside"

OKUHLE : " really Nka, why would you climb over the gate like a thief in the night"

NKANYISO : " I'm so sorry MakaKhanya, you haven't been returning my calls and I had to come see if you are okay"

I move, allowing him access to come in. It's freezing cold outside and this man isn't dressed warmly. He starts shivering as soon as he gets inside the house. Goodness this man is something else. My peaceful quite night has now being spoiled.

NKANYISO : " I know I'm crossing the line, you probably hate everything about me now. Tonight I couldn't help myself, not even alcohol filled that void"

OKUHLE : " Are you intentionally trying to get sick Nka?"

NKANYISO : " Not as cold as I feel inside LET-O"

OKUHLE : " while your ass is fishing for pneumonia, remember there's two innocent souls looking up to you"

NKANYISO : " really MakaKhanya, what kind of role model am I to my kids. I've ruined the most precious thing that's ever happened to me"

OKUHLE : " let's not even go there, come I'll fix you a hot bath. Just a friendly reminder I'm installing the electric fence all around this premises. Next time you feel like playing spider man, your ass will be fried"

He smiles, the Nka I know would've laughed his ass off. This man standing in front of me is emotional. I'm not even gonna entertain that. I prepare his bath and leave him to it. Now I must share my meal with him as well. Funny how, I would've thrown him out few weeks ago. There's a sense of peace and acceptance. Is this the peace that surpasses all understanding that everyone always preach about. If this is the peace then I pray it doesn't desert me any time soon. There's a huge ass gas heater , after twenty minutes of putting it on. It feels warm and homely . He emerges from the bathroom wearing my gown. I'm being tested, why does it seem like we are getting comfortable now. I offer him some of my food. He eats without any shame, this man look starved, within seconds his plate is clean. That's definitely not my problem anymore. He

helps dry the two plates, it almost feels like old times.

NKANYISO : " I have one last favor to ask MakaKhanya"

OKUHLE : " you are in no position to ask for favors. You've disturbed my movie night, wore my gown without my permission, climb over my gate and I had to share my meal."

NKANYISO : " I've done too much damage for one night, haven't I ? "

OKUHLE : " Is that a trick question? "

NKANYISO : " no, can I borrow your gown just for tonight. Promise I'll bring it back tomorrow "

OKUHLE : " I'll borrow you on one condition, if you take it tonight. Please leave it with Khanya's granny I'll fetch it there"

NKANYISO : " ow, guess I'll take that option"

OKUHLE : " it's a deal and thanks for the flowers earlier today, they are lovely"

NKANYISO " the pleasure is all mine Mrs m, aah MakaKhanya"

The conversation was flowing over a cup of coffee. We talked about random things till I started yawning. He wasn't joking about the gown story, he took his clothes and left wearing my gown. A pink and white floral gown, wonders shall never end. Wow, I don't believe the time. It's almost 11pm ,my goodness. I'll definitely feel this the next morning. I browse through my social networks before retiring to bed.I miss my cuddling partner, an sms pops up from my screen. "Got home safe, thanks for everything. Goodnight MakaKhanya". I'm definitely not replying to this message. As soon as my head hits the pillow. Hello lala land

Insert 112

That damn alarm again! Why do we have to work in winter. I start weighing my options, okay I'm in the process of buying a house. With that said, I move my ass from the bed into the bathroom. A girl needs that much motivation to keep going. After tidying up and preparing lunch, I'm ready to leave. Boots, skinny jeans and coats are the order of the day. I miss driving my Khanya to creche, listening to the nursery rhymes playlist and watch her singing excitedly. Some of the words I can't even make out. I grab breakfast and a cup of coffee at mugg & bean. I'm earlier than usual today. It's approaching month end, there's alot to cover. I get right on it, the minute I'm

settled behind my desk. There's a knock at the door. I shout for whoever knocking to come in. Grace peeps through the doors before coming in.

GRACE: " Girl there's a commotion going on outside, I'm afraid it involves you"

OKUHLE : " Girl what's going on "

GRACE: " Please come before he loose it"

OKUHLE : " who? What are you talking about?"

GRACE : " hurry before Banzi fires all of us"

OKUHLE : " who the hell is Banzi"

GRACE : " come, please"

Who the fuck is Banzi to have Grace so worked up so early in the morning. Why am I dragged, is he some kind of God. She pulls me all the way to the parking lot. Im assuming this is the guy that has Grace so scared. This Banzi guy is standing next to my car with his hands inside his pockets.

BANZI: " are you the owner of this car. I suggest you find another parking lot as in now. This specific parking is reserved for the CEO. Get moving. He jumps into his Mercedes AMG A45 and reverse, giving me enough space to vacant the" CEO reserved parking spot ". The rumours are confirmed this guy is the rudest spoiled brat, I've ever come across. Within seconds I'm parked in an opposite parking spot. Grace looks like she's about to pee in her pants. He doesn't intimidate me not even one bit. I refuse to be intimidated by a motherfucker who wears sunglasses in a cloudy winter morning. Who the hell does that. Grace is nowhere in sight, so quick. When did she leave? She dragged me out, and ditched me with this loser. I bury myself in a pile of paperwork. The rest of the day goes by smoothly without any interruptions or bumping into "Mr CEO parking spot". Wait till Jase hears about this.

Today it's extra cold. Mrs Nxumalo came to fetch Khanya early in the morning. She's bunking daycare to spend a day with her granny. Apparently it's too cold for her to attend and she might catch a cold from other kids. Perks of having a granny, the granddaughter seemed excited bunking day care. Jase is still proceeding with the house warming plans. The theme hasn't changed even though the weather is against it. Grabbing a cup of coffee has become my everyday routine. Just like any other day I settle in my office . Switch on the heater and start

with my daily duties. He budes in my office without knocking, how rude. I lift my eyes just to give him one look and carry on with my work.

BANZI: " How do you breath in here, there's no ventilation. It's humid and stuffy"

I'm not about to entertain someone who lacks manners and respect. He doesn't knock nor greet. What's with the sunglass obsession, there's a reason why they are called sunglasses.

BANZI : " Sorry miss. I didn't quite catch your name."

OKUHLE : "we weren't formally introduced, so there won't be any catching of names"

BANZI : " feisty, huuh"

OKUHLE : " If you don't mind, I have a lot of paperwork to sort out"

BANZI : " sounds like I'm being dismissed"

OKUHLE : " If there's nothing work related to discuss can you please excuse me"

BANZI : "As a matter of fact, there's a little crisis that requires your help"

OKUHLE : " I'm all ears"

BANZI : " follow me to my office, I can barely breath in here. No offense"

OKUHLE : "none taken, after you"

His office windows are wide open, in this freezing weather. He settles in his seat and I'm praying whatever crisis he has doesn't require me to sit in this office. I don't think I'll survive fifteen minutes in this mortuary. He pulls a thick file and gets down to business. There's couple of invoices that doesn't balance and it's always patterning one particular driver. The file dates back one year ago, now I must locate all his trip sheets and invoices. There's someone in charge of all this work but he specifically chose me. He's intentionally punishing me for what good reason, I dont know. I take this huge ass file and attempt to leave before I freeze to death.

BANZI: " Miss uhmm, I need feedback before the end of business day"

OKUHLE : " consider it done"

BANZI: " will you be so kind as to call MaPhumi for me or Better yet ask her to bring me one strong cup of coffee. She knows exactly how I like it"

OKUHLE : " Is that all Sir"

BANZI: " Close the door on your way out"

"close the door on your way out" I imitate him as soon as I'm outside. That man is definitely on a mission to make my life difficult. He rubs me off the wrong way, goodness. I'll kill him with professionalism this one, he doesn't know me. As soon as I deliver the message to MaPhumi, she rolls her eyes. Glad I'm not the only one, who's annoyed by this brat. I bury myself in the paperwork. Four hours later I've resolved the mystery and compiled all the evidence, shame this driver is definitely losing his job. My neck is strained from all the paperwork. I'm hungry and in desperate need of food. Just like any other normal person. I knock on his office, the fool doesn't even invite me in. It only takes me ten minutes maximum to explain all my findings to him. The bastard is impressed even though he won't admit. A simple thank you would've been nice, especially after putting my work on hold to solve his crisis . I walk out of his office feeling like a boss. After being setup for failure, I came out victorious.

Exhaustion is my middle name by the time I knock off at work. I drive straight home. Mrs Nxumalo informed me earlier that she's taking Khanya for a few days. I run myself a bubble bath and fix myself the morning leftovers. I soak myself in the bubble bath while catching up with jase. Apparently there's a potential man in his life but it's still early days for friends introduction. I completely agree, sometimes we need to indulge in the romance before involving friends and families. Finally he has decided to take a chance in love. He sounds genuinely happy, we joke about sending a PI to dig out dirt on his new partner . We don't want another episode of Mkhulu bae recurring. After video calling Khanya I'm yawning, a pop message from Nka sending me a goodnight text. I simply reply with a goodnight. Checking if everything is locked before heading to bed is the most important exercise. This has been one heck of a day. I fall asleep immediately after getting under the covers.

Insert 113

It's been one hectic week with "Mr Ceo" barking orders and over working me. I've come to the conclusion that Man doesn't like me and the feeling is mutual. He finds the most ridiculous petty things and add them on top of my work load. He's doing it on purpose just to get some kind of reaction from me. I will deny him that satisfaction until he goes back to the united states

of America. How can one person be so spiteful. Apparently he never stays for over a month. I'm on a serious countdown till that happens, the month seems to be dragging. Today I'm picking up Khanya, it's been three days and I terribly miss her. I'm spending this weekend indoors with my daughter. The weather permits, I switch off my daily morning alarm. I'm still parked outside my workplace, catching up with Jase. Every other second word that comes out of his mouth is bae. Moghey is really whipped, cupid has done a number on him. I get an update also on the house warming preparations. Goodness! There's also a theme, Caribbean theme in this cold. Shame he can count me out. I'm not about to deliberately catch a cold just because of some theme. I get a shock of my life when someone knocks on the side mirror of my car. I almost drop my phone. I roll my eyes, the devil doesn't seize in testing me. What does he want. I roll down my window.

BANZI: " for someone who was in a rush to go home. You seem quite relaxed, parking lot vibes "

OKUHLE : " It's good vibrations only on this side of parking space, you should try it sometime".

BANZI: " still holding grudges over the parking lot scenario, I see"

OKUHLE : " not at all. As a matter of fact, there's nothing special about your parking space. It's not like your petrol tank automatically gets filled when you park there. It's just a parking space, the difference it's closer to the door."

BANZI: " It saves me time and unnecessary exercise, walking "

OKUHLE : " yet you standing here, so much for unnecessary exercise, walking "

He smirks, shakes his head and puts his hands inside his pockets. My level of sarcasm isn't for the faint hearted. I continue typing on my phone. Jase is ridiculous now, he wants male strippers for later on. I smell a mini party loading. Why do I sense this is going to be bigger than expected. My house warming idea was having few close people over, eating, music, drinking and sleeping early around 8 or 9pm. I should've trusted my instincts and never allow Jase to take over. He clears his throat, how rude. I roll my eyes dramatically and watch him. Another smirk from this mother fucker and I'm already annoyed. I start my car and take off. He drives past me in full speed. Bloody show-off!

I drive straight to the Nxumalo's residence, tonight I'll be sleeping next to my cuddling partner. I've missed her even though she kicks me at night. Surprisingly that's what I miss the most. Their helper buzz me in, being here reminds me of the Sunday lunches. I've skipped three so far. It's still quite warm but there's that winter breeze that can't be ignored. I hear small giggles, that's definitely Khanya. No wonder she prefers being here. I follow the voices, they are

probably playing by the swings. Kids here are fortunate, they have their playing area situated near the swimming pool. To think we had to walk a good twenty minutes to reach the community park which only had swings, merry go round and three slides. Here they even have trampoline, jungle gym , swings and all those other fancy things. Sounds like there's couple of kids playing.

There they are playing in the trampoline under supervision by your truly Mrs Nxumalo. Without any shadow of doubt, that's Lindokuhle. He's a replica of Nkanyiso. Complexion, body structure, eyes. Khanya spots me, she screams mama and comes running to me. Mrs Nxumalo is all smiles, Nkanyiso junior also joins Khanya. I hug them both at the same time, more like a group hug and they giggle. Our eyes meet, he smiles. His eyes are shut just like Nka's when he smiles. Khanya sounds like a stuck record repeating the word "mama dlaya". It sounds so cute coming from those small lips of hers. I'm having a hard time letting go of these two. I crush them in my arms, the emotions are slowly creeping in. I'm inlove with both these little souls. He wipes one tear that escaped my eye.

LINDOKUHLE : " are you sad mama, why are you crying"

The tears come in full force. I lift my head, Mrs Nxumalo is also in tears. I don't blame her though. I can't even explain this moment, these emotions. Having both of them in my arms just feels right. There's a sense of fulfillment that just washed over me. He continue to wipe my tears. Khanya is blinking rapidly, this dramatic little diva is trying to force tears. Him calling me mama felt so right. He squints his eyes at me, exactly what his father does when he expects an answer.

OKUHLE : " No I'm not sad, I'm actually happy"

He looks puzzled by my response, the squinting of the eyes again. Khanya is showering me with kisses. I've been told to enjoy this stage while it last. Soon I'll be denied these kisses or forced to give them in secrecy because she'll be too shy to dish them in public. I'm taking these advices quite seriously but right now I need to explain why happiness involves tears this time around.

OKUHLE : " Mama is happy to finally meet you, these are called tears of joy."

LINDOKUHLE : " but our teacher told us, people cry when they are sad and unhappy"

OKUHLE :". Don't worry soon you will understand why sometimes adults cry when they are happy"

LINDOKUHLE : "So it's only children that cry when they are sad and unhappy"

OKUHLE : " Mama will explain properly one day"

LINDOKUHLE : " So I can call you mama?"

OKUHLE : "ofcourse you can"

He sets himself free from my embrace and starts singing "I have two mums" kids will always be kids. I join Mrs Nxumalo and we watch the little rascals jumping up and down on the trampoline.

We catch up, it's been a minute. Lindo only arrived few hours ago. Mrs Nxumalo looks at me like I've completely lost my mind when I inform her that I'm taking both kids with me tonight. After spending almost three hours at the Nxumalo's residence. Me and my kids leave a very bored Mrs Nxumalo behind , tomorrow I'll drive them back to their granny. We grab take aways on our way home. Lindo is such an inquisitive child, I've been answering questions non-stop. Some I promise to answer later, he always catch me off guard with some of the questions.

After supper I tuck them in bed and watch them sleeping . We are all sleeping in my bedroom. I can't risk Lindo sleeping by himself, what if he sleep walks or wakes up at night from a nightmare in unfamiliar surroundings. This whole time, I wasn't ready to meet him and now I'm so fond of him. He's Nkanyiso's photocopy. My phone is ringing, it's Nka. What if he's not happy with me taking Lindo without his permission . I decide not to answer his calls, the last thing I need is having someone screaming at me after such a hectic week. A message comes through from him it reads

"thank you Mrs me, hope you guys had a fabulous time together. Goodnight my family" luckily he's not angry, wait why am I smiling so much. Whatever, I'ts probably exhaustion getting the better of me. I join my little cuties in bed.

Insert 114

What's with kids and waking up early during weekends. I hardly slept, the kicks from both these rascals. They are awake and playing. I'm definitely taking them to their granny later today. I drag

myself from the bed as exhausted as I am. I'm not a fan of energy drinks but right now I desperately need one. It's bath time first, change of clothes and breakfast. They demand weetbix, bunch of strange kids choosing cereals over bacon and eggs . After eating they watch cartoons while I'm cleaning. Two hours later we are preparing for our fun day. The weather doesn't allow any outdoor activities. I opt for lunch and movies at the mall. We can't be cooked up in this house the whole day. Nka calls while I'm driving out, after informing him of our plans. He promise to join us at the mall in few minutes. I first take them to i jump, the excitement kids have over jumping up and down. This is quite nice, adults are jumping and having fun with their kids. After watching them enjoying themselves for couple of minutes . I decide to take off my sneakers and join in the jumping frenzy. My kids are more than happy to see me in this huge trampoline.

I haven't been so carefree in a long while. A flashlight catches my eye, why is he doing this. After taking a few snaps of us, he takes off his shoes and join in the fun. How did he locate us, ow the message I sent to him earlier suggesting different ideas of keeping the kids occupied and entertained. The kids go crazy as soon as he joins us. At first I joined to keep a closer watch on the kids but now I'm totally enjoying myself. After having fun jumping up and down, we are farmished. Another debate on where we should eat, kids and macdonalds. I'm craving seafood but sometimes sacrifices have to be made to please the little one's. After lunch we head straight to the movies. Another sacrifice watching a 3d animation movie. It's almost 6pm when we drive to the Nxumalo's residence, Nka is driving behind me. My passengers are fast asleep by the time we reach our destination. Nka comes in very handy carrying his little rascals from the car to their beds. Mrs Nxumalo is ecstatic having her grandkids back.

Nka ask a lift from me, he comes up with a very lame excuse. Apparently his extremely tired to drive and his eyes are sore. He claims to have a blurry vision, isn't this too sudden. From someone who never had eye problems, this is questionable. I'm too tired to debate over his "mysterious eye problems ". As soon as I take off he starts snoring, the devil never seize to rest when it comes to testing me. I decide not to waste my time, patience and energy. The next stop is my house, the strength to drive to his place and wake him afterwards is gone. I should be the one sleeping on this passenger seat, after my sleepless night and early morning. No wonder those too passed out after the movie. Khanya is such a character, she kept bothering Lindo throughout the whole movie. Calling his name, peeping through his face and demanding to sit on his lap. She doesn't understand the cinema concept as yet, next time she's remaining behind.

No ways, this man is genuinely sleeping. Who sleep so comfortably in a passengers seat. At first I thought he was pretending but he's out. ow how I miss this sight. I spend the next fifteen minutes doing nothing but feeding my eyes to the pleasant sight in front of me. It's only the

snores that gives away the discomfort of sleeping in a car seat. I shake him lightly, after the third attempt. He finally opens his eyes and he lazily smiles at me. I find myself smiling back.

OKUHLE : " You certainly didn't think I was going to carry you inside now, did you?"

NKANYISO : " you can manage I've lost alot of weight"

OKUHLE : " after driving your sleepy ass home, no ways"

NKANYISO : " please mommy. My feet are sore I doubt I'm capable of walking by myself"

OKUHLE : " the only person who needs to be carried inside is me. I hardly slept your kids were practicing their karate on me. This morning they woke me up so early. I'm exhausted"

Why am I getting emotional now. I was absolutely good this morning. I bang the car door behind me. He follows me. I feel myself being lifted from the ground. For someone who complained about losing weight, his arms are even more stronger than before. This man has been visiting the gym more often than before . I can't help myself, I'm smiling from ear to ear. When was the last time I was carried like a baby. Our eyes meet, there's this undeniable chemistry. I felt it the last time he rocked up on my doorstep tipsy and dirty. I'm avoiding eye contact altogether but his gaze is on me. I bury my face in his chest, the familiar scent. That homely feeling, my stomach turns. There's a ticklish sensation going on in my tummy, butterflies. After such a long time, my heartbeat is beating irregular . We are in the middle of the lounge, seems like this man has no intentions of putting me down. But do I want him to put me down? There are no words spoken, this is one of those beautiful quite moments that requires communication between the two hearts. Something is bothering me though, the itch between my thighs, the twitch on my clits and the pool forming in my undies. Could it be so wrong of me to allow this moment to progress into something intimate. Would I be wrong for giving in to my sexual cravings.

NKANYISO : " Happy now, see I carried you"

I recognize that husky horny voice. I bit my lower lip while staring deep into his eyes. Answering now will give it all away, I don't trust my voice nor myself at this present moment. I see his lips moving but my mind is on another level already. I suck on my lower lip. Lust, starvation and desire are at work, that wasn't deliberately done. I'm slowly losing my morals. Giving it to my fiance doesn't dub me as a hoe now or does it? My morals are slowly vanishing. I seriously need to cool myself down. I walk to the kitchen and put the kettle on

OKUHLE : " coffee?"

NKANYISO : " huuh"

OKUHLE : " Nkanyiso Nxumalo!"

He better talk before I jump him. I pour myself ice cold water from the fridge, maybe the glass will bring me back to my senses. My nipples instantly gets erect due to the coldness of this water. I can't even drink this glass finish. He asks for the glass of water instead, the ice cold water. Probably to calm down that buldge in his pants. He stands next to me and we are both sipping on ice cold water. It's very funny we end up laughing.

NKANYISO : " ice cold water huuh"

OKUHLE : " it's doing the most, cheers"

NKANYISO : " my insides are freezing MakaKhanya"

OKUHLE : " ha ha ha! I'm so cold tomorrow I'll be barking like a dog"

NKANYISO : "lol , Did it work though. The cold water effect"

OKUHLE : " partly"

NKANYISO : " as much as I'd love to turn you around, spank and bury myself deep inside of you LET-O. I'd rather suffer from this erection and work tirelessly to prove myself to you. I want to do the whole courting thing all over again, take you out on dates. I want to earn your trust again and have you falling inlove with me all over again "

OKUHLE : " Nka I "

NKANYISO : " shh, I'm prepared to wait. Trust me it's worth it, allow me to prove myself to you "

All I do is nod. What more can I say. The man has spoken. Come to think of it, wouldn't be nice to be courted again and taken out on dates. I'm loving the fact that he's not pressuring me, the fact that our families are not involved in any of this makes it easier . Guess I'll have to take care of the itch myself tonight, DIY baby. I should get myself a dildo because my body almost betrayed me few moments ago.

NKANYISO : " I have one last request Mrs me , can I cuddle with you tonight?"

Floods again, the thought of his manhood rubbing against my bums has got me hot and bothered all over again. I'm visiting that sex shop sooner than expected. "Yes" I reply with my husky and horny voice. Fuck it! the hoe in me is unchained and ready to play

Insert 115

That damn alarm again! Is it necessary for us to work during winter. Besides this cold weather, there's sexual frustration to add on top of the list. The struggle of sleeping next to an erect penis but denied the pleasures of it. Nka will never see heaven for serving me with that punishment. His response was "There's still unresolved issues, sexual intercourse will complicate things even further. Besides we have a lifetime to indulge in some good intimacy " whatever that means, funny how I'm rolling my eyes like I did that fateful night. "God I pray for a productive week filled with peace, Amen." I recite that prayer countless times after making my bed. I'm in no mood for the office drama that goes by the name Banzi, can one person be so annoying. The struggle of waking up Khanya every morning. It just doesn't make sense how she's able to wake up very early during weekends. After preparations, I drop her off at her day care center. The weather doesn't look too promising for the house warming theme. Jase doesn't even want to hear of other alternatives such as postponing or having the party indoors . "The devil will not win" that's all he says everytime I suggest other alternatives. I have a huge list of all the staff I need to buy. Well that's what you get by being a host. Great, just great! The annoying spoiled brat is already parked in my parking spot. I swear this man always finds a way to fuck up my day.

The same morning routine, the morning and small talks here and there. I'm staying away from caffeine this week, so ginger tea and lemon it is. The plan is to be as invisible as possible today. I almost drop my cup down. The shock in my eyes is visible. I swear the devil is working overtime to make my life miserable. He smirks, goodness this man is testing my patience. He put his feet on the table, while playing with my pen. That's my special pen, it's a silver Mont blank with my name engraved on it. Mrs Nxumalo gave it to me as my lucky charm on my first day in this office. This bastard has gone too far now, I'm a ticking time bomb and one wrong word out of his mouth. I'll blow this place down with nothing but words. Another smirk, he's enjoying this moment.

BANZI: " Miss Khumalo, care to join me for a cup of coffee "

I'm struggling to locate that calmness in me. "LET-O remain calm, dont give him that satisfaction" I keep reciting these words in my head. "I'm only human, every person has their limit. Guess I've reached mine". The debate going through my head right now. " he's gone to far now, let's deal with him" the bitchy me slaps back. Lord I'm about to catch a case or get admitted if this fool doesn't stop provoking me.

BANZI: " Miss Khumalo, your coffee will get cold and its specially made by yours truly."

OKUHLE : " unfortunately I'm off caffeine"

BANZI: " since when?"

OKUHLE : " does it matter?"

BANZI: " I didn't realize, guess it's two cups for me then. Can't let all this hard work go to waste"

OKUHLE : " speaking of hard work, can I claim my chair and office back. There's lots of hardwork that's waiting for me"

BANZI: " not even a thank you, your seat has been warmed up for you in this cold morning"

OKUHLE : " mhmm I think I'll get another chair from the boardroom. You can keep the warmed up seat. I prefer warming up my chair"

BANZI : " well suit yourself"

That was close, swear this man will feel my wrath one of these days. He just doesn't know when to quit. I wasn't joking about the exchange of chairs. He watch in amusement as I struggle with the chairs. I've already swore at him for all his fucked up ways. The rest of the day goes by smoothly with another bouquet delivery from Nka. I'm glad we didn't go that route the other day, even though I didn't mind. As a matter of fact, I wanted it. I find myself blushing couple of times. I'm definitely taking my flowers with after work. After work I find Banzi standing next to my car. What does this man want now?

BANZI : " beautiful flowers for the beautiful lady"

OKUHLE : " if I didn't know any better, I'd say you are stalking me"

BANZI : " secret admirer I see"

OKUHLE : " well, is it still considered as secret admiration if the flowers are sent by your fiance? If that's the case may I be admired till eternity "

BANZI : " fiance you say, one would mistakenly assume it's a secret admirer judging by the invisible ring on your finger"

OKUHLE : " The ring doesn't matter that much when you are soul tied. Goodnight boss, some of us have places to go and people to meet"

BANZI : " soul tied, that's very deep dont you think? "

OKUHLE : " well that's another debate for another day. bye"

That signature pose again, what's the obsession with hands inside his pockets. Whatever, it's home time and I won't be bothered by this creep. As the week progresses and so are the pressures of shopping . I've been postponing but today after work, there are no other option but to carry out this task. Thursday, there's atleast plenty of time to shop since Khanya is sleeping over by her grandparents. Banzi hasn't bothered me since Monday afternoon. I can't wait to go shopping afterwork. They are calling me for another delivery, Nka is really going all out. I'm enjoying this courtship alot lately. Wow everyone is fussing over this bouquet, if that's a suitable name for it. This is exaggerated, wonder how much did he pay to have this one made. Protea flowers, mixture of roses and lilies. Wow! I wonder who's the florist behind this design. After signing I look for the note but there isn't any. These three nosy colleagues of mine are waiting to hear the message. The dissapontment is written all over their faces, serves them right. I'm not disappointed though, just one phone call to this silly man then all will be solved. He has outdone himself this time around. I try his phone couple of times to no avail, yah he mentioned spending the day in court today. Well I'll ask him later.

After work it's shopping. Why am I suddenly excited. Jase has been hyping me up since the beginning of this house warming preparations . I've bought most of the stuff needed, the only thing missing is booze. Jase will help me on that one tomorrow after work. My smile reaches my ears as I walk in the adult shop. There's plenty of kinky stuff in here, now I really miss Jase. The fun we will be having righ now. There's plenty of dildos to last me a lifetime in this store. I snap a few shots, think I'll come back with Jase to help me pick the perfect one. It's just not enjoyable doing this alone. I rush back home, tomorrow its only booze shopping and I'll have my shopping partner. Nka calls me right after speaking to Khanya and her gran. Just the man I've been looking for all day.

After our pleasant chats, they are really pleasant lately. We are on some, hang up first tip. Our chats always revolves around the kids and the day we've had. After our long chats, I thank him for the flowers and he's suprised . I still insist its him and he's adamant he never sent flowers today. This is puzzling who sent me those flowers then. Maybe it was a mistake, but they specifically asked for me. I'm certain Nka is behind them maybe he forgot after the stressful day he had. It cant be, I refuse to believe there's a secret admirer who could be eyeing me and have enough time to send me flowers. Whoever was behind that flower selection has good taste, I hand it over to him or her. I catch up with Jase, his excitement is rubbing off all over me. He's such a mood, a whole damn good vibe. I snap him a pic of my mysterious flowers. We share the same sentiments, I should've invited Nka over. This thing of sleeping alone is depressing, ow how I miss my Khanya.

Insert 116

It's friday after work, I'm outside Jase's work premises. The excitement is too much to contain. A call comes through from Nka, he wants us to do movies tonight. Unfortunately I have to let him down, between shopping with Jase, supper and a bottle of wine. There won't be anytime for movies, his efforts are very much appreciated but the timing clashes with my plans . I've never met anyone as bubbly as Jase, I watch him conversing with his colleagues. Some look tired, except my moghey. His loud, bubbly and a chatterbox. It's simple to spot him among the crowd, stylish, confidence, free, bubbly and full of life. He spots me parked by the side of the road, this was expected from him. He drags two of his colleagues, I'm so not in the mood for introductions, fake smile and friendly vibes. After the dragging introductions are over, we take off. Now I'm genuinely happy, call me selfish but I want him all to myself. Shopping becomes an adventure when he is present.

JASE: "Bitch I saw that fake smile, you can fool everyone except me"

OKUHLE : " I'm not too good with introductions and playing friendly especially when there's shopping to be done"

JASE : " Somebody needs to get laid"

OKUHLE : " really now, are we pulling such jokes on our starving friends"

JASE : " jokes or facts, don't worry doll you'll survive, I mean look at me. I survived six months, half a year Lele"

OKUHLE : " there were no temptations in your case, unlike me who's constantly exposed to an

erect dick"

JASE : " you know I love Nka right. I love seeing you as a happy couple but right now starve that man. Starve him to a point where he gets on his knees and beg for that cookie"

OKUHLE : " funny you should mention that, I was the one begging for it and boy! Did that man deprive me of his goods"

JASE : " really you are such a hoe. I knew that dick was good the moment you started glowing and gaining weight. I never thought it will have you begging though"

OKUHLE : " You know I'm sweating thinking of it Jase, his waist when he"

JASE : " stop right there, spare me details. Get a grip and starve that man Lele, you'll thank me later"

OKUHLE : " uhmmm, I hear you"

JASE : " I don't trust that uhmm, sounding like you are moaning here."

We laugh inbetween our nonsensical topics . This right here, is what every girl needs. Just one best friend who understands you completely. One who will keep it real, who won't judge you and who will get crazy with you. I can't imagine myself having another friend besides Jase. Yes they've been other companions along the way, but my heart and soul resonates with Jase. Hence we always find our way back to each other. Our first stop is at the adult shop, yep I couldn't wait to drag him here. The three staff members working here are watching us in amusement, who can blame them though. Jase is the life of the party and he's acting out every possible sex scene with these adult toys. My stomach is sore from laughing if I don't drag Jase out of this shop there won't be any booze for tomorrow's party. Did I buy my dildo, hell no! The idea became one big joke with Jase around. Here's to starvation, holding off from sex and the horny me. Will I survive this confusing period, the answer is yet unknown. Guess only time will tell.

I can't believe we've successfully wasted two hours in that adult shop. Yet I'm expected to be celibate. We decide on having supper after the booze shopping it will be late anyway and I'm in no mood for cooking . Fridays and liquor stores, so this is what people get up to while I'm lost in a world of fantasy reading books. What a life, Jase select the big shopping trolley. Wow! This man means business. I'm no expert in booze shopping, send me for wine buying then I'm your woman. The whiskeys, ciders, beers aren't my specialty. I'm clueless in that department. Within thirty minutes our trolley is half filled with all sorts of booze. We are in the whiskeys section, I have two whiskey bottles in my hands. Jase asked me to pick them for him while he's getting

another bottle of wine.

"fancy seeing you here" No fucken ways! I swear this man's mission is to make my life miserable.

BANZI : " Miss Khumalo don't tell me this trolley belongs to you"

OKUHLE : " it belongs to me, do you have any problem?"

BANZI : " Are you having a party and I'm not invited?"

JASE : " finally got what I was looking for doll, we are good to go"

BANZI:" I was right, you guys are having a party. Aren't you? I'm Banzi by the way"

He stretch his hand for a handshake. Jase takes it and introduce himself. What do you know, he has manners after all or maybe when he wants to. I don't know how that introduction escalated to a party invitation. Great! Now we will be dealing with Mr Egomaniac tomorrow. Jase is too happy to fill him in on the party theme. Did I mention he introduced himself as my colleague. Jase is taken by his dresscode, his sudden display of manners and the fact that he studied abroad . I ended up giving him my physical address, that's where the party will be taking place after all. Wonder how will this newly found friendship end after Jase learns he's talking to Mr Ceo parking himself. They seem to be getting along pretty well, its quite sickening. I choose not to get involved in their conversation, adding some snacks seems like a better option at this present moment.

I found them in the queue chatting away like old buddies. We pay, instead of this fool going his way, he comes with us. What the fuck, why wasn't I informed about the third party joining us for supper. He's walking so confidently in between us. I'm extremely annoyed, this was suppose to be my bonding session with Jase. Now there's an uninvited third party, Jase doesn't seem to mind instead he's entertaining this fool more than me. We get settled in our favorite restaurant. He orders a bottle of wine for us, I check the price on the beverages menu and almost choke on my spit. The price, goodness. He went further and announce that the supper is on him. Did I mention he insist on us ordering whatever our heart desires. Quite a big spender I see , this is a perfect opportunity to get even. For all the hard work, the slaving away or better yet let me not. Jase orders the most expensive meals and we sip on the most expensive wine. We are on the second glass when he orders another bottle. The fucked up thing about driving is sticking to your minimal alcohol intake. After the third glass, it's water all the way. An incoming call from Nka comes through, I'm tipsy and in serious need of a chauffeur. A chauffeur to help me reach

my destination safely maybe to even reach the climax destination satisfyingly.

I move from our table just for some little privacy. My filthy mouth has no filter when I'm tipsy. Being tipsy awakens my flirtatious side. Nka has already picked up that I'm tipsy and he's insisting on fetching me. I'm a giggling mess over the phone, this expensive wine has done a number on me. I'm graciously walking up and down while talking to Nka. What I find more amusing is the fact that I'll be sleeping next to my hot fiance and he won't even try any funny business with me. I'm really okay with it, just being in his masculine arms is more satisfactory to me. I'm leaning against the balcony of this restaurant, can't help but feel someone's gaze on me. I look across our table and Banzi has his eyes fixed on me. Our eyes meet, funny how he's engaged in a topic with Jase but his eyes are strictly fixed on me. He's probably thinking of more ways to make my life miserable at work. Hopefully he comes with something more challenging, I'm ready to take him on professionally that is. I turn my back on them again and carry on chatting to my boyfriend. He's complaining about the uber driver, these trustfund babies. To think traveling in an uber was a norm and somewhat a luxury few years ago. The fact that he took that uber just for me, warms my heart.

Insert 117

Only a few minutes before Nka fetch us. I join Jase and his new best friend, Banzi. He gets a phone call soon after. Apparently there's an emergency he has to attend to, he bids us farewell and dashes off. I'm only left with Judas Iscariot, yeah that name suits him perfectly. He is beyond tipsy, this person is drunk. free booze tend to have such end results. Since our chauffeur is almost here why not indulge on this wine, it's not everyday where your boss buys you expensive booze.

JASE : " what's with the secrecy now Lele, why hide Mr yummy looking friendly colleague from us"

OKUHLE : " who are you referring to when u say us"

JASE : " me and other single individuals looking for love including someone I know, who's name I won't mention"

OKUHLE : " that my dear friend is Mr CEO parking in person"

JASE : " you lying, aargh he probably was having a bad day or something"

OKUHLE : " throwing tantrums early in the morning, really a bad day? "

JASE : " he's totally the opposite of what you described. I'm not taking his side doll, you know I have your back like that"

OKUHLE : " yeah right, anyway Nka will be our chauffeur for the night"

JASE : " I'll drink to that. I might be wrong but the way Mr Ceo was staring at you, swear the nigga has a crush on you"

OKUHLE : " Don't make me laugh, it's impossible. That man doesn't like me, we tolerate each other"

JASE : " I could be wrong, the wine is playing it's part as well but the way he kept on stealing glances at you Lele."

OKUHLE : " you are drunk"

JASE : " let's murder this bottle before Nka gets here"

OKUHLE : " Is that a challenge?"

JASE : " are you even asking?"

OKUHLE : " it's on bitch"

Our mission was accomplished, the bottle was empty and the evidence disposed. He's right here looking all kinds of sexy. Only God knows how much I want to jump his Bones and fulfill all my hunger right here, right now. The lady in me will rather have me suffering secretly while my mind goes wild. He loads all the booze in the boot while we singing along to Tkzee-Dlala Mapantsula, something about kwaito that hits the spot when you drunk. We get few unpleasant stares from other passerby while others are enjoying the free show. The star being Jase obviously with his triple voshos, I'm just moving to the beat, shame. It's the same story in the car . The singing along. We drop off Jase first, my singing partner is gone and I pass out immediately.

The day of the party is finally here. I wake up with a minor headache, it helps drinking water in between. I don't even worry about Jase, his punctuality is on steroids. Soon he'll be here behind the stove doing what he knows best. Obviously Nka had to carry me from the car to the bedroom, so much for my climax destination. I find Nka busy preparing breakfast, there goes the breakfast in bed surprise. He offers me a cup of black coffee, the remedy. I watch him working his magic in the kitchen, topless. My naked chef. My eyes keeps wandering to his boxers, he notice and laughs it off. Why am I not finding this whole situation funny , hunger is at

work. I continue indulging with my eyes, wait till this probation period ends. After what seems like forever Breakfast is finally ready, we eat over some light conversation. This feels just like old times, Our moment gets disturbed by the buzz outside the gate, that's definitely Jase. That's one person you can always count on, no matter the circumstances. Nka has disappeared quickly to put on some clothes, we wouldn't want my goodies displayed in front of my friends.

We get down to business. We marinate the meat, prepare salads, chakalaka and prepare the whole Hawaiian theme. It's cloudy, the weather is definitely not co-operating with the plans on hand. Jase doesn't care much about the weather. We are done in exactly two hours. We make a good team, now its time to freshen up and dress up before the guest arrive. It's only the six of us anyway, Jase's two colleagues, Mpilo's wife and her plus one and us. We are done and everyone is here already. Finger foods are served as starters, the weather fucked up Jase's plans. We are all cooked up in doors, heater on full blast. It's a chilled vibe, everyone is getting along. Drinks are flowing. I'm emotional though, such moments are best celebrated with families. How I wish my parents, brother, his wife and kids were here. Circumstances prevented me from sharing such news with them, hopefully I'll be forgiven once this gets revealed. Jase and his friends are party freaks, the music is banging and they are entertaining us with their dance moves . Mpilo's wife leaves early, atleast she came to support me. I can't blame her though, in her position. she's heavily pregnant and in serious need of rest.

We get into serious party mode, playing a few drinking games. There's a buzz at the gate, seems like it's my duty as a host to welcome more guests. I completely forgot about this fool standing behind my gate, he has brought a plus one. I don't know if it's the liquor intake or I'm seeing double. He never mentioned he was a twin before, identical twin for that matter. I let them in and do the whole friendly introductions that I despise so much. They are not twins but brothers. This younger brother is so talkative, his name is Luyolo and this fools full name is Lubanzi. He's not impressed by the mention of his full name. Whatever, I take them to where the real party is. Jase is all smiles seeing his "friend", here we go again. Luyolo is such a darling helping me dish up for them and everyone else. He's talkative feels like I've known him forever. He keeps staring at my flowers from the mysterious secret admirer.

OKUHLE : " they are beautiful, arent they?"

LUYOLO : " breathtaking, who ever sent you these must be madly inlove to even come up with this rare combination"

OKUHLE : " you'd be suprised, thought they were from my fiance but later discovered they were probably delivered to me by mistake"

LUYOLO: " I doubt they were mistakenly delivered. Think about it, who would go through so much trouble only to mess up the delivery address."

OKUHLE : " whatever the case may be, I'm inlove with this bouquet. it pains me realising after a couple of days, they'll be ruined and I must chuck them away"

LUYOLO: " interesting"

I excuse myself for a moment, the ladies room is extremely needed. I need to take it easy on the booze and start drinking water now. Nka sent a message, he will be coming through in two hours time. There's a relief that washes over me, atleast I won't sleep alone tonight. There's someone banging on the door, what's with people and lack of manners. I wash my hands, as soon as the door opens Banzi comes in and locks the door. What the actual fuck, he hovers over me and my heart starts beating fast. My greatest fear, being sexually assaulted in my own home. He senses my uneasiness and unlocks the door, he's standing against the door staring me in a freakish way. This one certainly doesn't know how to handle his liquor. He pulls me closer to him without breaking eye contact. What happened to the fear I had few minutes ago? He trace his thumb along my cheekbones. Without any warning he smash his lips on mine, the soft cold lips upon mine. He sucks on my bottom lip so gently, you'd swear we have all the time in the world. I get lost in the moment and kiss him back, blame it on the alcohol.

After a very passionate kiss I pull away, he's staring at me with eyes full of lust. I feel suffocated. I need fresh air. O' my God what have I done, someone is shouting behind me. The kiss, I brush my lower lip. This was definitely a mistake

I'm not touching any alcohol until Nka arrives. This was surely a mistake, I'm certain Banzi also knows it was a mistake. It's freezing outside, atleast I'll sober up and set the record straight with Banzi. After gathering enough strength to go back inside and set the record straight. I turn around and there he is

Insert 118

The signature pose again, hands in his pockets. He's the strangest human being I've ever come across. from overworking me in the office, to Demanding his "rightful parking space" and taking my newly found parking space. He hovers over me, his eyes piercing through my skin. Okay, I need to set the record straight before this gets anymore awkward. I attempt to speak but he puts his finger on my lips. " There you are are, I've searched everywhere for you" I release a sigh

of relief. Banzi looks annoyed, his eyes are still fixed on me.

LUYOLO : " am I disturbing something?"

BANZI : " as a matter of fact you are"

OKUHLE : " not at all, I need to go back inside."

BANZI : " we were in the middle of something MaKhumalo."

There's something in the way he pronounce MaKhumalo that sends shivers down my spine. Luyolo is smiling like a retard. Guess we will talk properly like adults on monday, sober without the influence of alcohol. I attempt to move away but he grabs my hand, the grip is firm yet gentle. To make matters worse Luyolo vanishes back inside the house, why has God forsaken me in this moment of weakness. His gaze and that cologne alone are enough to drive me wild. I make a choice right there and then to escape this temptation once and for all.

BANZI : "why are you fighting it Makhumalo?"

That "Makhumalo" again, why is he addressing me in that manner. I swear that "MaKhumalo" will have me sitting in the confessional, confessing all my sins. He pulls me closer to him and devours my lips again. He runs his fingers through my hair while the other is clinging tightly on my waist. Good lord! I get lost in the moment and allow his tongue to do undespicable things to mine. My heart and soul knows this is wrong, but my flesh is giving in to lustful desires. "MaKhumalo" he whispers to my ear after pulling away from the kiss. My knees are weak, the river that's flowing in my undies right now. I want to run away so badly, hopefully my feet will carry me.

BANZI : " look at what you are doing to me MaKhumalo. You've just awakened the big Lu"

OKUHLE : " Oh my God"

BANZI : " funny how I've just imagined you uttering those words, but I'm prepared to wait."

OKUHLE : " forget it Lubanzi that won't happen"

BANZI : " are you trying to convince me or yourself MaKhumalo. Need I remind you, I'm the man of my word."

OKUHLE : " really we'll see about that"

BANZI : " Run my beautiful MaKhumalo, soon you won't stand being away from me"

I walk away from him, clearly because I don't trust myself in his presence. The kiss had me feeling some type of ways . No, it's probably the alcohol effect. Red wine has that effect on me, it so happens he was there with his kisses. That makes sense or am I lying to myself? It's so warm inside the house, jeez can't believe I've been standing in the cold for so long. The party has seized a bit, Jase and his team are tired of dancing. Drinks are flowing I join in, so much for taking it easy on the booze. Guilt is slowly taking over, Nka will be here any minute from now. How do I look him in the eyes, after kissing another man. What the hell ! the same Nka fucked some random girl while I was being a good partner. Why do I feel so guilty though, didn't he feel an ounce of guilt when he left me all those nights ?

Luyolo bids everyone farewell, wait what happened to Banzi? I hear their car roaring outside, that's definitely their subaru. There's a little dissapontment but this is for the best. Jase and his friends helps with cleaning up as well. They are taking this party to club taboo. I'm definitely not joining them, I need some alone time to digest all that's happended tonight. A text from Nka he's twenty minutes away, always considerate this one. He probably didn't want to disturb us, so much for my me time. I quickly jump in the shower and wash away my sins. Banzi's cologne is all over my jersey. A change of clothes before Nka gets here, I feel like a professional cheater already. Getting rid of evidence. This is by far the quickest bath I've ever had, in exactly twenty minutes I'm already dressed up. There's a buzz at the gate, it's him okay. I take one last shot, hopefully this ease the guilt a bit.

He comes in looking all kinds of sexy with a bunch of bouquet and expensive chocolates. Wonder will he still buy me gifts if he were to find out about my latest shenanigans. He attacks me with the warmest hugs. He runs his hands through my scalp.

NKANYISO : " I've missed you so much my love. It doesn't even look like there was a party. How was it"

OKUHLE : " Jase and his squad cleaned up before they left."

NKANYISO : " why didn't I have friends like Jase in my teen years, the way we used to get busted after throwing a successful house party"

OKUHLE : " You guys were naughty, we never had such luxuries . My parents were always

around, always. They used to take turns but there wasn't a time where both were absent"

NKANYISO : "The first time mom busted us but there was no punishment. She simply asked us not to repeat that mistake, the second time their flight was canceled due to heavy storms and that was the last time, the punishment we received from Mr Nxumalo. That man is a true definition of a disciplinarian "

I watch him laugh so carefree, wonder will he feel the same after discovering about the kiss earlier. I'm torn between confessing or just letting it be. It's not like that kiss meant anything, besides Banzi will go back to the states soon. No one saw what happened so I guess this one secret won't be exposed. But then again, nothing stays hidden forever. Apparently men don't forgive as easily as women do. I need to be of sober mind to make the right decision. Guess this time around I'm all alone in decision making, Mrs Nxumalo is not even an option where advice is concerned. She might look at me differently when she learns of my intimate moment with another man. All these thoughts are roaming my mind while Nka is conversing with himself. Damn I screwed up tonight, there has to be a way to fix this. Monday I'll have to set the record straight with Banzi.

NKANYISO : " babe what's bothering you?"

OKUHLE : " huuh"

NKANYISO : " you've zoned out on me, that only happens when something heavy is bothering you. I'm all ears you know, you can still trust me with your secrets"

Wish I can share but I'm afraid this secret will ruin this moment. I'm a hypocrite right? expecting honesty at all times, now I'm failing to deliver it. He genuinely looks concerned. I flash him my mischievous smile, he returns it with his naughty grin. He spanks my ass and nibbles on my ear, the hunger is real. He trails soft kisses on my neck and gives my butt cheeks a firm squeeze. I know the combination of my lace and wetness will soon drive him insane. His eyes are burning with desire, I'm already mourning from his soft smooth touch in my sensitive genitals. This is about to be a night of pleasurable passionate lovemaking. I want him, no scratch that. I need him. My very own Mr Nxumalo Sir.

Insert 119

Waking up in the arms of the one you love, nothing beats that feeling. Your whole mood gets revived and you'll definitely have a great day ahead. I'm watching him sleeping so peacefully. He really put in some good work last night, have you ever seen how energetic a sexually satisfied woman gets. I should feel suffocated since I'm snaked around his arms but no, this feels good. It feels right, the only challenge I have right now is freeing myself from his arms without waking him. I'm furchished right now. finally I manage to free myself. He opens one eye, turns and sleep again. Gosh, that was close. I decide to take a shower on the guest bedroom avoiding to make any noise and disturbing him. I prepare my famous english breakfast when I'm done, there's a part of me that has been yearning for this moment honestly. Waking up next to him, preparing breakfast or him suprising me with breakfast in bed. There's a little MaKhumalo in me sometimes, the only difference I'm more ambitious and determined to make a name for myself. Besides I already had a glimpse of being a house wife and it didn't work for me.

Breakfast is ready, its half past nine. Ow how I dislike winter. I should wake that man up so we can eat, I'm starving but first I check on the kids. That little one of mine didn't even come to the phone, she kept shouting "siyadlala, si busy" (we are busy playing) in the background. So much for having a daughter. I'm not sure if she understands the concept of the phone as yet or she gets so excited with Lindo's presence that she won't even talk to me over the phone. It's such a wonderful thing to experience yet so frustrating at times. Luckily I'm more calm this morning or else I would've called repeatedly till she eventually speak to me. Sometimes I even drive there early just to spend a little time with them with an excuse of taking them out. Are all parents so obsessed with their children or am I the crazy one?

I peep through the door and Nka is still fast asleep. Now I'm torn on whether to wake him or let him rest a bit. If I wait for him I'll definitely pass out before he wakes up. I dish up for me relax in the lounge, scrolling through my phone. I check up on Jase, he picks up after the third ring on my fourth attempt. Someone had fun. He sounds so sleepy, after he notifies me that he arrived home safely I hang up. Shame my moghey needs his sleep more, knowing him they partied through the night. I'm probably getting old but partying throughout the night doesn't excite me anymore. Having supper, drinks and hanging out with friends until 11pm it's my idea of having fun lately. I do my laundry while cleaning. See how domesticated I get after getting my remedy. A smile creeps up on my face, thinking of the sweaty sessions we had. He wrap his arms around me, he smells fresh.

OKUHLE : " you smell like me"

NKANYISO : " those are the only toiletries available babe, besides I don't mind smelling like my person the whole day"

OKUHLE : " mmmm I fixed you some breakfast but its probably cold now"

NKANYISO : " I'm starving babe, don't worry I'll warm it. I need all the energy"

OKUHLE : " I left your food in the microwave"

NKANYISO : " hope to get some dessert as well after breakfast"

OKUHLE : " you wish I'm busy with my laundry"

NKANYISO : " I'll take you shopping provided the dessert is served"

OKUHLE : " I won't say no to shopping, but babe the dessert dish is a bit sore from last night servings"

NKANYISO : " I'll kiss it better my love. There's nothing my tongue can't do to fix my dessert dish"

That statement alone has me smiling like a retard, him parading naked doesn't make things easier on my side. Do I regret jumping his bones last night, definitely not. If given another opportunity to do things differently will I take it, definitely not. I had forgotten of his big appetite, the concentration whenever he eats his food. I make a decision there and then not to inform him of last night's kiss. Whenever this resurface I'll always blame it on the liquor, why would I ruin such a perfect moment with a kiss that meant nothing. I completely forgot about it the moment Nka had his hands on me before he even kissed me. I refill his plate with more bread, eggs, bacon and join in the party. This reminds me of days when we used to be nothing but food buddies. The smile that creeps up his face, I bet he also had one of those flashbacks. Can't believe we've come this far from being just mere food buddies, work colleagues, lovers and now parents. He revived what I thought was gone forever which was love. I swore never to love again after Smanga then he came along.

He waves his hand across my face and snaps his finger. I'm on it again, the zoning out but this time around it's only the beauty of our love that I'm daydreaming off. How far we have come, the trials and tribulations we have conquered so far. I know there's still more challenges ahead but I'm hopeful we will conquer them if we remain solid and faithful. I feel his soft lips against mine bringing me back to reality. We engage in a very wet lip locking moment, I'm already breathing heavily when he pulls out. He lifts me up and put me on the kitchen table. He stares deep inside my eyes as if searching for my soul. Adoration, love and admiration that's all his eyes reflects . I could spend forever staring into his eyes. There's not even an ounce of anger or regret left in my heart. All I feel is nothing but pure love.

NKANYISO : " I love you Makakhanya with all my heart and soul. I promise to work overtime proving my undying love to you. I'm not perfect LET-O, I'll fumble and fall along the way. If there's one thing I regret, is hurting you. That's what I'm mostly working on now, to see you happy from now on and forever. "

OKUHLE : " wow, you've said a mouthful. What more can I say, I love you that's for sure and I'm willing to give us another chance."

NKANYISO : " I promised not to engage in intimacy with you, till we fixed our problems. Last night I broke that vow and honestly now I want to tear that pussy up more than ever."

OKUHLE : " what's stopping you though Nka, right now I want my pussy being torn by no one but you "

NKANYISO : " ofcourse I'll tear it up but I just wanted to get this off my chest babe. I wanted you to know where I stand and what I'm prepared to do."

I'm one fucked up person, Nka is pouring his heart out and I'm thinking how good he feels inside me. Watching his lips move is awakening my desires of having him. His eyes makes me more aroused. His masculine arms, his collar bone, his chest rising up and down when he talks. Everything about him is turning me on right now. The way he close his eyes when he smiles. He puts both his hands on my thighs, my whole body shivers. There's visible goosebumps from his touch alone, that naughty grin again. His quite slow my mind has been roaming around exploring the world of lust, the evidence lies in my lace undies. The whole time he was confessing his undying love and his determination to keep me happy. I was already deep in my own world of desire. Now that I've tasted his good loving, I cant stay away from it.

NKANYISO : " amazing! after all this time your body still responds to my touch with the same reaction it did the very first time I touched you"

OKUHLE : " shut up and touch me some more"

NKANYISO : " you do realize this means we will spend the whole day indoors"

OKUHLE : " there's nowhere I'd rather be, I want to be in bed. between the sheets with you."

NKANYISO : " you do realize by the end of today Khanya might have a sister or brother"

I smash my lips on his, once this one starts with "you do realize" nonsense he won't stop anytime soon. The kiss is very slow and passionate, he picks me up. I want to be in charge today, rock his world and fuck him back to sleep. As soon as he lays me on the bed, I flip and

get on top. The smile on his face, Priceless! I bet he knows what's about to follow.

Insert 120

That damn alarm again, I'm exhausted and duty calls. Would it be so wrong of me to call in sick? My energy levels are depleted, whoever created money fucked us all. There's no snoozing anymore not unless I want to be late. Nka is still fast asleep, what's with him lately. He never used to be such a deep sleeper. I drag myself from the bed, run a bath while preparing my outfit for the day. One thing I love about winter, it doesn't require a lot of ironing. Knitwear is the way to go. I wake him up so we can bath together, today there's no breakfast in bed treatments. Every minute counts especially in the morning. We drive out in our separate cars, driving past Khanya's daycare makes me miss her even more. I'm definitely fetching her after work. I grab breakfast before driving to work. I arrive just on time, luckily I'm not late. The traffic was a bit of a nightmare with traffic lights not working due to loadshedding. After greeting everyone I'm in such a rush to eat my breakfast in my office.

There's no sign of Banzi anywhere. Yes I'm desperately searching for him, just so I can clarify the Saturday kiss. For someone who's always in my face, he seems to be doing a good job in avoiding me. The rest of the day goes by smoothly with no interruptions. I'm driving to the Nxumalo's residence quite satisfied, it was such a productive, peaceful day for a Monday. Khanya is ecstatic to see me, it's quite funny how I'll bring her back here in the morning. "I don't want my granddaughter catching all the different germs at the day care, more especially in winter" that's Mrs Nxumalo's argument. My question is will Lisakhanya only attend in summer, what about when she officially starts proper school. I honestly think it has a lot to do with boredom, because the same germs they are avoiding could be floating in the malls, restaurant, book clubs, spa etc. Khanya is a loyal companion to all these trips.

Leaving the Nxumalo's residence it's always the hardest thing to do, Mrs Nxumalo will keep you so occupied with her daily routines. She has quite a busy schedule for a housewife. There's talk of buying a farm upon Mr Nxumalo's retirement. Isn't that every elder's dream to spend their elderly years somewhere quiet and peaceful. Will the senior Mrs survive though, she's so accustomed to the modern life which includes, manicures, skin treatments, body massages. I'm failing to picture her somewhere far from the city. She always does this to me falling asleep while I'm behind the wheel and immediately wakes up as soon as I lay her on the bed. Struggles of motherhood. The advantages of the senior Mrs delaying you is that supper and lunchbox is always provided. No pots for me tonight.

After my bath and long ass phonecall with Nka. It's finally bedtime it's so much better falling asleep next to my cuddling partner. I must've fallen asleep immediately after climbing the bed. I can hear my phone vibrating from afar, the more I try to ignore it. The louder the vibrations get, whoever is calling better have a good reason to be calling at such ungodly hours. My mind is telling me to switch off my phone and only attend to it in the morning but then again, this could be an emergency. I answer but there's no response, this is rather strange. Who has time for pranks in this time of the night. I check the time and its exactly 11:56 pm. People have time for nonsense, it can't be their reception the person decided to keep quite and listen to me going on with the hello's. I'm really pissed.

Now I'm struggling to fall asleep again, you know how a human mind works once it starts wondering. Maybe it could be our neighbour's back home, speaking of which I'll have to check the Khumalo's first thing in the morning. I conclude maybe it was a wrong number since it's an unknown number. Surely the person would've called back if it was an emergency or something pertaining my family. It must be a wrong number, it's the only logical explanation making sense right now. I doubt they'll ever be someone who will intentionally deprive themselves of sleep just to play prank calls. No ways! My cuddling partner is sleeping peacefully next to me. I decide to put my phone on silent just incase the mysterious caller decides to call again. Surfing the social networks is the only option I have till sleep recognizes me again.

The alarm again, goodness. I feel so robbed of my good sleep. Can't even recall when did I fall asleep after the mysterious phone call. My struggle waking up every morning during winter is too real, especially on cold days like this one. The senior Mrs has suggested Khanya moves in temporarily during winter then she'll be all mine every weekend. Even though she makes perfect sense and the arrangement could work on my advantage but I gently turned down the offer. The bond that I have with my daughter makes it difficult to stay away from her more than three days. Even two days it's torturous but bearable. The daily sweet Morning text from Nka comes through. I respond immediately because a call will follow if I don't. What was the point in replying that text because he immediately calls, we chat while I'm busy preparing my outfit. Khanya wakes up , this leads to the call being placed on loudspeaker. Their chats are always the sweetest, great he's coming through with breakfast. I jump for joy because I know he will drop Khanya off.

We take our bath together, it always saves me time. By the time Nka buzz the gate, we are already done waiting for that breakfast. After breakfast we drive our separate ways and Nka promise to fetch her after work. This saves me another drive, today must be my lucky day.

Another text, our cargo was safely delivered at her designated location. How he compares our daughter to a cargo always tickles my humour. He can be very silly sometimes. After the morning routine of greeting, making small talks and having coffee with my colleagues. It's work as usual, today is also the same story. Banzi being absent, maybe he went back overseas. That would actually save me the awkwardness of having to talk about the kiss.

The rest of the day goes by smoothly once again with no drama. Everyone in the office is a bit relaxed, perks of working without supervision. The guys didn't seem to have any problem though with the boss's son around. Seems like I was the only one he was giving a hard time. Our reception lady was just plain intimidated by his presence, this I'm only picking up now as we are conversing just before closing time. I'm having dinner date tomorrow with Jase, we all know what this means. Another gossiping session and catching up. I can't help but worry, later this afternoon during our phone conversation. He sounded a bit down but didn't want to get into details. I'm praying it's nothing to do with his love life. He's genuinely happy with his current partner. Nka has already summoned me to freshen up when I arrive home. We are going on a dinner date as a family. How can I say no to another night of not cooking? That definitely won't be me. I do as instructed and prepare for our family dinner date. Another text comes through they inform me they just left the Nxumalo's residence, they'll be here in fifteen minutes time. That's just another way of telling me to get done quickly and be ready by the time they get here.

I'm picked up in exactly fifteen minutes time. We make our way to the mall into this very upmarket restaurant. It's a new restaurant, quite fancy not that I'm complaining, Who would? My money time and energy are spared. The thought of slaving away behind the stove after work is not very much appealing. We settle down, order our food and enjoy our supper. Khanya falls asleep immediately after eating. Shopping, attending book clubs and spa's is no child's play. We always find humour in Khanya's interesting daily activities. I swear the senior Mrs is on a mission to turn my daughter into a slay princess.

Insert 121

Nka spent the night with us after our family dinner last night. We all slept in my bed, ofcourse there was no funny business. I just enjoyed sleeping with my family in one bed. Am I the luckiest woman or what? Khanya was dropped off this morning again. She's spending the night with her granny. We all know my dinner dates with Jase always ends up late. Nka was sulking this morning, he probably was expecting an invite later. Not tonight though, I can't shake this funny feeling whenever Jase crosses my mind. That's the thing about being too close to someone, you

can automatically feel when they are down or troubled. I'm just praying its nothing major though. It's mid week and I'm in good spirits the weekend is upon us and we are having Lindokuhle over this weekend . Nka is taking us on a weekend getaway, he mentioned something along the lines of mini vacation. I'm excited and looking forward to it even though he doesn't want to diclose the location . So long as I'll be far from usual surroundings, there's nothing much to be done in winter. It's always the same routine, spending weekends indoors watching tv or reading books . The activities are limited because the days are shorter and the cold breeze and wind makes it hard to carry out outdoors activities not unless we choose the mall.

I'm driving to work listening to my feel good music, this is declaration of a good day ahead. Same routine every morning with the colleagues. I use to enjoy working for the Nxumalo's, gossiping with the ladies and listening to their dramatic lifestyles but working with the guys is much more enjoyable. There's less drama, no gossips it's plain transparent and easy going. Maybe it comes with growth as well, the older you get the more you appreciate peaceful environments. I receive a confirmation text from Jase regarding our dinner date, we are still very much on. Good atleast we can get to the bottom of this uneasy feeling or maybe I'm just overacting and sensing wrong vibes, negative vibes to be exact. I get down to business and there's a pile of paper work to go through. We've landed another big contract with the biggest wholesaler in the country, now my workload is a bit too much. But I still get things done by the end of the day.

One of my colleague peeps through the door, apparently there's a delivery for me downstairs. I get to the reception and there's a huge ass bouquet of flowers waiting for me. The inquisitive stares again. I don't blame them though this is rather exaggerated, who in the hell was behind this flower selection. It's even heavy to carry. After signing I search for a note but it's not there. This is rather worrying now, all Nka's flowers are always accompanied by a note with sweet messages. This reminds me of that previous delivery which I thought was wrongly addressed to me. The delivery guy has left, now I cant even ask where the flowers are coming from. I play it cool ofcourse in front of my colleagues. There's no doubt, these are pricey. Why am I suddenly thinking of the mysterious call now. could I possibly have a secret admirer or maybe a stalker. my intestines freeze at the thought of having someone watching my every move, my goodness Khanya.

I close my office door. I'm trying by all means to make sense out of this, panic is slowly creeping in. I'm pacing up and down like a mad woman. This doesn't seem right a delivery mistake can only be made once, right? I call Nka, pretending to be checking up on him. I hint that I miss receiving gifts from him during work time, especially flowers. He laughs it off and promise to have them delivered soon. It becam clear he wasn't behind this delivery. I calm myself down and

conclude of taking extra precautions from now on. luckily Nka always emphasizes the importance of safety, he even suggested of arranging a chauffer just till winter is over but I plainly refused. Now I'll be more wary of my surroundings and if something is suspicious, I will be chauffeured everyday to and from work. atleast now I'm a bit calm with all the options I have concerning my safety.

I opt not to take the flowers with, what if there's a tracker and whoever behinds it will easily locate my place. There I go again overthinking things but rather safe than sorry. they will sit in my desk until their their lifetime expires . Today I left work a bit early just so I can dodge the traffic before it gets worse. Within thirty minutes of leaving work, I'm parked outside our favorite hang out spot with Jase. I decide to check up on the Khumalo's, by checking up on the Khumalo's I'm referring to the parents, my brother and his family. That requires me to have over R100 worth of airtime and half is spent talking to MaKhumalo. That's because she updates me of everything, the latest neighborhood shenanigans, the prayer sessions with the ladies and their upcoming church events. It gets worse once we get started on her grandchildren, with Bab'Khumalo its sounds like a rehearsed speech all the time. I swear, It's always three questions "how are you, how's my granddaughter, Is my son inlaw still treating you well?" we can talk 5 consecutive days and that's all our conversation gets reduced to. I promise to pay them a visit soon.

An incoming call from Nka inquiring of my whereabouts and offering to pick me up or sending a chauffeur just incase we stay up too late. I'm actually considering the second option if push comes to shove. I spot Jase entering the premises while pressing on his phone, this leads to me cutting my phone call short. I'm certain Jase won't mind spending five more minutes sitting there alone. I check up on Khanya and her gran before our dinner date starts. Once me and Jase link up there's no time for phones not unless it involves snapping selfies or showing each other screenshots other than that it's pure eyelocking and lips moving vibe all the way. I find him sipping on some wine, his concentration all directed on his phone. He's dressed up as usual, what's new. Jase's wardrobe value could buy and furnish a suburban house but he's still not ready for the house, not that he can't afford it. He's so absorbed in his phone, he gets startled as soon as I call his name.

OKUHLE : " we are on that wine tip I see"

JASE : " you gave me such a fright Lele, how are you?"

OKUHLE : " that's the question I should be asking you Jase, how are you"

JASE : " I think we should eat first before we get down to business"

There's definitely something wrong but it's not all bad if he can still manage to eat. We order our usual meal accompanied by a bottle of red wine. I make a mental note to inform Nka of the transport arrangements, we will definitely leave late and I'm not a fan of driving at night especially after couple of wine glasses, there's a possibility of a second bottle. Scratch that Nka must pick me up himself. We eat over light office gossip, he's also worried over the second flower delivery. The relief, atleast I wasn't overreacting earlier. We are on our second glasses of wine.

JASE : " So it turns out my current bae is a popular Pastors son"

OKUHLE : " I smell trouble from afar"

JASE : " in fact trouble is reeking from all angles, lele"

OKUHLE : " ow oo, drumroll. Hit me with that bomb"

JASE : " The Pastor is homophobic, in fact there's a YouTube clip where he preach about the gays/Lesbians needing deliverance and cleansing"

OKUHLE : " what's his take on his son being gay?"

JASE : " that's a good question to ask but he's clueless as a matter of fact he's expecting a makoti soon or else he will resort into arranging a wife for his only son"

OKUHLE : " make it full Jase, pour that wine full for me"

JASE : " drinking and driving Lele, hello Makakhanya"

He snaps his fingers across my face while calling Khanya's name repeatedly. We end up bursting into laughter. Really now? Will I ever live so recklessly . He knows there's a plan already, all that's needed is a confirmation from me

Insert 122

After confirming our transport arrangements, we go hard on the bottle. I text Nka and promise to call him when we ready to leave. Once that's sorted out , we carry on with our conversation This place closes at 11 pm during weekdays, we conclude in leaving at 10pm. We still have four hours to kill and the bottle of wine to murder.

OKUHLE : " he's basically an after nine is that what you are telling me?"

JASE : " his mom knows, he introduced me to her as his lover. Scratch that, he introduced me as his lifetime partner Lele"

OKUHLE : " wow! What's going to happen now with his father"

JASE : " he's ready to risk it all Lele, atleast that's what he says. He even sounds genuine"

OKUHLE : " so his parents will disown him if he comes clean"

JASE : " Yep, why can't things run smoothly just this once Lele?"

OKUHLE : " wish I had all the answers but this life has no manual and boy don't we all get screwed!"

JASE : " I always get burnt Lele"

OKUHLE : " and I'm the last one to give relationship advice "

JASE : " I love him Lele with all my heart, Is it worth it though? I mean him being disowned because of me, it's a bit too much for my liking"

OKUHLE : " He will be disowned either way, the problem is not you but your father in law"

JASE : " what if things don't work out in the long run between us Lele? After risking it all for me then one day I decide to up and leave. What then?"

OKUHLE : " you worry too much doll, those are things beyond our control besides, it won't change the fact that he's gay and eventually the truth would've came out. See even if he goes through with the arranged marriage, that woman will live a very miserable life"

JASE : " I want to spend my forever with him but the drama ahead makes me doubtful"

OKUHLE : " doubtful of your love or relationship?"

JASE : " definitely relationship, what if he goes through with the arranged marriage plan. I don't see him going against his fathers wishes."

OKUHLE : " let's google the Pastor"

Now I understand Jase's frustration. This man has many followers and he leads one of the biggest church in south africa, he has various branches. The YouTube homophobic clip has Millions views and shares, this is going to be difficult. There's also an article stating his son will

get married soon and follow in his footsteps. I honestly don't know how Jase and his partner will overcome this. This Man seems determined for his son to take over from him oneday. If his son is brave enough to come out of the closet, the father will be so dissaponted. No scratch that, He will be devastated and most probably become the laughing stock among other church leaders. He's totally against same sex relationships , wonder what will become of his wife once the truth is revealed. I sigh heavily

JASE : " you see the obstacles we are faced with"

OKUHLE : "Wow, this is hectic. I honestly didn't think the Pastor was this popular"

JASE : " I don't know Lele, somehow this won't work out"

OKUHLE : " Honestly doll, if you guys survive this please do me a favor and get married right away"

JASE : " speaking of marriages when are you planning on going down the aisle. I think my life needs a bit of positive vibes and excitement. Planning the wedding will definitely do the trick"

OKUHLE : " we are still working towards the trust issue, besides there are some complexities I need to overcome before becoming someone's wife"

JASE : " what complexities I believe the only person here dealing with complexities is definitely me"

OKUHLE : " I kissed Mr CEO parking spot the other day"

JASE : " no ways! you little hoe. Spill the beans"

I check the time and we still have half an hour to kill. There's no way I'm escaping this. Jase seems eager to hear all the gory details. What happened to keeping this a secret till I resolve this issue. Secrets and wine, I roll my eyes. Well, maybe I needed to talk about this to someone sooner than later. The guilt, such a petty crime. The fact that I enjoyed the kiss makes it worse. Jase has his eyes wide open and his hand over his mouth.

OKUHLE : " aren't we overreacting a bit, that reaction makes me feel like a slut"

JASE : " I've just realized something doll, the mysterious flowers. It makes sense now"

OKUHLE : " no fucken ways"

JASE : " yes fucken ways, we've solved the mystery behind the secret admirer"

OKUHLE : " it's impossible, the first bunch came when he was still giving me a hardtime. I doubt it's him, maybe there's someone playing a practical joke on me"

JASE : " you are denial Lele, who can waste their money like that. Have you seen those flowers doll?"

OKUHLE : " funny thing is he's missing in action now, the guy has been absent from work ever since the kiss"

JASE : " Banzi is behind the flowers, case closed."

OKUHLE : " mhmmm"

It's almost time for us to leave. I inform Nka and he's a few minutes away. I would've never suspected Banzi was behind the anonymous flower delivery. Then who's behind the anonymous call just the other day. It can't be him though, where does he even get my numbers from. What am I even asking, ofcourse he has access to that information. This changes alot of things now, surely this guy has developed some sort of feelings towards me. This also means things could take a wrong turn real quick if I don't come clean to Nka. Thought this could be avoided but now I'm not so sure. Keeping this a secret could backfire. I'm torn between telling him right away or setting the record straight first then confess afterwards.

OKUHLE : " Nka is on his way, he'll be here any minute from now"

JASE : " tomorrow I'm going to end things with my lover"

OKUHLE : " give him a chance first"

JASE : " I've made up my mind Lele as much as I love him, he's definitely not worth the drama. My heart is at peace with this decision. Regardless of what happens, this won't end well Lele. I'm learning to trust my gut feeling now. Wish I would've learnt earlier though "

OKUHLE : " we learn as we grow "

JASE : " my gut feeling warned me of Mkhulu bae, trust me. I'm not taking this warnings lightly now"

OKUHLE : " whatever decision you make I'm right behind you. You have my full support"

JASE : " that's all I need. I feel like crap already but it's something I need to do. The struggle that comes with breaking someone's heart"

OKUHLE : " what about you doll , your heart will be broken as well"

JASE : " I'm at peace Lele rather protect my peace now than face all the pain later"

OKUHLE : " come here"

I embrace him in the warmest hug. The complications that comes with life. One minute Jase was happy and madly inlove, now he's planning to break up. Just few months ago I was also happy and planning my wedding then Nka happened. Now we are both faced with decisions that might change our lives forever. Isn't that the beauty of life though, knowing irregardless of what happens life goes on. My phone rings in my handbag. We let go of each other and I answer my phone. Nka is outside, we gather our bags and walk towards the exit. I know this is weighing heavily on Jase, he will need all my support throughout this whole ordeal. On the other hand I need to urgently locate Banzi and get this over and done with. There's also a confession to make , this means I'll also have to know who he was busy screwing the past few months.

My knees are weak, it's quite funny. Me and Jase are both walking funny. Finishing 3 bottles of wine is no childs play, atleast Nka will wake me in the morning. We settle in the backseat and Nka shakes his head, definitely not approving the state we are in. We chat about random stuff while giggling like two naughty teenagers. I can barely keep my eyes open as soon as Jase is dropped off and safely inside. I feel myself drifting off to sleep. Nka has no time for conversations, he definitely won't let this go. I forsee a morning lecture from him. Right now all I need is a proper bed and sleep the rest I'll deal with the next day.

Insert 123

I hear Nka calling my name from afar, at first I thought I was dreaming but he gently pull my arm. Opening my eyes feels like mission impossible, the pounding headache is a sign of hangover. He scoops me in his arms, the shock when my body lands on the bathtub. I scream in shock and he laughs out loud. My eyes are wide open, all I can do is stare at this fool. He's definitely finding this whole situation humorous .

NKANYISO : " I'd start bathing if I were you. You have exactly 40minutes"

OKUHLE : " why didn't you wake me earlier"

NKANYISO : " you were sleeping so peaceful, I didn't want to disturb you. Make it snappy if you want to beat the traffic .

Trying to bath quick is proving to be difficult especially when you hungover . I've made peace with the fact that I'll get stuck in traffic and possibly arrive late at work. He comes in with a cup of some mixed concoction and instruct me to drink. After finding out it will help with the hangover. I empty all the cups contents in my mouth. It taste bitter, I wash it down with a glass of water afterwards . No wonder I'm feeling like crap, last night I forgot about my routine. Drinking water in between, it usually works wonders in terms of hangover. As difficult as it is I finish in record time, dress and something smells divine when I step in the kitchen. For someone who was rushing me, he seems pretty relaxed.

NKANYISO : " impressive now sit down and have breakfast"

OKUHLE : " thought you said there's no time"

NKANYISO : " and my strategy worked wonders"

OKUHLE : " I'm so gonna get you for this one, what's the time anyway"

NKANYISO : " we have half an hour to indulge in this scrumptious breakfast"

OKUHLE : " well in that case you are forgiven, I'm furmished"

NKANYISO : " I knew you would be"

I grab one sausage in the plate in front of me. It taste divine, this is exactly what I need. Whatever concoction he gave me earlier is working, I feel abit better the headache is not as bad. I see he has one grandpa tablet beside my plate. I'll be good as new after taking it. We enjoy our breakfast in peace, he's not making much conversation this morning. Every now and then our eyes meet. I feel he's waiting for the perfect time to lecture me about my booze intake last night. Not that I blame him, we went hard on that bottle. I wonder how Jase is feeling this morning. He's probably coping just fine, that one still clubs throughout the night. Can't say so about myself, spending a night with my daughter in doors is more appealing to me. He insist on us doing the dishes before we leave for work. As much as I'm not in the mood but it's better than coming to a house full of dirty dishes. Guess we are having this conversation now.

NKANYISO : " Makakhanya about last night, I don't have a problem with you going out and I'll gladly pick you up but please monitor your booze intake"

OKUHLE : " Yah we went too hard on that bottle, promise to monitor next time"

NKANYISO: "please hear me well, I don't have a problem with you drinking when you out with friends. The state you guys were in yesterday. It's quite scary with all the human trafficking syndicate happening all over . Babe it happens everywhere, even the toilet trip could lead you being trafficked "

OKUHLE : " thank you babe for caring, pinkie promise. It won't happen again "

NKANYISO : " your safety is my priority babe, I'm glad you understand my concern "

He kiss my cheek , it's true you know. Human trafficking is real and they are always targeting easy prey. Honestly speaking it could happen to anyone. I drive to work with all these thoughts lingering on my mind. Hopefully today won't be as hectic as other days. I call Jase first thing after settling in the office.

OKUHLE : " doll, how are you feeling today?"

JASE : " like crap not in terms of hangover, I'm meeting my soon to be ex later today"

OKUHLE : " the sooner it gets done the better babe"

We chat for a little while, I forsee another dinner date soon. As for me I don't know when I'll sort things with Banzi. He's been missing in action since the day of the kiss. A text from Nka wishing me a productive day, there's also a suggestion from him not to fetch Khanya so I can rest properly. He's totally right atleast I can catch up on some well deserved sleep. I'm buried in work soon after that. Just before lunchtime I'm requested to come to the reception for another bouquet delivery. My eyes automatically rolls back, if there's no note accompanied by these flowers swear I'll loose it. Just as I thought, there's no note. The bouquet lands roughly on the rubbish bin, the shocking stares from my fellow colleagues. I'm not even bothered one bit. My phone beeps soon as I close my office door, there's a message which reads ' meet me at pigalle Sandton after work' the nerve! One thing I won't tolerate is being bullied around. I totally ignore the sms.

The entire day run smoothly with me cooked up in the office. 'home sweet home' I utter those words as soon as I'm behind the steering wheel. Traffic is a nightmare today , bumper to bumper such a drag after a long day. Seems like my eyes are defeating me as I approach my house. Parked exactly in my driveway is Mr dissappearing act himself. I'm definitely not in the mood for company, let alone his. He's leaning against his car, legs crossed and hands in the pocket. The signature pose, I sigh as I park right next to his car. Shouldn't he be waiting for me

at some fancy restaurant? The smirk when I step out of my car.

BANZI : "figured your stubborn self wouldn't honor my invite"

The concept of there's a thin line between confidence and arrogance describes this human being standing in front of me. No greeting, he brings the whole new definition to the word rude.

OKUHLE : " my stubborn self only honors her loved ones invitations"

BANZI : " you see that right there, excites me even more."

OKUHLE : " hope you'll find what I'm about to deliver even more exciting. Look Lubanzi, what happened between us the other day"

BANZI : " do you always analyze every situation. Do you always jump into conclusion and shut out every possibilities of finding pure happiness ?"

I just stare at him blankly. Swear I've never met anyone as arrogant as this man. The smirk is back, he hasn't changed the signature pose.

OKUHLE : " Look the kiss was a mistake. It won't happen again "

BANZI : " there you go again, jumping into conclusions. Go out on a date with me as friends. That's the only way we can clarify the kissing incident. I'm not taking no for an answer, the flower deliveries will stop. Enjoy your evening Miss Khumalo "

He doesn't even wait for my reply. He jumps into his car, winks and drives off in full speed. I find myself clapping my hands before getting inside my car, he's one strange character. I've been parked in my the garage for the past twenty minutes now, lost in thoughts. I'm suddenly brought back to reality by the message alert tone on my phone. There's a message from the same number as earlier.

"Lunch date saturday, place of your choice. I believe you want to clarify things and set the record straight. You don't want me dropping unannounced at your place, honor this lunch date"

Such a bully. This guy clearly thinks the world revolves around him, did he just bully me and threw in a mild threat at the same time. Lunch date is unnecessary though, I mean there's nothing else to discuss other than me setting the record straight. That won't even take ten minutes. That's if he won't disturb me. He seems to find pleasure in disturbing me when I speak. He's just plain rude and arrogant. I wonder how Jase's break up date is going. A part of me wants to call him but the thought of disturbing his break up speech stops me. It's been one long day, all I need is my bubble bath, food and a proper undisturbed eight hour sleep .

Insert 124

Amazing how quick the week goes by, regardless of whether you having fun or not. Saturday has finally arrived. The most craziest thing is that I'm actually considering the lunch date with Banzi, already have a place in mind. Khanya is spending the weekend at the Nxumalo's residence, Lindo is also there. Nka has been swamped with work and meeting a very important client on behalf of Mr Nxumalo senior, the rich clients don't give a damn about weekends. Money make things possible . Jase is going on the second breakup date, apparently the last one he couldn't bring himself to end things. This whole situation is taking a toll on him, my mood is drained. My phone rings, speak of the devil.

OKUHLE : " Ready for today's break up mission"

JASE : " I somehow don't think that mission will be accomplished, more especially today"

OKUHLE : " Why is that?"

JASE : " That's because my soon to be ex and his family are going through a very difficult time, right now Lele"

OKUHLE : " Dish them up, I'm all ears".

JASE : " Apparently Pastor self righteous fathered a child outside of his marriage, now they are forced not only to meet, but to accept the child as he's coming to live with them"

OKUHLE : " that's hectic, why are these self proclaimed man of God so promiscuous"

JASE : " Yet he's judgemental when it comes to same sex relations".

OKUHLE : " How is his family taking these news?"

JASE : " The wife is devastated, what makes it worse is the " Pastor" is inconsiderate of her feelings. She's forced to accept the child, no questions asked "

OKUHLE : " that's deep, I was faced with the same situation. Thank God I wasn't forced to accept the child, I was allowed time to digest, heal and come to my own decision where accepting the child is concerned "

JASE : " That's the reason the relationship termination was unsuccessful. Lele he broke down as he shared these news with me "

OKUHLE : " It's understandable, it would've been insensitive to end things with him "

JASE : " he genuinely loves his mom, he carries all her heartache with him. That's how strong their bond is. He had to stay strong while she broke down "

OKUHLE : " it's heartbreaking what she's going through "

It's crazy how situations like these always make me question my parents marriage. It's no secret that Makhumalo will protect her marriage at all costs. It doesn't change the fact that no marriage is perfect. Why does theirs seems flawless, what secrets are hidden behind the perfection displayed. They are probably one of the few couples who are highly blessed and favored. My heart bleeds for the Pastors wife, some women are truly oppressed in their marriages. How is one expected to just accept a reminder of her husbands infidelity immediately. Doesn't she deserve time to deal with her emotions and anger first before everything. Can someone remind me again why I was in such a hurry to grow up? Adulthood seemed very desirable back then. Our elders made it seem effortless and enjoyable.

JASE : " I can relate to their pain"

OKUHLE : " so do I"

JASE : " adulthood is so fucked up Lele"

OKUHLE : " my sentiments exactly"

JASE : " Don't tell me you are considering doing the lunch date with Mr arrogant himself"

OKUHLE : " I actually am, its only a date Jase."

JASE : " Lele you don't owe that son of a, you know what! I was raised so much better than to swear my elders. What's with this guy anyway, that bring confusion so much?"

OKUHLE : " Can I be honest with you, without any judgment "

JASE : " go ahead but I'll still reprimand and give my two cents anyway. Shoot "

OKUHLE : " trust me I know you too well "

I laugh after that statement. One thing I love about Jase He will pass judgement but it's for my own good. There are no boundaries or limitations where truth is concerned in our relationship. Having friends who are brutally honest without sparing your feelings, so long as it's for your own good. Is truly a blessing, Jase always serves the truth no matter how hurtful it may be. We use to argue a lot back then, because sometimes I didn't want to hear the truth. But that's one of the things I love and appreciate most about him.

JASE : " I have unlimited airtime and eager to hear your response "

OKUHLE : " okay here goes nothing. Banzi is daring, exciting, mysterious and lives on the edge. All the factors mentioned excite me Jase. He's arrogant, yet goes what he wants. He's like the bad boy, our parents warned us about. The forbidden fruit but still that doesn't change the curiosity of wanting to taste that forbidden fruit "

JASE : " you've always been attracted to the Dominant egomaniac characters Lele. Remember Smanga? "

OKUHLE : " Smanga, Bra Muzi, Banzi the resemblance in their character. "

JASE : " and they never end well Lele, stay away from these dominant males doll. "

OKUHLE : " you are such a mood killer, do you know that? "

JASE : " for your wellbeing, I'll kill that confused mood anytime. Stay away from this Banzi character. I'm warning you "

OKUHLE : " yah I hear you "

JASE : " you are really going on that lunch date, aren't you? Don't you even dare lie to me. I know that voice, it's not convincing at all. "

OKUHLE : " I want to set the record straight that's all, besides I'm bored. "

JASE : " Lord have mercy on this woman, bury the hoe tendencies that are trying to take over her and please! Please father, kill Banzi for me. Amen "

OKUHLE : " Lord have mercy on my favorite moghey, bury the hoe tendencies and please don't kill anyone. I know your son didn't mean what he said. Amen "

JASE : " I meant the last line Lele "

OKUHLE : " Goodbye lover, we will catch up later"

JASE : " there won't be any catching up later, I will call you every thirty minutes. Ow and remember I have contacts in the cellphone tracking departments, so don't even think of ignoring my calls"

OKUHLE : " I love you Jase"

JASE : " I love you but those hoe tendencies, I despise. Ciao"

Just like that he hangs up. Jase is quite a character but he's right you know. I've always been attracted to these dominant male figures. Nka is the only normal guy, I've dated. Now that we've mentioned his name, I wonder how Bra Muzi is. Has he found closure and finally let go of his late wife. Thinking about that whole situation give me the creeps. People have different ways of handling grief. Which makes me wonder what skeletons does Banzi come with. I mean everyone has their own demons. I haven't been completely honest with Jase nor myself regarding the kiss and what I actually felt. That kiss awakened this burning desire in me. There's a strong feeling warning me to stay away from Banzi. I somehow feel this lunch date will clarify things for me as well. It's crazy, have you ever felt like maybe meeting with someone will somehow erase the creeping desire you have towards them. Maybe meeting Banzi outside the working environment, will take off the urge. At this point this seems like the only option to deal with this foreign developing feeling towards him.

I go through his text for the third time, amazing how only these words warms my heart. I send him the location and time where the date will take place. He immediately responds with a winking emoji. What the hell, the nerve of this man. I select jeans, long-sleeved t-shirt, jacket and sneakers. I don't want to send out the wrong impression by being all sexy and stuff. I still have three more hours to kill, I call the Khumalo's and they are complaining about missing Khanya. They want us to visit, I promise to come next weekend and that seems to work. I call Langelihle and the rascals are all over our conversation. We hardly had a proper chat, the phone went from one rascal to the next. She's looking forward to our visit, talk about a very busy schedule next weekend. The next call takes half an hour, listening to Khanya and Lindo's tales. Their busy schedule tires me already, they have the coolest granny . Now it's time to get ready for my lunch date with Mr arrogant himself.

Insert 125

A small voice keeps whispering for me to abort all mission. I'm all dressed up and ready to leave. I call Nka before leaving the house, he's frustrated over the clients unreasonable demands. He even complains how he's disturbing their meeting by taking personal calls every now and then . Luckily I'm not in his position right now, why do rich people feel the need to do as they please. Perks of having millions in one's account. By the time we say our goodbyes, he's more calmer and even thanks me for the call. I'm glad to have brightened his day, as well as his mood. I play my sjava's collection while driving to the dates location. I touch on my make up after parking across the restaurants entrances. Jase's call comes through , he called to remind me of the half an hour call routine. Jeez I doubt I'll even spend an hour there.

I walk in after locking the car, he's on his feet signaling for me to join him. Wow, I didn't even expect him to be here already. I'm seven minutes early. Why am I impressed by this? I make my way towards him. The smirk and one hand in his pocket. It's usually two both hands , the other hand had to work. That makes sense, the smirk. Does this guy ever genuinely smile. He pulls the chair out for me, somebody brought their gentleman manners along today.

BANZI : " MaKhumalo you made it, quite early I'm impressed"

OKUHLE : " I'm also suprised you are here early "

BANZI : " ofcourse I don't keep ladies waiting. It's not in my nature"

OKUHLE : " Ladies, I see"

BANZI : " Don't even blow things out of proportion, ofcourse ladies. From mom, cousin, business partners etc"

OKUHLE : " You felt the need to explain, why?"

BANZI : " your eyes, never mind I'll explain one day"

OKUHLE : " care to explain"

BANZI : "You see right there, you did it again."

OKUHLE : " mhmm"

I get the feeling he won't explain any further. He signals for the waiter, can't ignore the fact that he's only having water. He's dressed casually , jeans, sneakers and a golfer t-shirt. It's quite chilly for the short sleeve or maybe I'm genuinely afraid of the cold. But then again, this is the same man that enjoys having the air-conditioner on during winter. Strange, he's more laid back

today. The waiter joins us, he's patiently waiting for me to place my order first. I take my precious time and he orders without browsing through the menu. He suggest a bottle of wine but I shoot down that idea. Today I'm refraining from any intoxicating beverages. I'll stick to my juice. I have to be of sober mind throughout this lunch date. I can always grab my bottle of wine on way home.

BANZI : " MaKhumalo I believe you had something to tell me"

He's effortlessly doing it again, awakening the urge. The MaKhumalo name again . He caught me offguard, no lie.

OKUHLE : " in regards with the kiss, it was a mistake. I belive we were both drunk and it shouldn't have happened"

BANZI : " I was of sober mind Makhumalo and I wanted it to happen. If you remember well I was the one who came after you. There was no mistake."

OKUHLE : " well from my side it was a mistake"

BANZI : " well, I'll accept that. For now."

The smirk again. Whatever that 'for now' implies, have nothing to do with me. The waiter brings our food and we dig in. He's very talkative outside the office environment. He takes me through his childhood journey , what he got up to with his siblings. I find myself laughing comfortably throughout his conversations. He's such a great story teller, he paints these images and it feels like I was there throughout his childhood. We finish eating and I'm still eager to hear all about his childhood, he refills our drinks. I'm still sticking to my choice of drink.

OKUHLE : " how much more trouble did you get into during your high school years"

BANZI : " Girl trouble mostly, see you doing that eye thing again MaKhumalo. Guess this topic has sparked your interest"

OKUHLE : " Not really, it's quite clear. You were a player of note"

BANZI : " That's not entirely true MaKhumalo, high school days were the most difficult years of my life. Dad expected more from us, we were eating and breathing books. Well Luyolo got up to

trouble every now and then. I was more of a teachers pet and parents pleaser"

OKUHLE : " that was unexpected, thought you were the reason behind the fuck boy generation."

BANZI : " That's what happens when you judge a book by its cover Makhumalo. This is the whole reason why I wanted this lunch meeting in the first place."

OKUHLE : " Fair enough, carry on. I want to hear all the gorry details"

BANZI : " there's always a sparkle in your eyes when something intrigues or excites you "

OKUHLE : " that's a first"

BANZI : " Are you blushing MaKhumalo?"

OKUHLE : " Nigger please, carry on with your high school years"

BANZI : " Well high-school came with a lot of responsibilities, unlike normal teens who date, party and laze around. We did extra mural activities such as swimming, rugby, chess tournaments and saturday school. Sundays were reserved for church and after church Dad checked all our books and we had to know everything we did throughout the week or else they'll be punishment. Does that explains the statement of eating and living books? "

OKUHLE : " That must've been hectic "

BANZI : " We got used to it, the only time we had fun and allowed to be kids was during school holidays. We would beg dad to send us to the Eastern cape, our granny allowed us to be normal teenage boys."

OKUHLE : " Well all parents have a different way of raising their kids. "

BANZI : " I'm not complaining though, there were fun times in between. Family vacations and all the other luxuries that came with hardwork and good school marks. There was balance, now that I think about it "

OKUHLE : " Would you raise your kids, the same way as you were raised? "

BANZI : " Not entirely they'll be few adjustments. MaKhumalo my dad was grooming us to be successful businessman. He didn't give us the opportunity to explore and decide what we aspired to be and that's definitely one thing I'll change with how I was brought up"

OKUHLE : " What exactly are you doing overseas?"

BANZI : " I'm basically running the family's empire abroad, studying and making more business contacts."

OKUHLE : " Wow that's quite impressive"

BANZI : " well, it's getting kind of lonely sometimes. Dad is moving abroad with the rest of the family, so I'll have to run his national branches with Luyolo one of these days"

OKUHLE : " I'm sure you'll have no problem heading and running operations this side"

He looks at me for a long while, almost like studying me or trying to find the sincerity in my last statement. Instead of looking away I stare at him, we are on some staring contest and I'm not one to back down from a challenge. It goes on for a while until he breaks into a serious laughter, what do you know? He doesn't only smirk but laughs. I just smile and drink my juice. My phone rings, I excuse myself and take the call.

JASE : " Don't tell me you are still on that forbidden lunch date"

OKUHLE : " As a matter of fact I still am"

JASE : " Lele it's been two and a half hours, what's your hoeing ass still doing over there?"

OKUHLE : " No you can't be serious"

I look at my clock and it's indeed two and half hours later. My goodness, the plan wasn't to stay this long. They say time flies when you having fun.

OKUHLE : " I can't believe time has flown so much"

JASE : " Get that not so flat ass of yours home, I'll be there in the next thirty minutes "

OKUHLE : " say no more, I'm on my way"

JASE : " not a minute later, thirty minutes Lele"

I burst into laughter while making my way to the table. Our eyes meet and he's the first to break eye contact and signals for the waiter. He settles the bill and gives me a warm smile.

BANZI : " MaKhumalo let me not keep you. I believe you owe me a second lunch date, where I'll get to hear all about your childhood. As friends ofcourse"

All I manage to say is "mmhmm"

Insert 126

The lunch date wasn't such a bad idea, even though Jase was totally against it. Am I crazy honoring the second lunch date invitation? We've ironed out our differences and he certainly knows where we stand. Why do I feel so guilty though? My intentions was to set the record straight and not even spend half an hour. I'm guilt ridden, because I enjoyed his company.

Another call comes through from Jase.

JASE : " Lele don't piss me off, where are you?"

OKUHLE : "Chill, I'm two minutes away"

He clicks his tongue and hangs up on me. My moghey can be unnecessarily dramatic, sometimes. He's standing next to the gate, looking all fifty shades of upset. I should've bought that wine on my way back home.

JASE : " took you long enough"

OKUHLE : " the exaggeration, I left immediately after your call"

JASE : " mhmm"

Forever a gentleman this one, this is by far not over. He's waiting for us to get indoors before ripping me in shreds . See why I regret not purchasing that bottle of wine. My phone beeps just as we are inside. The smile involuntarily forms on my face. The message reads

"eager to hear all about your childhood shenanigans. lovely day further, MaKhumalo"

JASE : " It's him, isn't it?" my main concern is why you smiling and acting like a retard"

OKUHLE : " It was only a lunch date between friends or colleagues, nothing less or nothing more"

JASE : " child are you blind or pretending to be"

OKUHLE : " You are blowing things out of proportion now, seriously the guy didn't even make a move on me. We ironed out our differences . The rest of the lunch was as innocent as a grade 3 pupil in class. Jeez"

JASE : " How certain are you that you are both on the same page?"

OKUHLE : " two hundred percent certain, can we move along now"

JASE : " You seem smitten by this Banzi character and there's something unsettling about him Lele. If I were you I'd keep things on a professional level and forget about these so called 'lunch date' friend nonsense"

OKUHLE : " That's exactly how I felt before today's lunch date with him. Well I can't completely vouch for him as far as character is concerned but he seems harmless. A little arrogant maybe"

JASE : " I don't trust him one bit, there's definitely something amiss about him Lele."

OKUHLE : " yah yah I hear you Mr Mbatha. Can we change the topic already , how was your date?"

JASE : " Let's not even go there Lele, I'm drained as is"

OKUHLE : " That bad huuh?"

He shrugs his shoulders and throws all his weight on the couch. That wine would've come in handy right now, even a bottle of bubbly would've been great to uplift his mood.

JASE : " The emotional burden Lele, that's all I've been subjected to since this whole Pastor's scandal unraveled"

OKUHLE : " It's taking a toll on you, it's quite evident doll"

JASE : " sometimes I feel like disconnecting from this whole thing. would it be such a bad idea, to eliminate myself from this whole situation? "

OKUHLE : " It's doable, but knowing you. You'll give him support till this drama vanish"

JASE : " I definitely wouldn't kick him while he's down"

OKUHLE : " We are all guilty of being someone's emotional burden at times, but we carry each other throughout. Till the end."

JASE : " Amen"

OKUHLE : " Your date ended rather quick, what really went down"

JASE : " His father called, everybody had to be present to welcome the new member of the family "

OKUHLE : " So soon, couldn't he atleast give them two more weeks to process this whole thing?"

JASE : " It's quite unfortunate for them but hopefully things will work out for the better "

OKUHLE : " Talk about being selfish and controlling"

JASE : " Wonder what his congregation and followers will make of this, if the truth comes out"

OKUHLE : " It's very unfortunate that our society normalize extra marital affairs, the system still favors Men."

JASE : " For all you know he will be celebrated and seen as a hero for bringing that child into his marital home"

OKUHLE : " We still have a long way to go"

JASE : "luckily I can exercise both rights being born a male and living as a woman"

OKUHLE : " only you are capable of saying such crazy things in the middle of a serious debate"

We both burst out in laughter. I wouldn't trade Jase for the world. I do socialize with ladies every now and then, but that is as far as it goes. We normally engage in such topics halfway through the bottle of bubbly or wine.

JASE : " Now that we are relaxed and the emotions are in check, how was your lunch date?"

OKUHLE : " Honestly it wasn't as expected"

JASE : " In a good or bad way?"

OKUHLE : " Promise you won't judge me?"

JASE : " still it won't change my opinion over this Banzi character or his intentions with you"

OKUHLE : " I enjoyed every minute of it"

JASE : " Jeez Lele, get a grip madam. This guy has you eating out of his hand, he is quite strategic about it as well. My only concern, his strategies are proving successful."

OKUHLE : " You are passing judgment Jase, can't I be vulnerable and honest with you anymore"

JASE : " I'm only being honest doll, straight talk doesn't break any friendship or does it?"

OKUHLE : " ofcourse it doesn't, honestly I enjoyed myself this afternoon. It's not like I'm seeking a romantic relationship with the guy. Today I saw a different side of him "

JASE : " all I'm saying, don't loose a diamond while collecting stones "

OKUHLE : " I hear you clearly doll "

He complains of hunger, we decide to order in. Apparently there's a Chinese restaurant that makes the best sushi in town. He orders enough to feed an army, one can never loose weight with Jase around. I need to hit the gym once again, if only losing weight was as easy as gaining it. A call from Mrs Nxumalo disturbs our conversation. I answer at the top of my voice but what I hear from the other side is enough to give me a mild heart attack.

MRS NXUMALO : " It's Nka, we've just received a call right now. Lethokuhle hurry to the hospital"

OKUHLE : " What, Who? What happened to Nka"

I'm already on my feet. She's moving around, the reception is very bad. I can't make out the rest of the sentence. Jase looks as puzzled as I am, the last thing I make out of this breaking conversation is her saying" she will send me the location"

JASE : " Lele what's going on, what did the senior Mrs say"

OKUHLE : " something about me rushing to the hospital , and they just received a call. Shit! Nka"

The tears flow freely on my cheeks. Jase grabs the car keys and pulls me outside. My mind is on slow motion, it's probably denial mixed with confusion. Jase's words sounds like he's blabbering , my mind is failing to grasp even the simplest words. Amazing how one's mind works to protect you from pain. I'm numb I don't want to feel. I'm wary of all the movements happening around me, like Jase strapping me in the passenger seat. My phone beeps and I overhear him saying " Great the location", after that I completely zone out. I swear Michael Schumacher has nothing on Jase , the next thing. He is begging me to come with him. I'm reluctant. The fear of what awaits me behind those closed doors.

JASE : " Whatever's waiting for us behind those closed doors , we will face it together. I promise"

I look at his pinky finger, this takes me back to dusty streets of verulam. The community park bullies, that's the exact words he used to comfort me . Except this is no community park, we are not school kids anymore. But I find those words

comforting . I take his hand and squeeze it tightly. My palms are sweating. It feels surreal, like a bad dream. I keep praying someone might wake me from this nightmare. everything comes tumbling down when I see The Nxumalo's family gathered not so far from the reception area. My feet feels heavy and I'm struggling to carry my weight. My eyes quickly travels through each and every member. I scan them carefully but he's not among the members seated there. This can't be happening.