

127

FATHER AND SON
CHAPTER 127

• **EMILY**

This can't be happening this has to be some sort of nightmare because I just don't believe that I am in this mess my husband is livid he is going crazy and doesn't even want to hear me out. I am scared no lies I don't know what they are going to do to me. I keep on begging and trying to explain but they are not giving me a chance. Mzwa stands up and I follow after him begging

"Baby please let's talk about this we have been through so much to let this get in between us"

"Where you thinking about all of that when you sent my brother to jail and caused this havoc in my family?" He asks looking back at me with killer eyes

"Mzwakhe please I didn't think this whole thing through I swear. I have been regretting it ever since it happened?"

"You only regret it because you realized that the money was gone now I see why you were never bothered about it all. You never asked how they are holding up in prison you never for once mentioned going to see Afrika after you hit her with a vase I should have realized this but I was just too blinded" he shouts "I know we can work through this" he chuckles

"You are a snake Emily that needs to be cut" "You don't mean that baby please"

"The only reason I haven't killed you is because of my children" he gets in our bedroom and start removing my clothes from the closet.

"Baby what are you doing"

"I am packing your shit you are leaving my mother's house" he says opening the

suitcase

"Mzwakhe no no we can talk things through and find a common ground"

"You are sick in the head if you think I am going to listen to anything you are going to say" the hate and Anger in my husband's voice is scary I don't think I have ever seen his so mad.

"Mzwakhe think about our life our family our girls"

"My GIRLS after everything you've done to my family their family you will never see them again" he sneers

"No no you can't do that please I am their mother" I beg

"You should have thought about that before you turned on us" he stops

packing and comes to me and pulls my Ponytail so painfully.

"Fuck this shit this is all my money I am going to burn everything you don't even deserve the clothes" I scream for him to stop dragging me but my cries are not affecting him not even a bit. We get downstairs and he continues pulling me by my hair and opens the door and throws me to the ground.

"Baby please I am sorry" his mom and aunt appear from behind him

"Ndlovukazi please help me" I say looking at his mom who is shaking her head

vigorously "You did this to yourself Emily"

she responds.

"Guards Guards" he shouts like a mad man and two appear from the car port.

"Yes sir"

"Drive this piece of shit out of here and make sure she never comes back here"

"No no Mzwa please don't don't do this"

"Are you deaf I said take her away now" he screams at the guards pick me up so fast but I kick and scream trying to break free but they don't let go one shoves me in the back and gets in with me while the other gets in the drivers side. I am banging on the window but I am not winning I don't think I have ever felt this much pain before. I never thought my life would come crumbling down like this.

•AFRIKA

I am sitting on the desk in my room studying I have fallen back a while and seriously need to catch up quickly so I don't put myself in unnecessary pressure.

Laziness will not get me anywhere especially now that I need to make it for these two gummies. My bedroom door opens and Auntie Bear walks in with snacks

"Something for my nusus while you study"

"You want to see me fat me?" She chuckles

"No I am just trying to give my niece and nephew a snack it's not for you shame"

"Funny how I am the one who is going to have to chew and swallow so your niece and nephew can get their snack"

"Whatever"

"Thanks babe the snack will come in handy I was feeling a little hungry" she smiles sweetly at me and burst out laughing from nowhere.

"What what's funny Bahle"

"Remember how bitchy I was to you before" I laugh

"Hai we come from far"

"You can say that again Afrika who would have thought we could end up being so close"

"I wouldn't have bet my last money on it"

"You and I both babe I was a brat and thank God I grew up I honestly wonder how everyone dealt with me" "I see everyone else poor Senzo"

"Oh my baby speaking of him. He will be coming next week Tuesday and he will stay a while" "And work?" I ask

"He took leave just to come see me"

"This long distance thing I am sure it's killing you guys"

"That's one of the reasons why he is coming this side. He has an interview with another company since his current one doesn't want to give him a transfer"

"Ncooo you guys. That's so sweet of him. I knew Senzo loves you but I just didn't think so much to a point where he would uproot his life just to be near you"

"Honestly I am still shocked. I am just grateful that he never gave up on me"

"Cherish him baby they don't make them like that no more"

"That's very true mommy"

•MPILO

My mom came to see me and she looks besides herself something is weighing down on her and I feel so bad. She keeps on looking at me and taking a deep sigh I am even afraid of asking what is going on. With everything going on I don't think I can survive more bad news coz I am still not sure if Afrika is pregnant or not I need to focus on that first.

"How's bra'Tiki" I ask trying to lighten the mood

"He is okay he is super supportive and I am grateful to have him"

"He is one of the good ones mama I am happy you have him in your corner"

"Mpilo" she says and takes a deep sigh

"Ndlovukazi what's going on" I might as well know because it's clear she is having it bad

"I don't even know how to tell you this" my heart starts beating so fast

"Just give it to me straight"

"She was telling the truth" I narrow my eyes

"Who was?"

"Afrika she was telling the truth about Emily" she says and I swear my heart sinks to my stomach. I chuckle while shaking my head "How do you mean?" My breathing has spiked

"Mzwakhe overhead Emily talking with her dad yesterday late. The brother existed and I just don't know how to explain what to do. It is all just a mess"
I bury my head in my hands

"Mama no no ma no please"

"I am so sorry Mpilo"

"Fuck what did we do Ndlovukazi. I should have known" I say

"Emily knew what she was doing baby she planned this well"

"I am going to kill that bitch with my own hands mama"

"Your brother is already showing her a tough time"

"Ndlovukazi I need to make it out of here I can't be in here my girl needs me"

"Its good that you want to fight"

"She could be pregnant mama I have been having cravings and morning sicknesses Khaya hinted that I might have made someone pregnant and I think he is right"

"Yoh yoh yoh Mpilo. How will I even face her after everything. She probably wants nothing to do with us"

"That's exactly what scares me mama. I should have given her a chance to talk to me to explain but I fuck. This is not happening"

"How could I have been so blind how did I not see this I am ashamed I am embarrassed"

"Please try reaching out to her while I work on getting out of this hell hole"

"I will go by her place when I leave here"

"Please ma while I work on getting out of this hell hole"

"I will go by her place when I leave here"

"Please ma I will also try her phone when I get back to the cell"

•AFRIKA

My day just went South and I feel like crying. I honestly don't know what I am going to do i decided to go to the mall after my last class just to get used to Cape Town but now I wish I hadn't I lost my phone and it has all Mpilo's pictures his voice notes and our chats everything I had left of him gone just like that. I went back to the shops I went to but nothing I couldn't find it. My heart is shattered those things were keeping me together on days I miss him the most now this happens. I regret not backing up my things. I decided to just buy another phone and do a Sim swap but I couldn't because I didn't remember most of the answers I don't understand why they have to ask so many stupid questions just to get your number back I will even go to the bank to change my contact information I couldn't do it now coz my mind is on the things that went with the phone. I don't even have anyone's number I am just going to

need to go on Facebook and inbox my sister and tell her what happened and also share my new number I hate technology because of it we don't care to memorize anything. I am in the Uber going home and it's taking everything in me not to cry I don't care about the phone it wasn't fancy I just want my voice notes and pictures of him and of us. What will I play my gummies now. Oh Afrika how could you be so irresponsible

•NOMALANGA

I drove to the township to go find Afrika I won't lie I am scared out of my mind I am ashamed to even show my face how do I even apologize and will she even listen to us? I drive in her Street and my heart starts racing I notice a lot of cars parked by her house there is a long queue of people and I notice some walking away with farmer packs it seems like they sell food I get close enough and I see a shack and a board written Sibos Kitchen and next to it there's a menu. Wow this woman really turned her life around. She must be a great cook coz wow this queue is long. I park and sit in my car until there is no customer left. I send a short prayer asking God to please touch her heart and understand where we were coming from.

I walk out and make my way inside the yard and her mother is washing the big pot outside.

"Sanibonani"

"I don't have anything left come back tomorrow customer I am sorry"

"I am not here for the food" I say and she looks back

"Ndlovukazi" she says shocked to see me

"How are you?"

"I am well thanks what can I do for you?" She gets straight to it and I sigh

"Is Afrika in?" She chuckles

"No she isn't"

"She went to school? I don't mind waiting for her"

"You would be wasting your time because she won't be coming back Afrika is no longer living here she left because she couldn't deal with what you and your family did to her" I close my eyes

"I am here because of that I want to apologise Sibos"

"No don't apologise don't do anything just leave her be let her try and pick up the broken pieces of her life and move forward"

"I understand your frustrations but we now know-" she cuts me

"Whatever it is that you know keep it to yourself I don't want to know it.

Just leave my daughter in peace just like you were protecting your child I am doing the same

I am sure you will understand. I don't want her to go back to the pain" I sigh because I understand why she is acting like this but now she is not letting me speak

"I am sorry for everything but I honestly need to see her please"

"Afrika doesn't live here anymore I repeat and please leave" she says and goes back to washing her pot. This is going to be harder than I thought it's better I go to the university tomorrow to see her Mzwa will tell me what time his class starts so I can catch her.

• EMILY

It feels like my heart has been ripped out of my chest I can't believe I am here and my life has shuttered I don't know what I am going to do really. Mzwa won't answer my calls and when I call the house phone to talk to the girls the maids tell me tell me that she was ordered not to do that. I can't lose my husband and my children I need to find a way to get him to understand why I did everything I just need a minute to explain. I am sitting in the front porch in my mother's dress since Mzwakhe threw me out without anything I am an emotional mess my mother is trying her best to assure me that everything will be okay but I swear she didn't see how mad my husband was. My phone beeps and it's him I quickly open the text but my heart sinks deeper into my stomach

Stop calling my number stop calling my mother's house. I am going to divorce you and you will get nothing from it you will regret ever working with your racist father to bring my family down you are going to regret this Emily I swear you will wish like you never set eyes on me I drop the phone shaking tears streaming down my face. My father's car parks in front of me and he gets out and approaches me he frowns as he seems me crying he wasn't here yesterday when I arrived

"And then" he says sounding so annoyed I just cry harder how could he do this to me? What kind of father messes up their child's life like that.

"Emily I will not ask again"

"They know everything" I place my hand on my mouth trying to muffle the sobs

"You say what?"

"Mzwakhe heard me speak to you yesterday and he threw me out"

"What Emily how could you have been so stupid and get caught you are a fool" he screams and I gasp

"You are unbelievable pa I am in this mess Because of you"

"You are in this mess because you are stupid. How could you get caught you would have gotten away with this but you just

had to be weak" "I just lost my husband and children and that's all you have to say?"

"Good riddance to bad rubbish. If you ask me you got saved" he says and walks away. I cry harder not believing what my father just said to me. I feel warm hands around me and I know it's my mom I hold on to her arm and just continue to cry.

No edits

128

FATHER AND SON

CHAPTER 128

• **AMANDA**

I went to buy some take aways from my moms Lethabo said he is craving what is on the menu today so I quickly came to get some while he baby sits we are lucky to have even got some at this time. Normally around 5pm she has long closed. I get home and she is tidying up in her kitchen.

"Hey ma"

"Hey baby"

"I can't believe you still have food at this time"

"It was the last 3 plates you are so lucky"

"I can take all three of them" she laughs

"No my babes I am going to have it for supper I don't feel like cooking"

"Oh okay I understand"

"I am so tired I feel like sleeping immediately"

"You must really get 1 or 2 people to come help you out"

"I was honestly thinking about it too and I would take them from the support group you know to take their minds off alcohol" "That's very nice of you mama"

"I understand their struggle and we need to keep busy all the time"

"Definitely"

"I forgot to tell you my babes"

"What? What happened?" I ask nosey

"Ndlovukazi was here looking for Afrika talking about asking for forgiveness" I frown

"The nerve what has changed now"

"I didn't even want to know" she says

"I hope you didn't tell her where she is"

"Never I don't need them confusing my child once she has healed she will decide to tell them about their grandchildren but for now I want her to have a smooth first trimester"

"Yeah but good thing she is almost in her second and the risks will drop a bit"

"That's true. I feel like they will even keep an eye on us to locate her I am going to postpone my trip to Cape Town" she murmurs "Good decision mama they must let Afrika breath a while"

"Hai Mandy leave before Kopano gives my son in law a tough time" I laugh

"Okay here is your money. I will see you Sunday when we go to church"

"When are those classes ending again?"

"Aow Sibobo only two weeks left"

"At least we must start preparing an outfit for the little man and organizing a Sunday lunch after he is baptized" "I am definitely in I will tell my husband about it"

• MZWAKHE

I have been a walking zombie I am not taking Emily's betrayal well I love that woman but this is just too much and too deep to just forgive she is conniving and the way she went on about it showed me that she could kill me and help my mom cry while trying to find my killer. To think I have always fought for Em and gave up my family at some point just to protect her from my father and she goes around and does this to me.

"Mzwa" my mom says brushing my back

"Hey ma"

"How are you feeling?"

"I will be okay how are the girls?" I ask looking at her

"They are still asking for their mother we need to find something to tell them"

"We just tell them that they will never see her again"

"Oh son I know you are hurting but you can't keep them from their mom"

"They are not going to live with her and that racist man ma he hates me and I don't doubt one bit that he would mistreat them"

"I am not saying they should go live with her I am just saying don't keep them apart at least let's allow her come see them here under supervision"

"I don't know Ndlovukazi I will think about it"

"Look at what's best for the girls"

"I've already contacted a divorce lawyer I have a meeting to discuss everything"

"Are you going to play fair?"

"Definitely not I want her to feel like she is burning ma. She must regret this even in her dreams" she sighs

"I can't really say I blame you but remember you share children with that girl I hate her so much right now but those girls think about them with every decision you make that's being a parent you put your kids before you and your emotions"

"I hear you"

"So did you do what I asked"

"She hasn't been coming to my classes for days and days I thought she was avoiding it because of me so I started asking the people she used to chill with if they knew where she was but they told me she deregistered"

"What? Why? Oh my God did they at least tell you where she moved to?"

"I am sorry mama but no one knows it's like she just disappeared in to thin air"

"Oh God this is going to kill Mpilo" she says leaning back

"Sorry ma"

•AFRIKA

I haven't gotten over my phone Sbahle tried sending me some of his pictures and voice notes of their conversations just being crazy but it's not the same they don't have sentimental value to me they don't hold dear memories like the ones I had. I just took them to have his voice to play our children. I am walking from the library to the parking lot where Bahle is waiting so we can go have supper at some restaurant we don't really go out much but we made a pact to go out frequently. My stomach is now grown and it's visible in my clothing.

"Excuse me" a voice says behind me and I look back it's a guy I have never seen before.

"Can I help you with something?" I ask

"I am sorry to bother you but I've been looking at you in the library waiting for you to walk out" "That's creepy" I say frowning

"Facts but I needed to talk to you"

"About?"

"My name is Stone by the way" he holds out his hand

"Afrika with a K" I shake his hand

"Beautiful name for a beautiful lady. You seem like you are in a hurry"

"Yes my friend has been waiting on me"

"I am sorry but can I please have your number so I don't waste anymore of your time" I look at him shocked
 "I don't think that is appropriate like I don't know you at all" I protest
 "I know that but I promise if you don't want to hear what I got to say I won't call you again" "Stone" I say hesitant
 "I am a man of my word I will stop if you don't want to hear what I got to say"
 "Okay then" I take his phone and punch in my number and hand it back
 "Thank you and have a great evening"
 "Same to you" I walk away. I get in the car and sigh
 "And who was that tall dark and handsome"
 "He calls himself Stone"
 "And?" She has a smirk on
 "Why are you looking at me like that?"
 "I just want to know if you are getting yourself a man friend you know" she says winking her eye repeatedly and I chuckle
 "Definitely not I don't have time for man Bahle I am still very much in love with Mpilo and I don't think it will ever change and I doubt any man would want to compete with a locked up baby daddy so I will just remain single forever and just focus on raising my children you know" "Oh Afrika"

•MPILO

I am losing my fucken mind here Afrika's number isn't going through. Looks like she changed numbers and it's totally frustrating I need to talk to her to apologize and tell her I love her so much to tell her I am fighting to get out of here to come back to her and our baby if she is indeed pregnant I don't want her doing this all on her own. Razor was happy that I am putting effort and I am determined to get out of here he says it makes them feel better about their work too. It's mid-September now and if she conceived around June then she is about 3 months going on 4 and if that's correct she will give birth February/March hopefully I will be out by then just in time to receive the baby. I just hope I am not wrong and she is indeed pregnant with my child.

"TaMpilo" I look at the bars
 "Vader?"

"Woza baba (come)" I get up from the bed while he opens.

"What's going on?"

"Your mother is here for" he says

"Mpilo" my father says

"Mmmh"

"Please tell your mother I need to talk to her"

"Okay" I respond and the warden walks me to my mom who is pacing up and down.

"Ndlovukazi"

"Hey Mpilo"

"Did you find her coz I haven't been lucky getting her on the phone" her face falls flat

"I am not bringing good news Mpilo I am even ashamed to tell you"

"Don't say that please"

"I am so sorry baby"

"What's going on?" I ask on the verge of tears

"I went to her house and her mom said she doesn't live there anymore I thought maybe she didn't want me to see her so I asked your brother to check her at school and let me know but he told me she deregistered and as it stands she has disappeared into thin air" I feel like all the oxygen has left my lungs I am weak at the knees. I balance on the table and sit down

"Ndlovukazi no"

"I wish I had positive news"

"Just when I thought there was hope everything goes down south where could she be"

"I already have people watching her mother and sister and both their houses just in case they go meet her or they lied and she is definitely around hiding"

"We need to find her mom and fast. I need to tell her that I am so sorry from the bottom of my heart I swear" i say and tears stream down my face.

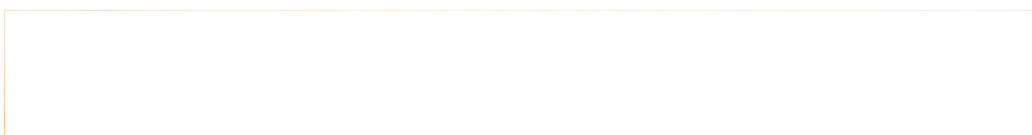
"It's going to be okay Mpilo"

"No mama it's not I can't even go out there myself to find her because I am locked up in this damn place Ndlovukazi" I scream not because I am mad but because I am falling apart inside and I don't know how to make it all stop.

"I understand your frustrations baby that's why you need to fight to get out of here"

"Kanjani ma? Where is she?" I say sobbing in my hands.

No edits



129

FATHER AND SON
CHAPTER 129

•**MPILO**

I am not okay I feel like I am taking two steps forward then 10 steps back. Where could she possibly be? Is she okay? Is she pregnant? And if she is is she comfortable and has everything she needs? I never thought we would face this challenge even before a year in to our relationship. This is just too much and to top it off I can't fix it coz I am stuck in this damn place. I am waiting on Razor to give me a brief on everything that has been going on with our case.

He walks in with a wide smile on his face.

"I just hope that smile means you have some good news"

"Yes I do"

"Any good news no matter how small would do me good right now I swear"

"Well myself and the prosecutor went to the Judges Chambers and he said this case can't drag that long and he is shifting the trial to month end October" he says

"That's in a month Razor"

"Exactly it means you won't stay longer in here waiting January"

"Our strategy ready for this new date" I ask

"I just got the black book copies and it's clear that he used force and fear to make people do whatever he wanted so we can spin that around to our advantage and say you were coerced into working for the family business or he was going to hurt your mother and siblings we just need to get them to flip on him"

"I don't think they will have a problem with it"

"I thought so too but Ndlovukazi has made it clear that we keep out Sbahle out of this she is afraid she is not strong enough to stand this"

"She is right Bahle is soft she would fall apart. I don't want her knowing anything too she needs to focus on school"

"Very well then your mom and brother will have to suffice"

"And if he buys the coerced story what's going to happen?"

"He will be very lenient with the sentencing I still need to go see other past cases similar to ours to see the precedents"

"I just hope this works for us"

"Have faith I will be back tomorrow with the team and we are going to work tirelessly to see you walk but Mpilo I am going to need you to give me all your effort I know you are stressed about your girlfriend but in order to find her and make things better you need to first get out of here so you'll go find her and possibly your child"

"I hear you and i promise I am 100 in this"

"Now you talking like a man who wants to get out of this place"

"Definitely and what's going to happen to Khaya?"

"Aahhh that one I don't know which angel touched him but he is not fighting me anymore he understands that he is in way too deep he has agreed to plead guilty"

"Wow"

•EMILY

Days and nights to me have no difference. I am just living for the sake of it but I don't know how I am going to survive without my husband and children my father on the other hand isn't making my stay here comfortable he constantly reminds me of how stupid and careless I am. He had the nerve to tell me this was my chance to start over and get myself an Afrikaaner husband and kids who will not have a problem finding their place in society. This man obviously hates my children because of the color of their skin. They are not white enough for him and that just hurts so bad. My bedroom door opens

"Emily"

"Ma"

"You can come out now he has left"

"No I think I will stay in here today"

"Emily you can't do this to yourself baby you made a mistake and it back fired this is not the time to feel sorry for yourself you need to find a lawyer to help you with the divorce and custody of the girls" I laugh

"Mama Mzwakhe will never allow me to have the kids"

"But you are their mom the law will be on your side"

"These are the Mdlalose's we are talking about they are rich and powerful and his mother is a prosecutor she knows all the judges it will be easy to get them on their side. I will just be hurting myself for nothing really"

"Are you giving up?"

"I am not giving up on my children I am just hoping my husband has mercy and let's me keep the girls or at least allow me see them" "This is not right"

"I made my bed ma now it's time I lie down on it. I should have listened to you"

"I know your father can be persuasive"

"Manipulative and evil. You know mama I gave my husband grief about wanting his father's love and attention yet I was doing the same"
"I am so sorry" she says looking at me with pity
"You don't have to be you warned me but I was stupid enough to think Dad would have my best interest at heart. He has always put the job first I don't know why I thought this time he would be different" I cry
"It's all going to work out my baby"

•AMANDA

I just got off a long video phone call with my sister and I must admit with each passing day she heals a little. She smiles and laughs more and I think it's time I admit that the Cape Town move was what she needed. Her baby bump is so cute and she has named them her gummy bears it's just a bliss to see her slowly transitioning into motherhood. I walk back to the lounge and Kopana is on his baby mat staring at the toys above his face he finds it completely fascinating.

"What were you too gossiping about?" I laugh

"Hai love we weren't gossiping she was just telling me how school is going and the beautiful Cape Town the only thing she has a problem with is the weather changing 100 times a day" he chuckles

"She better brace herself coz that's how it is down there"

"Can you believe she doesn't have morning sicknesses or cravings"

"Wow her kids are well behaved"

"I said the same thing" there is a knock on the door and we look at each other my husband and I never want to go open the door it's a Hassle I tell you the person might end up leaving while we having an argument about who opened yesterday.

"Come in" he shouts loud enough and we hear footsteps approach the lounge. Soon as the person appeared I got up so quickly and went to pick up my son and go stand behind Lethabo .

"I am not here to hurt anyone I swear I just need a minute" Dineo says

"After everything you did to us you come to our house and ask for a minute" my husband responds

"I am sorry for everything I did to the both of you and no amount of sorries will take away the pain and damage I caused the both of you but I was not well and I am not saying this to justify my actions coz some days I was lucid enough to know what I was doing but I didn't stop and go seek help" she explains and I sigh

"What do you want from us" Lethabo is doing all the talking

"I just wanted to make amends and apologize sincerely hoping it would give you some kind of closure from the nightmare you might have experienced because of me. I am sorry and I wish I could prove it some

other way. You don't have to worry about seeing me around anywhere I have decided to join the team of doctors and nurses who go around the world to remote places offering help to those who need it"

"That's good" the words are out of my mouth before I can even think

"You have a beautiful home and I heard you got married. God bless your family and give you everything you have ever wanted. You guys are perfect together and you were definitely made for each other"

"Thank you Dineo and all the best will your journey"

"Thank you Mandy and bye guys" she says and walks out my husband follows behind her and comes back after a second he went to lock the safety door.

"Do you believe that?"

"Honestly I do she looks and talks like nothing I know"

"I am not going to take any chances I am going to go see her parents tomorrow after work"

"That would give us more piece of mind babe thanks"

•NOMALANGA

I needed to get away and to just have a breather and the only place I have that moment is when I am around Thuso we haven't been spending time together like we used too but he understands the kind of pressure I am under at the moment and I couldn't have chosen a better partner for myself. I just finished eating the plate he made me and I will admit I missed his cooking so much.

"Thanks love"

"Anything for you Sunny"

"Coming here brings me peace"

"After everything that's is going on let's get married and never live apart again" "I would love that"

"Good now I need you to start taking care of yourself this stress is not good"

"This whole Mpilo thing is just too much on me I can't sleep I can't focus now my other son is filling for a divorce and Afrika is nowhere to be found and she could be pregnant it's just a mess"

"Let's deal with one thing at a time and right now getting your son out is the priority. I promised you that I will call on a few favors and I did" I look at him and narrow my eyes

"You are the one who managed to get the judge to shift the case closer?"

"Yes I had to but I can't tell you more Sunny to protect you if ever this got out"

"I understand and thank you from the bottom of my heart"

"I love you and I will do anything to see you happy and healthy and right now you are neither"

"You are giving me hope"

"That's my job as your man"

•MZWAKHE

My mom has a lot on her plate and all because of my wife and it would be selfish of me to expect her to baby me too in the midst of the havoc and for the first time I am happy to have Sma around she has been a great support and she tries her best with the girls. We are having beers outside.

"So what did the lawyer say?"

"We can't proceed with the divorce coz everything is frozen at the moment"

"Oh shit yes"

"But she said she will draft the papers with all we currently have even the frozen asserts so if they are unfrozen we just serve her"

"So you are giving her something?"

"Just the flat we bought if she wants my children to visit she will have to stay there. I don't want my girls anywhere near the racist man she calls her father"

"That's a valid reason" she agrees

"But aunt Sma what am I going to tell my children they keep on asking me about her"

"You will tell them that you both love them so much and you would have loved to stick together but you can't because of some grown up staff. Tell them Mommy will visit now and again and bring them sweet treats or whatever they like. Just emphasize that you love them stick to that point with every statement you make"

"I got it how come we never clicked before?"

"You thought you were Jan Van Riebeck not Mzwakhe Mdlalose that's why" I burst out laughing

"You have an answer to everything Sma"

"I would have made a good politician"

"Facts" I say sipping on my beer

•AFRIKA

I have been so horny see this is the longest I've gone without having sex ever since I broke my virginity Mpilo and I went on like rabbits and from having that much sex to getting nothing is a bam I swear. I should just learn to masturbate once and for all because I heard that sexual frustration is not a good state to be in. I am walking to the campus Cafeteria to get

something to eat my appetite has tripled in the last week but I am trying my best not to eat too much and end up being a balloon. I buy their pie chips juice combo and go sit down by the corner. I am enjoying my meal and I swear my gummies are going to love me more after this as I drink the last of my juice the Stone guy from yesterday joins me.

"Afrika with a K"

"Hi Stone"

"You know I wanted to call you so bad yesterday but I thought this is not something one can do over the phone" I narrow my eyes

"Stone I am sure you've noticed that i am pregnant and I am not looking for a relationship right now or ever I just want to focus on my kids and my qualification so I am sorry but-" he quickly interject

"Oh I am sorry this is not about that I wasn't going to hit on you" I look down embarrassed but quickly compose myself

"Then what's this all about"

"You just look so much like my mom Afrika and it's just disturbing I wanted to find out more about you" I laugh

"I doubt we are related in anyway I am not even from here"

"I am not from here too I'm originally from Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape"

"See we even come from miles apart" I say

"Listen Afrika my mom had only one brother and he went to Gauteng to study but one day he stopped communicating and he was never seen again my grandparents took it so hard they got sick until they died. They tried going to search for him but no luck. My mom followed a trail and she was told he had a family there but no one knew who they were we suspect he kept them a secret coz he had stopped going to school and was afraid to disappoint his father my grandfather was a tough cookie so my mom says this information might be wrong Afrika as no one really knows what happened or where he disappeared to so I was just hoping that you could at least be a link I am sorry for disturbing you" he attempts to walk away "Stone wait" I say

"Yes?"

"What was his name? Your uncle?"

"Siseko Mdoda but my mom says growing up they used to call her Einstein coz he was super smart" he says and I just let out my tears

"He is my father but I never got to meet him" I say in a low voice and he quickly sits down again

"Are you serious?"

"Like a heart attack" I say

"Oh My God" he says

130

FATHER AND SON
CHAPTER 130

• **AFRIKA**

To say I was happy would be an understatement statement of the year my people's father? My cousin? I can't believe this I swear stone and I talked and talked he even tried his mom but it went straight to voicemail he said she is probably still busy at work. He didn't even want to leave me but we both had to go our separate ways at the end of the day. I haven't seen Sbahle today Senzo arrived earlier on the day and they are locked in her bedroom. I took a quick shower and I video call my mother on whatsApp. I was about to hang up when she answers

"My babes"

"Mama I thought you were busy with some man friend" she laughs

"Afrika I am too old for that"

"Girl have you seen yourself? You could get us a father if you really wanted to I promise you"

"Ai I am busy. How are you?"

"I am over the moon you won't believe what happened" she narrows her eyes "Out with it"

"So I was walking at campus and some guy stopped me and asked me for my number"

"No no Afrika you are not over that boy Mpilo I don't think it's a good idea to jump into another relationship baby you will end up hurting other people" I roll my eyes "It's okay so Stone the guy told me that I look like his mom and that was absurd but after he explained a story about his long lost uncle my heart stopped I couldn't believe what he was saying. I asked him who his uncle is and he said Siseko Mdoda"

"That is your father's name"

"Exactly Sibho that guy is my father's nephew"

"What no baby? Are you sure? Did he at least tell you his mother's name?" I smile

"Yes mama I am very sure. He said her mom's name is Sindiswa Mdoda" I say and she closes her eyes

"It's them Afrika she is your aunt Seko always spoke of her and his parents but he couldn't tell them about us yet coz he had stopped going to school he just didn't want hurt his parents"

"I am so happy Sibon but scared at the same time. What if they blame you for his decisions or hate me for carrying the grandchildren of the man who killed him?" I ask

"Baby girl the truth is the truth we will tell them the truth and whatever they decide we will accept it so long as they finally get to know about you and where their beloved brother is buried"

"That's true mama"

"I can't believe you actually found them"

"Technically Stone found me coz I look like his mom"

"Oh my baby I don't know why but these news just calmed me and gave me peace"

"You and I both mama I am so happy to have found my people"

"I am happy for you my love so happy that the pieces of your life are coming together. Behind every dark cloud there is a silver lining" "Exactly"

•LETHABO

I just got back from the church to meet up with Dineo's parents I needed to make sure that what she told us was true I didn't want to see my wife having sleepless nights thinking that she would come and hurt us or take Kopano. They confirmed and showed me emails of what she was saying. I couldn't be any happier we are doing great we honestly didn't need more drama. I decided to go by my father's house mam'Flo hasn't been feeling good and they haven't been coming by to see us frequently as they love to. I get in the house and find them on the couch giggling the love between these two is just beautiful I pray my wife and I grow old and happy together.

"Batswadi (parents)" I say sitting on the vacant couch opposite them

"Mora (son)" my dad responds first

"Thabo what a nice surprise"

"I needed to come see you ma how are you feeling?"

"I am much better your father is going all out"

"That's good thaima we are missing you by the house"

"I would have asked you to bring Kopano but I didn't want giving him what I had you know kids still have weak immune systems"

"That's very true ma"

"How's makoti?" My dad chips in

"She is very fine just busy with work"

"I want to take Flo away on a holiday I must consult with her"

"You should papa she is good at her job"

"But tell her we don't have the budget of the rich people she works with" we all laugh

"Thabo"

"Ma" she sighs

"I don't know if I will be crossing the line with what I am going say but as an elder and a woman who has wished to have children I will not mislead you. I understand that your mother has hurt you and your father as well as Amanda you have the right to feel pain and disappointment but you are a father and husband and when you don't forgive you harbor the pain and whether you like it or not it causes you to not love with everything you have as you are holding on to another source. Be your name papa and let go of everything else focus on the beautiful family God has blessed you with. Pray about what your mother did and when God gives you heavenly peace in your heart go and talk to her" she advises

"Flo is right Lethabo holding on to it won't change anything. It has happened and it's time we just moved on from it" "I guess you are right" Pa

"Start with praying for peace in your heart and call upon the spirit of forgiveness and once you feel ready do what needs to be done. No pressure thought because if you don't forgive wholeheartedly traits of the pain will live on within you and with each fault your mother makes in the future you will give reference to this particular issue" she adds

"I am going to do as you say ma I am grateful for your wisdom"

"I am just glad God gave me a chance to be a mother too and happy that you fully invited me in your life"

"I am glad I did you have been the best to me and especially my wife"

"You are blessed with that girl Lethabo I hope you know it" I smile

•NOMALANGA

I am meeting with Amanda this morning so she can pick out the car she wants

she has her learner's license now and she is going to test for her license in two days I want her to chose a car that she will be comfortable driving around we need to purchase it and go and have it branded with the details of the concierge company for extra marketing. I am already at the dealership looking at some cars. I see her getting out of the Uber and hurrying inside

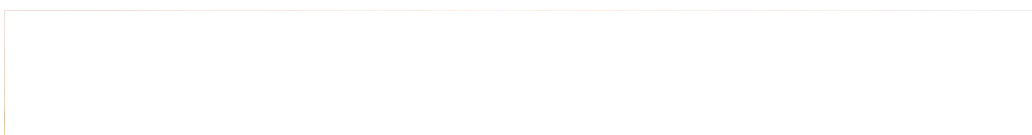
"I am sorry I am late"

"It's okay this is why we getting you a car"

"Thanks"

"So I was thinking before you arrived"

"Yes?" She says



"Since you going to start planning the engagement party of the first couple you planned a trip for I was thinking that we could buy our own equipment and decorations instead of hiring from other people"

"That would be ideal but where would we keep everything?"

"We could get storage units and keep everything there they don't cost as much"

"I guess so Ndlovukazi"

"And while we are here we should look at getting a mini bus that will transport your staff too you know waiters and waitresses then a bakkie for taking equipment and decors from the storage unit to the venue vice versa" she explains

"Definitely makes sense"

"I am glad you agree Amanda. So which car did you have in mind"

"Obviously something with a small engine for fuel efficiency"

"You are a very considerate person"

"Thank you" she says and looks around

"I was thinking something is the VW brand" I suggest

"That's perfect" we walk around together looking at the cars and asking about the features. "Amanda I know this is not the place nor time but I really need to find Afrika"

"With all due respect Ndlovukazi when my sister tried to explain you didn't want to hear her she tried and tried but you all didn't want to hear her you believed she could do that to your son even when you've seen how much she loves him. So no you don't get to find Afrika or ask about her and where she is. When she is ready to reach out to you and your family she will but please don't ever ask about her after all the pain you caused her she is trying to glue herself together and see a life without your son so please let her be if you really cared about her leave her alone" she says and I swallow "I didn't mean to get you worked up"

"This Polo looks good and it's cheaper" she says opening the door and I sigh

• MZWAKHE

I spoke to my children yesterday about mommy not being around for a while I tried making them understand exactly what Sma suggested but they are just too young to hear and understand this. Soon as I was done talking to them about it they asked about her and seeing them like that really hurt me they are so used to having both their parents and they are probably scared and confused. Why did Em have to break us like this? Why would she take away the happiness from our children I know I am not perfect but I never put our children's happiness and stability at risk. I dial her number and she picks up almost immediately

"Baby"

"Emily"

"I am so happy you called me. Mzwa I am loosing my mind baby can we please sit down and talk"

"Listen Emily I did not call to talk about us or fixing our marriage I still don't want anything to do with you" "Don't talk like this please"

"I am calling concerning our children as much as I would love to keep them far away from you I can't" "I am so sorry for what I did"

"They keep asking for you and I can't pretend that I am not hearing them"

"I miss them too so much"

"My aunt will be waiting for you tomorrow you can come by to see them for a few hours"

"Mzwa you know your aunt doesn't really like me much"

"She has every right not to like you"

"I was hoping it could be you"

"We can just forget about this whole thing"

"No no no baby it's fine I will be there. I need to see them" she quickly says

"Cool and please watch what you say to them"

"I can be anything you want but you know I am a good mother"

"Please come immediately after school I don't want to find you here"

"Thank you and Mzwakhe I love you so much" I hang up and sigh.

•AFRIKA

I went to the cafeteria after my class to meet with Stone. He had texted me his location while I was in class. I just wanted to know if he got a hold of his mom and told her about me last night. I had a great dream about meeting her and the rest of my family in the Eastern Cape it was a big celebration they were welcoming me to the Mdoda home and when I woke up I felt so much peace. In a way the void I always felt inside coz of my father was filled up. I get to the table he is sitting at.

"Hey"

"Mntase" he says and I smile

"How was your night?"

"Hectic I swear I couldn't sleep it felt good knowing that umama will have peace after all these years what about you?"

"I can't even express my feelings I am so happy to have found you knowing that I will have a sense of my dad in you guys"

"That's very true mntase let's call your aunt before she loses her mind at work" I laugh
"Okay" I say and he moves to my side and facetimes his mom who answers almost immediately.
"Siseko" she says and I look at stone I didn't know he was named after my dad
"Sindy Dino mntana ka but'wakho apha (I am with your brothers daughter here)" he says and moves the screen so I can appear. She screams and I chuckle Stone was right I have some of her features one you can't miss is her pitch black Afro.
"Ohhhhh bawo nguye njena mnatana ka bhuti (oh God it's her my brother's child)"
"She looks just like you yambona?"
"Ewe (yes)" she says
"Well Afrika this is my mother your aunt"
"It's really nice to see you aunt Sindy" I say and she is crying
"You have no idea how happy I am to have found you Afrika my heart will know peace now. I am planning to come to Cape Town this Saturday will you be available?"
"Definitely I will be waiting and I am so excited"
"Oh bhabha ngiyak'thanda va (I love you okay)" she says
"I love you too aunty"
"Please send me a text with your phone now Siseko"
"Mama"
"Give her my number please"
"On it"
"Listen you two I need to go now I have to back to work. We talk later"
"Okay aunty"
"Sure bye ma"
"Thiza wam andonwabe (My God I am so happy)" she says and hangs up. Why go I get the feeling that my aunt is a drama queen.

No edits

131

FATHER AND SON
CHAPTER 131

• **AFRIKA**

I have been waiting on this day forever even though we have been speaking on the phone everyday since we found out about our relation. A part of me is nervous on explaining how my father died and who killed him but this is a secret I am not willing to keep they need closure too and I will not deny it to them if things take a sour turn I will accept it after all these past few weeks have taught me that everything will happen the way it should and worrying about it won't change a thing. Stone came to fetch me and I must say I was surprised to see him driving his own car when we got to his place I realized that my aunt is probably well off this bachelor apartment is nice.

"Are you sure the gummy bears don't want anything?" I smile "I am so nervous I don't think we can stomach anything right now"

"Come on mntase I told you your dabs is dying to just baby you" I chuckle "I know I know Seko but you know how nerves are"

"I guess I understand" a knock comes through and he goes to open and I hear the voice I have gotten used to this past week it's my aunt. I stand up and she rushed to me and enfolds me in a warm embrace I don't know why but I suddenly cry hugging her back

"Mntaka'bhuti oh Siseko wamhle uAfrika wakho
(my brothers child oh Siseko your daughter is beautiful)" "Aunty Sindy"

"I don't think I have ever been so happy to find someone I finally found a piece of my brother"

"I am sorry you had to go through all this pain for years and years"

"It has been hard but having you will heal us I am sure of that" I nod and we let go.

"We do look alike" I say and she smiles

"Yabo you are going to age like fine wine" we all laugh

"Ai Sindy you do love calling yourself" my cousin says and his mom just give him an annoyed look.

"So baby are you his only child? Who is your mom?" She gets right on with the questions

"Yes biologically I am his only child but when my mother met him she already had my older sister Amanda they say he loved her so much my mom is Sibon and I won't lie my father's death broke her so bad she lost herself and it has taken her so long to pick up the pieces of her life"

"Oh Thixo I can only imagine but mna like I explained to you what happened over the phone we haven't found peace for 19 years we just kept on hoping that he would show up or at least call to say I am alive"

"I am sorry it never happened like that my mother said you can come anytime you want and she will surely take you to his final resting place"

"I am all for that yaz somehow I knew uba my brother died but I was hoping that was not the case"

"He was killed Dabs he came up with a drug formula and someone killed him for it but we just recently uncovered the truth about it and the man is in jail" she puts her hand on her mouth I figure I should just get it over with you know so we can be happy with the truth out in the open.

"How did it come to light? The truth I mean"

"Well my children's grandfather is my father's killer that's how I came to know the truth"

"Afrika are you okay? How are you taking all of this?" She asks and I frown. I thought she would be livid by now

"I am okay just a lot is happening now I am not ready to talk about. But I understand if you are mad or blame my mom for how everything turned out with your only sibling"

"Hai wethu Afrika I could never blame anyone for what happened I grew up with Seko and I know how ambitious he could be and when he has set his mind to something nothing will change it. Blaming the other person would just be selfish of me. I am just grateful that he wasn't too focused on his own thing that he forgot to make you coz that would have kept me in the dark place longer. Finding you is finding my brother baby girl" she says and kisses my forehead "Thank you"

"Everyone back home is dying to meet you but firstly I want to meet your mother and your sister."

"They would love that very much thank you aunty"

"Seko sapha la bag I came with the photo album I want to show Afrika her father growing up" I smile excited.

• EMILY

It's time I realize that I betrayed my husband and our children and that it will never go back to how it used to be I am just grateful that Mzwa is no longer planning on keeping the girls away from me I never thought this would be our life but I don't have anyone to blame but the person who stares back at me when I look in the mirror it has been a hard and painful

experience losing it all in just a blink of an eye and to have the man who is meant to love and protect me be the one to throw me in the burning blaze but it's okay lesson learned I can't keep crying and mopping around I have to take a stand and see how I am going to do this life thing now not for anything else but my kids they deserve a sane mother more especially because I am the one who created this mess. I have been trying Afrika's number but no luck I need to apologise sincerely I messed up her life and I thought it was okay to do so. I just hope she is well wherever she is. Mzwakhe doesn't trust our children around my father and I understand why coz with recent events I don't doubt that he would poison them just to cut everything that ties me to a black man because of this his aunt told me that I can move to our flat as much as it's a downgrade from what I am used to it's a stepping stone and I am grateful for it even if it meant moving to Hilbrow or Berea just so I can leave my father's house I would gladly take it. I am in the room I have been using packing back the few things I unpacked Mzwa was kind enough to let me take my clothes and he also moved some of our furniture at the house to the flat just so the girls can have something familiar when they visit but he told me he doesn't trust me so he will have guards watching us each time I have them. The door opens and ma walks in with a lemonade.

"Emily I brought...what are you doing packing you should be unpacking in the closet" I sigh

"Ma thank you for being here for me during this hard time I really appreciate you and all your efforts but I can't continue to stay here".

"He will come around soon Emily I have been talking to him"

"You know he will never do that ma he is proud And selfish"

"Where will you go baby"

"I still have a job I will survive I won't have to pay rent coz I am moving to the flat Mzwa and I own" I explain

"But everything is frozen you said"

"Yes it is but I will stay there until the verdict if they are found guilty then everything goes I will have to move out but if they are acquitted I will continue living there and have my daughter's visit me regularly"

"He gave it to you?" She asks

"He did ma I am still shocked too"

"You see there is still hope for you too"

"I wish but he did this for his children not me"

"I am so sorry that you are going through this"

"Lesson learned" I say folding my skirt

•KHAYA

How the mighty have fallen I can't believe that I am this person now none of my children want anything to do with me and the love of my life doesn't even respond to my request of seeing her if I can say I blame them then I would be a crazy man I caused this I made them fear and hate me and now in the darkest hour of my life I have no one but myself. It hurts it hurts so bad looking back I see how I could have been a better man and made better decisions for me and my family but greed got the better of me I had the money and power but I wanted more and more and more and it landed me in here. Thinking I was untouchable was my greatest mistake but my ultimate mistake was thinking I needed nobody and I am learning the hard way that no man is an island. I had it all but today I have nothing I am locked up in this cold cell wearing a colorful jumpsuit I can't even have a hair cut. Where is all the money I hanged on too close? It can't even get me out of here. I am on the queue waiting on my turn to make a phone call. I just hope Mike comes through for me. It's my turn so I quickly go and dial his number he answers after forever.

"Yes" he snaps

"Mike it's me"

"It's you okay but who are you?"

"It's Khaya Khaya Mdlalose" he chuckles

"Hey old timer what's up?"

"Mike can you please come and see me asap"

"As in come and see you in prison?"

"Yes Mike please"

"That's tricky"

"Why is that? I really need to see you"

"I can't be seen with you? You want the cops to come after me too?"

"Why would they do that?"

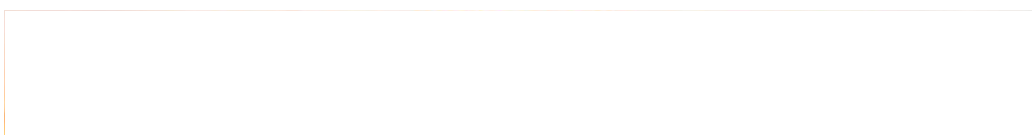
"He baba I am not coming there and please lose my number and how the fuck do you even know my number by head"

"I thought you were someone I could count on"

"Well you thought wrong"

"Mike please"

"Don't call me again" he says and hangs up. He was my last hope what am I going to do now? How will I survive inside here without help. I lean on the wall phone still on my ear and sigh. I feel tears stream down so I quickly wipe them and compose myself going back.



• LETHABO

For the entire week my wife has been praying with me and encouraging me like mam'Flo did. They made so much sense I decided it's time to break myself free from the holds of hurt and pain. I realized that life is short and anything can happen to her I don't want to wake up someday and wish I had made things right with her and at that time she would have b my mom and she raised and helped me achieve everything I had before my wife and that's enough for me to want to try again. I park outside her house and walk out. I find her sitting outside in the shade lost in her thoughts I clear my throat and she quickly looks my way

"Lethabo" the surprise in her voice

"Mama" she stands up

"Please take a seat"

"No it's okay you take it I'll just sit on the edge

over there" I say and go sit there looking at

her "You've gained weight"

"I guess it's being the man of the house" she chuckles

"That's very true. Amanda is treating you well"

"She is ma I am her King and she treats me as such" I admit

"That's great you have a beautiful thing with her and a beautiful family"

"A family you can be a part of mama if you can just let go of the hate and judgement you have towards my wife" she nods vigorously

"I don't know how I can prove that I am really sorry it has been difficult without you and it's all because of me. I just want to have you and your family back to be a mother to you both and to be able to brag about Kopano too when my friends talk about their grandchildren"

"You can have all of that mama I miss my mother my rock and biggest supporter my son is growing and the fact that you are not a part of his life is not okay" "I know I am very sorry Lethabo anything you want me to do I'll do"

"I just want you to let go of it all and accept my wife and understand that my father and his wife are also a part of me now" "I have already done that son"

"I don't want drama mama I just want peace I want to raise my children and love Amanda and have my parents in our lives"

"And that you will have I am sorry" she cries and I stand up to hug her

"It's okay ma I love you"

"I love you too Papa"

Few days later

• **AMANDA**

I have started driving even though I am not perfect as yet but I am doing it work has been booming ever since we launched our website and put more effort to our social media pages i have made contacts all over the world and we now offer most services even the smallest of things a person can do they call us for it. It's super hectic now that I can't work alone I need an office space and more people to work with. I am having a meeting with Ndlovukazi in two days to discuss it. I just picked up my mom and we are headed to the graveyard to clean up abuti Knoxx's grave as his sister will be coming over to see where her brother is laying. Afrika says she is a good person and Sibob has spoken to her a couple of times too. My mom had a tombstone erected for him but its not in the best shape anymore after all it's been 19years.

"I think I should erect a new tomb now that I have money"

"I was thinking of it just now"

"But let me wait to hear what Afrika's aunt says"

"Yes I agree mama" "Who did you leave Kopano with"

"With mam'Flo she got him early"

"She is such a sweet woman"

"That's very true. On the other side my mother in law is coming along very well" "The last time we spoke your husband was going to see her"

"Yeah everything went well she will be with us next week for the family lunch ya after Kopano is baptized" "I just hope everything runs smoothly babes"

"I trust it will"

"Mandy"

"Mmhhhh"

"Now that Afrika and your husband have found their fathers or his family in your sister's case don't you feel some how?" I frown

"Nope I am okay I am actually happy for them mama"

"Wena you don't want to know yours"

"You see Sibob with Afrika abuti Knoxx died and her aunt tried and tried to find him and she is happy to have found her niece. With my husband his father never knew about him but my case is different he knew about me he knew you were pregnant and still wanted nothing so why would I want someone who clearly didn't want me? I mean I had it rough yes but I am okay now God has shinned his light on us. I am happy I have my family I don't need him and the stress he could possibly bring me" I say and she clasps my hand

"You are so brave and strong Amanda" I smile at her

No edits

132

FATHER AND SON
CHAPTER 132

4 months later

• **AFRIKA**

I am super heavy now my children are a month from popping and I can't wait any longer I just can't share my body with them anymore now. My feet are always swollen and the fact that they are pressing on my bladder isn't helping either I think I should just camp in the bathroom once and for all. Life is coming along fine in other departments but still to this very day I miss Mpilo with all my heart I don't follow his court case because I am afraid of the outcomes I don't want to go into labour before they are ready to come. I spend my entire festive season in Port Elizabeth with my father's family they performed a very big ceremony for me introducing me to the ancestors my mom and Amanda came through and they spend a few days everyone at the Mdoda home is happy to have me as a reminder of my father. My aunt decided not to tell them about the drug thing and why he was killed coz she thought they won't be understanding and didn't want to cause any drama. Stone and I just landed in Cape Town coz we have to go register.

"I should make sure you get to your place safe" I roll my eyes

"Come on Seko I am a big girl"

"I know mntase your aunt would have me for breakfast is she knew I wasn't looking out for you" "I won't tell her if you don't" he laughs

"Okay then. I'll just pop by my girls place then"

"Yeah it has been a while" I tease and he laughs

"Look who's talking" I frown

"Oh wow that's below the belt"

"I am sorry sis. I will see you and the gammies tomorrow for lunch"

"Only if you bring it to the house I am so not going out this big" he laughs

"You look amazing Afrika"

"Stop lying I am a whale go before I cry"

"You I have had enough of the crying let me bounce before you start" I chuckle and we both get in different cabs. I get to my place quick and I am grateful coz I am in need of the bathroom. The taxi driver is sweet enough to help me carry the bags inside he leaves them by the door and I pay him before he leaves. I get in and hurry to the loo passing Sbahle and Senzo. I do my business and walk back out feeling like a new person.

"Hey guys" I say hugging them
 "Hey Mommy I have missed you so much"
 "I missed you too aunty bear"
 "Oh my friend you are so big and so cute" Senzo says with a grin
 "Guys I am carrying two people I am allowed to be this big right"
 "Right wena mommy" he says
 "So how was PE"
 "It was amazing Bahle. I am just grateful to know everything about my father now"
 "I am happy for you this move came with blessings"
 "I totally agree" I say
 "Malome'Senzo my gummies are asking for you famous sandwich"
 "At their service juice or water?"
 "Juice please"
 "Coming right up" he walks to the kitchen.
 I sit down and one of them gives me a serious kick I wince
 "Oh baby ouch"
 "Oh my God I missed the kicked" I take her hand and place it on my belly and the kicks come a few times
 "This is just amazing friend"
 "I know right" I say smiling
 "I wish my brother was here to experience this beautiful moment"
 "I always wish for that even to this very day"
 "I am sorry Afrika"
 "It's okay at least I have 2 half's of him"

•MPILO

The trial has been going on from October and I am glad it is all coming to an end few days ago my lawyers and the prosecutor gave their closing statements and today the judge is going to give a ruling and probably the sentencing. I won't lie I am scared out of my mind this thing can go either way. Razor and his team fought for me they went and threw everything they knew in this fight and it's all up to the judge now all I can do is wait. I am tapping my legs in sitting down waiting for the judge to walk in.

"Calm down" Razor says
 "I am trying man it's hard" he brushes my back and sits down
 "All rise" a voice says and we all stand as the judge walks in and takes her chair and orders us to sit back down. My nerves and worry just went sky high. I feel like I want to cry even. My whole life is in the hands of this woman my woman's future is in the life of this woman and possibly my child's "So this court has heard both sides and I will admit that both of

them gave strong arguments narcotics bring doom to the people of this country especially the youth it contributes to crime rape and murder and whoever creates and distributes this things must be locked up and shown no mercy" she says and I swear all the air in my lungs leave my body.

"However some situations are not black and white and to understand them better you must be in a certain position. The state has proven beyond reasonable doubt that the accused produced the drugs with the intention to distribute and the defence has also proved that the accused was coerced to do this so long as he wanted his mother and other family members to survive the harsh hands of the master mind of the operation and because of the evidence and testimonies given under oath I hereby find the accused guilty" she says and I just let my tears fall. I look back and my mom has her eyes shut. My mind races to Afrika Wondering how different things would have been for us and our future

"I will not delay the sentencing so I will give it immediately as well. May the accused stand up please" I stand up wiping my tears

"You are sentenced to 5 years and all 5 suspended. You will be under unsupervised probation and you will have a criminal record. If you break the terms of your probation you will serve your sentence fully and if you are arrested and found guilty of another crime you will serve the suspended sentence plus the sentence of your new crime. Your lawyer will explain it clearly to you" she says and I am looking at her stunned I look at Razor who's head is buried in his hands I look back at Ndlovukazi again and there is a faint smile on her face.

"Court adjourned you will be released soon as the paper work is done" she says

"All rise" the people stand and she walks out. I am standing there like a statue. Razor shakes me and I look at him.

"You are free Mpilo"

"I can go find my girl?" I ask

"You can go and do whatever you want so long as it's legal" I never thought I'd break down. I sit down and just cry. A second later I feel my mom touch me. I stand up and hug her

"You are out believe it you are out"

"I can't believe it mama"

"Shhhh you won't be in that place any longer shhhh"

"Now I can go find her myself"

"Oh Mpilo. I am so happy son you will go and you will find her"

• AMANDA

I just got off the phone with my contact from Cape Town my mom and I organized some baby things for her as we couldn't have a baby shower for her so we had to buy her things before she gave birth. My mom is planning on going to Cape Town in a few weeks to be there when she goes into labor. Oh we finally got a big office space and we own our own equipment and decorations now my mom and I organized some baby things for her as we couldn't have a baby shower for her so we had to buy her things before she gave birth. My mom is planning on going to Cape Town in a few weeks to be there when she goes into labor. Oh we finally got a big office space and we own our own equipment and decorations now the staff works well with me and we made sure to hire events graduates. Since I passed my grade 12 last year I enrolled with Boston and I will be doing events management with them I am super excited to start. My phone rings and it's my mother in law.

"Hello ma"

"Ama how are you"

"I am fine ma how are you?"

"I am very well my dear I wanted to find out if you can drive by home after work"

"I am knocking off at 4pm I will arrive around past 5. Is everything okay"

"Oh yes baby it's nothing hectic. I went to the mall earlier and got Kopano some things I wanted you to fit him and if they are small I will go back to exchange"

"Oh mama that's very sweet I will come by"

"Okay have a great day at work my dear"

"Thanks ma later"

"Bye" she hangs up. Lethabo's mother has really changed she tries and her efforts don't go unnoticed we all have a relationship now even she speaks with Lethabo's dad and mam'Flo I had my doubts before but she is doing really well. We have even come up with a strategy for everyone to enjoy Kopano so one week he stays with my mom the next with Lethabo's mom and the other with his step mom whoever gets home first gets him from wherever he is. We want our son to know and get used to all his grandparents. A knock comes through my office door "Come in"

"Hey Mandy"

"Hey doll"

"These are the samples you asked for" she hands me the file

"Oh that was quick thank you so much"

"It's a pleasure and did you see we finally got a review from Maya Vee" she says and my eyes pop "Are you serious?"

"I swear even a shout out on Instagram"

“Oh my God this is big”

“I know Mandy we are all just waiting for our phones to ring off the hook”

“Let me check it out” I say already typing on the laptop and she laughs walking out. Maya Vee is the biggest media personality and she has a million followers from all walks of life her giving us a shout out on her page means free advertising i should send her some flowers.

•NOMALANGA

I just had to leave court and come back home quickly to prepare for my son he hasn't been home in months he hasn't had a proper shower or slept on a good matras. I just want everything to be perfect when he arrives. There were a couple of glitches with his paperwork but Razor said it's going to be sorted out that was an hour ago. We prepared some quick meal for him and we are waiting for him to arrive. It's me Mzwa and Smangele. I will call Bahle later to tell her the great news I look at my watch and as I was about to complain the door opens and he walks in.

“Oh Mpilo welcome home son”

“It's good to be out everything looks different now even though it's still exactly the same”

“That's because your perspective on life has changed”

“That's very true mama”

“Aow Ntwana Yami” Sma says walking in and they share a hug

“Ncane ikuphi ibeer (where is the beer)” she laughs

“Don't worry I got you” she replies. Mpilo looks at his brother and it's awkward for a minute

“Mpilo welcome home bro”

“Thanks man” I sigh in relief

“Come the food is ready” we all move to the dining table and sit.

“So what's the first thing you going to do since you are a free man again” Sma asks

“Once I get my mind straight I am going to look for Afrika till I find her”

“You will find her and I will help you”

“Thanks Ndlovukazi”

“Let me video call Sbahle she will be so happy to you”

“No mama don't call her I want to go down there to see her and get my heart straight for a few days then find my girl”

“I will go with you it has been a while since I saw her too now that you are home she will be much better”

“Her father was still given life ma as much as he is a bad man she loved him dearly probably still does”

“I know hence it will be good for her to see us”

“Yeah probably”

"I will book us tickets for Friday"

"Thanks Mom"

"I would go with you but I need to stay behind and help Mzwa with the girls"

"Thank you so much for that Smangele" I say appreciating how she is helping out during these tough times.

No edits

133

FATHER AND SON
CHAPTER 133

• **MPILO**

Being back at home without her here is just not the same the is not even a piece of clothing that belongs to her my bedroom doesn't smell of her anymore I don't know where she is and I don't even know where I am going to start looking. I fought to be out because of her and I don't know what will become of me if I don't find her. I've been home for two days now and i think being in this house is somewhat making me dull the mini trip to see my sister might help me a great deal in getting my head straight. I am in the garden sitting on the swing this was her favorite place and somehow I feel a little closer to her.

"Mpilo" Mzwa says

"Sure"

"Here you go" he gives me a beer and sits down next to me

"Thanks man"

"I am really sorry taMpilo. From the bottom of my heart I am very sorry"

"You hurt me Mzwa"

"I know and I will never forgive myself for that. You have always stood by me in the toughest and darkest times in my life"

"Yet you couldn't stick by me once"

"I was after dad's love and acceptance the child in me craved the closeness you too always had I wasn't jealous of your relationship with him but I just wanted to feel what it was like to actually be his favorite be his go to guy to have him call me and ask me to fix something because he trusts in my capabilities little did I know that it would be me loosing myself

in the process" he explains and a part of me feels really bad for him I won't lie

"I hope this will be a lesson for you. Never lose yourself trying to find acceptance from someone who will end up treating you like shit" "Trust me my I've grown a pair. I saw him for what he was and I will never allow myself be manipulated like that again" "Good for you" we toast

"I just hope we can fix our relationship and be were we used to be" he says

"It's going to take me a while to trust you again Mzwakhe"

"I understand that but fact that you are talking to me gives me hope" I laugh

"Yeah it's something at least"

"I am glad you are home bro" I sigh

"Home doesn't feel like home anymore she isn't here" I sip

"You love her and somehow all this is my mess so I will also help in trying to locate her" "Thanks"

•NOMALANGA

With my son back home and Khaya in jail paying for each and every one of his sins I feel much better and at ease. I just want our lives to go back to normal and that can only happen once Sbahle has come to terms with her father's sentencing and Mpilo finds Afrika then everything will go back to how it used to be and even better. I have been at Thuso's house spending sometime with him before Mpilo and I go to see Sbahle.

"How long did you say you will be gone for?"

He asks pouring us some wine

"We leaving on Friday and coming back on Tuesday"

"Okay not bad tell Mpilo we need to hit the golf course once he settles in" I smile

"I will love and he wanted to come see you too"

"You didn't tell him anything about me influencing his sentencing right?"

"I will take it with me to my grave. I won't risk putting your career in jeopardy"

"Thank you Sunny"

"No love thank you so much I don't know how I will ever repay you"

"I know how" he smirks

"I am listening"

"You can be Mrs. Moroka" I smile

"You serious about this?"

"Very serious Sunny I love you and I don't want to spend my life without you"

"I love you too so much and yes I would love to be your wife and live in this house with you"
 "You don't want a big house"
 "No this is perfect for us. Intimate and warm"
 "So we are doing it?" He asks and I smile
 "Yes love soon as I come back we plan a beautiful intimate ceremony with just our children and close relatives"
 "I totally agree my love" he says
 "I honestly never thought i would remarry" I admit
 "Me too until I met you and you agreed to be mine"
 "You can be so sweet"
 "What do you mean coz I am always sweet" he asks
 chuckling "Yes you are come here" I say pulling him towards me.

• AMANDA

My son is growing up and he is becoming busy we had to baby proof every inch of our home so he doesn't hurt himself why didn't you warn me that crawling babies are a full time job. He plays so much in the afternoon his grandmother's let him crawl until he is tired and God knows I can't be running after him hence Lethabo and I always hold him just to keep the peace. He just put him to bed after a bathing him. We share duties if I cook he bathes him when he cooks I bath him but weekend we do things together. He walks in and goes to take out a beer from the fridge.
 "Your son is just too much work" I laugh
 "I know baby the peace that comes when he is asleep"
 "I love him but it feels like he can sleep always"
 "Hai Lethabo no. I would go insane" he chuckles
 "But I heard the is a way to make him behave"
 "Which is?" He smirks
 "We should give him a sibling"
 "Babe he is not even 1 yet"
 "I know Ama but by the time you give birth he will be almost 2" he argues
 "But babe"
 "If we want to get to our 6 kids mark we need to get right on the horse" I laugh
 "Who agreed on 6 kids"
 "I thought we agreed on it"
 "Nope you assumed it's only 3 sir"
 "That's an odd number babe. Who will be the lonely one in the house"

"You turning this into your math class" he laughs harder
 "Mathematics is used to solve problems even in real life situations"
 "Oh well you will be the odd one out" he frowns
 "I married you sweetheart I don't get to be lonely so 4 it is or it's back to 6"
 "I will take four for the team thank you very much" I say
 "That's my girl"
 "Since you the one who wants a soccer team you will have to be ready to wake up in the middle of the night changing nappies and feeding"
 "I'll just be pulling out your breast while you are deep asleep" I giggle
 "You are weird"
 "I am just looking at the logistics of what you are saying babe"
 "Can you just pour me a glass of wine"
 "With pleasure Mrs Mafa"

•AFRIKA

Fridays are my favorite days in the whole world I get to just sleep throughout the weekend and not go out with swollen legs and huge belly walking like a hippo. My cousin and I spend so much time together and most people at school think he is my baby daddy and he doesn't mind that one bit but he had to explain to his girlfriend this other time when she found me at his place but we are all cool now.
 "So we get food and go chill at my house?"
 "Nope we get food and chill by my place
 I need my bed"
 "Hai Afrika you will be there sleeping while I sit through your boring movies"
 I chuckle
 "I promise we will sit by the balcony"
 "Well in that case I will get a few beers"
 "Get enough for Senzo too"
 "Definitely that's my G you know"
 "Don't steal my friends" I warn and he rolls his eyes
 "I wouldn't try mntase"
 "So can we please get the wings from that place you like" I ask
 "I was thinking the same thing you is a star"
 "Good coz my gummies are craving them so bad"
 "Being the good uncle that I am their wish is my command"
 "Did you guys hear that?" I say brushing my belly
 "Yep they did are you done connecting their cot?"
 "Yes Senzo helped me do it but I feel like I want to sleep with them on the same bed" he narrows his eyes
 "That's going to be tricky though will you be in the middle or?"
 "I don't know yet I will ask the doctor on my next appointment"

"Who's turn is it to accompany you?"

"I think it's Sbahle"

"Okay you will tell me the out comes"

"Definitely and do you think you can drive any faster. We are hungry and any moment now I might need to use the bathroom" "Ai this kind of abuse" he says stepping on the accelerator a bit

•MPILO

My mom and I just touched down the mother land and I almost forgot how beautiful this place is but you know the weather is crazy we left Johannesburg hot and sunny but it's drizzling here. I am excited to see my sister and to know that her worry will go down a little knowing I am free again. She loves acting like she is strong but in actual fact she is a big emotional baby. The taxi stops outside some complex and I must admit it's nice and quiet.

"Nice joint" I say

"I actually own it" she replies and i give her a look. "You making money moves huh"

"Just like you did Mpilo when you started opening all these businesses like mother like son" she says as we get out of the cab and take out our bags from the boot.

She punches the code at the gate and the gates open. We walk in. We get to her place by the corner and mama knocks after a minute or so she comes to open.

Her eyes land on me and she just screams her lungs out. I smile and take her in my arms.

"Hey sis"

"Life? How? When?"

"Yes it's me we fought tooth and nail and I got out just a few days ago"

"Why didn't you call me?" She asks

"I wanted you to see me in the flash"

"I am happy to se-" she doesn't complete her statement she just froze like she just remembered something.

"Bahle what's wrong?" My mom asks and she takes a smile

"Mmmhhh nothing. I am just happy to see

you" "Can we come in"

ma adds

"Yes yes come on in" we walk in and leave our bags by the door. Her eyes are wondering around like she is seriously worried about something.

"Are you sure you cool" I ask

"Of course Life you are out and free" she types on her phone and gets frustrated. Okay she is honestly a tad strange.

"Bahle?" My mom says

"Mmmhhh" she says typing

"Your father didn't make it out"

"I didn't expect him to" she replies casually whoever she is trying to reach is obviously more important than the news "He got life Sbahle he is not coming out" her eyes shoot up.

"Really?" She asks with hurt in her voice

"Yes princess I am so sorry" she swallows

"It's okay he had to pay for his sins he terrorized people for the longest time" she replies

"It's okay if it hurts you he was your Superman" I say

"Until he made me witness him murdering two girls in cold blood" she says and she hasn't shed a tear not even once. "I hear you" ma says

"So will you guys be sleeping here?" I frown.

"Mom did say it's a three bedroom unless we are missing something? You are wierd princess what's the matter is your boyfriend here?" I ask and she swallows and the sound of the door opening disturbs us.

"Bahle who's bags are these are you doing somewhere?" A voice I know very well says and I jerk up from the couch. She appears with some guy holding her bag and plastics my heart starts racing and breaking at the same time. She stops walking as her eyes land on me and mine land on her huge belly she is pregnant and so beautiful. I let my tears fall

"Muhles" I whisper and she hold her belly

"Mpilo" she calls out and blinks her tears

"It's me baby it's me" I say walking to her. I reach her and just drop on my knees immediately I snake my hands around her but they don't go all the way coz she is so big. I place my head on her stomach and cry.

"I am so sorry Afrika I am so very sorry sthandwa Sam" I beg and I feel her brushing my hair.

"I will never doubt you ever again I am falling apart Afrika I need you" I add "Mpilo" she says again in a shaky voice.

134

FATHER AND SON
CHAPTER 134

• **AFRIKA**

we have been in this position for almost thirty minutes now my feet are hurting me but I am afraid to let go of him in case these are the last moments I have with him forever. I am just wondering how he got out and when I have so many questions to ask but in all honesty I want to be in this moment forever he keeps on kissing my belly and crying more I can feel his emotions and I just want to tell him everything will be alright to tell him that I love him with all my heart and soul.

"Mpilo let her sit down her legs are swollen" Ndlovukazi says and he sniffs and gets up and looks at me in the eye and I just want to pull him to me and kiss him passionately.

"Uhm I think we should give them a moment" Bahle says looking at me and I nod I look back at my cousin "I will call you later"

"Are you sure you are going to be okay?" Seko asks
"I think so thanks"

"Call me Afrika" I nod and they all leave and it's just me and Mpilo.

"We are pregnant?" That's the first thing he says

"Yes they are twins" I say and he closes his eyes

"Muhles sthandwa Sam I am so sorry baby"

"You hurt me to my soul Mpilo I would have never put you in jeopardy never"

"I know that now and I am so mad at myself for believing otherwise"

"You couldn't even give me a chance to explain myself. You just concluded that I would be that person who would hurt you"

"Afrika I am ashamed I am so sorry. I don't even know what to say to you right now" he says and we look in each other's eyes both crying.

"You are my life baby no woman can ever impact me the way you do allow me to make things right please I am begging you please" he continues. Being so close to him made my hormones go crazy I am hot and I want him right now I have been horny for months now and he is finally in front of me. "Mpilo"

"Sthandwa Sami" he quickly replies

"Please make love to me" I ask in a low sensual voice and he doesn't waste time he pulls me to him and once his lips touched mine I felt like I was literally in fire my clit is pulsating and I can literally feel my arousal dripping

into my underwear. I kiss him back hungrily and I know it's both our moment the last time for both of us was the last time we were happy and we thought everything will always be okay between us. I stop and lead him to my bedroom soon as he closes the door I help him out of his t-shirt and his upper body is still as sexy as the last time. He drops his sweatpants and boxer briefs at the same time and his erection springs free his size will always have me gasping for air. He is completely naked in front off me I bite my lower lip and he takes my clothes off I am left bare as big as I am I am not ashamed the fact that he is looking at me like I am the sexiest woman in the world turns me on more. He rubs my stomach and brings his lips to mine it's so slow and passionate I moan in his mouth. He takes my hand and makes me hold his strong steady erect penis. I give it a squeeze then start massaging it. He pulls out out from the kiss and close his eyes looking up taking in the pleasure of my hand. I stop coz I am in desperate need to feel his size fill up every inch of my good girl. I lay down on the bed and he smirks and goes behind me kissing my back and he leaves trails of kisses along my back sending shivers down my spine. He takes my leg and lifts it a bit his finger starts rubbing my clit making me curl my toes. It goes on for a minute and he goes down a bit and feel him rub his penis on my entrace it feels so damn good without warning. He enters me slowly and hisses as he feels my wetness. He starts off slowly and san by usually and I can't believe I am actually feeling like this and that he is here with me. He continues thrusting in and out.

"Baby" he says

"Mpilo" i cry out

"Afrika I love you and our kids so much

"Ohhh Mpilo yes baby yes" I moan in enjoyment

"I missed you I missed being buried deep inside of you like this baby no woman can ever make me feel the way that you do" he says and I swear I can hear him but my mind is not with his words at all I am lost in the pleasure he is making me feel. My body betrays me as I feel my orgasm build up I am mad because I wanted it to last long but Gosh it's been forever since I had sex. He continues thrusting in me through my orgasm.

"Mpilo" I cry my leg shaking like crazy this orgasm is intense

"I love you I love you sthandwa Sam" he says thrusting in deeper and faster and I know he is having his climax too. He stays in me for a while. I take in his scent and and the warmth of being in his arms. All of sudden I feel this anger and hate for him and what he did to me and my children. I yank his arms off me and stand up from the bed.

"Afrika what's wrong" he asks panicking

"You thought you would just show up here and tell give me all sorts of sorries and I would just forgive you"

"Baby no it's not like that I swear"

"It's exactly like that in that tiny brain you thought you'd fuck me back to loving you"

"Muhles why are you talking like this baby please" he begs but I just chuckle and put on my clothes.

"You must be joking if you don't know the answer"

"Muhles please" he says getting off the bed and trying to touch me

"Don't even think about it Mpilo. You told me to leave you alone and move on"

"I didn't mean it please"

"Mxm" I walk out and he follows me begging I grab my bag and the food on the couch and head to the door.

"Afrika you can't leave baby"

"Watch me" I say walking out and he attempts to but he remembers that he is completely naked so he stands by the door

"Baby come back in let's talk about this" I walk away and he runs back I assume to grab his clothes. I walk to the gate and notice Seko parked out. I punch in the code and walk out the complex and go straight to his car.

"You gave it up?" He says

"Hai wena why would you say that"

"Your hair sold you out and please look at your dress" I look at myself and laugh

"Mxm just drive" I say and he starts the engine

•NOMALANGA

Out of all the places I never thought she was with Sbahle this was the last place I thought about I mean she was right under our noses. What confuses me is why Bahle kept this away from us I mean Afrika is pregnant with my grandchild I mean Afrika is pregnant with my grandchild Mpilo has been going out of his mind with worry while she knew where Afrika was but I don't know the full story so I should just drop my frustrations a bit. She parks at some restaurant and we get out of her car. The waitress shows us a table and we place an order she is literally trying to avoid me but how because we are in the same place alone and we are going to have to talk about it either way.

"How long has she been here?"

"She came shortly after I came here"

"Oh Bahle why didn't you tell me"

"Because she asked me not to and already everyone was doubting her so I had to be there for her and show her support when everyone else had already concluded that she is guilty"

"Oh Bahle you have grown to be this most amazing woman. I am super proud of you my baby"

"I know how much Mpilo loves her and he did ask me to look out for her and I kept to my promise"

"How is she?"

"She is doing better now she was broken mama I never thought she would be able to keep it together after it all. Having to set your mind right to get through a difficult course and prepare for two children at once"

"What what do you mean 2 children Bahle?" She sighs

"She is pregnant with twins" I move my hand to my mouth shocked as hell

"Oh my God"

"Yeah she is the bravest woman I have ever come across. My niece and nephew have the best mother ever and I couldn't be more grateful to have been there for her through it all" she says

"I feel so embarrassed that I didn't believe her. I wish I trusted the person she showed us to be"

"You believe her now?" She asks confused

"Emily confessed that she is the one responsible for it all Afrika was telling the truth all along"

"That snake" she sneer

"Your brother is making her feel the heat"

"Like he should imagine the nerve after everything she went through with Mzwakhe"

"Hai Bahle"

"I just hope those two can work through it"

"I am praying for it as we speak. Your brother needs her"

"She needs him too" I sigh

•MZWAKHE

My daughter's have been nagging me to see their mother and trust me those two can get into your head until you just can't take it anymore. So I packed them a few things and drive them there. I wish Sma was available to have brought them coz I honestly don't feel like seeing Emily but I don't have a choice coz I didn't tell her in time. I am parked outside the flat and I have to call her since I don't have the current code to the gate. She answers immediately.

"Hi" she says

"Emily how are you?"

"Uhm I am okay how are you?"

"I am very well thanks are you at home?"

"Yes I am with my mom she came to see me"

"Any plans for the weekend?"

"No I have nothing I'll be indoors binging on TV shows is everything okay" she says

"Oh okay thing is I am outside your place"

"Oh?" Her tone surprised

"I actually came to drop off the girls they have been screaming for you this whole day. If it's no bother can I drop them off?" "It's absolutely no bother let me give you the gate code"

"I don't want to drive in do you mind coming down to get them?" I ask and she sighs

"Oh okay I will be right down" I hang up and these two are making noise I am getting a headache. Being a parent isn't child's play

"Daddy are we going to sleep over at mommy's place?"

"Yes you are I will get you on Sunday"

"So soon?"

"Yes so soon. You have school on Monday baby"

"Oh man" my eldest says and I laugh

"Look Mommy is coming" I say and they start jumping for joy" Emily opens the gate and reaches us. I open the window

"Hey thanks for bringing them by it's a nice surprise"

"It's cool"

"Are you rushing somewhere"

"Nope I am heading back home to watch some soccer"

"Oh I see. If you'd like please come in for a drink"

"I don't think that's a good idea. I don't want to blur the lines and confuse the kids"

"I understand. Girls come" she says opening the back seat door

"Say bye to daddy" she says

"Bye daddy" they say in unison

"Bye girls I love you" I say and they already running towards the gate

"Okay then"

"I will get them on Sunday afternoon"

"They will be ready"

"Sharp" I start the engine and she walks away

•MPILO

I am going crazy I don't know where she went to I just saw that she left with the same guy she arrived here with to say I am pissed would be down playing it. I want to find that fucker and fuck him up. If he thinks he is going to replace me in Afrika's life and play daddy to my twins then he clearly doesn't know who I am for real. Why would she sleep with me and enjoy it if she wasn't going to give me a chance to explain. I am going crazy here I don't have her number to call. All I can do is sit in this damn place and wait

for Sbahle to give me some damn answers just on time they arrive and my mom smiles

"Is she asleep?" She asks

"Sbahle who the fuck is that guy she arrived here with?"

"His name is Stone" I roll my eyes

"I don't care about his name who is he to Afrika" I sneer

"Calm down Mpilo what happened?" My mom asks

"Ma please Sbahle answer me"

"I think it's better if she tells you herself" she says and I ruffle my hair chuckling

"Don't make me choke it out of you" I threatened

"Don't be crazy I will slap you. What happened here"

"We made love and then she stormed out of here" I blurt it out and Sbahle laughs

"Hit and run" she says

"Don't provoke me please"

"Sbahle please don't do that to your brother do you know the boy and where he is living? Your brother needs to talk to Afrika they need to communicate for the sake of their twins" ma says

"Believe me I want them to fix things too but Afrika has every right to storm out and hate you. You all hurt her and you honestly can't expect her to just be okay because you showed up. This is the woman who thought she would be raising her children alone. You told her to not wait for you and move on. She is shocked and seeing you reminded her of the pain she was learning to let go off if you want to win her back go at her pace" she says "I understand you Bahle and I am sorry for my behavior I will give her space" I say and she walks away

"She will come back and you guys will talk"

"I praying for that Ndlovukazi"

"You are having twins son" she says with a smile

"She told me I just can't believe it"

"I can't believe you are going to be a father. You were blessed with a good woman to mother your kids"

"I know Ndlovukazi I just wish she could sit with me and we can talk about it"

"I understand boy but she wasn't expecting this give her some time she clearly loves you Mpilo"

"I love her too I need her she is the only woman for me"

"Heaven has already blessed your relationship you two were meant to be together" I sigh and go sit down

135

FATHER AND SON
CHAPTER 135

• **AFRIKA**

I slept at my cousin's house coz I was just so livid raging mad you know but even before I went to bed I already missed him and wanted to go back but he can't just have me back that easily. He didn't have faith in me even when I showed him that I just wanted the best for him and for our future. I am glad Bahle didn't give out my number to them or worse gave them Seko's address. I get off bed and he is already up watching highlights.

"I am sorry you had to take the couch"

"It's okay mntase long as you were comfortable" i smile

"Thanks you are the best of the best just make sure to wash the sheets don't want your girlfriend to smell my scent and think you were up to no good" he chuckles

"I already told her you were sleeping over"

"Good I am starving"

"Hold on a bit I ordered something it will soon be delivered"

"You are the best uncle in the world to the gummies"

"So you going back to your baby daddy?" I sigh

"I love him Seko I love him with all my heart and he is the only man I see myself with so it's just a matter of time till I completely forgive him" he nods vigorously

"I understand completely but just make him sweat a bit" he says

"How bro coz I've already slept with him feeling him in that way ignited our passion our love"

"You going to hold off that a while I am going to be your fake boyfriend" I laugh "He would die I swear"

"Exactly why we should do this he has to learn that you don't need him but you choose him and if he doesn't appreciate you and stand by you you will move to people who do"

"That's very true so we are fake dating?"

"Yes the whole shebang. I will drive you there holding hands drop you off then have a moment nyana to make him boil" "I love this idea"

"That's my girl" we are disturbed by the intercom

"Your food is here guys"

"Finally" I take a sit on the couch

•MZWAKHE

I am busy compiling all the information I have on Afrika I need to get it to the investigator ASAP. This is the least I can do to help locate Mpilo's girl I am not doing this to find favour in him I just want to bring back the only woman he wants and loves with all his heart. I want to help him get his back he deserves to catch his break and be happy and that will happen if he finds Afrika. My aunt walks in holding a cup of coffee I frown"

Are you okay Sma?"

"Yeah why?"

"You are drinking coffee?"

"Is that a crime?"

"No it's not I am just shocked coz you have never been a fan of hot beverages"

"I have to limit my drinking now that I take care of your children" I smile

"Oh Ncane. I truly appreciate this. You have been helping me out with my children and I don't know what I would have done if you weren't around"

"I love taking care of them so it's okay"

"It's clear that you do coz you even cutting your beloved Black label"

"I drank that half my life and now priorities change"

"That's very true"

"So what are you busy with?" I sigh

"I am just trying to help Mpilo locate Afrika"

"Oh that won't be necessary" I frown

"Why Ncane Mpilo is losing his mind"

"Nope he is losing his mind because Afrika is carrying twins and wants nothing to do with him she left with some guy" she says laughing

"I don't understand"

"She has been in Cape Town with your sister pregnant with twins"

"What? Why didn't Bahle tell us"

"Loyalty to Afrika I would have done the same if she ran to me"

"I guess I understand"

"So stop playing detective she is found"

"But she moved on I can't imagine how my brother is feeling"

"You clearly don't know Afrika" she says leaving me confused I don't even want to ask what she means.

•NOMALANGA

My son has been a shadow of himself since Afrika left with the guy she was with. Bahle won't tell us who he is and that is adding to Mpilo's stress I won't really blame Afrika if she never wanted anything to do with us we hurt her and it's only fair to move at her own pace all we can do at this moment is show remorse and be there for her and the twins until she is ready to let us in again. We are having brunch at the apartment and it feels so tense we seriously need a cheer up moment

"So children" they look at me

"Ma" Bahle responds first

"I know we are going through a tough time right now but everything is going to be okay"

"That's very true ma everything will work out how it's supposed to"

"You have become this beautiful wise and thoughtful person I've always wished you could become I am so proud of you"

"Thanks

mama"

"Mpilo as

much as

you hoped that everything would fall into place when you two met again we need to understand the pain we caused her and remember she had to teach herself how to live without you and how to be a strong woman who will raise her children. We can't rush her into this new reality of you being in the picture"

"I understand that mama but-" I quickly cut him off

"No buts Mpilo give her some time I am going to do the same too"

"And the kids?" He asks

"You will always be their father and Afrika would never keep you away from them"

"Mama is right Life just give her some space and I promise she will come around" "Okay I will try"

"I wanted to share this with everyone but we need a cheer up so I might just tell you"

"What's going on?" Mpilo asks leaning in

"Well Thuso and I are getting married"

"What? Ndlovukazi that's great news" the cheery Bahle says already on her feet hugging me

"Thank you baby"

"Congratulations to you both mama. He is a good man and he loves you and I know you will have the best memories and experiences ever"

"Thanks"

"So is it like a big wedding"

"No it's going to be intimate just my kids and Smangele and his children and close relatives"

"Oh mama you two will have a beautiful life together"

•MPILO

I heard everything my mom and sister said and they are probably right she is right to react like this I pushed her away I decided to doubt her and I have to take this like a man and wait for her to heal and find her love for me again. As much as it's killing me that I know where she is but I can't have her as mine again. She allowed me to make love to her and that should count for something even if she walked out after it we love each very much and we will definitely find a way back to each other. I am alone in the house watching some TV but in all honesty the TV is watching me I just wanted some noises around the house coz the silence was too much. The door opens and I quickly get up to see who it is. Afrika appears holding hands with that guy. My heart drops into my stomach

"Oh Mpilo I didn't think you'd be at home" she says

"Babe let me just leave I

will call

you later"

"Okay thanks again"

"Anything for you guys" the guy responds and she blushes I want to go for the kill when he plants a kiss of her cheek.

"Call me later" Afrika says and I won't lie this is taking my heart and shredding it into pieces

"I will bye" he says and leaves. I am just looking at Afrika I can't seem to get the words out of my mouth the huge lump on my throat is making it difficult. I exhale deeply.

"You are dating him?"

"You told me to move on Mpilo didn't you?" She says and I close my eyes

"Baby I thought things were going down south for me"

"You shut me out you couldn't allow me to be there for you"

"And I regret that trust me I do you can't move on baby please"

"You hurt me Mpilo and I can't hurt Stone when he has been so supportive"

"Baby I understand that but Afrika your heart beats for me and you know it I love you and the kids with all my heart and I will live my life showing you how much I love you and how sorry I am for ever doubting you"

"Mpilo please. It will never be same again"

"It can be better it's going to be how you ever dreamt I promise the is no drug business now the is no Khaya standing in our way it's just us our children and our love"

"You don't understand I am with stone now" I shake my head vigorously

"It's not real it's not what you want. I am your rib I am yours Afrika and you are mine" I say walking towards her and she is walking back until she is trapped between me and the wall. I touch her hand and she gasp for air. I bring my face to her and her breathing spikes. I kiss her lips

"Does he make you feel like this?" I ask pinning myself to her gently and she closes her eyes

"Do you get wet for him the way you do for me" I ask again moving my hand to her intimate area and it's already damp.

"Mpilo no" she says and she is flushed I know she doesn't want me to stop I know her body because it's mine

"Tell me you don't love me Afrika" I say sliding my finger inside of her and she parts her leg a bit and starts moaning

"Muhles look at me in the eyes and tell me you don't want me to take you to bed right now and make love to you tell me you don't love me" I add and increase the pace of thrusting her with my finger she bites her lower lip and take in the pleasure of my fingers "Mpilo" she cries

"Afrika tell me" I insist and she opens her eyes and removes my hand then fixes her dress.

"We can't do this I am sorry"

"Afrika please" I beg but she just walks away. I look down feeling defeated.

know

I don't
what I

am going to do but I am not going to sit back and watch another man take my woman from me I would rather die than live and watch her with another man

No edits

136

FATHER AND SON
CHAPTER 136

• **AFRIKA**

Mpilo is going crazy and a part of me feels so bad for making him go through all this knowing very well that I am going to go back to him at the end of the day. I love him and I don't care if that makes a fool or whatever he is the love of my life before anything. Knowing he is out and free makes me happy because now I know we are going to have the rest of our lives together. Seko told me not to go back on our agreement to fake date. He believes that for a guy to understand what he has he has to have fought for it at some point and remember that I am not promised to be with him I can move on with my life if I want to. I am listening to him because he is a guy and he has insight to these things.

"Mommy" Bahle shouts from the kitchen

"Aunty bear" she appears and takes a sit next to me

"God I am so tired"

"I am sorry hun how is Senzo" she sighs

"I feel so bad that he has to live in a hotel"

"He understands Sbahle and you two mustn't vat n set anyway" she laughs

"I know I know friend but it's nice man you know this" I roll my eyes

"Mpilo and I didn't have a choice babe"

"Speaking of my brother he is dying from this fake relationship with Seko"

"I feel so bad I just want to be with him but Seko feels like I should just stick to it for a while" she giggles

"I love him so much Bahle and seeing him like this is making me feel super guilty"

"He will be strong just don't give in yet"

"Okay"

"And don't let him have you you'll be confused by all the orgasms he gives you" I laugh

"God knows I

am fighting myself in that department. I swear last night i was outside his room wanting him to just have me anyway he wants"

"Close those legs please"

"He is your brother though where is your sympathy" she rolls her eyes

"Mxm he must learn anyway where did they go"

"Your mom spoke of a meeting with some real estate agent. Mpilo left after begging me some more he didn't mention where he was going" "Okay let me shower quickly I'll be right back"

• AMANDA

I am helping my mom pack somethings for her Cape Town trip Afrika is due very soon and she wants to be there when she gives birth she is going to need all the help she can get even though she believes she can do it she will see how difficult it gets especially with school so it's great that Sibonke will be there with her. I will be coming around to check the house and her business and taking the money after each business day she ended up hiring those girls from her support group so they will keep working while she is with Afrika.

"Mama you actually need to pack winter clothes too"

"Why would I do that it's summer"

"Cape Town weather is unpredictable Sibonke it can be all four seasons in one day take everything"

"Hai you want me to take things like I am not coming back"

"You don't want to regret when you get there trust me"

"Okay then I'll just take a few I will always be indoors anyway"

"So what if the Mdlalose's will still be at their apartment when you get there?"

"I don't know really but we will see what happens when I get there"

"Fair enough"

"So do you think she is going to take him back?" Mama asks and I sigh

"It's just a matter of when. Afrika loves that boy with all her heart Sibonke and if we are being honest Mpilo loves her too. They will be back together I don't doubt that" "I just hope she does whatever that makes her happy and chose something that will not bring her pain and stress she has two people who need her strong and healthy"

"Exactly

she has two people who need her strong and healthy"

"Exactly I just want her to be happy that's all"

"Speaking of happiness you deserve some too I hate that you are lonely and staying alone do you ever think about dating"

she laughs "I don't want man near me Amanda I've had a fair share of that"

"I understand but you this is a new you ma you can find a sober man from the support group or just anywhere"

"My focus is on you and Afrika and your children"

"And thats beautiful trust me we appreciate it but your personal happiness ma"

"I will maybe adopt a child around 10 yeara and that way I will have my hands full and you'll see that I don't need a man I just need to be a mother provider and protector" I sigh

"Oh Sibó. I understand and I will accept anything you want and support you"

"Thank you my babes"

"I love you Mama"

"I love you too"

•MPILO

I just needed to leave the house for a little bit seeing her there but refusing to hear me out truly just freaks me out. I don't want to force her or make her uncomfortable for the sake of our children the last thing she needs is a to go into labour before her time so i am going to give her space a little until she gives birth then I will start working on getting back together with her. I am sitting alone having beer at some chilled joint when I see that Stone guy walking in seeing this mother fucker just angered me. I walk up to him and clear my throat and he moves his eyes from the phone to me.

"Can I help you with something?" He asks

"Yeah you can stay away from the mother of my children" he smirks

"Oh you asking me to stay away from my girlfriend" I clench my jaws

"You think I am just going to watch you take her from me? Do you know what Afrika and I have been through? It took me long to find her and I am not letting her go no matter how long it takes me to make her realize that we belong together I will and trust me you will be the only one hurting then"

"I doubt that very much. If she wanted to get back with you she would have by now"

"She is hurting but she will come around and she will come back home to me"

"Keep telling yourself that bro. I will be raising your children and expecting one of our own while you dreaming" he says and I am boiling mad

"Trust me the one you will be waiting for will still be mine. She is mine and I am hers the very same day she saw me she told you to leave so I can make love to her.

So tell
does she

me who
love

huh" he chuckles

"Oh wow did you just tell me that so I can dump her? Well bro sorry but I already know that she confessed and apologized and I forgave her mistake you are a mistake Mpilo. Afrika will never leave me for you accept that and go find a floozy to keep you busy" I swallow I won't lie I am embarrassed. This is my worst nightmare what if she is in love with this guy? What am I going to do? I sigh and walk away from his table with my heart down in my guts.

•MZWAKHE

I have been feeling so down this whole day. I don't know what's wrong with me but it feels like something is weighing heavily down on me. Even my aunt's jokes are not cracking me up like they normally do which goes to show that something is wrong with me maybe I am coming down with something. I should just head to the doctor tomorrow and get something to tackle whatever before it gets too serious. I can't afford to be sick.

"Are you sure you not missing that vasplank" I chuckle

"No man Ncane. I am not even thinking about Emily"

"That would have made sense I don't like her but it's okay to miss her sometime"

"I know but honestly it's not Emily" she shrugs her shoulders

"Hai maybe you just miss being a black Jan Van Ribeck " I sigh

"Sma man" she takes a sip from her beer and the French doors open and Hilda the helper walks in with two gentlemen.

"Sorry Mr Mdlalose these man asked to speak to you"

"Okay thanks Hilda" she walks away

"Uhm please take a sit"

"Thank you we are from the prison and we've been trying to get a hold of a Nomalanga Mdlalose"

"Uhm she is my mom and she is out of town at the moment is everything ok?"

"Okay sir we are just here to inform your family that Friday night Khaya Mdlalose committed suicide" the guy says and I narrow my eyes "Excuse me?" I say not believing my ears

"We wanted to know if you will claim the body or if the state should bury him"

"He killed himself?" My aunt asks

"Yes mam he cut his wrists and bled to death"

"What a bloody coward" she responds

"Are you sure it's him?"

"Positive we even conducted an investigation and it's really suicide no foul play non

whatsoever so will you claim the body?"

"Listen let me contact my mother and we will come by tomorrow to the prison"

"Okay that's fair. These are his things" he hands us the plastic and they both stand up "Thanks"

"Condolences to you and your family" they leave

"Ncane?" I say in a low voice

"I honestly can't believe he would do this Mzwa" she says and I sigh I don't know why but I can't cry it hurts yes but I can't shed a tear for him why? I look in the plastic and see a folded paper addressed to my mom. A bloody suicide note.

No edits

137

FATHER AND SON CHAPTER 137

•NOMALANGA

I just walked in from a long day of meetings I decided to use this time to look at more properties to buy and it has been very fruitful I found a couple of apartment buildings I just need to work on them and rent them out. I haven't had anything to eat or even checked my phone. I find Sbahle and Afrika in the lounge watching some TV.

"Girls" I greet them taking a sit on the single couch

"Ndlovukazi" Afrika says cool and I don't take it to heart like I said we will move at her own pace.

"How was your day?"

"It was great Bahle managed to get few more flats around here"

"Way to go mom you making serious money moves"

"Maybe I should just retire from the law after all I have been suspended since forever and I am not even sure when they will call me back so I might as well"

"Ma you are the law you won't survive" she says and I chuckle

"I will actually its time now I stepped back and gave the younger ones a chance" "I guess so"

Mpilo arrives as my phone rings I take it out and it's Mzwakhe.

"Mzwa...yes I have been busy...what did they want?...what?!...are they 100%?...oh my God...Okay I will take the first flight out in the morning...okay bye" I hung up and just close my eyes that bastard took the easy way out. He had to suffer and feel the pain he made everyone else feel. "Mama what's wrong?" My son asks worried

"I don't even know how to say it" I say looking at my daughter

"Say it already mama you are scaring us" she says

"Mzwakhe says people from the prison came by the house to inform us that your father committed suicide Friday night" I say and it comes out as a whisper

"He what? No mama no" She says already crying and I move to comfort her.

"Shhhhh baby I am so sorry my love" I brush her back

"How could he do this wasn't it enough that he hurt us now he kills himself so we can hurt more why would he do this why must he always be so selfish" she says

"Because he is a coward who couldn't stand for anything in his life he couldn't even face the consequences of his own actions" Mpilo sneers shaking his head

"Dad why? Why put us through this after you broke us the way you did" the hurt in her voice is heartbreaking as a mother you never want to see any of your children hurt.

"It's all going to be okay I promise my baby I promise" I kiss her forehead and glance at Afrika who's hand has been covering her mouth the entire time.

"They want us to come claim his body so we will fly out tomorrow morning"

"Why didn't you tell the authorities to throw his body in the ocean"

"Mpilo!" I reprimand

"Y'all can go bury him and everything but count me out. He doesn't deserve my tears my time or anything for that matter" he says and walks away I just sigh

"Are you coming Bahle?"

"He was a monster and a bad man but I still have memories of him that made him my hero I just can't not bury him. I want to send him off. Right now for me mama there is a thin line between love and hate"

"I understand baby. I will call the airport and book our tickets"

"Thanks mama"

• EMILY

It's taking time accepting that my husband and I are over and that he will never see me that way again. I won't lie picking up the broken pieces of my life is harder than I thought

It would be getting used to a basic life when I was used to flashy things is also a mission as I have to learn to live by what used to be my entertainment budget. This experience for me was life changing in so many ways and as hard as it is I am glad it happened. I got to see my father for who he really is. My phone rings and it's Mzwa I answer

"Hey"

"Em can you please give me the gate code" he asks and I frown

"Oh okay it's 6754"

"Okay I will be right up" he says and I hang up and hurry to the bathroom to fix my face. I suddenly stop and laugh at myself this is stupid he won't even look at me in that way he just came to pick up our children that's all. I shake my head and go back to the kitchen a knock comes through and I open up he looks like shit I swear he has been crying.

"Are you okay?" I ask

"Where are the girls?" He asks

"They are napping what's going Mzwa?" I ask and he attacks me with a kiss and pick me up I quickly wrap my legs around him kissing him back hungrily he kicks the door and it closes. He walks to the kitchen and places me on the counter he unbuckles his belt and drops his jeans. He quickly pulls my dress over my head and I am left in my panties and it takes seconds to remove them. He comes back and kisses me again and I just want him inside of me right now maybe this is the first step of fixing our marriage. He picks me up again from the counter and places me down quickly turning me back and bending me over. He parts my legs with his foot until they are apart to his satisfaction. Like nothing he ever did he enters me roughly and pulls my ponytail he thrust me so roughly I swear he has never done this before. He goes on Deeper and harder I am crying just not loud to wake up our kids. He is destroying me and I just can't bring myself to stop him. The pain is far greater than the pleasure this is suppose to bring me he let's go of my pony and both his hands hold my waist in position and fucks me all shades of rough. My pussy is on fire he suddenly stops and I sigh in relief that he is done. I hear him sniff so I look back and tears are just streaming down his face.

"Mzwakhe what's wrong"

"I am sorry Emily. I shouldn't have done that to you"

"It's okay what's going on talk to me?"

"He died Emily that man killed himself"

"Who? Who killed himself"

"Khaya my damn father" he says and to say I am shocked would be an understatement.

"I can't believe it. I am sorry baby very sorry. He was a monster yes but he was still your dad"

He chuckles
 "He was suppose

to rot in prison to suffer but I hope hell exists and he is turning in it's pits burning" he says and I swallow and just hug him but he doesn't hug me back.

"Whatever you need just know I am here for you"

"Thanks I actually need you to be with the girls a while till his funeral"

"I will do that no problem"

"Thanks I should get going"

"You can sleep over I don't mind" I offer

"I don't think that's a good idea" he gets dressed and I feel like crying.

"Okay"

"Please come get their things for school left the bag in the car. The guard is outside if you need anything talk to him in case you can't reach me or Sma on the phone"

"Sure" I say realizing that he just used me

•AFRIKA

I don't know but a part of me is rejoicing that the man who killed my father and stole from him died, the man who made my life difficult for months died, the man who hurt his own family and threatened mine died. I just feel bad for Bahle she isn't taking this well even though he was evil he was still her daddy and I understand where the hurt is coming from and I will never hold it against her in anyway. They left around 8am coz their flight was early. I was in the bathroom when they left so I couldn't say goodbye. The house is super silent and I guess Mpilo finally decided to go with them. I get to the kitchen and make myself some breakfast. I am disturbed by footsteps approaching and my heart starts beating faster but I sigh as Mpilo walks in. He doesn't look okay and I feel so bad for him. I wish I could just hug him and be there for him.

"Morning" he says not even looking at me and it stings

"Hey would you like some?" I ask

"No thanks" he says taking milk out from the fridge.

"How are you feeling?" He shrugs his shoulders

"I'm cool Afrika it is what it is"

"If you need to talk know that I am here for you"

"I am a big boy I am good. When is your doctors appointment?" He is so cold I feel like crying.

"I am going on Wednesday"

"If you don't mind I would like to be there"

"I would love for you to be there" I say smiling

"Thanks so please just send me all the details and I'll meet you there"

"I was hoping we could have a discussion about a way forward with the twins"

"Yeah I

hear co-

parenting is a bit difficult considering we are even in different cities" he says and I feel my heart sink into my stomach what does he mean co-parenting? He is giving up on me? He doesn't want to stay here with us? Why does it seem like this plan has back fired.

"We can maybe have a conversation tonight if you won't be going to your boyfriend's place" he says and I swallow. Oh Lord no he is definitely pulling himself out of the equation. I need to talk to Seko ASAP.

"No no I will be home later we can talk" i respond. This fake dating has to come to an end Mpilo might just love me enough to walk away and the thought of it is killing me.

"Cool then. Have a great day at campus"

"Thanks but I think I am no longer attending after Wednesday I don't want to give birth at campus"

"That's a wise choice. We will talk later" he walks away and I want to follow behind him and tell him it was all a lie. That I want him back too but something is just stopping me from telling him this.

•NOMALANGA

We got to the house and emotions are just different with each one of us we all feeling different because of our personal experiences with him. My heart goes out to Sbahle she didn't know the kind of monster Khaya is for a long time until the Buli and Snazo saga she has more pleasant memories of him than nightmares so I understand why she needs some time to digest all of this. We are sitting around the lounge and only Mpilo isn't here and I know he won't even change his mind once it's made up you should get over it yourself. Hence his brother and Sma haven't asked about him. They know him too well. Mzwa gave me a letter that has a couple of pages and it's definitely a suicide note from him. I am scared to read it and I don't know why.

"Mama please read it please" Bahle asks and I sigh opening it.

My Dear Ndlovukazi.

Before I pour out my heart in this letter I ask that you read it in front of our children your sister and Afrika.

The very day I met you Nomalanga I knew you would be my wife I knew that my life wouldn't be the same ever again you were the most beautiful woman I ever set eyes on and you were so innocent yet so strong. I love you and I am really sorry for putting you through hell the past years of our marriage. I just wish things turned out differently I wish I knew then I what I learned these past couple of weeks. I failed you and I failed our children. I grew up in the streets hustling from day to day I never knew what family is until you gave me one and it's sad that I got it right when our children were younger but as they grew up I
lost my
am
 way all I

saying is I couldn't teach them how to be man coz I wasn't a man myself. A part of me didn't know the Dynamics of being a father and husband but I was just navigating through it and I failed at dismally. I let myself get to a point where I wanted all the money and power the world could offer me and I was consumed in all of it. I am not justifying my actions I am just trying to make you understand me better. I am a coward and I can't stand for this. I won't survive prison and I can't live knowing that all of you don't want anything to do with me. I couldn't think of any other way but this and I am truly sorry for adding to the pain I have already caused you all. I am really sorry my love and thank you for the beautiful life we shared and I destroyed I want you to love and be happy with the Judge you deserve it and he is 100 times the man I could ever dream of becoming.

My Princess Sbahle

In your eye i was the most perfect man I was your hero the man who protected you and chased away the bad dreams until I lived to become the monster under the bed. I wish I never tainted my imagine in your mind and heart I made you see the most horrific thing and even in my shameful death I will wish that you didn't see me do it. Look up to your mother and learn from her she is a phenomenal woman and you will never go wrong I promise. I love you princess and I want you to live your best life and explore everything. Treat people right and know that no man is an island. I wish I could say I will look down on you but I don't think hell has that privilege. Be a good woman to your family and those around you. Give more and expect less.

Smangele

I don't have much to say to you but to sincerely apologise for once breaking the bond and relationship you had with Noma. I wanted to fully control her and you were in my way I also wanted her to look at me and our kids as her only family because I didn't have anyone besides them. I apologise from the bottom of my heart. Remain the person that you are for your sister.

Afrika

I am ashamed to even ask for forgiveness from you as you suffered in my hands the same way your father did. I didn't just steal your fathers creation I even stole your childhood from you I stole stability and happiness from you and your family. I had disgusting thoughts of you hence I wanted to keep you away from my son and I hope somehow you and him find a way to each other again after all you are the only girl my son said he loves. Again from the bottom of my heart I am sorry.

Mzwakhe

I never hated you I actually was jealous of the man you are. You put your wife and children first and couldn't care less about the money and power I kept offering you. I was intimidated by the man you are the man I wished I was for you kids and Nomalanga. I am sorry that I pressured you until you flipped but again I am proud that you found your way back to being your real self. Never be

apologetic

about

who you are and what you stand for. I love you Mzwa and don't ever let anyone sway you to the direction they want. Walk your own journey and be true to you. Raise those girls with principles and teach them that family is everything treat them the same way and pay attention to them don't expect more than what they can offer embrace their individuality. All the best and know that I never hated you.

Mpilo

You were not just a son to me but you were my best friend and business partner. You are more than what I could ever be. I don't think I have ever met a person so straight so firm and decisive as you. You stick to your truth and that's what I admire about you. Never change these traits because that's what makes you the man you are. I am sorry for choosing money and power over you and your happiness I was supposed to be the one cheering you on but I kept pulling you back for my own selfish reasons. From all the that you were experiencing in prison I still believe you made someone pregnant and if that is the truth be there for you child and be everything I wasn't to you and your siblings. I hope you and Afrika can get together nothing is standing in your way anymore. One more thing please leave the drug business so it doesn't become your doom. Go legit and be the best version of yourself.

There is a lot I could say to each and everyone of you but that would require more time and I don't have it. I don't want you guys to give me a dignified funeral because I wasn't a noble man I don't even deserve your tears or mourning. Please cremate me and scatter my ashes all over Johannesburg downtown after all I was made in the streets and that's where I want to end up. I love you all and I wish I could have been a better man for you but it's too late now. Live your lives and be happy.

Khayaletu Mdlalose

No edits

FATHER AND SON

CHAPTER 138

•AFRIKA

My day has been the worst feeling like he is withdrawing from me is just the worst feeling ever. I really regret ever allowing myself to play this fake dating game with Seko coz it might be the reason why Mpilo and I are over. I miss him so much I love him and I want him to be a part of my life too not just as the father of the twins but my life partner and best friend as well. I regret coming to campus coz it was really a dull day I didn't even focus on any lecture. Even the food i enjoy can't seem to cheer me up.

"Mntase what's wrong you have been so sad the whole day" I sigh

"He is giving up on me Seko"

"Who? Mpilo?"

"Yes this morning he was so cold and withdrawn. He even mentioned co-parenting" I explain tears already threatening

"He is giving up just like that?"

"Mpilo has never been one to play games he wants something he goes straight and gets it he doesn't beat around the bush and he has been trying to talk to me even tried using sex to calm me down so I can give him a minute to talk to me but I have been so consumed by his betrayal I forgot that I am the one who got us here by not being straight with him from the beginning I trusted someone over him and I don't even have a reason why I did that" "Oh sis I am sorry" he says

"I just want my man back Siseko I don't want to play this game anymore" I say

"It's okay I understand you love the guy"

"I love him so much"

"Then tell him the truth" he suggests

"Yes we are talking about the twins and a way forward tonight so I will just slip it in"

"You do that mntase and make sure the both of you communicate well and have your point across where you don't agree with how to do things talk until you find a common ground"

"I will thanks" I say clasping his hand.

NOMALANGA

I won't lie the past few years I have been hating Khaya but the past year it just

escalated and I loathed him for what he put me and my children through but the letter he wrote was not just a suicide note explaining why hate killed himself it was an apology with documents my children and I have been waiting for a little explanation of why he was the way he is. It left each and every one of us emotional especially the last part of it. We just got back from the mortuary and seeing him in the fridge confirmed that he is indeed dead if anyone of us had doubts they are all gone.

"So what's a way forward ma?" mzwa asks

"I am going to cremate him like he wished"

"No Ndlovukazi we can't scatter his ashes like he was a dog with no family yes he hurt us but no mama" Bahle begs

"No no baby I am just going to cremate him but we are going to keep his ashes he is your father Bahle and I am deciding this because of you because I want you to always know where his remains are there are times in your heart where you will need to talk to him and the won't be a grave but at least an urn with his ashes" I explain "Thank you mama he was a bad man but he was still my father our father and at some point we loved him and he made us happy"

"Sbahle is right Baba ka SpongeBob was an ass whole but he still doesn't deserve to be scattered around Jozi like a dog even though he was one" my sister says "Okay then I think we will just have a private family function this weekend then after a while I will go see the sangoma and ask her how to go about this cleansing ceremony" I say

"I have never attended a braai the corpse funeral this is going to be shocking"

"Smangele" I warn

"I am not saying it in a bad way"

•MPILO

My sister sent me a picture of the apology my father wrote and I won't lie it broke me this man here was everything at once until he became nothing at all because of his greed and selfishness. I am going through a lot at the moment my father died I just got out of prison when I thought I was going away for a very long time the love of my life is carrying our children and has a boyfriend. It's just too much for me and it's too sad I don't have anyone to pour my soul to coz everyone in my family is going through something similar to mine. I don't know where to start picking up and gluing myself back together it's not just me now it's my children and for them I need to work to become the best version of myself they deserve a father who is stable in everything he is doing. I promise myself that I will always put their happiness first before anything else even my pride or

imagine.

raise

I want to
them

with their mom but I can't force her into anything she doesn't want I love her enough to suck it up so long as she is happy. My phone rings and it's Mzwakhe I answer and put it on speaker

"Bro"

"Life what's up?"

"It's hectic man I am trying but I have my hands full"

"Yeah I know what you mean I found myself fucking Emily coz I just needed a body"

"Yoh you are blurring the lines most def"

"I know bafo I only came back to my senses after I nutted" I whistle

"Too much

I only came back to my senses after I nutted" I whistle

"Too much but at least you just didn't go banging random chicks and getting some nasty infection"

"I guess so how is everything going with you and Afrika" i sigh deeply

"That bad huh?" He asks

•AFRIKA

My cousin just dropped me off at my place and I won't lie I am scared of how my conversation with Mpilo is going to go. I just hope he is not too far gone and in his heart he still wants me as his woman not just the mother of his kids. After walking the distance from the gate to our apartment it felt like I just walked from Cape to Cairo now I regret asking Seko to drop me at the gate. I find the kitchen door open so I just walk in through and notice Mpilo in the balcony talking on the phone I was about to walk to my room when he mentioned my name so I went to listen in his conversation

"I love Afrika bro but"

"No buts Mpilo don't give up on her"

"She is in a relationship Mzwa there is nothing I can do. I have asked to talk I've tried to subdue her with sex so I can get her to listen to what I have to say" "Have you tried flowers chocolates all the nice things woman like"

"I wanted to go the extra mile but your mom and sister told me to step back and move at her pace but her pace kanjani when she is with another guy" I explain

"But you are crazy about her"

"That I am but I didn't tell her to move on or not come to see me because I wanted to hurt her I said those things because I wanted to protect her I didn't want her to see me like that I was weak and emotional that's not how I wanted her to see me. I needed her to have happy memories of me of us. If she had seen me in that

place it would have replaced all the beautiful memories we ever shared she wouldn't have looked at me as Mpilo the love of her life Mpilo her protector Mpilo that makes love to her but she would have seen a weakling who has failed to help himself I never wanted her to see me like that and mostly I knew that seeing me that way would hurt her and I promised never to hurt or bring pain to her intentionally" he says and I swear I am crying. His explanation makes sense and I wish I just sat down with him like an elder and had a conversation let him explain himself to me. Oh what have I done. I have been hurting myself and him for nothing. "This is sad but don't give up" Mzwakhe says on the other side of the call. I attempt to walk away but a sharp pain in my abdomen hits me I swear I scream a bit.

"Afrika" Mpilo says already by my side.

"Uhm I uhm" it hits again and I wince again and this time a flood comes down my thighs and we both look at the pool of water on the floor "Afrika what's going on? Are the twins okay?" He asks

"I read about this the doctor told me about it my water just broke Mpilo they are coming" I say trying to calm down

"What as in like now today any minute from now? But the sonogram says in 2 weeks"

"Mpilo stop panicking and get the bags in the baby court in my bedroom"

"Okay okay" he says still standing there looking at me like I am dying

"Mpilo move or do you want me to give birth here" I shout and he quickly runs to my room. I take out my phone to request an Uber as he walks back with the baby bags and mine.

"Come let's go" he says taking my hand

"I am requesting an Uber"

"I rented a car Afrika let's go" he says and we both walk out hand in hand. I am so scared but I need to keep calm. My blood pressure has to be stable. I don't want a C-section.

MPILO

I don't think I have ever been so scared in my life. I can still see the water coming down from her. The twins are early Lord I can't believe they will be here by the end of today. I haven't mentally prepared myself for this I have been trying to win their mom back in my head they were going to come when we were cool. I am so stupid. I am driving like a maniac but she is as cool as a cucumber even has her eyes closed rubbing her bump gently. I finally see the hospital and I press the accelerator it's no hustle Pdf document finding parking space. I leave her in the car and run to the emergency room.

"Can I
get

please
some

help my girlfriend is giving birth they are twins they are on their way" I mumble and two nurses come rushing with me with a wheelchair. They help Afrika on the chair and I take the bags out of the boot and walk with them inside.

"Sir please go there and open a file for her we will go prepare her in the mean time" the nurse says politely.

"Afrika I will be with you soon okay?" She nods eyes closed. They wheel her away and I go to the reception and open a file for her we don't take long.

"One last thing sir did you bring a car seat?"

The lady asks and I frown

"For new born babies?" I ask

"Yes it's hospital policy without a car seat we can't discharge them"

"I see I will go get them before they are discharged"

"You can go through" she says and I practically run to the room. She is in a hospital gown and pacing up and down.

"Are you in pain?" I ask placing the bags down

"Mmhhhh" she says

"Can I do something?" I ask desperate to help her with the pain.

"Please rub my back" she asks bending over the bed and I give her massages and she is making sounds that are scaring me I can only imagine what she is going through. She turns and sits down pulling me to her and hugging me while we rock back and forth.

"I am sorry it's going to be okay"

"Mmm mmmhhhhhh" we stay like this for a while till the doctors come to check her she is hooked up to some machines. This damn doctor keeps looking in her virgina and it's super uncomfortable can't a female doctor do this. They speak some Greek saying she isn't dilated or something I have no idea what they are talking about

"Mpilo" she screams

"Baby" I say

"My back is killing me" she says and I help her lay on her side with pillows giving her comfort. I start rubbing her back again "It's so painful Mpilo" she says and I close my eyes feeling for her.

"I am so sorry Muhles" she turns and faces me

"Talk to them please maybe they will calm down" she says and I smile getting behind her she is between my legs with me brushing her belly I keep kissing her forehead.

"I wish I could take all the pain you feeling"

"Me too" she says and I giggle

"You are so strong Afrika thank you"

"Don't get me pregnant again" she says and I want to ask her so many

questions based on that statement.

"Let's get through this first mommy" Hours pass and pass and her pain intensifies but the doctors keep saying it's not yet time I won't lie I am losing my cool with them.

No edits

139

FATHER AND SON
CHAPTER 139

•MPILO

I can't believe what I witnessed an hour ago this has to be the most beautiful thing to ever see and be a part of watching the love of my life push out our children to life was magical. I don't even have the right words. God bless every woman who has endured pain of child bearing with strength courage and prosperity. I don't think I ever want to leave their side. They are the cutest beings i have ever seen. I am in love I don't even know how to put my feelings into words. They are sleeping in the same baby cort and I am just starrng at their perfection.

"They are not going away you know" Afrika says behind me

"I know I just can't believe they are here"

"True it still feels surreal. I was used to having them inside of me I feel like I am empty inside yet I am filled with so much joy and love I never thought I would love this much"

"Trust me Mommy I understand. I don't know how someone can reject such a blessing just look at them" "I am really a mother Mpilo" I smile

"You are Muhles and I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for this gifts"

"Thank you for being here with us" I move to her bed and sit at the edge

"Let me call everyone and share the good news with them" she holds my hand and shakes her head

"I know"

"Then name your twins Mpilo" I smile

"Are you sure?" I ask shocked that she would allow me do the honors "100% sure" I walk back to the twins and look at them.

"Not only will you bring good things to your mom and I but you will do good things in your lives
your lives things in too.

Boyza ka daddy your name is Enzokuhle. Sponono sami wena sizok'biza ngo (we will call you) Melokuhle"

"Enzo and Melo those are beautiful names Mpilo I love them"

"waze wangi busisa Afrika yoh (you blessed me Afrika) you made me a man amongst men in more ways than one but with these two you took it all the way I don't know how I will ever show you my appreciation I need you to know that I will never let our kids down and whenever you need me I will always be there for you. I will go to the ends of the Earth to make sure that they have everything they need"

"I know you will they are so lucky to have you as their father" she says and I drop a tear with a smile.

•AMANDA

I woke up to the most breathtaking photo of Afrika's twins she texted that she gave birth yesterday and she and Mpilo were lost in the moment they just wanted to enjoy the angels before telling anyone. I can't believe my baby girl is a mother just a year ago she was so innocent and knew nothing about sex or having kids but look at her now a mother to two beautiful gifts any woman prays to have. A lot can change in a year and my family and I are proof of that. I have been staring at the picture wishing I was there with them.

"Ask for some time off babe" my husband says

"I am going to talk to Ndlovukazi to just give me the Friday off then I will go to Cape Town for the weekend" "You do that love I will take care of our son"

"Oh aren't you the best husband ever?" He smiles

"Damn right i am" I roll my eyes

"Our baby has cousins"

"He does but they are far away maybe we should just give him a sibling" I laugh

"We spoke about this love"

"I know just that I want us all to grow together"

"Can we just allow Kopano to be 1?"

"Still the same to me

babe but I will be

patient" "Thank you Mr.

Mafa"

"Get dressed or you will be late for work. I will fix your lunchbox so long" I say walking to the kitchen and someone is knocking I open and it's Sibó.

"Mama"

"Afrika

birth

gave

Amanda

my poor baby she needs me" she says panicking
 "Oh Sibho She is with Mpilo and they are still at the hospital they will be discharged maybe tomorrow"
 "No Amanda i need to go to that Cape Town"
 "I understand ma but you don't have to panic"
 "I brought my bags with me give me a lift to the airport"
 "That won't be a problem let me finish making Lethabo's lunch box"
 "Okay thank you. Bring my grandson so I can say bye to him"

•NOMALANGA

I have so much joy in heart amidst this hardship of Khaya's passing God has blessed us with two more additions to our family and I feel very blessed. The joy on my son's face when he video called me to tell me the good news it's good seeing him so happy and excited. He is going to make a good father I don't doubt that for one second. All I pray for now is that he and Afrika fix things between them so they can raise their twins together with love and prayers and a warm home. They deserve to be happy and they make each other happy. I get downstairs and Bahle and Mzwa are already waiting so we can go pick out an urn for their father's ashes.

"What took you so long ma my son asks

"I am sorry I was on a call with your brother"

"Oh how is he today? He was emotional yesterday"

"Well today is a new day and a happy one"

"What happened?" Bahle asks and I smile

"Well your niece and nephew have arrived" I share the good news

"Oh my God when?" She asks

"Last night they named the boy Enzokuhle and his sister is Melokuhle"

"Beautiful names. He is going to be a good father" Mzwa says

"That's very true baby" I agree

"Wish I could fly to Cape to see them. I can just imagine how cute they are Mpilo and Afrika combined they must be the cutest things alive" she says

"Let me guess you going to splash them around Instagram like you do with my girls"

"Mzwa that's me doing my duty as an aunt" I laugh

"Oh wow ma are you listening to your daughter"

"Calm down you two. We need to get your fathers ceremony out of the way so we can all fly to Cape to meet Mpilo's children"

"Their arrival couldn't be any perfect I mean we really needed some amazing news"

"Definitely Nana God's timing is the best he brought them just in time to wipe our tears and mend our broken hearts" "I'll call Afrika in the car I need to see them"

"Okay guys let's go. The guy at the antique store must be waiting for us" I say taking my bag

•AFRIKA

They are here they are perfect they are my love at first sight my calm after the storm I went through this past few months every pain discomfort sleepless nights and endless trips to the bathroom were all worth it. The fact that their father was here with me when I birthed them made the experience more magical. I wished we could have this moment for a while to just be the four of us I won't lie I am not ready to share them with anyone yet but we needed to tell both our families and everyone is so excited except for my mom who is panicking and thinking of the worst God bless her soul. The twins just got back from getting their and I finished breastfeeding Enzo now is Melo's turn and the girl can eat for the whole world yes she is heavier than her brother shows who ate all the food when they were still in my belly. Their dad went home to change coz he slept here on the chair.

"Just look at you doing this Mommy thing" I look at the door and it's Seko.

"I think I was born for this" i say

"The Gummies are finally here" he says

"It still feels surreal I swear"

"Oh mntase. You are going to be a great mom to them"

"Thats my prayer"

"Where is your baby daddy?"

"He went to the apartment to change he didn't want to leave us yesterday" oh boy speak of the devil he walks in with a smile that disappears when his eyes land on Seko.

"Let me just drop these here I'll come back later" he says placing two car seats by the bed and attempts to walk out my heart is beating so fast I can't let him go hurt it's time I told him the truth. "Mpilo" I say and he looks back

"It's okay I will just wait in the car you'll call me"
 "Mpilo Seko is my cousin" I say loud and he frowns
 "Who is that?" I mentally slap myself he knows him as stone
 "Stone here his name is Siseko he was named after my dad"
 "But you said he is your boyfriend" he says and the confusion in his eyes can't match the shame on my face.
 "I know I know but we were just trying to make you jealous I could never love any other man but you Mpilo" I admit and he closes his eyes "I am sorry baby just that I wanted to hurt you like you did me"
 "Afrika" he says in a low voice coming to me. He sits down with tears shining in his eyes.
 "I am sorry for playing games for not trusting you enough to tell you the truth Mpilo I just"
 "Shhhh sthandwa shhhh I understand but I never wanted to hurt you that's why I wanted you to stay away"
 "I know I heard you talk to Mzwa I heard everything. I understand now"
 "I love you so much Ndabezitha I love you Afrika I am so sorry baby sorry for everything" he says crying. I want to hold him so I look at Seko who takes Melokuhle from me.
 "I Love you so much Mpilo with my mind heart body and soul. I could never ever love any other man who is not you. You are everything to me. I never want to lose you" I pour out my truth and he just comes and folds me in his arms
 "It was killing me mama ka bo Kuhle. I was losing my mind thinking that we were over. Never play this game again it hurts" "Never again baby I promise you never"
 "You are my forever Afrika my life is complete with you and our kids" he kisses me passionately and hungrily. I can feel our emotions in this kiss.
 "Okay you two let me come back later" Seko says and Mpilo stops kissing me.
 "If I didn't kill you boy don't help her play me like this" they both chuckle and shake hands
 "Treat her right man" my cousin says
 "Always I promise" he replies and takes his daughter from Seko.
 "Mntase let me come back later"
 "I am sorry"
 "It's okay you new parents need some time plus you just got back together. Have this moment coz soon enough people will flood here to see them" "That's considerate of you boy thanks" Mpilo says
 "Okay later" I say and he walks out.
 "Baby you are such a sly fox" he says with a smirk
 "Not a
 one coz i

good
 ended

up hurting myself in the process" I say and he laughs
 "True. This was a learning experience for the both of us. Communication is key and now that we are parents we going to have to stick to it more as if life depended on it. I am not going through this again" he says
 "Definitely babe. When are we leaving this place?"
 "I'll go ask the doctor"

No edits

140

FATHER AND SON
 CHAPTER 140

• **MPILO**

I just dropped Afrika and the kids home and her mom called saying she just landed I couldn't let her take a cab in a place she is not familiar with so I offered to pick her up even though I am uneasy leaving her with two children alone she promised she can manage until we get back I can't even drive like a maniac and get a ticket with my suspended sentence I don't want to take chances I am a father now and everything I do has to be in the best interests of my woman and our twins. I get to the airport and walk to where we said she should wait. I notice her busy on the phone and take a deep breath.

"Hello ma"

"Mpilo" she says and I can't tell if she is cool with me or she hates me.

"How was your flight?"

"It was the longest ever I thought planes are fast" I chuckle

"Maybe it's because you were in a hurry to get here"

"That's very true how are they?" I smile

"They are perfect I still can't believe we have them" I admit

"And Afrika? Child birth is not easy with one child so imagine having two my poor baby"

"Your daughter is the strongest most bravest woman I know she took that pain and just brought our children to life"

"I am just happy she wasn't alone I would have died a thousand times"

"Me too ma"

"And I heard about your father condolences" she says

"Thank

and I also

apologise

you ma

want to

for

everything he put your family through"

"Don't apologise for him Mpilo he failed to do that himself but chose to take the easy way out but at least he will never hurt another soul"

I nod

"But I sincerely apologise for how things went with Afrika when I was arrested we failed to communicate and we almost lost each other because of it" I say

"You and my daughter are back together?" I take her bag

"I think Afrika will explain everything to you ma we can go this way"

•AFRIKA

I am happy to be home I hate hospitals doesn't matter what I am there for I just hate the place. I am looking at my children snuggling close together I can't believe I made these little human and they are going to call me Mommy if you would have asked me about my life's plan after matric I honestly wouldn't have thought about this all. Kids were the last thing on my mind but now that they are here I can't imagine my life without them. They are my biggest motivation and I pray to the heavens to be a great mom and partner to Mpilo.

"My babes" my mom's voice says

"Mama" I say going to hug her

"Oh Afrika" she says crying

"What's wrong Sibob"

"I just can't believe my last baby is no longer a baby. You have your own kids now and it's just"

"I will forever be your last Sibob even when I have 10 children" I say to lighten the mood

"You will age quickly with so many children" I laugh

"How was your flight"

"Levels my babes hei but when it took off It really felt like my heart was dropping to my stomach" I giggle

"You will get used to it flying between Jozi and Cape"

"I guess so now let me see your babies"

"They are so perfect Sibob just look at them"

"Oh bakithi oh Afrika Melo is a giant and she insists on sleeping on top of Enzo" I laugh

"Mpilo tries separating them but she loves being next to her brother. I don't know why she is so clingy coz they were in separate placentas"

"They have a bond you will never understand baby they are beautiful you are blessed"

"I feel so blessed everything is happening how it should" I admit

"That's

baby so

good

you and

Mpilo"

"I love him Sibho" I say in a low voice

"I am not judging Nana I just wanted to know"

"We failed to communicate and that's what almost ended us"

"He said the same thing" I frown

"Oh okay but in all honesty ma no man will ever take him space in my heart I believe and feel like Mpilo is the one I am made for"

"I am happy to hear this all I want is for you to be happy" I smile

"Thanks mamami I am happy I feel complete"

"Now that the kids are asleep you need to sleep too let me go make you porridge so your milk production runs through you have two mouths to feed"

"Okay I am so glad you are here"

"I wouldn't be anywhere else but here helping you with these perfect angels."

•NOMALANGA

My children and I didn't have a clue of how a funeral etiquette for cremation goes so we decided that we will put the urn in the other lounge we don't use Sbahle went on and had a picture of him framed and placed it next to the urn this moment is really awkward coz we really don't know what we are doing.

"Uhm can each one of us say something beautiful about him I know he wasn't a good man but please" Sbahle says.

"Mdlalose thank you for the beautiful life we had before everything came crushing down. Thank you for our children my biggest blessings without you I wouldn't have had them and known the joys of being a mother. You are no more now and we can only wish that your soul finds peace" I say and Mzwa clears his throat.

"Baba I remember how you used to teach Mpilo and I how to drive without mom knowing we were still in primary school but you didn't mind that you just wanted us to be equipped and ready for anything. Those moments used to be the best for Mpilo and I. Growing up you were a good father to us and I wish you were that person even in our adult years Coz that's when a boy needs his father but non the less rest easy" he says I take his hand

"I don't have any beautiful memories of you personally and I won't lie and create one but you made my sister happy at some point and you gave her beautiful children that's something you got right. Find peace wherever you are and don't be a problematic ancestor for your children" Sma says

"Daddy I love you and the memories I have of you will be what keeps me going each time I miss you. Your passing was sudden and unexpected but we will learn to live with the fact that you are not here anymore. You will

forever

be my

hero

despite

what was going on. Rest in peace daddy" she says crying. "We can only hope that your father finds peace in his after life and that the heavens forgive him for all that has happened. I pray everyone he has brought sadness and pain to heals and find closure" I say.

"Can we please just go and watch our home made family videos while eating the food they prepared" my daughter requests
"Sounds like a good idea" Mzwa agrees and we walk to the lounge to get the food.

FEW DAYS LATER

• **AMANDA**

Ndlovukazi agreed to giving me this Friday off And the Monday to fly back I am so excited to join my mom to just be with Afrika and my niece and nephew. I wish I could take my son but I definitely will next time. I am packing my bag coz I need to be at the airport in 2 hours I want to leave Lethabo with enough food so he doesn't struggle. I know Kopano is going to give him a tough time so I just want to make everything else easy for him. He is laying on the bed watching me closely.

"Are you sure you not running away?" He asks and I laugh

"What do you mean?"

"You going for three days Ama but your bag tells another story" I roll my eyes

"You know Cape Town weather babe I don't want to regret"

"I hope this is not the last time I am seeing you then I have to go to Khumbul'ekhaya" I burst out laughing

"Stop being funny you know I could never leave without my boys I am coming back Monday babe" **PROTECT YOUR**

"We will be waiting love"

"And stick to his routine please"

"Yes ma'am"

"Good boy"

"Finish up so I can get some action" I blush

"You are so naughty"

"You know you want me Amanda so just zip up that bag and come to daddy" my husband though "At your service husbae"

• **AFRIKA**

I just finished breastfeeding and my mom is busy in the kitchen Mpilo has been distant since Sibob arrived he is trying to be respectful but I just miss him and my mom knows we are back

together so I don't know why it has to be like this. I get out of my bedroom and make way to his. he is sleeping peacefully facing up chest bare his a fine sight to look at. I seat on the bed and start rubbing his chest he grumbles and opens one eye.

"Hey baby" he says in a low voice

"Hey Daddy you are a sleeping beauty do you know that" he smirks

"Sleeping beauty really?"

"Yeah that. I miss you"

"I know Muhles I miss you too"

"Then why are you so distant love?"

"You know very well that we can't keep our hands off each other and with your mom here" he says

"I promise I won't make noise" he laughs

"What are you saying babe"

"I am saying I miss my man and I want him"

"Fuck Afrika" he hisses.

"Please Mpilo?"

"Are we even allowed to have sex babe? I mean you just gave birth isn't it like painful down there?"

"I am sure you will be gentle love"

"I am fucked up Horny and I swear if I nut in you I am giving you another baby but love I don't want to hurt you and I will think I will"

" But you won't be hurting me I will tell you if you do"

"Baby don't tempt me please. Let's wait one more week and I promise to fuck you senseless make love to you passionately. I will give it to you how ever you want but for now I am scared that you are still in pain babe. I am horny too but I want you to heal first" "I guess I understand" I say kneeling on the bed and taking off his shorts

"Baby we just spoke about this though"

"I know but there are more ways to give you pleasure and relief you" I say and he narrows his eyes. I pull off the shorts and his erection springs free. I get between his legs remove the strands of hair in my face. I stroke his cock with my hand and he bites his lower lip. I lick the top part with my tongue and he flinches I slide down my mouth slowly on his impressive size and massage his balls and he let's out a moan of pleasure.

"Oh baby yes" the words are out of his mouth and that just gives me more motivation and confidence to give him the best head.

No edits

141

FATHER AND SON

CHAPTER 141

•AFRIKA

I get out of Mpilo's room satisfied with myself I wasn't confident in my blow jobbing skills but he went crazy and he just didn't want me to stop so I guess my first attempt I passed with flying colors. I get to the bedroom and find my mom changing Enzo's nappy.

"Awake so fast" I say

"He just needed a nappy change he will sleep just now"

"Oh okay ma"

"Where are you coming from" she asks

"Uhm I was talking to Mpilo"

"Are you sure it was just talking" I look down ashamed

"Ma I"

"Please sit down let's have a talk" I sigh and go sit down at the edge of the bed

"Is everything okay Siboz?"

"Afrika you just had children you can't be sleeping with Mpilo at this moment your womb is very welcoming you will fall pregnant without even trying. You need to give yourself time to heal you are still bleeding and your womanhood needs sometime to heal"

"I didn't sleep with him mama I swear"

"I am not saying you did baby but I am just telling you what should happen. If it were up to me I would say don't sleep with him again till he marries you but

I know that won't happen so you are going to take 3 months without laying with him" "3 months?"

"Yes Afrika unless you want him to give you triplets this time you see this boy doesn't do singles" she says and I sigh

"No I don't want other children now Ma. I just didn't know what was expected of me"

"Now you know my babes play far from his bed and when you are make sure you close your legs it's going to be hard coz he will beg you in every way possible but close those legs or else triplets" she says putting out three fingers to emphasize her point.

"I hear you mama I will do as you say"

"Good then please feed my grandson" she says handing him to me.

•MPILO

I didn't

know

Muhles has skills like that I won't lie she blew my mind for a first timer she nailed it I am going to enjoy fucking her mouth too but my all time favorite place to bury myself will forever be in between her legs. I can't stop smiling and wishing she could walk right in and give me a second dose. My phone rings and I move to the chest of drawers to get it it's my mom.

"Ndlovukazi"

"Yeah so how did you guys work?"

"Yeah we had a little ceremony and we just watched our family videos. Everything is okay it's done"

"I am just glad Sbahle will start working towards her healing"

"Me too son I just want her to heal so she can go back to living her life"

"Yes ma"

"I called to inform you that we will be coming through tomorrow" she says

"Oh okay that's good but please book a hotel coz it's a full house Afrika's sister is going to arrive anytime soon"

"Oh that's okay I will make the bookings soon as we are done here"

"Thanks for understanding"

"It's no bother baby and it makes sense considering the fact that we are not on good terms with Afrika and her family"

"Yeah and I wish everyone can get along for the sake of the twins"

"I wish for that trust me Mpilo but we will give them time and move with their pace"

"One more thing" I quickly say

"Yes?"

"Uhm how long must we wait before we can uhm you know"

"Mpilo Mdalose the poor girl just pushed out two kids out of her little girl she needs to heal. Sex should be last thing on your mind"

"I get that Ma she needs to heal. Sex should be last thing on your mind"

"I get that Ma but how long?" She chuckles

"Medically it's 6 weeks but the way we were taught by elders in our time we had to wait for at least 3months"

"3 months Ndlovukazi yoh I would be dead by then"

"Keep that pencil in your pants or you'll be expecting a child even before the twins turn 1" she says and I sigh trying to understand this 3 months thing.

"Hai Ndlovukazi you don't understand"

"Mxm goodbye Mpilo I will see you tomorrow"

• AMANDA

I am on my way to Afrika's apartment and I can't get over how beautiful this city is Gosh it's breathtaking and if it wasn't the case of the unpredictable weather I
would swear I
consider

moving here with my family. My mom send me the location of the place so it isn't a hustle getting there.

"Sister we are here" the cab driver says

"Oh okay thank you how much is it?"

"It's R150" he says and I want to complain but hai let me just pay up.

"Thank you" I say walking out the car and opening the boot to take out my bag. He drives away and I call my sister.

"Mandy" "Hey baby can you please open the gate for me"

"Which gate?" She asks confused "Your apartment gate silly"

"You are in Cape Town?" She asks

"Yes I am outside your gate looking like a fool come open up Afrika" she screams and I laugh I asked Sibho not to tell her that I am coming I just wanted it to be a surprise. She appears and jumps a bit when she sees me I can't help but smile. She gets to the gate and punches in the code and the gate opens we don't waste time but hug tight.

"Hey Nana"

"I can't believe you are here why didn't you tell me you were coming" I laugh

"I wanted to surprise you" I admit

"I am so happy to see you and I am sure my twins will be happy to see Mamkhulu"

"I can't wait to see them I swear I can't stop staring at the pictures you sent me Afrika they are so cute"

"I know right I still can't believe I am their mom"

"I can't believe you are a mom at all baby just a year ago you were just my sweet baby who knew nothing about boys and sex" she laughs

"A lot can change in one year"

"Trust me I know that" I agree

"Come inside we have a lot to catch up on" she takes my bag

"This place is amazing hey infact Cape Town is beautiful"

"I swear you haven't seen enough" she says

"Next time I come you need to give me a tour"

"And you better come with my boy Mandy I miss him"

"Kopano is a handful I wouldn't have managed especially will little kids in the house"

"Ncooo man they grow up so fast" she says

"Too fast cherish every moment coz it doesn't last long" I say as she opens the door and we walk in.

•NOMALANGA

Thuso came to see me at the house and come to think of it this is the first
time he ever
came here. He

has always been against coming to this house coz he didn't want any drama with Khaya. I am glad he took the time to come check up on me and my children. I am just grateful to have him in my life.

"So it's back to Cape Town?"

"Yes we are going to meet Mpilo's twins"

"Would you mind if I tagged along?" I smile

"I would love for you to come with and I am sure Mpilo would appreciate you coming through. Plus he needs to talk to an elder"

"I am happy to hear that"

"I will make a booking for you too" I say

"What did you mean he needs to talk to an elder" he asks

"I spoke to him earlier and he wanted to know when he can start having sex with Afrika" he chuckles "He is just being a man Sunny"

"He will get Afrika pregnant again" I argue

"If it will make you feel any better I will have a word with him about it"

"Thank you baby you have three children so he will know that he can survive it and he is not the first man to have to wait for his girlfriend to heal"

"It was hard for me too but I understood why I had to wait he will also understand"

"Thank you" I sigh

"Don't mention it I see Mpilo as my son and I will help him transition into fatherhood well"

"You are sent from heaven I am just so lucky to have you"

"I am the lucky one Sunny so tomorrow we are leaving at what time?"

"Let me see if the flight the kids and I are on isn't full first"

"Okay fair enough let me leave and go pack then"

"Okay I will see you tomorrow"

"Tomorrow it is I love you" he says

"I love you too"

No edits

CHAPTER 142

•AFRIKA

I seriously can't believe that my sister is here her arrival yesterday made me so happy. I have missed her so much I wasn't even aware. She has always been my number 1 but ever since we both have our own lives we have been distant but it doesn't mean the love is not there anymore we are just going through our own things and that's okay.

"He is a good father ne?" She asks looking at Mpilo who is trying to put Melo to sleep

"He is amazing at this he tries to learn everything he doesn't even want to hear them cry"

"That's great Nana i am just glad he is hands on and you won't struggle with the kids alone"

"Me too I am just happy he is not locked up my twins will have their father something we never had our kids are blessed" she nods

"Very blessed Afrika"

"So he is moving to Cape Town too?" I sigh

"We haven't really discussed that yet but I am hoping so I mean I can't deregister here and go back to Johannesburg"

"That's very true that won't be good for your academic record"

"That's very true sis so how is it practically running the company?" I ask and she smiles

"I love every minute of of it Afrika this right here is my calling I swear. I wanted to go do nursing but that was a childhood dream this right here is what I was born to

do"

"You are so passionate about it it's a bliss to see I am just so happy for you"

"Thank you Nana if you didn't put in a word with your man I wouldn't have been here financially stable and able to help Lethabo with things at our house"

"I am happy I was able to help you with this one thing you've done a lot for me in my life I will never forget it"

"You can do one more thing baby" I smile

"Anything for you Mandy"

"I will admit I wanted to have sex that day but I didn't know I couldn't now that she has explained I will keep my legs closed"

"Sibo is worried that you and Mpilo won't keep away from each other sexually"

"Please
need to

you
finish

your qualification raise the twins and enjoy your twenties baby. You will only give him another child when he makes you Mrs. Mdlalose"

"I promise I will tell ma not to panic"

"I will assure her soon as she gets back from the mall baby. Your babies are so beautiful they are giving me baby fever plus my husband wants us to give Kopano a sibling"

"Go for it sis"

"Soon as Kopano turns one we will start trying" Mpilo appears from the lounge as we are in the balcony.

"I am sorry to disturb your moment ladies but babe can you come help me Enzo is awake" he says and I blush.

"Mandy later sis" I say standing and walking with Mpilo to my room to get our son.

• MZWAKHE

I needed to go say bye to my daughters before we fly to Cape Town. I can't take them with coz I am not sure when we will be back and they have school so it's better they stay behind with their mother. Our flight is in two hours and I told my mom I will meet them at the airport. The Uber drops me off at the flat and I pay him before getting out the car. I punch in the code at the gate and walk in. I go to her floor and get to the door and sigh. My knuckles hit the door and she opens after a while

"Oh hey" Emily says

"Hey"

"Come in" she steps aside and I walk in

"How are you?"

"I am very well thanks how are you Mzwa"

"I am okay no complaints"

"Can I offered you anything to drink"

"No I am fine where are the girls?"

"They went to the mall with my mom but your guard is with them I hope that's not a problem"

"Don't be silly Emily of course it's okay.

I was just here to see them before I

leave" "You leaving?"

"Yes I am my whole family actually we going to meet Mpilo's twins in Cape Town" she frowns "Mpilo's twins?"

"Oh yes he and Afrika have twins she gave birth not so long ago it's a girl and boy"

"You guys found Afrika?" She asks

"Yep she was with my sister in Cape. Right under our noses"

"Oh wow

I didn't

even

know she was pregnant she always insisted that they were not together this is a shock"

"It was a shock to me too. Only found out they were together during that madness that happened"

"Wow so I almost succeeded in making Afrika a single mom I am such a bad person"

"It worked out for them in the end just happy that they are together with their children"

"I need to apologise to her she trusted me and loved me like a Friend but I betrayed her"

"I understand what you are saying Emily but don't go anywhere near Afrika my brother is still very mad at you there is no telling what he might do"

"I totally understand"

"So do you think the girls will be back soon our flight leave at 1pm"

"Let me call my mother and ask them how far they are"

"Okay"

• LETHABO

I am so used to having Amanda around so much that she has only been gone a day and I am already a mess. I just wonder how possible it is for me to love my wife this much. I honestly can't imagine my life without her. I could stand loosing it all just not Ama and that scares me so much. I am left with our son and we are having a great time together he can be a handful but I love spending time with him I want to be the best father to him. A knock comes through the door I pick him up and walk to the kitchen to open.

"Hao mme wa Lethabo (mom) what a nice surprise" I say

"I just wanted to check up on you and Kopano"

"My wife didn't get you up to this right?" She chuckles

"She just worries about you Lethabo" I blush knowing that she is worried about us

"Well you can report that me and my son are very well" she smiles

"How did you guys sleep"

"It was the first time sleeping alone since we moved here it's wierd"

"She will come back papa"

"Feels like she has been gone the longest time"

"You are so obsessed with Amanda wena"

"I am not obsessed mama I just love my wife"

"And that's a beautiful thing. It's just a shame I almost lost a chance to be a part of your beautiful life. She is a good wife and mother and she is a good daughter to me too"

"We are
better

at a
place

now ma no need to dwell on the past"

"That's true"

"Can you please get yourself something to drink"

"Let me help bathe Kopano first"

"I was going to do it but thanks" I say handing him over to her

"Moshemane wa nkgono wahae bathong (grannies baby boy) come let's get you cleaned up" she says walking towards the corridor to the bathroom. Seeing my mother being able to communicate and talk to my wife without me is a good feeling. I never thought we would be at such a peaceful place in our lives. Her loving and appreciating my wife and the person she is and having a relationship with my father and mam'Flo. This is a life I always wished to live and I am grateful for it and that my children will grow up in a warm household filled with love and happiness.

•NOMALANGA

My excitement grows as we reach the apartment I can't wait to just hold them and kiss their chubby cheeks living to see my children have their children is a fulfilling so much. Knowing that all we've worked for will be inherited by another generation. I managed to find Thuso a seat in the same flight we booked and I am happy that he is here with me. Sbahle punches in the code and drives in soon as the gates slide open.

"Oh my God we are here" I say

"One would swear these are your first grandkids" Bahle says "It's new lives Bahle it's always exciting"

"Mama is right princess I am excited myself" Mzwa backs me up. She parks and we all walk out. I knock and Afrika's mother opens up.

"Sanibonani" she says and we greet back.

"Mama" Bahle says going to hug her

"My babes how are you" Afrika's mom responds

"I am so excited really where are they?"

"Aow aunty Bahle they are in Afrika's room" she says and my daughter bolts leaving us there.

"I am so happy that our grandchildren are here and healthy" I say trying to make small talk

"We thank God for his blessings we can go through here and I will tell Afrika to bring the twins"

"Thank you sisi" we walk to the lounge and sit down. I can see Mzwa nervous this is the first time he will see Afrika after all that has happened.

"I will bring some refreshments" Sibonani says and walks back to the kitchen. A few minutes later Bahle and Mpilo

appear holding the twins and I stand up with the widest smile.

"Ndlovukazi" my son says

"Oh Mpilo" I can't contain my tears

"Meet my boy ne sponono sami"

"They are so perfect my God look at how chubby Melokuhle is"

"She ate everything poor Enzo" Sbahle says and we all laugh

"Can i?"

"Ma please take Enzokuhle I am still holding this doll" I roll my eyes and take him from his father.

"Oh pakithi njena. Hey boy boy this is your granny sawbona Mdlalose sawbona Dikane sawbona Mgabashe" I praise him a bit and sit down.

"Bro bro welcome to fatherhood" Mzwa goes to hug him.

"Thanks man it feels so great"

"Congratulations Mpilo" Thuso says and Mpilo smiles and goes to him.

"Bra'Tiki man it's so

good to see you" he

says "Same here son"

"Sbahle bring my daughter she needs to meet her grandfather" he says and I smile. Mpilo's relationship with Thuso is just so amazing.

"Please" my partner says we all fuss around the twins exchanging them from hand to hand. Everyone claims they look like them and all they are just so perfect and I am really happy for my son and Afrika. I just wish she was out of the bedroom to see us coz I want to hug and thank her for these gifts but her and her families pace is what we will go with.

No edits

143

FATHER AND SON
CHAPTER 143

• **MPILO**

Having my family here to see my children is just amazing I just want everyone to see the kind of blessings I have in my life right now. I just came from a dark place thinking my life was over and it's just surreal that I made it out and I am a father and partner to someone I truly love. Speaking of Afrika she didn't come out yesterday the entire time my family was at the apartment it was sad really but I understand where she is coming from though I wish we could all sit down and talk to just fix things between all of us I mean my twins deserve a happy and peaceful home. I came to chill with Bra Tiki and Mzwa at the hotel they are staying at.

"Whiskey or beer?" Mzwa asks

"Beer please" I say

"Same here thanks Mzwakhe" my mother's boyfriend says

"Okay I will be right back guys" he walks away to get us the drinks

"So Mpilo"

"Yes sir?"

"Your mother is worried about you getting Afrika pregnant again" I sigh

"She has nothing to worry about I swear I heard her and I will wait for her to heal but 3 months Bra'Tiki" he laughs

"It will pass by really soon"

"I won't lie honestly I won't wait that long we are going to visit her gynaecologist and hear what she has to say" he chuckles again shaking his head.

"Patience Mpilo you shouldn't be worried about sex right now. What you should think about is paying damages or better yet make an honest woman out of her"

"As in like marriage?"

"Yes as in like make her a wife. You do want to be with her right?"

"With all my heart and soul I don't see myself with any other woman but her and our children" "Exactly son marriage is beautiful. Yes she is still so young but she is in love with you and it's clear you feel the same way. You guys will grow up together and raise your children you know continue building side by side she has already proven to be a woman that you can count on. The club the restaurants the concierge business all her ideas"

"You are right"

"I know I am I am not pressuring you into anything but I want you to think about it"

"I appreciate your wisdom. I am glad to have you in my life"
 "It's a please and anytime you need to talk just know I am here"
 "Let me sleep on this marriage issue and we will talk about it more"
 "That's my boy" I smile I am just so happy they came with him I really needed to have such a talk with someone so experienced and ethical.

•AFRIKA

I couldn't go out yesterday to see all of them I honestly don't know how to be okay with them right now I swear I want to fix things for peace sake but I just don't know how to go on about it. I am just so happy they decided to go to the hotel though I wish Bahle stayed behind. I would have loved her to spend time with Mandy just to get to know each other coz she already has a beautiful relationship with Sibho. I have been in my room the entire day with my children. I don't feel like leaving their side today. A knock comes through the door and I frown my mom or Mandy wouldn't knock so it's someone else I just wonder who.

"Come in" I say and the door knob turns and the door opens and it's Ndlovukazi. I sigh

"Hello Afrika"

"Hi ma"

"How are you doing? how are they?"

"We are okay we had a good night Melo was constipated last night but she is okay"

"Oh poor baby girl. I am glad she is okay now"

"Me too" there is an awkward moment between us for a while

"Uhm Afrika I am really sorry I don't even want to justify my actions to you but I need you to know that I am sorry from the bottom of my heart"

"I know I was wrong for not telling you or Mpilo the truth after I found out but I spend so much time with you the least you could have done was to give me the benefit of doubt"

"The evidence was too strong I was just so confused"

"But you knew me the kind of person I am I looked at you like a mother and you not believing me hurt"

"I know baby I decided to think like a lawyer and not a mother and for that I will always be sorry. I miss you and the relationship we once had I know it won't be easy getting it back but I am willing to jump every hoop to be okay with you again"

"I miss you too Ndlovukazi" I admit and she cries and comes to my side and enfolds me in a warm embrace.

"I am very sorry baby"

"I am sorry too for not trusting you enough to tell you everything" I say

"It's okay it's all in the past now Mpilo is out and we are all free from the drug

The twins

business.
are here

and we are blessed" "Really blessed I still can't believe I am a mom"
 You are a strong woman I have personally seen it and I know for a fact
 that you will make an amazing mom to my grandchildren."

"Thanks for the vote of confidence. It's a tough job but I will do my best"

"Remember you have Mpilo you have your family and us. You will never
 have to do it alone"

"Thank you so much" she hugs me tighter and the door opens

"Oh I am sorry I will come back" my mom says closing the door and we just
 continue talking about all that has happened and a way forward.

• AMANDA

I am busy helping my mother cook in the kitchen I am glad I came to see
 Afrika and the kids something in me is satisfied and at peace but God
 knows I miss my son and his father now and I just can't wait to go back to
 them next time I am definitely coming with them to avoid having to feel
 this way or leaving quickly. Sibó walks back in and I frown

"Nappy change so quickly"

"Oh I couldn't check them next time I am definitely coming with them
 to avoid having to feel this way or leaving quickly. Sibó walks back in
 and I frown "Nappy change so quickly"

"Oh I couldn't check them Afrika and Mpilo's mother were having a
 moment" "Do you think they will let bygones be bygones?"

"Honestly Amanda I hope they do. I myself know how dangerous it is to
 hold on to the pain and anger it makes you become this toxic person and I
 don't want that for Afrika she just had babies and she has to be at peace
 for their sake really"

"That's very true. Plus babies can feed off their mother's moods and
 emotions"

"Exactly she has to have a peaceful and happy aura around her"

"Let's hope they fix things"

"That means we are going to have to be okay with them too we don't
 want to make things awkward for her"

"I know but if she let's it go I won't have a reason to
 hold on to it. I am all for my sisters happiness and
 peace" "Definitely so you really leaving tomorrow?"

"I wish I didn't have to but I miss my boys plus I have work"

"Oh my babes just don't stay away too long"

"No worries I will probably come back month end with Lethabo and
 Kopano" "Yes the cousins must meet up"

"Yeah so tell me how long are you going to be this side"

"I was thinking 3 months but it will depend on how quickly Afrika is able to
 do things herself" "Fair enough" I say

•NOMALANGA

I just got back to the hotel after spending the entire day with Afrika and the kids. I am so happy we are at a better place now I honestly missed her and the relationship we had. I know it will take a while before we can go back to where we used to be but it definitely is a start. I called Smangele to tell her and she was relieved that she won't be caught between the awkwardness. Now she is excited about coming here tomorrow.

"I had that talk with Mpilo love" Thuso says walking out of the bathroom
"Did he listen?"

"He did but I took it further a bit" I frown "How do you mean"

"I advised that he should just make an honest woman out of Afrika" I smile
"And? Did he agree?"

"He asked to sleep on it and then we will discuss it further"

"You are such a positive influence in his life. Seeing them get married would bring so much happiness and just complete our family"

"But we are still getting married first right?" I laugh

"Definitely soon as the sangoma does the cleansing ceremony for the kids and I we ask Amanda to plan a small ceremony for us and we tie this knot" he smiles

"I am happy to hear this my daughter's have been asking about it ever since I informed them" "Tell them soon enough"

"I love you Sunny" I blush.

•MPILO

I have been thinking about my conversation with Bra' Tiki and honestly I heard him and I agree with him Afrika is mine forever and I should just put a ring on it we are both still so young but we are in love and we have our little family now I am going to step up to my responsibilities and marry her not because I gave her kids but because she is the love of my life and the only one I want to do this life thing with. I just want to do things right so I will communicate more with Bra'Tiki and my mom then have a conversation with her mom before talking to her about it. I get to the apartment and they are all watching TV.

"Sanibonani" I greet

"Hi Mpilo"

"Yebo ndodana (hi son)"

"Hey babe I was getting worried"

"I am sorry love just lost track of time with my brother and Bra'Tiki"

"It's okay" she says

"Let me check on the twins"

"I will

with" she

come
says

coming with me to her room.

"I love you mama wabo Kuhle" she blushes

"I love you too Mpilo with all my heart"

"We are going all the way babe right?"

"All the way babe through it all I am not letting you go" she says

"I am happy to hear this Muhles"

"Your mom and I spoke this afternoon and we fixed things

we are going to work towards getting back to where we

used to be" I sigh in relief

"Oh babe thank you for letting go. Thank you so much. The tension was

weighing down on me" "It doesn't have to now we are good" I kiss her on

the lips.

"It's going to be a long 3 months" she says and I laugh.

"By the way where did you learn how to blow like that?" She smirks and looks

down.

"Tell me love" I insist

"Well babe I was pregnant and horny like hell I had to learn how to

masturbate so I watched porn that's when I saw how it's done I watched it

more frequently coz I was always hot and in need"

"I am sorry I wasn't there to give you some I promise once you heal I am

going to give it to you however you like until then your mouth will have to

give me pleasure."

"I don't mind that" I nod and kiss her forehead.

"Come lay down I want to cuddle you" I say

No edits

FATHER AND SON
CHAPTER 144

• **AFRIKA**

Peace is something I have always wanted and mending relationships that were broken or forgiving those who did me wrong is something I really need to do for my peace of mind and to be able to raise my children in a drama free environment. I am glad Ndlovukazi and I are at a better place and as much as he hurt me I still need to sit down and talk to Mzwakhe and let everything go. I am alone with the twins coz my mom left with Mpilo to accompany Amanda to the airport. I loved having her around and I am sure going to miss her but she has her own family to return to. I am watching TV with the twins sleeping in the Cort we moved to the lounge. The door opens and footsteps approach that was a quick drop off. To my surprise the very person I was thinking about walks in.

"Uhm I uhm hello Afrika"

"Hi" he clears his throat and I will admit it's awkward between us.

"Is Mpilo in?"

"No he isn't he left with my mom and sister"

"Oh okay I guess I'll see him later" he tries to walk away and a part of me wants to let him but I can't I need to have a word with him.

"Mzwakhe can we talk please" I say and he stops looking at me confused

"Uhm yeah sure" he comes and takes a sit. I sigh deeply

"You used me in the worst way possible you threatened my innocent family and forced me into a life I never wanted"

"Afrika I know that and I am sorry from the bottom of my heart"

"I forgive you Mzwakhe coz I believe I had to go through it all to get to this point. I wouldn't have met your brother and had my children I wouldn't have known who killed my father and my mom and family would have never found peace I found my father's family when I ran here and that wouldn't have happened if Emily didn't lie against me so what I am saying is behind the dark clouds there was always the silver linings of blessings that were disguised"

"I understand that but just know that I am sorry still I was wrong and inhumane"

"I forgive you coz of what I just said and because I now fully understand why you did it. You were looking to be loved and appreciated and you could have done anything for that"

"That's very true but I have learnt my lesson"

"It's good

Work on

to know.
being a

better man and don't hurt anyone like you did me".

"I am working on myself. Thank you for this talk I feel so relieved like a heavy weight has been removed from my shoulders"

"It's okay how is Emily?" He sighs

"We are in the process of a divorce"

"Why?" He frowns

"After how she betrayed me and my family you included I can never trust her" I shake my head

"Don't be a hypocrite Mzwa she was doing exactly what you did. We are all forgiving you and giving you another chance why is it hard for you to do the same with her?"

"Afrika it's just-" I cut him off

"Do you love her?"

"Of course I do but love is not enough"

"It is enough to work through it again to build where you both broke. She made a mistake a mistake worthy to forgive. You love her don't let her go because you think that's what's expected of you. Follow your heart" I say

"I don't know where I would start"

"Start at the beginning communicate with her don't take away your happiness for a mistake that is forgivable"

"Why are so understanding I mean I hurt you and she did too but here you are advising me to work on our marriage. You should be hating us"

"Everyone expects me to hate but that's a price I am not willing to pay hate is heavy and dark and I don't want that in my life. I want peace I want to be happy and free"

"My brother is lucky to have you and so are the twins"

"Thank you Mzwa"

"I will think about everything you said"

"Do what makes you happy first you will worry about everyone else later"

"Can I?" He says pointing to the twins

"Of course"

•MPILO

We just dropped off Amanda at the airport it's just me and my woman's mother I know I will never get another chance to be alone with her so I might as well use this opportunity. I am nervous coz I don't know how she might take this but I have nothing to lose so I might as well just.

"Ma" I say

"Yes Mpilo"

"I would like to talk to you about something"

"Oh okay is everything okay?"

"Everything is fine. Ma I love your daughter with every fiber of my being
and now that she
has made

me a man amongst man I just can't help but look at her with more love and affection"

"She loves you too I am sure you know this"

"I know and that brings joy to my heart I don't see myself loving any other woman but her"

"That's good to know Mpilo"

"I know we are both young and have a lot to learn but I want to do it with her always by my side. I never want to let her go hence I am asking you to allow me to make an honest woman out of your daughter"

"What are you saying to me?" "I am humbling myself before you asking that you bless my request and allow me to marry Afrika"

"Are you sure Mpilo?"

"I have never been so sure about anything in my life. I don't want to waste any time. I want to spend every day of the rest of my life calling her not only the mother of my children but my wife as well"

"Oh my God Mpilo I don't even know what to say" she admits

"Just tell me you bless this please ma

I know she is still young but-" she cuts me off

"Marriage isn't about age it's about two hearts that beat as one two souls that are tied together even before they knew it it takes two people who love one another passed their flaws and mistakes and are willing to work through them. You and my daughter have a beautiful love and I can't stand in your way. Yes you might not know much about marriage but no one does until they are married. I give you my blessing Mpilo. Just continue loving and protecting her and the twins" "Thank you so much ma and I promise not to disappoint you"

"Wow I never thought I'd live to see my daughter's having children and getting married" "Please don't tell her as yet"

"My lips are sealed" she says with a wide smile I sigh relived that she didn't say no

5 DAYS LATER

•NOMALANGA

We have been this side long enough and we seriously need to go back now even though my heart is sad about leaving my grandkids here. Thuso and Mzwa have jobs to go back to and I also got a call from work whatever they've decided on I am done with the law and I am just going to enjoy my life being a house wife taking new skills and just enjoying my life without the stress of finding convictions and all. We are all at the apartment for the last time before heading back and this time it is not

awkward at all Afrika has forgiven all of us and we are working towards being a close and loving family. We are just having a braai and drinks. "I am going to miss seeing them" I admit

"I will video call you everyday to see them" Mpilo says

"I would really appreciate it"

"So Mpilo what are you going to do in Cape Town" Thuso asks

"I am going to help Afrika's mom with the kids and work on opening Club Genesis here" he says sitting next to Afrika holding hands

"That's good expansion is always good you should also expand the restaurant it has so much to offer" he adds

"Definitely bro the food there damn man" Mzwa says

"So you guys are never moving back to Johannesburg" Smangele asks

"It's up to Afrika ncane wherever she wants to be I am good" he says and Afrika blushes

"Nomnyamazane man don't stay here man we miss you guys back home"

"We will see soon as I am done with my qualification aunt Sma"

"I am sorry family but I Sbahle Mdlalose will not be moving back to that noisy busy city" we all laugh

"How will you go back after making that poor boy move his life here ai nibadlisile la bafana no Afrika(you gave these boys love potion)" Sma jokes "Tell them mntakama" I say chuckling

"Hai kodwa Sma we didn't give anyone korobela (love potion) here it's just love they love us I mean who wouldn't" Bahle replies

"Mina Afrika can give me that love potion I don't mind I don't want to stop loving her" Mpilo decides to join in the conversation

"Oh waqala u Shakespeare"

"Ncane just drink your beer and leave love alone"

"Seconded" Bahle says

"Mxm" she drinks from her bottle. I will never understand why she doesn't use a glass.

• **MZWAKHE**

We are back in Jozi and the conversation I had with Afrika days ago still disturbs my peace it's all I can think of and I know she is right. I should just stop doing this to myself and to her but most importantly to our kids. I find myself at her work place coz I just couldn't wait for her to knock off. I called her and asked her to come to the parking lot I am trying to figure out how I am going to say all of this to her but I guess I should speak from the heart. The passenger door opens and she gets in.

"Is everything okay? Are you okay" she asks

"Calm down Em I am fine" she sighs

"I thought it was an emergency you never come to my work place"

"I couldn't wait for you to knock off"

"Sounds serious" she says

"It is Emily"

"Huuu okay I am listening" tears already shining in her eyes

"I called my lawyer to stop with the divorce" she looks at me shocked

"Why? Is there something you need from me to finalize it"

"Yes I need you to move back home with me and our girls"

"Uhm I Mzwa I don't understand"

"I love you babe and we both lost our way this past year this has to serve as a lesson to always be honest with each other to communicate better not to let it be the end of us" I explain

"You want us to get back together?" Her voice is so low

"If you will have me back yes" I admit

"Oh my God what changed your mind Mzwa I mean you were so done with me"

"Afrika spoke something's that made me realize that the good you've done for me and our marriage were far greater than the mistake she made me realize that this happened for a reason and I believe that now. We needed to both see our father's for their toxicity we were also a path that had to lead everyone else to their truth" "Afrika encouraged you to work things out with me?"

"She did babe and I am glad I got the chance to ask for forgiveness as well not only did she forgive me but she showed me what I was blind to" "After everything we put her through"

"I am still shocked at how pure her heart is" I admit.

"Mzwa?"

"Yes Em"

"I would love to come back home" she says and I smirk and lean in to hug her

"I am happy to hear that. I love you Emily and I am sorry for everything"

"I am sorry too babe and I love you so much I am not letting anything get between us ever again"

"I am going to explain this to my family and then we can go back to our house and start afresh"

"My day just got better I can't believe this"

"Believe babe now go back to work I will pick you up later" she pecks my lips "Later babe" she gets out of the car and I swear I feel lighter.

No edits

145

FATHER AND SON

CHAPTER 145

6 MONTHS LATER

• **AMANDA**

Looking back over my life I never thought this is where I would be. I went through so much in my life trying to make ends meet for my sister and I men used me like a piece of meat and one came my way and saw more than what I was at that time in my life he loved me and he fought for me made me feel worthy and not even once has he reminded me of my past or used it against me. I don't know how I will ever thank God for giving me a husband like this. Everything in my life is how it's supposed to be. I have learned a lot and those teachings I will pass on to my children. My son turned 1 a while ago and the naughtiness is on another level. Lately I have been feeling under the weather and I had an idea of why that was happening hence I just took a pregnancy test. I walk out of the bathroom and find Lethabo holding Kopano while their eyes are fixed on the cartoons on the TV. My boys I can't believe our family will have one more member soon.

"Babe why are you starring at us like that" I smile

"I still can't believe how blessed I am"

"Oh Ama I am the blessed one babe"

"How do you love being a father" I ask

"You know I enjoy nothing more than being a father and husband" he admits

"So you wouldn't mind if I told you that we are having an addition in about 7 or 8 months" he narrows his eyes

"Amanda Mafa you are carrying my seed?" "Yes baby I am" he closes his eyes

"I thought you were still on the pill" I make a face

"Nope I stopped taking the pills almost five months ago"

"Why didn't you tell me"

"I just didn't want us to go through the pressure of trying for another child if you knew we would have both been stressed out and it would have been impossible to conceive"

"That's very true baby" he says kneeling down and brushing my belly.

"Hey baby girl it's daddy here. We can't wait to see you" he kisses my belly a couple of times

"Lethabo thank you from the bottom of my heart. You chose me you learned the truth and it wasn't enough for you to give up you fought for my dignity I will live my life making you happy always thank you for this beautiful life and our children. I love you so much baby"

"I love you too Mandy and I would do it all over again and again"

• MZWAKHE

Its funny how things work out how life goes on perfectly after a rough patch I am not spiritual but I've learned that God has everything planned out for us even though we don't understand why things happen at times we should just live through it and believe that he has a plan and purpose for us. Sometimes the chaos you are going through is not yours but it's to help someone walk their journey you just become a part a character an obstacle that has to shape them into who they are suppose to be. My life is calm now my family accepted that I love Emily and I want to be with her regardless of what happened in the passed. We now communicate better. We moved back to our house and we are happy and working on our marriage with each passing day. My phone rings and it's my brother.

"Bro bro"

"Sure Mzwa"

"You don't sound okay what's up?"

"I am doing it today in a few hours and I am fucken nervous" I laugh

"Just calm down and bring out the confident Mpilo"

"Yeah you are right at least I still have a few more hours till she gets back from campus"

"It's all going to work out trust me Bafo"

"Thanks man let me finish preparing"

"Send me a picture of the set up once you are done okay"

"I will greet Em and the kids for me"

"Will do taMpilo"

"Sharp" he hangs up and I laugh. He has always been so confident but Afrika makes his tiptoe it's funny what love can do to a man.

• **NOMALANGA**

Thuso and I got married a while ago and to this day it still feels like yesterday. Like I promised myself they wanted me to come back to work but I refused and took my package and stepped back from the law 1 month later my husband surprised me one day and came home with his belongings saying he just resigned at work we have ever since dedicated our time to our marriage and traveling around from place to place. Walking this journey with him is effortless and beautiful. I never knew I could reach this levels of happiness and contentment in my heart and my life. All my children are happy and healthy and if we can complain we would be testing God and honestly just being ungrateful for all he has blessed us with.

"Sunny" he shouts from our bedroom

"Kitchen" I shout back and he walks in after a few minutes

"I am done packing your things but your shoes can't fit in"

"We just going to have to add another bag then" he rolls his eyes

"That's so unnecessary honestly we will be at the beach the entire trip baby you don't need high heels" "You can't be too sure" he sighs

"Nomalanga Moroka you will buy them should you need them"

"Oh looks who's talking you were telling me how I should cut down on buying clothes"

"And I still stick by it you will buy anything we didn't take should you need it"

"Okay I will leave them and buy when we get there"

"No Sunny emphasis on should you need them"

"God you can be so difficult at times" he laughs

"Let me call Sbahle and find out if she's arrived at her sisters place

"Oh please love she must have arrived by now" Sbahle landed a few days ago to see us before driving from here to North West to meet up with her sisters (Thuso's daughters) to celebrate Naledi's birthday. It's just a girls trip they all have a beautiful relationship and it has made everything easier for me and Thuso.

• EMILY

I know never to use and hurt those who love and support me I know better now and I have grown. The past few months have been great for me and my husband and in turn our girls are feeding off that energy and happy to see their parents happy in one home. I spoke with Afrika at Ndlovukazi's wedding and I apologized for all I did she did forgive me but made it clear that we can never be friends like we were again as much as it hurts I understood where she was coming from she has never been luck with friends and to trust me again would make her uneasy. I get home at my parents home after months of not stepping foot here my mother called asking me to come quickly and I drove here immediately after work. I don't know what is happening yet but I have an uneasy feeling about it. I get out of the car and make my way inside. I find them sitting in the lounge having tea.

"Ma is everything okay?" I ask

"Please sit down my dear" I go sit on the single couch completely ignoring my father.

"Is everything okay?" I ask again

"Yes Emily your father is the one who wanted to talk to you"

"I have made it clear that I don't want to talk to him by avoiding his calls and not responding to his messages" "Emily I am your father"

"No you are not. I don't have a father" I say with a shaking voice but I maintain my composure

"Don't talk like this you are our only child and losing you is painful especially because you are alive"

"You never cared about me so don't bother doing it now"

"Emily I am sorry for everything I should have treated you better and protected you. Not use you for my own selfish reasons. To show that I mean this I will accept that boy you married and your kids fully"

"Don't do me any favors I don't need you accepting them you not being a part of our lives is a blessing. I saw you for who you are and I am glad for that. Mama I love you and I will always be there for you. You are welcome in my home anytime but please never call me if it has to do with this evil man even if he dies don't call me until you've buried him" I say

"Emily please I made a mistake baby"

"No you made a choice sir. Mom I have said my peace" he cheek and walk out. I tonrow the drill with forgiveness but my father doesn't deserve it. Not having him in my life is peacefull to me and my husband. I don't need him making Mzwakhe feel useless and inferior because of the color of his skin. I am protecting my family from a monster. I get in the car and drive away without even feeling guilty

•MPILO

I am free free from running a drug empire free from thinking that sleeping will multiple woman was cool I am free from the wrong crowds and bad decisions all because I fell in love I still can't believe that Afrika saw me and fell In love with me. Her love has been enough for me and I couldn't ask for anything else. I feel like after tonight my life will be complete forever. I am ready to just live my life with her and our children and just continue building an empire for our children

I still can't believe that Afrika saw me and fell In love with me. Her love has been enough for me and I couldn't ask for anything else. I feel like after tonight my life will be complete forever. I am ready to just live my life with her and our children and just continue building an empire for our children one club one restaurant at a time we will get there eventually. I have been planning this with her mom for a while now and I hope it all goes perfectly. I am in tuxedo and fits me perfectly Enzo is matching daddy and my daughter is just in a pretty evening gown and a hair band matching her dress I must admit I am happy she has her mother's hair they look super cute and forever calm. The dining room is set up filled with roses and candles and a table set up for two. The background is already playing slow romantic ballads. I can't help looking at the watch now again. "She will arrive Mpilo"

"I know mama I am just so nervous"

"I am pretty sure she is going to say yes even before you ask her" I laugh

"That's would make my night"

"So soon as the twins are done with their part I am taking them to the hotel" "Thank you for helping with this"

"It's a pleasure son you two need some time alone you have been good parents taking all your time investing in the twins but you are also a couple you deserve time to yourself with them"

"I really appreciate this" I say

"Don't mention it just continue being good to her and the babies"

"Always I promise"

"Okay then let me go make sure her dress is still okay" she walks away and I go to my sweet babies who are looking back at me

"Guys we doing this right? I need you both to remember your part this is a team effort" Melo makes a noise and I smile

"That's my girl Enzo you better hold on to your end buddy. And you both need to remember that there is no crying when you see her walk in" I say and end up laughing at myself for talking to them like they understand a word I am saying.

•AFRIKA

My cousin drops me off at the apartment after a long day at campus I am just glad I pushed my work so I don't bring it with me at home. I want to give Mpilo and the twins my attention when I arrive home unless I am studying to write important tests. School is going very well and my relationship is blossoming into something more beautiful. We are becoming joint at the hip. Our children are growing up and I honestly thought they would be troublesome but they are so sweet I won't lie. My mom is going to go back to her own life soon and I am definitely going to miss her so much she intended on staying for 3 months but she added another 3. Mpilo and I still need to get the best nanny for them. I walk in and it smells divine mouthwatering I can't wait to eat. I walk in the lounge and freeze it's decorated in flowers and candles it's so amazing that music in the back ground is on another level perfecting the set up. Mpilo is in a tuxedo and he has a fresh hair cut he is looking at me with his ever so beautiful smile I can't help but smile back my eyes move to the strollers and they are dressed in black tie too the sight of them melts my heart. "Baby did I miss our anniversary?"

"No love you didn't" "Then what are we celebrating love?"

"You need to go change and look like us first then we can get started your dress is in your bedroom" he says and I smile walking to my room. My mom is in there "Mama what's happening?"

"Just change you'll find out just now" I remove my clothes and my mom shows me a sparkling dress decorated in colorful gems it is breathtaking

"Mpilo bought this? I ask wanting to cry

"Yes babes he did. Change they are waiting" I slip in the dress and the matching heels and apply lipstick to my bare face thank God I treated my fro a few days ago.

"How do I look?" I ask feeling excited for something I don't know

"You look amazing baby go go to him he is waiting" I sigh and walk out he is squatting in front of the gummies talking to them "Babe" I say and he looks at me and gasp for air.

"You look like the queen that you are" I blush

"Thanks love so are you going to tell me what this is all about?"

He blinks a couple of times

"Well the twins would love to ask you something" I frown

"Mpilo they can't talk and I don't understand gibberish" he laughs

"Just come they wrote you a letter" I blush and go to their double stroller.

The is is an envelope. I take it and take out the printed card inside.

"Read it out loud please" Mpilo says and my mom is standing by the corridor making a video what is happening GOD.

"MOMMY CAN YOU PLEASE MARRY DADDY PLEASE" I read and the sentence shocks me I turn back and look at him he is on one knee holding out a diamond ring.

"Mpilo" I say tapping my foot

"Muhles sthadwa Sam nomnyamazane wam best friend my G Mother to my Khuhle's baby I love you with all my heart and soul it's scary most of the time but beautiful feeling ever. You have made me a man you made me realize my potential and gave me two human being that stole my heart completely your innocence and beauty is what stole my mind the first time at that mall okay I have said a mouthful but all I really wanted to ask is if you would marry me?" He finally says and I am just crying dying to say yes "Yes baby yes yes I will marry you even right now. I love you baby I will be your wife" he smiles and slides the ring on my finger and it's the perfect fit. He gets up and hug me kissing me so passionately. It goes on so long the time we break the kiss my mom and the kids are not in the room. "Baby" I say looking at my ring

"You love it?" "Totally and I love you" he blushes

"I love you too Mami" "When did you plan all this"

"It's been a while now your mom has known for months now i just wanted you to get through your things before asking" "You two can kill someone and go on like everything is okay" he chuckles. "You are going to be my wife baby" "I am so excited"

"Then you won't freak when I tell you that we are paying lobola for you this weekend we need to fly home" "Are you serious?"

"I don't want to waste any more time I want us to start our lives joined in Holly matrimony" "Honestly you are making me want to cry"

"I love you Afrika and thank you for choosing me and being a great mother to our children you do it with so much ease and Grace it's a role you were born to do our home is going to be filled with so much warmth love peace and happiness. You are going to make a beautiful and amazing wife baby I will live my life trying to be the best husband and father to the twins and 8 more kids you are going to give me"

"Mdlalose Dikane Mgabashe oh sthandwa sam heavens know we were meant to be you are mine I am yours. Our journey was long written in the book of Life. I never thought my life will end up here but I am glad it did I wouldn't change a rough patch a fight disagreement and pain we went through coz it all led us to this point. I love you so much and I swear and promise to be the best wife and mother to you and our kids and 8 more that is yet to come" "Mrs Mdlalose" he says

"Baba" he brings his lips to mine and I am lost in the moment.

THE END