

Isilo Royal Family Presents
FOUR BEASTS AND A PURE HEART



Author

Keabetswe Mahlaba





Liyana



Luthando



Luxolo



Nonhle



PROLOGUE

Liyana

It's always good being home ,
we love the city life yes it's
beautiful and all amazing

But there's just something
refreshing about the village

Luthando : where are your
parents ?

Me : they're yours too

My brother's love this thing of theirs , they never refer to our parents as our parents

They'll always say your , as if they're not ours . And you'll never hear them say mom or dad

It's always Kumkanikazi and Kumkani (king and queen)

If we weren't born of the same womb , I'd think we're not related

Mom : how nice to see you all home

She says coming down the stairs , with her perfect smile . This woman doesn't age , she's just plain beautiful

Me : mommy

She laughs , and her son's are
so bored . I take the first warm
hug

Me : I missed you

Mom : you love Bloemfontein
more than us

Me : never

We're all just scattered around ,
Luthando is in Mthatha right
here in Eastern Cape

Lonwabo is in Joburg running
his law firm , along with Lumkile
whom I'm even disappointed to
say what he does

The disappoint is just in what he
chose to do , not him per se

Luxolo is in Cape Town ,
working at our uncle's company
along with Tyler our cousin

As for me Bloemfontein has
become my home for the past
two years

I'm working there as a
Consultant

Lonwabo : my queen

See and they're all like that ,
they all get their hugs . Except
Lumkile

He's so not affectionate and it's
not amusing at all

Me : where's daddy ?

Voice : right here

I turn back screaming , and just
throwing my old self on him

This man still got it , I'll never
fall

It's like he gyms and that's not
even it

I just think my parents don't
wanna age , and that's fine with
us

I'll never get embarrassed
introducing them as my parents
, I hope we inherit these genes

And never age so dramatic , I
think we're already there . We
look 18 at nearly 25

Dad : will you ever grow up
Liyana ?

I'm all grown what is he talking about ?

Me : daddy let's not

He laughs putting me down

Dad : it's good to see you all home without being summoned

Lumkile : why must we be summoned to begin with ?

Call him the black sheep or
whatever you wanna call him

He's so weird , I don't get him at
all . In fact no one gets him ,
well except mom and Lonwabo

Beats me how they even do it ,
Lumkile is like well I even lack
words to describe him

He listens to no one , he controls he's not told . He obeys no one , he just lives in his own world of just creepiness

Dad : you should actually come home more often , soon this throne and this Kingdom will be yours

Luxolo : kumkanikazi where can I find food ? (my queen)

He's just running away from this throne and kingdom talk , I know we all want to

Because when dad starts he never stops , and he's just annoying Lumkile

Dad : while we're there let's go have a talk

What did I say ? And once the talk is done , Lumkile will be on the next flight back to Joburg just like that

Mom : must it be now ?

Dad : don't do that for him

Us three we walk towards the kitchen and leave them there

Mom will fight dad for Lumkile ,
who will just be there like
nothing is even happening
concerning him

We came to get in touch with
ourselves , it's hard being who
we are right in the cities

So being back home , brings us
back to who and what we are

The boys get to go hunt , and
connect with nature . They get
to be themselves

And as water is my friend , half
the time that's where I am

.

.

.

.

In the throne room

The king and queen are with
Lumkile and Lonwabo , he came
along knowing his brother

From time to time , he just has to be around to tame him

Queen Asante : this can wait surely , the kids just got home just minutes ago

King Lubanzi : Lumkile needs to get a hold of himself , and know his responsibilities towards this throne and kingdom

Queen Asante : I don't dispute that , but there's no need for that now . There's still a lot of time before he takes over , this can wait a bit

King Lubanzi : there's no such thing as that

An argument between the king and queen , is just one you'd never even take serious

Because even they're just not
that invested into it

Queen Asante : he just got
home let him be

Lonwabo : my queen , it's okay

He just has to intervene , so his
father can say whatever he
wants to say

Before Lumkile walks out ,
without even hearing anything

King Lubanzi : we have to form
alliances with one of the
neighbouring Kingdoms , and
that goes for the good of this
Kingdom as well . With that
being said , you have to marry
one of blue blood . With this
time I give you to go find one ,
it'll be up to you which kingdom

you choose . If you fail to do so ,
then I'll be forced to choose
one for you . And you'll not
dispute because I'm not asking
you , it is what Isilo requires . A
queen of blue blood , and so it
shall be . We will give the gods
and ancestors what they need
and require of us

Queen Asante : my king , may I
please be excused ?

He nods , seeing his wife's reaction . She's fairly fond of all her kids no one can dispute that

But more especially of Lumkile , he's the most untamed one out of all the kids

The queen walks out , only because she can see her son's reaction

He's not happy about this , but
no one expects him to be either
way

King Lubanzi : anything you
want to say ?

He's not even looking at his
father , the king walks out
shaking his head

Lumkile is him exactly , just a few times more multiplied . And even he can't handle another him , best he just excuses himself from his presence

Lonwabo : a whole princess , maybe that's not bad

He says laughing a bit , trying to get his brother to loosen up . But it's deeming to be useless

Lonwabo : we're here for a week , maybe we can use the days to visit a few near kingdoms . And learn of their kind and maidens , we might just spot one for you

Lumkile just looks at him

Lonwabo : that's not bad right ?

He hates how Lonwabo acts at most times , trying to treat him like the baby brother

Lonwabo : at least say something , don't make me feel like I'm talking to a bloody wall .
It's annoying!

He says defeated , because his brother can get like this for days and days

Lumkile : tell your father to find that princess himself

Lonwabo smiles because his brother spoke

So it's not so bad

Lonwabo : okay but what if he chooses an ugly one though ?

Lumkile : she's the kingdom's
and throne's wife not mine , so I
don't care

He says getting up , and his
brother smells trouble her

Lonwabo : don't kill her

He says as a joke but also
meaning it in a way

Lumkile : let's go hunt , I have a
plane to catch back home

He's already outside

Lonwabo : great , uKumkani did
it this time (the king)

He gets up and follows his
brother out , and he'll soon
follow him back

He doesn't want Lumkile
anywhere without him for too
long

.

.

.

.

INSERT 01

Nonhle

These people are just beautiful
monsters , I don't care who says
what

And I know it's not mine only , I
slept only few hours ago and
she's already waking me up
now

Pulling my breasts like nobody's
business , that time she stopped
breastfeeding a month ago

Me : Zenande khame (stop)

Zenande : ima (stop)

Me : nditsho kuwe (I'm saying to you)

Zenande : kuwe (to you)

I groan opening my eyes so bored out of my mind

Me : utheni kodwa ? (What's it with you)

She smiles

Me : you're cute but you still
woke me up , and that's not
cute at all

She just stares at me , because
she has no idea what I've just
said .

Me : just great

I get up , and she holds her
hands out I pick her up

Me : let's go find Nyaniso , I
can't deal with you

Zenande : Niso (Nyaniso)

My baby is only a year and 7
months , her speech is still a bit
Portuguese but she's amazing
nonetheless

And my brother is already
awake , there's breakfast for
everyone yes except for me

His is a beer , and his niece her
cereal .

Me : molo (morning)

He just looks at me and takes
his niece from me

Me : I'm not wanted so yeah I'll
excuse myself

I say going back to my room ,
we live in just a three room . It's
all I can afford at the moment

My brother is what you call a
hustler , I don't even know what
that means but that's what he
says

I work as receptionist at a law firm , and I've only been working for a year . And I don't really earn that much

But we make ends meet , we have no parents

They both passed away right after I finished high school

One shortly after another , they were sick we don't really fault anyone

But Nyaniso and I have each other , and we don't even bother relatives much it's just us

Well until my daughter came along , as much as it was not planned nor expected she's the best thing to us ever

I was in one toxic relationship ,
with one of the lawyers where I
work

But we met before I started
working there , it was one break
up after another

We had so much break ups in
just 5 months , more than I can
even count

But we would still get back together , for what I also don't know . Because I saw it wasn't working

I finally decided to call it quits , and two months later I find out I'm pregnant

I told him , and he was just like it's not mine . How convenient

that we break up and I get
pregnant

Those were his exact words , I
let him be . And figured
everything on my own , with my
brother by my side

And almost two years later here
we are doing just fine , we're
not rich we don't have
everything

But we have a roof , and there's
always food on the table every
night

What more can we ask for ?
Absolutely nothing , we take
care of each other

We still see each other at the
firm , but it's like we don't even
know each other

And I'm thankful I have nothing to do with him , because there's no skirt he doesn't sleep with there

.

.

.

.

Liyana

And Lumkile is right here with
his sports bag leaving

I did say that he will leave after
that meeting dad took him to

Me : are you staying behind ?

Lonwabo : yeah

Luxolo : shocker

Lonwabo : I'm not his keeper ,
so shut up

Me : more like his minder

He leaves going to Lumkile

Luthando : he's pissed

Me : I wonder what daddy said to him

Luxolo : the throne talk , what else ?

Me : he should have given him time to settle in first

Luthando : well he's the king

Me : dad

Luthando : phuma apho (get out of there)

He goes to the other brother's and I'm left with Luxolo who soon follows

I won't be left standing alone , I
follow suit as well

Lonwabo : give me a day or two

I knew he was going to leave

Lumkile : must you follow me ?

They laugh , expect him of
course . My father ruined
Lumkile to the core

Me : should I pass by Joburg
end of the week ?

Lumkile : uyaphi ? (Where are
you going)

Yhoh !

Me : your place

Lumkile : no don't , I'm busy

Busy with what ? He just wants to make me laugh .

Me : I want to visit....

Lumkile : hayhiii Liyana (no)

Now he's annoyed with me

Lonwabo : give him time , you can visit in a few months

His spoke person has spoken

Me : okay bye mkhuluwa (big brother)

See I can't even hug him , it's just sad

I think my brother needs happiness or love

Maybe his cold heart will be
melt , and he'll be a sweet
person

Lumkile : take care of yourself

They all give him fist bumps , he
doesn't hug anyone . He doesn't
even hug his own mother , so
who are we

Lumkile : I'll see you around

He gets in the car and it drives out , mom is upset so much that she didn't want to say goodbye to him

Me : what did daddy say to him ?

Lonwabo : I say this and it ends here , or else I'll deny ever uttering any word

We all nod

Lonwabo : he's ought to marry
a blue blood before he takes
over the throne , and judging by
Kumkani's words that might be
soon

I laughs like really laugh , my
father never cease to amaze me

Me : what woman is going to live with a steel like Lumkile ?

They say nothing and just give me serious expression , okay my bad

Me : I don't mean it in a bad way but....

Luthando : he's your brother steel or not

Me : and I don't deny

Lonwabo : just because he
doesn't express emotions , it
doesn't mean he doesn't have
them

Me : noted I'm sorry

I hate it when they gang up on
me , it's not nice

But either way I feel for that
poor woman who will marry
Lumkile

I leave them and go find my
mother , only she can make me
feel better right now

Even though I know she'll be so
annoyed , and say I just want to
cause trouble for my brothers

•

•

•

•

Lumkile

What a waste going home only
to come back a day later

And I didn't want to go there to
begin with , but when the whole
five goes home . How can I stay
behind and start war with the
king

I'm not against the whole
throne business at all

When the time comes I'll step
up and do what's needed of me

But for now I'll rather not hear
anything about that , and
anything that has to do with
that

The wife issue , I really don't care about it . It's not like I'm out there looking for a wife anyway

I take my phone and call my queen , I know she's not happy with me right now

Mom : Xaluva ka ma

I hate it when she calls me this

Me : my queen

Mom : you didn't have to leave

Me : don't feel so bad , I'm okay
... I'm fine . And I'll rather be
here right now , than at home

Mom : you know your father

Unfortunately I do

Me : and he knows me too

Mom : I'm sorry

Me : it's okay , I don't mind any
of this . I will make time and see
you soon

Mom : you do know he will find
this wife ?

Me : yes I know

Can she just be beautiful , I
cannot bare to fuck with an ugly
woman

Imagine always taking it from
the back , because I can't bare
to look at her face

Mom : okay I love you

Me : I love you more my queen

Voice : and I sure love you too

I'm so quick to drop the call ,
this idiot crushes on my mother
. And he once got a beating for
this shit of his

But it didn't stop him , not that I
blame him . My mother is the
shit

Nhla : did you have to be so
jealous like that ?

Me : not when it comes to her

Nhla : she's your mother , like
come on !

Me : exactly , how far is my taxi
?

I'm a taxi driver , black sheep of the family . While they hold degrees and diplomas

I chose to just be me , and own taxis . I don't want to be a big bellied man

So I stand right behind the wheels of one of my taxis , it's nothing fancy but I love what I do

And I can never leave it for an
office job , that requires me to
put on a suit and a tie

Nhla : forget that skip the last
load and let's go just unwind

Heading to the weekend ,
Fridays are the busiest days .
And he wants us to miss money
and go get drunk

Me : let's see how that goes

He laughs , I get up because I was in his taxi .

Me : give me a call

We fist pump , I head to my taxi

.

.

.

.

Lonwabo

It's been a few days being home
, my father is surely really on a
mission

I want to leave now , I worry
with Lumkile on his own there

Not that he needs me to always
watch over him , but for
everyone's sake I prefer to

Me : my king

Dad : my prince , come in

I walk inside , and take a seat

Me : I hope I'm not disturbing

Dad : no , I just got off the
phone with King Zweli

I sigh

Me : my king can I please put in
a word ?

Dad : I know it's about your
brother

Me : yes it is

Dad : I'm not changing my mind
, we obey and do accordingly to

what Isilo says . Lumkile knew this from when he was young , he can't run away from it

Me : I understand , but the wife issue . Can you not give him more time ?

Dad : I'm afraid I cannot , and I hope he's heard me . And he's already looking

Me : about that , my king he
said you can look for the wife
yourself

I don't even know why I'm
telling him , I should have just
kept quite

Dad : well then it's settled

My father is ruthless though

Me : I understand , I'd like to
take my leave . Work awaits me

Dad : bid your mother goodbye

Me : I will do so

He nods , I get up . Heading to
the house , they knew I wasn't
going to stick around a while
without Lumkile

.

•

•

•

Nonhle

As soon as Gail walks to the reception desk , I know nothing good is going to come out of her mouth

Gail : look at you

I smile

Gail : stunning as always

Me : well thank you , what can I do for you?

Gail : it's Friday

Me : well aware

She laughs

Gail : and we're going out

Gail is the life of the party ,
she's a PA to one of the senior
attorneys

Me : a week before payday
really ?

Gail : yes , all on me worry not .
I got you covered

Me : I....

Gail : come on , beautiful don't do me like that . I just want us to have a night , that's all

She doesn't call me Nonhle , I'm beautiful to her that's my name

Me : we are back by 22:00

Gail : of course , you're a
mommy we don't groove like
that . So definitely , by then
we're back and home safe

We laugh

Gail : let me get back to work ,
it's said the big man is coming
back Monday . We all need to
be on our toes

Our boss isn't here , and why they call him big man I don't get it

He's so tiny he even looks like a child , apparently it's good genes that run in the family

I know nothing about him , I don't even follow him anywhere on socials . I know how to keep my boundaries

I was so shocked the first time I saw him , because I expected to see a big man . But I got the opposite of that

I take my phone and call Nyaniso , I need to know if he'll be able to watch Zenande for me

Nyaniso : what ?

He's always grumpy it doesn't bother me

Me : you have plans ?

I have to ask first

Nyaniso : no , do you have something ?

Me : yes

Nyaniso : it's fine I'll watch her

Me : okay thank you , should I order for you ?

Nyaniso : no Faith cooked

That's the slay queen girlfriend

Me : oh she's there ?

I'll rather not go out , than leave my daughter while Faith is there

Nyaniso : no she left

Me : okay then

He drops the call , talk about being rude

But I'll get a break tonight

Gail is not my friend , I don't do friends . We're just two girls who get along , and vibe together

.

.

.

.

INSERT 02

Nonhle

Gail is a wild child , I don't
understand why

Me : a club really ?

She laughs , and it's so loud here . Not the noise from the people , but the music

And it's not your loud crazy music at clubs , but it's chilled as well

And the people in here are people of power and money , you can just tell by the drinks

they're having . Those don't
come cheap at all

Not to mention the clothes
they're wearing , and their
dance style is not your usual
club whatnot

Me : what place is this ?

She takes my hand

Gail : you'll love it , my man
once took me here and let's just
say I loved it . I just had to come
back again

It's hard to even believe she's a
tied down woman , with a
finance at that

About to be married

Me : okay well

We find a table that's actually far from others , she doesn't waste time ordering wine

That's all I drink , and the problem it always gets me horny

But I'd like to think I have some self control , and I don't go around opening my thighs and

legs to men . After all , it's been
dry season

Me : I pray for self control
tonight

She laughs

Gail : my man is on speed dial to
pick us up , so worry not okay
we're good

What a man ? Who let's his
woman come out to a club with
him

I believe it's all about trust , and
belief in your partner . And
these two seem to have it all
figured out

Me : but do you see all these
men ?

I have a wandering eye I can't help it , but best believe I haven't had any in almost two years

Ever since I got pregnant and left the toxic boyfriend , I haven't been with another man

Gail : I have a feeling

We laugh

Me : please keep your feelings
to yourself

Gail : you're young , live like a
24 year old . Don't cry for this
moment when you're 45

May this just be a great night
and be worth it , because I even
left my baby at home

.

•

•

•

Lumkile

Nhlamulo never gets tired

And leading a single life will
always get him to hit on women

Now he has these two fine
species , and I just can't take my
eyes on the tiny one

I say tiny because she can be 19
, but her presence stands . So I
know she's above that

I get up , drinking always gets
me somehow . I don't even
know why I still do it

Nhla : and now ?

Me : I'm going for a smoke

I walk away before he says anything further , I have my smoke outside . It's perfect the weather is chilly

When I'm done I walk back inside , I bump into her carrying a glass of water

Her : really ?

It just spilled and maybe got into her shoe a bit , nothing to make a big deal out of

I try to pass , she fucking has attitude . Not that I was going to apologize , I wasn't . She grabs my arm

Her : won't you say sorry

Me : do you see where you are
?

She looks around confused ,
and she's just so fucking sexy .
There's nothing that turns me
on like a woman on stilettos

Me : don't bring your nasty
tendencies , this is not the place

Her : did you just insult me ?

She's in just the perfect position
, I get closer to her . And she
has nowhere to go

Her : m....move

Me : why are you stuttering ?

Her : move

She gathered herself to say that

Me : don't you just need to be
put in your place

Her : my....

I lean down , our lips touch .

She shivers , this one is going to
grace my bed tonight

Me : let's see that I don't leave
without you

I move back leaving her there ,
going back to the table

Nhla : that was long , and you
left me with a married woman

He says with such annoyance ,
only because he won't get any
pussy tonight

Nhla : where's the fine thing ?

Me : don't call her a thing

He laughs

Nhla : oh fuck the taxi lord is
not looking down on me today

Taxi lord ? Such exist

.

•

•

•

Nonhle

What a man with a whole
confidence , and such
dominance

But I need to get a grip on
myself , the way my body
reacted being so close to him

And I had to go refresh in the bathroom , I walk back to the table

Gail didn't mind having just strangers buy us more wine , and so we ended up joining them

Gail : that was long

Me : bathroom

She gives me a conniving smile ,
and it's like she knows what
happened

Half the whole time I can't even
look at this arrogant man

Me : can we go ?

I whisper to her

Gail : who are you running from
?

The wine didn't help at all , I
can't afford to be this horny like
this . And having this man right
in front of me

Me : it's late....

Him : and she'll call you
tomorrow

He says downing his beer , and getting up . Causing Gail and this loud mouth to stare at us gasping

Him : make sure she gets home safe , she's someone wife

He says to his friend referring to Gail

Him : don't keep me waiting

He walks away , am I really going to follow a stranger I don't even know ?

Gail : use condoms

She says so casual , and my inner hoe has just agreed with her

But condoms deprive you of the
pleasure , of skin to skin . It's
always best raw

Me : I'm....

Gail : just go

Say no more , I get up grabbing
my bag and go out following the
arrogant man

And the way he trusts himself ,
he's leaning against his car I
believe

Him : next time I say something
can we just have an
understanding ?

My heart is bumping

If I die blame a dick

Him : you'll pay dearly for
making me wait for you

He opens the door , and I get in
. It's always women like myself
who gets women painted bad

That we go to groove met
handsome strangers and leave
with them

Quote me on that

•

•

•

•

Lumkile

She has on a little navy blue formal dress , that has her thighs exposed

Me : are you comfortable ?

She looks at me

Her : yes

Me : good

I put my hand on her thigh , she
moves a bit

Me : I thought you're
comfortable

Her : I am

I move my hand up she parts
her thighs a bit

And she fucking has on a lace
one

I rub my finger over her , she
can't help but just move her
body

I slide her panties to the side , a
clean shaved woman that's just
a whole perfection

I open her folds with my finger ,
and she's so wet . And I can only
be responsible for this much
wetness

Her : shouldn't you be
focu.....focusing on the ...road

I rub on her clit

Me : worry not about me

Her : it's my life I'm...

I slide one finger in her , and
that's as far as she can take

Her moan attest to that

My finger playing inside of her
warm coochie

She grabs on my arm

Me : stop

She lets go and closes her eyes ,
I move my pace inside of her

Me : can you look at me ?

She doesn't , I stop playing with my finger . It's a few seconds before she turns her head and looks at me

Me : that wasn't hard

I go back to what I was doing her eyes fixated at me . It's a while she keeps letting out small moans

My dick is ready to burst , she tries to close her legs . I let go of the steering wheel , to part her legs

Her : whoa....do you want to kill us ?

Me : don't try and do that again

I take my finger out , she could even slap me

Her : you're depriving

Me : shut up

The rest of the ride to my house is quite , she's looking out the window

We arrive and both get out , we walk inside . I just pin her against the wall

We kiss and she welcomes me with the same energy and pace

I pull her dress off , and her bra follows . Her beautiful tits are exposed

My shirt goes off followed by my pants and briefs , a woman who knows what she wants

I just watch her while she
undress me , she's not taking
her eyes off of me as well

I'm completely naked right in
front of her , I pick her up she's
still pressed against the wall

She wraps her legs on my waist
, her arms on my neck . We
don't break the kiss , as i rub my
dick against her open

Her : be gentle

Me : I'm a lover

The tip is in , she pushes me off slightly

Me : now what ?

Her : acondo....

Me : don't

She says nothing but captures
my lips

I welcome her , thrusting my
dick in even deeper

She stops the kiss , as her
moans take over . I'm gentle as
she asked , it's what she wants

Not even deep thrusts and she's enjoying herself , as she's about to reach her orgasm

I move to the couch , can't believe I'm fucking on my brand new couches fuck

I lay her down , and suck on her perfect tits and she's eager to have me down there

I trail down , bury my head
down in her coochie . She's
clean , I appreciate it

She has her hands fisted on my
hair , pushing me down and
further . Her legs locked on my
back

She meets me with underneath
thrusts , she's fucking my
tongue right now

And she explodes right on my
face

She doesn't move her legs until
she calms down

I get on my knees , placing her
legs over my shoulders . Sliding
my dick inside of her

Her : Ohhhhah

She has her one hand on my
lower stomach

Me : should I stop ?

She says nothing , I go in a bit
deeper

Her : mhmmmm

She bites her longer tongue

Me : should I ?

Her : no....no don't....don't stop

That's all I need , I go in and out
of her gentle as she wants it

Slow perfect deep thrusts , that
has her moaning at the top of
her lungs

But it's not screams , and so it's not annoying . I can't handle a screamer

She's a woman who appreciates loving , that's why she prefers making love over fucking

I let her have her moment , she puts her hands behind me over my ass as she cums

.

•

•

•

Nonhle

If this is a dream it would be
perfect , so perfect

These arms that have me are
just feeling like home , I have no
desire to leave

Only it's not a dream , because I
open my eyes . I'm welcomed
by such a sight of an arrogant
dreadlock kind of a man

And I'm completely naked , so is
he . And his dick is resting right
on my stomach

We're sleeping in the beautiful
lounge , on this couch that feels

so comfortable just covered
with a throw

Then it hits me , yes I became a
hoe and gave to the cake last
night . Right almost after two
years

And I feel it down there , and I
remember very well . We made
love right on this couch

And sometime during the night
we even ended up on the floor ,
on some fluffy carpet

Only to end right back on the
couch , at some point . And
there's no angel in which he
didn't take it from

I try to get up but he holds me ,
okay so he's not asleep

Me : I need to leave

Few seconds he opens his eyes ,
and did he have to be so darn
perfect ?

He doesn't say much for a while
, and he's only delaying me

Him : you're pulling a hit and
run on me ?

He asks so lazily , I guess he's
not much of a talker in the
morning

Me : I don't even know you , so
bye

I get off him , and thank God I
spot my dress and panties . I
put them on , it's like I'm
running away from something

And he's still laying on the couch , just looking at me like I'm a crazy woman and maybe I am

I grab my shoes and put them on , take my bag and I'm gone .

All the way from Rosebank and I find myself in Sandton . Fear the power of the dick

The gate opens , I get out not even caring who opened it .

Right now I don't even have the time to think about last night

I just want to get home and see my daughter , this was just me being an irresponsible mother

A taxi comes by , and that's strange . They have these here ? Wow

It drops me off at the rank and I
take another to home

I walk in running , and it's so
quiet . Like they're still asleep ,
and it's not normal

I look at the time and it's just
after 07:00 . I knock in Nyaniso's
room

Nyaniso : she's sleeping , leave
her

He's so grumpy as always , I
open the door slightly .

And she's sleeping in her
favourite place , his chest

Me : I'm sorry about last night

Nyaniso : I hope the dick was worth it , and it's not another fucking bum like Qaqambile

Trust Nyaniso to just say whatever he wants to say without even shying away

Me : I.....

Nyaniso : I don't want to hear your stories

My brother has no chill , I take
my flat ass to my room and
leave them

I just throw myself on the bed ,
and reminisce about the whole
of last night

.

.

.

.

INSERT 03

Lonwabo

I've been knocking for a while
now , I left my key at my place

Otherwise I wouldn't have had to stand at the door like this waiting for him to come open

He finally opens in just sweatpants and having a glass of cold ice water

Me : you were out drinking

He ignores me

Me : do you have someone in here ?

Lumkile : since when do I bring women to my house ?

He always says why taint your house , when you can just fuck in a hotel ? On someone else's bed and sheets

I don't get that concept of his
though , it's like he sees women
as cheap possessions

Me : where were you ?

We sit down on the high chairs
in the kitchen , I guess there's
no food here and I'm hungry

I left my house because there's
no food as well , guess we'll just

go out because he doesn't seem like he's going to the rank today

Lumkile : at Storms with Nhla

Me : of course this has him written all over it

What's a night out without Nhlamulo ?

He's wild

Lumkile : why are you here so early ?

Me : because I went to Bree and even went past MTN , you were nowhere to be found .
And that Nhla of yours is sleeping in his taxi

Lumkile : it's his business that he went there still drunk

Me : it's consequences of having a wild night , and you're loosing money being here and not being there

Lumkile : I'll take long distance and make up for it

While we're educated and all , and he's just a taxi owner and a taxi driver

But he has more money than us
all , you'll say I'm lying

He has about 11 taxis 5 of those
do long distance . The others
rank local , taking turns being at
Bree and MTN

Me : let me call him over

Lumkile : tell him to bring meat

Me : that's your hangover food

But working at the rank it's
expected , they eat braai meat
half the time and they're fine
with it

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

I had tons of missed calls from Gail and text messages , it's sweet how she cares

Gail : you had me worried

Me : worry not I'm at home and very fine

Gail : thank God , was the dick so good though that you couldn't take my calls ? Or respond to my texts ?

Me : I....

My heart melts seeing this tiny person of mine , I feel so bad about what happened

Zenande : mamu (mom)

Me : let's talk later

Gail : give her tons of kisses from her godmother

Self appointed godmother

Me : bye

I drop the call , and pick her up

And lots of kisses from mommy
grace her face

Me : I missed you

My daughter has a thing , to just stare at you . With no emotion absolutely nothing

Me : bendik'khumbula (I missed you)

Zenande : khumbula (miss you)

Me : yeah Uma bek'khumbula (mommy missed you)

My brother walks in , I'm still in my room just bathed . But I'm very much decent

Nyaniso : I'm going out

Me : okay , once again thank you for last night

He says nothing and walks out , right after kissing his niece

Me : akandithandi utanci (your
uncle doesn't love me)

Zenande : Niso (Nyaniso)

Me : yeah

And then I remember my
carelessness , I get up and run
after him . With this heavy
person in my arms

Me : Nyaniso

I just catch up with as he walks
out of the gate

Nyaniso : what ?

Me : please go by the pharmacy
and get me a morning after pill

I should be so ashamed right
now asking my brother for this

But I'll rather ask him , than
have another fatherless child

Nyaniso : really you're playing
that careless ?

Me : once , and it was mistake

Nyaniso : a mistake that will
bring us a whole human being

I want to laugh but I know he's serious , and not making a joke

Me : please

Nyaniso : at least you still have some sanity to ask for a pill

So much shade on one person

Me : thank you

I'm not saying to what he said ,
because that was him being his
usual plain self

He leaves and we walk back
inside the house , I want to
spend today and tomorrow with
my daughter

No distractions and nothing else
, I really disappointed myself
last night and I never want to
repeat that again

And being so careless like that ,
Monday first thing is going for
tests at the clinic

I don't want any surprises of
infections , I was just foolish
being shut up like that and not
fighting it

By a man I don't even know

.

•

•

•

Lumkile

I'm so bothered and fucking
bruised , a whole hit and run on
me

That woman can't give me such
great sex and disappear on me

I really lack energy in the
morning , unless I woke up at
the right time of going to the

rank . Then I'm all energised ,
she caught me bad

And that's usually 03:00 I'm
already awake warming the taxi
, by 05:30 I leave for the rank

But today was different I had a
woman in arms

And it felt like she was home

She has to come back again on these arms , the shit felt so right . It can't be a fucking mistake of a one night

This is why I fuck at hotels and not my house , but no regrets whatsoever

And the bonus was finding her bra , if only that was going to help me find her

But it was a pleasurable
moment finding it after she ran
out on me

And luckily by the time
Lonwabo got here , I had
already cleaned up

I've taken a shower I feel
refreshed now , Nhlamulo
arrived with the meat

We're just having that now
watching soccer highlights

Me : that woman from last
night did a good one on me

Nhla : what ?

Me : she woke up and walked
out of here running like she was
being chased

He laughs

Lonwabo : wait so you had a woman in here ?

Me : yeah , but she had already left when you arrived

Lonwabo : whatwait , since when do you bring women into your house ?

Me : she wasn't just another
one okay

Nhla : serves you right for taking
her , while I got nothing . Yet
I'm the one who called the girls
over to our table

Me : it's not my fault that yours
was married

Lonwabo : the things you two
get up to

Me : and I hope you didn't fuck
her

Nhla : no ways , she called the
husband over . All she asked
was that her friend comes back
safe , I assured her you're legit
and you won't hurt her in any
way

The world of today is not safe
for women anymore , and it
took guts and loyalty to a
stranger for her to even leave
with me

Now it's in your hands as a man
to make sure the woman is safe

And don't force her to do what
she doesn't want to do

I didn't want to make love to a woman I picked at a club , but it's what she wanted

And at the end of it all , we both benefited and were happy

Lonwabo : the very same woman that pulled a hit and run on you ?

I nod

Me : I have to find her

Nhla : where ?

Me : beats me , I have no name
like nothing

Lonwabo : then leave her alone
, you're about get married to a
princess soon

Me : I'm not leaving anything

I'll make this whole shit work
for me

Nhla : we'll find her , we're taxi
drivers how hard can it be ?

I don't see how being taxi
drivers helps us in any of this

Joburg is a big city

If only maybe we had a picture
then maybe , just maybe we
would stand a chance to find
her

Lonwabo : it's useless talking to
you two

One way or another I'll find her

.

•

•

•

Liyana

Days have gone by , and my
brother's are mostly not even
here in the palace

But somewhere in the woods or
the veld

Today I've decided to go to the
river , I can't go anywhere
except the Isilo sacred river

My parents are out on a date ,
even after so many years of
marriage and being together

They're dating each other still ,
marriage and kids didn't change
that for them

And it just makes me miss my
own heart , but I'm soon to
return back

It's always so peaceful here ,
and to think every time I come
here it always feels like the first
time

I'm wearing nothing but just a
cloth wrapped on my body

I'm walking barefoot , just
touching down with my roots
and being respectful

I sit down and dip my feet in the
water

And a great wave of power
overcomes me

I lay my head back , and just
welcome it . But it's a different
presence than that of my
grandmother

Something is wrong , I'm not supposed to feel this . But the water cannot be angry at me

I haven't done anything wrong that much I know , was it a mistake to come here without seeing the seer first ?

My grandmother is peaceful , she can be dangerous yes but not this kind of anger

It's not her , I try to take my
feet out of the water but I can't
it's like I'm stuck

Or something is pulling me , and
whatever it is its strong and
powerful

I can't match it's strength at all ,
I press my hands on the ground
for balance

I'm not being pulled to go inside
the water , but to keep my feet
inside

But I'm scared of what I'm
feeling

Voice : fear not

I don't know this voice , it
sounds somewhat like one I've

heard before but it's far from
being the same

It's an animal no doubt , but it
can't be Lumkile , my brother's
don't connect very much with
water

They're able to connect with me
, but that's when I'm far from
the water . Not this close and
inside

Voice : I will not harm you

Whoever it is , is strained

Voice : don't fight me , I want to
talk

I'm scared but maybe it won't
hurt me

I open my eyes

And a portal is opening in the river , I've never seen anything like this

Whoever it is , is struggling to come up maybe because they're not supposed to be in this water to begin with

I put my hand slowly in the water

Me : give way and part

I direct it towards the portal
and it parts , dry ground land
appears and a whole black
Jaguar come out

I don't have time to run or
scream

I bow my head quickly

Me : grandfather , the great
Isilo

I know about him , but I've
never seen him . Lumkile has his
mark , and only he has seen Isilo
with his naked eye

Now I'm curious to know why
he's come to me , and in this
manner . His true form

Isilo : I come seeking help

Me : I am to serve

I might be that of water , but
I'm still that of Isilo

Isilo : take care of your
brother's heart . He's given his
heart that's meant to be on his
betroted on another . When

the time comes for him to do right , he will do so . But no one will be standing with him on his decision , he will break . Don't let that happen , this kingdom will fall . He's the next great Isilo , he can never go wrong . His voice will never lead him astray . Your brothers are all stubborn , I cannot trust any of them . I can't even trust on your father , but only you . Use your gentle

touch and love to soothe
everything

I feel him walking back

Me : grandfather

Isilo : I'm listening child

Me : will I be able to stand his
decision ?

Isilo : only you can decide that ,
but always remember my
request

I lift my head and he's gone . I
cannot believe this , I've just
seen the great Isilo even for a
few seconds it still counts

This is something to brag about
, Lumkile is not the only
favoured one

But wait , he didn't come just to
grace me with his presence

Me : what does he mean he's
given his heart to another ?

This can only about Lumkile and
no one else

Isilo is his and no one else's

Can it be that he's fallen in love with someone else ? While he's to be married to a princess ?

And by the look of things , my father is in and out of meetings with King Zweli

Me : this won't end well

What happens when Lumkile doesn't want to marry the

princess ? It is said he can't
marry a commoner

But Isilo said his decision won't
lead him astray , but how can
we trust this decision that's
going to make everyone turn
against him ?

This needs me to have a talk
with my parents , I take my feet
out of the water

I didn't get what I wanted and
instead I am given a task

But my grandmother must have
allowed for my grandfather to
come through

These waters are hers , they
belong to her

.

.

.

.

INSERT 04

Liyana

My parents had to just stay over
in the city for the whole
weekend

But I'm glad they're back now ,
and I need to get back to my life
as well

My brother's are also ready to
leave as well , and I don't want
to be the only one staying while
everyone is leaving

Me : mommy can we have a
word ?

She's busy lazing in the sun ,
basking in the sunset of Isilo it's
beautiful

Mom : you lack timing Liyana
yoh

That's not nice

I look at her and we laugh

Mom : but then again you also lacked time coming , what did I expect ?

Me : ma ! (Mom)

Mom : what do you want ?

I wish I didn't have to do this right now , but then what choice do I have ?

Me : has daddy found a suitor
for Isilo yet ?

That's how we address him , in
respect . Even when he's
crowned King he's not to be
called king but Isilo

Mom : not that I know of

But that gets me her attention
because she sits up

Mom : why are you asking ?

Me : I'm just curious

Mom : sit down

Me : thank you my queen

I sit down

Mom : this curiosity didn't just
come by

I don't know how to tell them
that Isilo communicated with
me , they might just not believe
me

That's not my portion I know
nothing about those things ,
maybe if I spoke to Lumkile
himself then he would believe
me

Mom : I hope you're not hoping to get your brother one of your friends as a wife , that will not work

Me : I only have one royal friend , and that's Princess who also happens to be my cousin

I can never befriend royalty , they're snobs too much

Mom : one can never know with
Liyana

Me : I'm offended

And she's not bothered

Me : I guess I'm just wondering
how he feels about this whole
thing , being chosen a wife and
not having a choice in it

Mom : point of correction there miss , your brother was given a choice to at least choose the wife . He said no

That's so like him , meaning he doesn't care about this wife already

Lumkile is about to break hearts here , and does this one who

has his heart know he's to
marry royalty ?

Me : either way I hope daddy
chooses a beautiful wife and
not a stuck up rural royal
princess

She laughs

Mom : is there such a thing ?

Me : yes your son is a city man ,
and let's bare in mind that he
drives taxi's all day and calls
that a job . A man like that
needs a vibrant and happening
wife

She gives me a bored look , it's
my cue to leave

Me : I wasn't dissing your
husband

She laughs

Mom : I feel for the man that's
to marry you

That leaves me swallowing a
none existent lump on my
throat

I fear the day they find out the
truth

•

•

•

•

Nonhle

Monday couldn't come in a hurry , and worse I'm late

Only because I started at the hospital to get checked for any STD's

And I'm clean no pregnancy I
still checked it even though I
took the morning after pill

No STD's or any STI's , I'll never
play careless like that ever again

No matter how handsome one
is , safety first

I'm welcomed by Gail with a
cup of fresh latté

And a hot chocolate muffin

Gail : just how you like them

Me : I feel so important right now , like I have a PA

We laugh I settle behind the desk and thank God for having a chair

Me : I know you want gossip

Gail : well

Me : there's nothing , and I'm
late as it is so please excuse
yourself

She laughs

Gail : you broke your after birth
virginity

Me : that's disgusting and
there's no such thing as that ,
leave

Just then Qaqambile walks in ,
looking as handsome as always .
I may hate him , but I can't take
anything away from him

And he has a young lawyer in
hand

Gail : what's his problem with
you ?

I shift my attention back to her

Me : who ?

Gail : him

I sigh

Me : nothing I wanna talk about
okay

Gail : I know you so there's no
way you slept with him , but
does he want to sleep with you
? We can always report him for
sexual harassment

Imagine if she were to find out
he's the baby daddy

Me : we're not reporting
anything

The phone rings and she
doesn't leave still , I answer

Me : Xa....

Voice : Ms Majola please come
to my office right away

And he drops the call

Me : such rudeness !

Gail : who's that ?

Me : Mr Xaluva

Gail : no ways , what did he say
?

Me : first he cut me off before
even saying anything , then he

asks me to come to his office .
But then just drops the call
before I say anything again

Gail : don't tell me you're dating
the big man , and now he knows
you went to groove and opened
your legs

Really ?

Me : Gail !

Gail : please don't tell me you're sleeping with him

Me : you know what I'm done with you

I call the temp to come and watch over the desk

Gail : then why does he want to see you ?

Me : how would I know that ?
When he called my desk I was
with you

I leave her there , I've even lost
my appetite right now .

I can't lose this job it's the only
thing I have that's keeping us
going

Maybe he knows I was late ,
and there's no report of why I
was late

The whole time in the elevator
I'm shaking , and my palms are
getting sweaty

I can't afford a panic attack
right now , it'll be like my first
time even being in his office

I always see him when he passes by reception and that's it

I get off the elevator and knock in his office , seconds later he shouts come in

I walk inside , and he has his head down on his laptop looking so busy

Me : sir you called

Mr Xaluva : come take a seat

His voice is friendly , but it also
has that I'm not your friend
tone

I sit down opposite him , he has
such a nice view to Joburg
South

Mr Xaluva : give me a second

Me : yes sir

That's even accompanied by a nod , that he's not even seeing

I'm sure in a minute he closes his laptop , and looks at me

I swear I almost jump off the seat

No ways !

For a second there I thought it's
the man from Friday

But his face is friendly , there
may be the same features here
and there . But he's friendly

And the dreadlocks are
different

Mr Xaluva : Ms Majola I have reason to believe that you have been with us for a year now ?

Me : yes almost sir

Mr Xaluva : and you started off as

He just looks at me , I believe that means I should continue

Me : an intern in legal practice

Mr Xaluva : you studied law

That's a statement , but I feel like I should answer him

And right now I feel like I'm in an interview

Me : yes sir

Mr Xaluva : then care to explain to me why you're working as a receptionist and not even as junior attorney ?

This pains me , because I went to law school for 4 years only to be a receptionist

Me : I....I can't seem to pass the bar sir

Mr Xaluva : here

I lift my head and he's holding out his handkerchief , I wipe my tears

I hate myself right now , crying in front of my boss like this

Mr Xaluva : what if I make you a proposal ?

Me : a proposal sir ?

Mr Xaluva : yes I want you to be my Personal assistant

No ways , in my level that's like an upgrade , from being an intern to a receptionist

And now being a PA to the big man himself , now listen to myself

Mr Xaluva : now what do you say ?

Okay , he needs an answer right now

Me : that would me a honour sir

The joy in me right now , it cannot be explained

Mr Xaluva : but only on two conditions

I'd hate to think he wants me to open my legs , he doesn't strike me like that kind

Mr Xaluva : you go back to write the bar

Me : sir I've done it twice and still failed

Mr Xaluva : let me finish talking

Me : I'm sorry

I look down again

Mr Xaluva : look at me

I lift my head and look at him

Mr Xaluva : that was condition two , condition one being that you let me help you study and prepare for it

No ways that God and my ancestors are looking down on me like this right now

Me : that would be amazing , but I can't afford

Mr Xaluva : I am paying for it Ms Majola and being my PA comes with an increase , but you will just have to bare sharing an office with me

What does he get out of all of this ? It surely just can't be only being his PA

Mr Xaluva : think about it , I just hate seeing potential going to waste . You belong in the court

room , and not answering calls
behind a desk

He's just hyped me right now
and he has no idea just how
much

Me : I'd be foolish to decline
this offer

He gives a slightly smile , and a
few changes here and there .

He would definitely be the man
from Friday

Why am I even thinking about
him right now ?

Mr Xaluva : I expect you to have
registered to write by the end
of the week , and tomorrow
you'll start to work from here .
Here is your contact go through
it , sign if you have no issues
take it back to HR . I'll have your

access card and key to this
office by the end of the day

I don't even know what to say , I
just take the contract and get
up

Me : thank you so much sir

He nods I turn to walk away
only to turn back and look at
him

Me : you're a busy man , where will you find the time to help me study ?

Mr Xaluva : let me worry myself about that

It's done , need I say no more

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

Even on a quest life still has to
go on , and that's what I'm
trying to do

But it's fucking hard , from time
to time I'd smell her scent and
hope that she's near

But lack that feeling that she's
really near , and I'd realise that
it's just me wishing

I'm driving to the rank and my
sister calls me

I hope this is not about coming
here , I don't want her

Liyana is a lot to deal with ,
from a young age she's just a lot
. And I just can't

Don't get me wrong I love her
so much , but I also appreciate

any chance of having my space
from her

Me : MaXaluva

She giggles and that warms my
heart

She's our baby

Me : what do I owe this
pleasure ?

Liyana : worry not , I know you
still don't want me to come

Me : that's a relief

Liyana : okay that's not nice ,
don't be so mean

I sigh , this is what I mean .
She's just a lot

Liyana : are you alone ?

And now she's whispering

Me : yes

Liyana : something strange
happened when I went to the
water

It must really be strange for her
to call me

Me : I'm listening

Liyana : grandfather visited me

Now I'm driving I so cannot lose control of this taxi

I have to focus on her and on driving

Me : yes

This is big , and I can tell she
hasn't told anyone

Liyana : I'm scared to tell
mommy and daddy , they might
not believe me

I feel the way her heart beat is
beating right now

Me : MaXaluva I believe you

She heaves a sigh a of relief

I guess this is what she was
hoping for

Just someone to believe her

Liyana : he said something

Me : okay

Liyana : I can't say exactly what he said , but I need to ask a question

Me : okay ask

I have to be subtle right now , so she can open up and trust that she's safe with me

Liyana : are you seeing anyone right now ? Or is there someone

you plan to marry besides the princess daddy will choose ?

So it's about me , of course it is .
And for Isilo to appear to my sister , it means he needs intervention

Me : no there's no one

Liyana : hah okay then

She sounds relived

Me : MaXaluva can I ask ?

We may be the same age , but
she's still the last born

And right now I'm being kind
and polite as possible

Liyana : of course

Me : am I not supposed to be with someone else ?

Liyana : I don't know about that ? And I think it's what's confusing me as well

Me : okay , don't worry we'll figure this out together okay

Liyana : okay , but can I tell mommy and daddy this ?

Me : you don't want to tell them

Liyana : no I don't want to

Me : then it's our little secret

Liyana : okay , don't you want to know who the princess is ?

Me : I really don't care to know

Liyana : okay

Me : is there anything else ? I'm
at the rank now

Liyana : no there's nothing

Me : okay thank you for the call
, and listen to me

Liyana : I'm listening

Me : if there's something you're ought to do just do it okay , and don't shy away from anything

Liyana : okay thank you , and I think I know exactly what to do

Me : MaXaluva

Liyana : Isilo

We hang up , okay war will
brew

Because I am not about to
succumb to what my father or
Isilo wants

I take orders from no on

That won't change now

.

.

.

.

Liyana

I'm all packed and ready to leave , but I want to have a word with my parents

After the talk with my brother , I think it's best maybe I get involved that's if my father lets me

Me : mommy and daddy

Mom : what do you want ?

Me : you have no chill like none whatsoever , I just need a word

Dad : I don't want to talk to any of you

Me : but why daddy ?

Dad : you're all leaving

Me : we have our lives to get back to , and we stayed longer compared to some people I know

The mood changes and I might as well say it right now

Me : daddy I have a request ?

Dad : what ?

Me : can I please help in
choosing a bride for Isilo ?

The look they both give me , but
I'm hoping my cuteness works
for me right now

Mom : why are you so obsessed
with this ?

Me : I'm not

Mom : first Actually what's going on ?

Me : nothing mommy

The good thing being me is being able to block everyone

Except my uncle Africa who is my guide , and my brother only because he's Isilo

And more powerful than all of us in this house combined , even my dad

Dad : what do you want to do ?

Me : maybe know the princess first , see the kind and type of a person she is . Get to know her better , help her learn our ways . And to see if she'll be able to handle the throne , and Isilo

Mom : you're very suspicious
Liyana , because I know you to
be self centred and not like this

My mother is brutal , don't
bother wondering where
Lumkile gets this

Me : mommy

I sulk , and it works on my dad

Dad : I think it's an amazing
thing you want to help

Me : so is that a yes ?

Dad : yes , so I'll let you know
once I've found her and we'll
take it from there

Me : thank you so much daddy

Mom : hayhiiii uqhelele sham
(no you're used to it)

The one thing we've always
fought for , she thinks I'm spoilt
and dramatic which is so not
true

Look at me right now doing the
most to help my brother , what
does that say about me Princess
Liyana Xaluva

That says a lot , I know

.

.

.

.

INSERT 05

Liyana

We're leaving today , we sure
stayed home for so long

I'm a bit sad leaving without
having talked with my
grandmother

But her one chance to see me
was taken by Isilo , and I'm
guessing she agreed to that

Mom : take care of yourself
okay

Me : always mommy

These cheek kisses from her are
always the best

Mom : I love you sweetheart

Me : I love you too my queen

Luxolo : stop being a baby

He says pushing me off our mother , just so he can get his own mother bear hug as well

Me : I don't like you

Mom : he's your brother , you love him

Me : I don't know

They laugh , daddy walks in

Me : we're leaving

He laughs

Dad : but I know that , and I can
see very well

Me : yeah well

Luthando : it'll be a while before
I'm back again

What's he talking about ?

Dad : the kind of sons I was
given

I walk closer to him and snuggle
for a hug

Dad : see why I never had any
kids after you five ?

We five !!

Wow , such parents we have

Me : daddy

He laughs along with his wife

Luxolo : you did good , we're enough

Luthando : and kids are meant to be enjoyed , not like they're going to be sold off at a dairy like cows

I don't know but that did not even make sense to me at all

Mom : we hear you

She gives him a hug

Dad : be safe

Luxolo : we will Kumkani (my king)

The parents walk us out . One of the drivers will take us to the airport

Because we're taking different flights , back to where we live

My heart is heavy but I'm also happy to go back to my life

We bid the parents goodbye , and it's a sad moment

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

I walk in without even knocking
, my mother says I take this ugly
habit from my father

Apparently it was his thing to
just walk in without knocking

Even at people's houses

Lonwabo : I could be naked in
here

I ignore him , as a familiar scent catches my nostrils . And I know it's hers

I'm best at this smelling thing , without even having the beast . I just take credit for that one personally

Me : well you're not

Lonwabo : you got it ?

I walk to his desk

Me : I'm not your delivery man

Lonwabo : I asked

Me : and I was working

Lonwabo : you were in between
my house and here

Me : still I had passengers

Lonwabo : why are you making
this a big deal ? Because you
were going both ways

I hand him his file

Lonwabo : thank you

Me : mhm

Lonwabo : I can stick you for lunch

Me : don't you have a girlfriend ?

He laughs

Lonwabo : forget , and it saves me money as well

Me : whatever

I turn to walk out , only a desk
on the far end catches my eye

And it wasn't there before ,
that's where the scent is
coming from

Lonwabo : are you okay ?

I side eye him and walk towards
the desk , the scent gets

stronger . It's like she's right here

There's an access card laying on the desk , I take a look at it

And it has her picture , name and surname

So what do you know , she's my brother's PA

I didn't have to look far , I turn
and look at him . He's also
looking at me

Me : who's this ?

Lonwabo : Nonhle Majola , my
new PA an aspiring attorney to
be . That's if she can pass her
bar

Me : I see

I put the card back

Me : so she's just a PA and
nothing more ?

I don't want to fight for a
woman with Lonwabo , it won't
end well

Lonwabo : yes she's...how do I
put it ? She seems complicated

Complicated is fine for me

Me : okay

He laughs

Lonwabo : I have morals , I
don't fuck employees . And I'm
still yet to get to know her
better

By the time he knows her better
, she will be mine . And I don't
share

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

This new job gives me a better chance at aiming for a better life than this

Surely I can be able to find us a place , and stop paying rent every month

Because I sure feel that in my pockets , and that forces me to cut off short on other things

I've settled in just fine , I have my own desk right there . It's just a beautiful set up

And this view from the big window it's just amazing

My brother was so happy for me last night , it was the first time I see him proud of me like that

And that just gave me an urge to want to do even much more better

That's why I'm scheduled to go register for writing the bar again today

Gail : so the rumours are true ?

I'm at the café having my latté

Me : what rumours ?

She grabs a seat and sits down

Gail : you're the big man's PA
now ?

Of course everyone surely
knows by now , just a day and
it's everyone's gossip

Me : yes , and I did not sleep
with anyone Gail

Gail : Beautiful come on , what
do you take me for ?

Me : glad we understand each
other

Gail : nonetheless I'm happy for you , you really deserve this

Me : thank you

Gail : I would say drinks on me but....

Me : no ways , it'll be a while before I'm out getting drunk again

She laughs

Gail : fine , then lunch Saturday

Me : it's month end , so
shopping with Zenande

Gail : I'll tag along

Me : okay then

Gail : let me grab coffee , we
can walk together

Just then her phone rings , she
sighs

Gail : it's hubby

Me : I'll see you

Gail : I got your bill

You'll swear this one is a sister ,
and she's not even a friend .
That's latté money saved

I get up giving her a wave as she
answers her phone . The
weather is not that good today

It was raining cats and dogs in
the morning , no formal
whatever today

Just skinny jeans and long boots
and coats

As i cross the street a stupid taxi
comes and parks right into a
pool of water splashing that
right on my coat

I'm so furious right now , I can
kill someone

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

What a way for things to work
for me , poor Ndumiso is busy
apologizing and seems like she's
not having it

I walk to them , she's not even
seeing me

Me : Ndu

She turns my way , and all that
anger fades away . May I
forever have this effect on her

Ndu : nduna (boss)

Me : hamba ndoda (leave)

Ndu : once again sisi ngiyaxolisa
kakhulu (I'm really sorry)

She says nothing , he leaves

I take my hoodie off , and take
her wet coat off

My touch has such an effect on
her , so much that right now
she's not hearing this coldness

Me : he didn't do that
deliberately

She looks at me

She lets me put the hoodie on
her

Nonhle : now my outfit is ruined

She's a woman who always
wants to be on point

Me : it's cold , would you rather
get sick because of an outfit , or
just stay warm

She brings her hands together ,
and she's just taking my scent in
from my hoodie . What a
fucking technique she just
pulled

Me : when do I see you again ?

She wasn't expecting that , but I
won't beat around the bush
with her

Nonhle : you don't

I move way too close to her ear

Me : you left your bra at my
house , I don't cross dress I'd
like you to come get it

I move back slowly , and she's
red with shyness

Me : tonight ?

Nonhle : I....I can't . And I have
to leave now

Me : in such a hurry ?

Nonhle : I have to rush to UJ

Me : go get your things I'll take
you

Nonhle : I....

Me : I wasn't asking you

We stare at each other for a while saying nothing , before she walks into the building

And I'll wait until she comes back

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

Is this the universe working for me , or its working against me ?

My boss lets me leave , because it was his word that the sooner I register the faster I get to write again

He didn't mind

I walk out and he's right next to a taxi and it's empty no passengers

Him : let's go

He opens the other door for me , I cannot believe this . I wait until he's inside and he drives heading to UJ

Me : did you threaten the driver
for his taxi?

He looks at me and I get
nothing from that look

I shrug

Me : like....

Him : this is my taxi , and that
driver drives one of my taxis

Wait , he's a taxi driver ? Okay
I'm not judging but he doesn't
look like a taxi driver

Him : that bothers you ?

Me : why would it ?

Him : I ask a question , you
don't answer it with a question
back

I should be used to dealing with grumpy men but no , so I keep quite

Him : we need to talk

Me : we do ?

Him : yeah , the braveness and liver you got woman . To fucking pull a hit and run on me

That was so classic , I deserve a
pat on the back

Men think we sleep with them
because we want to lure them
in

But why must we talk about
that now ?

Me : we.....

Him : you don't get to do that
shit on me , and I want you to
be mine . Simple as that

No marn , is this how woman
are courted these days ? Like no
sweet talks absolutely nothing ,
what happened to romance ?

Me : like really ?

Him : we already made love to each other , we might as well continue doing so . Adding to giving each other love

Where do they make them like this ? This guy has no romantic bone in his body like nothing

Him : is this highschool ? Where you need time to think about it ?

Now he's just dissing me , so indirectly but I feel it

Me : no

Him : okay then it's settled , give me your number

He says handing his phone , I take it . I never thought my next

relationship would start in this manner

I'm so glad I don't even have friends , because explaining how I became his girlfriend would be the most embarrassing moment ever

He pleased me like a lover , and only courted me like a control freak

Him : those numbers better be the right ones

Me : were you dealt before or you just don't trust me ?

Him : after that shit you pulled one , would you trust yourself ?

Someone please save me from this

Like how does he throw shade at me using myself ?

Him : give me my phone back , andibetshi njalo (I'm not betting)

I hand him his phone back

Me : you're not a nice person

He side eyes me

Him : you'll love me anyways

Me : I don't even know your
name

And he parks at the gate

Him : tell me when you're done
, I'll come or send someone

This one is a movie I tell you

See me getting my flat ass off
his taxi

.

.

.

.

INSERT 06

Nonhle

I guess the heavens are
agreeing

I was able to register and I have
just a month to prepare and be
able to pass

I really hope my boss can come through for me , I don't know how this studying will come about

Now I'm all done waiting for a person I don't even have means to contact

He's the one who took my numbers , I didn't take his . That

was just pure stupidity on my side

He said I should tell him , he must have thought that I made means to have his numbers as well

Voice : KaMajola

I turn and I still feel like I can kill him right now

Me : not you again I....

My phone rings and it's a
number I don't recognise I
answer

Me : hello ?

Him : that's not how you
answer my calls

Please somebody save me from this guy , how was I supposed to know that it's him ?

And what am I supposed to say answering his call

Me : did you have to send him ?

Him : be nice , I can't come get you because I have to go to Pretoria I'll be a while and take

longer . I'll call you later , I love
you okay

He drops the call , and I look at
this one who spilled water on
me

Wait he said he loves me , but
did not even give me a chance
to say it back

Whoa I love him back ?

After a whole two years and this
is how I get into a relationship

I'm shocked at myself

How did this one even know my
surname ?

This is creepy

.

.

.

.

Liyana

The door opens and she walks in , usually I would throw myself at her

But I'm sad , I spent the night alone and she wasn't reachable

I should be used to this , her disappearing acts out of the blue . But it doesn't hurt wishing she was different

Summer : baby

I look at her

Summer : I'm sorry my lovie

Me : I missed you

She puts her car keys on the table and walks to me . She

takes the dish cloth from me ,
and puts it in the sink

Summer : I'm sorry , I wasn't
expecting you yesterday . And
your cute self didn't find me
home

Her hands rests on my waist

Me : listen to you trying to be
cute , and it's not working

She smiles , I can't help but
soften up

Summer : you weren't going to
find me with a woman here

Me : you would both be death

She laughs bringing her face
closer to mine

Summer : it was so cold without you , I plan to make it warm and hot again

I was so sad arriving home and finding it empty , I even regretted coming back

I wanted a warm welcome , and all the works and a night filled with love

Me : I'm....

She kisses me I kiss her back , of course I can't resist

She picks me up and puts me on the kitchen counter , not breaking the kiss

Her hands go up and down my thighs , she slowly lifts my skirt up

Her hand rests on my bare
coochie , she slowly pull out of
the kiss pulling my lower lip

Summer : were you playing
without me ?

Me : no

Self service is nothing compared
to playing with her

She inserts one finger in and I'm ready for her , she plays around with it inside of me

Me : Ahh baby

Another finger comes in , I settle fine

Meeting her pace I move my waist slowly

She lets out moans in my mouth
, deepening the kiss . I rub on
my clit as her fingers do the
most inside of me

I bring her closer with my legs ,
locking them on her waist

As I feel pleasure coming , I
push her off she laughs . I'm
panting like crazy

Me : don't tire me already

She says nothing and just picks me off the counter , we walk go the bedroom

Clothes go off , I'm laid down on the bed

She's just standing over me

Summer : don't look at me like
that

Me : you're such a sexy
creature

She smiles I giggle

Summer : you're telling me

She gets on the bed , and goes
down

Me : but baby I want you

Summer : uh-huh

I nod , she gets on top of me
and turns . She moves up a bit
her pussy all exposed to me

I have such an itch to scratch , I
hold on her waist . And part my
legs further for her

She brings her face down her
tongue graces me

I hold her waist down giving
kisses to her pussy

She has fun with her tongue
eating me up down there

My tongue invades her

She ends up grinding on my tongue , a few slaps on her ass cheeks

She's all fired up letting out all her cum inside of my mouth , slowly I swallow

Giving kisses to her pussy , I explode on my own she licks me with her tongue

She turns over , we face each other she comes up and we kiss

Summer : one day you're going to choke from this shit

We laugh , it's going to be a great night

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

I need to have a chat with
Liyana , about that conversation
she had with Isilo

Already I knew the intentions I had about kaMajola , I just didn't want to admit that to my sister

But now it's official , and there's also the marriage coming

I know my father won't give up , and I also can't avoid it

It's not even about having a
choose one or whatever , but I
just have to marry a blue blood
wife

And at some point I have to
break this to kaMajola , I'm not
stringing her along

I love her , and wether I'll love
the princess or not it really
doesn't matter

Not being able to fetch her
yesterday I felt bad , having
Ndumiso drop her home

Helped me knowing where she
lives , and now I'm standing
outside her gate

I'll take her to work , then get
back to the rank . I've already
done two loads this morning

So I'm not loosing out on anything

Few minutes later she comes out , in black formal pants white shirt black blazer sleeves rolled up a bit

And back stilettos , with a red matte lipstick .

She sees me and walks over ,
I'm leaning against my taxi

Nohle : how....

I just bring her closer , capturing
her lips and kissing her . She
kisses me back

I relive our first night all over
again , a whole fucking

perfection . With this perfect
beautiful woman

Me : that's how you greet me

She smiles and it's so perfect ,
she has this serious persona
about her

When she smiles it's just
beautiful and pleasing

Me : tell me I don't have this
thing of yours

She giggles , wiping my lips

Nonhle : it's no bother , you're a
taken man now

See she's claimed me , no ways
I'll ever let go of her

Me : mhm

Nohle : you're fine now

I open the door for her she gets
in , I go to my side and drive

Nonhle : will this be a norm ?

Me : everyday

She just smiles chuckling

Nonhle : what happens when days like yesterday occur ? Will you send your driver's again ?

Me : no , I really don't want any man near you

Nonhle : ah we there ?

I chuckle

Me : already

She goes quite , and I hope she takes that as serious . I'm not really kidding about it

Me : can you drive ?

Nonhle : yes

I side eye her

Me : where did you buy that
licence ?

She laughs , and it's the most
sweetest thing like ever

Nonhle : I did not , I paid R4 000
for that

Me : with an added amount of
bribe

Nonhle : don't we all ?

Me : I did not

Nonhle : and I'm not shocked

I think I just got my own shot
right there

But I'm glad she can drive

It'll make life easier for her ,
than having to take taxi's
everyday

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

He's a boyfriend now , so he's never getting his hoodie back

And he can keep that bra of mine , what he does with it is his problem not mine

I walk inside the building and I just have bad luck for Gail

Me : good morning Ms Kim

Gail : Beautiful , something is different with you

Me : can you believe I'm now to be dropped and picked at work by my boyfriend ?

She squeals

Me : not so much noise

Gail : boyfriend ? Where and
how ... like when did it happen ?
How did you....

Me : my club gone guy is the
taxi driver boyfriend

The look she gives me is just so
priceless , I get in the elevator
leaving her there alone

Gail : wait....

Too late , but I just had to share
these news of my life

I never thought I'll see myself
dating a taxi driver , but here I
am

And I have a feeling this will be good for me , and I hope I'm not wrong this time around

I got burnt once and was left with a whole person , and now I'm all on my own with her

But nonetheless I'm happy and so very much in love with her

It's a shame walking in the office and my boss has arrived .
I hope I'm not late

Me : good morning sir

He looks up with that smile of his , the white perfect teeth

Why am I even there on his features again ? I have my one night man and happy

Mr Xaluva : Ms Majola , I have great news for you this morning

Already on a Tuesday what did I do ?

Mr Xaluva : relax , I got a confirmation from the university that you've registered to take the bar

I heave a relief sigh

Me : oh yes it was successful

Mr Xaluva : great soon you'll be one of us , do me proud and you'll be a junior for a few months only

Wouldn't that be amazing ? But I want to work my flat ass off

And not step on any toes going up , I don't want enemies here

Me : I'd be honoured sir

Me a whole criminal lawyer , can't wait for that . But the bar still once again stands between me and reaching that

Mr Xaluva : leave me your details so I can contact you ,

about how we'll go regarding
the studying

Me : will do

Mr Xaluva : and it'll obviously
have to be after office hours

That ! I don't know how that
man of mine will feel , he might
just tell me no

Me : I understand

I can't say no , I need this help .

And this right here is the best
lawyer I know

.

.

.

.

INSERT 07

Lumkile

Knowing how much I need to call Liyana , I'm always so caught up

I never get enough time to call her , I can't just make a quick 5 minutes call with her

I have to be on my best
behaviour and beg her first ,
before she can open up

Liyana is something else ,
annoying yes

But we've gotten to know her
the way she is

A call from my father , that can
never be pleasing at all

And I have my woman coming
over tonight , even though she
said she won't be able to spend
the night

I don't want my father ruining
my mood , that I'll end up
ruining our night together

Those few hours will still matter

Because I don't plan to make
them go to waste

Me : Kumkani (my king)

Dad : are you well ?

Oh he's asking how life is ? This
will be interesting

Me : yes

Dad : good because king Zweli
and I have come to an
agreement , you will be
marrying his princess

I don't even know who that is

Like I have no idea at all

Me : I see

Dad : in a few weeks you will have to come home , so we can finalize this

Me : understood

Can that woman be beautiful , even half what my woman is it's fine

Dad : I'm glad we had this civil

Me : no need to fight the
inevitable

Dad : until we talk again

We hang up as the door opens ,
someone has her man's
tendencies she doesn't knock

I chuckle shaking my head
slightly , looking at her

.

•

•

•

Nonhle

Two days into the relationship
and I'm already making house
visits

But what's the point maybe I'm
even late , and worse I've been
in this house already

And did some amazing deed in
this beautiful custom made
lounge

With all imported furniture ,
some taxi driver this guy is . And
it's very suspicious

A whole double story house in
Sandton , I saw about 5 taxis
parked outside

And two cars , and now that I'm
inside I get to see it very well .
Better than last time

Because I was being pleased
that day

And I didn't even bother to look
at anything

In the morning I just ran out like
a thief , the things we do

Him : what's on your mind ?

What else can be on my mind ,
while we're cuddled in this very
same couch we made love on

Me : nothing

Lumkile : you're such a bad liar

I smile

Me : then why ask ?

Lumkile : because I would love
to have you underneath me
right now naked as fuck

I can't handle this man

Lumkile : but I'll rather get to
know you

So not him at all , like he didn't
even court me in a courting
manner

Me : I don't even know your
name

And we're back at it again

Him : what do you want to call
me ?

Not baby or love that's certain

Me : with you name

Him : such disrespect

He's a taxi driver of course ,
what do I expect ?

Me : okay then your surname ?
Surely you can tell me that , I'll
take it

Him : Xaluva

That's Xhosa , he doesn't even
strike me as one . Not that
we're written on our foreheads

Me : ngok mna ndik'bize ngo
Xaluva ? (So I have to call you)

Him : ewe (yes)

Me : at least tell me your name
then , I'll still call you with your
surname

He goes quite again , I'm sure
his name is the most ugliest or
funniest name ever

Why doesn't he want to tell me
his name ? Like what's so hard
with that ?

Me : okay ke Xaluva

Him : Lumkile

I take my words back and
swallow them , and for that he
gets a peck on the lips

That he pulls and turns into a
full blown kiss , one that's very
much welcomed

Lumkile : you want to naked ?

I laugh going back to my
cuddling position

Me : what are the odds that my
boss is also a Xaluva ?

Lumkile : that's unique

Feeling ourselves much don't
we ?

Lumkile : you look so tiny to be
a lawyer

I may look tiny , but I'm old
enough

Me : I'm not a lawyer but a PA
to the owner of the law firm ,
I've only just registered to take
the bar if I pass that then I can
be a lawyer

Lumkile : mhm I see , why didn't you say not a lawyer yet ?

Me : I've failed that stupid thing twice now , I don't want to get my hopes high for nothing

Lumkile : you need a hard slap of confidence

He did not , I try to look at him he holds me down

Me : right maybe I'll get it this time

Lumkile : why maybe ?

Here goes nothing

Me : my boss offered to help me study and prepare for it

The silence

Me : and....it will have to be
after hours

Lumkile : where ?

Me : I don't know he didn't say
yet , maybe at the office

His silence don't strike me as
good

Me : it's the only chance I have of even standing a chance to pass the bar . But if you're not okay with that , I can tell him no it's fine

Lumkile : I already made peace with a bad ass lawyer wife right by my side , you think I want to stand in between you and achieving that ?

And he keeps surprising me , I
guess the ball is in my court
right now

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

Do I trust my brother ? I sure do
, but he's a man and she's a
fucking beautiful woman

Do I trust my woman ? More
than I can trust myself , so I
know she won't do anything like
that

I don't know if telling her that we're brothers is the best thing or not

Last night we spent the whole time just talking , and nothing else

But the truth about who I am didn't even come out by piece

And I can't keep running away
from this , I take my phone and
call my sister

Liyana : Isilo

She's in a happy mood , which is
good for me

Me : MaXaluva , how are you
my princess ?

Liyana : forever so formal , but
nonetheless I am well

Me : I'm glad to hear that , I'm
well too

Liyana : but you don't call for no
reason

Me : your conversation with
Isilo

Liyana : yes

I feel her heartbeat changing ,
she's very unsure of this
conversation between us now

Me : relax , remember you're
talking to me

I'm calm as ever

Liyana : yes

Me : get a glass of water and
calm down

Liyana : a minute

I wait while she gets water

Liyana : I'm here

It's still beating fast , making me
annoyed in a way

Unfortunately for me I can't control what's inside of me , it doesn't control me either

We're not different , we're not beast and human . We're one thing

Me : what exactly did he say ?

Liyana : word for word ?

She's going to lose it , the way
she's so nervous right now

Sometimes I feel like Liyana is
still 5 , she has these baby
tendencies

And you'd think taking so long
to ask her , I've mastered to get
her to calm down

Me : no , just tell me however
way

Liyana : that you have given
your heart to another , which
you were supposed to give to
your betrothed

Me : the royal wife ?

Liyana : I think so yes

My arms start to hurt , like my bones are breaking

Me : what else did he say ?

Liyana : that when the time comes you will do what's right , but there will be disputes

Me : what does he want you to do ?

Liyana : Isilo I think I'm still
trying to figure that one out

Me : okay then thank you

I drop the call , and the phone
drops down coming in contact
with the floor it shatters into
pieces

I heat up like crazy and these
damn wings , I go down

groaning in pain to suppress all
this

.

.

.

.

Lonwabo

My back itches and I'm at work ,
I can't have this happening now

It means Lumkile is changing
where he is

Only he can affect me like this

I grab my car keys and run out ,
not caring who sees me

They'll gossip that I ran out of
the office , then it'll be over

I get into my car and call him ,
but his phone goes to voicemail

The itch doesn't get any better ,
and I can't fucking scratch . It's
a race to his house

I have gained red tickets for this
, but he's richer than me he will
pay for them

I get to his house and run inside
, I'm welcomed by Isilo all out

I want to run for my life right
now , and I have no time to
change because I have to
acknowledge him

I face him better when I'm an animal like him , but in human form

I'm scared to face this , but who wouldn't . This thing is scary

He walks towards me , I go down on my knees . If he kills me I'll come back and haunt him

I don't even know what caused
him to change , to begin with

Me : the great Isilo

Isilo : am I not acknowledged
enough ?

The fucking light falls ,
shattering right next to me
cutting my hand in the process

Isilo : I don't want to be
controlled

Something else falls again , I
have no idea what

Can I just find a way to tame
him down , before this whole
house comes crumbling down

This is rage

But what got him so angry ?

He moves circling me , I'm so close to shitting myself

Isilo : leave

Me : w....

Isilo : leave !

I can take any death but not
having a house crumble on me

Nor bring eaten by this beast ,
so yeah I'm leaving

Who am I lying to ? I get up and
walk out

Only to stand right outside at
the door

At some point he will calm
down , or I'll change and I'll be
able to face him

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

I will never understand men , or
maybe it's just me

I'm cursed or what I don't know

It's been two days now and I haven't seen Lumkile , nor heard anything from him

But he has that Ndumiso coming to pick me up in the morning , and dropping me off after work

I can't reach him on his phone , and strange even my boss is gone to where it beats me

I don't know what I did now , to
be ghosted like this . But it hurts

Zenande : mamu (mom)

Aren't we so beautiful , in our
pink shorts and matching top

With pink flip flops and two
buns

My brother is a lot of things ,
but the way he takes care of my
child for me

I'll always appreciate him for
dear life

Me : semhle ke (you're so
beautiful)

Zenande : mhle (beautiful)

Me : ewe umhle uZenande (yes
you're beautiful)

Zenande : Nande (Zenande)

Yes she will repeat whatever
you say , and tell you what I
never get tired

Nyaniso : what time will you be
back ?

Me : around 14:00 , we will
meet with Gail

Nyaniso : okay Faith is coming
over

Me : okay that's fine

Nyaniso : watch her

He gives her a peck and leaves

Me : masambe ke (lets leave)

It's Saturday , yesterday was
payday and guess what ?

I got paid for the PA job so
more money

Now I'm taking this beautiful
person to the mall , she
deserves it

If I had means I'd spoil her
everyday , but I don't so I work
with what I have

Meaning every month end she
goes out , and have a treat

.

.

.

.

INSERT 08

Nonhle

Shopping with this person of mine , is never a dull moment

We are supposed to be shopping for groceries now

But sisters is putting everything
junk you can think of in her
small basket

I don't even know where she
got that basket

Because through the door she
didn't have it , and this is not on
at all

For three days I got so used to free taxi rides to and from work , but now they've disappeared

I don't even know if they'll come back or what , so I need to save money for transport

Me : Zenande

Zenande : mamu (mom)

Me : khayeke (leave that)

Zenande : afuna nje (I want it)

Me : sana wena awuphangeli
(baby you're not working)

She frowns

Me : yeka masambe (leave ,
let's go)

She follows me looking so angry
, this child

A few shopping here and there
and I've lost her

Me : why did I become a
mother again ?

And I'm sure she went back to
the sweets and snacks isle again

.

•

•

•

Lumkile

Feels good being human again ,
even though Lonwabo kept me
locked

For some shitty reason , and
had to remove the parts of the
house that got ruined

I'm fine now , all is fine . I was
just reacting to emotions . Upon
hearing what Isilo said and of

course what my family wants ,
more like what my father wants
. It's just all about him

And I think I've just gathered
this , and figured out Isilo's
message

But for me to do this well , I
need to bring kaMajola closer to
me more than ever

I have no problem marrying the princess , but I'm not losing the woman that has my heart

I'm bumped by the most chubby cutest small person ever

And she's opened three packs of different snacks here , a packet of sweets and a whole chocolate

The pink clothes , are seven colours now . She's a cute mess . She looks at me , we stare at each other

Her : sowi (sorry)

Ah now that's cute

Me : aren't you just the most cutest human ever

I crouch down to her level , she doesn't even seem scared of me

Me : mna ndingu Lumkile ,
ungubani wena igama lakho ?
(My name is Lumkile , what is your name)

She smiles

Her : Nande

I have no idea what that is it
doesn't even make sense

You can tell though , she hasn't
figured her speech out

And she's so short to even be
walking

I wonder how old she is

Me : uphi umamakho ? (Where is your mother)

Her : mamu

This is cute , it has literally put a smile on my face right now

She giggles , and this giggle sounds familiar

Her : phi yena mamu ?

That's a question , and I think it has something to do with her mother

Like where is she ?

Me : ndibuza wena mna (I'm asking you)

Her : buza (ask)

I laugh she ends up laughing

Voice : Zenande kodwa utheni ?
(What's it with you)

Now what do we know ? I get
up and I've just known the
name of my best friend

Zenande : mamu (mom)

She smiles

I've gathered that's what it means , and my very own woman is the mother of this cute person

She just looks at me watching over this small person

Gathering the snacks and things she opened putting them in the trolley

Nonhle : ndithe uyeke (I told you to stop)

Zenande : afuna (I want it)

Nonhle : une pay check ? (Do you have a)

Zenande : check

This small person is just living
it's the most beautiful thing
ever

Nonhle : uncinga ndidlala nawe
(you think I'm joking with you)

All this hostility is directed at
me , and I hate that the baby is
feeling it

Me : kaMajola

She stops , but still not looking at me

Me : ndiyathetha njalo (I'm talking)

She looks at me slowly , and she's hurt . But I'll fix it

Me : you have a child and I don't know

She looks down

Me : seems like there's a lot to
talk about , finish shopping so
we can go home

Nonhle : I....

Me : I'm not asking

Nonhle : no Xaluva , you don't
get to do this . For two days I
couldn't find you

Me : I know that , and I'll
explain let's go

Nonhle : I'll rather not

I take her hand

Nonhle : I don't want to regret
this

Me : you won't

We stare at each other , for a
while

Me : I know you want to kiss me
so bad right now

She smiles

Me : but you won't , we have a child here

I still side eye this person with us , so she doesn't get lost

Nonhle : I can't go to your house with her though

Me : why not ?

Nonhle : mjonge (look at her)

Me : she's fine

And she's back taking things off
the shelves

Now she's not opening them ,
but putting inside the trolley

Nonhle : kodwa Zenande

Me : leave her

Nonhle : I don't have money to
pay for all this

Me : and I didn't say you're
paying for them

For a few minutes we're
standing in here , those she
can't reach I help her

When my two ladies are done with shopping I pay , having to also get a car seat now because I don't have it

The car ride home is quite , the junk lady is asleep now . And this one of my heart is angry

We arrive at my house , I take the little miss to bed . Right here downstairs , the room near the lounge so we can hear her

I walk back to the kitchen ,
someone is making a sandwich

Me : where is the father ?

Nonhle : he denied her

She's just indulging me right
now , because she's not happy
with me

But she's answering me either
way

Me : is he not around ?

Nonhle : not to her or me

Me : kaMajola what does that
mean ?

She sits down

Nonhle : we work at the same firm , he's a lawyer there

I go quite , this law firm better not be a problem for me

Nonhle : I'm sorry I didn't tell you , I should have told you this

She's right about that , but it's no big deal for me . Nor is it a deal breaker

Nonhle : does this changes anything ?

Me : no

Nonhle : you don't mind that I have such a small child ?

The things women bother themselves with , I wouldn't mind even if she was pregnant

As long as the father is gone ,
then I'll step up and be that
father

Me : how old is she ?

Nonhle : a year and a few
months

I could tell , she shouldn't even
be walking

Me : something crazy happened here . The house got damaged a bit , and I had to attend to that . My phone got shattered in the process , I still haven't gotten a new one even now . I'll sort that out later

She eats

Me : won't you say anything ?

Nonhle : you didn't tell me
anything either , but it's fine
leave it . Just tell me one thing

Me : what ?

Nonhle : I'm not being replaced
now am I ?

Me : no , that can never happen

I hold her waist turning her to
face me

Nonhle : okay then

I plant soft kisses on her neck

Nonhle : please let me eat

Me : spend the night

Nonhle : no

Me : with her

Nonhle : no , the gro....

Me : it's just groceries they
won't go off , tomorrow you'll
go home it's Sunday anyway

Nonhle : we don't even have
clothes here

Me : it's just clothes we can
buy some tomorrow

I just want her next to me the
whole night

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

Call me weak it's okay , we
ended up spending the night

I called Nyaniso to get the
groceries from Ndumiso , he

was called over to take them
home

My brother wasn't happy about
the sleeping out

But he just assumed I'm
sleeping at Gail's house

To think I had to call her , to
cancel for the mall meet up

We're still in bed , but me and
this one we're awake . And I'm
sure Xaluva is awake as well

Just that he's covered himself ,
and the way my baby is looking
around

She sees that this is not home ,
and coming here with her . I
think I'm moving way too fast

I wasn't hiding the fact that I
have a child , I don't know what
I was waiting for either

Zenande : mamu (mom)

Me : sthandwa sam (my love)

Zenande : bani lo ? (Who is this
)

I laugh a bit

She's already outside the sheets

Me : andimazi wethu , mbuze
wena (I don't know , ask him
yourself)

Does she not shake the poor
man , but it serves him right

Me : ask him

Zenande : Bani wena ? (Who are you)

She's surprised kalok , we are always alone in bed

Today we wake up in a different house , and we have someone in bed with us

My baby though

Lumkile : ndi ngu tatakho (I'm your father)

Okay no , he did not !

Like , no he did not

The look on her face , he says already uncovering himself

I don't know if she's shocked by hearing the words your dad

Or seeing that it's the same guy
from yesterday

Zenande : mamu tatam ? (Mom
he's my dad)

Kodwa undenza nton uLumkile
(but what is he doing to me)

This child doesn't know
anything called dad

Lumkile : don't give me that look , I'm not playing games with you . This us is the real thing

Now what do I say ?

Me : I can take you hurting me but not my....

Lumkile : our child

Someone please save me

Lumkile : she's my daughter as much as she's yours . Even if we don't work out , you'll never deny me access to her

I think something is really wrong with Lumkile , and it's no little thing

.

•

•

•

INSERT 09

Liyana

My father telling me that
they've chosen King Zweli's
daughter as my brother's wife

I don't know how I feel about
that , but I don't like it one bit

I don't know her that well , I've
see her like once or twice

My blood just doesn't go with her , and something tells me she might be a danger

I don't know how to stop this whole thing , and I haven't heard anything from my brother

I don't know if he's aware of this , or what . And I'm so eager to know what he thinks

I'm on a conference call with
the other three

Lonwabo : king Zweli's daughter
?

Me : yeah

Luxolo : why her ?

Luthando : why not her ?

Luxolo : we're talking about
Lumkile here

Luthando : he'll live with it , he
knew it was coming

Lonwabo : enough you two !

Always at loggerheads

Lonwabo : this is Lumkile's life ,
quite frankly none of us have a
say in it

Me : what's wrong ?

His tone , there's just something
intense about it

Lonwabo : he changed a few
days ago , I had to face Isilo as
human

Luxolo : fuck are you okay....

Me : I'm here , can we keep the
f words away

Luxolo : Xolo MaXaluva
(apologies)

Me : thank you

Luthando : what happened ?

Lonwabo : he said something about not being controlled , and told me to leave

Me : please tell me you didn't leave him alone

As dangerous as that could have been for him , but Lumkile left alone when he's Isilo that cannot be good

Lonwabo : of course I didn't
leave , I was outside the whole
time . Until he was a bit tamed

Luthando : how brave are you
to face 4 heads alone

Luxolo : combined with wings

The two laugh

Me : guys !

I can only imagine how my
brother felt at that moment

If only maybe he was changed
and a lion , then that is not so
bad

Lonwabo : it's fine it's over now
, let's hope he gets over with his
business

Me : my blood is not at peace
with this girl

Luxolo : something wrong with
her ?

Me : I think so

Lonwabo : what ?

Me : I'm not sure yet

Luthando : then let's wait until
we meet her

Me : okay

We end the call , my baby walks
in

Summer : and that smile ?

She pecks my lips I welcome her

Me : you came just right on
time

Summer : family meeting with
the Four

I laugh , I don't like how she
calls them

Me : not the other one

Summer : right , is he good ?

She doesn't know anything about us , but maybe a little . In thinking that we do have ordinary gifts

But she thinks that because we're from royalty , nothing else

Me : he's good

Summer : okay , well I'm glad to
see you smiling

She's the reason behind my
smile always

I fear the day I have to tell my
parents about this

My brothers as well

But something tells me that
Lumkile knows , and being
himself he won't say anything
nor even ask me

I've never even dated a man in
my life , like everything I know
about love relationships and sex
it's all women

I'm scared to come out because
I fear rejection from my parents

•

•

•

•

Nonhle

Faith is still here , I was hoping
that she would be gone

But it is what it is , I just don't
like Faith for my brother

But he loves her so it's fine ,
and it's not like I'll date him . So
I can't even choose for him

Nyaniso : Nande uphumaphi ?
(Zenande where do you come
from)

What is Nyaniso playing at ?
Using my child to find out the
truth

Zenande : buya ka tatam mna
(I'm coming from my father's)

She says dragging the teddy bear into our room

The look my brother is giving me right now

Nyaniso : Faith leave us

She goes to his room

Nyaniso : really Qaqambile again ?

Me : no

Nyaniso : what do you mean now ? She just said she was at her father's

Me : yes , but it's not him

Nyaniso : what ?

Me : this is complicated okay ,
there's a guy that I'm seeing .
We were at his place , and he....

I don't know how to say this ,
because Lumkile even shocked
me myself

I didn't expect his reaction , he
was just too welcoming and
accepting

Not that I wanted him to fight or cause drama , but he just shocked me that I'm actually scared now

What's going to happen if I were to lose such a man ? He's everything and more

The way he just accepted my daughter , the bond I saw between them today

They were playing together , it
was all fun and games like
they've known each other
forever

Nyaniso : thetha (talk)

Me : he's just someone I'm
dating , not that fool

I say sitting down

Nyaniso : so she's busy calling men she doesn't know otata (father's)

Me : one man Nyaniso

Nyaniso : I don't like this , you're just confusing her . What happens when things don't work out between you two ? Then what ?

Does he think I don't have those concerns as well , that I don't have these fears too ?

I do , but Lumkile told me off and said even if we break up I won't deny him access to his child

How do I respond to that ? I was just defeated

•

•

•

•

Lumkile

I don't know if we're really okay
with kaMajola

Because one thing is for sure
that , she's no idiot

She could tell there was more
to what I told her

Which was really barely nothing
, but I want to make everything
right between me and her

I want to be honest and tell her
everything . The only way my
plan to keep her as wife would
work is if she's with me through
and through

This has to work and for
everyone else , there's also a
child to think about right now

That's why I'm here to see them today , I just can't stay away

It was a tough day today , and seeing my ladies would be the best right now

A guy comes out of the gate , but then he motions for me to drive in . And I just do so

He closes the gate and comes towards my car

I get off and he's fucking mad

Me : ndoda

Him : Nyaniso Majola , I saw you there and wondered what are you doing outside our gate like that ?

Me : mhm Lumkile Xaluva , and
you just decided to let me
through inside your gate

He chuckles

Nyaniso : yeah , now Xaluva tell
me what do you want ?

I want to show him respect ,
only because I believe he's the
man of the house

From the little I've gathered
from kaMajola , he's the only
family she's left with

Me : I'm the man with
intentions to make your sister ...

Nyaniso : the very same man
who has my niece thinking he's
her father

Me : well make no mistakes
about that , I am her father

He clenches his jaw

Me : now look here , I think we
have established that we don't
fucking like each other . And
right now I hate you , but you'll
keep your distance where
they're concerned . Cause me
problems , boy I'll fuck you up
so bad

He says nothing for a while

Me : good we understand each other , now I'll go see my family if that's fine with you

He moves out of my way

Nyaniso : don't make this a habit

Me : I don't intend to

I walk to the door and knock ,
she opens for me

Nonhle : what are you doing
here ?

She's shocked

Me : to see you and our
daughter of course

Nonhle : my brotherwait who let you in ?

Me : Nyaniso Majola , quite a man and we just met . And he's the one who let me in

Nonhle : no , he did not

I chuckle

Me : he did

Nonhle : that's okay , that's new

Me : but I can tell you one thing
, we don't like each other

She raises her brow

Me : you're so fuc....where is
she ?

She laughs

Nonhle : next door , she'll come soon

I need to move them to Midrand , this next door business is not working for my daughter

She needs a safe space to be free

Me : mind if I wait ?

She smiles

Nonhle : no it's fine you can
wait

Seeing what they have its not
much , but they have each
other

I'm about to go through shit

I need a family of my own to
have me as well

I'm not using kaMajola no , I
love her way more than I
actually thought I did

And there's nothing I wouldn't
do for her and our daughter

I hope we will stand together
and overcome what's coming
ahead of us

She's busy cooking , and the
door opens . It's opened by
someone small running and
shouting , something that
doesn't even make sense

Zenande : mamu tatam moto
khona (mom my dad's car is
here)

She saw it once and already she knows it , she hasn't seen me yet

Nonhle : ewe ukhona (yes he's here)

Only now she looks around , and the second she spots me she screams running to me

I make sure to catch her , the
laughter that she's letting out
warms my heart

There's just something about
this little girl , that gives me
such happiness . I don't know
how to put it into words

Like what I feel for her , cannot
be explained . She's not like a
daughter to me , but she's my
daughter

And her excitement just
because she's seeing me

This is just precious

.

.

.

.

Lonwabo

I have been so busy , I've neglected my promise to Nonhle

I wasn't just saying , I really do want to help her pass the bar

A lawyer like her , can be such a great asset to my firm

And I'll be a fool to let her slip through , just because of a simple bar

If she can pass it , then she will definitely be the best lawyer my firm has ever had after me

I take my phone and call her , it rings for a while and she answers .

Nonhle : hello ?

Such a melodic smooth south

Me : it's Lonwabo

It takes her a bit to register who I am but she finally does

Nonhle : yes sir ...

Me : it's just Lonwabo now , not
sir it's after hours and we're at
home

She laughs a bit , and fuck

Nonhle : of course Lonwabo

Maybe we should get rid of sir
even at work , because hearing
her utter my name is much
more appealing than sir

Me : now that's better

Nonhle : noted

Me : now , I called about the
lessons

Nonhle : yes

Me : please make time this week , and I'll do the same

Nonhle : I can definitely make the time

Me : any place you'd prefer ?

Nonhle : whichever place works for you

Me : okay , I believe tomorrow
we'll clear our schedules and
see how we'll fit this in

Nonhle : of course

Me : have a great night Ms
Majola

She giggles , and lord this is not
on at all

Nonhle : I thought we're on first name basis

I laugh a bit

Me : of course , it's just a gesture

Nonhle : in that case , have a great night Mr Xaluva

Me : I get served what I dished I
see

We laugh hanging the call

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

A small fight this morning has
gotten to screaming our lungs
out

I'm just in a hurry , that call
from my boss last night got me
somehow

I don't know why I get scared
always when I have to do this

And I get I'll fail

I'm just such a mess because of
it

What if I even become useless
for him to help ? And he gives
up on me then what ?

Passing the bar is my only
chance to make it better for my
family

Now I don't even know what to
do or what to say anymore to
get her to calm down

She even has hiccups , she's
crying so sad that it's breaking
my heart

She doesn't even want me to hold her , and Nyaniso is not here

He didn't spend the night , I don't know what to do . And I'll just end up crying with her

The door opens and it's the furious father , the crying

daughter just goes to him
screaming

Zenande : tatam (daddy)

My baby is crying so bad , it's so
painful

Lumkile : Xolo Nana ka tata ,
nton ? (sorry daddy's baby ,
what's wrong)

She shakes her head against his chest , the way she's clinging so tight on his hoodie yhoh

Lumkile : Xolo (I'm sorry)

Zenande : ha.ana mamu thetha
(no , mom is shouting)

I wasn't really shouting , she just mistaken a raise of my voice as shouting

Lumkile finally manages to calm her down , and she still has those hiccups

Now the father is not happy with me at all , the looks he keeps shooting me

Lumkile : xolo vha (I'm sorry okay)

Zenande : mamu thetha (mom
is shouting)

Hawu kodwa badla (but though)

Lumkile : ndilapha ngok (I'm
here now)

I'll be so late to work

I'm even thinking of not going
anymore

Even though I know Nyaniso will be here soon , he knows I have to be at work

Zenande is not at creche , her uncle watches her

After a while she falls asleep , and now I'm not okay at all . I hate seeing my daughter cry

And today it was just heart
breaking

Lumkile : where is your room ?

Me : this one

He goes in to put her down and
comes back

I can see he's not happy

Me : Xaluva I wasn't shouting , I just told her to stop playing with her food and eat . She threw a fit

Lumkile : you raised your voice

Now my own tears are doing the works

Me : a bit

He holds his hand out , I take it
he helps me up and just hugs
me

Me : I didn't mean to upset her

And I really didn't

Lumkile : it's okay

He pulls out and wipes my tears
, pecking my lips

Lumkile : I don't ever want to
hear my daughter crying like
that ever again

I nod like a child being scolded ,
what a morning

.

.

.

.

INSERT 10

A WEEK LATER

Liyana

I've just come home

But now I feel like I want to go
back

It might be too soon , but going
back would maybe give me a
chance to see the princess again

I can't ignore this feeling that I have , and it would be very foolish to do so

I can't just say to my parents I have a bad feeling

As much as they don't disregard us , but a feeling is also not saying much

And it could be because I'm
already reserved about this
marriage

Because of the encounter with
Isilo

I take my phone and call my
mother , I'm at work but I can't
even focus at all

Mom : MaXaluva ka ma

Me : someone is in a happy mood

She laughs

Mom : yes , I have a man kalok

Me : whoa okay , stop

Mom : why even mention if...

Me : ma (mom)

Mom : okay ke , how are you ?
And shouldn't you be at work ?

Me : I am well and yes I'm at
work

Mom : and you called your
mother , child what's going on ?

I laugh because the child , no

Me : daddy told me I will have a
sister in-law soon

Mom : I can only hope you will
get along

I doubt

Me : me too

Mom : your brother will be coming home soon to meet her

I'm sure they can't wait , the parents that is

Me : I think we all can't wait to meet her

Mom : yes I can only hope there won't be any drama about this

Me : who would cause drama ?

Mom : we're talking about
Lumkile here

Maybe I can poke her , as much
as he said he's not seeing
anyone

Me : what would happen if he
has a woman in his life ?

Mom : then she will take a back step , he's a man to be married soon . He can't afford any of that nonsense

Yhoh okay

Me : okay I hear you

Mom : did he say he has someone ?

Me : no he doesn't , I was just asking no reason to it

I take a deep breath

Mom : okay baby

Me : let me get back to work , I love you

Mom : I love you too MaXaluva

I drop the call , and this won't
end well . I'm hoping it will , but
it's just hopes and nothing

My parents are good people ,
they're amazing parents before
they're a great king and queen

But there's also this no
nonsense thing with them , that
I fear

Maybe that's why I haven't
even told them anything about
my sexuality

As much as my Aunt is a Lesbian
and is married to another
woman

I still have the fear , that they
might reject me . Parents react
different to such things

It can be okay with aunt
Amanda

Because she's not their own
child

And it may be difficult with me ,
because I'm their child

It's so easy to accept a situation
when it's far from you , than
when it's actually facing you

And I don't want them thinking
that maybe I took some
influence from her

This is me , it's who I am and
who I've always been . And I
have no desire to change

But I can't fight the fear that I
have

.

•

•

•

Nonhle

Study sessions are going great ,
as much as I'm still fearful and
scared

But they're going well , and
we've opted to studying at the
office after hours

And it doesn't take long just
two hours , and we call it a
night

I can never thank Lonwabo
enough for what he's doing for
me

Only two weeks left , and I'll
taking the bar . Here I'm praying
for a miracle

If I was a believer I would be
heading right straight for church
doors

But I'm just me , living and
believing in nothing

Besides that all is well

Zenande is just the most happy
baby ever

All thanks to the father , that's
so present everyday . He comes
to see her everyday

And doesn't miss a day at all ,
even when he's gotten back late
from the rank

He still comes this side just to
see her , of course Nyaniso feels
somehow about all this

But he's just letting it go I think ,
one thing that's certain though
is that they hate each other

I can never understand men's ego , because I don't even get why they hate each other

Overall we're okay , and have just been doing great

We're spending the weekend at his house . He just had the most beautiful surprise for Zenande ever

Her own pink room , it was just
the most beautiful thing anyone
has ever done for my baby

She loved her room so much
that she wants to sleep on her
own

I feel sad , it's like the chick is
coming out of the nest

All because of a pink room ,
with dolls tea sets and what not
. A small tiny bed , pink sheets
with the Disney princesses

Zenande : mamu lala apha
(mom I'm sleeping here)

She pats her bed

Me : khazo lala nam (come
sleep with me)

Zenande : tatam ha.ana (daddy
no)

Yes always call for backup

Lumkile : kaMajola khayeke
umntana (leave the baby)

Zenande : yeke ntana Jola (leave
the baby kaMajola)

Yeah no I'm seeing the most I
swear , this is just flames I'm
being shown

Me : okay ke , ulale kakuhle
(sleep well)

Zenande : lala kuhle (sleep well)

This child

Me : ndiyak'thanda ke (I love you)

Zenande : thanda mamu (I love you mom)

Lumkile tucks her in bed , she's not even bothered

Don't we stay and watch her until she's fallen asleep

We leave the door opened so she doesn't struggle to open when she wakes up

Lumkile : stop sulking

Me : did you see how she had no problem sleeping without me ?

He wants to laugh at me and it's not nice

Lumkile : come here

He hugs me , but seconds later
I'm blind folded

Me : Xaluva what...

Lumkile : you're not to say
anything , just trust me

If I can trust him with my child
then , I can trust him . So I nod

Lumkile : that's better

He takes my clothes off , leaving
me completely naked

The fear of this yet the
adrenaline rush , of the
unknown

He lays me gently on the bed , I
can feel him in the room his
presence

Whatever he puts inside of my
mouth , I can't even open it .
Because it's covered , I can't
even utter a single word out

Lumkile : trust me , I won't hurt
you

My heart is pumping , but okay
it's fine

Both my arms are tied right
above my head on the
headboard , how he managed
to do that beats me

I don't know how to explain
what or how I'm feeling right
now

Can I just not be with a man
that's into BDSM sexual
fantasies

He takes my legs and parts
them , one pulled to the other
side of the bed each

And he also ties them , how I
don't know . I can't even move
much

I feel like something that's
being prepared , to be
slaughtered

He takes the blindfold off , the
room is dark . But there's that
light coming through , so it's not
completely dark

He's buck naked and hard , like
his manhood has come out to
play

He gets on the bed , on his
knees . My coochie all parted
and exposed for him to feast his
eyes on

Is it possible to have fear , and
yet have anticipation ?

That's me right now

I take my words right back as he starts slapping my coochie , causing me to flinch

There's pain , that's accompanied by a slight pleasure .

He takes what feels like oil , and pours it from my coochie to my breasts

The feeling of this is giving my body shivers , he massages my coochie

And I feel like screaming , but my mouth is deeming useless right now

He moves up to my stomach , heading to my boobs . He massages them

I can't do much than just move
my body , a few slaps on my
boobs

The pleasure and pain is killing
me

And I have a feeling he hasn't
even started

He goes down and buries his
face right on my coochie

He bites my clit slightly , the more he keeps doing it .

The more pain and pleasure I feel

This is torture , I want to die right now . My moans are muffled . It's not helping that I'm tied

I try to move back , but it's not helping . Instead I'm just sinking down on the bed

He holds my thighs and continues biting my clit , I feel like crying this is good and somehow not

He gets off the bed heads to the night stand , I want to tell him to untie me

I can't see clearly what he's
doing there , he finally comes
back

And he goes back to my coochie
, his lips are cold . He opens his
mouth

And may the heavens help me ,
he has an ice cube in his mouth

I try to move my legs but it's useless , the more I move my hands I'm straining myself

This is just pleasure on another level , he's doing the most with the ice

And his tongue inside of me , this thumb rubbing on my clit from time to time

I'm so going to have Lumkile for
this

I orgasm and I don't even have
no control over it , it's too
extreme tears stream on the
side of my face

His manhood graces my coochie
, and the way he's penetrating
so slowly

Don't I just wanna hold him so tight , but he's restricted me from doing so

How fair is this on me ? Deep slow thrusts , that are making me feel so good . But I can't even express that

Except by moving my body

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

I so badly want to kiss her right now , but I'm not taking that gag over her mouth

Her body has already taken strain , the pleasure she's had so far has her tired

I'm not even fucking her , I'm making love . I know she doesn't like rough sex

So even as punishment , she
won't get rough sex . I'll make
love to her and let pleasure tire
her out for me

The way she's moving her body
fighting to get off from being
tied , and her tears are even
drying now

I take deep strokes , her body is
giving up . I hold her thighs

We lock eyes , and she's
begging me to let her go . I
think I can do so

She's definitely learnt her
lesson , I take a few more faster
paced thrusts and she cums

Squirting all over me , her legs
shake like crazy and the tears
are back again

I take my dick out , and just watch her for a bit .

The way her body is shivering you'll swear she's freezing to death

I move up , as I take the gag off .
I muffle her moans and cries with a kiss

She's too tired to return the same energy , but she still kisses me back

Nonhle : untieme ...ple...ase

I peck her lips , she's really worn out . Her eyes are bloodshot red

I untie her hands first

Me : don't rub the wrist , you'll make them worse

I get off the bed and untie her legs . The way she's so tired she can't even move

I run a bath for her , and I pick her up to the bathroom and leave her in the bathtub to change the sheets

When I'm done I go check on her , and she's still in the same position I left her

Me : you have any desire to get out of there ?

She shakes her head no , I take a towel and bring her out . And I dry and lotion her , take her back to bed

She cuddles up , I cuddle her
from behind . Kiss her shoulder
blades

Me : ntikazi yam (my lady)

Nonhle : mhm

Me : I never want to see or hear
my child cry like that ever again
okay ?

It takes almost a full minute ,
turning to look at me

Nonhle : that...was because...of
that ?

Me : you don't raise your voice
at her ever again

Nonhle : but....okay it won't
happen again

I take her lips into mine and we
kiss .

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

I cannot believe Lumkile would
torture me like that , over
Zenande crying

And that was a week ago , and
I'm punished for that . In the
most painful and pleasurable
way

I feel like a dead person right now , there's no inch of my body that's not painful

My wrist are even reddish , he walks in smelling so good and looks so handsome

Me : I'm jealous

Lumkile : good day to you too

Why wasn't I awarded a
romantic man ? Didn't the
universe think I deserve that ?
After being single for two years

Me : uyaphi ? (Where are you
going)

Lumkile : siyaphuma (we're
going out)

Me : I'm dog dead tired

Lumkile : that's why you're
sleeping , we'll bring you
something to help you feel
better

Me : we ? Kanti you're leaving
me ? (So)

Lumkile : ewe (yes)

I want to cry , and no I'm not being dramatic . The one who got me this punishment walks in

In a floral strap summer dress , and sandals . She even has her hair braided

Zenande : mamu isungu (Mom is it painful)

No like no , what did Lumkile say to this child ?

And guess what ? I look at him and he laughs , Zenande happens to be the only person that makes Lumkile laugh

Me : what did you say to her ?

Zenande : mamu isungu ?
(Mom is it painful)

Not again

Me : Ini ? (What)

Lumkile : I said you're sick

Yes of course with this one still speaking foreign languages , it's a bit hard at times to make out what she's saying

Me : ewe kodwa ndizoba right
(yes but I'll be fine)

Zenande : tatam hamba ke
(daddy let's go)

She's also fine leaving mom
alone , just wow

Me : so you're really leaving me
behind ?

Lumkile : yes but we love you

Maybe he loves me alone ,
because Zenande is already out
the door

Me : I'm not happy

Lumkile : xolo (sorry)

He gives me a lousy kiss and he
leaves . It sucks being me

.

.

.

.

INSERT 11

Lumkile

I don't know how such a small person can eat so much

We had lunch , and got takeouts she's eating everything and anything she's able to get her hands on

I just hope I don't get into trouble with kaMajola , for letting her eat so much junk

Surely it's unhealthy right , but I don't know .

And she still looks like her usual self , bubbly and all giggly

Zenande : tatam funa bani apha ? (Daddy who are we looking for here)

I've had to learn to understand her , because it's a damn struggle

Me : asifune mntu , sobona indlu ka mamakho kanye ne moto yakhe (we're not looking for anyone , we came to see your mother's house and car)

Zenande : yam yona ? (What about mine)

Me : angithi ikhona eyakho
ekhaya (yours is at home)

Zenande : mamu ahlali apha
(mom doesn't stay here)

Me : se nizohlala apha ngok
(you're going to stay here now)

Zenande : nam ? (Me too)

Me : ewe (yes)

Zenande : Niso yena ? (What about Nyaniso)

That uncle of hers mxm

Me : ewe naye (yes him too)

I hope his pride and ego ,
doesn't allow him to

But I know his sister will want
him here

Zenande : nkulu lendlu (this
house is big)

And I hope kaMajola will love it ,
I didn't see a better fit place for
them than here at Waterfall

It's a double storey , even a bit
bigger than my own house

But it's perfect for them , and
seeing that she knows how to
drive

I just thought why not add a car
as well , it's her birthday
tomorrow

And this will be the perfect gift ,
I think it will be

Zenande : zofika yena mamu
apha ? (Will mom come here)

Me : sizo mlanda endlini (we're
going to fetch her at home)

She sits down , the house is fully
furnished . Hopefully she won't
mind the furniture

But if she does , she can always
change it

Me : ngok ? (And now)

Zenande : tatam afun hamba
apha (daddy I don't want to
leave here)

She shakes her head

And now I've done it , and
there's no way I'm forcing her
to leave

So she can cry ? Hell no . She has the most painful cry ever , I don't want to hear it

My phone rings and it's kaMajola , we didn't leave her because we didn't want to come with her

But this is her surprise , so she's not supposed to see it until

tomorrow . We couldn't come
with her

Me : ntikazi yam (my lady)

Nonhle : anibuyi ? (Aren't you
coming back)

Me : I have a problem here

Nonhle : is she okay ?

Me : yes don't worry

Nonhle : so what's the problem
Xaluva ?

Me : she doesn't want to leave

Nonhle : aibo , where are you ?
kanti nenza nton apho ? (What
are you doing there)

Me : sihleli nje (we're just sitting)

Nonhle : aibo Xaluva

Me : Nana umama uthi sibuye ekhaya (baby is saying we should come back home)

Zenande : ahambi apha tatam (I'm not leaving here daddy)

Me : you hear that ?

Nonhle : Kanti nikuphi ? (
Where are you)

I have no choice here , I'm
backed into a corner

Me : how are you feeling ?

Nonhle : drained

Me : can you drive ?

Nonhle : are you not far ?

Me : just take the Rover come .
I'll send you the location

Nonhle : okay

Me : I love you

I drop the call , and lay on the
floor next to this miss

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

Lumkile and that child of his
lack peace , the way I'm so in
pain and tired

I should be in bed resting , and
not driving all the way to
waterfall

But here I am , and I wonder
what they're doing here

Who's place is this ? And it's so beautiful no lies . Even though it's mostly glass , than brick

I ring the door bell , seconds later he opens the door barefoot

I'm a woman yes , I'll notice anything and everything out of place

Zenande is laughing inside , it sounds like she's watching cartoons

Me : don't tell me you have another house ? Because men who have more than one house , are cheaters

Lumkile : I look like a cheater to you ?

He takes my hand we walk
inside , and the daughter is not
even paying me any attention

Me : what's going on ? Whose
house is this that people don't
even want to leave ?

Lumkile : don't you wanna take
a tour ?

Me : a tour in whose house ?

He ignores me

Me : you're moving here ?

Lumkile : no

Okay I'm so lost , and it doesn't seem like he's going to tell me anything

So I take the so called tour , this house is big . More like huge , but it's definitely stunning

Voice : and ?

Oh so he followed me

Me : what ?

Lumkile : do you like it ?

Does it matter if I like it or not ?
And why ?

Me : it's....

Zenande : mamu hlala apha
ndlu yakho (mom I stay here in
your house)

My baby is suddenly confused

Me : what is she talking about ?

Lumkile : come out

Okay , we all walk outside at the back . There's a metallic black Maserati

Zenande : moto yakho khona ,
zothanela nam tatam (your car
is here , daddy is going to buy
me mine)

Okay there can't be so much
confusion

Something is going on

Me : and ?

Lumkile : you were supposed to
see all this tomorrow , but then
someone didn't want to leave
anymore

Me : okay , but what's going on ?

Lumkile : an early birthday present

We joke but not like this

Me : what ?

He says nothing and I know it's no joke

Me : Xaluva ?

Still nothing

Zenande : mamu ha,ana lila
(mom no don't cry)

I can't take any more
punishment because of her
again , her lip is quivering

Me : Xolo sulila ke (I'm sorry
don't cry)

Lumkile picks her up , but how
can I not cry ? A whole house
and a car for a birthday gift

Lumkile : you happy ?

I nod because now I can't talk ,
but this is a lot . And it's scaring
me

Lumkile : I'm coning

He opens the back door of the car and puts her in , it even has a car seat for the madam

She sits in there he comes back to me

Me : I can't....

Lumkile : you don't refuse gifts ,
they're in your name I don't
even have any claim over then

Me : but how ?

Lumkile : I'm a man with means

He sure is , he even knows my
birthday and I don't know his

Me : aren't we moving too fast

I shake my head

Me : this is a lot ...

We've been together for two weeks

Lumkile : no , in life either you know what you in life or you're still searching for it . I know

what I want and I have it , I'm
not letting go .

He doesn't understand

Me : I love you

I shock myself because he never
even gives me a chance to say
that I love him back always

Lumkile : I know you love me

Me : and I'm not with you
because of your money , I'm
with you because I love you . As
weird as you are and all

He smiles and it's so perfect , I
wish he can smile more

But Zenande is the only person
with that much effect on him

Lumkile : I'm a taxi driver , you
can't be with me for money . I
don't have it

I laugh , he wipes my tears off

Me : thank you , this is so
beautiful

Words are not even enough ,
how do I thank him for this ?

Lumkile : as long as you and our daughter are good , that's enough for me

I don't know how Nyaniso will react to this , already he doesn't like Lumkile

Will he even move with us here ? This will be a load off my shoulders , rent and transport money

But then there'll be house bills ,
and petrol of course

I still think we're moving fast ,
but I want to let my guard down
and believe this won't end in
tears for me

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

Now the pressure is off , she
loves the house . She's already
driving her car

Even though she said she needs to talk to her brother first , before moving into the house

And it's fine , I respect that he's her brother . So I understand why she wants to talk to him

What I'm seeing right now , is pleasing to my eye . And it's something I don't wish to lose

No fancy dinner like that , but
just a small intimate thing with
my family

This small one thinks this is for
her , but it's okay cake is cake

It doesn't matter who it's meant
for , let's us who can eat it do so

Nonhle : this is beautiful

Me : you're beautiful

She smiles

Nonhle : and he's dishing out
compliments

Me : I'm not all bad

Nonhle : Xaluva you're worse

Me : she would dispute that

She laughs looking at Zenande ,
who's just stuffing her face with
food

Nonhle : of course she would

Me : your jealousy , I'm still
your man

She takes my hand

Nonhle : thank you for making
this day special and this
beautiful

Me : you deserve everything
special

And I mean every word there ,
I'm hoping this week we get
time alone

And talk about who I am , and
what's ahead of me . Including
the royal wife issue

On this pace we're going at , I
can't keep such things to myself
any longer

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

The weekend couldn't end so
sooner , but it was all just so
amazing and beautiful

My man might not be as romantic , but he goes all out when needed

And that's what he did for me on my birthday , and I appreciate everything he did

I just wish there was a way to show him just how much what he did meant to me

We're home now , Zenande is in our room and I'm faced with a furious Nyaniso

I just dropped Zenande in the morning , because I was rushing to work

We couldn't come back yesterday , she didn't want to leave . And yes she got her way , all thanks to Lumkile

Nyaniso : so he bought you a house and a car now ?

I didn't tell him anything , but I left him with a loud mouth

As much as she doesn't speak clearly , she says a lot and he's not an idiot so surely he figured it out

Me : yes

Nyaniso : tell me you told him
to shove....

Me : I didn't

Nyaniso : my sister is not one
woman to depend on a man like
that

I heave a sigh

Me : and I'm not depending on him for anything , he bought those for me as a birthday present

Nyaniso : and you were just too happy to accept such gifts from a man . What does he get out of this ?

Me : I respect you as my brother , and I value your opinion . But I won't stand to be

disrespected by you , because not even once have I ever done such to you . The house is there it's open to you as well , so you're welcome to move with us if you want

I had such a busy day , and Gail wasn't at work her husband is not well

Lonwabo also wasn't at work so I had to get his things in order

Getting a chance not to study
with him tonight , I can use this
time to do so on my own

Fighting with Nyaniso won't
help me anyhow nor by
anything

.

.

.

.

Lonwabo

I'm not feeling that well today ,
and I didn't go to work

But I can't neglect my promise ,
and I didn't even communicate
anything with her

She must think , I'm just a dick .
And that's not good

I called her she didn't answer ,
but I'm sure she's home now .
And surely hasn't seen that I
called her

I call her again , I'm sure she would have gotten back to me.

Nonhle : Si.... Lonwabo

I laugh

Me : Nonhle , how are you ?

Nonhle : well I'm well , and yourself ?

Me : I can't say the same , so
I'm glad one of us is well

Nonhle : and you don't sound
well

Me : yes I know

Nonhle : you went to the doctor
?

Me : women and sentiments , I
don't need a doctor a day at
home did me good . I'll be on
my feet soon

Nonhle : don't be that guy

We laugh

Nonhle : but I'm glad to hear
that

Me : I don't know if you'll be glad to hear this

Nonhle : no study session today , it's okay I understand you're not well

Me : you don't get to get off that easily , I have a suggestion

Nonhle : okay

Me : over at my house

She goes quite for a while , and
I guess it's a bummer

Me : it's okay if it's
uncomfortable for you...

Nonhle : you're doing me a
great favour , surely I can come
over

Perfect !

Me : alright , order in ? Chinese
or wine

She giggles and that damn
giggle will be the death of me

Nonhle : wine , some blue
cheese and crackers will do

Fuck ! a woman of great taste

Me : alright , send your location
I'll send a driver

Nonhle : send yours I'll come

Me : taxis this late ?

Nonhle : worry not

She sounds so sure

I was just trying to be a gentleman , but then I guess it's fine

Me : alright

We hang up , I send my location . And place the order of what she requested

- .
- .
- .

.

Nonhle

All in a day's work , but what
can I do ?

I want to pass , and get this over
and done with

Zenande didn't give me any
problems staying with her angry
uncle

I've just arrived at the house ,
and people are living out there

I wonder if he has a wife , even though I haven't seen him wearing a ring

But then again you can never know , and maybe there's a girlfriend or a fiancé

Hopefully there's no drama , because he's just helping me study nothing else

I take my phone and call Xaluva
, he needs to know where I am

I know he will go home to check
on Zenande , I don't want him
not finding me there

And I can't be at another's man
house , and have my own man
not know where I am

Lumkile : ntikazi yam (my lady)

Me : Xaluva , I need to tell you something

Lumkile : okay...

He's cutting a bit , honestly i can't hear him clearly

Me : I'm at my boss's house , we'll be studying there he's not

well he wasn't even at the
office

Nothing , I check the phone and
we're still in call

Me : did you hear me

Lumkile : I.....

Then again , now I don't know .
And the call gets cut

I try to call again and it's
voicemail , I sigh in defeat
getting off the car

I knock at the door , he opens in
just casual . Sweatpants and a t-
shirt with sneakers

He was really having a day off
today , we exchange greetings .
And he lets me in

His house is beautiful no lies , I
can't help but admire it

Lonwabo : thank you for coming

Me : it's for my own good

He smiles , I ignore it as perfect
as it is . It's nowhere near my
man's

Lonwabo : I think we'll be perfect in the sitting area

People with standards have sitting areas , he leads the way I follow him

Me : you have such a beautiful house

But it's so manly , it lacks that feminism and a woman's touch

Lonwabo : thank you

We walk in the sitting area , and it's so chilled and relaxed the whole environment that is

I look around , it's the eyes they just can't help themselves . And we have the cheese , snacks and wine

But something catches my eyes
on the wall , it's like a family
portrait wall of some sort

Pictures everywhere , and I'm
not blind . There's nothing
wrong with my eye sight

Me : this is your family?

Lonwabo : yes

He takes my coat and hangs it ,
we walk towards the wall

And this is Lumkile , there can't
be two him out there . And he
never said he was a twin

Lonwabo : my brother's and
sister , we're quintuplets .

Wake me up from this , I did say
my boss is a Xaluva to Lumkile

And all he said was that's
unique , he knows where I work
surely he knows that's his
brother's firm

So he knows I'm his brother's
PA

That his brother is helping me
study and paying for my studies

I can't believe this , why didn't he just tell me though ? What's the big secret ?

I can't take my eyes off him , there on the picture . Now it explains the same features

Lonwabo : don't dwell too much on him

Me : sorry

He laughs smiling

Lonwabo : that's Lumkile but
he's soon to be married , so
he's off limits . Unlike the rest
of us

No !

My heart shatters , as I feel it
sinking in pain

Me : oh...he's getting married ?

Lonwabo : yes he's also the
soon to be king

King ?

Lonwabo : oh we're royals ,
from Isilo kingdom in the
Eastern Cape

How much more worse can this get ? Does he have kids I know nothing about ?

He's a prince , one that's to be king and soon to be married

This was too good to be true , how stupid could I have been

I'm trying so hard to fight my tears right now

How will I explain why I'm
crying to my boss ?

I move away from the picture
wall

Me : nice...family you have

Lonwabo : wait Nonhle , are you
okay ?

I just nod smiling with the most fake smile ever , and I'm sure he can see right through it

He hands me a glass of water , I down it all

Lonwabo : are you okay ? We can always postpone this

Me : no , please ...let's not

He's spending his money , he's
giving me a chance to be
something better

I won't let this , get in the way
of that

I wish I can just scream right
now , this hurts

Lonwabo : okay sit down

He pulls a chair for me , I sit
down . I don't know what hurts
more

The fact that he didn't tell me
he's a prince soon to be king ,or
the fact that he's going to get
married

What am I to him then ?

His Joburg whore ?

But what did I expect ? I'm the same woman that's a single mother , to a child her father denied

Did I really think I stand a chance at love ? And this perfect ?

I might have not told him about Zenande to begin with I know ,

so I'm not making myself better
than him

But this a whole marriage ,
where is my place in his life ?
Clearly nowhere

I can't do this , and what's going
to become of my daughter now
?

.

.

.

.

INSERT 12

Lumkile

And my phone just had to die
right when she's telling me that

she's going to my brother's
place ?

There's no family pictures at my
house

I hate that part of my life

So there's no need to flaunt it ,
but Lonwabo is different

He fucking has a wall full of
pictures that just screams and
spells royalty

It's even useless hoping that she
didn't see that , nor that she
knows the truth now

I went past her house and saw
my daughter put her to bed ,
and asked that brother of hers
to baby sit for the night

I know I have damage control to do now , and luckily he loves his niece so it wasn't a problem

I park my car and rush inside , what do you know ? They're sitting in the very same room

Her face tells me she's ready to just burst , and I'm on the receiving end of that

Me : Lonwabo excuse yourself

Lonwabo : whoa you budge into my house , and don't even greet my guest

Me : need I repeat myself ?

Lonwabo : what's with the nasty attitude , and I'm busy . I don't understand what I'm excusing

myself for in my house , with
my guest . And seeing that I
have a guest , shouldn't you be
the one excusing yourself ?

He sure must think I have time
to entertain him

Nonhle : I'll ...take my leave now

Lonwabo : no need for that , my
brother just lacks manners

Me : fuck off !

Lonwabo : what...

She gets up I hold her hand and
tears just come out

Me : Lonwabo leave now !

Lonwabo : what's going on here
?

I shoot him a stare

Lonwabo : Nonhle...

Me : she's Nonhle not in my
presence

Lonwabo : wait...you two ?

Me : I need to talk to my
woman , leave

He's shocked no lies , but I don't
have time for him and he can
see that

Lonwabo : right , I'll leave in my
own house

He walks out

I just engulf her into a tight hug

Me : I was planning to tell you
this week , I didn't want to ruin
your birthday

Nonhle : that's no excuse Xaluva

She pulls out , and takes her
things to leave . She walks past
me , and I know she's leaving

I follow her out and she's
already by her car still crying

Me : don't fucking walk away
from me , when I talk to you

She turns back

Me : I was going to tell you the
truth

Nonhle : which one ?

Me : all of it

Nonhle : well don't bother , I know now and...

Me : and nothing , go get in the car we're leaving . Your brother is watching Zenande

She does not believe that I'm not grovelling and begging her right now

I want to , but as much as I want to I have to be firm with her . Or else she's already gone , I've lost her and I can't have that

Me : go get in the car I'm sure you heard me

She walks away angrily to my car , and Lonwabo comes out

Me : not now

Lonwabo : you're fucking toying
with her , you're getting
married soon ...

Me : and my relationship has
nothing to do with you . Stay
away Xaluva or I'll make you

I walk to my car and get in ,
she's still crying even now

If only she knows how annoying tears make me , that's the real reason why I can't stand them

I drive out to my house , and the more she's crying and I see those tears

The more annoyed and irritated I keep getting , but I'm not losing myself with her . I can't afford to have that

I'm sure she's already lost trust
in me right now

We arrive and get off the car ,
she goes inside the house first

By the time I get in , she's
nowhere downstairs . I head up
to our room , she's already in
bed

Me : ntikazi yam (my lady)

Nonhle : I want to sleep Xaluva ,
can you please let me have that
?

Me : okay

I know how to fight my battles ,
and choosing to force a talk
right now might just backfire for
me

•

•

•

•

Lonwabo

Lumkile didn't show any signs of interest the day he asked me about her

It was as if he didn't even know her

Only to find out they're dating

And clearly she didn't know anything about the marriage or being from royalty

No wonder she didn't look okay after that , but I didn't think much about it

I fucking blew it for him , but he's a grown man he can handle himself

I'm more worried about her ,
how is she right now after
hearing what she heard

I call her , I've been calling her
and she's not answering . It
leaves me on voicemail all the
time

Me : Nonhle I'm worried about
you , please call me when you
get this . I just need to know
that you're okay , take a day or

two if you need . Just call me
back , please

I leave the message and hope
she gets back to me

Lumkile is also not taking my
calls , yet he sent Nhlamulo this
morning to get Nonhle's car

I know he doesn't want to talk
to me

•

•

•

•

Nonhle

My eyes hurt so bad , they're swollen I have eye bags . I look like a drunkard of a woman

I've just showered , it helped to have clothes here

I have messages from Lonwabo , and I don't know what to say to him right now

I just want to get back home ,
see my daughter and dress for
work

I'm not going to mess up a good
job that I have going , especially
for a man

I'm hurt yes I won't even try to
shy away from that , but life has
to go on

Taking a day off will not help me at all , I can't afford to slack

Lumkile : can we talk ?

Me : no I don't want to talk , you can talk if you want to

Lumkile : why are you fucking pulling attitude on me ?

Me : do you realise anything wrong with what you've done to me Xaluva ?

Lumkile : I see it all

Me : then please

Lumkile : this is not high school , let's talk about this . You don't just get to walk out on me

I'm talking to a man here and not a boy right , when he talks his voice is heard

I sit down , so does he

Lumkile : I'm from Isilo kingdom , and there's just a lot of shit about that kingdom . A lot that no ordinary or normal people experience or know about .

We're beings with extraordinary gifts and abilities , I don't know

how clued up you are about mystical creatures . But that's what we are , I turn into this four headed leopard with four wings . We're led and ruled by our great ancestor Isilo , who happened to be a Jaguar . I have his mark and only those with his mark are deemed to be kings of the kingdom . Royal families have this thing of blue blood marries blue blood , it's not the case with us . But with me it is ,

because I am Isilo himself . I need a royal wife , not chosen but anyone that's from a royal family . It doesn't say I shouldn't be with any other woman , but there has to be a royal wife . This is where the soon to be marriage comes in , she has been picked . I'm still yet to meet her I don't know her , but she's nothing to me except to be a royal wife . One that's needed by Isilo , and

unfortunately for me I can't
ditch this . I love you , my heart
chose you . And I also can't
deny that , can I not lose you
over this ?

Me : Xaluva no

I'm on my feet , did he hear
himself ? He's talking about
mystical creatures

That he's a four headed leopard
with wings , like did he hear
himself ?

Lumkile : I don't want to lose
you

Me : you're getting married ,
where does that put me ?

I'm about to die right now ,
because the look he's giving me

now says he's about to spit a bomb

Lumkile : let's get married first , do it legally before I do it with her traditionally . I will opt to be married in community of property with you , so it declines her in that equation

Lumkile is as sly as they come , he wants a whole polygamous marriage

Me : in the process of that
having your family to hate me ?

Lumkile : hate you because of
what ?

Me : really ?

Lumkile : look I don't care about
what my family will say , I am
me . I don't take orders from

anyone , if they have a problem
with you then that's their
problem not mine

Me : easy for you to say , I'm
too young to share a man with a
princess while I am nothing

Lumkile : and being a princess
makes her what ?

I shake my head

Me : your royal wife Xaluva , she gets to be queen and...

Lumkile : I am marrying you first because I love you , I live in the city with you . You'll be the first wife , not her

Me : the city first wife really Xaluva ? You're marrying her traditionally , your ancestors are

going to acknowledge her .

What about me ?

I don't even believe in these things , but now I sound like I'm so concerned about then

Lumkile : what are you saying kaMajola?

This is a lot , everything that he's just said

He's not even a normal being

What happens when he
changes and my daughter is
around ?

What kind of witchcraft is this ?

A leopard with four heads and
wings

Lumkile is too much for me and
I can't

He wants me to be a second
wife

To settle sharing him , I don't
want that . A polygamous
marriage is not in my books

Me : I can't do this

I walk out and the car is here ,
look what a man with means
can do

Lumkile : don't do this , I'm
coming with a way to make this
work

Why follow me ?

Me : work for who ? You

He says nothing and maybe it's because he knows it's the truth

Me : it works for you right ? You get to have two wives , have it all . And what do I get ?

And I cry all over again

Lumkile : can you just look at this in another way ?

Me : I can't , because it's your way and no one's way

I take out the house keys and car keys , and hold them out to him

Lumkile : what ?

Me : this is it for us , so I can't...I can't take them

Lumkile : what did I say about returning gifts ? Those are yours , they're in your name I won't ever want them back . So you have nothing to worry yourself about

Me : Xaluva don't you get it ? I love you , I love you . Not your things , not your money . I don't care about these things

Lumkile : yes I know that , that's why I'm saying keep them . My daughter needs a home , and that's her home

And he still calls her his daughter ? Somehow that makes me overlook this hurt

I open the drivers door , and seeing his reflection on the window doesn't help me at all

I turn back and just give him
one hell of a kiss , he welcomes
it back

Why am I kissing him ? I hope
this is goodbye kiss

I can't be hung up on him , I
refuse because this will just hurt
me

I know , I'll be the hated
daughter in-law

I can't take that

Me : this is not fair , you're
supposed to be mine Xaluva

He cups my face , we lock eyes
and I see the same pain and
hurt I feel

But I can't ignore that he's the
reason I'm hurting this bad

Lumkile : you're mine

Me : I need....

Lumkile : you don't need no
time , you're mine

Me : I can't

I pull way from him and get into my car

Lumkile : and you don't get to keep me away from my child , unless you want to provoke me . I'm still not discarding you

Me : you don't get it , I'm not strong enough for this kind of life

He looks down , and I just drive
out

I am not strong , I know I can't
handle being in such a marriage

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

I'm dealing with shit right now ,
and getting my father's call is
the last thing I need

I hope that loud mouth didn't tell him about this , because he has been calling me as well

Me : kumkani (my king)

Dad : Isilo , how are you ?

He's making this a habit

Me : not entirely good

Dad : let me just finish you off ,
you need to come home . The
princess is soon to come , so
she can introduced to the family

What did I say ? As if I don't
have enough to deal with

Me : right

Dad : we'll see you soon

He drops the call . Now I have
to deal with this , and get my
woman

She's crazy if she thinks I'm
letting her go , I'll marry her by
force if I have to

I'm not going to be sorry about
it , that woman is mine and
that's that

.

•

•

•

Nonhle

Zenande is still asleep , I wonder why .

Because usually by 06:00 she's up

And it's almost 07:00 she's sound asleep , I've changed for work and I'm ready to leave

I'm a bit sad that I'll leave
without even talking to her , at
all

Nyaniso : what happened to you
?

Me : nothingwhy ?

Nyaniso : you walked in here
walking and looking like a
corpse

Me : well thank you

The eye bags are nothing a little
bit of make up didn't fix

Nyaniso : what did he do ?

So he can tell me I told you so ?

No thank you ! I don't think so

I'm not going to tell my brother anything about this

Because it'll just give him more reason to hate Lumkile worse

Me : bye

Nyaniso : in case you're wondering , I wouldn't say any I told you so

Did he just read my mind or what ?

Nyaniso : I know you love that idiot of yours , and well couples fight all the time and end up fixing their issues . And they become okay , so I know you might be angry right now . But you'll forgive him , and be okay

If only he knew what is going on right now .

•

•

•

•

Lonwabo

I haven't been able to work ,
just had about three cups of
coffee this morning alone

I'm worried about Nonhle , and
the fact that she left with
Lumkile in that state

Doesn't give me any peace of
mind , I know my brother . Not

that he would hurt her
physically

But he can get tense , and she
wouldn't be able to deal with
that

And going to his house , that
would be me offending him

I don't even , how my family will
react to this whole thing . A

whole girlfriend , while there's a
soon to be wife

Lumkile screwed up this time
around

And even he knows this
wherever he is

But I'm staying out of this , I
already screwed him . But I
didn't know

I'll let him deal with his business
, and I'll stay away from it .

I'm bummed though about
Nonhle , and she doesn't
deserve any of this

I hope she walks away before
she gets burnt

And more hurt by this

The door opens and she walks in , in a navy suit two piece of pants

She looks formal more than any days , and fucking stunning

Me : what are you doing here ?

I get up and walk to her

Nonhle : to work

Me : did you get my message ?

Nonhle : I did , and I respect my work . I know how to put my personal issues aside and be professional

Me : there's no need to act all strong

Nonhle : I'm hurting as hell , but
that's no reason to slack at
work

This can't be healthy at all

She's hurting

Me : are you sure about this ?

Nonhle : yes sir

Right we're back to that , and she goes to her desk and gets settled

I guess I underestimated her , she's a strong woman

.

.

.

.

INSERT 13

Lonwabo

Thinking that maybe he has
calm down now , I thought it
best to come see him

It's been quite a few days since
what happened

Nonhle still comes to work , and
when she's there she's just
herself

I don't know how she can be
hurting , and still have that I'm
okay persona

She hasn't even opened up
much about anything , and I
think I want to talk to her about

that . But I don't know how she
will react

Lumkile : you came to lecture
me ?

At a taxi rank ? Never

Me : no

Lumkile : good Lonwabo
because I'm not in the mood

Me : but when have you ever
been in the mood ?

He says nothing and just looks
at me

We're inside his taxi

The braveness I have right now ,
he can even choke me to death
and it'll be nothing

Lumkile : no matter how you see it , and I don't expect you to understand it . But you'll respect my life and my relationship with kaMajola

Me : there's still a relationship there ?

Lumkile : why wouldn't there be ?

This cannot be healthy for her

Lumkile : I love her

Me : wait no , you're about to get married Lumkile . You can't hurt her like this

Lumkile : I know that , and I'll marry her too

Now I've heard it all and it's
nonsense

Me : a polygamy ? What the hell
?

Lumkile : don't raise your voice
at me

Me : did you hear yourself ?
Where do you get this ?

Lumkile : I don't need to get anything from anywhere , and I don't expect you to understand

Me : how is this any fair on her ?

My brother must have lost his mind

How can he even think that this will work out ?

No one is going to approve this
at home

I know that

Me : did she agree to this ?

Makes me wonder if she knows
, and I hope she knows better
and said no

Lumkile : you can leave now

Me : she doesn't deserve to be put through this , she won't survive being a second wife

Lumkile : and she told you that ?

I wish she had , this makes me want to really do talk to her

Me : no , but we both know it's
not

Lumkile : keep out of my
business if you know what's
good for you , get out of my taxi
unless you're to be a paying
passenger

He's serious , and I know I'm
about to overstep a mark here

But I'll deal with the
consequences

.

.

.

.

Liyana

I'm ready to get back home soon again , and I'm going there for a reason now

I heard the princess will be coming soon , and I don't want to miss the chance to meet her

Only to find out if she's really
the real deal or not , because I'd
hate for my brother to be dealt
a raw one

Summer : I hate that you're
leaving again

I haven't even left

Me : I'm still here

Summer : you know what I
mean

Me : yes I know

I fix her tie , and she's not in my
mood this morning

But family comes first , not
neglecting the relationship
though

Me : if I wasn't in this so called closet , you'd come along . That would have been great

Summer : yeah it doesn't matter , because I'm not coming along

She walks away from me and packs her things into her work bag

Me : I'm sorry

Summer : babe let's not do this
, not this early

Summer is out there about who
she is and her sexuality

Her family knows like everyone
knows , and they even know me

I feel like I'm not being fair to her and this relationship , because it feels like I'm living a lie

And in this lie life of me , she has no place . She doesn't know anyone from my family

Except just knowing about them , and having met my brother's

But not as a girlfriend , and
besides our own circle of
friends . No one from my side
knows about us

Me : I love you

Summer : I love you

She just pecks my cheek and
leaves , this is not how I want to
leave things between us

I can't be going home and my girlfriend is angry or rather upset with me

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

I'm just one personal mess

As much as I'm trying to gather
myself and be strong about
everything

I don't know how I'll get over this , I actually don't know how to get over this

I love Lumkile , maybe more than I've ever even admitted that I do

I know no one forced me , but now I've lost him . The princess gets to have a man that's mine

And only because she's of a
royal blood she matters more

Nothing hurts like having to see
him everyday

Because he still comes around
to see Zenande

And that's also another conflict
now , what happens when he
has kids with his royal wife ?

What about my kid then ? Will she still matter this much ? Or his blood will take first place

Voice : am I talking alone ?

I look at him

Nyaniso : you zoned out on me again

Me : I have a lot on my mind

Nyaniso : sure you do , you're
telling me that

I won't do this with him

Me : what did you want ?

Nyaniso : what did he do ?

Not this again

Me : nothing

Nyaniso : for days now , he comes around sees his self proclaimed daughter and leaves

Why is he saying what we're all seeing ?

Me : and Lumkile is not the only thing that matters in my life

Nyaniso : oh ?

Me : like in a few days I have to take the bar again , don't you just think even for one second that maybe just maybe that's what has me stressed ? And not some man

I'll rather he thinks I have other things making me this way

And not just Lumkile entirely alone , even though he's really just the sole reason

Me : Zenande and I we'll be moving in a few days , are you coming with ?

I might as well go into my house , since he does not want to take it back

I don't want to let it go to waste
, even though it kind of feels
somehow going to live into a
house he bought

And we're not together

Nyaniso : I'm not going there

The pride of this guy

Me : you do understand that I can't split bills ?

Nyaniso : and I don't expect you to

Me : okay

I won't beg him to come , and I won't even worry myself about how he'll pay the rent here

Maybe it's their plan with Faith
to move in here together and
play house

Me and my child we'll move ,
and see how we do this life
thing on our own out there

I just need to get a baby sitter ,
because I don't want Zenande
in preschool as of yet

She's still young , and I want her
to be a child and just be home

And I'm not feeling to pay
creche for a person who will
just go there to sleep , eat and
play nothing else

I'll rather pay someone to
watch her while she does all of
that at home

.

•

•

•

Lonwabo

She's looking better than most days , and with just a few days left for her to take the bar

I need her to pass and the only way she can do that , is if her mind is in the right place

Me : can I overstep a bit ?

She looks at me , I get up and walk to her desk

Me : I need to talk to you , and I guess I just can't ignore the fact that you're dating my brother

Nonhle : I hope that doesn't cost me my job , or changes your mind about the bar ?

Me : no , no it doesn't

Nonhle : oh

I know Lumkile said he loves her
, but who knows what will
happen he meets the princess

Me : my brother told me that
he wants to marry you

Nonhle : he did ?

Me : yes , and Nonhle I don't approve of that

Nonhle : approve ?

Me : don't get me wrong , not to say that your marriage needs my approval . But Lumkile is about to get married to a royal princess , is that the kind of life you want for yourself ? Sharing a man , being in a polygamous marriage .

She says nothing , I can only
hope that I'm planting a seed
into her

So she can stay away from him ,
and save herself the drama and
heartache

Me : you're a beautiful woman ,
and any man would be very
lucky to have you . Please don't

settle for less and what's
beneath you , marrying Lumkile
being his second wife is not the
only way to marriage

I've said my piece and I hope
she heard me

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

After the talk with Lonwabo
yesterday , I just decided to put
this behind me

Not because of what he said ,
because clearly what he heard
from Lumkile and what I heard

Are just two different things ,
but it doesn't matter what is
what

Knowing people like Gail sure
came in handy , she helped me
find a minder

And it's a nice middle aged woman , thank God she's not young

Because I don't want my baby abused , but I think this one will be fine and they'll get along

She'll be staying in the cottage outside , and go home on weekends and holidays

We finally moved today , and someone is very happy . The sad thing is that just like at the father's house

She has her own room , and apparently she'll be sleeping in there and not with me

Nyaniso is not very much happy at all with us moving , but the good thing about us

Is that we're both adults , and
we're old enough to make our
own choices

I got a half day today that's why
I got to move and be done

Now it's late , I can use a glass
of wine . And I'll just order in ,
I'm lazy to cook

But first I need to do this , the
one thing I really don't want to
do

I take my phone and call him ,
first ring he answers like the
phone was just in his hand

Lumkile : KaMajola

Now I don't know what to say , I
don't want to ask how he is

Because I'm not okay , I'm
hurting

I miss him so much that it hurts

And I don't want to hear him
saying he's okay , he can't be
okay while I'm not

Lumkile : what's wrong ?

The way he's so genuine , I wish
I can just say I want you back

But I can't stand everything

Where will I even begin dealing
with all of this

Me : we.....we moved today

Lumkile : it was about time

The awkwardness I'm just
causing myself by having no
words to utter

Me : so you'll come see her
here now

Lumkile : I'm still at the rank ,
but I'll definitely come over

Me : okay

Lumkile : thank you for telling me okay

Me : it wouldn't be okay to let you go to Rosebank for nothing

Lumkile : at least you still care

Silence , what do I say ? It's not like a few days of breakup and I've become some hard-core human

Me : bye

Lumkile : I love you

He drops the call , and the
water works are at play

This co-parenting is going to be
the death of me , I have to see
Lumkile everyday

.

•

•

•

Lumkile

Bed time has become our
favourite time

She doesn't even need a
bedtime story

Because she's the story herself ,
she was telling me about the
new granny who will be staying
with them

Because now they moved , she needs someone to watch her when mommy is at work

Nyaniso is not here , because he stayed back at the other house they lived at

And she fell asleep telling me all of that , how cute is that

I walk into kaMajola's room and she's getting undressed . I just have perfect timing I know

Nonhle : couldn't you knock ?

Me : for who ?

She continues doing what she's doing , I close the door .

Chances that Zenande will wake up now are very slim

Only middle of the night then
yeah , those are her times

I walk closer to her , and hold
her waist . She shivers , I move
my hand up her back and unclip
her bra

I push the straps off her
shoulders slowly , and it falls
down

We're locking eyes , I take her lips into mine . She welcomes me , my hand trails to her ass

I can still taste the wine on her lips , I guess it's only okay because she was drinking it at home

I lay her down on the bed , my hoodie and t-shirt go off . I pull

her panties down , and play
with her clit

I love that she's no screamer ,
her moans are subtle sweet and
fucking sexy

Nonhle : Xaluva

Me : mhm

I don't stop playing with her clit
and kissing her

Nonhle : wa...wait

Her body is quivering , the way
I've learnt to know it . I know
she's horny

I lift my head and look at her ,
she returns the look . I lean

back down and give her a deep
kiss

One that has her running her
hands all over my back and neck

And the more she's running on
my neck , the worse harder I
just get

But I pull out and try to get up ,
only she locks me with her legs

Me : what ?

Nonhle : what are you doing ?

Me : I'm leaving

Nonhle : no , you're not we're

....

Me : you told me to wait

Nonhle : yeah but...

Me : I'm not forcing you to do what you don't want to do , I'm not going to manipulate you with sex

Nonhle : so now you're even going to deprive me of you ?
Isn't it enough that I already lost you ?

Well that's what she thinks ,
and I have no idea how this tiny
head of hers thinks

She thinks we've broken up ,
but now she wants my dick

I pull my pants down , and
settle fine in between her
thighs . My dick rests on her
coochie

Me : do you want me to stop ?

Nonhle : no , don't . I want you

I slide my dick inside her
coochie slowly , she bites my
shoulder to muffle her moans

She's marking me indirect , that
bite of hers will leave a mark
that'll never fade

I take slow deep thrusts , she keeps moving her waist underneath me

Meeting my thrusts with the same pace , her legs locked over my ass . She doesn't want me going anywhere

Me : I love you

Nonhle I....

I thrust in deeper picking my
pace

Her moans increase

She takes my lips into hers , and
pulls me into a deep kiss

She lets her moans inside of my
mouth , I let out deep groans
into hers

And that always turns her like
crazy

She tightens her legs around me

Her body quivers a bit more
underneath me , I know she's
cumming . She's fighting to
push me off , and also not to
scream

One beautiful thing when my woman has a cum , her struggles to contain herself are just amusing

.

.

.

.

INSERT 14

Lumkile

You know this is funny , like
we've gotten to that point really
so fast

We made love last night

And after however many rounds
we had

I left and went to sleep at my house

I'm not even an ex that does sleepovers

This woman doesn't play , not that she kicked me out

But she made it clear , we're not together so she says

I don't know what she thinks we
are now , maybe ex's who make
love to each other

She must be out of her sane
mind , I don't have time to
pleasure a woman that's not
mine

I've just done my morning loads
, and I've come to see my
daughter

I'm happy that Nyaniso is not here , that boy was just going to be a problem for me

She lets me in

I don't even know why I don't have a key to her house

Me : molo (good morning)

She's still getting ready for work
, she has on her suit and
slippers

Nonhle : hi

Me : ubulisa mna ngo hi ?
(You're greeting me with)

She looks at me

Nonhle : Xaluva

Me : hayhiii kaMajola ,
unokuzikhohlwa (you're
forgetting yourself)

She gives me a remorseful look ,
we walk into the kitchen . What
perfect timing , people are
having breakfast

She just dishes up for me
without even asking , and she

thinks I'll let her go
uyaphambana (she's out of her
mind)

Me : and then ?

I say looking at this one who's
busy stuffing her face , and
clothes and eyes nose like
everything even her hair with
food

Her mother shrugs her
shoulders

Me : why is she eating asleep ?

kaMajola just looks at me , this
doesn't make sense at all

Zenande is half asleep yet she's
eating , why is she even up to
begin with ?

Me : didn't she sleep enough at night ?

Nonhle : andaz buza yena (I don't know ask her)

How do I ask a half asleep person a question ?

Her eyes are half closed , she's barely awake

She's not even seeing me right now , it says her mind-set is not here but sleeping

I need proof so she can explain what was going on here ? We'll have a great talk tonight

I take a video of her , and it's just the most cutest thing ever

Nonhle : please eat

And she still takes care of me

Me : thank you

I join her and eat , but still
looking at my baby . She's such
a weird child

Me : do you trust this woman
who will be looking after our
child ?

She sent me a text , telling me about this . Just imagine a whole text ?

Nonhle : yes she's good , and she's an older woman

Me : how much will you pay her ?

Nonhle : R3 500

Me : okay draft a list of your monthly bills , I want to see just roughly how much you spend . I'll take care of that from now

Nonhle : what ?

Me : ndise yindoda mna , and wena you need to be taught uk'ba imali yendoda iyatyiwa . I can't let you pay bills while I'm

here , I wake up at 4 everyday . I don't do that for no particular reason (I'm still the man here , a man's money is to be spent)

Nonhle : but we're not tog....

Me : if you have nothing valuable to say , just keep quite

Nonhle : I'm working

Me : and you spend your money
on you and our daughter not
bills , that's for me to do

And this conversation is done

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

My nerves are shot up the roof ,
I'm taking the bar tomorrow

I'm not sure if I'm ready for that
, and Lonwabo gave me a day
off to reminisce over everything

But I can't even do that , I'm
just here staring at these papers

Voice : seems like you need
some saving

I look up and she has just all
junk

Me : you here ?

She laughs

Gail : beautiful , your boss sent me . Now I have to ask

She puts the basket and flowers on the coffee table

Me : my boss as in ...

Gail : the one and only , the big man . Now why would he go

such an extra mile , for the
basket and the flowers ?

Beats me

Me : are you sure it's him ?

Gail : where do you think I know
your address from ?

True that

Gail : and when did you move in here ? And the car ? Like there's a lot you haven't told me

Me : and believe me you need to know absolutely nothing

Gail : shall I open this basket of yours ?

Me : you should have taken it yourself to begin with

Gail : beautiful no

The shock , but I don't get why
Lonwabo would buy me such

Gail : on that note , I'm not
opening this . It's for you keep it

She can be well behaved at
times , she amazes both of us

Me : can I get you anything ?

Gail : I want to sit and chat , but unlike you I'm not given a day off . So I have to go back , now you owe me a night out . So you can dish out everything

Me : great this weekend

Gail : amazing , where's that cute bundle of joy ?

Me : somewhere out back

Gail : let me go kiss her , I'll see
you

Me : bye

I go back to my papers ,
because I can't afford to fail .
This is my one last chance , I
have to believe that

•

•

•

•

Lonwabo

I'm on call with Liyana , she's
telling me that she's going
home soon

And I know we'll all be
summoned , that's just how my
father is

Liyana : where is Isilo ?

The respect she possesses when she addresses him like that ?

Me : he's around

Liyana : all good I hope

Me : in his own way yes

Liyana : I need to talk to him

Me : something rather important ?

Liyana : yes you can say that

Me : wait a bit maybe , he's just dealing with something right now

Liyana : I have to talk to him , before I go home

Me : okay , let me check on his situation and I'll let you know okay ?

Liyana : okay

Me : that's better right ?

Liyana : yes thank you

We'll always treat her like the child

Liyana : I should let you back to
your work

Me : okay I love you MaXaluva

Liyana : I love you too

We hang up

How do I even start
approaching Lumkile again ?

I haven't seen him since that day

I really have no idea what's going on with his situation

Nonhle didn't contact me all of yesterday , not that I was expecting a thank you for the basket

But just to say she got it , and
this morning I sent a message
wishing her well

She also didn't get back to me
again . I ask for Gail to come to
my office

I know she's the one person
who can help me with what I
have in mind

.

•

•

•

Nonhle

The way I'm so down

I have no doubt that I didn't do well on that again

I should just forget this , and just focus on other legal fields than being a lawyer

Because clearly it's not going to happen anytime soon , maybe it won't even happen ever

My phone rings and it's Gail ,
I'm not in the mood for company

I'm sure by tomorrow I'll be fine
, we can go out and talk

Me : Ms Kim

Gail : please come to the office
now

Okay she doesn't sound like her
normal usual self at all

Me : what's wrong ?

Gail : please come

She drops the call , that was very strange . Gail is never serious

I doubt she even knows how to do that , but today she has shocked me

I finished taking the bar two hours ago , and I just went to the park for a while to clear my head

Instead of driving home I go to
the office , I'm trying my level
best to stay calm and cautious

I arrive park my car and walk
inside , and it's like I'm walking
inside one classy restaurant

Isn't it cheers and claps , and
shouts of congratulations

Like why would they throw me
a party ? When I could have
failed

I don't want to be hyped for no
reason , and only to hurt again
because of false hope

Gail : you did us proud

Me : what are you talking about
?

Lonwabo walks to us , and well
he's in his coat like all the other
attorneys

Lonwabo : you made me proud

He hands me the black coat in
his hand , I'm so lost

Lonwabo : my apologies for
being forward , when I got the

great news from the university I
couldn't help but want to
celebrate you

Me : great news ?

I'm confused

Lonwabo : you passed the bar

Is he kidding me ?

Me : but howshouldn't I wait
a while for the results ?

Lonwabo : you know me , a
whole Xaluva that makes things
happen

I would rather it's my Xaluva
saying this , and not this one

Because I don't understand
what he's playing at

I appreciate what Lonwabo did for me , I passed now and it's all thanks to him

But the gifts , the messages and now this ? It's all too much and it doesn't sit well with me

I'm not saying I'm the shit he wants me or what

But if he has any ideas , he
should scrap them all right now

I will never jump from brother
to brother , and if he has those
thoughts

Then he's clearly taking me for
a cheap thing

Me : wow , I don't know what to
say

I'm not even happy about this party , the only thing I'm happy about is passing

So now I am a lawyer like I can practice , that's my happiness right now

Lonwabo : and my offer still stands , that's if you don't choose to leave us

I would be a fool to leave his law firm after he's helped me so much

Me : I'll take being a junior attorney here any day

Lonwabo : good , because it awaits you . It's all yours , and I'm glad you're taking it

Now I'm speechless , finding out
has saved me a whole lot of
mopping days

Gail : there's your hater

She helps me put on my coat ,
Lonwabo has walked away from
us

And it's Qaqambile coming , the
devil is about to tempt me now

Gail : I'll leave you

Why ? Because she loves gossip

Qaqambile : baby mama

The nerve

Qaqambile : you're one of us
now , doing things . We'll be
meeting in the court room , and

aren't you just in luck . We're soon to choose from interns which ones to take under our own , I have a good mind to just score you

Me : did you just put me and intern in the same sentence ?

The smug off his face slowly fades away

Me : let's bare in mind , I'm in a
black coat just like you runaway

And I say turning my heels on
him , I'm not one with pride but
Qaqambile brings out the worst
in me

Lonwabo : a word ?

He brings me aside

Me : thank you for this

Lonwabo : you're welcome ,
and it paid off . Monday you'll
have your new contract

Me : now I can't repay you back
for helping me study , but I'd
like to set up a payment plan .

Lonwabo : payment plan ?

With Lumkile going to take care
of the bills

I can use my salary for a few
months to repay Lonwabo

Me : for paying my fees

Lonwabo : nonsense that was....

Me : Mr Xaluva please

He's not happy , but I'm not giving him a chance either

Lonwabo : you do understand I wasn't expecting you to repay me back right ?

Me : well aware , but it just wouldn't be right not to do . Especially when I have the means to

Lonwabo : okay

He's disappointed , but it's best
this way

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

Zenande fell sick with flu , I had to rush her to the doctor

Good thing I was at the house , I didn't even call kaMajola to bother her

Because I know this day was
just so stressful for her

I didn't want to stress her for a
slight thing , nothing an
injection didn't help

And ice-cream and add a pizza
on that . To be forgiven for
taking her to be injected

Now she's sleeping in the car ,
I'm just leaning against the car
waiting for her mother

I just had to hear about this
stupid party , and now I know I
have to have a word with my
brother

She comes out beautiful as
always , but she's not happy at
all

Nonhle : Xaluva

Me : you're thrown a party and
I'm not invited

Nonhle : it's your brothers
doing

Me : you're not happy

Nonhle : no

I engulf her into a hug

Me : nonetheless , I'm proud of
you .

Nonhle : thank you , now I just
wanna go home

Me : we're going to my house

Nonhle : but....

Me : either you come with us or
you don't

She sighs

Nonhle : how is she ?

Me : I took her to the doctor ,
she got an injection she's asleep
now

Nonhle : okay

Me : you'll spend the weekend

Nonhle : don't start

Me : I want to spend time with
my daughter , I did say come if
you want to

Nonhle : this is

She takes a deep breath , I walk her to her car . This is no plot to get her into bed

I do that just fine without any plots , I'm not at the rank this weekend

So I want to spend time with my daughter , if she's okay being at her house alone . That's fine

.

•

•

•

INSERT 15

Nonhle

We spent the night together in his bed all three of us

How he got Zenande to sleep with us and not in her room I don't know

Because I didn't want to sleep in his room , I wanted a spare room

But he said no , we're all
sleeping in the master bedroom

I didn't even fight him with ,
because I was tired and just
needed to rest

Me : you need a helper here

Lumkile : for what ?

Me : I'm hungry now , and
we're eating cereal

Lumkile : you think I'm going to
let another woman in my house
?

Why is Lumkile like this though
?

Me : just a helper

Lumkile : and you expect me to eat food prepared by that helper ?

I nod

Lumkile : uligeza wena (you're mad)

Me : that's not nice

He just looks at me , he's
actually just paying attention to
Zenande than me

Zenande : mamu ungekho wena
, tatam khona . Ahamba thina
yena dot ajova (mom you
weren't here , daddy was here .
We left and the doctor injected
me)

I laugh

Zenande : tatam mamu ha.ana
(daddy tell mom no)

Lumkile : umhlekanani umntana ?
(Why are you lying at the child)

Me : must you always?

Lumkile : wena uhleka nton ?
(What are you laughing at)

Zenande : ahleka tatam (she's laughing daddy)

I won't stay here to be ganged up on

Me : I have to meet Gail for lunch

Lumkile : hamba ke (then leave)

Me : yhoh

I get up grab my car keys

Me : can you bring her over
later ?

Lumkile : she's spending the
weekend

Me : I'm not spending the
weekend here Xaluva

Lumkile : then it's fine , but
she's spending it here

I don't know about that , I'm
not saying Lumkile will hurt my
daughter

But to spend the whole
weekend here without me ?

I don't know

Lumkile : hamba , you'll decided
whether you're coming back or
not (go)

I don't know what to say , and
Zenande seems like she's happy
here

But then again she's never slept
anywhere without me

Except at home with Nyaniso

Let me go maybe I'll come back
refreshed

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

Zenande is asleep now , she
plays and eats too much

But this now gives me time to
talk with my brother , I can't go
to his place

I asked him over , he said he's coming and it's been a while

So I don't know if he's bullshitting me or what , but then the weekend will be over .
I'll go to him

My phone rings and its my sister

Me : MaXaluva

Liyana : I hope you're well ?

Okay she's not well herself

The reason why I'm able to
connect to Liyana

Is because she's of water , as
much as we are not one with
water

She's the glue that brings us
together

And when I use those water
senses

I'm able to get a lot from her ,
like how she's feeling . Her
heartbeat and emotions

Me : talk to me

Liyana : there's something I've
been keeping away from
everyone

And she's tearing up , now I
know she wants to spill her
sexuality to me

And I don't get why me , and
another thing I know she's a
Lesbian

I've always know this ever since we were like maybe 9 or so

Me : Liyana listen to me okay , I have a lot of shit going on littler sis . You don't owe anyone anything , your sexuality is...

Liyana : you know ?

Me : of course I know , what do you take me for ? I'm not a fool

Liyana : I know you're not

Me : then stop hurting yourself ,
I'm your brother and I love you .
There's nothing wrong with you
, dating other women doesn't
mean there's something wrong
with you . And you owe no one
any explanation , it's your life .
Live it how you want to . You're
still my baby sister

Liyana : thank you so much , I
hope everyone will take me as I
am

Me : why do they even need to
take you ? This is your life not
theirs , and no one is being told
how to live theirs . You're no
exception , listen to me when
we get home you'll put this out
there

I don't understand the fuss
about not being straight

Why the need to explain to
people who you love and why?
What's it to them ?

Like how is it their business ?
Whereas no one else feels the
need to explain themselves

Liyana : I'm scared

Me : there's no need for that

Liyana : okay

She goes quite but I can tell she wants to say something

Me : I'm listening

Liyana : I know we spoke about this before , but now that the

time is near I can't help but
worry

Me : worry not about me , do
what you need to do . When
you have to , I can take care of
myself

Liyana : I know that but....

Me : I need to go okay

She heaves a sigh

Liyana : okay

I drop the call , as much as i
may look like I'm just heading
for disaster

I know what I'm doing , and I
know she wants to know if
there's really another woman

But that's not how I see
kaMajola , if anything the
princess is the other woman

Marriage or not , that's who she
will always be to me

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

Lunch is going great

I just wish I was brave enough
to talk about my issues

As much as Gail is crazy and wild , she can sometimes dish out some good advice

Me : I'm in a predicament

Gail : what ?

Me : remember the rude guy ?

Gail : from the club , your one night turned boyfriend

I laugh

Me : yes now thank you for all
that information again

She laughs

Gail : yes , don't tell me you
broke up

Me : I don't know

I'm so broken , this façade I just put up . I'm hiding this hurt

Gail : don't make me cry too

Me : so I have a situation , that I know it won't be any pleasant for me . And I'm more scared for my daughter , like the relationship they have together . The bond between them it's

just amazing . And I don't want Zenande to loose that , if I walk away from this am I being selfish ? Even though I know this is not for me , but then if I stay and it backfires so bad . I'll hate myself and I'll never forgive myself for allowing such in my life

She already has me in a hug and she's comforting me

I'm sure she's so pink , I can't
stop these tears

Me : I love him so much , but he
comes with so much as well . I
don't doubt his love for me
either

Gail : beautiful love always wins

Me : it's sometimes not enough

Gail : oh you're hurting me

Me : well I'm hurt , and I don't see myself getting any better

Knowing he's out there living his life , with some princess

That will kill me everyday , but also being a polygamous marriage it's not me

Gail : take time , think things through . Whatever decision you make , please make a sane one

First priority is my daughter , and she won't get this at all

Daddy is with another woman , how do I explain that to her ?

I just can't

Remind me to never and I mean
never let another man near my
daughter

I fear the hurt this will bring her
, as much as he's here . When
he starts having kids with that
princess , he will change no
matter what

.

.

.

.

Liyana

After my call with my brother , I
guess I can gather my strength

If the cold Lumkile can get this ,
how far more everyone else

Hopefully I'm making the right
decision , and I will not regret it

I walk in the bedroom and she
has her phone in hand

Me : baby can we talk ?

Summer : what ?

Me : I would like you to come
with me home

Ever since that little
misunderstanding

We haven't been ourselves

And I get and understand her ,
which is why I guess I tried to
reach out to my brother

To hear his thoughts , only of
course to be told that he knows
. Proving my suspicions

Summer : your home ?

Me : yes please

Summer : what changed ?

Me : I spoke with my brother ,
and turns out he knows . He
told me to just put my life out
there when I get home

Summer : do you want to do
that?

I nod

Me : I'm just not being fair to
you

Summer : baby come here

I get on the bed , she holds me

Summer : I love you either way I
love you

Me : and I love you

Summer : then don't feel
obliged to do anything , you're
not ready for

Me : I want to do this , it's not
influenced by him

Summer : okay , if by the time
you leave you're still singing the
same tune I'll go with you . Just
don't feel pressured

Me : babe you don't trust me
much

We laughs

Summer : I love you anyway

I'm hoping for the best

Because I have a task ahead of
me

It's not helping that Lumkile is
shutting me out

.

.

.

.

Lonwabo

I got delayed having to go see
Lumkile , I was busy working

For some of us there's no rest ,
and I'm sure he's thinking I
don't want to see him

I've only just gotten home now ,
I'm tired to drive to his place

And I'm not alone , I'm with
Qaqambile

I was working on the case with
him

And we're not yet done , so we
came over to my place to finish
off

Me : help yourself to a beer or something , I need to make a call

Qaqambile : alright

He walks to the kitchen , I call my brother

Lumkile : what are you doing calling me ?

He's not pleased

But when is he ever pleased
with anything or anyone

Me : I was working , and I got
delayed

Lumkile : now what the fuck do
you want ?

Me : can we just have a civil conversation , without you biting my head off

Lumkile : stay the fuck away from Nonhle , or I'll be forced to literally bite that head of yours off . I appreciate what you've done for her , but let it end there . Stop with the gifts and parties . I won't hate messing you up Xaluva

He drops the call , and I know
I'm fucked

Qaqambile : everything okay ?

He sits down , and he brought
me a beer as well

Me : see me again helping
women I know nothing about ,
only to get burnt . Having my
own heart taking strain in the

process , never again . Cause
now I'm taking the heat

Qaqambile : matters of the
heart , women will fuck you up
bad

Me : says the one man that's
fucking every skirt

He laughs

Qaqambile : I once loved a woman , and damn she had my heart I won't lie . But as a guy I kept fucking her over and over again , and she gave me chance after chance . Until she had enough and called it quits , I was so fucken broken to a point of no return . That's when I learnt that love hurts , I had a very good thing you know . But I didn't know how to take good care of it or how to get it right .

I lost it and it turned me into what I am today . It was 2 months later she came back said she's pregnant , I told her where to get off . I said the child is not mine . That time I was the only man she ever slept with , I know exactly it was my child . But I was hurt that she broke up with me , and I wanted her to feel the same pain . To have to struggle and raise the child alone , knowing very well that I

live and I'm very fine . The pleasure it gave me to see her in the same building everyday , while I'm going on the top floor she's left right behind a reception desk . I saw her as nothing , and I wanted her to see me living my best life everyday . I know she knows about my office affairs , I hoped they hurt and break her . But damn she's moving on , and just doing the most . Now she's just

made it to junior attorney , and knowing her abilities . I know she will be the best lawyer ever . She's not suffering as I expected her to be , and the regret of denying my child . Hurting her in the process kills me everyday , and I live with it

When a man is shedding tears like this , just know it's fucked up

He's a man still in love with the
past , and still living the
heartbreak

Me : who is this woman ?

Qaqambile : Nonhle Majola ,
the newest attorney to join us

Fuck no !

.

.

.

.

INSERT 16

Lumkile

Zenande wasn't having it to
leave with her mother
yesterday

She's still here with me

And I have to drop her off
tomorrow morning when I leave
for work

Zenande : tatam (daddy)

It's late at night just before
22:00

Me : Nana (baby)

Zenande : alali nawe ? (You can't sleep either)

Me : ewe (yes)

Zenande : nam (me too)

I don't know why we can't sleep
, when we slept fine yesterday

Zenande : afun mamu ? (Do you want mom)

I need her , and my princess can
feel that

Me : wena uyamfuna ? (Do you
want her)

Zenande : afun nawe (I want
you both)

And I want us both too , I grab
my phone and call her

And to my surprise she's asleep
, like how does she sleep
without us ?

Nonhle : Xaluva is everything
okay ?

Me : we can't sleep

I move the phone to Zenande

Me : thetha no mama (talk to mom)

Zenande : mamu afun (mom I want you)

Nonhle : k'theni ningalalanga ?
(Why are you not asleep)

Me : she just told you

She sighs

Nonhle : manje ndithini mna
lento ? (So what am I supposed
to do about this)

Me : you're sleeping fine there

Nonhle : and you slept fine
yesterday

Me : and tonight we can't

Nonhle : hayhiii (no)

We all go quite

She's the woman she has to
have a solution for us

Nonhle : manje niza apha ? (So
are you coming here)

Zenande : apha (here)

Nohle : forget I'm not coming
there now

Me : okay we'll come

Nonhle : nina niya bhora (you
two are boring)

She drops the call on us

Like how rude ? But we're going
there still

•

•

•

•

Nonhle

I feel like Zenande is my death
where Lumkile is concerned

She'll always be that one link
that brings us together

They just had to come here ,
and crowd my bed . And I guess
it's a thing now

When we're together , we sleep on the same bed . All three of us

The daughter doesn't fight to go sleep in her room , as she usually does when we're alone

I had to wake up earlier than my usual time , to make sure I cook breakfast

So Lumkile doesn't leave
without eating

He won't be doing the morning
loads today

He left the taxi at his house ,
and he has no change of clothes

He still has to go to his place ,
that's why I'm up this early

And just then he walks in , he's showered . Must be nice being him

Our situation doesn't even make sense to me right now

We've broken up , but here we are . Spending nights at each other's places

He kisses my cheek and seats
down , see my predicament

It's like he's saying I'm telling
him nonsense , with the
breakup and he's not having
any of it

And he has the support of the
little madam .

I dish up for him and serve him

Lumkile : thank you

I nod

Me : I need to go finish up

He nods as well

I leave him there and go back to
the bedroom

I can't believe that this morning
I'm going to work as a whole
junior attorney

And not a personal assistant to
the boss , it's an amazing feeling

I wear black high waist formal
pants , white short sleeve open
back summer blouse . And black
heels

I put on a bit of make-up , I'm a fan

And I used to say I'm not a make-up person , that was until I learnt how to apply it

I go back to eat and he's done , even his plate is washed

He's not all so bad , it's the little things that Lumkile does

That make me just fall in love
with him , even now . If I say I
don't love him anymore

That would be a very brutal lie ,
I still love him . And to be
honest I never stopped loving
him

Lumkile : you're beautiful

Me : thank you

The slight compliments , and
you know he means them

That he's not just trying to
charm me , because in his mind
he's like you're mine wena
(you)

Lumkile : she's still sleeping ?.

Me : yes

Lumkile : let me go check on her

The love that he has for my
child

That has to stand out above all

It's seconds later he calls me up
, I get up in a hurry rushing back
upstairs to my room

Thinking maybe something is
wrong with Zenande

And what welcomes me is shock

The madam is playing with my
make up

It's everywhere on her face

Me : she looks like a ghost

The evil eye I get

I take my words back and
swallow them

Lumkile : because she's not
even supposed to put all this
toxicity on her face

I'm finished

Me : so my face is toxic ?

He does what he does best and ignores me , he walks in and goes to her

I stand at the door I just watch , and admire this father and daughter moment

Lumkile : into zika mama ezi , wena umhle awuzidingi (these

are mom's things , you're so beautiful you don't need them)

I am also beautiful without makeup please ! I don't need it either

He takes a mirror and shows her , her face and she frowns so bad . And it makes her look even worse

She even has lipstick on the wrong places , like her chubby cheeks

Zenande : ha.ana tatam , Nande anje (no daddy , Zenande is not like this)

My daughter just adores having a father , and she's just turned into a daddy's girl

That's why everything that's
happening as of late is scaring
me like this

Lumkile : uyabona awuzidingi ?
(Do you see you don't need
them)

Zenande : suse tatam (remove it
daddy)

This is sweet kodwa

And she even wants to cry .
What was she doing in the first
place ?

It means she wasn't asleep , she
was sneaky and watching me
when I was busy applying the
make-up

He takes my wipes and wipe her
face , when it's all gone . She

just hugs him and he returns it ,
it's so cute

And leaves me with a question
that , do I really want to deny
her all of this ?

But I can't help and wonder ,
will things always stay this way
between them ?

Or they'll change

Once he has kids with his royal
wife ?

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

Leaving kaMajola's house , I
went to my place and changed

I should be at the rank , but I'm
at Lonwabo's place

I want to know that we had a
fucking clear understanding
with each other

Lonwabo : I'm to be leaving for
work

Me : yes , because the rest of us
don't work

I don't care that my siblings
have degrees , it doesn't even
bother me one bit

That they have fancy office jobs

They sit on big chairs , behind
big desks .

While I'm just behind a steering
wheel all day

Listening to Maskandi , driving
people around . I'm not
ashamed

Lonwabo : that's not what I was
saying and you know that

Me : since you couldn't come to
me , I've come to you . Now tell
me we had a clear
understanding with each other
perfectly

Lonwabo : we do , and if it makes anything better . She's paying me back the tuition fee , even though I told her not to . I genuinely was helping her

Me : right , then good

We walk towards the door together

Lonwabo : while we're on the topic thorough , do you know that she has a child ?

Tell me why I haven't killed Lonwabo even now ?

Lonwabo : before you have my head , I didn't go snooping around . I had Qaqambile here , and he spilled it all . We weren't even talking about her , but women in general

He's lying , women in general
that started off with Nonhle . I
see it all over his face

Me : and who the fuck is that
again ?

Lonwabo : this is where it gets
interesting , the baby daddy .
He's an attorney at my law firm
, and he denied the baby

Lonwabo should have been
Liyana instead

A man who has a wet mouth
like this no ways

Me : so you fancy lawyer boys ,
have something to mumble
about when together ? And that
something just happens to be

my woman . What do you want
to see Lonwabo ?

Lonwabo : you're taking this the
wrong way I....

Me : I said to you stay the fuck
away , and now this shit

Lonwabo : okay , okay

He raises his hands up

Lonwabo : I'm done , and for
good this time

Me : keep poking me , you
won't like it . Brother I'll enjoy
ripping your heart out ,
watching you take your last
pathetic breath . It'll be a
pleasure , keep going at it .
Cause clearly you don't
understand the words stay
away

I walk out , leaving him there .
And now I know he's heard me .

He may be stupid , but he's not
that stupid . I guess now I have
a visit to this stupid firm

The only way a guy would visit
the past , is because he has an
urge

And I need to finish that before he even thinks of going too far with that urge of his

While I'm on that I make a transaction to Lonwabo , for his money that he spent sending Nonhle back to take the bar

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

I have my own office , nothing
big nor small either . It's just
perfect for me

I've settled in just fine , and I'm ready . As much as I'll start on small cases

And with a senior of course , always ahead of me . But it's a step in the right direction

I came in earlier than usual , and I thought I was late .
Because of make-up disasters

A slight knock comes at the door , and its Gail

Me : come on in

Gail : look at you miss junior attorney

We laugh

Me : oh stop

Gail : listen I came to
congratulate you , and so I bring
forth gifts

Me : I won't be modest and say
you shouldn't have . Let's see

And it's a beautiful pot plant ,
I'll never understand the kind of
these people who bring such
gifts

But it's a gift , and I'm one grateful human being

Me : thank you

The office phone rings , we both look at it in shock

Gail : wow I guess duty calls already

I answer , and it's reception .
Apparently my husband is here
to see me

This all has Lumkile written all
over it , I shall hope I'm so
wrong . Since when do I have a
husband ?

Me : reception

Gail : I'm going down so

We walk out together , and
indeed it's him . With the little
madam

Gail : isn't that cute ?

Her idiotic self is out

Gail : are you sure the ride man
is not the baby daddy ?

Me : shut up

Gail : go be cute with your mini family , I'll see you

We part ways , I go to them

Zenande : mamu (mom)

I kiss her cheek , and Qaqambile walks in . That gets me a kiss on there forehead

Do you know what a forehead
kiss , symbolises to the outside
world ? Well it's not just a kiss

Me : what a great surprise

Lumkile : we came to see you

Me : I see that but why ?

I ask with a smile

Lumkile : to make your first day special

Why am I smiling ?

Me : okay , let's go to my office then . I hope you guys are not in a hurry

Lumkile : not at all

He takes my hand walking to the elevator , he has Zenande on his arm

The look on Qaqambile , it's like his world has just shattered and crumbled into pieces

And now I'm suspicious of this visit , Lumkile knows the guy works here .

Even though he doesn't know him , but I can be wrong . This is Lumkile we're talking about

He's all about means , there's an agenda behind this visit

.

.

.

.

INSERT 17

Lumkile

I'm no spiteful man

But when you're too good
people fucking take advantage
on that

I can't be dealing with my
brother to leave my woman
alone

And now I have to fucking deal
with stupid dicks

He's no man , the second you
run away from your
responsibilities . You're no man

Me : enjoy your day then

Nonhle : I hope this becomes a
habit

Me : really ?

Nonhle : yes

Me : well then anything you
want you get

I take my daughter , cause she's
already asleep . Give her food
and it's all done

Nonhle : should I walk you out ?

Me : just down is fine

We walk out , and bid her
goodbye as the elevator stops

Me : I'll drop her at home

Nonhle : okay

She turns to walk back

Me : wait

Nonhle : what ?

Me : I paid Lonwabo his money back , and you should have told me that you wanted to repay it as soon as you decided that

Nonhle : but Xaluva ...

Me : no , let's not have these kind of talks again . Let me do my job , and you continue being an amazing mother to our daughter . And you put your energy to your career

She sighs defeated

Me : bye

Nonhle : drive safe

She goes back , and as I'm
about to walk out the door

This idiot walks to me

Qaqambile : sorry sir...

Me : don't call me that
nonsense , what the hell do you
want ?

He's taken aback by my words .
And his eyes keeping going back
and forth to my daughter

Me : listen to me , and don't
ever make me cross paths with
you

He takes a step back

Me : you can father a child , run
away because you're a fucking

coward . And we real men we'll
raise the child . Now you'll do
me a great favour , leave my
daughter and wife alone . Boy I
will make you disappear , try me
. Just do it , and you'll get what
you're seeking for

Zenande : tatam (daddy)

She lifts her head and looks
around

Me : ndi apha nana (I'm here baby)

She lifts her eyes she sees me and goes back to sleeping on my shoulder again

Me : I hope we understand each other , I don't mind getting dirty all the way down . Stay the fuck away with your fancy fake suits

We leave , and I hope I never
have to any conversations
about KaMajola with these
lawyers

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

The door opens without even a knock and its Qaqambile

Me : you're honestly going to start annoying me

Qaqambile : with my daughter Nonhle ?

Me : excuse yourself

I get up and walk around the desk to face him

Me : your what ?

Qaqambile : you heard me , so you're busy playing happy families with another man ?

Using my child

The slap that lands on his cheek
causing him to bite his lip

He wasn't ready for it , he did
not expect it at all

Me : dare say that nonsense
again , and watch your pathetic
life fade right in front of your
eyes . You have no daughter

with me , you were just a whole
useless sperm

He looks at me shocked

Me : the very same door you
came in , use it to get out the
same way

Qaqambile : you....

Me : get out

Slowly , not believing the naïve
Nonhle is this woman today

He walks out hurt and ashamed
. And I don't care because I
went through the most all
thanks to him

My day goes just fine , with me
not letting what that idiot did
get under my skin

Until it's knock off time , and I
take a different route to my
house

I know Lumkile is probably
there by now , I wonder if he
even went to the rank

Or he just spent the day with his
daughter , now that's a man
who deserves a father tittle

where Zenande is concerned
not that fool

He's a present father and
raising my child , not just some
useless sperm

I'm back home to see Nyaniso

Ever since I moved things are a
bit estranged between us

And I'm glad I didn't find Faith here . With us gone , I thought she would move in

Nyaniso : you're looking good

Me : well

I don't feel good , but then I don't have to look like how I feel

Me : we need to talk

Nyaniso : you came without my niece here and you want to talk ?

Me : because it's serious , and if you want to see Zenande come where she is

Nyaniso : what do you want to talk about ?

Me : Lumkile asked me to marry him , well not really asked but yeah something like that in passing but very serious

He gets up and paces around, for what I don't know

Nyaniso : tell me you told him where to get off

Me : if under different circumstances I would marry him , without even thinking twice

Nyaniso : what did he do ?

Me : nothing , but I found out he's a future king to some kingdom...

Nyaniso : ah let me guess , he has to marry someone like himself who's from a royal family ?

My brother is raising his voice now

And the pain is just coming back

I nod

Nyaniso : then what does he
want from you kaMajola ?

My tears fall

Me : to marry ...him as well

Nyaniso : that shit is not
happening . We might not be
royalty or whatever , but you're
a whole queen on your own .
You don't need some fucking

future king to make you one ,
you're not going to settle for
this nonsense. You're no one's
second best

Me : I love him

Nyaniso : you'll forget about
him

Will I ever ?

Nyaniso : there's nothing
special about that boy

Having my brother embrace me
like this

It reminds me of the first time
we found out I was pregnant

Nyaniso : you're going to be
okay

I hope so , because right now
I'm slowly dying

But I'm happy cause I feel like
he has my back

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

I have one last load to do , but I feel like leaving . I'm tired this week for some reason

And I have to be at Isilo by weekend , no that's two days away

Having to leave while things are still like this between me and kaMajola

That doesn't sit well with me , I can't go home without that woman as my wife

That was the plan , that's how I was going to be able to control this whole situation

Nhla : Nduna (boss)

Me : ndoda

Nhla : there's an angry man
here looking for you

And then Nyaniso comes
towards me , and he's angry
alright . But he's always angry

Me : not this

Nyaniso : what do you think
you're doing ?

Me : watch your tone

He might be older than me , but
I'll fuck him up so bad

Nyaniso : stay away from my
sister and her child . She will not
become some village second

wife , to some wanna be man at
her expense

Me : I'll respect you and walk
away

I turn my back on him

Nyaniso : you will not

He pulls back , I push him off he
makes contact with the bin post

Nhla : whoa , don't do this
please go home . We don't
want trouble to start brewing
here

He's right a taxi boss fighting ,
will cause havoc here

I leave and get into my taxi ,
drive to my house .

Now how will I see my daughter
when I'm angry like this ?

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

I got woken up by a badly in
pain Nyaniso , and a black eye

Now I'm up nursing him , when I
should be asleep

Me : it took for you to be like
this , before you come to my
house

Nyaniso : thank that idiot for
that

His anger , says something .

And only Lumkile has a push to
make him sound like this

Me : what ?

Nyaniso : he didn't do this himself , of course he would be worse than me

Lies , Lumkile would sweep the floor with Nyaniso

Nyaniso : he pushed me , a rubbish bin pole did this

I know Lumkile is worse , but why attack my brother ?

And he didn't come to see
Zenande today , he just
FaceTime her

They spoke for about an hour ,
and he promised to come see
her tomorrow morning

Me : what happened ?

He says nothing

Me : Nyaniso ! Why would
Lumkile fight with you ?

I raise my voice a bit

Nyaniso : I....I went to the rank
to...to confront him

Me : so you provoked him ?

I hit him with the cloth in my hand

Me : you're so stupid

Nyaniso : I'm still your brother

Me : then act like it

I put everything away

Me : use the room next to
Zenande's

Nyaniso : thank you

He shouts it , and I'm already up
the stairs . I can't believe how
foolish he is

And now I'm thinking about
what he said , a whole animal .

What chance did my human
brother stand ?

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

I've decided to leave today ,
maybe in the afternoon or so

First it was Lonwabo and now
it's this boy Nyaniso

I didn't sleep a wink last night ,
because I didn't come to see my
daughter

I hope my anger and frustration
never lets me do that again

Her routine shouldn't be
affected by other people's
doings to me

Nonhle : you're here early

Even she's still in bed

I just walked in her bedroom .
Because I checked my daughter
first

And she's still asleep

I might as well see the bigger
one first .

I'm so going to miss them , I
hope I'll be back in just a week
or so

Me : I missed her so I couldn't sleep

I take my shoes off and jacket , I get into bed .

Nohle : I could be with a man in here , why don't you ever knock ?

Me : then he'll die

She stares at me , and I just kiss her . She's not even hesitant kissing me back

Only she stops me when I'm about to take her pj shorts off

Nonhle : Nyaniso is here

Just great , I lay back my head and rub my eyes

Nonhle : I'm sorry , he came here last night . I just couldn't turn him away . And he also told me what happened , I'm so sorry he did that

Me : it's fine , I'm hungry . I didn't eat last night

Nonhle : there's beef left over , or I can make you something

Me : anything is fine

Nonhle : okay

She gets up and walks to the
bathroom first , I don't want to
see that Nyaniso

I hope my daughter wakes up
soon so I can leave

.

•

•

•

Nonhle

I don't feel okay at all , ever
since Lumkile left this morning

I'm not okay

The way he was just talking to
Zenande , it somehow felt like a
goodbye

And I didn't like that at all , it
was just too emotional

I could see it all over his face ,
and I felt it . Now I'm debating
to call him , and ask if he's okay
or not

A slight knock at the door , I put
the phone down . And it's
Lonwabo

Me : Mr Xaluva please come
through

Lonwabo : I'm not disturbing ?

Me : not at all

Lonwabo : I have a case coming up , and I believe I can use some of your expertise

Me : really ?

It would be an honour

To work on a case with the man himself

Lonwabo : yes really , you should know by now I don't make ...

His phone rings

Lonwabo : ah it's my brother can I take this ?

I nod , I wonder which brother it is

Lonwabo : Mkhuluwa (big brother)

He listens for a while , and unfortunately for me I can't even hear what the other person is saying

Lonwabo : you're leaving now ?

I don't like this , my heart beats
so fast

Lonwabo : Lumkile....

And he just stares at his phone

Me : he's leaving ?

He looks at me

Lonwabo : he's going home

So he's going to marry her , and
I'll be left out

He really was saying goodbye to
his daughter

I don't blame him for not telling
me , I wanted nothing to do
with this

He knows where I stand , and
this was just him respecting that
. I so wish he wasn't

Lonwabo : Nonhle are you okay
?

Me : which airport is he at ?

Lonwabo : what ?

I'm already on my feet

Me : please just tell me

Lonwabo : we always use OR
Tambo

Say no more

I grab my car keys and run out ,
with him calling after me

I don't stop , I don't care who's
watching me they can watch all
they want

I get into my car and drive to
the airport in high speed

I'm crying , I'm praying to
whoever is listening . Can I
please just find him , before
he's gone

.

.

.

.

INSERT 18

Nonhle

Surely people think I've lost my
mind , I'm crying and sweating

I'm running barefoot , I took off
the stupid heels right at the
airport parking lot

And if I don't find my car being
towed , that would be the
universe looking after me

I'm busy passing through the
crowds running , just looking for
him

I'm panting so bad , I'm running
out of breath . My voice is
strained

I don't even have my phone
with me to call him , it's a while
I'm busy running around and
looking for him

Me : he's gone

I go down on my knees , and
just cry . I can't even scream
with what voice ?

Tears keep streaming

The Victoria falls is opened

This pain and heartbreak I'm
feeling right now , come
nothing to how I felt before

I won't ever move from this ,
I've lost him now . And I have
no one to blame but myself

Me : what have I done ?

A heavy presence hover's over
me

I don't even want to lift my eyes
. Because I know I look like a
mess

Voice : are done making a
spectacle of yourself in this
whole airport ?

I'm on my feet so fast , hugging
the life out of him

I gather myself after I don't
know how long , he can miss
the darn flight I don't care

Okay but I can't stop him from leaving , so I best get a grip on myself

I pull back and wipe my tears , even though they keep coming out

I look at him , and his look is not even fazed

Me : tell me , tell me again

He cups my face

Lumkile : I love you , I love our daughter . And there's nothing I'll do to ever hurt you both , not intentionally . Now I know how this looks like , but I got everything under control . I know what I'm doing , I just need you . Because without you I might as well marry her , and leave everything else . Marry

me , be my first wife . Let's do it legally , you'll have everything and she gets nothing . 80 percent of the time I'm in Joburg with you , you get to be number one like you're right now . This marriage doesn't change anything

Me : then marry me now

Don't look at me like that I'm not crazy

Me : let's do it , marry me now

He takes his phone out

Me : Xaluva ndiyathetha (I'm talking)

Lumkile : I need to make a call ,
and you look so damn ugly for a
bride

Ouch !

I know I'm ugly right now . But
he didn't need to tell me that

He makes his call , I just hold on
him . As if he'll run away

Lumkile : come let's go

The stares but I don't care , I'm
sure some people are like

what's a hunk like this doing
with mad woman ?

He's mine , mad woman and all

Lumkile : where are your shoes
?

He's just mocking me

Me : somewhere in the parking
lot

He shakes his head , but I don't
care I got him so I'm fine

He'll buy me another pair of
shoes .

He owes me for making me
chase after him like this

Me : you're going to miss your
flight

Lumkile : I'm marrying you ,
that's what's important right
now . I don't give a shit about
the flight

Music to my ears

If only I could dance

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

I called in on a favour , even
though it's late now . The court
is closed

But a favour is a favour

And they'll open the court for it

When a woman says marry me
now , you don't ask questions
you just do it

Because the next day she might
just say , she wasn't thinking
straight

So tomorrow if she has a
change of mind

She'll be a Xaluva and that's
that

Nonhle : I'm really getting
married barefoot ?

Me : I already told you , you look ugly . So what's being barefoot ?

Nonhle : you're not being nice

Sometimes I feel like kaMajola is the older version of Zenande

Me : that's fine

I open the door for her , we're doing this . This will be a crazy week at Isilo

15 minutes later we're done and all married legally , in community of property

Me : go home , watch our daughter I'm coming

Nonhle : you're coming ?

Me : I need to go see someone

Nonhle : so you're not leaving anymore ?

Me : we just got married and you think I'll leave you ? I'll leave tomorrow

Nonhle : come here

She gives me a kiss I return it ,
we kiss for a while

Nonhle : I'll see you soon

Me : I love you

Nonhle : I love you

I open the car door for her , she
gets in and drives off

I get a ride to Lonwabo's laws firm , I know he's still there now . It's yet to be 18:00

Arriving I go straight to his office , and he's looking outside the glass view

With a glass of whiskey in hand , he looks like a mess . My reflection graces his eyes

Lonwabo : she left , running
after you to the airport

Me : I need to change my will

He turns and looks at me

Lonwabo : what ?

Me : you heard me , you're still
in the office . Surely you can get
to it

He downs his whiskey

Lonwabo : shouldn't you be on
a flight home ?

Me : I'm here as a client , and
not your brother

Lonwabo : fine

We sit down

Me : I want my wife to get 50 percent of every asset I own and those I'm to accumulate , and our kids get the same share percentage on the other 50 percent

The look on his face

Lonwabo will die young

Lonwabo : wife , kids like what's going on ?

Me : can you just do what I'm telling you , or should I go find another lawyer ?

Lonwabo : there's no need for that just that...

Me : then get on with it , I need those documents tomorrow .

While you're at it add a clause
to the marriage agreement ,
that her assets are hers alone . I
hope that's clear

I get up and leave , having to
get a ride home now

.

.

.

.

Lonwabo

I don't know what's going on
with Lumkile , but whatever it is
war is about brew

Our parents are not going go
like any of this , more especially
the king

He's going to flip , he's gone
and got married . Right when
he's supposed to be home

Not only that , he's gone and
acknowledged another man's
child as his

To even go to the extent of putting her in his will , I thought maybe the marriage is not even real

But I checked this morning , and it's very much valid

I worked half the night changing the will , only few small things left

Liyana woke me up with a call , I wish I didn't even answer it

Liyana : isn't Lumkile supposed to be here ?

Me : you're asking me ? I'm in Joburg

Liyana : but....

Me : I'm not getting involved in Lumkile's affairs . Please keep me out of it

Liyana : why are you grumpy ?

Me : you woke me up , and I'm tired . On top of that I still have to go to work

Liyana : okay one last question

Me : what ?

Liyana : you're not coming ?

Me : I am , I'll see maybe on
Saturday

Liyana : okay then bye

Me : bye

I'm not okay to be honest , and
what Lumkile did yesterday just
finished me off

.

.

.

.

Liyana

I'm up this early , because we
arrived last night very late

And so we slept in the city

This morning I have to go home

I'm leaving Summer here in the city , I need to go see how the situation is

With Lumkile not here

I'm sure daddy is not happy

The princess is arriving today , she won't be brought by her family

It'll just be her and her maiden .
She's just coming to meet us ,
and so we can know her as well

The marriage is soon to follow
after , I'm hoping that if there's
anything sinister with her

We can all see it or even feel it ,
because if it's just me it might
cause problems

More especially if Lumkile has someone already in his life

Because clearly , according to Isilo

I have to support the other someone and not the princess

Summer : what's there for one to do in this kingdom ?

Me : babe you're in the city ,
and not the village . So there's a
lot trust me

Summer : right , that makes me
feel like some kind of a tourist

I laugh

Me : you'll love this , and I'm
coming back tonight

Summer : I thought you're
coming back tomorrow

Me : and leave you to sleep
here alone ?

Summer : it's just one night

Me : I feel like you don't like me
anymore

Summer : of course , I don't

I frown and she chuckles

Summer : I love you

We laugh

Me : and I love you

I just have bad feelings , I hope
the royals are ready for one
crazy week

•

•

•

•

Lumkile

There will always be something
, about having this woman in
my arms

That says she's home

And I hope she feels it too

Because this is us

For as long as this is still safe ,
and peaceful . And less toxic
this will always be us

Nonhle : Xaluva

Me : Mrs Xaluva

She giggles , surely she knew I
wasn't asleep . We only slept
few hours ago

Nonhle : thank you

Me : you went running after me
at a whole airport

She laughs

Nonhle : to never be spoken
about

Me : we'll tell our kids

Nonhle : no ways , and it'll be a while before there's any kids to tell

Me : there's already one , and why haven't you fallen pregnant yet ?

She lifts her head and looks at me

We lock eyes

Nonhle : Zenande is only year and 9 months , I don't need no baby

Me : right we don't use condoms , you're not on any contraceptives method

Nonhle : I know

Me : ngok ? (So)

Nohle : I'm always safe , I get
morning after pills

This woman

Me : every time we make love ?

Nonhle : like every time

Me : I don't know what to do
with you

She laughs

Nonhle : I'm sure you'll soon
have kids with your other wife

And then there's that , and
unfortunately I can't tell her the
truth . I'll have to take it to my
grave

Nonhle : I don't want any drama

Me : there won't be drama here

Nonhle : listen to me okay

Me : I'm listening

Nonhle : I hate that I have to share you , but it's happening . I can't lose you , I don't want to lose you . As a matter of fact I refuse , so yeah I'll settle to

sharing you . Now I'm no royal ,
I know nothing about royal life .
But for us to make this work ,
please Xaluva be fair . Be fair to
me and your other wife , don't
treat anyone better than the
other . Even if you do so , save
us the pain and hide it . Please
whatever they require for you
do it , if you must have kids with
her then it's fine . All I ask is
keep us safe , when you're gone
to her when you come back we

get checked . I can't expect you not to use protection with me but do that with her . I don't know how this is going to work , like I have no idea at all .

There's still Zenande to consider in all this , and she's just a child she knows nothing . Your family might not like me , and worse I have a child I'm bringing in the marriage . I want you to assure me something

Me : what ?

Nonhle : if this ever gets toxic ,
let me go

She's out of her mind , there'll
never be anything toxic here

Me : I hear you , but there's
something we need to talk
about

Nonhle : please don't throw another bomb , at me . This is not easy on me at all

Me : I want to adopt Zenande legally

Her expression changes , so this is a different kind of a bomb

Nonhle : what ?

Me : you're a Xaluva now , I want her to take our surname as well . I will go to your brother , I'll pay damages and lobola for her . Then a ceremony to introduce her to the ancestors will be done , as a Xaluva that is . To do all this I need to adopt her , she's not like my child she's my child . And I want her to never have doubts about that

And the water woks

Me : so ?

Nonhle : she's already your daughter , I don't see why not .
And it's not like anyone has paid any of those for her , that's big of you . And you're even willing to go to my brother

Me : I still hate him

She laughs wiping her tears

Me : now I have to go see her ,
and tell her I'm leaving . She's
going to hate me

Nonhle : she can hate anyone
but not you

I just have to maybe treat her ,
so she can be okay with me
leaving

Nonhle : you know you're spoiling her , and she'll not like you having any other kids .

Me : more especially when they have to address me as dad

We laugh

Nonhle : the way she claims you , tatam (my father)

Me : that's my princess

The love I have for that child ,
nothing can be compared to it

Now I can go and do what
needs to be done

And all this it's for my little
family

These two mean the world to
me , and that's what I'm ought
to give them

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

I think they're more sad to see the other leaving , than I am sad to see my own husband leaving

We had to have breakfast right at the airport , because he's making up for leaving

To his daughter that is not me ,
but it's fine

Lumkile : utata uyak'thanda
(daddy loves you)

Zenande : thanda tatam (I love
you daddy)

These two are just cute though

Lumkile : take care of her

I nod

Lumkile : and you take care of
yourself

I nod , I can't speak . I feel like
crying right now

There's a lot that's going
through my mind , like is this

how I'm going to feel when he
has to go home ?

Knowing he's going to another
woman , it still doesn't make it
any better nor does it hurt less

His flight gets called

Lumkile : I have to go

I nod back again

Lumkile : gather yourself first ,
before you drive okay

Me : I will

It's a whisper , he kisses both
our cheeks and leaves

Zenande : hamba tatam yena
(daddy is leaving)

Me : uzobuya (he'll come back)

Zenande : buya (come)

I won't do this , it'll never end .
Because she'll keep repeating
what I'm saying

And just say it wrong , we walk
back to the car . I strap her in
her seat , take a few moment

Letting the tears fall , and I sure
gather myself when I get into
the car

Something falls from her hands
, I turn back and look for it

It's a small black velvet box

Me : nton lena ? (what's this)

I hope it's not his

Because he's gone now

Zenande : anika mamu tatam
(daddy said to give to mom)

Me : nyan ? (Really)

Zenande : nyan (really)

I frown

I don't know if she's asking as well or what . I take a deep breath and open the box

It's a beautiful single diamond ring , for a second I was happy

But then I'm like what if it's for his royal wife , and it just fell ?

If it was mine he would have given it to me right ?

Not even a day gone , and I
already feel like she's favoured .
I'm married with no ring

And surely this one is hers , and
he'll just buy another one
realising it's gone

.

.

.

.

INSERT 19

Lonwabo

My father wasn't having any of
it

He demanded that I get my ass
home

And I had no choice but to obey
, unlike Lumkile I can't tell the
parents anything

They say jump , and I ask how
high . I arrive home at the same
with the other two

Oh three with the cousin , we
just greet each other and walk
inside

It's the king and queen , with
the princess . And Lumkile is
nowhere in sight

We greet them , and go on to
put our bags in our chambers
and come back to join them

Dad : Tyler

Tyler : uncle

As much as he's from royalty , a
prince to one powerful kingdom
Manzini

A son to a king and queen , he
doesn't get this royal bullshit at
all

Tyler is Tyler and he just lives
his life , as nothing but just a
normal human being

Luxolo : where is ...

Voice : I'm here

He walks in , and I can't even
read him . And after our
encounter last night

I don't want to interact with
him , until the client and lawyer
business is done

Dad : it's good that you're all here , the princess will be arriving tomorrow morning

Liyana : daddy will there be a small ceremony maybe ?

Luthando : is that why it's so full here ?

Lumkile : a ceremony for what ?

He's going to burst and it's not going to be good

Liyana : maybe something small to welcome her

Lumkile : she's not yet a wife , we're just going to meet her

Dad : either way she will be the wife , so it doesn't matter

Okay , Mageba walks in . And
he's all in his traditional
garment

Dad : eyes of the gods

Mageba : Kumkani ,
kumkanikazi kanye nawe Isilo
(my king , my queen and the
great Beast)

The three acknowledges him ,
he sits down

Mom : who is pregnant ?

She says looking at us all

Liyana : it's not me it just can't
be , it's impossible

Mom : impossible ?

Liyana looks down

Mom : you still have to explain that , but it's an Isilo heartbeat .
So there's no way it's you

She sighs in relief , and I'm like
what is she hiding

Mom : so is anyone going to say
who's child they've
impregnated ?

Not me , I'm a one night stand
man . My potential is now my
sister in-law

Luxolo : it's not me

Luthando : nor me

All eyes are on me , and Tyler
laughs

Me : really it's not me

And no one looks at Lumkile ,
why not ? Because he's the one
that's married

Dad : hiding it , is not going to
help any of you . Because the
child has to be strengthened

It goes quite , and one thing we
all know is that my mother is

never wrong when it comes to
this

So there's an Isilo child out
there

Lumkile : Mageba

Mageba : Isilo

Lumkile : I have a matter to
discuss with the family , and I

think this would be better if I do
it tonight . Before the princess
arrives tomorrow

Mageba nods , I'm taking it he
knows . Otherwise what would
he be nodding for

Lumkile : I'm to marry the
princess that I don't dispute

Ziyakhala (it's going down)

.

.

.

.

Liyana

My brother's tone is off , and
being so close to him I feel like
he's up to something

But he blocked me so bad ,
everything is just feelings and
nothing

Lumkile : but there has been some developments in my life , I met a woman...

Dad : what ?

Mom : Lumkile please stop right now , drama or scandals is the last thing this family needs

Lumkile : I'm still talking

My insides shake , the voice is
changing . I can't stand seeing
his Isilo form

The other three are already
ready , summoning their alter
egos

I pray nothing like that happens
in here , this palace will be
brought down

The heaviness of power right
now , it's a scary presence

Lumkile : now I've married
someone ukaMajola

I'm done for , he's not dating .
He's married , so this is what
Isilo meant

Dad : you what ?

He's already on his feet

Standing right in front of
Lumkile

Mageba : Kumkani not like this
(my king)

He seems to be the only voice
of reason in here , we're just
shocked

Dad : weren't you the one few minutes ago , saying you will marry the princess ?

Lumkile : and I will marry her , haven't you ever heard of polygamy ?

Shit !

This is not happening , he is not serious

Dad : you're going to do that
nonsense here , in my
forefathers land ?

Lumkile : my land

Those teeth , why did I even
look at him ?

I move next to Tyler

I don't think my brother would hurt me , but Lumkile is scary

Mom : who is this woman ? You have gone and married without your family . Is this a plan to walk out of what's required of you ?

Lumkile : don't turn me into a crazy person , I won't keep repeating myself over and over again . I said I will marry that

princess what part of that aren't
you getting ?

The glass of water on the table
falls down , scaring the hell out
of me

Causing me to scream , Tyler
pulls me closer to him

Tyler : I got you

That glass fell because of the
impact of Lumkile's voice

The veins on the side of my
head start to hurt , I look at him
a bit

And he has veins everywhere ,
even on his face

I've never seen him this scary

Dad : which kingdom does she hail from ?

Lumkile : I said nothing about her being royalty , there's already one wife for that isn't there ?

I want to get out of here , I'm one with peace and calm

I can't withstand such anger

Me : get me out of here

I whisper to Tyler , and he
doesn't say anything he helps
me up

We walk out and the second we
are outside I wail like nobody's
business

He just holds me in his arms

•

•

•

•

Lumkile

The thunder outside it's crazy ,
and it's because of Liyana crying

Her tears summon rain , but
none of us bother going out

Tyler will take care of her and
make sure that she's okay

We can't go into such rain ,
unless we want to cause havoc

Then we are able to withstand
her rain , because those are her
emotions

Mom : so you've gone and
married a commoner ?

Me : you were a commoner
when you got married into this

family , and why are you
bothered ? She's not your
commoner wife she's mine

Mom : a whole city wife to a
king , really ?

She's fuming

And I might as well add on that .
If Nonhle was here

She was going to be broken ,
she did say that she'll be
labelled as the city wife

And here it's happening , as if
that's important or that it
makes any difference

Me : and she has a daughter ,
that I've decided to adopt and
do right by

Mom : what more is there with this , not only is she a commoner but she has a child ?
And you want to carry responsibilities of another man

Me : the same way Royalty carried responsibilities of another woman , raising your brothers child . Don't make yourself better with me

She gets up

Lonwabo : Kumkanikazi (my queen)

She looks at me , she's hurt disappointed and feels disrespected

I love my mother but I don't care to nurse her emotions right now

Mom : are you that incapable ?
To make your own child

Me : insult me all you like , but
bare in mind I wasn't asking you
. I was telling you

Mom : I'll roll over dead before I
accept any of this

She walks out as angry as she is

Lonwabo : yeah this is going
great

I look at him

Lonwabo : I'm just saying

Luxolo : do us all a favour and
shut up

Dad : you want to give this child
my surname ?

Me : it's Isilo's surname , so quite frankly Kumkani it's my surname . Not the other way around

He chuckles ready to kill , but I'll kill him before he can kill me

Dad : go ahead do whatever the hell you want Isilo , but don't expect me to back you up or

support you in any of it . You're
on your own

He walks out as well , and the
rain is still pouring like crazy

The three walk out leaving me
and Mageba , and I think it's
clearly

I'm all on my own , do I want to
lie and say I'm not hurt ? No

I am hurt , it was all good when
I did everything they wanted

And now I've done what I want ,
and no one stands by me

This is exactly what Isilo was
telling Liyana about

And this goes to show , just how
hypocritical family is

Voice : Isilo

Her voice is almost gone , I have
my head bowed down

Liyana : I'm here

She crouches down next to me ,
my own tears fall down on her
hands

Liyana : I...won't let them fall
down

I look at her , she's freezing cold
from her own rain

Me : why ?

Liyana : grandfather said , you
have given your heart to
someone else . A heart that's
meant to be on your betrothed

. When the time for you to do right you will , but no one will stand with you on your decision . You will break , I shouldn't let that happen because this kingdom will fall . You're the next great Isilo , you can never go wrong . Your voice will never lead you astray , the brothers are all stubborn . He cannot trust any of them , he can't even trust Kumkani but only me

. I should use my gentle touch ,
to soothe everything

I have her I will be okay

.

.

.

.

Liyana

I'm dry as ever with tears , I
know how much those annoys
him

And right now I've just
witnessed the great Isilo shed

tears , I'm broken I don't want
to lie

They've hurt him so much , I
hope I can help him get over
this

I've never been this hurt

That's why I couldn't let his
tears hit the floor

My heart is bleeding , I feel like
it has been ripped to pieces

Lumkile : Mageba , since a
marriage was done without the
necessary ceremonies how can I
fix this ?

Mageba : your wife will have to
come home , so she can be
introduced to the ancestors .
And for Isilo to recognise her

Lumkile : he will mark the royal
wife as his own

Now I'm so eager to meet this
girl

Because things have just taken
a new turn

One that I did not expect at all ,
and I don't think any of us did

But it was so wrong of them to
walk out on him the way they
did

This is our brother , their son .
The future king of this Kingdom

Lumkile : I'll have her come

Mageba : and I'll get ready for
her arrival

Now this is different , nothing
like just meeting the princess

We're to meet a wife , and I'm
kind of excited to meet her I
don't even know why

Mageba walks out ,

Tyler walks in

Tyler : look at you being so cosy
to your monster brother , you
were just running away from .
Calling the heavens water upon
us all

We laugh , Lumkile shakes his
head . Our cousin is a whole
mood

Tyler : the beast has gone to
sleep right ?

He sits down

Lumkile : boy he doesn't sleep

Tyler : correction

He raises his finger

Tyler : I'm older than you so
respect

We even forget that he's older than us , because he's Tyler

Lumkile : MaXaluva go get some rest

He's right it's way too late

Me : you should get rest too

Lumkile : I need to make a call first

Tyler : and you should go make
a call to your woman too

I almost have a heart attack

Me : whatyou...you know ?

Tyler : I've always known , Kanti
it's a secret ?

He shrugs

Lumkile : it won't be anymore ,
remember what I said to you

With what transpired tonight , I
don't know if I should tell them

Lumkile : you owe no one
nothing

He gets up

Me : what gender is your child ?

I heard everything

Lumkile : a daughter

He says walking out

Me : great I'll have a best friend

Tyler : you're so weird

Me : are you gay ?

Tyler : girl , I fuck and eat pussy
day and night . I live for that shit

Tyler is nasty though

Me : then how did you know ?

Tyler : I'm a lover , I'm all for
love

He's a skirt chaser that's what he is , with a smooth tongue . That gets any girl into bed with him

Tyler : and if that robot brother of yours could see it , then it wasn't so difficult for me to see it

I laugh

Me : you just called him a robot
?

Tyler : you call him a steel all
the time , and if he feasts on my
meat . You'll tell my mommy
what happened to me

Yes a grown ass man , still calls
his mother mommy

Tyler is a mama's boy, auntie
Royalty is his number one
woman

And the woman who will one
day win his heart , will always
come second to his mother

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

It's middle of the night and I
can't sleep

It'll be morning in a few hours

I really sure put myself in a situation here , now so many thoughts are just running through my mind

Is she more beautiful , maybe his type ? Did he fall in love at first sight ?

And I'm going to go crazy

My head is pounding right now

My phone vibrates , I'm even
lazy to check it . It doesn't stop I
reach for its and it's him

Me : Xaluva

Lumkile : I knew you weren't
sleeping

Me : you didn't call

Not to mention that ring

Lumkile : drama erupted here

Me : have you met her ?

Lumkile : no she's coming in the morning

Now that's a bit of a relief , but not completely they're still meeting

Lumkile : I told the family about you . So I need you this weekend

Weekend is in a day

Me : need me at your home ?

Lumkile : yes , to have you introduced to the ancestors , and for Isilo to acknowledge

you . Since we got married the way we did , no ritual was done . You can't be my wife and yet not be recognised

Now I'm scared

Me : how did they react ?

Lumkile : harsher than I expected them to

Okay he must be hurt , for him
to say that .

Then it went bad

Maybe I shouldn't go there ,
already I'm not accepted

But I think my husband needs
me , and he's the only reason I
will go

Me : okay , I'll book a flight for late tomorrow . Can I be able to sleep somewhere ?

Lumkile : your independence annoys me , I'll book the flights for you . And you're coming here at the palace

Must I ? And why does he always tell me where to get off

Me : okay fine , but when you say flights ? That's for ?

Lumkile : you're not leaving my daughter there

Whoa !

Me : is it wise to bring her along ?

With such drama happening

Lumkile : yes , try and go see your brother in the morning talk to him . Explain I'll come do right as soon as I'm back

This man is really invested in this , like he's not playing

And I should get my act together now , be a wife and stand with him

Me : okay , I'll do so

Lumkile : thank you , how is she
?

Me : she's sleeping now , and
she wasn't really saying much . I
guess she's still on daddy is
coming back

Lumkile : kiss her for me

Me : I will

Lumkile : talk to me for a while ,
I know you won't fall asleep

Amazes me how he knows me
this much

Me : I think you may have left
something behind

Lumkile : yes I left you two

I chuckle , could it be that he
hasn't realised

Me : no , I found a small black
box

Lumkile : that ring better fit you
, it cost me money I didn't even
have

Me : so it's mine ?

Stupid me

Lumkile : so you thought that ring was for this woman ?

Me : well

Lumkile : you must think I'm out of my mind , the things you

think about me . That time I
sent a message with that

Me : you sent a message in
Portuguese , how was I
supposed to understand

Lumkile : but you heard

Me : I just didn't trust

He laughs

Lumkile : you really degrade my daughter

Does he blame me ?

Me : it's beautiful honestly , and it'll go exactly where it's meant to be . Where it belongs

Lumkile : it better , you forced me to marry you . I didn't have

time to get you a ring , because
you weren't giving me any
choice

Why wasn't I given a normal
man ?

Me : Xaluva !

Lumkile : you forced me to
marry you , you even chased
me all the way to the airport .

And you cried a whole river , all
that for me to marry you

I'm so embarrassed , and I want
to laugh . He's making fun of me
right now

Lumkile : you topped everything
up , by being ugly . Wet tears
meeting dry tears , and you
were so barefoot it was
embarrassing . Then you forced

me to marry you , like right
there and then

Me : don't

Lumkile : you went like , marry
me . Marry me now . I wasn't
given any choice . So I didn't
have time to go look for a ring ,
because you were demanding I
marry you

My stomach hurts , my eyes are
full of tears

Me : I got what I wanted so
thank you

Lumkile : I love you Mrs Xaluva

Me : I love you Xaluva

Lumkile : okay get some sleep

Now I can get some sleep yes ,
we hang up

The trip is what scares me now ,
knowing already they don't like
me .

But it was expected

But my husband needs me , I'll
be there for him . And I'll take
whatever

Another worry is Nyaniso , will he agree to this ? How is he going to feel when I tell him about the marriage ?

I have a big day ahead , and indeed I should sleep

-
-
-
-

INSERT 20

Liyana

I woke up early driving out to the city , I just had to see my girlfriend

I know this day is going to take its toll on me , but what can I do ?

It's the perks of being born into royalty , and one like us . That we're not normal

Summer : you feel heavy

Me : I am heavy babe

Summer : talk to me

Me : where do I even begin ?

We're having breakfast
together , then we'll go back to
the village together

Me : last night it was just a mess
at home , and true colours
came out

I still can't get over how everyone was so quick to walk out on Lumkile

Me : can you believe that Lumkile is married , and is about to adopt a baby girl ?

She smiles , and it's not what I expected

Me : what ?

Summer : it's not shocking

Me : babe the very same

Lumkile that's about to meet his
royal bride today , already he
has a wife

She laughs

Summer : of course he is , your brother is just like that . Surely you all don't think that Lumkile is the kind to follow orders , and from anyone

Me : I know

Summer : then this is no shocker , he just did what he wants to do

Me : it's not , but then again
he's really in love . I don't think
he's doing this to spite anyone

Summer : even a cold heart like
his can fall in love , all it needs is
just that one right person

Indeed it sure does

-
-
-

.

Nonhle

This morning I woke up , and I
kind of overslept a bit . After

getting my medicine call I was
fine

As much as I'm not really at
peace , but he calmed me down

And that got me to put on my
ring , it's a perfect fit

The annoying phone , is not
stopping . I just grab it and
answer

Me : hello

Voice : hi

Oh no , like no . I drop the call
right away and block the
number

Where does he get calling me ?
And where did he get my
number ?

Qaqambile is a fly , like the green poop fly . Like one annoying fly , that doesn't want to ever go away

I'm busy packing , trying to be done on time . Lumkile wants us at a flight at leaves at 12:00

Because he doesn't want his child traveling at night

So I have to be done before
then , so I can go see Nyaniso

Now Gail calls me , I answer

Me : Ms Kim

Gail : I'm so....

It's like the phone is snatched
from her

Me : Gail

Voice : stop being rude , we
need you at work

Not Qaqambile again

Me : I'm busy

Qaqambile : we're all busy , and
we need you

I haven't been to work since Wednesday when I ran away , chasing the man at the airport

Yesterday I worked from home , after dropping Xaluva off at the airport

Zenande was sulking , I couldn't leave her alone .

Me : I can't come

Qaqambile : do you...

I drop the call , if Lonwabo
doesn't fire me about this

I'll thank my lucky stars , I finish
packing

I'm so not looking forward to
going home , I know my brother

. And he will definitely make a big deal out of this

We don't get along much with relatives , so he's the one person I have

He's the only one that Lumkile can go to

Hence I'll always respect him

And I'll always humble myself

I need his blessings here

I take Zenande and strap her to
her seat , she's not in the mood
today

I don't know why , maybe it's
because she hasn't seen
Lumkile

The bags are already packed ,
and it's nothing big . Just mostly
for Zenande

She gets too dirty , as soon as
there's food around her

I drive to Rosebank , I hope he's
home . Because I didn't even
call to ask if he's there

Zenande : Niso (Nyaniso)

Ah we're okay now , as we arrive home and get off the car

I knock at the door , and it's not locked . I hope to not stumble upon anything that will blind me

I open the door , and he's just laying on the couch . Thank God he's alone

Zenande : Niso (Nyaniso)

Nyaniso : mntanam (my child)

We're claiming today

He picks her over to him . And
she just sits on his stomach

Me : Majola

He laughs , that's a first . He looks to be in a good mood today . I wonder why

Nyaniso : what do you want ?

Me : nothing

I sit down , the place is clean .
So he's still taking good care of
it

Nyaniso : you don't call me that
for nothing

Me : I've never called you that

He gives me nasty eyes

Me : I came to talk to you

Nyaniso : I knew it

Me : but it's serious

Nyaniso : it has to be

Me : remember I told you about
what Lumkile asked ?

He sighs

Nyaniso : yes and what now ?
You are going to do it , become
second best ?

That hurts , as much as my
husband gave me assurance

I can't help and have the fear ,
knowing I'm not alone to him

There will I always be his
number one question , always
lingering at the back of my head

Me : I...we got married in court

If looks could kill , I'd be a
corpse right now

Me : I'm the one to actually be
blamed for it , he was on his
way to his home . I went after
him and said we should get
married right away , before he
left . So we got married

He's not saying anything , and
it's just scaring me

Me : he also wants to adopt
Zenande

He chuckles

Me : he's asking from you , he's
back in the Eastern Cape now .
Dealing with family affairs ,
when he's back he said he
would like to come see you .
He's prepared to do right , pay

damages and lobola for
Zenande

Nyaniso : pay damages for a
pregnancy that wasn't his ?

Me : yes

He laughs

And it's not a pleasing laugh

Nyaniso : now I've heard it all
what's next ? Zenande will take
his surname ?

Me : that's the plan that's why
he wants to do all of this , and
to do right by you as the only
family I have

Nyaniso : and what about you ?

Me : what about me ?

Nyaniso : he's gone and married
you in fu....a court room

Me : I don't know his affairs on
that , all I'm asking is that hear
him out

Nyaniso : mhm

Is that even an answer though ?

Me : we're heading to his home
now

Nyaniso : for what ?

Should I tell him ? Or he'll feel
disrespected

I swallow hard

Me : for his ancestors to
acknowledge me

Nyaniso : that boy of yours
doesn't see me

Me : but....

Nyaniso : the only reason I'm
saying go there is because
you're married already , it's
done . I don't want you being
side-lined

Me : thank you

Nyaniso : take care of my niece
there

Me : always

I won't even let her out of my
sight

Me : on other matters , are you
still fine here ?

Nyaniso : yes , I'm actually thinking of buying this place

Me : what ?

Nyaniso : yes you know that has always been the plan

Me : but we lacked finances to do that

Nyaniso : I got a job as a truck driver , it pays well . So I can afford to . The two of you need a home , you know our home burned . We can't live like this without one

I'm not even sad that he didn't tell me about his job

I'm just touched by what he wants to do , everyone needs a home

And we lost our parents home ,
when it burned down . So him
doing this means a lot

.

.

.

.

Lonwabo

With what happened last night ,
I'm so not ready for whatever
happens today

Liyana arrived from the city I
assume , when no one even
knew she wasn't here

And she came with one Lesbian
stud , as much as she hasn't
said anything

They sure look like lovers , but I
don't want to jump into
conclusion

Luxolo : and the wife is here

We look at him

Tyler : the wife to be you mean ,
because the real wife is yet to
come

He can be brutal honest like
that

Luthando : oh yes that
correction

The parents come out

As the princess walks out of the car with her maiden

Luxolo : she's....

Me : shut up

Luthando and Tyler laugh

We follow the parents to her

Liyana comes as well , I don't know where her white Lesbian stud is at

Dad : Princess Ntokozo we welcome you

Mom : where is your brother ?

She whispers to us , I shrug my shoulders . I don't know where he is

Ntokozo : thank you my king

Don't they all just give her
warm hugs , except Liyana who
seems reserved

Mom : we have prepared a
small lunch , you're surely tired

Ntokozo : just a bit my queen

We all walk to the dining
quarter , and a feast has been
prepared

We all sit down , and the groom
to be is really nowhere to be
found indeed

Luxolo : this is awkward

Why am I even sitting next to
him ?

Liyana : so Ntokozo , you don't mind if I call you by your name right ?

Ntokozo : of course not

Liyana : great , I'd like us to take a walk together after lunch

Ntokozo : that would be great

What is she up to ?

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

The smile my daughter has on her face seeing me is just priceless

And she just said she came to me , I get that in her small brain she thinks I wasn't coming back to her as I said

Me : awusemhle ke (you're so beautiful)

She giggles , few days and I missed her like crazy

Zenande : yabona fika (you see we came)

As if they were supposed to come

Me : ndiyabona and ndiyabulela
(I see and I'm grateful)

I look at her mother , she's just
trying to be strong for me

It would really be injustice not
to do right by this woman

Me : thank you for coming

She just nods

Me : I know she's hungry , I bought food . We have to go to the palace right away

Nohle : it's okay

We walk to my car , and I strap her in her seat . Open the door for my wife , I drive to the village

Nonhle : this place is beautiful

Me : tell me

She looks at me

Me : did you manage to talk to
your brother ?

Nonhle : I did

Me : and ?

Nonhle : he was his usual
grumpy angry self , but then he
was better . And he said it's
okay

Me : he did ?

Nonhle : yes , he wasn't happy
yes but he said it's okay

Me : okay , I'll go see him when we get back

We're silent for a bit

Nonhle : are you okay ?

Me : I wasn't okay yesterday , but seeing you two now I'm okay

She smiles

Nonhle : that's better

We arrive at home , and the way it has suddenly filled . You'll swear it's a whole ceremony

We get off the car and Mageba rushes to us

Me : eyes of the gods

Mageba : Isilo , in my hut please

What's wrong with him now ?

Me : I can't leave my wife and child here

Mageba : please come with them

We follow him , and I can see my wife is not comfortable . As

for my daughter , she's scared
of this man

We take our shoes off , and
walk inside his hut . He has
incense burning

My poor baby coughs like no
one's business

Me : Xolo (I'm sorry)

She's shaking her head and
closing her eyes , I don't like this
now

Mageba : kukhona ingozi apha ,
Isilo protect what's yours by all
means possible

The door opens Liyana walks in

And she has a bottle of water

Mageba : Nkosazana (my princess)

Liyana : grandmother sends me , kaMajola has to bath with the water . Then you can go ahead with the ceremony , right in the throne room . Where everyone will be

She puts the water down and walks out , now my concern is

where Mageba said there's
danger here

I hope no one aims to harm my
family , I will paint this whole
kingdom red with blood

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

The creepy man , prayed for the
water only

And said he can't use any muti
on me

I don't know why , but I also don't mind . It's not like I believe in these things anyways

I've just took a bath with the water Liyana brought , I know her name because Lumkile told me

And I feel different . I can't even explain it

Me : what did he mean there's danger ?

Lumkile : that's what I'm trying to figure out . Don't let Zenande out of your sight , I'll leave you here and be back

I don't like this , we're in a foreign land . We don't know these people

And already I feel like we're
being targets

Lumkile : I'll protect you two at
all costs

He's scaring me talking like this

Lumkile : do we understand
each other ?

Me : we do

He kisses his child , and he's not
the man that I know .

Something is happening with
him

.

.

.

.

Liyana

My parents were not happy at all , the fact that Lumkile missed the lunch

They didn't even have an explanation for Ntokozo

Who didn't have a problem whatsoever asking where Lumkile was

I did not appreciate her asking that at all , what's it to her ?

She doesn't know us that well

To even ask such questions , as
if she's already a bride in this
family

As soon as we were done with
lunch , I just had the urge to run
to the river

And I did so , only for my
grandmother to tell me to rush
with the water for the wife

I caught a glimpse of her

And my spirit was just at peace
with her

I hope nothing happens to her
and that cute chubby baby

I'm taking the so called walk
with Ntokozo , we're still in the
palace

The ceremony to welcome the wife and new princess , is to take place soon

That's why there's people here , it's because of that . And I thought it was for Ntokozo

The way my parents gave her such a warm welcome , I'm glad Lumkile wasn't around to see that

Because they failed to support him , I wish they were that kind to him as well

And would give the same welcome to his wife , but we're yet to see what will unfold

Ntokozo : this Kingdom is just so amazing

Me : you're from a Kingdom ,
I'm sure this is nothing new to
you

She laughs , and she doesn't
strike me like the humble
Ntokozo she was during lunch

Ntokozo : even so , this one
takes the cup

I chuckle

Me : right , so please tell me a bit about yourself

Ntokozo : there's nothing interesting to tell , I would rather you tell me about my husband

Isn't she forward , husband already

Voice : MaXaluva please excuse
us

We both turn back , and the girl
doesn't help but drool . I don't
blame her

Me : of course

I walk away wishing I could hear
what's going to be said between
them

•

•

•

•

Lumkile

I don't like dark skinned woman
, it's just a preference . Not that
there's anything wrong with
them

There's no way I can love this
woman , even if I tried to do so

Me : my princess

Ntokozo : my prince

Me : Lumkile will do just fine

She smiles and she's irritating
me

Ntokozo : I was hoping to be
welcomed by you , it was such a
disappointment when you
weren't around

Me : I went to do a very
important task

Ntokozo : oh what ?

Me : fetching my wife and
daughter , from the airport

She stops walking , and I've hit a
nerve

Ntokozo : a wife and a child ?

Me : I don't stutter when I speak

I look her right in the eye and it's fucking there , it's about time Isilo and I meet

Me : I trust you will know your place in my life , you're a wife to this throne and kingdom .
Before you're anything to me ,

respect my wife . Always keep
yourself in check , and we won't
have any problem . And you'll
stay here , while she's back in
Joburg with me

Her speech has disappeared ,
and I'm all done . I leave her
standing there

Only to bump into Liyana

Me : really ?

Liyana : I didn't even hear anything

Me : where is your white girlfriend ?

She gasps

Liyana : what's your daughter's name ?

I love how it's sinking in her that
she's my daughter

Me : Zenande

Liyana : she's so cute

Me : tell me something I don't
know

Liyana : you're ...

Me : I know

Liyana : where are you rushing
off to ?

Me : you don't need to know

Liyana : you're up to something

I say nothing

Liyana : what do you think about Ntokozo ?

Me : I think nothing

I pick you my pace and she's still following me , running a bit because she can't keep up

Me : stay away Liyana , you can't contain this

She stops

Liyana : Isilo not today

She's too late , I change as I
jump over the fence to the dark
woods

I can fly over to the top
mountain , but I'll rather run
there

His presence welcomes me

Me : the great Isilo

He turns and faces me

Isilo : you have gone dark

Me : and I don't want to return

We circle each other , he's
angry but then so am I

Isilo : I can't go against you

How do you go against yourself
? I know what I'm doing

If it gets everyone to hate me
then it's fine , I can live with
that

Me : you have to imprint during
that ceremony

I'm not asking but commanding
him

Isilo : I will turn her

Me : I don't care , you will do it

Isilo : then give me that heart

Me : as you wish

Isilo : but I will need a pure one
to cleanse it

Me : I don't care who's you take
, but I will deliver that heart .
It's a sacrifice I'm willing to
make . At all costs , this will
happen

He heads down the mountain
surely going to the kingdom

As soon as he's in the woods ,
my wings carry me back

I won't be running with a Jaguar
I'm not crazy

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

A thud at the door , and I'm so
scared to even open the door

It's certainly not a human knock
. That much I'm certain of

We've been in here for a while
now

And knowing we might be in
danger is s not putting me at
rest

Voice : kaMajola

That's Lumkile's voice , but it's
more bold than usual . And it's
somehow sounding animalistic

Zenande is asleep , I get up
slowly and open the door . I'm
welcomed by a four headed
leopard with four white wings

I scream my lungs out , not
caring who hears me

I move back inside into the
chamber

I don't know where Lonwabo came from , but he's suddenly here and covering my mouth

Lonwabo : it's him , it's Lumkile you need to calm down . You'll wake the baby

Is he crazy ? This thing is Lumkile !

Lonwabo : Isilo just change back

He shouts at this thing , that's
now in the room with us

May my baby not wake up and
see this . I'm not even focused
on her there

Me : please....don't hurt us

Lonwabo : she can't stand this
sight , just change

With a flip he's gone back to his normal self , no four heads no wings he's Lumkile

Lumkile : I told you this

Me : you....you didn't warn me you'd....just change

Lumkile : are you over the fear now ?

Zenande : tatam (daddy)

God no , don't tell me she saw
that , I could have woken her up
when I screamed

He walks to her and picks her
up

She keeps looking behind him

Lonwabo : she saw you and
she's not scared

No ways it can't be , that thing
was scary . I'm surprised I'm still
standing on my own two feet

Lumkile : Mageba is ready for
you , let's go

Lonwabo : can you not freak
people out ?

I'm even scared of him now ,
and his daughter is fine . I think
she is fine

We walk out and meet Liyana
on the way , she doesn't look
okay

Lonwabo : what's wrong ?

She looks at Lumkile

Lumkile : he's here , she can't stand his presence

Lonwabo : isn't this enough , what does he want ?

Who is he ?

Lumkile : to acknowledge my wife

I've never been so lost

Liyana : I should take Zenande
with

The very same Zenande that's
clinging on her animal father for
dear life

Lumkile : she won't go with you
, she won't leave my sight

Liyana : she'll be traumatized
for dear life

Lonwabo : actually she won't ,
she saw this one with four
heads and wings . She's fine

Liyana : this is enough I'm gone

She walks away as we proceed
to the throne room I guess

And a great big jaguar
welcomes us at the door , first
instinct is to take Zenande

But the madam is fine

She doesn't look scared or
anything like me

Lonwabo has his head bowed ,
as he opens the door

I want to be gone from this
place I can't take this , animals
walking like this

And people turning into animals
, all this is just crazy

I remember Lumkile said
something about mystical
creatures , but now that it's
happening

I'm so going to have a heart
problem after this

.

.

.

.

Lonwabo

The baby doesn't want to be taken from Lumkile

She's just a strange and weird child just like him , how can she not fear such things

People are well aware of Isilo ,
and as much as we can't stare
at him

We can feel him , there's not
many people in the throne
room

Not everyone can withstand
this , as much as they're here to
welcome the bride with us

And it doesn't take long that Lumkile changes into his alter ego as well

Right after he puts his daughter down , and she's still not scared . She's right next to the four headed wings Lumkile

Mageba is ready with his things , he asks Nonhle to kneel down . Right in between Isilo and Lumkile

She looks like she wants to run away , I don't know where Ntokozo is

Luxolo : why is he here ?

Me : I don't know , but look at him

Luthando : he's protecting her

It's the way Isilo is settled next to Nonhle . Something tells me shit is about to happen here

.

.

.

.

INSERT 21

In the throne room

Mageba does his incantations ,
calling on his ancestors and the
Isilo ancestors

He calls on the Xaluva ancestors
and on the Majola ancestors

He passes apologies to both
families , upon how the
marriage was done

With nothing done to inform
the families

In this manner he acknowledges
the fine

He speaks with the ancestors on
behalf of the Xaluva family

To accept kaMajola and the baby , promising to go to the Majola family and do right

He introduces the two of them now both as the princesses of this land

And comes back introducing kaMajola as a wife to the soon to be king

He puts on bracelets of protection on both of them

Zenande is just patting her hand over the four headed leopard

Even though at times the wings scare her as she forgets them , until she moves her hand and they touch her

While everyone awaits for an answer from the ancestors

To see if they do accept and acknowledge them

Princess Ntokozo walks in , causing a few eyes on her

Lumkile is quick to get up , and circle around his family . Like the protector that he is

Isilo's eyes roam around , until they set on Ntokozo who's not even aware of what's going on

Isilo turns and faces Lumkile , the two have an eye conversation

Isilo is quick to jump on Nonhle's back with two of his paws , sinking in his claws

Causing her to scream in agony
, Tyler is quick to jump in taking
Zenande and running out with
her

Isilo moves back and goes to
faces Nonhle , then the two lock
eyes

It's slowly her eyes keep
changing , she's still in pain . But

there's no blood coming out on
her back

King Lubanzi : he's imprinting
on her !

He's shocked , he did not expect
this . This is not how it was
supposed to happen

Queen Asante : are you sure ?
Maybe he's just seeing if she's
worth to be accepted

King Lubanzi : she's king
accepted , remember he wasn't
around when we welcomed you
. He chose her , it's impossible !

Isilo was supposed to imprint on
the princess

The queen says nothing back ,
this is not making any sense
even to the brothers

Nonhle's eyes get yellowish ,
she's loosing strength and
power

She slowly goes down laying on
her back , it's itchy in a way that
it's hurting her

Isilo looks at Lumkile once more
, and he walks out

Mageba : it's done

There's few cheers here and
there

People are scared in a way

Lumkile changes back to his human form , he takes his wife into his arms

And walks to his chamber with her , he lays her on the bed

And checks on the prints

He's shocked to see just how quickly they're coming out

Lumkile : I love you , and you'll just have to forgive me . It's you it has always been you , I can't risk having any chance of another man having you . You'll be mine in this life , and even in the next

He lays her back down gently , and goes out to him his daughter

.

.

.

.

Lonwabo

Never underestimate a man
with a plan , no one saw what
was coming

No one expected it to even
happen

Not Isilo coming here

And not him imprinting on the
wife we thought and deemed
wrong

Not Lumkile staying in his
mystical form through out the
whole ceremony

Now one would wonder , why
would Isilo come out like that ?

What was he protecting his
family from , that could have
caused them harm ?

It's no doubt my brother is all for Nonhle and her child , and there isn't lengths he's not prepared to go to just for them

And something is telling me today was nothing , something is still yet to happen here

And we're still so not ready for it at all

Luxolo : I'm hungry

Me : then go eat

Luthando gives me a really look

Me : oh that kind of hungry

And I know now we all want to
go feed , there'll be blood
spilled here

And it's what's making us crave

Me : it's late already , the dark
woods will do fine

Luthando : we should have just
headed for the mountains
earlier on

Me : with Isilo around , that
cannot be safe

He's irritated , and the last thing we want is him changing here

No one will withstand that , we walk out though the back as ourselves

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

Amazes me how she's not
scared of me

And now we can say she saw
me but she's not afraid

After putting her to bed with
her mother , I went out .
Knowing exactly that I'll see
Ntokozo

Me : not sleeping much

Ntokozo : a broken heart maybe

Me : over a man that wasn't
yours to even begin with

This girl mustn't think that I'll
charm her to win her over ,
because I don't want to

Ntokozo : your family wasn't
truthful to mine

Me : they weren't ?

Ntokozo : Lumkile I wasn't told
that you have a child , and a

wife . I thought I was your only
wife

Me : stop saying my wife ,
because you're not yet one .
And you might not even be

Ntokozo : what sick game are
you people playing here ?

Me : no games , go sleep . I'll
see you at breakfast

I turn to walk away she takes
hold of my hand

Me : say what you want to say ,
just don't touch me

She lets go

Ntokozo : I love you already ,
please don't hurt me . I want
this marriage and I want you

Me : right

I walk away from her , there's nothing useful she can even contribute to me whatsoever

I go back to my chamber , and join my ladies in bed

.

.

.

.

Liyana

I have untamed brother's , as of seeing the two Isilo's wasn't enough

While I wanted to go to the water , Luthando was there hunting in his own way for fish

I was really annoyed last night , him being in his bare from . It surely meant the other two are in their forms wherever they were

And it'll be a while before I'm
back at the water

Only because he was there

It takes a while for their
emotions and presence to leave

Because it's anger , it's rage and
all the things I'm so not about

I'm the gentle and kind one , my
uncle is my alter ego

He's the one who possesses all
the qualities that I don't

He's the one that's quick to kill ,
to hurt to avenge

We're the balance between
each other , I can tame and
calm him down

He protects me at all costs ,
both physically and emotionally

So unlike me , he can withstand
the four . And with him around ,
I'm able to draw the same
strength and power

And I can withstand them ,
because when I draw from him .
They don't overwhelm me

I've been up for a while now ,
today I want to sit my family
down and tell them about my
sexuality

And I'm so scared , I've learnt
you can never say you know
anyone

Summer : were you ever going
to tell me ?

I'm not ready for this

Me : maybe

Summer : maybe not

I say nothing

As much as I walked away from
the throne room

She was there and so she saw everything

Me : can I ask ?

Summer : what ?

Me : after seeing the bit that you saw , is there still an us ?

Summer : what do you take me for ? I think I'm just upset you

didn't see the need to tell me
the truth

Me : I was scared and afraid of
being judged , we live city lives .
That we try so hard to hide this
side identity of ourselves

Summer : you should have been
honest with me

Me : I know and I'm sorry

This isn't easy , and I know it's
not the end of this conversation

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

I don't want to accuse people ,
but right now I feel different
worse than how I was feeling
yesterday after bathing with
that water

These people are strange

And I just feel like they're doing
strange things to us

I don't feel like myself at all ,
and I can't feel like this for no
reason

Unless something really is
wrong with me

My back is itching

More especially on my shoulder
blades down to my spinal cord

And the more I showered the
more I feel like scratching , but I
stopped fearing I'll hurt myself

Lumkile : how are you feeling ?

Me : so confused

He keeps looking at me from time to time , I'll be officially meeting the family

Me : and I don't feel like myself at all , what happened last night ? Like how did I end up being here

Lumkile : I brought you , after you were accepted you weren't feeling so well

I feel like he's lying to me , but why would he ?

Lumkile : come let's go

He already has Zenande on his arms , mystical creature or not

Her daddy's arms is where she'll always want herself

He takes my hand into his , and
what I feel cannot even be put
into words

A great sense of peace and love
come upon me , not only that

But I feel like we're one , our
emotions and feelings . It's like
we're in sync

Me : Xaluva

He looks at me.

Me : I love you

And I mean that from my heart ,
it's not even about saying it . I
don't deny how I loved this man

But now it's something else ,
maybe they have fed me a
portion to love him this much

He gives me a peck on the lips
and I want more of that

What's wrong with me ?

.

.

.

.

Liyana

Lumkile walks in with his mini family , and aren't they just the cutest ever

We're about to have breakfast , and Summer is also here

Everyone is just assuming she's
a friend , I'll be honest and tell
them the truth today

But surely by now , they're
suspecting something

They greet , and see only me
and Tyler along with Summer
we greet back

So even Ntokozo has joined the group, and for what reason it beats me

Me : I can't get over how cute this baby is

She's so clinging on Lumkile

I can tell they share a special bond with each other

Mom : Ntokozo have you met
your sister wife ?

Why does she care so much for
this Ntokozo?

Ntokozo : no ma (mom)

Me : ma ? Already we're there ?

Mom : she's just being
respectful Liyana

Me : right I see

Mom : the same way you don't know her , we don't as well .

We just met her yesterday , and only seeing her today in this manner . She will be the city wife while you remain here , and be queen to this kingdom . The marriage doesn't change anything , you're still the first wife and the royal wife

I look at Nonhle and she's hurting , and it's like she can sense I'm feeling her emotions

She's quick to block me . That leaves me shaking a bit

How quickly can she able to possess her powers ? Isn't it too early ?

Lumkile : the same way you
want nothing with my marriage
, do the same with my life . And
wena if you even want to last
here as a wife , never mind as a
queen . Stay out of politics that
have nothing to do with you .
First rule of marriage , your
loyalty lies with your husband .
In case they didn't teach you

The shame , I could laugh my
ass off right now

•

•

•

•

Nonhle

As if I never told Lumkile , that
I'll be labelled the city first wife

And his mother was just so
quick to point that out

There's no way that these
people they're going to love or
accept me

Breakfast was so sour for me to
be honest , I don't even know
why I stuck it out

His sister is okay , but as for the
brothers I don't know . Even the
Lonwabo that I know

He's changed , and it makes me
wonder how he feels about me
now

Maybe I don't even have a job
going back to Joburg

Lumkile : I'm sorry

We're talking a walk to the
village with our little loud
month

Me : you don't owe me any
apology

Lumkile : this is all my doing , I involved you into all of this

Me : and it's fine , it hurts that your family don't like me . But I knew already that I don't tick any boxes in their books . I'm just grateful your ancestors accepted us , and I think that's what matters the most

Lumkile : it is

Me : when can we leave ?

I want to be out of here with my daughter

Me : I'm scared , and I can't shake what your seer said . And I've seen your family , they don't like me . I have no doubt they can harm me Xaluva

And clearly the dark beauty
royal wife is the one that's
favoured

Lumkile : tomorrow

Me : thank you

We walk in silence with
Zenande just making none
sense sounds

I stop walking , he turns and
looks at me

Lumkile : what's wrong ?

Me : my back

Lumkile : still itchy even now ?

Me : it's getting worse

He puts his hand on my back ,
and rubs it all over . Somehow I
just get that feeling all over
again

I've been fed here

.

.

.

.

INSERT 22

Lumkile

If I had my way Liyana wouldn't
be going through all this

Calling a meeting having to
explain herself to us

She doesn't owe any of us
anything , not even an
explanation

First of all there's nothing
wrong with her to begin with

Her sexuality is not a disease ,
why must she even sit everyone
down for it

Liyana : thank you all for coming

Luxolo : what's wrong ?

Liyana : nothing

She's not okay , and that's
because she's scared . And we
all can see that

Liyana : I just have something
I'd like to tell you all

Dad : MaXaluva you're not pregnant right ?

Liyana : daddy !

He smiles , at least he loves his daughter . Hopefully that will get him to accept her as she is

Not that there's anything wrong with her

Liyana : I.... Summer is my girlfriend

Yes that's how you dish it out , not the whole I'm a lesbian business

Luxolo : like girlfriend boyfriend thing ?

Liyana : in this case girlfriend and girlfriend

Luthando : you're gay ?

These two are idiotic

Liyana : something like that

Luxolo : what's something like that ? Either you are or not

Tyler : she's gay when you generalise the LGBTIQ+

community , but individually
she's a lesbian

Me : tell them kodwa
ungabatheli ngamanzi (but
don't pour them with water)

He laughs , and I wasn't making
a joke

Dad : will you officially
introduce her to us ? And not

leave us assuming that she's
just a friend

Liyana : I will do that daddy

At least he's taking her news
way better than he did mine

Liyana : ma ? (Mom)

They look at each other

Liyana : aren't you going to say anything ?

Mom : what can I say Liyana ?
Am I going to hate you now ,
just because of your sexuality ?

Amanda : that would be you
being a hypocrite , because
we've been friends for years .
And my sexuality is no bother ,
so shouldn't hers be as well

This went better than expected
, as long as my sister is okay it's
fine

.

.

.

.

Liyana

The meeting went well , way
much better than I expected

And I must say it's a relief , that
my parents didn't cast me out

That would have broken me ,
I'm not as strong as my
brother's

Lumkile was hurt

But it was only for that time he
shed tears

And after all he's back to
himself , doing what he does
best .

I walk in the kitchen, and I don't
even know what to say

Me : kaMajola

She's looks at me

And this woman carries almost
the same energy and aura as
Lumkile

If not worse

And it has nothing to do with
Isilo imprinting on her

Could she be carrying Isilo's
seed ?

Because that would explain this

Nonhle : MaXaluva

Me : he taught you well I see

We laugh , I sit down

Me : but I have a feeling that
cute chubby human being is
going to replace me soon

Nonhle : I don't see that
happening

Me : I know what I'm talking about , and I feel so bad that I haven't had time to be a proper aunt

She smiles , and now I see why my brother is so in love

She's just perfect in every way , and she'll always have his back no matter what

Nonhle : she's not letting go of
Xaluva

Me : I saw that , she's her
father's daughter . She has him
wrapped all around her little
finger

The aura of this woman , this is
going better than how my talk
with Ntokozo went

Me : please allow me to just say that , I thank you for being with my brother

She's surprised

Me : I don't get myself in things that don't involve me , Isilo is a grown man he knows what he's doing

Nonhle : Isilo ?

Me : your husband , he didn't
tell you that's his name ?

Nonhle : I don't think so ,
maybe he did . Just that I hardly
pay attention to his royal talks .
They scare me

Me : they scare me too

We laugh

Me : I'm here as a sister and
aunt to your daughter , despite
everything and anything else .
I'm here

Nonhle : thank you so much , I
really appreciate this

Me : the others are having a
braai outside , do you want to
come join us ?

Nonhle : thank you I know you mean well but

Me : I understand

I understand her , even I wouldn't be comfortable being with people whom I know what they think of me

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

It means a lot knowing we're
not entirely alone , that Liyana
supports us

And I'm only in this kitchen
because I'm dishing up for
Lumkile

He's in his chamber with his
daughter , I just can't wait for
tomorrow so we can leave

I don't need anything of his
family , they've shown their
feelings . And that's fine by me

I'll be the city wife , and have
the husband so that's fine

I'm not crying after a queen title

So their royal princess can have
it

As soon as Liyana walks out ,
minutes later she walks in . And
she's about to annoy me

This is why I didn't want this
polygamy thing

Women always make it a
competition

And worse against each other

Ntokozo : you know I give it to
you

I just look at her

Ntokozo : you're strong , and
you knew how to play your
cards right

Me : we're playing ?

She laughs

Ntokozo : you got the man ,
how you did it beats me

She shrugs

Me : it's love sweetheart , but I
don't expect you to know
anything about that

That hits a nerve

Ntokozo : don't get too comfortable , you haven't won anything

Me : it's not a reward competition

I take the tray and walk past her , I turn back and look at her

Me : try me , and I will ruin you

I walk out leave her there ,
surely I'm expected to just bow
down here

Only because I'm not royalty ,
and I'm not about to play that
nonsense

.

.

.

.

Lonwabo

The day has gone by , and we've met Summer . Officially as the girlfriend

My parents weren't too
dismissing of her or anything
like that

Right now we're just outside
having beers , and eating meat

Without Lumkile and his wives

I don't know where they are

Luxolo : on a serious note that
Nonhle takes the cup

Shit no !

Luthando : she's the shit , and
Lumkile knows it too . He damn
chose well

Luxolo : I give it to him for
having her imprinted

Liyana : do you think that was his doing ?

Me : don't underestimate him , remember Isilo doesn't control him

Tyler : this whole beasts business of yours is scary as hell

Me : says the man who's father ...

Tyler : that's his business , and
am I so glad I'm nothing like any
of you

We laugh

Luxolo : you're still a criminal

The most feared ruthless leader
of the Mafia's of Africa , that's
Tyler Oceans

He's too sweet , don't mind the pun . You can never think anything worse for him

Tyler : but I'll tell you all this , you're fucking hypocrites

Luxolo : what ?

Tyler : don't do that shit , you're hypocrites and you know it .

Nonhle did nothing to any of you , but you don't like her because of what ? And Liyana was so quick to be welcomed , don't take any offence MaXaluva .

Liyana : I understand you very well

Tyler : this stupid charade you're all playing here , is going to get all of you in hot water

with Lumkile . The man has his own family , one that he didn't even shy away from showing you all they come first . He missed lunch with Ntokozo , just so he can be at the airport to fetch his family . The two people who matter most to him , keep doing this and you'll regret it . Then it'll be too late for you all to even try and make amends

He's right about this , as much as we might not want to admit it

Liyana : leave me out of it

Tyler : you and me are on the same page , I have nothing against Nonhle

Luxolo : I think I'm like , why didn't I meet her first ?

They laugh

Liyana : your brother will kill
you

Me : ask me

They all look at me

Tyler : you were there ?

Me : almost , she's an attorney
at my law firm . I had to take
some harsh reprimanding
words from Lumkile

Liyana : and I hope you stayed
away

I chuckle

Me : they're married aren't they
?

Tyler : that's sick , but I don't
blame you

Luthando : she's everything

I hope my brother's are not
planning on going after Nonhle

Blood will spill

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

It's middle of the night , and for
some reason I can't sleep

Lumkile is asleep perfectly , and
his daughter

I'm the one that's wide awake ,
and nothing is even on my mind

I've pushed the whole danger
thing at the back of my head

I believe my husband will
protect us , he's proven that
he's very much capable

A whole heat wave comes over
me , it's too much . I'm literally
burning

I toss and turn , my back starts
itching again . I'm even
sweating now

My breathing increases , I take deep breaths from deep within.

I feel like my chest is closing up , it's suddenly a struggle to breathe

I try to scream a bit , but it's no use . I try to reach to Lumkile but it's like he's not hearing me

I'm scared now , and choking on
my own breath . Tears stream
down on the side of my face

I'm in pain now , my whole
body is hurting. It's when I feel
like my bones are crushing

I turn and face him

He's sound asleep like he can't
hear anything

I'm going to die here , I can feel it . I reach out again but it's still of no use

My stomach turns and I feel my insides twisting , I close my eyes

I can't take this pain it's too much , I feel something slippery and wet between my thighs

Going down to my legs , it's cold
and warm at the same time

The pain in my stomach , I can't
take it . I close my eyes

My chest closes and I can't
breathe

.

.

.

.

INSERT 23

*In the King and Queen's
chamber*

The queen is woken up from a
deep slumber of sleep ,
sweating and panting

With bruises marks all over her tummy , she screams waking the king

King Lubanzi : mami what's wrong ?

She's crying now , and can't utter any word

She points to her stomach

The king sees the bruises all over again , and he remembers them like it was just yesterday

King Lubanzi : this doesn't make sense at all

Queen Asante : it's...happening again

The last time this happened , she was pregnant

They know she's not pregnant
now

So how is it that it's happening
again

King Lubanzi : you're not
making sense

She's getting frustrated

King Lubanzi : you're not pregnant , how can you be loosing a child ?

She breaks down in a wail

The king engulfs her in a tight hug

But it's not helping anything , they're relieving that pain all over again

It's all over his wife , and he can
feel the pain she's feeling

She's broken all over again

And he doesn't get how this is
happening

Queen Asante : it's.... kaMajola

She manages to utter that ,
and the king gets off the bed in
high speed

He puts on decent clothes and
runs out to Lumkile's chamber

Leaving the queen dealing with
the pain of loss

As much as he wants to be with
her

The kids are going through it
real

So he'll rather be with them , he
will get back to his wife

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

Whoever is at the door is
banging it , as I'm about to out
Zenande down

The blood welcomes me , it's a
whole pool of blood

Me : fuck !

Did it have to be my very own
blood ?

I touch her pulse it's there but
weak , she'll live

I get up and put Zenande on the
couch , covering her to make
sure she's warm

I attend to the door and it's my father , he just pushes me through and walks in

Heading straight to the bed , my pants are even stained by the blood

That much blood I know she's even cleaned , my wife is to never find out about this ever

I know I'm adding up to the pile
, there's two things now . But
it's to protect her

Me : what if she wasn't decent

He ignores me , and checks on
her

Dad : she struggled , how is it
that you didn't hear anything ?

Does he think I'll tell him ? He
has another thing coming

Me : I don't know

He looks at me for a while , like
he sees right through my
bullshit .

But he's not that much I know

He can live with his suspicions
and that's that , that's where
it'll end

He looks at her , his dog teeth
come out . He bites his wrist
and the blood just spills

He's quick to hold her head ,
and brings his wrist to her
mouth

This is the one thing I never wanted for her , but she's weak now . And the only way she can be better is if she feeds

Slowly she's gaining consciousness , and she holds on my father's arm

She sucks the blood for dear life , after a few minutes he pulls back . And lays her head back down

Me : she doesn't need to know
about this

Dad : clean this up , your
mother won't utter a word

For once , like for once we
agree on something with him

He just saved my wife right now

And the only reason he did is
because he saved me

This is working just fine for me

He checks on Zenande first
before walking out . I run a hot
bath

I put her in the bathtub , making
sure she's supported so she
doesn't drown

She's out of it , there's no way she's aware of what's happening right now

My only concern is Isilo's blood being infused with that of my father

The question is won't that be a problem for her ? Already she's marked

The itches on her back , that's
Isilo's mark . It's like a tattoo of
some kind

And she hasn't even seen it so
far , only because it's on her
back

I walk back to the bedroom ,
and work like a slave changing

the sheets , cleaning the
mattress

Getting rid of any blood stains ,
the problem is how am I going
to explain the change of
nightwear

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

Ever since I got here I'm not
myself

This morning I woke up with
such sadness , remembering
what happened last night

Yet feeling more powerful than
I've been feeling , the whole of
yesterday

I just told Lumkile what
happened , and we both have
no idea why I couldn't wake him
up

Why he couldn't hear me , nor
why I couldn't I reach him

But the strange thing is there's
nothing suspicious , or so I think

Except the normal thing that I'm
on my periods

And it was early in a way

But maybe my circle has
changed , it does that over time

Lumkile : you're okay right ?

I don't know , but I don't think
I'm okay . I'm sad like I lost
something very valuable

I actually just want to cry , but
maybe I'm just being crazy

It's a good thing we're leaving
today , and it won't be too soon
until I'm back here again

Me : I don't know Xaluva

Lumkile : if it makes you feel
any better , I'm feeling exactly
the same way you're feeling
right now

And the pain and hurt is written
all over his face , you just
cannot miss it

Lumkile : but we're together ,
we have our baby girl . And so
we'll get through everything

Me : together

Lumkile : yes together

He pulls me to him and we hug ,
suddenly as of late

A personal touch with him ,
affects me in such a way I don't
even know how to explain it

I'm feeling what he's feeling
right now , and it's possible to
even say he's worse than me

The same breakdown I want to have right now is what he wants to do

Me : what's wrong ?

Lumkile : we're hurting , but we're going to be okay

I nod against his chest , but why are we even hurting ?

.

•

•

•

Liyana

Something is wrong here , the
peace in the air is disturbed

I should be going for breakfast
now , but it's just hard getting
up

Summer : babe talk to me

She's packed and ready to leave
, work is calling her . So she

can't stay any longer than she
already has

Me : I don't know babe , but my
heart is sad

Summer : did I do something ?

Me : no , you did nothing my
love

Summer : I hate seeing you like
this

Me : I hate being like this

More especially when I don't
know why

Summer : come get some loving

I laugh getting on my knees ,
and hugging her

Me : I'm going to miss you

Summer : I'm all yours , and no one will ever have me . I may not be to that extent of your brother

We laugh

Summer : but I still love you

Me : and I love you

I pull out of the hug , lift my
head she leans down

Summer : you're going to be
fine

And she seals it with a kiss

.

.

.

.

*In the King and Queen's
chamber*

Queen Asante is not herself ,
she has been crying since she
woke up

And she hasn't been able to
calm down even now , the king
doesn't know what to do or say
anymore

King Lubanzi : they're going to
be fine

Queen Asante : they're just kids
Banzi , what's wrong with your
ancestors ? Wasn't it enough
that your father put me through
this pain ? He took two of my
kids . And now they've gone and
taken my son's baby

The pain and hurt , the
brokenness is that of these
many years ago . When she lost
her own twins

King Lubanzi : I am so sorry

Queen Asante : what's wrong
with them ?

She's failing to understand why
they took the baby

And the king is also struggling
on his own

And he's only wondering how Lumkile is feeling , hoping his wife really never finds out

King Lubanzi : please help me with one thing , Lumkile doesn't want kaMajola knowing about this . Please keep it to yourself , it may be selfish of him . But he's protecting her , if I also had the same chance to do so. I would have protected you from ever knowing

She doesn't like how they want
the truth to stay hidden

But maybe they're right ,
Nonhle is still young

She doesn't need this kind of
pain , they have Zenande . And
hopefully in future they will
have more kids

King Lubanzi : please

Queen Asante : I won't say
anything

She's feeling this pain herself ,
and reliving her own pain

Queen Asante : it shouldn't
have taken the pain of loss

Now all she wants and wishes
for is to comfort Nonhle

But she can't

Considering how she was not
welcoming to her

And Nonhle is to not find out
about this loss

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

Breakfast is just so dull , no one is saying anything to anyone

I wish my flight was for this morning , but it's for 12:00 again

Lonwabo : Kumkanikazi , are you okay ? (My queen)

She doesn't look okay at all , she has eye bags

Looks like she didn't sleep , and
not to mention the red eyes

Even her face is red , she has
been crying

Queen Asante : please excuse
me

She walks out leaving her kids
worried and concerned

I don't know her that well to be affected

And I'm also dealing with my own hurt , that I don't even where I'm getting it from

Lumkile : Kumkani , can I have a word after breakfast ? (My king)

Dad : is it important ?

Lumkile : very important my
king

Dad : okay then , excuse me . I
need to go check on the queen

He walks out as well

Lonwabo : what's really going
on here ?

Luxolo : clearly we're missing something

Shortly after they both get up

Ntokozo : the drama in this royal family is for days

The nerve of this girl , I get up clearing the table . I can't stand her

Voice : aren't you just so sweet

It's that mixed raced guy , I
think his name is Ty something .
He takes the tray from me

We walk into the kitchen , and
so much for saying he's helping

He just takes a pack of lays
chips , and sits on the kitchen
counter he eats

While I wash the dishes

Him : you know I like you

I look at him , he smiles . And
I'm so thankful I'm so in love
with that husband of mine

Him : not like that mind you , I
love them thick and as dark
dindy's

I laugh

Him : look how beautiful you are , that robot just had to get a perfection like yourself

Me : what's your name again ?

Him : I'm offended , it's Tyler Oceans Zungu prince of Manzini and Batlokoa Kingdom

Ty something , I wasn't that lost
. But these people are so
confusing

It's kingdoms this and that , it's
a lot

Me : isn't Oceans a surname as
well ?

He chuckles

Tyler : it is , see that's why me
and you we're going to be best
friends

Me : oh ?

Tyler : yes , see you're one
amazing being. And I'm a lover
so I have no reason to hate you
, royal politics are not my thing .
These people are out of their

minds , and I'm sane . So I'm
not joining anyone

He may be right , but this
morning the king and queen
were just too different

And not so hostile towards me

But maybe I'm just being
paranoid

Already I don't feel like myself ,
it's like strange changes are
happening to me . And that just
sounds crazy right ? I know it
does

So not everyone is so against us
, Tyler may be a cousin

But he's still family and i regard
him as a brother , already I have
a sister in Liyana

And I feel like we can rely on
her

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

Tyler has a sleeping Zenande on his arms , I wonder how she even agreed for him to take her

The pain I'm feeling in my heart , it's starting to even affect me physically

I have that shooting pain in my heart , like a sword keeps stabbing me over and over

There will come a time where I have to explain to my wife , everything that had to do with the imprinting

But now is not it , maybe I can wait until she finally realises the marks on her back

I fear her reaction , I know she will freak and maybe she won't even take everything well

Luxolo finally walks in and sits down , everyone is here . Except my mother and Ntokozo

She's not a wife yet so something's don't concern her like this one

And it's best that everyone hear
this now , and from me

Isilo took my own child , and
now I'm about to hand him his
heart and I'll redeem myself
doing so

I have no one to blame but
myself , I came with the
sacrifice . It wasn't him

So there's no way I'll put the blame on him , it's all on me

But I wished he didn't take my own child , he could have taken anyone

And I wouldn't have given shit , she must have been of a pure heart indeed

For him to take her , if it was a
boy he wasn't going to take him

Luxolo : apologies my king

Dad : you're here now my
prince , I believe we can hear
Isilo

They all look at me

Dad : the queen is not feeling well , so she can't join us

As much as she hurt me and all , I must go check on her after this

Me : I will not be marrying the princess

The room goes quite , and the gasps and shocks . Their eyes say it all

Even my own wife , she's so lost
and confused . As for Liyana
she's pleased

Dad : Isilo...

Me : I'm not marrying the
princess

And I hope it sinks in

.

•

•

•

INSERT 24

Lonwabo

My father doesn't know what to say right now , this was so not expected

But what did I say ? More was yet to come , and I have a feeling more is still yet to come

Luxolo : why the sudden change
?

Lumkile : who said it's sudden ?

His tone is off , and we all can
feel it

Luthando : but you were keen
to marry her

Lumkile : who said I was ?

Right and there it is , he was never going to marry the princess to begin with

Now my question is what's his plan ? Surely there's something behind all this façade he put

Making us all believe he was going to marry her , and that

polygamy was the way for him
to go

Dad : but marrying a royal blood
is what Isilo wants

Lumkile : and I'll handle him

Dad : leave us

He is not asking

But commanding us , and we all
walk out leaving them alone

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

My wife is strong I don't dispute that , but there's no way that she was going to be able to handle this

As much as she agreed , it
wasn't because she's okay with
it

But it's because she didn't want
to lose me , and right there I
knew it wasn't going to work

At some point in life , she was
going to leave me and settle for
being the other woman behind
the marriage

Now I respect her way too
much to put her under such

The imprint ties us together ,
but she's not weak not to find
the strength to leave

Hence I say she was going to
settle for being the other
woman

I'm not saying I'm doing all this
for her , but I'm just a man
protecting what I love

And I've established that I don't
want to lose my wife

I don't see my life without her

I'm protecting her heart ,
keeping the woman I love

Dad : don't let pain lead you
astray

So he thinks I'm doing this
because of the loss of the baby

Me : I'm not

Dad : marrying Ntokozo doesn't
mean you love your wife any
less

Me : and I get all of that
Kumkani , but I know what I'm
doing . I don't want to marry
that princess and I never did

He sighs

Dad : what are you playing at ?
How will you appease Isilo
about the royal wife ? Because
you know you know he wants
blue blood

Me : I won't bother doing anything

Dad : Lumkile....

Me : Kumkani please (my king)

Dad : you're a grown man , right now you don't want to listen to anyone . You went ahead and made a fool out of me , now

when all this backfires .

Remember it was your own
doing

He walks out on me , he's not
pleased .

He's disappointed with me right
now

But it's nothing new

.

•

•

•

Nonhle

I'm ready to go , I feel like I have
no child today

Because Liyana and Tyler have
taken my baby

And she agreed to be taken as
well

And I haven't even gotten time
to talk to Lumkile

Since he dropped that bomb on us , he didn't even warn me before hand

I was just as shocked and surprised as everyone

I don't get why the change , I thought he was all in with the marriage

Now out of nowhere he's not
doing it

The way his father was so quite
, I'm sure he's not happy at all

And my big fear is that already
they don't like me

Now surely they're going to
gather around and blame me
for everything

Something I even know nothing
about

Voice : hi

I turn back and it's the gorgeous
white Lesbian , her kind will
make one doubt their sexuality

Me : Summer right ?

Summer : yes , and you're
kaMajola

I smile

Me : Nonhle will do just fine

Summer : I don't wanna step on
your husband's toes , so I'll stick
to kaMajola

The accent there

Summer : we haven't had time
to talk

Me : yes

Summer : the drama in this
family , I know you're a part of it
now . But it's a lot

I laugh because she's telling the
truth , it just doesn't end

Me : I'm drained already , and
can't wait to get back to Joburg

Summer : I heard you're leaving
today , and I'm leaving as well

Me : a clear head won't hurt

Summer : not at all , I'm just
going to be a bit forward and
give you my mind right now

Can she not put me down
worse

Summer : with everything else
going on , please know your
place and stand your ground .
One thing I've noticed
throughout this whole thing
here is that , that man loves you
. He loves you so much , I don't
think I've ever seen that kind of
love

That is so evident to everyone ,
and honestly it pleases me . The
way he just puts it out there

Summer : stand by him , no
matter how hard it gets .

Through everything stand by
him . I'm sure he will make
mistakes , but who doesn't ?
Learn to forgive him , and look
over his mistakes . He will hurt
you maybe , but that will not be

his intentions . Be his strength
and he will be your anchor .
Have each other the way you
were able to stand everything
the way you did this weekend .
You will make it through , don't
allow anyone to pull you down .
As long as he has you , please
have him

Wow , now that I did not expect
. She just poured some wise
words there

Me : pray for me that I always
have that strength

She laughs

Summer : I have a seat next to
Lucifer , but you're a kind one .
Surely the angels will hear my
plea , you're a good one . And
he knows that

Did she just not finish me off ,
but talking to her she has just
given me hope

And the few minutes of
laughter , has taken my mind
off the pain I'm feeling

Me : thank you so much

Summer : I'm an outcast here , I
don't take sides . But I stand for

the side of the truth , and right
now that's you and your
husband

Liyana should keep this one ,
she's a keeper and so darn
worth it

.

.

.

.

*In the King and Queen's
chamber*

The king walks in , and seeing
his wife like this breaks him

Queen Asante : please come
join me

He goes and sit down on the
bed next to her

Queen Asante : what's wrong ?

King Lubanzi : that son of yours ,
just said he's not marrying the
princess

She laughs slightly , causing the king to admire her

King Lubanzi : and you're amused ?

Queen Asante : didn't we know deep down that he wasn't going to put the woman he loves through the pain of polygamy ?

King Lubanzi : he wouldn't be
my son if he hurt the one who's
taking care of his heart

Queen Asante : Ndlovukazi's
very own words

They both nod

The queen goes quite for a
while . Seeming to be in deep
thought

King Lubanzi : what's on your mind ?

Queen Asante : I'm just thinking , like where did we go wrong with these kids ?

King Lubanzi : there's nothing wrong with our kids , Lumkile is just me on steroids . And I think now I'm feeling what my

parents felt , every time I went
against their wishes and just did
my own thing

Queen Asante : what are we
going to do ?

They both sigh

King Lubanzi : let him be

That's going to be a huge task
on both of them , and they
know it

Because at the same time , they
still want to be parents

Queen Asante : something
strange is happening

King Lubanzi : aren't they
always ?

Queen Asante : I'm still feeling
an Isilo heartbeat Banzi

King Lubanzi : what ?

She nods

King Lubanzi : so one of your
son's impregnated out there ?

Queen Asante : they denied that , but Lumkile and Nonhle lost their baby .

King Lumkile : now who's baby is this ?

They both go deep in thought now , the queen is very much confused

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

I'm about to take my wife and daughter to the airport , my mother has just asked to see me

I know I said I'll go see her , but I didn't mean now or today even

I walk in their chamber , and she's in bed . She's really bad

Me : kumkanikazi(my queen)

Mom : I'm ugly I know , but
don't sit so far away from me

I'll never offend my mother like
that , I sit right next to her

Being so not affectionate

I just sit and not even pull her
closer

Mom : I thought you'd come
see me with your wife

Me : she's getting ready to
leave

Mom : I haven't even talked
with her , and not seen your
daughter

Who's fault is that ?

Me : they can't stay longer ,
their flight leaves at 12

Mom : I will make this right
Xaluva ka ma

Not that again , I hate it when
she calls me that

Me : there's no need , what's
wrong with you ?

She's sick that much we all can see

Mom : I had a very bad experience when she was losing the child

Me : you experienced that ?

I know about the twins , I'm very much well aware of them .

The kids she lost , before we
came

Mom : yes , but it wasn't my
own pain . It was hers

These gifts sometimes are just
like curses

Me : I'm sorry you went
through that

Mom : and I'm sorry it had to take the pain of loss , for me to be a better mother to you

Me : I'm fine

With how they treated me yes I'm fine , right now I'm grieving the loss of my child

I just can't help but blame myself

Because I know it's my fault we
lost the baby

I'm paying for my son's right
now

Mom : you're so much like your
father , just worse

I chuckle

It's good seeing her smile

Mom : he went against his father and married me , and it wasn't an easy thing . But he didn't hear it , he fought for us . It's get hypocritical of us , not to accept your choices and fighting for what you love . The same way we did , the heart doesn't choose . We should have just known better . And I think deep down , we both knew you

weren't going to go ahead with this marriage . Don't worry about King Zweli , we will rectify our fault

I just nod

I guess loosing the baby got them to sympathize with us

- .
- .
- .

.

Nonhle

The drive to the airport is a
quite one , I'm just glad
Zenande is sleeping

I know she would make a fuss
having to leave her father here

Lumkile : talk kaMajola

I look at him , and he's focused
on the driving but I know him

He might as well be looking at me as well , in his kind own way

Me : why the change Xaluva?

Lumkile : because I was never going to marry her to begin with

Me : what ?

Now I'm defeated

Me : but....

Lumkile : I could never put you through that nonsense , of having to deal with a husband that's in between two homes .

All the tears I cried , the pain I felt and all that for nothing

But Lumkile is not a nice person

Lumkile : there are sacrifices to be made , because the blue blood wife is needed by a great ancestor . So I'm prepared to do anything and everything , to make sure I protect you and our marriage

Me : what do you want sacrifices ?

Lumkile : like sacrificing certain things , in this instant I let you

and everyone believe I was
going ahead with the marriage .
I sacrificed the truth , to hide
my intentions

I hear what he's saying but I
don't trust it one bit

There's a lot he's not telling me

Lumkile : we're going to be fine

Me : I hope so , being at you
home just made me a mess

Lumkile : I'm sorry about that

Me : it's not your fault right ? So
it's all good

And I mean that

I can't blame him for anything

Here I am , safe and sound

Our daughter is well

I'm just happy we're going back home , and we'll see him soon in a few days

I can only hope that him staying behind , he doesn't change his mind

And end up falling for the
princess

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

I'm right behind the palace , all
alone with my thoughts

I ran to the dark woods since I
got back to the airport

Just to pass time , and now the
sun has set and it's just the
perfect time

The heart needs to be warm ,
when Isilo receives it

Voice : you called ?

She's even trying to sound all
sexy

Me : let's take a walk

I take it she wasn't told

I said I won't be marrying her

Ntokozo : oh okay

We use the back entrance going out , and it leads to the dark woods

Ntokozo : what's this place ? It's very scary

Me : you're going to be a part of this family , such things shouldn't scare you

She laughs , I take her hand into mine . And that pleases her

Ntokozo : and I've seen stranger things since I've arrived here

Me : and you need to get used to them

We keep walking further and
further into the woods

She's just talking about herself ,
how being a princess set life for
her

Ntokozo : I've always known
that I'll get married to a prince ,
so life was just set . And so I
didn't see the need to slave in

school or even bother finding a job

Me : so that has always been your dream ?

Ntokozo : yes , to be rooted in a royal house for life

How can my lawyer wife compete with this ? That would

have honestly been disrespect
to my wife

Ntokozo : it's getting more
darker and scary , shouldn't we
go back ?

Within a snap I turn her , and
rip her blouse apart .

Exposing her bare chest

She screams , before she can
even call out my name

I have my paw on her chest , my
claw digging deep heading for
her heart

And I can fucking feeling it , her
tears are just fuelling me

Ntokozo : no....no...no

The pain of loosing my child ,
just so she can cleanse the
sacrifice of her heart

It was always the plan from the
beginning , I was going to make
a heart sacrifice of the royal
wife

It didn't matter who it was
going to be , too bad it was her

But it was always going to end
in the same fate for whoever
she was going to be

I have it in my paw , slowly I
transform back to my hand
leaving the claws

They cut through her veins , in
seconds I pull the heart and
drop the dead body down

She'll become food to night
preys . I'm down on my knees ,
turning into Isilo

The second the wings are out ,
I'm flying over to the top
mountain

Isilo welcomes me , I'm down
on the ground handing him the
heart

Me : my child paid for that

Isilo : Isilo don't....

He returns back the same rage I
have towards him

Me : you could have taken
anyone

Isilo : I said pure

Me : you have your royal heart ,
let it be enough . You will never
tell me what to do ever again , I
will summon you and you will
answer . You will let me sit on
my throne and rule it my way ,
this is my land .

Isilo : your child wasn't taken in
vein , this heart fulfils the duties
I needed a royal wife for . So
the one your heart belongs to ,
can sit on that throne and rule .

With this heart her lineage is
welcomed to be in line of the
throne

He pierces through the heart
with his claws , causing the
blood to splatter everywhere all
over us

Isilo : you have gone dark and
sacrificed , I hope your seed
never follows in your footsteps
Isilo . I bow to you now

He acknowledges me , by
putting his paw on the side of
my right feet

Isilo : until we meet again

He runs off over the South side
of the mountain

Howls of wild creatures graces
the dark woods

She's been found

And no one will ever know what happened to her , my wife is to never know that I made such a sacrifice

It was so my kids will be acknowledged as royal kids , because Isilo just wanted a royal wife to sit on the throne

For pure royal blood kids

.

.

.

.

INSERT 25

Liyana

I run to my mother

She just engulfs me into tight a
hug

Mom : it's okay

Is it ?

Creatures of the wild are just
howling from the dark woods

Something happened with the
four

I know it's them

Because I am disturbed

And they all just changed form
right in front of us

Running to the woods

I haven't seen Lumkile

Ever since he came back from
the airport

Me : I am scared

Mom : don't , your brother's
will never hurt you

I am glad all this happened
while Summer is not here

She left right after Nonhle left

Voice : what are you animal
people doing ?

I move away from my mother

Uncle Africa : my queen

He acknowledges me

I let out a slight smile

Me : as you were

He walks over and we hug

Me : I am so glad you're here

He chuckles

Uncle Africa : and I am here to
take you away

Both my mother and I look at
him

Mom : what ?

Uncle Africa : Liyana cannot be
in the same space as Isilo now .
She has to go to Batlokwa , and
take over the throne

Me : what ?

Just then the sky becomes clear
blue like it's not night

Me : oh my God !

He's right

I have to go

I look at my mother

Her eyes are glistening

Mom : Africa

He walks over to her and hugs
her

Uncle Africa : I'm sorry , but it's
time . She will not be able to
handle Isilo's presence anymore
. If we keep her here , we will
just be hurting her . She will die

I gasp in shock !

What happened to my brother
?

He's definitely worse than how
he was before

Mom : I'm not ready for her to
leave

She wipes her tears

Uncle Africa : I am sorry

Voice : we have to let her go

I look at him

Me : daddy

He smiles

Dad : it's okay my baby

I nod slowly

I guess it's evident even for him

And for my uncle to just rock up
here

I guess this is it for me

My water kingdom awaits me in
Botswana

I won't even see Isilo

I have to leave the palace right
away

Before he steps foot back here

Me : I'll go to the river , then we
can leave

My uncle nods

I hug my father

Me : I love you so much , please don't desert him . He's still your son , he needs you now more than ever . He might not admit it , but we know

Dad : don't worry , I got him

That gets me to smile

Me : I need to pass to
Bloemfontein

Uncle Africa : okay , what's
important is to leave before
Isilo gets here

I nod

I have to go talk to Summer

I don't know what this means
for us now

But I hope we will find a way
somehow

She left me knowing I'll be
coming in a few days

Now things have changed

Me : my queen , please walk me
to the water

She's a crying mess

But I know she will be okay

Her five has grown now

There's no turning back

She takes my hand and we walk
to the Isilo river

This is not goodbye

But it's preserving what we
have

So we can keep reigning as one

The lineage of Lubanzi and
Asante

•

•

•

•

Lonwabo

We bow down before him

He's still in his form

But it's okay

Because we're also in our forms

Isilo : go back home , Liyana is leaving . Go say your goodbyes

This is not your normal leaving home

Nor is the goodbye

Luxolo : what of you ?

He's brave enough to ask

I wasn't

Isilo : me and her we cannot be
in the same space

So she's going to Batlokwa

We left the palace because we
felt of what happened here

Me : you won't say your
goodbyes ?

Isilo : tell her I am thankful , and
she will know

I am defeated

But I know better now

He will do anything for Nonhle

Even if it means tainting us

Spilling royal blood

Making sacrifices

He went too far and too deep

But nothing can be done now

It's all done

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

Liyana and my uncle are long
gone

Tyler left with them

Only us four is left

Me : can I please have a word
my king ?

He gets up and we walk out

Dad : I know what you have
done , I don't approve . But I've

taken care of the situation , King Zweli will know his daughter left this kingdom and got lost on the way to her kingdom . No one will ever find out what happened , nor will your mother

I look down

Dad : my first grandchild Isilo ?

I should have known he will
figure it out

Me : I am sorry , I didn't know it
was going to be her . I wasn't
aware kaMajola was expecting

Dad : I feel robbed of being a
grandfather

Me : I am really sorry

Dad : this shall end here

It shall

.

.

.

.

INSERT 26

Nonhle

Nyaniso : what's wrong ?

I'm dealing with a lot this
morning

I woke up with a tattoo on my
shoulder blades

I have a wings tattoo there

That I have no freaking idea
where or how I got it

And it's huge alright

I had a crazy dream

Where my mother was holding
a girl child

And I couldn't help but feel so
connected to the baby

I cried my eyes out waking from
that dream

I felt somehow

Like there's a piece of me that's
missing

I don't know what the dream
meant

Zenande is sulking because she
wants her father

And Nyaniso called me home

Instead of just going to my
house

He wanted me to come here

Me : why am I here ?

He chuckles shaking his head

Nyaniso : fine , be like that . I
got a letter from King Lubanzi

Xaluva this morning . He's asking to come see me

Shut the front door !

Me : what ?

I am beyond shocked

Nyaniso : you said that boy will come , you said nothing about

....

Me : come on ! I didn't know

I take out my phone and call
him

Lumkile : ntikazi yam

I smile

Me : why did your father send a
letter ?

He goes quite

So I'm guessing he also didn't
know

Lumkile : he did ?

Me : yes , I'm with my brother
he just told me

Lumkile : that's new to me

Me : what do you think this is about ?

Lumkile : I don't know , and I won't even ask him either . Let's see what he does

Strange

His father wanted nothing to do with us

Well me

Or should I say our marriage ?

Why would he be the one
sending my brother the letter ?

I hope it's not to cause more
drama

No more of the drama !

I've had enough of that in their
kingdom

Nyaniso : and then ?

I shrug

He might just spit Lord knows
what

So best I just keep quiet

I won't tell him that Lumkile
knows nothing about the letter

Me : are you accepting it ?

He looks at me and shrugs

I laugh

He's just being spiteful

.

•

•

•

Lumkile

I wonder what my father is
playing at

Suddenly they seem to have a
change of heart

When they were against my
decisions

I'll see how this pans out

I just want to go back home

And be with my wife and
daughter

Mom : when will you take the
throne ?

I look at her

Me : I will be a regent king ,
when the time comes

The looks they give me

Mom : what are you talking
about ?

I don't want her knowing what
I've done

So I can't tell her why I won't
reign as king but as a regent

Another one will have to take
over the throne from me

I've tainted me and my
brother's

Me : that's all I know , Isilo will
explain himself when the time
comes

My dad chuckles shaking his
head

I'm thankful he's willing to keep
my secret away from his wife

My mother cannot know what
I've done

Luthando : you're just full of
surprises

I grin

Mom : this we shall see

Me : yeah , but I'll definitely sit on that throne . Although right now , I would just like to leave and go back to my wife and daughter

She misses me so bad

She was crying when I called

.

.

.

.

Lonwabo

Luxolo : it's because of what he did ?

I nod

Luthando : that's fucked up

Me : he knew what he was
doing

He risked it all for Nonhle

The throne and all

Just for her

He's taken a life just for that
woman

I will remain a bit

And get myself in check

I don't want to die

It should sink in , that woman is
taken

I hope Qaqambile will keep to
himself

If he knows what's good for him

For the sake of his life

Despite Luthando saying he
wishes he had met her first

I know he won't act on that

He's even more sane than I am

.

.

.

.

In King And Queen's Chamber

Queen Asante : what did your
son do ?

The king walks over to her

And he takes the lotion

He lotions her

While she smiles at just the love
and care this man still holds for
her

25 years later , and he's still the
same man

His love and care for her hasn't
changed

King Lubanzi : let him be

Queen Asante : what I know is
that ... there can never be no
consequences

He puts the lotion down

And places his hands on her
waist

King Lubanzi : He and Isilo are
one , we sometimes will not

understand the things that
happen between them

He leans over for a kiss and she
kisses him back

King Lubanzi : Your ancestors
have taken my daughter , I need
a daughter mami

She laughs

Queen Asante : in my age Banzi
?

He smiles

King Lubanzi : you're still young
and fresh , I know you can still
carry one last person in here

He says rubbing her flat tummy

She smiles in admiration

He hopes it comes to pass

He knows his sons will never
hold this kingdom now

Nor will their linages

A daughter is of the pure heart

Belonging to the water

He would rather still his blood
reigns

Than for an outsider to come in
and sit on the throne

Queen Asante : I feel so bad for
how we treated Nonhle , and
that cute baby . That's our
grandchild , the bond between
her and Isilois just so
beautiful

King Lubanzi : it's okay , we will fix this . We're going to Joburg , and we'll make things right

Queen Asante : maybe we should have told him

King Lubanzi : no , we're not just doing this for him . But it's for this family , and this kingdom as well . She will reign

besides him as queen , we need her just as much . We started on the wrong foot , but it doesn't mean we can't fix things

She smiles

Queen Asante : we should go shopping for some pink little things

He chuckles

King Lubanzi : definitely

He picks her up , placing her on
the bed as he parts her legs
getting in between them

And she brings his face down ,
as they kiss

.

.

.

.

INSERT 27

Lumkile

I open the door and walk in

I walk closer to her bed

I pull the duvet down a bit and
lean down giving her a kiss

Me : daddy loves you

I move back

Zenande : tatam (daddy)

I smile looking at her

Me : Nana (baby)

I lean down and pick her up

I walk to her mother's room

I open the door

And walk over to the bed

I open the sheets and put her
down

Zenande : suhamba (don't
leave)

Me : andihambi (I'm not leaving)

I walk over to the couch

Doesn't she slide down the bed and follows me

I chuckle

She stares at me as I take my sneakers off

I take my pants and shirt off
leaving my briefs on

Me : you have issues

She smiles

If only she could understand me

I pick her up and walk to bed

I lay down and place her on my chest

Nonhle : you're making cold air

I pull her closer to my chest

Placing a kiss on her forehead

Me : I love you

Nonhle : you're back ?

Me : mhm , it's okay sleep

She snuggles closer

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

Me : why did you come back
middle of the night ?

He hands me the bowl he was using to feed his child

Me : couldn't you come back like a normal human being , when people are awake ?

He chuckles

Me : I'm here , so just be happy

I laugh

Me : you're here with your what
?

Lumkile : all of me , wouldn't
you like to see ?

He grins

Me : you creep , stay away from
me

I finish putting the dishes in the
dish washing machine

Lumkile : your phone is ringing

I wipe my hands and take it

Me : there's even a missed call

Lumkile : been telling you to
stop putting your phone on
silence

At night I don't want to be
distributed

Me : MaXaluva

She laughs

Liyana : I called you too early

Me : been long wide awake

Liyana : I wanted to catch you
so I can tell you I've left

Me : back to Bloemfontein ?

Lumkile looks at me

Liyana : no Botswana

Me : what ...why ?

Liyana : I'm to be crowned queen , to the kingdom my mother hails from

Me : wow

Liyana : I don't know when your wedding will be , I might even miss it . But please , just know that I'm all in support . Please have my brother , and don't ever give up on your love

Me : don't desert us please

Liyana : I will never , take care
of my niece tell her I love her so
much . And please visit the
doctor

Me : the doctorwhy ?

She laughs

Liyana : just do it , you'll know
why

Okay that's strange

Me : take care

Liyana : you too sis , bye

Me : bye

I drop the call

Me : why didn't you tell me
your sister left ?

Lumkile : she left because of me

Me : I don't understand Xaluva ,
what do you mean ?

Lumkile : it's a bit complicated ,
me and her we now can't be in
the same space . Tyler's father

took her , so she can take her
throne . And be away from me

These people and their weird
lives

How is it they can't be in the
same space

To an extent that she had to
leave

.

•

•

•

Lumkile's House

King Lubanzi : did he say when
he'll be back ?

Queen Asante : No

He sits down

Queen Asante : when will your brother's arrive ?

King Lubanzi : Mabutho will be here at noon , the rest tomorrow when we go to the Majola home . Oh and Nqaba will arrive with Mabutho

Queen Asante : I still think we should have told Lumkile , he

might not appreciate us being here and he doesn't know

King Lubanzi : he wants to marry , we're here to make that happen

She just nods , hoping Lumkile doesn't feel offended

Because they were not in support of this to begin with

The king's phone rings

King Lubanzi : it's King Zweli

She sighs

Queen Asante : what happened
to Ntokozo ? She just
disappeared , maybe it's
because of what happened . We
didn't tell them your son was

intending on making her a second wife . She must have gone back to her people , we barely even paid attention to her . Because of everything that was happening

King Lubanzi : she probably left yes , and she's not our problem anymore

The king gets up answering the call going out

King Lubanzi : my king

King Zweli : I have been
expecting my daughter home

King Lubanzi : a lot of things
happened at our kingdom , she
left in the midst of that . By now
, she should have long been
home

King Zweli : what exactly was happening there ?

King Lubanzi : unfortunately I cannot disclose that , but our relation has come to an end .

King Zweli : what ?

King Lubanzi : due to some unforeseen circumstances.....

King Zweli : I don't want to hear this , but if something happened to my daughter I will reign terror on that kingdom of yours

King Lubanzi : do not throw threats around , because you will swallow them . Focus your energy on finding your daughter , and where she could be

He drops the call on king Zweli

This better not come back to
haunt them

And these many secrets they're
harbouring as of late

.

.

.

.

INSERT 28

Lumkile

Nonhle : I need to show you something

Me : what ?

She takes her t-shirt off

Me : whoa ! Is this how you tell me , you want me ?

She laughs

Nonhle : get your head out of
the gutter

I chuckle

She turns and gives me her back

My eyes catch the Isilo wings
mark on her back

I clear my throat

Nonhle : I woke up with this on
my back , exactly where I've
been itching . I don't know what
this is Xaluva

I walk over to her

And stand behind her

I place my hands on her
shoulders

She takes a deep breath

I heave a sigh

Me : it's not a tattoo

Nonhle : it can't be , I didn't
have one done

Me : it's the mark of Isilo

She turns and faces me

Me : he imprinted on you , and
chose you as the royal wife .

The queen who will rule and
reign besides me

She frowns

Nonhle : I'm not of royal blood

Me : I know , but it's you that I want . Just you and no one else

The moment of silence is just too much

She's in deep thought

After a while she pulls her t-shirt up

Nonhle : what does this mean ?

Me : that , you're one of us now

Nonhle : I'm no longer normal ,
am I ?

Me : no , you're not . I'm really..

Nonhle : you're not sorry !

Okay

This cannot escalate

Me : because I have you , no .
I'm sorry , but definitely not
entirely

She shakes her head

Nonhle : what happened to
Ntokozo ?

Me : I don't know , she probably
went to her kingdom

Nonhle : what you did

Me : for you , for us I'll do
anything

Nonhle : she was expecting you
to marry her

Me : and I was never going to

She just stares at me for a while

Nonhle : take me to the doctor

Me : why ? Are you sick ?

Nonhle : no

Me : people don't just go to
doctors for no reason

Nonhle : we'll see when we get there

Mhm !

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

But it can't be that I'm pregnant

It's the only thing I can think of

I don't know why Liyana would
say I should see a doctor

Unless she knows something or
has seen something

And the dream with my mother

It's still bothering me

Who's the baby she was holding
?

It doesn't make sense

Zenande : mamu (mommy)

Me : mhm

Zenande : hamba no tatam (I'm
leaving with my daddy)

Me : uyaphi ? (Where to)

Zenande : kwakhe (his house)

Me : ha.ana (no)

Zenande : nizolala khona (I'm sleeping there)

Me : please talk to your child before she bores me

He ignores me

The door opens and the doctor
walks in

Doc : Mrs Xaluva , I have your
tests back . Congratulations ,
you're pregnant

Me : no

He frowns

I look at him

Me : it's justI just cannot be pregnant

Lumkile : can we get a scan done ?

Doc : yes of course , but something is worrying me .
Seems like you recently had a heavy bleed

Me : I did not

Lumkile clears his throat

Me : did I ?

He shakes his head

Me : that did not happen

Well now that I recall that night

But then , I woke up and I was
fine

Except that I was feeling sad ,
and a sense of loss

But there was no blood
whatsoever

Lumkile said I was too drenched
in sweat

That's why he changed my PJs

I thought he wasn't hearing me

I barely remember everything
that happened

It's like I was just half passed
the whole time

Everything is a blur

Me : I did bleed , but it was just my periods . And it wasn't heavy

Doc : I see , maybe I misread something

Me : wait ...is the baby okay ?

Doc : we will do a scan to confirm that

I so hope my baby is okay

Even though I wasn't planning
on having a baby right now

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

I just hope she bought what I
said

I'm happy that the scan didn't
show the babies were twins

The whole time I was just
crossing my fingers

I'm happy though

I'm going to be a dad again

So Isilo took my daughter

And my son was saved

This is consoling me somehow

Even though I still carry the guilt
of my doings

There would be two of them
now

I get out of the car making a call

Carrying a sleeping Zenande
into my arms

She's not happy about the baby

But I knew that would happen

I spot my father's car parked
near the garage

Me : great !

I heave a sigh

Nonhle : Xaluva

Me : I just got home , and my
parents are here

Nonhle : why ?

Me : I don't know , I guess I'll
hear once I talk to them . My

mother did hint they're this side
, I didn't pay attention to that

Nonhle : okay , I'll stay away .
And you'll come see us here

Me : this is your house , you
don't have to stay away

Nonhle : your parents and I ,
water and oil . Please bring
Zenande back

Me : let's not do that , my daughter wants to spend the night with her father

Nonhle : but your parents are there , I'm not saying they'll hurt her butI'm not comfortable with this . Please don't stress me , bring her back . I don't want to be here worried about her

Me : yeah I won't stress you ,
but I'm not bringing her back .
My kids will never be in the
middle of grown ass people
issues , I'll call you before bed . I
love you

I drop the call

- .
- .
- .
- .

INSERT 29

Lumkile

Mom : your daughter is
beautiful

I have Zenande sleeping on the
couch , right next to me

I don't want her away from my
sight

Not because I'm thinking I'm
parents will do something to
her

I know they won't harm her

Things have changed now

But even then , they would
never hurt a child

But I want to assure Nonhle

That I didn't let anything
happen to our daughter

That I watched her with all of
my being , and she was in my
sight the whole time

Me : mom , what's going on ?

She frowns

Me : you and dad are here , I don't know why . I won't question it , but the sudden change towards my wife and daughter ?

She sighs

Mom : I told you I will make things right

I chuckle

Me : whatever that means

Mom : where is your wife ?

Me : at her house

Mom : is she coming here ?

Me : no

Mom : the baby sleeps here ?

Me : yeah she does

Mom : wow ! She really loves
you

I look at my baby

Me : and I love her too

I can't explain the love I hold for
this cute little human being

I know I can father a child all
because of her

She's the apple of my eye this
one

My first born

She's my baby girl

The first human being to make me a father , and call me dad

Well her only dad

She doesn't even want to share me , with the new baby that's coming

Dad : what do you know about taking care of a child ?

Me : enough to take care of her

Mom : this one is a very weird child , she saw you and Isilo in form . And she wasn't scared

This is my baby girl

I don't know why she wasn't scared

Me : kaMajola is pregnant

Mom : what ?

They're shocked

Me : she was carrying twins , we
lost the girl

Mom : Xaluva

And she tears up

My father comforts her

Hopefully this will make her feel better

Knowing there's another grandchild that's coming

Dad : it's okay , not all hope is lost

She nods

Me : kumkani , can we have a word ?

They both look at me

Mom : I'll go prepare her bed

Me : she will sleep with me ,
when her mother is not here
she doesn't want to sleep on

her bed alone . She won't sleep
alone

My mother smiles

Mom : I'll go take a shower

She gets up and walks upstairs

Dad : I'm here to pay for your
wife's bride price

I should have known that

Me : I can afford that

He chuckles

Dad : I know , but please let me
do this for you

Me : I'm not only paying dowry ,
I'm also paying damages . And
the fine for marrying her ,

without doing things the right
way

Dad : I know that , I will do all of
that

I don't know his reasons

But I'll let him do it

It's his money after all , so I'll let
him be

Me : what happened to the maiden ?

Dad : I made calls , she's taken care of . They won't find her either , best you know nothing about that

I know my father has a past

A very dark one at that

So I'll respect him not wanting
to tell me anything

Dad : Zweli called making
threats , but he's all bark and no
bite

I believe he won't do nothing

He knows he can't do shit to us

.

•

•

•

Nonhle

I'm so hesitant to tell Nyaniso
that I'm pregnant

I'm actually scared more than
anything

I don't know how he's going to
take the news

I don't even know how to break
the news to him

Me : she didn't give you trouble
?

He shakes his head

I'm at home

My brother called me over

Lumkile had to drop Zenande
off

She's inside with my brother

Lumkile is parked by the gate

Lumkile : my uncle's are also here

Me : your uncle's ?

He nods

Lumkile : my father's brother's from Ngonyama kingdom , and a friend of his . But he's also our uncle of some sort , cause he's married to my father's cousin

Me : and even now , you still
don't know what's going on ?

He shakes his head

Lumkile : my father told me

Me : oh !

He chuckles giving me a kiss

Lumkile : don't worry , we don't
have to worry ourselves about it

He's awfully calm

I guess it's all good

He won't tell me and I won't ask
either , he was just going to tell
me if he wanted to

.

.

.

.

Lonwabo

Qaqambile : she's slacking at work !

I heave a sigh

I don't need this drama

Because I don't want Lumkile on my neck

I don't need any of that

Me : Nonhle is going through something right now , and as soon as....

Qaqambile : we're all going through things , but we put our jobs first ...

Me : listen , I can hear you're frustrated for whatever reason that is . Nonhle is not available , so I suggest you get someone to take her workload

Qaqambile : but

Me : no buts , and some free friendly advice . If you know what's good for you , and you

value your life you'll stay the
fuck away from her . I know
you're sour right now , but get
rid of those thoughts if you
don't want to get into it with
my brother over his wife

Qaqambile : I am nowait ,
your brother's wife ?

Me : Nonhle Majola is now a
Xaluva , she's married to my

brother . Just find a stand in for
her , and stop with the drama

I drop the call getting into my
car driving off to the airport

My father just summoned me
over to Joburg

While he left me here

I was in no hurry to go back

I hope Qaqambile heard me

The aim going back is minding
my business

Getting rid of any thoughts
about Nonhle

That might get me into some
deep shit with my brother

I can't deny what I feel

But I know I cannot act on it

So I'll be at a distance

Even if it means for the rest of
my life

So let it be

.

.

.

.

Nonhle

Nyaniso : those people are here

I just look at him not knowing
what to say

We slept here

He said he asked them to come
today

Although they had asked to
come yesterday

I wish I knew what's what

I thought maybe it's to do
things right

Like Lumkile said he will when
he got back

But then again they don't like
me

So I doubt they would ever do
that

Nyaniso : they better not be
coming with disrespect here

Me : why am I being stuck in
here and not going out there ?

Nyaniso : because you can't ,
just watch her . And make sure
she doesn't go out there

He walks out of my room

Zenande is laying down on the
carpet , playing a game on my
phone

I wish I was her right now

Just being a child , with a life
with no worries

.

.

.

.

INSERT 30

Lumkile

“Everything went well , don’t
come in just yet . Kumkani
wants to have a word with you”

I read the text message from
Lonwabo

He arrived this morning

I'm not angry about it , he's the
only brother that's close by
right now

And with my father deciding to
do this on his own , my
brother's would be needed

But I can't say I'm over the
moon as well

After all , it was my intention to
come and do what's right

I thought Nyaniso will make
things difficult

But it seems like he was
welcoming

But I'm sure he wasn't cheap at
all

And that was definitely done
deliberately

Just to spite me I know

But I guess my father came
prepared

He walks over with Bangani

My dad is carrying Zenande

This one is loving being a
grandfather

He was playing with her all of
yesterday morning

They even bought clothes for
her , with tons of toys

They get to the car and he
opens the door

Zenande : tatam (daddy)

Me : Nana (baby)

I taka her from my dad

Nqaba : congratulations man

Me : enkosi (thank you)

Dad : I want us to talk about something

I'm assuming it's serious

And that's why he can't wait to discuss it

Me : okay

Dad : I do understand that you'll never be king but regent , I won't lie that hurts me

Well it's just a throne

Quite frankly , I don't think there's a need to worry

It's not like an outsider will come and reign

Dad : I need a daughter , and hopefully Isilo and Ngonyama will hear my plea

Me : aren't you too old for that ?

Bangani laughs

Me : hopefully you'll get your daughter , I'll reign for her until she comes of age

He smiles

Dad : I'm glad you get where
I'm going , if that comes to pass
. Hawu will marry her , and he
will reign hand in hand with her

Ah now it makes sense

Me : are you okay with that ?

Nqaba : your father has come through for me many times , the kids will probably hate us for this

I chuckle

I can't believe they're already arranging a marriage for someone who's not even born yet

Hawu is like a year old or so

Maybe older , I'm not sure

I can't believe my parents are
busy making a baby

It's very awkward

But it puts me at ease

The throne will be safe

Me : the Isilo mark is out , I don't know what power she may possess . Considering that she is tainted with your blood as well

Dad : we will deal with this , when the time comes

He's just diverting from this , but I understand his point

•

•

•

•

Nonhle

Lonwabo : congratulations ,
you're my sister in-law now

Me : thank you

I don't know how he feels about
this

So I don't want to jump the gun

There were tensions there

So right now things are still a bit
somehow

I still can't believe the king paid
everything all by himself for his
son

And my brother is a happy man
inside his pockets

I couldn't care much though

He's been supporting me all
along

He's all I got , and he deserves
every single cent he got

Even for Zenande

Because he played a fatherly
role in her life

Voice : Lonwabo , can I please
talk to kaMajola

It's his mother

He nods with a smile and walks
away

Queen Asante : can we please
sit down ?

I say nothing but pull chairs and
we sit down

We haven't exchanged many
words since she got here

We talked a bit as she was
helping me dress

When the in-laws were asking
to see me

But it wasn't anything serious

Just casual conversation about
nothing really serious

But I see she's opened up to
Zenande

And that one is loving being in
between the grandparents

She's happy

Queen Asante : the last thing I
want to be seen as by you , is a
monster in-law from hell

I smile

I doubt I would ever see her like that , I would rather just keep my distance

Than call her name's

Queen Asante : My mother in-law and I , we didn't have the best relationship . She was rooting for another woman , and I see just how I turned into her . I thought I would do better when the time came , that I'll

be supportive and understand my son's choices but I failed miserably . I'm no better than you , and that's the truth . I was married a commoner as well , only in marriage I found my true identity . Lubanzi fought just as much to be with meI was a hypocrite . I hope it's not too late , to ask for forgiveness and to start afresh . Because I am truly sorry , for the way I treated you . My harsh words ,

and just being cold towards you
. I see my shortcomings now ,
I'm even ashamed

Me : it's okay

Wouldn't it be pointless to just
stay angry at her ?

Anyways I don't know if she's
really genuine or what

But only time will tell

Today she was besides her
husband

As they were paying bride price
for me , damages for Zenande

And dowry for her to use their
surname

At least she showed that
support

Whether she means it or not ,
we'll see

.

.

.

.

Lumkile

I lean over giving her a kiss

She giggles

Liyana : are you hearing me ?

I chuckle

We have her on loud speaker

Me : yeah

Liyana : let me leave you love
birds , congratulations on the

young one and the marriage . I
hope I'll see the wedding taking
place

Nonhle : you will

I don't know how we'll make
that one work

Liyana : anyways , all is well . I
spoke to Summer

Nonhle : tell me you guys are going to compromise and keep the relationship intact

I look at her and smile

Nonhle : don't look at me like that , I'm rooting for this relationship

I shake my head

Liyana : worry not , just cross fingers . She's willing to relocate to this side

Nonhle : now that's music to my ears

Me : MaXaluva I need my wife now

They laugh

Nonhle : bye aunty we love you

Liyana : I love you guys

I drop the call

Nonhle : you're so

I shut her up with a kiss

Me : Since Lumkile decided to be a blesser and pay my dues , I

have a few thousands . So
where are you going for your
honeymoon ?

She laughs

Nonhle : your daughter is
coming ?

Me : we're a package

We'll go see the whole kingdom
business after the wedding has
been done

And we get back from the
honeymoon

Hopefully for my sake , things
remain as they are

And these damn secrets will be
buried forever

HOPEFULLY!!

.

.

.

.

THE END