



HER FATE

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She wears the extra Jersey hiding her big stomach but it is still showing.

She sighs and grabs her backpack heading out, finding her mother in the kitchen.

Nokuzola:I'm going to school. Bye

Mom:Okay, have a good day. Say goodbye to your father.

Nokuzola:I already did.

She lied and sped out of the house heading to school.

Other students were already inside the school premises, others were

doing their homeworks before the bell could ring.

She walked to her class.

“Grade 8B”, was plastered on the door.

She walked inside and went to her desk sitting down.

She hung her bag on the desk and took out a book, she started reading to pass time.

7h30 the bell rang and the class started to be crowded. They waited for the teacher who was going to teach for the first period.

Mrs Mathe made her presence in class, she was the L. O teacher.

They stood up greeting her and she told them they can sit down.

Mathe:I hope every one had a great weekend. Our topic for today is Teenage pregnancy.

Nokuzola looked down on the desk, she is already facing enough trouble at home and they are about to make it worse. The teachers don't get tired to express how much they are disappointed in her for falling pregnant. If only they knew.

Mathe:I want us to discuss the causes and negative effects of teenage pregnancy and how we can stop it. Anyone who wants to start with the causes?

A student lifted up his hand and smirked looking at **Nokuzola**.

Mathe:Yes **Lungelo**. Tell us your thoughts.

Lungelo:Ma'am I just think these girls love fancy things and want the soft life. They date these old rich men for money and leave them pregnant. Then they come back victimising themselves acting like they are innocent.

Mathe: Thank you Lungelo. Anyone else?

Another student lifted up her hand.

Mathe:Yes Nandi, we are listening.

Nandi:Ma'am I agree with Lungelo. Most of these girls are rushing to do adults things that they don't even know. Ngeke uthi una 14 kodwa sewukwazi ukuvula imlenze? Iziphoxi nje lezi!(You can't be 14 and already you can open your legs for men! They are such a disappointment).

The class nodded agreeing with her. Mrs Mathe smiled hearing them speak like that.

Mathe: You are all correct students. They rush into things for the soft life. It's really sad seeing a 14 year old pushing a big belly. Let me make an example with Nokuzola.

She was one of the brightest students with a bright future ahead of her and now she's pregnant. All her dreams down the drain, she will have to drop out sooner or later to take care of the baby she brought to the world. Most of them don't even know the father of their babies. Nokuzola do you know who the father of your baby is?

Nokuzola looked down fighting the tears that were threatening to come out so badly. This was the worst form of embarrassment.

Mathe:She does not know who the father is. That's what you get for opening your legs at a young age. All of you here are ranging from 14-15 years. Kids your age should be focusing on school not on boys and pregnancy. You will be damaged goods once you have a baby and no one will want to marry you because of that baby. Your body will change so much. Imagine carrying a SASSA card at age 14.

Feeling like she couldn't take it anymore, Nokuzola stood up and ran out of the class.

Mathe:*Shouting* When we reprimand you all, you think we are jealous of you. That's why you will give birth like a pig.

The whole class went crazy and started to hit the desks with their books screaming and laughing.

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Nokuzola sat on the toilet seat silently crying.

She heard a soft knock.

“Noks it's me”, she recognised the voice and it was her only friend, Nomtha.

She opened for her and she got inside closing the door again.

She hugged her and wiped her tears.

Nomtha: I'm sorry.

Nokuzola: It's okay. I'm getting used to it.

Nomtha: What the teachers are doing is wrong. And you also have to deal with your father.

Nokuzola: What can we say Nomtha? This is my fate.

Nomtha: I wish there was something we could do.

Nokuzola: We tried and failed.

She once tried running away from home but her father found her and gave her the beating of her life.

Nokuzola: Let's go back to class.

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PHENDULANI

He takes the remaining food and give it to his little brother who immediately dug in.

Phendulani:I have to go now.

Sabelo:Uzobuya nini bhuti(When will you be back brother?)

Phendulani:I will be back before you sleep. You can go next door and I will fetch you when I come back.

Sabelo:Okay.

He washed his plate and hurried next door.

Phendulani takes his bag and locks the door heading out.

He finally arrives and the place is packed.

He goes to his locker and changes into his work uniform.

His colleagues are already dressed and they are waiting to be called.

She enters the room and looks at them.

She starts pointing out at the ones who will go first. She looks at Phendulani.

“You too, go with them. We have very special guests tonight. Be on your best behaviour boys. We wouldn’t want any trouble”

They all nod and they head out.

Phendulani takes a deep breath and start walking on the stage with his colleagues.

He is wearing only his underwear and a tie, his manhood is clearly visible.

The ladies scream and start throwing money at them as they dance and strip for them.

Phendulani waltz to one woman and dances in front of her. The woman giggles naughtily and smiles.

He stands before her and rub his manhood on her face, without taking his underwear off of course.

The women scream.

“Oh boy you are coming with me tonight”

She says and stands up grabbing her with the tie he was wearing.

Phendulani turns to look at Sis Ken who is in charge and she nods at her that he should go.

They go into one of the rooms and the lady starts taking off her clothes and her breasts fall a waterfall as soon as she takes off her bra.

Phendulani swallows saliva, this person is old enough to be her mother.

“Don’t be shy boy. I don’t bite. I just need you to make me feel good”

She seductively walked to him and touched his manhood.

“Mhhh. Nice”, she said licking her lips.

She brought her lips towards him kissing him but he just froze. She forcefully shoved her tongue inside his mouth and he kissed back defeated.

“I want you to fuck me like a slut. Don’t have mercy on me”, she exclaims.

Phendulani slowly remove the underwear and get ready to penetrate.

“Hau no foreplay no nothing?”, The woman asked feeling turned off.

Phendulani: *With a low voice* I don’t know how to.

“How old are you?”

Phendulani: I’m 26.

“I’m 59. I will teach you don’t worry. Take your hand and put your finger inside my p*ssy.”

He slowly reached for her vagina but this felt wrong on so many levels. He doesn’t want to do this but he has to.

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NOKUZOLA

She arrives from school and throws herself on her bed getting ready to take a nap.

She was woken up hours later by her mother.

Mom: Get dressed. Your father needs you.

Nokuzola:Ma please don't make me do this. I promise I will be an obedient child. Please don't make me do this.

Mom:Get dressed Nokuzola. You know he doesn't like to be kept waiting.

Nokuzola wiped her tears and changed into a dress.

Her mother led her as they walked to her father's room.

Mom:Baba she is ready for you.

He was already naked, with his big belly hiding his manhood. You would think he is the one pregnant.

He stroked his manhood and smirked looking at the two of them.

Dad: Don't leave nkosikazi. You will also join us.

Mom: I'm sorry what?

Dad: You heard me. Take off your clothes, the both of you.

Nokuzola: Mom please don't let me do this.

Mom: Shut up Nokuzola.

They slowly took off their clothes and remained naked in front of the man of the house.

Dad: Turn around. Both of you.

They turned around and he looked at them.

Nokuzola had small butts but they were in perfect shape, the pregnancy just made her more appetizing.

His wife on the other hand, is getting old.

He walked to Nokuzola and touched her. She flinched feeling his touch.

She couldn't believe that her father was about to force them into having sex with him. No child deserves to go through what she is going through.

Maybe he's not her real father, that's why he does as he pleases.

He orders Nokuzola to lie on the bed.

He gets on top of her and almost suffocates her with that big belly of his.

He directed his manhood inside her, he doesn't believe in foreplay. He just wants to get inside her and feel

the tightness of her vagina. She's still young and he was the first one to touch her. Breaking her virginity felt magical to him, he lost himself inside her. He kept going and going, her bleeding didn't stop him. He just couldn't stay away.

Nokuzola looks up to the roof trying by all means to ignore this man on top of her.

Dad:MaNdlovu come over here.

She slowly walks to them.

Dad:Ngikhothe(Lick me)

MaNdlovu:Angizwanga baba?(Excuse me?)

Dad: You heard me. Lick me.

He touched his black shiny ass.

He kept humping and thrusting inside Nokuzola as MaNdlovu licked his ass.

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Phendulani slowly removes the condom from his penis and wraps it with a tissue along with the many others that were on the floor.

Worst experience of his life.

Phendulani:I am going now.

“Oh let me give you something”

She reached for her purse and took out a few hundred notes and gave them to him.

He thanked her and walked out already thinking of what he is going to buy for his brother. He must be hungry.

He goes to his locker and changes into his clothes.

He walks outside and takes a taxi back home.

Luckily the Shisanyama was still open.

He bought takeaway food for him and his brother.

He walked home and called out for Sabelo who came rushing and was dirty.

Phendulani:Were you playing in the mud?

Sabelo: *Giggling* Ngiyaxolisa bhuti(I'm sorry)

Phendulani: It's okay, you can take a bath. I bought you food, are you hungry?

He nodded.

He smiled looking at his brother, at least he will get something to eat. Everything he does, it's for him.

The money that lady gave him is more than enough. He will finally be able to buy new uniform and school shoes for Sabelo. His old school jersey was torn and patching it didn't help.

His shoes were badly damaged.

They once chased him out of school because they said he didn't look "appropriate".

He sighs and helps him bath properly.

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To be continued.....

HER FATE

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NOKUZOLA

She gets out from bed with her body sore from last night.

The things her father made her do, are repulsive to even think about.

How can a father do that to his daughter? He is just a disgusting pig.

She walks to the bathroom taking a bath.

She dries her body when she is done and walks back to her room with a towel around her.

She gasp when she sees her father seated on her bed. What does he want now? She locks her hands around the towel. He stands up and walks to her and brush her arms. She closes her eyes as his touch always makes her flinch, she is afraid of him. Who wouldn't be? Ndlovu is the most powerful man

around the neighbourhood. He is untouchable.

Nokuzola:Baba kumele ngiye eskoleni(Dad I have to go to school)

Ndlovu:Uzoya. Ngidinga ukuthi nje kancane. (You will go. I just need to a little).

He tried to remove the towel from her but she was holding it tightly.

Nokuzola:I have to go to school.

What she hates the most is how easily her tears just come out.

Ndlovu:Ngithe uzoya nje. Dedela ithawula Nokuzola. (I said you will go. Let go of the towel).

Nokuzola:Angeke ngikwazi baba, kumele ngiye eskoleni (I can't dad, I have to go to school).

Ndlovu slapped her and she staggered back losing balance, he removed the towel and she remained naked. She hid the boobs and private parts with her hands.

Ndlovu pressed his hand harder on her stomach that she felt pain.

Ndlovu:Why are you defying me? You want me to be rough with you?

He asked giving her another slap. Her face was already red, blame it on her light skin.

He toss her roughly on the bed and Nokuzola cries out calling for her mother.

Her mother silently cries on the other room hearing her daughter's cries.

Ndlovu gets on top of her already naked and enters her dry as she is.

Nokuzola:Baba kub'hlungu. Ngicela uyeke(It is painful, please stop).

She cries with pleading eyes but he is not having it.

Ndlovu:Thula!!(Shut up!!!)

He spread her legs wide apart and humps into her roughly.

He turns her around and make her lie on her stomach.

He presses her body on the bed that she squirms trying to break free.

Ndlovu:If you think you can talk to me anyhow, I will kill you. I don't care

if you are carrying my child. I will kill the both of you.

He slams into her roughly from behind.

After a good hour of doing as he pleases with her, he spits on her and walks out.

Her tears are unstoppable, she is even having hiccups. Her whole body hurts and her face is red.

When he pressed her against the bed, she thought he would kill the baby too.

She tries to stand up but her body is painful.

She limps to the bathroom taking another shower.

She doesn't want to go to school but she has to. Her father would be more than angry if she doesn't go to school.

She takes her bag when she's done dressing up and walks out without saying goodbye.

She is late and will probably receive a pipe from the principal.

She arrives at school and indeed there were other students who were late and were already receiving the pipe.

She waited in line for her turn.

The principal gave her three lashes of the pipe on her hand that she felt like they were bleeding.

She walked to class and there was a teacher inside.

She softly knocked and she heard a “come in”.

She entered and everyone stopped what they were doing and looked at her.

She greeted the teacher and asked to join the class.

She gave her permission and she sat down but her bums were burning up so badly. It was hard to concentrate.

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Ndlovu is at his workplace, he owns a couple of small businesses around the village. Everyone respects him and considers him the wealthiest man around.

He can't wait to go back home and have his fun with Nokuzola. There is just something about her that makes him to not want to leave her alone.

He feels bad though for pressing her stomach on the bed, but she provoked him. She shouldn't question him, she is a child and he is the adult. He knows best. He is low-key excited for the pregnancy, maybe she will give him a son. Something his wife couldn't do. He needs an heir who will take over from his work should he die.

He smiles thinking of all the things he is going to do to Nokuzola.

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PHENDULANI

He went with his brother to town to buy him new uniform and shoes.

They passed by the stores buying groceries that would get them through the month. Sabelo is smiling from ear to ear looking at his uniform, finally he will be like the most kids at school.

Phendulani cooks for them and dishes up for him. He eats so quickly. Phendulani laughs.

Phendulani:Akekho okujahayo bhuti(No one is rushing you brother)

Sabelo:Sorry. Ukuthi Kade ngagcina ukudla inyama(It's been long since I ate meat).

Phendulani:I got a better job now. We won't suffer like we used to.

Sabelo nodded and smiled.

Sabelo:Uzobuya nini umama(When will mother come back?)

The smile from Phendulani quickly disappeared and is covered by a look of sadness.

Phendulani: She will be back.

Sabelo:I miss her.

Phendulani: I miss her too.

His phone ringing saves him from the conversation.

He walks outside answering.

Phendulani:Hello.

Sis'Ken:Phe hi, are you available for tonight?

Phendulani:I have to watch my brother.

Sis Ken:Ask someone to look after him. You have been summoned for a house call. The lady you were with last night was impressed by you and wants you to come to her house. She will pay you and all the money goes into your pockets. I know that your mother is in the hospital and she needs to be operated on, this money

could help you pay for her bills. Do the right thing.

Way to go Ken. Use his mother against him.

Phendulani:Okay I will be there. Where is her house?

Sis Ken: That's a good boy. I will send you the address. Request Bolt to take you there.

Phendulani:Okay....

He hangs up and go back inside.

Phendulani:Buddy, I have to go to work. Please go to MaMtshali's house again.

Sabelo:Uyahamba futhi?(You are leaving again?)

Phendulani: I will be back. I have to work so that we can have food to eat.

Sabelo:Okay I will go.

He changes into new clothes and takes his backpack walking out. He accompanies Sabelo next door and ask that they look after him while he is gone. Luckily, MaMtshali is a kind woman and she doesn't mind looking after Sabelo.

She requests Bolt and the driver drives him to the address that Ken sent him.

When they arrived he paid the driver and walked towards the gate.

Not knowing what to do, he just stood still not moving.

The gate opened and he gasped shocked, wondering who opened it.

He walked inside and the house was magical. It looked like one of the houses you see on TVs or magazines.

She walked to the door and knocked.

Sally opened for him, the lady from last night.

Sally: So glad you came. Come in.

He pulled her inside and walked to the lounge. There were other women, two of them. They looked the same age.

Sally: Ladies, this is the lad I told you about.

“Mhhhh, you weren’t lying. He is handsome.”

She walks to him and touches his crotch.

“And it’s big”.

“We will be satisfied”

Phendulani frowned not understanding what is happening.

PHENDULANI: I’m sorry but what is going on?

Sally: You are here to entertain us. Like you did to me yesterday.

Phendulani: You mean I must have sex with the three of you at the same time?

Sally:Honey it’s called an orgy. Don’t worry it will be fine.

Phendulani breathes softly, “you are doing this to get paid.”, He says to himself.

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NOKUZOLA

It is after school, she walks to the toilet to take a leak. She won't be able to hold it in.

She does her business and opens the door walking out to wash her hands but someone holds it.

“There is the pregnant bitch”, a voice says.

She looks up and it was Lungelo and other boys she doesn't know, they are probably on the tenth grade.

Nokuzola: Lungelo what is going on? This is girls toilets.

Lungelo: I know. Hold her boys.

The other boys laugh and hold her arms.

Lungelo forcefully kisses her.

Lungelo: I want to feel you. Why you go around sleeping with old men is beyond me?

Nokuzola: Please don't do this.

Lungelo: Sekuyigobolongo vele. It won't hurt.

He unzips his pants taking out his d*.

Nokuzola shakes her head no and tries to break free from the grip they were holding her on. She's about to be raped at school. She shouts for help.

Lungelo:No one is coming sweetheart. Everyone is gone.

He tells the boys to place her on the floor and hold her.

He gets on top of her and tries entering her but she closes her legs.

Nokuzola: Please don't do this. Let me go! Please!

Lungelo:I will be quick.

He forcefully enters inside her and closes his eyes feeling the warmth. He moves in and out for a few times and pulls out. The other boy laughs.

**“Seriously? That’s what you call sex?
Come let me show you”**

**Lungelo moves from Nokuzola and
the boy gets on top of her taking his
d* out of his pants.**

**He was just about to enter her when
they heard a loud voice shouting.**

**“Futsek Msunu suka!!!(Get off her!),
that was Nomtha holding a broom.**

**She walks to them and hit them so
hard with the broom, they run out.**

**She rushes to Nokuzola and hugs
her.**

**Nomtha: I’m sorry I’m sorry. I should
have come sooner when I noticed
you weren’t coming.**

**Nokuzola:Ngikhathele Nomthandazo
Ngikhathele.(I am tired**

Nomthandazo, I am tired). It's better if God takes me, I can't take this anymore.

She wailed so painfully that Nomtha cried with her.

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To be continued

HER FATE

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Nomtha: I wish you weren't going back to that house Noks. Will you tell them?

Nokuzola: They would never believe me.

Nomtha: We need to report Lungelo. He raped you.

Nokuzola: I am used to pain Nomtha.

Nomtha: I won't keep quiet. We have to tell someone.

Nokuzola: Nomtha you can't do that. My father will kill us both. I don't want him to hurt you. He once drowned me on the tub when I attempted to tell the police. Please don't say anything.

Nomtha: But I can't keep quiet.

Nokuzola: I wish I had a prince charming who would save me.

She said giggling with her tears.

Nomtha: Girl he would take you out of this life.

They laughed forgetting about their problems.

Nokuzola noticed her father standing outside watching them.

Nokuzola: I have to go. See you tomorrow.

Nomtha: Okay bye.

She walked inside the yard.

Ndlovu: Why were you standing with that girl? What were the two of you talking about?

Nokuzola: We were discussing the homework baba.

Ndlovu: Did you tell her anything?

Nokuzola:Cha baba I never told her anything.

Ndlovu: That's a good girl. Now go inside and change, I want to find you in my bedroom naked.

Her heart sinks, won't he let her rest? Even just for a day? She bites her nails.

Nokuzola:Can I get some rest today Baba? My body is still painful and I have a load of homework.

He frowns.

Ndlovu:What did I say about questioning me? Now get in there and do as I say.

Nokuzola:Yebo baba.

She walked inside and found her mother cooking.

**Nokuzola: Is Ndlovu my real father?
Are you my real mother?**

She doesn't know where she got the courage to ask her that, but she needed to know. The abuse has gone on for far too long.

MaNdlovu rushes to her and closes her mouth.

MaNdlovu: How dare you ask that nonsense? You want your father to kill us Nokuzola?

Nokuzola: I asked a very straightforward question. Is he my father or not?

MaNdlovu: He is your father.

Nokuzola: Then why do you let him do this to me? You have been turning a blind eye for four years. Why won't

you protect me against that monster? You want him to kill me? That's what you want?

MaNdlovu: Nokuzola please don't talk like that. You think I enjoy this?

Nokuzola:Of course you do. You don't say anything ma, you let him do as he please. I am 14 and I am pregnant with my father's baby. Does that sound right to you?

MaNdlovu:This is bigger than you. Yo..

She walks away to her room and locks herself inside.

She places her bag on the bed and sits down taking off her uniform and wears comfortable clothes.

She walks to her wardrobe and looks for a razor.

She takes it and sits down wanting to cut herself.

Nokuzola: Okay I can do this. Just a little cut.

She cut her wrist a little and grinds her teeth but nothing.

She presses the razor hard on her and cuts herself deeper. Little blood comes out.

She cuts herself on her cubital fossa, making sure that she cuts the median nerve.

Minutes later blood gushes out like crazy.

She closes her eyes and lies down on the bed waiting for death to fetch her.

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PHENDULANI

He rubs his wrists and he had red marks around them. His neck had a lot of hickeys. Those women had tied him up and they did as they pleased with him. Of course he couldn't stop them, he needs the money and this is the only way to get it.

Finding a normal job has proven to be difficult, he had to swallow his pride and look into other options.

With a brother to look after and a sick mother at the hospital, he really had no choice. Other people may look at him and judge him, but until you put yourself in that person's shoes; you have no right to judge them.

Life is different for all of us. Others when they are born, their life is already planned out by their parents. When they finish high school they know it is a guarantee that they are going to University and probably get gifted with a car and expensive phones. Meanwhile they, they were born into poverty and bayofela khona (they will die poor). They have to do everything to make ends meet.

Sometimes you would even find yourself asking God why did he bring you into this world only to suffer? At times it looks like he has favourites. Other people have their lives going so smoothly for them, they don't lack anything.

“Pray, God will hear your prayers”, they say.

“He will never give you problems that are above you”, they say. What about those who spend all their lives in misery and even die without even feeling a tint of happiness? Did he also hear their prayers?

You know that moment when you are living just to get through to the next day? Because somehow life gets difficult for you day by day.

And you are told to have hope, pray that everything will be okay.

He sighs scrubbing himself so hard with his tears falling uncontrollably. He has tried so hard to not cry but today he couldn't stop them.

He steps out of the shower and dries his body.

He quickly wears his clothes without even lotioning, he just wants to be out of this place.

Sally smiles when he sees him. Her friends had left.

Sally:Oh you are leaving?

Phendulani:Yes.

He says looking down. His throat was painful, he misses his mother. She would know what to say to her.

Sally:I will transfer you your money. I hope we do this again soon.

He nods pressing his lips together. One word from him and he would just burst into tears.

Sally:Are you okay?

He nods again.

Sally:I don't like this. You are acting like we forced you to do this. You came here willingly, I think I should just speak to Ken.

**Phendulani: *with a breaking voice*
No please don't. You didn't force me
into anything.**

**Sally: This world is tough my boy. If
you are weak, it will swallow you.
Goodbye now.**

**He walks out going to the taxi rank
going to take a taxi back home.**

**He arrives and start by calling
Sabelo from MamTshali's house. He
came running to him and hug him.**

Sabelo: You are back.

Phendulani: Yeah I am back.

**He unlocked the door and they got
inside.**

Phendulani: Are you hungry?

Sabelo:No. Gogo gave me food.

Phendulani:Okay.

His phone pings from his pocket.

It was a notification of the money Sally sent him.

It was a lot, he fanned his face with his hands.

He can finally be able to pay for his mother's surgery and look for a better job.

Phendulani:*Smiling* Sizoyobona umama ksasa(We are going to see mom tomorrow).

Sabelo:*Excited* Really?

Phendulani:Yes. She will come back home very soon.

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At Nokuzola's home.

Ndlovu: Where is that little harlot of yours? I've been waiting for an hour for her.

MaNdlovu: I think she is still in her room. I will go check for her.

She walks to Nokuzola's room and tries to enter but it was locked.

**MaNdlovu: *Knocking* Nokuzola!!
Open for me.**

She knocks repeatedly and hears no response.

She takes the spare keys and unlocks her door.

She screams when she gets inside seeing the state her daughter was in. Her wrists were bleeding, and her arms had cuts.

There was a pool of blood on the floor and some dripping from the bed.

She was laying peacefully with white foam on her mouth which had dried out.

Ndlovu came rushing to the room hearing the screams.

MaNdlovu: Baba we have to take her to the hospital. She is going to die.

Ndlovu: Let her die like the dog she is.

MaNdlovu: Ngiyakuncenga Gatsheni(I am begging you

Gatsheni). We have to rush her to the hospital.

Ndlovu: I'm not wasting my time on a person who's already dead. This person is dead, can't you see?

MaNdlovu took her daughter into her hands and went outside with her loading her into the car. If Ndlovu doesn't want to help her, then she will drive herself.

Ndlovu comes at them and drags her out of the car.

Ndlovu:What the hell do you think you are doing!? You are taking whose car!?

He picks Nokuzola from the car and toss her on the ground not caring about her situation.

Neighbours were already outside peeping, watching what was happening. Of course none of them would help, everyone minds their own business here.

MaNdlovu rushes to Nomtha's home and knocks repeatedly, her mother was the one who opened for her.

MaNdlovu: Ngicela uncedo ntombi.(I need help dear) Please help me take my daughter to the hospital.

Ma'Nomtha:I don't have a car!!!

MaNdlovu:But there it is..

Ma'Nomtha slams the door in her face and MaNdlovu walks away shamefully.

Nomtha follows her.

Nomtha:Ma kwenzenjani?(What is happening?)

MaNdlovu:I was asking your mother to help me by taking Nokuzola to the hospital but she refused.

Nomtha:What happened with Nokuzola?

MaNdlovu:I don't know, I found her bleeding at her room.

Nomtha rushed to Nokuzola's home with MaNdlovu following behind her.

She screamed a little seeing Nokuzola laying on the ground like a dead person.

With all her strength, she picks her up and puts her on her back.

She walks out the gate.

MaNdlovu:Where are you going?

Nomtha:*Crying* I'm taking her to the hospital. I will go on foot. I won't allow my friend to die. Are you coming with me?

Ndlovu: MaNdlovu come back here!! If you dare walk out that gate!! You better not come back.

She looks at her daughter and back at Ndlovu who had a cold look on his face.

She slowly walked back inside.

Nomtha clicked her tongue and walked out heading to the hospital.

She wasn't sure if she was even going to make it.

The hospital is far and Nokuzola is heavy, but she will make it.

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PHENDULANI

Him and his brother walk inside the hospital.

They walk to his mother's ward with his heart dancing, finally she is going to get better.

They walk inside but he is surprised to see her bed empty. His heart starts racing and he looks at the other patients but they are all sleeping.

He walks out hoping to find someone who can take him out of his confusion.

He sees a nurse and rushes to her.

Phendulani:Nurse where is my mother?

Nurse:Your mother?

Phendulani:Yes she was in that ward and now her bed is empty.

Nurse:Oh, let me call her doctor for you.

The nurse walks away and comes back with the doctor a while later.

Doc: Good day.

Phendulani:I am good doctor. I just need to know where my mother is, I

have finally managed to round up the money for her surgery.

Doc:*Deep sigh* I'm sorry son, your mother passed away on the early hours of morning.

Phendulani:Tell me you are joking please tell me you are joking.

Doc: I'm really sorry.

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To be continued.....

HER FATE

4

NOMTHANAZO

She has been walking for hours and finally she arrived at the hospital.

She is so scared for her friend. She hasn't even moved an inch.

She gets inside and shouts for help.

She is now carrying Nokuzola in her hands.

Nomtha: Please help her.

**Nurse: *Annoyed* She's pregnant?
How old is she?**

Nomthandazo loses it and snaps at her.

Nomtha: Don't you dare ask me that nonsense! Can't you see that she's bleeding to death!? What does a person have to do around here to get help!? Ungangicasuli we nurse ngivele ngingenamandla.

The nurse humbles herself and takes Nokuzola away.

Nomtha sighs and sits on the bench waiting for feedback. She can't help but wonder if it wasn't her evil father who did that to her.

An hour pass and no feedback, she stands up and go towards where that nurse disappeared to.

She sees her.

Nomtha: Is my friend okay?

Nurse: The doctors are still busy with her. Wait for a moment.

She leans on the wall silently crying.

Nokuzola can't die now, she still has to escape that hellhole called a home.

Another hour pass and the doctor appears.

She looks at her with her eyes wide open waiting to hear how her friend is.

Nomtha: How is she?

Doc:Where are her parents?

Nomtha: She doesn't have parents. It's only the two of us.

The doctor look at her through her glasses but she is not changing her statement.

Doc:Well she is alive.

She sighs relieved.

Nomtha: I sense a but.

Doc:She almost died, we were able to stop the bleeding. But she's not

awake for now, we had to heavily sedate her. Her pregnancy is in critical condition.

Nomtha:What do you mean?

Doc:The baby is not going to be born on a good condition. From our diagnosis, it looked like blunt force was applied on her stomach multiple times.... I'm sorry but it seems like the baby is going to be born disabled.

She showed her the scans but Nomtha not knowing anything didn't see what the doctor is showing her.

Nomtha:Can I see her?

Doc:Yes but is she having some sort of psychological issues? We can organise therapy for her.

Nomtha: Will that cost us?

Doc: No. It's one of the hospital's free services.

Nomtha: Okay I will talk to her.

She thanked the doctor and went inside, she was sleeping peacefully with the IV line connected to her.

Her arms were bandaged.

She sat down on the chair and held her hand.

Nomtha: Please wake up and come back to me.

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YOKUTHULA

“Let me out please let me out.”, He shouts for his mother to let him out.

His teeth are gnashing against each other because of the cold inside the freezer.

He tries pushing the door and hitting it repeatedly but it is locked.

He hugs his legs close to his chest and rocks himself back and fourth.

“Let me out.. let me out”.... He says slowly.

His lips are as cold as ice... He passes out.

Meanwhile his mother, Sogingqa comes and open the freezer. She looks at him passed out. She touched his skin and it was cold. She

smiled and went to the kitchen to get cold water that she had put in the fridge.

She comes back and pours the water all over him.

He wakes up gasping for air. Feeling cold he hugs his chest with his arms.

Sogingqa: You lasted an hour today. Not bad. Get out and clean yourself up. There is tons of chores that need to be done in this house.

She walks away. He gets out of the freezer and walks to his room, at least he has one.

He locks himself inside and start drying himself with a big towel and gets under covers trying to get himself warm.

This is his everyday life and he has to get used to it.

It all started when his biological mother died and his father got a new wife, he also died at a later stage.

Leaving him with his stepmother and his step-siblings. Everyday she locks him inside the freezer for 30 minutes, she says he is paying for his mother's sins.

He is the one who does all the house chores around the house. He cooks, clean, wash laundry and everything. By 9am, he should have done everything and the house should look spotless; if not so he can sleep outside.

He has stopped going to school, Sogingqa said it's no use for him to go to school because he will never amount to anything anyways.

Everyday he prays to God to take him out of this misery but it has been going on for too long, he doubts God hears his prayers.

Some days are just more harder, you know the pain of being forced to eat in a dog's dish with the dogs, eating dog food?

He has been in and out of the hospital because of that. His health is not good, he knows it.

He has lost too much weight, he used to wear at least size 30 but now he wears abo 13-14 years.

He used to be such a handsome boy when his mother was still alive but now he has become so darker and is always wearing rags.

He sniffs under the blankets, his heart is so heavy.

This is not the life he wants. Why won't God save him?

“Yeeey awuphume lapho wena.(Get out of there)! Didn't I tell you that you have chores to do!?” , He gets out bed like lightning heading to her.

Sogingqa:What took you so long?

Yokuthula:Ngiyaxolisa(I am sorry).

She grabs him by the ears to the kitchen.

Sogingqa:Uyabona ukuthi kuncole kanjani la? (Do you see how dirty it is here?)

Yokuthula:Yebo mama.(Yes mom).

Sogingqa: Ngihlezi ngikutshela ukuthi yekela ukungibiza ngo mama. Unyoko ule emathuneni(I always tell you to stop calling me your mother. Yours is on the grave). Now clean this mess!!!

She walks out.

He wipes his tears and starts cleaning.

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PHENDULANI

Phendulani: I don't understand doc. Please tell me this is a joke.

Doc: It's not a joke. She had gone on for too long without getting that surgery.

Phendulani: And you let her die? So if a person doesn't have money you let them die?

Doc: Son please understand that we didn't have the specialists to treat your mother.

Phendulani: No, you let her die. You let her die because we are poor. I begged you so many times doctor to take her to that surgery while I still look for money. I begged you, I begged you.

The doctor hugged him and tried to calm him down. His cries were painful to him too.

Phendulani breaks free from the hug and go to find his brother.

Sabelo:Muphi pho umama?(Where is mom?)

He looks at him not knowing what to say. He is so young, how will they get on without their mother?

How could she die leaving them all alone?

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NOKUZOLA

She opens her eyes slowly and realise that she is at the hospital. She sees Nomtha sleeping on the chair, her head resting on her legs. She smiles and whispers her name.

Nokuzola:Nomtha...

She nudges her a little.

Nomtha wakes up and hugs her for dear life when she sees that she is awake.

Nomtha:Oh God, I thought I lost you. I'm so glad you are here. What happened?

Nokuzola: I'm sorry, I just wanted the pain to go away.

Nomtha: Please don't ever do that to me again. I thought you were dead.

Nokuzola: I'm sorry, who brought you here?

Nomtha: I did. Your father didn't want your mother to use his car and my mother also said no. I walked on foot and brought you here.

Nokuzola: What about my mother?

Nomtha: She turned back.

Nokuzola: Oh.

Nomtha: Noks we have to run away.

Nokuzola: And go where?

Nomtha: I don't know, I will go with you. We have to run away, I saw the hate your father had in his eyes. You can't go back to that house. We will live on the streets, it's okay. As long as it's not that house.

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MaNdlovu takes the food to Ndlovu.

MaNdlovu: Baba I have a request.

Ndlovu: I am listening.

MaNdlovu: May I please go and see Nokuzola tomorrow, just to check how she is doing.

Ndlovu: Who is the man in this house?

MaNdlovu: You.

Ndlovu: As the man I say no.

MaNdlovu: Please, I need to see if she's okay.

Ndlovu: Ngithe Cha!! (I said No!!)

MaNdlovu: Nokuzola is my daughter, I will go and see her. Uthanda

ungathandi(Whether you like it or not).

Ndlovu stood up and walked to her giving her a slap.

Ndlovu:Sewuphikisana nami wena?
(Are you disagreeing with me?)

He started hitting her everywhere and threw her on the floor kicking her.

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To be continued....

HER FATE

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Nokuzola: You want us to live on the streets?

Nomtha:As long as it's far away from that man. He will kill you.

Nokuzola: Nomtha we can't. He will find us.

Nomtha:He won't. We will go to Durban.

Nokuzola: Nomtha we are only 14, what about your parents?

Nomtha:I don't care Noks, I only care about you. You can't go back to that house.

Nokuzola made her lie on her lap and pat her back softly so that she can sleep. Within a few minutes she was already sleeping.

She also leaned back on the pillow and realised just how much she is disappointed that she didn't die.

She wanted to be free from the pain, why won't she die? She is tired.

She is going to give birth soon, she is on her 9th month. She should probably stop going to school before she could give birth at school.

Her mind takes her to what Lungelo did to her and tears just involuntarily come out on their own.

Surely he is having the time of his life, forgetting that he raped her.

A while later the doctor enters to check up on her.

Doc:Glad to see that you are awake.

She nods.

Doc:How are you feeling?

Nokuzola:My wrists hurt.

Doc: You will be fine. Why did you hurt yourself?

Nokuzola looks at her not sure whether she should tell her.

Nokuzola: I just wanted to hurt my parents.

Doc:Do you need counseling?

Nokuzola: You mean a shrink?

Doc: Something like that.

Nokuzola: I will think about it. How is my baby?

Doc: Didn't she tell you?

She pointed at Nomtha.

Nokuzola:Tell me what?

Doc: The baby is fine. But she is going to be born disabled.

Nokuzola: It's a girl?

Doc: Yes.

Nokuzola: She's disabled?

Doc: Yes but that doesn't mean anything. So long as you show her love.

Nokuzola: Oh.

Doc: If I may ask, where are your parents?

Nokuzola: They are dead.

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PHENDULANI

They are now back home. He has been looking at Sabelo who is waiting for an answer. How does he even begin to tell him that their mother is no more? Will he even understand?

He takes a deep breath.

Phendulani:Buddy... Mom is She is gone.

Sabelo:Gone where?

He asked frowning.

Phendulani:She went to heaven to be with dad.

Sabelo:So she left us too?

Phendulani:She didn't leave us, she'll always be looking over us.

Sabelo:*tearing up* But I miss her. Dad also left us to go to heaven and

she has left us too. Abasithandi yini?(Do they not love us?)

Phendulani:*Hugging him* They do love us, a lot. They are watching over us.

Sabelo:*crying* How are they watching over us? We are still poor. They don't love us, that's why they left us.

Phendulani:Sabelo...

He broke free from the hug and ran out of the house.

He followed him but he was nowhere in sight.

He sighed and went back inside.
Now what to do?

He has to prepare for the funeral, he will use the money that Sally gave him.

His phone rings and it's unsaved number.

Phendulani:Hello.

Sally:Hi it's me, Sally.

Phendulani:Oh. How are you?

Sally:I am alright, listen I need you tonight.

Phendulani:I can't. My mother died so I have to prepare for the funeral.

Sally:Oh I'm sorry to hear that. If you need to talk I'm right here.

Phendulani: Thank you.

Sally:I will send you some money.

Phendulani:For what? You already paid me.

Sally: Just take it. There's more where it comes from.

Phendulani:Okay thank you.

He hung up. She is good hearted to just give him money like that.

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MaNdlovu dips the mop in the bucket and take it out sweeping her blood on the floor.

Her eyes are swollen and she has a burst lip.

Her body feels painful. She limps mopping the whole room.

It's no secret that her husband is a monster, she has tried countless times to leave him but he always find her.

People may think she's letting this happen but Lord knows how many times she has tried protecting her daughter but Ndlovu is just untouchable.

She remembers how she once tried to kill him but he caught her in the act, and the things he did to her!

She has a whole black area on her back, with the sjambok he gave her. All day long without a break, how she is still alive after that is beyond her.

It started when Ndlovu found out that Nokuzola is not her daughter, four years ago.

She once had an affair with Ndlovu's brother many many years ago and that's how Nokuzola was conceived. She regrets it but back then it was hard to resist him, he was charming and knew the exact words to say to her that would make her fall for him.

Ndlovu found out when he heard her speaking over the phone with his brother, he wanted to bond with his daughter. That's when all the abuse and molesting started. Ndlovu was angry at her that she cheated with her brother, and he has been raising a child that's not his.

One night he took her somewhere and she watched him kill his brother right in front of her.

He started raping Nokuzola. She was only 10 years old. She didn't know anything, she trusted him to protect her but he ruined her the most.

It went on until now. How he threw her out of the car yesterday is still plastered on her mind.

She sighs and dispose the dirty water outside.

She goes to the kitchen and start cooking. If he could see that there's no food, there would be real trouble.

She feels a presence in the room and her body trembles and her lips shivers.

“Ubuhlaleleni ungapheki sonke lesi skhathi?(Why were you not cooking all this time?)”, His voice says filling the whole kitchen.

MaNdlovu:I was still resting. My body is painful.

She answered still minding her pots and facing away from him.

He walked to her and poked her so hard from behind with his hands balled into a fist.

Ndlovu:When you talk to me, you mustn't turn your back on me.

MaNdlovu:Uxolo Gatsheni.(I am sorry Gatsheni).

Ndlovu:Why must we always fight MaNdlovu? Why can't you obey me just for once?

MaNdlovu turns and face him looking down.

MaNdlovu:It won't happen again.

Ndlovu: You said you wanted to go and see your daughter right?

MaNdlovu:Yes.

Ndlovu:Go and come back with her. I will send a driver with you.

MaNdlovu: Thank you.

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LUNGELO

He closed his book as he was finished with his homework. He got under covers and yawned getting ready to sleep.

He was sleeping peacefully when he felt a cold hand touching him on his butt.

He sighed knowing it's that time again.

He felt his pyjama pants being lifted down and tears threatened to come out. He sniffed under the blankets as he felt him entering from behind.

“Shhh don't cry.... It will be all over soon”, he says thrusting into him.

He grabs him by the neck and continues humping into him and groans softly feeling the pleasure.

After he was satisfied he got off his bed and went to the bathroom washing his penis.

He went to the bedroom and his wife was already in bed.

MaNgubane:Where have you been?

Ngubane:I was just checking if Lungelo did his homework.

MaNgubane:Did he?

Ngubane:Yes he did. He even showed me some of his test marks.

MaNgubane: I'm glad that the two of you are getting along, despite you being his stepfather.

Ngubane:He is a good kid. I promised you that I will make sure we get along.

MaNgubane:Thank you. I love you.

Ngubane: I love you too.

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YOKUTHULA

He takes the food to them and go to the kitchen dishing up for himself too.

The spoon was just centimetres away from his mouth when Sogingqa came up to him.

She slapped the spoon away from his mouth and it fell on the floor. She took the food and threw it on the ground and stomped it with her feet.

She grabbed him by the shirt and made him kneel in front of the food.

Sogingqa:Who gave you the right to dish up yourself?

Yokuthula: I'm sorry, I was hungry.

Sogingqa:Oh you are hungry? Then eat your food. Eat it from the floor. All of it.

Yokuthula looked at her with pleading eyes but she wasn't moved a little.

She pushed him down to the food with her big size 8 foot.

Yokuthula slowly ate the food but it was not nice.

Sogingqa called the dogs and showed them the food. Yokuthula tried to stand up.

Sogingqa:Did I say you could stop? Eat this food.

She pinned him down again. He ate, with the dogs.

With his tears running down. When they were done, Sogingqa told him to lick the floor clean. He did as he was told.

Sogingqa:This better be the last time you disobey me. Come.

He stood up and followed her.

She opened the freezer

Sogingqa:Get in.

Yokuthula:*Crying* Please, not today. I beg you. I will even sleep outside with the dogs. Not the freezer, please....

Sogingqa:Who are you to question me? Get in here!!!

She shoved him roughly inside and locked it.

Sogingqa:Uzolala la namhlanje!(You will sleep here tonight).

Yokuthula hits the freezer trying to get out but it is locked.

Sogingqa takes the key and stuffs it under her breasts and walks away.

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narrated

MaNdlovu arrives at the hospital with the driver Ndlovu sent. He was ordered to bring back the two of them.

MaNdlovu talks with the receptionist and she directs her to where Nokuzola is.

She finds her laughing with Nomtha. It's been long since she saw her daughter smiling.

They frowned when they saw her.

Nokuzola:Wenzani la?(What are you doing here?)

Nomtha: You should leave.

MaNdlovu:I came to see you. How are you feeling?

Nokuzola:As if you care.

MaNdlovu: I'm sorry mntanami. I know it seems like I don't care but I love you.

Nokuzola:I don't care mama. Please leave.

MaNdlovu: I came to take you home.

Nomtha: She is not going anywhere with you!!

MaNdlovu: Your father said I must come back with you.

Nomtha:Awungizwa yini?(Don't you hear me?) I said she is not going anywhere with you.

Nokuzola: Nomtha it's okay.

As much as she wanted to be far away from Ndlovu but it seemed impossible. If he could find them, he could seriously hurt Nomtha and she can't have that. She can take it, but not her friend.

Hours later, Nomtha is at her home, Nokuzola also got discharged from the hospital and her mother dragged her to that hell of a home.

She goes to her mother in the kitchen.

Nomtha:Mama.

“Yes?”

Nomtha:I need to tell you something. It's about Nokuzola.

“What about her?”

She explained the whole situation to her.

“So what do you want me to do with that?”

Nomtha:We need to help her.

“Don’t involve yourself in issues that do not concern you. I long warned you about this friendship with that girl. I never want to see you with her again”.

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To be continued...

HER FATE

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In the morning, Sogingqa wakes up and goes to make herself some tea. She notices that there is no breakfast and she remembers that Yokuthula is locked in the freezer. She goes to her bedroom and takes the key.

She goes and open for him.

He was passed out with his arms hugging his body.

She touched him and he was ice cold.

At least he wasn't deprived of air, she doesn't want to kill him. The freezer has little pores to allow air to get in.

She shakes him a bit and realises that he is not breathing.

Her heart skips a bit and she takes him out of the freezer and put him on the floor.

She panics and rush him to her car driving to the hospital.

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NOKUZOLA

Days later she has been feeling stomach cramps all day. She frowns as another cramp hit her so hard. She holds on to the table and wipes the sweat from her face.

MaNdlovu:Hey are you okay?

Nokuzola: I don't know, I have been feeling cramps all day long.

MaNdlovu: You are about to give birth.

Nokuzola: It's too soon. Ahhhh

Another cramp hits her. MaNdlovu tries touching her but she pushed her away.

MaNdlovu: I'm trying to help you.

Nokuzola: Leave me alone!

MaNdlovu: You want to give birth here? Let me help you.

Nokuzola went outside and called Nomtha over the fence.

Nomtha: What's wrong?

Nokuzola: I think I'm giving birth.

Nomtha:Whoa now!?

Nokuzola:Yeah...Ahhhh.

She touched her back.

Nomtha: Okay let me ask my mom to take us to the hospital.

She followed her

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LUNGELO

MaNgubane:Lungelo what is going on with you?

Lungelo: What do you mean?

MaNgubane: You have been staring into space for a while and you didn't even hear me call you.

Lungelo:*clearing throat*I am fine sorry.

MaNgubane: Okay.... Your father tells me that he wants you too to go away for the weekend, just you two boys.

Lungelo: What? No mom, I don't want to go anywhere with him.

MaNgubane: What the hell is going on with you? Don't you dare give me that attitude. Your father has worked hard to make sure that the two of you get along. Don't be like that.

Lungelo: *Biting his lips* Get along? That's what he told you? Did he also tell you about how he is molesting me!?

MaNgubane: What? Don't speak such nonsense about your father.

Lungelo: *Crying* I'm not lying mom. He is molesting me. Every night he

sneaks into my room. You have to believe me.

His mother marched towards him and gave him a slap.

MaNgubane: Shut your filthy mouth! How dare you say that about the man who has taken care of you for this long!? Yaze yonakala ingane! Get out of my sight!!!

Lungelo: I knew you wouldn't believe me.

MaNgubane: I said get out! Futsek!

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PHENDULANI

Phendulani:I know mom is gone but I'm here for you. You don't have to worry about us being poor. I will continue looking for a more paying job, eventually we will leave this shack and go live in a nice house.

Sabelo:**Smiling** With a shower?

Phendulani:Yes with a shower. Mom and dad love us, don't doubt that.

Sabelo nodded.

Phendulani: Thank you. Now are you hungry?

Sabelo:No. Can I go and play with the others?

Phendulani:Okay but don't come back late.

Sabelo: I won't, thanx.

He rushed out of this house.

Phendulani lifted up the mattress looking for his mother's things. He has to prepare for the funeral.

He stumbled upon his Matric Certificate.

He sat down and looked at it as tears filled his eyes. He was a bright student with big dreams, he wanted to be a teacher so bad. His results were outstanding, but due to his situation he couldn't go to University.

If only he was born into a financially stable family, he would be far with his life. Instead he is stuck here, he wishes to go to University some day and further his dreams of being a teacher. But he knows that's not

impossible, he has a brother to take care of.

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MaNdlovu: Nokuzola left for the hospital.

Ndlovu: Again? What is it this time?

MaNdlovu: To give birth.

Ndlovu: And you didn't tell me? Why didn't you follow her?

MaNdlovu: She didn't want me to touch her.

Ndlovu: Let's go to the hospital now! My heir is being born.

They go to the car and drive to the hospital.

Ndlovu's heart is dancing with excitement. Finally he will have a child of his own. He wants a son.

They arrive and get inside the hospital heading to the receptionist.

“Good day how may I help you?”

Ndlovu: We are looking for Nokuzola Ndlovu. She just gave birth.

The lady punched on her computer and told them which room she was in.

They went towards that room but found the bed empty.

Ndlovu: Well where is she?

MaNdlovu: I don't know. Let's ask the nurse.

They stopped the nurse that was passing by.

MaNdlovu:Hello nurse. We are looking for our daughter, they said she was in this room.

Nurse: Nokuzola Ndlovu?

MaNdlovu:Yes her.

The nurse looked at them not knowing how to put this.

Ndlovu:What is it nurse?

Nurse:The doctor that was just attending to her was looking for her parents' details. I will call him and he will talk to you.

She walked away quickly before they could ask any more questions.

MaNdlovu and Ndlovu looked at each other wondering what's happening.

A while later a doctor came to them and greeted them.

Doc: You're her parents?

MaNdlovu: Yes. Is she okay?

Doc: Okay.. uhm.... Your daughter was uhm very young and her womb was not developed that much to carry a baby. She made it to the 9th month by luck. I'm sorry but... She didn't make it. She died giving birth.

MaNdlovu held on her chest and gasped hoping this is all a prank.

Ndlovu: The baby?

Doc: The baby didn't make it too.... It was suffocated during labor. I'm really sorry for your loss.

MaNdlovu: Oh God.

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Narrated.

Sogingqa is seated on the hospital benches waiting to hear how is Yokuthula. She doesn't want him to die, she hates him yes but not death. Who would do all the house work if he dies? Her daughters are just useless. They can't even cook a mere rice.

She sees a doctor coming to her and she stands up meeting him halfway.

Sogingqa:How is he?

Doc: Alive but critical. We had to induce coma, it's not looking good.

There's too much cold that got inside him and not enough air was pumped to his lungs for a long time. It's gonna be a while until he can wake up.

Sogingqa: *swallowing* Is he gonna die?

Doc: For now we can't tell. If I may ask what happened? There are scars all over his body and he is way too skinny, it's like he is malnourished. Everything okay at home?

Sogingqa: Everything is fine. I found him like that.

Doc: Really?

Sogingqa: Yes.

Doc: Do you know that child abuse is very prohibited in this country and

you could be convicted for so many years?

Sogingqa:What are you implying doctor?

Doc: I'm gonna have to call the social workers, that kid right there didn't look like he was taken care of. You can expect them anytime.

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PHENDULANI

He is at Sally's house. He didn't want to come but she sent him multiple texts asking him to come over.

The gate opens and he goes to the main house on the door. He knocks and hears a soft “come in”.

He pushes the door open and walk inside.

“Sally”, He shouts for her.

“In the lounge”, she shouts back.

He follows the voice and head to the lounge.

He is shocked to see Sally tied on the chair. He was still processing that when he felt someone holding him on his neck from behind and pointing a gun on him.

“You the motherfucker that’s sleeping my wife?”, The terrifying voice asks him and tighten the grip on his neck.

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FOUR MONTHS LATER

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TO BE CONTINUED.....

HER FATE

7

FOUR MONTHS LATER

**MaNdlovu is kneeling in front of
Nokuzola and Kukhanya's grave, she
places the flowers and sighs.**

It's been four months since they died, she couldn't believe it either. She thought maybe Nokuzola ran away and convinced the doctors to lie but she is really gone. She saw her body and she was dead. She was laying so peaceful with her eyes closed, no sign of breathing or anything . When it was the day of the funeral she thought her daughter would wake up somehow; but they viewed the coffins and she was really gone, She named her child Kukhanya. Her coffin was so tiny. She blames Ndlovu in all of this. If he didn't abuse his daughter, she would still be alive.

Things are just worse at home,
Ndlovu is taking out his frustrations
on her.

“Goodbye”, she says to the grave
placed next to each other and
hurries home.

She finds Ndlovu drunk out of his
mind and singing gibberish. When he
sees her he stumbles to her and
tightly hold her arm.

MaNdlovu: Leave me alone.

Ndlovu: It's your fault she is dead.
You weren't a good mother.

MaNdlovu: Ndlovu you are hurting
me.

She tries to free herself from his grip
but he has suddenly become
stronger.

Ndlovu: You should get me a new girl to be my sex toy. Even though she won't be the same like your daughter, I will break her like I did to Nokuzola. Breaking people is my job. I enjoyed seeing her flinch whenever I touched her.

He burped on her face and continued talking.

Ndlovu: The worst thing you did was to sleep with my brother and have me raise his brat. I had always craved for her but always reprimanded myself because I thought she was my daughter. So when I found out she was not my

daughter. I thought to myself, let me have some fun with her.

He laughed a little.

Ndlovu:How old was she when I made her a woman? Oh yeah she was ten(10) years old. Her pussy suited my d* perfectly, she was so tight and I enjoyed myself to heaven and hell. Her screams turned me on, I destroyed her and I don't regret a thing. Too bad she died and her daughter did good by dying too because I would have squeezed the life out of her tiny body. So think about this MaNdlovu, this is all your fault. If only you didn't sleep with my brother.

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NOMTHANDAZO

The past few months have been difficult without Nokuzola. She is trying to hold it in together but she is failing dismally. One minute she was waiting to hear that she gave birth successfully and the next she is told she died. It was all too sudden and hard to believe but the body confirmed it.

Her funeral was too emotional and heartbreaking. She wanted to go

down with the coffin. She cries herself to sleep everyday.

“Hey”, she feels someone touching her on her shoulder. She quickly wipes her tears and turn to that person.

Nomtha:**frowning** What do you want?

Lungelo: I’m sorry about your friend.

Nomtha: Shouldn’t you be happy? You hated her.

Lungelo:I didn’t hate her.

Nomtha: You raped her.

Lungelo:**looking down** I regret my actions everyday. I’m so sorry, I also have my own demons and I decided to take my frustrations on her.

Nomtha: I hope those demons strangle the shit out of your pathetic life.

She grabbed her bag and walked away from him heading to class. She doesn't have time for him, he is not sorry. He is only acting like this because Nokuzola is no more.

She gets in class and Mrs Mathe was already teaching. She mentally rolled her eyes and went to her seat without even asking for permission.

Mrs Mathe: Excuse me Ms, who gave you permission to join my class?

Nomtha: I thought this was a government school. Didn't know it was yours now.

The whole class looked at her. Mrs Mathe swallowed her saliva and asked to speak with her outside.

She followed her and folded her arms.

Mrs Mathe: This new behaviour you have going on is not cute.

Nomtha: Just like it was not cute when you used to make fun of Nokuzola in front of the whole class? Or have you forgotten about her? The little girl whom you used to bully so much? Is that why you became a

teacher? To bully students?? I'm angry at everyone who mistreated her and y'all will pay I'm telling you. Karma will visit you and I hope it starts with you.

She went back inside and took her bag and walked out. Mrs Mathe remained frozen on the spot. Was she just threatened by a 14 year old?

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PHENDULANI

~Four months earlier~

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multiple texts asking him to come over.

The gate opens and he goes to the main house on the door. He knocks and hears a soft “come in”.

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“Sally”, He shouts for her.

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He follows the voice and head to the lounge.

He is shocked to see Sally tied on the chair. He was still processing that when he felt someone holding him on his neck from behind and pointing a gun on him.

“You the motherfucker that’s sleeping my wife?”, The terrifying

voice asks him and tighten the grip on his neck.

Phendulani tried removing the hand from his neck but the person was holding him tightly.

“You have the nerve boy to sleep with my wife in my own house”, he says again.

He let him go and tied him too on the chair. Phendulani took a good look at him and he could tell he was angry and he was twice his size.

He looked over at Sally and she was beaten up pretty bad.

“Hey hey eyes up here you little shit!”

Phendulani: I’m sorry.

“Oh you’re going to be sorry. Do you know who I am? I didn’t get this far to allow little boys to roam freely in my territory.”

Phendulani: Please don’t hurt me. I was just doing my job.

“I don’t care. I only care about the fact that you have the nerve to fuck my wife in my own house!”

Phendulani: I didn’t know.

Ben marched towards him and gave him a punch. Phendulani pushed his head back feeling like his jaws were just hit with a hammer.

He gave him another one and another one.

Ben: I’m going to show you who I am. You and Sally really think I’m stupid.

He nudged Sally with his hand and she looked up to him feeling dizzy.

Ben: This is what you cheated on me with? He can't even fight back.

He kicked Phendulani's face with his legs repeatedly.

Ben: So weak!! This is what you chose!! Huh Sally!!?

He gave him another punch again.

Ben: Look at him! I want you to get a pretty good image of him before you die!!

He kicked Phendulani from his chair and he fell down.

He pressed his shiny pointy shoe on his head making him come into contact with the cold, bloody tiles.

He lifted the chair and made him sit properly. He put on gloves and reached for his gun and pointed it at Sally.

Ben: Say goodbye to him.

Sally: *crying* Please don't do this.

Ben: I said, say goodbye to him you old whore!

Sally: *turning to Phendulani* I'm sorry for dragging you into this.

Ben: I really loved you Sally.
Goodbye.

He pulled the trigger shooting her right at her forehead. She fired another shot at her lower abdomen. Then another one at her heart.

He looked at Phendulani who was full of blood and a swollen lip.

He gave the gun to him and made him touch it before putting it away.

Ben: Angibhenywa mina, angiyona insangu.

He reached for his phone calling someone.

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Meanwhile, Sabelo saw that it was getting late and his brother wasn't home yet. He decided to go to MamTshali's house. He was walking on the pavement when he heard a car speeding behind him.

He moved to the side but the car followed him and bumped into him sending him to the ground.

The car reversed and ran over him again and again before driving away, leaving him for death.

~Present~

MamTshali: How are you holding up?

Phendulani: Taking it one day at a time.

MaMtshali: I'm really sorry mfana wami. You do not deserve this.

Phendulani: I keep on hoping and praying that maybe they will let me go and find evidence that I didn't kill her. I was framed and the fingerprints are mine. I don't see myself getting out. 30 years is a long time, I will be 56 by then if I don't die in here.

MaMtshali: God will see you.. About your brother..

Phendulani: Please don't remind me ma. I'm still coming into terms that he is dead. My life is just one big mess, I never seem to catch a break. I'm all alone now in this world. I will die in this prison for something I

didn't do. It hurts so much. What have I done to deserve this?

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YOKUTHULA

He woke up a month ago and the social workers put him in one of those orphanage homes.

Sogingqa was arrested for child abuse & endangerment.

He hopes she never gets out, she really made his life miserable.

The orphanage has been good so far. The caretakers are nice and they don't do any heavy chores, it's just helping around where you can.

He is going back to school next week. Grade 9.

He feels at peace, finally God answered his prayers and came through for him.

HER FATE

8

LUNGELO

His parents called him because they want to “talk”.

He sits on the couch opposite them.

MaNgubane:Me and your father have come to a decision.

Lungelo:What decision?

MaNgubane: *Clearing throat* We have decided to enrol you to a boarding school because you are suddenly causing trouble. Lying against your father saying that he is molesting you is beyond me. I don't know why you would lie like this. Your father left you when you were an infant and Ngubane stepped up and became the father that you deserved. I honestly don't know why you are causing trouble now Lungelo, after everything he has done for you.

She wiped her tears and Ngubane hugged her calming her down.

Lungelo looked down feeling like the whole world is turning his back to him. He now regrets telling his

mother about this. Ngubane warned him that no one would ever believe him. And he was right, no one believes him. Not even his mother, her only son. How can she not believe him? Why would he lie about this? What would he gain?

Lungelo: If you want to send me to a boarding school, then it's fine. I won't argue with you. I just hope some day you realise that I was telling the truth.

He stood up walking to his room.

Ngubane: I will talk to him.

MaNgubane: *sniffing* Please do.

Maybe it's puberty that's making him to behave like this.

He stood up and went to Lungelo's room. He found him packing his clothes, he locked the door behind him and went towards him.

Ngubane: I told you that no one would believe you. You shouldn't have told your mother about this, look now you are leaving. You pushed me to convince your mother about this.

Lungelo: She will see you for who you are some day.

Ngubane: *Smirking* With that little brain of hers, I doubt. If she can't believe you her own son, what makes you think she's going to find out you were telling the truth?

Lungelo: You are a monster. I'm glad you have no children because you would abuse them like you are doing

to me. I'm actually glad that I'm going far away from you. Enjoy your marriage in peace.

Ngubane:*Holding his arms roughly*
Don't talk to me like that.

Lungelo snatched his arm away from him and moved back.

Ngubane:Oh you are acting strong now? Is that it?

He moved towards him and pulled down his pants.

Lungelo took the scissors from the table and scratched him on his cheek. Ngubane held his cheek and felt himself bleeding.

Ngubane:Did you just do that?

He asked in a voice full of rage.

Lungelo looked at the window and it was open, he didn't waste any time and jumped out.

Ngubane went out of the room and went to the kitchen.

MaNgubane saw him and quickly stood up going to him.

MaNgubane:What happened?

Ngubane:He scratched me. He doesn't want to leave for boarding school.

MaNgubane:I will get the first aid kit.

She disappeared and came back minutes later with it. She started cleaning him up and patching him.

MaNgubane: I honestly don't know what to do with him now.

Ngubane: Don't be harsh on him, he is still a teenager. He should stay here and we will keep a close watch on him. He is too wild and he will be uncontrollable at that boarding school. Let's not send him away.

MaNgubane: I guess you are right. I know you have his best interest at heart. He needs to start respecting you. You are the only male figure in his life and he should at least meet you halfway.

Ngubane:He will come around. You know teenagers and puberty. Hormones are playing with him.

MaNgubane:*Smiling* I understand.

Ngubane: I will go and look for him.

Meanwhile, Lungelo is running like someone is chasing him. He doesn't know where he is going but he knows it has to be far away from that house.

The rain starts showering from the sky. He takes cover at the shelter where people stand when they are waiting for a bus.

The rain starts pouring harder and faster.

He is starting to get cold, he wraps his arms around his body.

A car parks next to the stop and a man steps out.

He swallows and look at him.

“Get in”, he commands at him.

He drags his feet inside the car. The man looks at him and smiles before driving away.

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It is late at night and Nomtha’s mom has finished dishing up for her family. She takes the food to her husband and he thanks her. She sits down with her food too.

“Nomthandazo dinner is ready”, she shouts for her but hears no response. She frowns looking at her husband who is eating and minding his own business.

“Nomtha is not okay. Since her friend died, she is barely talking to us”.

“She is pregnant”.

“Do you ever take anything serious? I feel like I’m taking care of two children in this house. You are unbothered by everything”.

“What do you want me to do? She is an adult, she knows what’s her problem”, he answers carefree and continue digging through his food.

She clicks her tongue and stands up going to Nomtha’s room.

She knocks softly before getting inside.

She finds her burried under the blanket.

She removes the blanket and look at her.

“What’s wrong baby? Are you okay?”, She asks concerned and checks her temperature.

Nomtha: I’m okay. I just feel sick.

“And you are hot. I will bring you some pills.”

Nomtha: Thank you.

“Uhm.... I know you feel sad over Nokuzola’s death but it will get better my love. She is in a better place”

Nomtha:I know she is in a better place because her parents were shitty parents. It’s their fault she’s dead. They killed her.

“Nomtha please don’t talk like that”

Nomtha: No mom it's the truth. I bet they are rejoicing right now.

Her mother sighed, not knowing what to say anymore.

“Food is ready. Are you hungry?”

Nomtha: I will eat later. I still need to do some homework.

“Okay I'll put the pills on the table so that you will take them after”.

Nomtha: Thanks mom.

She smiled and walked out.

Nomtha got back under covers and scrolled through her phone looking at Nokuzola's pictures.

A text showed up in the notification bar.

She dragged the screen and read the message.

 **{Help}**

She called the number but it rang unanswered.

She frowned confused wondering who could have sent it, but then it could also be a prank. Kids in her class love to pull pranks on them.

She ignores the message and continues looking at Nokuzola's pictures.

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YOKUTHULA

First day of his return to school.
Everything is going well so far, the teachers and students are nice. He has made a friend already.

The bell rang and it was break time.
He packed his books inside his bag and walked out.

“So how was your first day?”,
Lungelo asks him. He’s the friend he made.

Yokuthula:It has not been a day man.
What are you doing here?

Lungelo:Is it wrong to visit my friend from the 9th grade?

Yokuthula: I never said it was.

Lungelo:Come let’s go buy something to eat.

Yokuthula: Oh, I don't have lunch money sorry. I thought there was a feeding scheme here.

Lungelo: There is, no worries I will buy you something to eat.

Yokuthula: Oh no you don't have to.

Lungelo: Nonsense. Take it as a welcome to school token.

He said and hung his arm around him.

Yokuthula smiled following him.

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He opens the door and she is sleeping on the bed.

She is wearing a dress only, showing her bruised thighs. He trails his finger around her swollen face and sighs feelin' bad for what he did. He shakes her up a little and she slowly wakes up and her eyes meet his. She loses her breath for a minute, is he here to finish her off? She thinks to herself.

“I’m sorry. I shouldn’t have done this. I don’t know what came over me”, he says to her. He always apologize, no matter how much damage he causes; he comes back and apologize. But it’s only a matter of time until he beats her to a pulp again.

She winces when his hand touched her stomach.

“I’m sorry, I’m sorry”, he pleads again.

She nods her head, it’s the only thing she can do. There’s no running away, this house is security tight and with the way it’s big she won’t even find her way out.

“Are you hungry? I bought you some food.”

She nods and he smiles taking out the food and placing it on the bed. She sits up straight and tries to take the burger but her arm is feeling heavy and she could almost not see anything.

He takes the burger and place it on her mouth.

She slowly takes a bite and chew slowly.

He helps her until she finishes it.

He takes the juice and drops a straw inside it.

He brings it to her mouth and she sips on it.

When they were done, he cleaned up and came back.

“I will get better I promise you. I love you so much, I don’t know what came over me. I think I have issues, I will get help. Please don’t leave me”, he begs her.

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PHENDULANI

“So what brings you in here really? You don’t look like the prison type”, the other inmate asks him.

Phendulani:Wrong place, wrong time and I was framed.

“Damn, that must hurt like hell.”

Phendulani:*chuckling* It is what it is. What are you in for?

“Killed my baby mamma after I found her with a man on our bed, with my child sitting there.”

Phendulani:What? In front of the kid? Do you like, regret it?

“Big time, I didn’t use my head that time. I just allowed anger to consume me, when I walked in on them I just saw red. I killed her on

the spot. I started to regret it after, my son will grow up hating me and knowing that I killed his mother right in front of him. His maternal family won't allow me to see him, which is understandable.”

Phendulani:Man that is some tough situation. But she was also in the wrong, how do you bring a sidechick in your main's bed? With a kid in the presence? As much as you were wrong but ayy naye....

“I was hurt big time, I just wish I didn't kill her. I will forever hate myself for that. I should have walked away but instead, I did something stupid.”

Phendulani:How many years did you get?

“I have been in here for 15 years. Only 10 years left, I hope they consider my parole, I have been on my good behaviour ever since I arrived here”.

Phendulani:I hope they approve you, 15 years is a long time.

“How many years did you get?”

Phendulani:30 years.

The inmate whistled shaking his head.

“And you’ve only been here for four months.”

Phendulani:I know, I just wish there was something I could do to prove my innocence.

“Don’t worry, when I get out I will prove your innocence “

They laughed together.

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Sogingqa is seated on the far corner of the cell hugging her legs. Prison life isn't for her, how dare Yokuthula place her in this place? After taking care of him when his parents died, he snitches on her just like that. But his happiness will be short lived, she won't suffer alone. She already has a plan.

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MaNgubane: I hope you won't do what you did again. You should thank

Ngubane that he is even still caring about you.

Lungelo:*Bowing his head* I won't do it again. Can I go to my room?

MaNgubane: Yes you can go.

He leaves them and walks to his room. When he was inside he locked it using a new keypad that he bought.

At midnight he heard the door knob moving and he gasped holding tightly on his blankets.

“Open for me”, Ngubane whispered enough for him to hear him.

He stayed in bed not moving.

He knocked softly again and he ignored him.

After a while, he heard his footsteps walking away.

He sighed relieved and got back to sleep.

HER FATE

9

NOMTHANDAZO

A week later, her everyday routine involves waking up, bath and go to school. Same thing everyday.

Every day after school, she passes by Nokuzola's grave just to talk to her. She always feel better after that. Mrs Mathe is still giving her attitude

but she does not care, she's here to learn not for her.

She takes the scissors and place them back on her bag and hurries to class. Thank God it was the Maths period, the teacher is so calm and literally minds his own business.

“Mrs Mathe to the parking lot, I repeat Mrs Mathe to the parking lot. Trouble with your car”, the PA speaks over. Nomtha smiles and stands up with the other learners running to the parking lot.

Mrs Mathe was crying and screaming at her damaged car. It was scratched all over with the word “BULLY”, her tires were also slashed and her windows slightly cracked.

“Aww kodwa nkosi yami ngisanda nakuyithenga lemoto.(Good Lord, I recently bought this car)”, she cries loudly putting her hands on top of her head.

Her colleagues hold her and try to calm her down.

“Who could have done this? Who would hate me like this?”, She continues ranting.

Nokuzola walks away and Lungelo follows her.

Lungelo:It was you, wasn't it?

Nomtha:Me who did what?

Lungelo:Mrs Mathe's car. You destroyed it.

Nomtha: You want to be next?

Lungelo:*Swallowing* Uhh No.

Nomtha:Good, then stay out of my way.

Lungelo: Nomtha I'm really sorry for what I did, I am ashamed when I think about how much I hurt Noks. Please forgive me, I won't lie and say I don't know what came over me. I took out my frustrations on her and hurt her in the process.

Nomtha:Noks was also going through some things, probably worse than yours. But she never took out her issues on anyone, she was always smiling; and y'all always bullied her. You bullied her so much together with the teachers. She knew while she was pregnant that her baby would be disabled but you

never saw her being a bully to anyone. We are all going through some “things”, but we don’t use that as an excuse to be mean and shitty to people.

Lungelo:*Hugging her and wiping her tears* I’m really sorry Nomtha please forgive me. Can you accompany me to her grave so that I can apologize. I feel bad honestly.

Nomtha:Okay, we will go after school because I can see that you are really being remorseful.

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MaNdlovu limps to the kitchen wincing all the way.

She put water in the kettle and plug it. She waits for the water to boil and she unplugs it, she carries the kettle back to the bedroom and stand over the sleeping Ndlovu. She just wants to pour all the hot water over him. He is even snoring, unaware of her presence. She lowers his pants carefully and his manhood come out in the open.

Without hesitation, she pours the hot water on his lower body and he wakes up jumping feeling the water burning the skin.

He takes the shirt he was wearing and tries drying himself, MaNdlovu pours the remaining water all over his body and he screams like the bitch that he is.

MaNdlovu walks out of the room going to the kitchen.

She strikes a light stick on the box matches and hold it over the gas cylinder.

Ndlovu comes to the kitchen limping, he was naked and was fanning a shirt over his body.

“Take me to the hosp.... What are you doing?”

MaNdlovu:I would rather we die, the both of us in this house. My daughter is no more today because of you, you are a monster. We will meet each other in hell. I still hate you!!

She drops the light stick on the gas cylinder.

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PHENDULANI

Phendulani:So?? What did they say?

Ryan:Man I'm getting out of here.

They approved my parole. Next week I'm going home.

Phendulani jumps on him giving him a bro hug.

Phendulani:Wow, I can't believe it. I'm so happy for you.

Ryan:I still can't believe it. They said I am leaving next week Monday.

Finally I'm getting out of this place. After 15 years!

Phendulani: You deserve it, you have served your sentence. What's the first thing you are going to do when you get out?

Ryan:I want to talk with my son and try building a bond with him, it's not gonna be easy but I'm willing to give it a try. I also need to apologize to his mother the traditional way you know.

Phendulani: I wish you luck Ry. I hope it all goes well for you.

Ryan:And then I'm going to find a way to get you out of here.

Phendulani: What? No. Please don't do anything that will land you back in here.

Ryan:I won't do anything illegal, but I will come back for you.

**Phendulani: I don't know what to say
Ryan.**

**Ryan: Don't sweat it, you were kind
to me and I promised you. I never
back down on my promises.**

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**He walks over to her and land a
punch on her face again.**

**“You never want to listen to me!”, He
shouts at her.**

“I'm sorry”, pleading for her life.

She knew it would happen again.

**He presses her against the wall and
bangs her head against it twice.**

“Why must we always fight?”, His face is red from all the anger.

He drops her to the floor and kick her repeatedly.

“You don’t listen! You don’t obey me!!”, He says continuing kicking her.

He picks her up and throws her on the bed.

He notices that she is really in a bad condition and his face relaxes a bit and all the guilt and regret start flooding in.

“Baby I’m sorry.... Please let me take you to the hospital”, he picks her up rushing to his car.

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At another hospital.

Two people are being brought in with a stretcher.

Nurses and doctors come rushing.

“Talk to me, what are we dealing with?”, One doctor asks.

“Arson. Female not breathing. Male is burnt beyond recognition and in need of urgent medical help”.

“Did you CPR on the female?”

“Yes but she didn’t wake up.”

“Okay thank you, we will take it from here”.

They wheel them to the theatre room preparing for urgent surgery..

Hours later,

Doc: Anyone have an idea how to contact relatives? The female did not make it. The male is barely alive.

“I will check if we don’t have their records”.

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MaNgubane is not at home and Lungelo is still at school, so that will give him enough time to have some fun.

He pours the juice on two glasses and walks back to the lounge. He gives one to the boy and keep one for himself.

Ngubane: Relax Mfundo, no one is home. We have the house all to ourselves.

Mfundo: *Relaxes a bit* Ohh thank God.

They sip their juice and Ngubane suggests that they take it to the bedroom.

Mfundo: Isn't this your marital bed?

Ngubane: It is, but who cares?

He throws him on the bed kissing him while taking off their clothes. They both remain naked and Mfundo kneels on the bed.

Mfundo: Should I?

He asks pointing at his manhood.

Ngubane: Please.

He smiles crawling to him ready to suck the life out of him.

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Nomtha:We should go now.

Lungelo:Okay let me say goodbye to Yokuthula.

Nomtha: Alright.

He walks away and comes back . minutes later. They walk to the cemetery.

Nomtha: He's your friend?

Lungelo:Who? Yokuthula?

Nomtha:Yes.

Lungelo:Yeah, he is new. 9th grade.

Nomtha:*smiling* He's cute.

**Lungelo:*wiggling his eyebrows*
mmmhh somebody is in love.**

**Nomtha:Shut up. I just said he's
cute.**

Lungelo:I can talk to him for you .

Nomtha:Oh please don't do that.

**Nomtha:And we are here. You
ready?**

Lungelo:Yes let's do this.

**They walk to Nokuzola's grave and
kneel in front of it.**

**Lungelo:*nervously* So what do I
say?**

Nomtha: Just speak from the heart.

**Lungelo:Okay uhm... Nokuzola it's
me Lungelo. I came here to**

apologize for taking adv...for raping you the other day at school. I shouldn't have done that, I was stupid and selfish. I know this won't make up for the pain and misery I caused you but I really regret it Zola please forgive me. I'm really sorry.... I had my own issues and I took them out on you... I hope you are resting in peace where you are and you will forgive me when your heart allows it. Nomtha misses you.

Nomtha:So much Noks. I keep on thinking that someday you will knock on my window.

Lungelo: It's okay. She heard us

They place stones on both the graves and stand up.

They start walking home.

Nomtha: So tell me Rookie, what issues do you have?

Lungelo: You wouldn't believe me either.

Nomtha: Try me.

Lungelo: Okay but promise me that you will never tell anyone.

Nomtha: I promise.

Lungelo: *sigh* Well my stepfather has been molesting me, it's been six months.

Nomtha: *Gasping* Really!?

Lungelo: Yep.

Nomtha: So evil. Did you tell your mother?

Lungelo: *Chuckling* I did but she didn't believe me. She wanted to send me away to a boarding school because of that.

Nomtha: I can't believe that your own mother does not believe you, she is choosing a man over you. I guess all fathers are full of shit. I'm really sorry Lungelo, I didn't know.

Lungelo: It's fine. I have been avoiding him.

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MaNgubane goes through the kitchen door, she was in an important meeting but had to rush back home because she forgot an

important file. She clicks her heel going to the lounge and see two glasses that were empty. Maybe Ngubane and Lungelo were bonding as father and son, she smiles thinking Lungelo will now stop with his ridiculous accusations.

She walks to her bedroom but as she nears, she is hearing very weird and strange noises. She walks faster and pushes the door open. She screams in shock at the sight she was seeing.

“Ngubane what are you doing?”, She asks still shocked. He was on top of another man, no a boy. He was on top of a boy busy thrusting into him from behind. He is even so sweaty, which means they must have been doing this for long.

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Nomtha: You should burn his dick while he's sleeping.

Lungelo:*Laughing* That's just too much, don't you think?

Nomtha: It's the only way you can free yourself I'm telling you. You know how fucked up the justice system in our country is. He would be out in two months, that's if they even arrest him.

Her phone rings again and she rolls her eyes of ignoring it.

Lungelo: You should answer your phone. It could be important, that's the fifth call.

**Nomtha: I don't know who this is.
They are playing a prank on me.
It rings again.**

Lungelo: Answer it.

Nomtha: Okay.

She answers

Nomtha: Hello.

**She hears someone breathing
heavily on the other side, like he or
she is scared.**

**“Nomthandazo please help me, he
wants to kill me. It's me, Nokuzola.
Please help me”**

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To be continued.....

HER FATE

10

“Nomthandazo please help me, he wants to kill me. It’s me, Nokuzola. Please help me”

Nomtha frowns not believing this.

Nomtha: I don’t know who you are or what games you are playing but my friend is dead and I don’t appreciate you calling me using her name for some silly prank.

Nokuzola: Nomtha I’m not playing, it’s really me. I’m at the hospital. Please come get me.

Nomtha: Do not call me again you witch! My friend is dead. Nxxx.

She clicked her tongue and hung up.

Lungelo:What was that?

Nomtha: Someone called saying she is Nokuzola and she needs help.

She rolled her eyes

Lungelo:What? Isn't she dead?

Nomtha: Exactly.

Lungelo: Didn't you recognise the voice?

Nomtha:I know that's not Nokuzola. Where could she have been all these months? We buried her, and saw her body.

Lungelo:Can I see your phone?

She gave him and he looked at the number that called. He memorised it and gave it back to her.

Nomtha: I'm going home. See you tomorrow.

Lungelo:Okay bye....

She walked home and saw the Ndlovu house on ashes and smoke everywhere. She was confused and went to her house finding her mother in the kitchen.

Nomtha:Hi ma.

“Hey baby”

Nomtha:What happened kamakhelwane?

“They suspect the gas cylinder exploded with them inside. There was fire and smoke everywhere. We called the ambulance and fire department but as you can see, they couldn’t have saved them.”

Nomtha:Wow.

“And I just got a call from the hospital, they don’t have their next of kin. MaNdlovu died and Ndlovu is barely alive, they said his entire body is burnt.”

Nomtha:Mhhh I did say karma would come knocking on their door.

“Don’t say that Nomtha”.

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MaNgubane is still standing on the door shocked.

Mfundo sprung out of bed and wore his clothes.

MaNgubane:How old are you!???

Mfundo: I’m 17.

**MaNgubane:Oh God! Oh God!!
Ngubane what is this!!? What is
this!? You get out!!!**

**She chases Mfundo out and he runs
out.**

**Ngubane is still naked sitting on the
bed ashamed.**

**MaNgubane places her hands on her
waist and stand over him.**

**MaNgubane:Are you some
phedophile? What were you doing
with a 17 year old!?**

He kept quiet looking down.

She hit him on his head fuming.

**MaNgubane:*Shouting* I'm asking
you a question!! You don't know how
to talk now!? Did I marry a gay man!?
What in the name of Jesus were you**

doing!? In my bed Ngubane!? In my bed!? You disrespect me that much!?

Her chest was moving up and down because of anger that she was feeling.

MaNgubane:What Lungelo was saying, is it true? Did you really rape my son!?

Ngubane:My wife I..

MaNgubane: I'M ASKING IF HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH!! DID YOU REALLY RAPE MY SON!!?

Ngubane:*In shame* Yes.. The devil came over me, I only did it once.

MaNgubane: Don't you dare lie to my face again. Oh my God! After I

defended you! I didn't believe my son when he told me about this!! I stood by your side and didn't believe my son, what was I thinking? How could I believe a man over my own child?

Ngubane: I'm sorry.

MaNgubane: I don't even want to hear a word from you. You disgust me!!

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Flashback 

Nomtha: You will be okay Noks, don't cry.

Nokuzola: I can't hold it any longer
Nomthandazo. I want her

out..Ahhhh!! Nomthandazo get her out!!

Nomtha:Let me go call the doctor.
She hurried out and came back with him.

Doc: Just relax okay. The baby is not here yet.

Nomtha:Oh but she feels so close.
Ahhhh!!

Nomtha:Hey just breath in and out with me okay.

Nokuzola:Okay

They practised breathing together.

Doc:Okay Ms I'm going to have to ask you to leave.

Nomtha:I will be just outside.

She left.

Doc:Okay now lift up your legs. Don't close them or you will suffocate the baby.

Nokuzola:Okay okay....

Doc:Okay now give me one big push. She pushed screaming.

Doc:I see her, push again.

She pushed again with all her strength.

Doc: She's here, she's here.

A baby cry filled the room. He cut the umbilical cord.

He wiped her and wrapped him with a blanket. He placed her on Nokuzola's chest, who immediately fell in love with her but became sad when she saw her arm. She knew she was going to be disabled but she

had hope that maybe the doctors made a mistake.

Nokuzola: She is perfect.

The doctor smiled and attempted to leave but Nokuzola grabbed his coat looking at him with pleading eyes.

Nokuzola: I need your help.

End of flashback 

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She gave the phone back to the nurse, Nomthandazo didn't believe her. Couldn't she at least recognise her voice?

Now she has to do this herself. She thinks of going to the police, but

really the police never helped anyone. She needs to run away from this man or he will end up killing her. She thinks of her baby that is being taken care of by a nanny. She's the only good thing happening in her life. He enters her ward room and she forces a smile.

His name is Phakamani.

He sits down on the chair next to her and holds her hands.

Phakamani: Hey, how you doing?

Nokuzola: I'm good. I'm feeling better.

Phakamani: They said we can leave today.

She nodded, she could feel her tears threatening to come out. Being back

at that house would mean more abuse, Phakamani can't control his hands. He is always angry.

Phakamani: I'm really sorry Nokuzola, I don't know what is wrong with me. I just lost control and hurt you, please forgive me.

Nokuzola: I know you will do it again. You are apologizing because you see the damage you caused, it's only a matter of time until you hit me again. When I asked for your help, I didn't think you would turn on me and do this. I was just a lost child who asked for help, I trusted you because you were a doctor but instead you broke me again. You know the kind of life I ran away from, and you do the exact same thing my father was doing. I

always thought it's my fate that I have to suffer like this in life, I'm giving up now. Continue doing as you please with me, continue beating me, kill my daughter like you threatened. Do whatever you like, I don't care anymore. You should take me out of my misery and just kill me, just kill me. I am tired.

Phakamani looked at her ashamed, realising just how much he had broke her. She only wanted him to help her run away but he insisted that she stays with him.

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At the orphanage.

A woman dressed smartly and wearing high heels steps out of the Black shiny car and walk inside the orphanage. She looks around the place and frowns thinking how do people live like this.

“Hello, may I help you?”

“Uhm yes, my name is Flo. I’m looking for the owner or whoever is in charge here”.

“Okay please follow me”.

She followed the lady to what looks like an office.

“Her name is Flo”, she says and steps out.

Flo sits down on the chair.

“Good day, I am Grace. What can I help you with?”

Flo:Me and my husband want a boy to adopt. We have not been having kids for a long time, so we are considering adoption as our other option.

Grace:*Smiling* Wow that’s great news. How old should a boy be?

Flo:14 or 15.

Grace:We have them, but there is a procedure that is done mam.

Flo:I totally understand and I’m willing to do whatever it takes.

Grace:I will call them for you so that you can see who you will like.

Flo:I’d appreciate that.

Grace: Follow me.

They go to the dining hall and Grace goes to call the boys. She comes back with them and they form a line. Others wishing they could be the ones chosen.

Grace:Well this is all of them.

Flo walked around analysing the boys. She spotted Yokuthula and smiled. She pointed at him.

Flo:Him.

Grace:Okay Yokuthula please come to my office.

All three of them went to the office.

Grace: Yokuthula this is sis Flo. She wants to adopt you.

Yokuthula: Really?

Grace:Yes really, do you agree?

He looked at Flo and he knew her from somewhere but he couldn't figure out where. And besides, he doesn't trust her. She looks so shady and suspicious, she has been through so much abuse to just trust a stranger.

Yokuthula: No thank you ma. I am good, you can choose the others.

Grace: *Shocked* Are you serious?

Yokuthula: I really just want to enjoy my stay here, if I'm too much trouble I can live on the streets.

Grace: Whoa no need for that. If you don't want to, then it's fine. We will not force you. This is your home.

He smiled hearing that and Flor clicked her tongue.

“Stupid boy”, she muttered and stood up leaving.

She went to her car and drove to the prison.

She waited for her and she came wearing orange jumpsuit.

Sogingqa:Flo my friend. So how did it go?

Flo:That boy refused. Can you believe it?

Sogingqa:What!?

Flo: I’m telling you, and they said they can’t force him.

Sogingqa:Damn it!

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Phakamani:Do you have everything?

Nokuzola:Yes.

Phakamani: Okay let's go.

He held her bag and they walked out going to the car.

He helped her get inside and he got on the driver's seat.

Phakamani:Are you hungry?

Nokuzola:No.

He nodded and started driving.

A car parked behind them, someone was watching them through the binoculars. When the car drove off, he started the engine and followed them. Making sure that they don't see him.

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Ndlovu wakes up at the hospital, his entire body is bandaged; including his face.

Ndlovu:Mhhh Mhhh.

He tries to speak but moving is proving to be a difficult task for him.

The doctor comes to him.

Doc: Please minimise movements. Your body is still healing.

Ndlovu:M...w....i....f...e...

Doc:The female you were brought here with? I'm sorry she didn't make it. I'm very sorry.

He stared at the wall, this was all his fault. He has no one to blame but himself. He did this.

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To be continued.....

HER FATE

11

LUNGELO

He arrives home and the tension is so high it could break a glass. He can hear them arguing from his room. He wonders what they are fighting about, he locks his door and

tries to do homework but something is bothering him. The phone call Nomtha received, he can't help but wonder if that was really Nokuzola. But how could she still be alive? They saw the body, or they buried dolls? He has watched too many movies and it could be a possibility that Nokuzola is still alive.

He calls Nomtha and she answers on the second ring.

Nomtha:Hello.

Lungelo:Hi, are you sleeping?

Nomtha:I was about to. What's up?

Lungelo: About that phone call, don't you think it's true?

Nomtha:I told you that was just a prank. I won't entertain it.

Lungelo:But think about Nomtha, what if it really is her and she needs help?

Nomtha:Lungelo it's late, just sleep. That was not Nokuzola, I would have recognised her voice.

She hung up and he looked at his phone in disbelief. For someone who claims to be the best friend, she sure is not interested in looking this up.

He punches the number he memorised from her phone earlier on and dials it.

“Nurse Mshiya speaking, how may I help you?”

He thought of an excuse quickly.

Lungelo:*Coughing* Hi, I want to know which hospital you work in. I have a bad flu.

“Don’t you have clinics nearby? And where did you get this number?”

Lungelo: I got your number from a medical emergency book. We don’t have clinics this side. Please I’m really dying.

“Okay, I work at....”, She told him the name of the hospital.

Lungelo:Thank you so much. I will be there soon.

He hung up and wore his clothes walking out.

He went to the rents room and knocked.

His mother opened for him and her eyes were red.

Lungelo: Mom are you okay?

MaNgubane: I'm okay. What do you need?

She opened for him to come in.

Ngubane was seated on the bed.

Lungelo: Can I borrow a car? I need to go somewhere, I will bring it back.

Ngubane: *Clearing throat* You can take mine.

Lungelo: Thanks.

They gave him the keys and he walked out to the garage. He got inside the car and drove out to the hospital.

He sat in the car for a while not knowing if he should go inside.

He noticed someone who looked exactly like Nokuzola walking with a man, he looked a bit older.

He saw binoculars on the car and wondered what Ngubane is doing with binoculars. He took them and looked through them, it really was her. She looked so different, she was alive but she doesn't look like a person who's alive. She has a bandage on her head.

The car drove out and he followed behind them, making sure that they don't see him.

They arrived on a fancy neighbourhood.

He parked far away from them and looked through the binoculars again.

He memorised the house number written on the gate, and watched as the man led Nokuzola inside.

He sighed thinking of his next step. He could go to the police, but rich people always find a way to get away with their crimes.

He only knows one department that won't disappoint him. Child services.

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NOKUZOLA

She narrated the whole story to him and he felt pity for her.

Doc:Okay, I will help you. I will tell them that you didn't make it during labor.

Nokuzola:But won't they want to see the body?

Doc:They will and we will show them.

Nokuzola:But doctor I am not dead, they will see that.

Doc: You remember when the Hawkins Lab people presented a fake Will Byers? His family buried a doll that they found on the river, thinking he's dead.

Nokuzola:Are you talking about Stranger Things?

Doc:Yes. We will do that too, leave it all to me. We will have to move your right away before they suspect anything.

Nokuzola:Okay thank you Doc, I just need to run far away. I can't go back to that house.

Doc: Okay let me get into it....

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Phakamani: Nokuzola!

She snapped out.

Nokuzola:Yes?

Phakamani: I bought you food.

Nokuzola: I said I'm not hungry.

Phakamani: You need to eat so that you can take your pills.

**Nokuzola:And whose fault is that?
Aren't you the one always making
me your punching bag?**

**She is doing everything to make him
angry. She wants him to finish her off
and kill her, so that she can be free
from all the pain of this world.**

**Phakamani: Just one bite babe
please.**

**She took the food and threw it on his
face.**

**Nokuzola:I said I'm not hungry damn
it!!!**

He breathed heavily removing the food from his face. He knew he probably deserved that, he has been an a**hole to her.

Phakamani: I will make you another food.

He walked out.

She stood up and went to check on her daughter.

She looked so peaceful and relaxed.

She picked her up and placed her on her arms.

Her tear fell on her cheek and she wiped it with her finger.

Nokuzola: I'm sorry for bringing you into this world. I just wish I can protect you from it, but mommy is also tired. She has suffered so much, you're the only good thing to happen in my life for so long. I love you so much.

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Glen:Thula why did you refuse being adopted?

Yokuthula:I have been abused half of my life G. I couldn't risk it. My stepmom abused me so much, I don't trust anyone. I'm better off here at the orphanage.

Glen: I understand. Maybe she was sent by your stepmother who knows?

He says laughing but Yokuthula can't help but think if that's true. Sogingqa did say that she would make him pay for snitching on her.

Yokuthula:She hates me, so I wouldn't be surprised if she really did that.

Glen: I'm sure she doesn't hate you that much.

Yokuthula: You don't know that woman. She made me sleep in the freezer, eat with the dogs and many other things.

Glen:*Swallowing* She really made you do that?

Yokuthula:I wasn't thin like this. It's her abuse that led to my excessive weight loss. I look 9 years old but I am 15 years. She really ruined me. I don't want to go back to her, I don't want to be adopted. I'd rather I live in the streets if they chase me out here.

Glen moved closer to him and gave him a bro hug.

Glen:I thought my situation was worse but yours is heartbreaking. I'm sorry for what you went through.

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NOMTHANDAZO

She still can't stop thinking about Lungelo's phone call yesterday. What if really Nokuzola is alive?

She sighs and walks to the ward room. She finds him with his legs stretched out with bandages around him. She chuckles and moves over to him.

She presses his arms hard and he winced in pain. His eyes moved to Nomtha who was looking at him with the biggest smirk on his face.

Ndlovu:W...

Nomtha:Shhh.... Don't talk.....

She takes the pillow underneath him and place it over his face.

Nomtha: I hate you so much. I've never hated a man like I hate you,

**you caused my friend so much pain
and she died not knowing what
happiness feels like.**

**You don't deserve to live, people like
you don't deserve to live.**

**She moves to the side and place the
pillow over his face. He moves under
her trying to break free but she
press it tighter against him.**

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**“You don't listen Nokuzola!” , He
barks at her.**

Nokuzola:What did I do?

“I told you to not go outside”, he marches to her and throws in the first slap.

Nokuzola: I’m sorry, I just wanted some air.

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That’s how it started, with one slap and he continued with more. She can’t even recognise who she is anymore. She is standing in front of the mirror naked. She has so many bruises and scars. She ran away from Ndlovu only for Phakamani to do the same thing to her. Her arms and wrists still have the razor cuts. She walks to the kitchen still naked and take the biggest knife.

She rubs it against her face wanting to gauge her eyes out. She moves it over to her arms and cuts herself a little.

She moves it back to her face and just wants to stab herself all over.

HER FATE

12

She moves to the side and place the pillow over his face. He moves under her trying to break free but she press it tighter against him.

“Hey who are you?”

She quickly removes the pillow and smiles turning back to the nurse.

Nomtha:Oh I'm just a neighbour, I came to check on him.

"Okay, visiting hours are over"

She nodded and went out.

She hiked a ride back home and found her father watching TV on the couch.

She sighed greeting him.

Nomtha:Hi dad.

"Hi, how was school?"

Nomtha:It was fine. Mom back from work yet?

"No, she said she will pass by the stores to get some groceries"

Nomtha:Okay.

She went to the kitchen looking for something to eat.

She opened the bread container and it was empty.

She moved to the fridge and the food that her mother left for her last night is also gone. Her stomach grumbled from all the hunger.

She frowned and walked back to her father.

Nomtha:Baba what happened to the bread? Because mom bought a loaf this morning.

“I ate it sorry”.

Nomtha:And you also ate my food that was in the fridge?

She asked getting angry.

“I didn’t know it was yours. I saw food and I ate it because I was hungry”.

Nomtha: That’s all you know baba, you laze around the whole day and finish all the food in the fridge. Look at that belly you have!!! The month just started and you have finished all the food. Mom works hard to feed us!!

“Is this still about the food?.... Well here, take”

He reached for a bowl under the couch and gave it to her. She looked at it and scoffed. It was just remains of the food he was eating and some bones from the meat. Her face became red and she squashed the bowl with her hands and it dropped

down on the floor, cutting her finger a little. Little blood came out. She held her finger and wrapped a tissue around it. She walked away to the bathroom to clean herself up.

“Hey, who’s going to clean this mess?”, he asked shouting.

She finished cleaning herself and went to her room changing into casual clothes.

She looked at her phone and she had a number of missed calls from Lungelo.

She called him back.

Lungelo: Why haven’t you been answering your phone? I have been calling you.

Nomtha: Sorry, I got held up somewhere. What did you want?

Lungelo: I need to talk to you. It's about Nokuzola.

Nomtha: *Rolling her eyes* Oh God! Not this again.

Lungelo: Just hear me out.

Nomtha: No I'm done with this crap. Just let my friend rest in peace. Leave it!

Lungelo: Nomtha listen I s..

She hung up and clicked her tongue. She looked for another contact on her phone. She pressed on it and dialled it.

“Hello”, he answered with his deep voice that always made her lose all her sanity.

Nomtha:Hi, it's Nomtha.

“Yes I have your number”, he answers chuckling.

Nomtha:I need to see you.

“Now?”

Nomtha:Yes. I need you to make me feel good, I'm going through a lot.

“Say no more baby, I will come and fetch you”.

Nomtha: Thank you. You have weed right?

“Plenty of it”.

Nomtha:Now that is what I'm talking about.

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MaNgubane: You know what hurts the most? Is that the person who considers me as his mother does not trust me anymore. He trusted me and confided in me and I didn't believe him. I called him rude and dismissed him. I believed a man over my son. If I didn't catch Ngubane, I wouldn't have known that my son was telling the truth. How do I fix this Zo?please tell me.

She confided in her sister crying.

Zo:But Ningi you acted stupid nawe.

Ningi: Please don't rub it in.

Zo:No I'm telling you the truth.

Sexual assault is the most traumatizing thing ever, for a person who was molested growing up; you'd think that you would be open minded

over this. That boy needed his mother's love and touch, for you to tell him that everything is going to be okay. Even if you didn't believe him, which is ridiculous. You could have handled the situation better; but it is done now. Where is he?

Ningi: I don't know. He left early in the morning.

Zo:What about Ngubane?

Ningi: I told him to leave.

Zo:Are you going to continue being in a relationship with him?

Ningi:I love him, maybe he regrets it and Lungelo can forgive him and we can continue being a family. He's the only one who loved me and looked beyond my rape issues.

Zo clapped her hands in shock.

Zo:Wow! So you are planning on staying with a man who molested your son because you love him and you think he regrets it!?

Ningi:*Crying* I don't know what to do. I don't want to lose him but I'm also upset at what he did.

Zo: You know exactly what you have to do. Break it off with him. How you plan on staying with a child molester is beyond me!

Ningi: You wouldn't understand Zo. You are not married. You do not have a chi..

Zo:So now you are rubbing that to my face? Because I'm the barren

one and the one with no husband? Is that what you are saying?

Ningi:Zo that is not what I meant.

Zo: Leave it!

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Lungelo:So will you help her? Please help her. She didn't look okay yesterday. She needs help.

“Please calm down”

She touched him but he flinched and stepped away. The social worker noticed but didn't want to make him uncomfortable.

Lungelo :I am calm, I just need to know if you will help her. Her mother died in a fire and her father is alive but it's not looking good. He also abused her, so you see that she's never had happiness? She was probably running away from her family and instead found herself in another hell.

“I understand what you are saying and I am glad you came to us first before involving the police. We will get your friend out of that place don't worry, I need to consult with a few officers so that they can prepare a warrant of arrest.”

Lungelo:How long will that take?

“A day or two.”

Lungelo: Thank you so much Mam.

“It’s okay, it’s our job to make sure that children aren’t abused. We take cases of child abuse & endangerment very serious.”

Lungelo felt relieved hearing that.

“Hold on Nokuzola, help is coming”, he said to himself.

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Phakamani hurries and takes the knife away from her. Luckily, she hadn’t harmed herself. Just a little cut on her finger.

Nokuzola: What are you doing?

Leave me alone.

Phakamani: I won’t allow you to hurt yourself.

Nokuzola: You've been doing it for months, so why is it a problem if I do it? Give me the knife.

Phakamani : I can't Nokuzola.

**Nokuzola:I said give me the knife
Phakamani. Give it! Give it to me!!!!**

She walked towards him and he kept on moving back until he reached the wall. She grabbed his arm and tried to snatch the knife but he threw it on the far end of the room. She opened her mouth screaming and salvaged his arm with her teeth.

He tried to remove her from his arm but her teeth were deeply in his flesh.

Phakamani:F.. Nokuzola stop biting me!

She ran away and picked up the knife.

Phakamani:Babe put the knife away.

She breathed heavily in and out and walked back to him, she raised the knife above his head.

Nokuzola:*Sniffing* I hate you!

Phakamani: Let's t..

She didn't wait for him and she shoved the knife deep on top of his head. She kicked him on his balls and he went down.

Nokuzola shoved the knife with deeper force on his head until the blade went all in.

He was now bleeding and grunting painfully..

Blood started to come out from his mouth.

Phakamani:Ho...sp....

He coughed on his own blood. She removed the knife and looked at the big hole on his head.

Mucus dropped from her nose mixed with tears.

She started stabbing him all over his body.

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Phendulani:I will miss you.

Ryn: You will see me when you are out of this place.

Phendulani: Please don't raise my hopes for nothing man.

Ryn: I'm not. I have a lawyer friend, he is really good. He will help you don't worry.

Phendulani: If you say so, I trust you. They hugged each other before he walked away.

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LUNGELO

Going back home, he felt more lighter. At least Nokuzola will get help. He feels really bad for what he did to her, so he's hoping that she takes forgiving him into consideration. He walks through the

kitchen door and found his mother on the lounge looking so pale.

Lungelo:Hey mom.

Ningi: Lungelo. Where have you been?

Lungelo:Was with friends.

Ningi:Okay, can we please talk?

Lungelo: About?

Ningi:*Clearing throat* About Ngubane. I know what he did.

Lungelo:I don't want to talk about it. You said I am bringing trouble in your marriage, didn't you? You dismissed me and wanted to send me to a boarding school because you protected him. So what has changed now?

Ningi:Lungelo p....

**Lungelo: I said I don't want to talk about it! You want to bring up my pain!? I won't allow you to do that!!
He walked away to his room.**

To be continued.....

HER FATE

13

NOKUZOLA

She dropped the knife and dropped down on the ground, her tears falling uncontrollably.

“Oh God! What have I done?” , she asked under her breath.

She touched him and he wasn't moving nor breathing. Only his eyes which were wide open, that she felt like he was looking directly into her soul.

She wiped her mucus and slowly stood up.

She took a phone and went to Google :

“What is the best way to cover up murder?”

Results popped back in.

She locked all the doors and went to the storage room. She took the big black carpet and dragged it back to where Phakamani was.

She rolled it and layed it on the floor.

She went to him and closed her eyes as his sight was horrifying. She rolled him over to the carpet and pulled the carpet with him inside covering it. She took the ropes and wrapped them around him.

She took the shovel going outside and checking if no one is seeing anything.

She went to the backyard and dug up a hole big enough for human size.

She went back inside and used all her strength to drag him outside.

She pushed him with her feet towards the hole.

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NOMTHANDAZO

“We Nomthandazo, where have you been all day? Who is supposed to cook if you galivant around!?”, her mother asked her fuming.

She just threw herself on the couch and laughed.

“Uyahleka? (Are you laughing?)”

Nomtha:Ma have you ever wondered whether bees have sex?

She asked laughing with her one leg dangling.

Her mother marched towards her and pulled her up.

“Nomthandazo look at me. What is wrong with you?”

She tried to maintain a straight face but ended up laughing at her mother's face.

**Nomtha:Nomthandazo look at me.
What is wrong with you?**

She mimicked her mother.

**“This child!! Sewubhema insangu!?
(Are you smoking weed?)”**

Nomtha:Sewubhema insangu!?

She mimicked her again and burst out in louder laughter.

Her mother let her go and sat down feeling defeated. She looked at her husband.

“Please say something to her”, she pleaded with him.

“What will I say? I told you that she is an adult. Throw her in jail so that her mind can come back”

Nomtha’s mom leaned back on the couch wondering just why she was still married to Theb. He is an excuse of a husband, doesn’t work, doesn’t do anything around the house. All he knows is to stare at the TV all day long and finish all the food in the fridge. She just bought another groceries again, she wonders how much more of this she can take. It feels like she is raising two children.

Then there is Nomtha, who was never the same after Nokuzola’s death. She just turned into this person that she does not know nor

recognize. She doesn't talk to her and she is partly to blame for that. She was this strict monster for a mother, that's why Nomtha doesn't confide in her. She wants change so that she can trust her and tell her what is bothering her. She loves her daughter with everything in her, it hurts her that she has turned to drugs to deal with the pain.

She sighed standing up and went to the kitchen to prepare dinner.

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YOKUTHULA

“Okay class, don’t forget that tomorrow we are writing a test. Read chapter 4 & 5 only.”

The Natural Sciences teacher shouted out before packing her books and walking out.

“Thula are you okay?”, one student asked him. He does not feel good, at all. His stomach is so painful and he is feeling hungry.

Yokuthula:It’s just hunger.

“Okay, it’s breaktime already. Let’s go get food before the line gets full.”

He nods and takes a lunchbox from his bag and they walk out to the line. He waits for his turn and the aunties that serve food fill his lunchbox with rice and chicken necks.

Just the aroma and smell of the food makes him even more hungry, if you have not tasted school food; you are missing out. The ladies who cook do an outstanding job, they never miss. He goes back to class and sits down. He starts digging into his food.

“You must have been really hungry”

Yokuthula: You have no idea.

“Hamb’o phinda”

Yokuthula : We can do that?

“Yeah we can”

He was surprised honestly. He was used to eating just a spoon or two, that’s if he was even given that food. He wastes no time and goes out to get the food for the second time.

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NOKUZOLA

She has finished burying Phakamani. She has also cleaned the floor, it is now spotless.

She used all sorts of chemicals. The knife is the only thing that she doesn't know what to do with. She can't throw it out, it has her fingerprints and it could be ruled as a murder weapon should they find his body. She can't go to jail, she has a daughter to look after. She can't stay here though, sooner or later she has to run.

Phakamani's phone rings from the bedroom. She hurries to it. She looks at the caller and it's written "Gazi", must be his brother.

She looks at it not knowing what to do. What will she say? The phone doesn't stop ringing and she decides to answer it. She doesn't say anything but wait for the person to speak.

Gazi:Phakamani bra, I want us to go clubbing like crazy tonight. You know it's the 25th, so the clubs are packed with hoes. I am driving to your house right now. I'll be there soon.

She quickly hung up as her breathing paced up. Gazi can't come here, he

will surely suspect that something is wrong. She springs out of the room and peeps outside. Indeed, there was a car outside and a man stepped out of it. It must be Gazi, she figured.

Meanwhile outside, Gazi walked inside the yard whistling dancing around. He wants to let loose tonight and with Phakamani as his wing man, he's sure to score a girl or two.

He knocks and pushes the door open.

“Phakamani??”, he shouted for him.

He walked around the house looking for him but nothing.

“Where is this one?”, he asked himself.

He went to the lounge and was welcomed by an unpleasant smell, he sniffed the room and yeah, it was definitely the smell of chemicals and cleaning materials. But who would use these to be strong like this? Even the place looks suspiciously clean. He looked at the floor and noticed nothing out of the ordinary. He walked around calling for Phakamani.

He noticed a knife that was on the table in the kitchen and looked at it.

He took his phone and took a picture of it before walking out.

On the other room, when Nokuzola heard a car driving away she sighed relieved and took her daughter placing her back on her cot.

She ran to the kitchen looking for the knife and thanked the Lord when she saw it was still there. She needs to get rid of it, and she needs to get out of here. She can't afford people snooping around.

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LUNGELO

Ngubane is still not back, his mother has been trying to get them to talk but he is not interested honestly. He was heartbroken when she didn't

believe him, he's not ready to go through that again.

He was in his room when his phone rang. It was the social worker. He answered

Lungelo:Hello.

“Lungelo Hi, it's me Sona. About your friend, we are going to get her tomorrow. The warrant is ready and I have a few officers who are going to accompany me. Would you like to tag along?”

Lungelo :Oh thank God, that was fast. I will be more than happy to be there.

“ Perfect. Meet us at the house then “

Lungelo :Okay I will, thank you.

“ Lungelo? “

Lungelo :Yes.

“ Me and you still need to talk, you are hiding something and I want to help you.”

Lungelo :I’m not hiding anything.

“I have worked with children for so many years. I know how a child who is happy is supposed to behave.

When we get your friend tomorrow, I want you to come to me and you will tell me everything”

Lungelo :*Sad voice* I am scared.

“Nothing to be scared of, let’s not talk about this over the phone. See you tomorrow boy”

**Lungelo :Thank you once again
Sona.**

He hung up and sent Nomtha a text.

[Nokuzola is alive, believe me or don't believe me; it's up to you. But tomorrow I'm going with the social workers who are going to rescue her. It's up to you if you want to come. 8am sharp.]

He pressed send and threw his phone on the bed.

He walked out of his room going to the kitchen to get something to eat. But, he heard something from his mother's room that made him stop and eavesdrop.

Ningi:Yes I know.

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Ningi:He will forgive you. Just come back home so that we can talk.

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Ningi: Maybe he can go live with my sister while we fix our marriage.

He walked away feeling a huge lump stuck on his throat, his mother keep on proving to him that she doesn't care. He went back to his room and cried his eyes out. He just needs his mother's support. Is that too much to ask for?

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To be continued....

HER FATE

14

In the morning, Sona and the other officers get ready to go to save Nokuzola. As a girl who went through the most abuse growing up, she wanted to help those who are not strong enough to fight for themselves. She became a social worker specifically to help children, no child deserves to be abused. Childhood is one of the most important stages of life and she believes that everyone should enjoy it nicely.

“We can go Mam”, one officer says to her.

She nods and they get in the car driving off.

Nomthandazo gets inside the car.

Lungelo:I didn't think you'd show up.

Nomtha:I wanted to see this with my own eyes.

Lungelo :You still don't believe me?

Nomtha:I want to believe you, trust me.

Lungelo :Well then let's go.

He drove away to the place and Sona was already there.

They stepped out of the car and went towards them. They exchanged greetings.

Lungelo:So what is going to happen now?

Sona:Me and the officers will go in there and get her out. You two stay here.

Lungelo :Okay.

Sona and others walked inside the yard.

They knocked on the main door and received no response.

“You think no one is home?”

Sona:I don’t know.

She knocked again. They heard footsteps approaching. Nokuzola opened for them and her eyes wandered around looking at the officers. Her heart pounding at the

possibility that they have come to arrest her, how would they have known though? Sona noticed how scared she was.

Sona: We are not going to hurt you. Are you Nokuzola Ndlovu?

She nodded slowly.

Sona: Alright, we received a claim from someone days back. He said you needed help and you called someone asking them to help you.

Nokuzola: Yes I did, the man I was... I am staying with was abusing me.

Sona: Alright Zola. Where is that man right now and what is his name?

Nokuzola: His name is Phakamani Mthembu. He is at uhm.... I don't know where he is. He didn't tell me.

Weeks later

Nokuzola is visiting Ndlovu at the hospital, she wants to see him with her own eyes.

She enters his ward room and poor thing! Who would have thought that thee mighty Ndlovu would fall like this? She walked over to him.

Nokuzola:Ya Ndlovu.

**Ndlovu :*Face full of regrets*Zola...
Thank you for coming to see me.**

Nokuzola:Don't think I came here to see you. I just needed to see with my own eyes that you are a vegetable for real.

Ndlovu:I'm sorry.

Nokuzola:*Smirking* What are you sorry about?

Ndlovu :About everything that I did to you... And about your mother.

Nokuzola:What is everything? List it all out one by one. And yeah my mother, I heard. What a shame.

Ndlovu:Please forgive me ngane yami.

Nokuzola:Oh! So I'm your child now? Won't you ask how your daughter is doing? She is 6 months old now. She wants her daddy.

Ndlovu:Nokuzola please I'm sorry.

Nokuzola:*snapping at him* YOU BETTER STOP WITH THE SORRIES!! JUST SHUT THE FUCK UP!!!!!!

She breathed heavily and forced a smile 9jer face.

Nokuzola:Now let's get over that and talk about important things. Who is my father? And don't lie to me because I know you are not my biological father. No parent would do what you did.

Ndlovu swallowed looking at her, he might as well just tell her the truth.

Ndlovu:Your mother had an affair with my brother and they made you. When I found out that you were not my daughter, you were 10 years old. I went to my brother with your mom and killed him in front of you. I then saw it fit to start abusing you, I was angry at your mother that she kept a

secret like this from me. I'm really sorry Nokuzola.

Nokuzola: So you killed my father? I'm not surprised.

Ndlovu: I am sorry. I wasn't thinking straight, I was blinded by anger.

Nokuzola: Yeah yeah. I just want to see who will take care of you when they discharge you here. The fire didn't do a proper job, the fact that you can still talk shows it. I hope your dick got burnt off too.

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PHENDULANI

A lawyer just visited him, Ryn's friend. He told him that he was able

to find evidence that he didn't kill Sally, he put in a request to the judge to review the case. He warned him to stay away from trouble and if all goes well, by next week he shall be going back home. That could not make him more happier, he just wants to mourn his mother and brother in peace.

He returns to the cell and sits on the bed. He is reading a book just to pass time when he hears commotion coming from outside. He walks out to check out the noise.

Other prisoners are fighting and it looks really bad. Prison fights never end good, they always end with a dead body.

He attempts to walk back inside but he feels a hand holding him. Before he knows it, a bloody knife is placed on his hands. He looks who gave it to him but sees no one. Shortly, the scene was crowded with wardens and they pinned him down when they saw him holding the knife. He looked at the body that was laying on the ground and he closed his eyes. Not again! Not again!

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“Here! Take all your rags!! Leave my house this instance!”, shouted his mother shoving his clothes on the black plastic bag.

Lungelo:I wonder what it will take for you finally act like my mother.

She tried to slap him but he held her hand and pushed her away.

Ningi :Are you fighting me now!?
Amasende asek'hlaza!? Usuyindoda
huh!?(You're a man!?)

Lungelo:I am leaving, I hope you never contact me again.

Ningi :I won't. Not unless you take my husband out of jail.

Lungelo:I'm not doing that. He will rot in jail.

He picked up the bag and walked out. He sat on the pavement and called his aunt to come and fetch him.

Well, Ngubane was arrested. Sona made sure of it, he told her everything and she believed him. Plus, Ngubane was also involved in numerous accusations in the past of child molestation ;so it was more than enough to charge him.

“Hey Lu”, said his aunt. He stood up and hugged her.

Lungelo:Thank you for coming.

Zo:Anything for you, don't mind your mother. Uzenza islima(She is acting stupid on purpose)

Lungelo:She never believed me. She is still convinced I'm lying.

Zo:I believe you, and that pig is in jail. Now let's go to your new home.

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To be continued

HER FATE

15

YOKUTHULA

The way he has been eating these days is worrying him, but he is so hungry. He goes to the kitchen and make something to eat again. He is not used to this, if he was back at home he wouldn't have eaten for the day.

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Sogingqa:You will eat when those clothes are dry.

He looked at her in disbelief, it was raining outside so those clothes are far from being dry.

Yokuthula:I haven't eaten for two days. Please.

It was pointless begging her, she has no sympathy towards him.

Sogingqa :You should be washing the dishes instead of making noise in my house.

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Glen :Eating like this isn't healthy. You will choke.

Yokuthula:I'm hungry.

He answered with his mouth full.

Glen:I know but slow down and eat healthy. You will get sick. I have been watching you these days.

Yokuthula:Okay fine.

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Nomtha:I can't believe it's really you. You are really back..

Nokuzola:Yep its really me alright. How have you been? We haven't really talked.

Nomtha:Now that you are here, I am fine. I was losing my mind Nokuzola, everyday was getting worse. I even smoked weed because I couldn't handle it.

Nokuzola: I'm sorry that you went through that. I should have told you my plan but I was scared for you.

Nomtha: Nah it's okay I understand, Ndlovu was a monster so I don't blame you.

Nokuzola : And Phakamani did the exact same thing. It's like I wasn't even born for happiness, I have suffered for too long.

Nomtha : Please don't talk like that. You deserve happiness. No one was born to suffer.

Nokuzola: I don't know Nomtha and I fear that I may be going to jail soon. She blurted out.

Nomtha: *frowning* Jail? What for?

Nokuzolla: *Deep sigh* I killed Phakamani. I grinded a hole in his head and stabbed him all over. I buried him on his backyard.

Nomtha: *with her eyes open* Oh My! Are you serious??

NOKUZOLA : I am. It just happened Nomtha, I couldn't help myself. I couldn't stop, I just kept on stabbing him again and again. I was angry, in a way that I've never been before.

Nomtha: *Hugging her* Shhh it's okay. It's all over now. I don't judge you, I would have probably done the same if it was me.

Nokuzolla: *Crying* I killed someone, what if they find out? I will be arrested and my daughter will be left all alone.

**Nomtha:No one will know Zola.
Where did you put the knife?**

**Nokuzola:I washed it and destroyed
it.**

**Nomtha:How do you destroy the
knife?**

Nokuzola:Google helped.

**Nomtha:Then there is nothing to
worry about. Even if there is, we will
deal with it the two of us. It's us
against the world.**

**Nokuzola:*Giggling*Two
musketeers.**

Nomtha:*Laughing*Exactly.

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He folded his clothes packing them to the wardrobe, his aunt's place has that "feel at home" scent. And that is what he is doing, feeling at home.

Zo:Come down for dinner when you are done.

Lungelo:I'm coming.

He shouted back. He went out and the table was already set. He sat down and looked at the food in front of him, she really outdid herself. It looks neat and nice. He reaches for a spoon and Zo slaps his hand.

Zo:We pray first.

Lungelo:*Frowning* Pray?

Zo:Yes, pray. Bless our food please.

Lungelo:Uhh I don't know how to.

Zo:It's okay, repeat after me :

“Our Heavenly father”

Lungelo:Our Heavenly Father.

Zo:Close your eyes.

Lungelo:Close your eyes.

Zo:I mean close your eyes you idiot.

Lungelo:*smiling*oh oky.

He closed his eyes and prayed with her.

They started digging.

Zo looked at him and smiled faintly.

She couldn't understand why Ningi was not showing love to her son.

Was she really choosing a man over her own child? A child which she carried for nine months? She hopes she wakes up soon.

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MaNgubane looked at her husband and he looked so thin in just a few weeks inside.

Ningi: Oh what have they done to you?

Ngubane : I will be okay. Don't worry about me.

Ningi: This is wrong.

Ngubane: No, I deserve this. I hurt your son. I have to serve my sentence.

Ningi: But you apologized.

Ngubane: Ningi please don't do this. You should be with your son right now.

She looked down.

Ngubane:What? What happened?

Ningi:I kind of chased him out, he is refusing to drop the charges.

Ngubane:Are you crazy?

Ningi:I was doing it for you.

Ngubane :Stop acting selfish Ningi, your son needs you now more than ever. Where did you expect him to go when you chased him out? He is 14, where will he go?

Ningi:I thought I was doing the right thing.

Ngubane:Kwangqondo ngathi awusenayo. (You are stupid). Are you really choosing me over him? I told you that I did molest him. What will it take for you to believe him? I'm

locked up because of my actions.
Stop this nonsense Ningi and be a
mother to your son. No wonder his
father left you, you don't have
brains. What kind of woman are you?

Ningi: You will not sit there and insult
me Ngubane.

Ngubane :If it means some sense will
be knocked into your head then I will
insult you. How did you think this
would play out? You thought I would
be happy that you chased him out!?
Please leave because you are just
making me angry.

Ningi:Ngubane!

Ngubane :I said leave.

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NOKUZOLA.

She is breastfeeding her daughter. In a few minutes she is already sleeping. She smiles and places her down. She walks out to the kitchen opening the fridge and cupboards but there was no food. She is so hungry and the nappies can be finished soon.

She went to the parents bedroom and ransacked it looking for money. She found it rolled in a bag. Lots of it. Her eyes beamed with happiness and she took all of it. She put it in her bedroom and took out the amount she's going to need for now.

She went outside and called Nomtha.

**Nokuzola:Can you watch Kukhanya?
I need to go to the shops.**

Nomtha:Sure no worries.

Nokuzola:Thanks.

**She walked out heading to the
shops.**

To be continued....

HER FATE

9

NOMTHANDAZO

A week later, her everyday routine involves waking up, bath and go to school. Same thing everyday.

Every day after school, she passes by Nokuzola's grave just to talk to her. She always feel better after that. Mrs Mathe is still giving her attitude but she does not care, she's here to learn not for her.

She takes the scissors and place them back on her bag and hurries to class. Thank God it was the Maths

period, the teacher is so calm and literally minds his own business.

“Mrs Mathe to the parking lot, I repeat Mrs Mathe to the parking lot. Trouble with your car”, the PA speaks over. Nomtha smiles and stands up with the other learners running to the parking lot.

Mrs Mathe was crying and screaming at her damaged car. It was scratched all over with the word “BULLY”, her tires were also slashed and her windows slightly cracked.

“Aww kodwa nkosi yami ngisanda nakuyithenga lemoto.(Good Lord, I

recently bought this car)”, she cries loudly putting her hands on top of her head.

Her colleagues hold her and try to calm her down.

“Who could have done this? Who would hate me like this?”, She continues ranting.

Nokuzola walks away and Lungelo follows her.

Lungelo:It was you, wasn't it?

Nomtha: Me who did what?

Lungelo: Mrs Mathe's car. You destroyed it.

Nomtha: You want to be next?

Lungelo: *Swallowing* Uhh No.

Nomtha: Good, then stay out of my way.

Lungelo: Nomtha I'm really sorry for what I did, I am ashamed when I think about how much I hurt Noks. Please forgive me, I won't lie and say

I don't know what came over me. I took out my frustrations on her and hurt her in the process.

Nomtha:Noks was also going through some things, probably worse than yours. But she never took out her issues on anyone, she was always smiling; and y'all always bullied her. You bullied her so much together with the teachers. She knew while she was pregnant that her baby would be disabled but you never saw her being a bully to anyone. We are all going through some "things", but we don't use that as an excuse to be mean and shitty to people.

Lungelo:*Hugging her and wiping her tears* I'm really sorry Nomtha please forgive me. Can you accompany me to her grave so that I can apologize. I feel bad honestly.

Nomtha:Okay, we will go after school because I can see that you are really being remorseful.

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MaNdlovu limps to the kitchen wincing all the way.

She put water in the kettle and plug it. She waits for the water to boil and she unplugs it, she carries the kettle back to the bedroom and stand over the sleeping Ndlovu. She just wants to pour all the hot water over him. He is even snoring, unaware of her presence. She lowers his pants carefully and his manhood come out in the open.

Without hesitation, she pours the hot water on his lower body and he wakes up jumping feeling the water burning the skin.

He takes the shirt he was wearing and tries drying himself, MaNdlovu pours the remaining water all over his body and he screams like the bitch that he is.

MaNdlovu walks out of the room going to the kitchen.

She strikes a light stick on the box matches and hold it over the gas cylinder.

Ndlovu comes to the kitchen limping, he was naked and was fanning a shirt over his body.

“Take me to the hosp.... What are you doing?”

MaNdlovu:I would rather we die, the both of us in this house. My daughter is no more today because of you, you are a monster. We will meet each other in hell. I still hate you!!

She drops the light stick on the gas cylinder.

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PHENDULANI

Phendulani: So?? What did they say?

**Ryan: Man I'm getting out of here.
They approved my parole. Next week
I'm going home.**

**Phendulani jumps on him giving him
a bro hug.**

Phendulani:Wow, I can't believe it. I'm so happy for you.

Ryan:I still can't believe it. They said I am leaving next week Monday. Finally I'm getting out of this place. After 15 years!

Phendulani: You deserve it, you have served your sentence. What's the first thing you are going to do when you get out?

Ryan:I want to talk with my son and try building a bond with him, it's not gonna be easy but I'm willing to give it a try. I also need to apologize to his mother the traditional way you know.

Phendulani: I wish you luck Ry. I hope it all goes well for you.

Ryan:And then I'm going to find a way to get you out of here.

Phendulani: What? No. Please don't do anything that will land you back in here.

Ryan:I won't do anything illegal, but I will come back for you.

Phendulani:I don't know what to say Ryan.

Ryan: Don't sweat it, you were kind to me and I promised you. I never back down on my promises.

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He walks over to her and land a punch on her face again.

“You never want to listen to me!”, He shouts at her.

“I'm sorry”, pleading for her life.

She knew it would happen again.

He presses her against the wall and bangs her head against it twice.

“Why must we always fight?”, His face is red from all the anger.

He drops her to the floor and kick her repeatedly.

“You don’t listen! You don’t obey me!!”, He says continuing kicking her.

He picks her up and throws her on the bed.

He notices that she is really in a bad condition and his face relaxes a bit and all the guilt and regret start flooding in.

“Baby I’m sorry.... Please let me take you to the hospital”, he picks her up rushing to his car.

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At another hospital.

Two people are being brought in with a stretcher.

Nurses and doctors come rushing.

“Talk to me, what are we dealing with?”, One doctor asks.

“Arson. Female not breathing. Male is burnt beyond recognition and in need of urgent medical help”.

“Did you CPR on the female?”

“Yes but she didn’t wake up.”

“Okay thank you, we will take it from here”.

They wheel them to the theatre room preparing for urgent surgery..

Hours later,

Doc: Anyone have an idea how to contact relatives? The female did not make it. The male is barely alive.

“I will check if we don’t have their records”.

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MaNgubane is not at home and Lungelo is still at school, so that will give him enough time to have some fun.

He pours the juice on two glasses and walks back to the lounge. He

gives one to the boy and keep one for himself.

Ngubane:Relax Mfundo, no one is home. We have the house all to ourselves.

Mfundo:*Relaxes a bit* Ohh thank God.

They sip their juice and Ngubane suggests that they take it to the bedroom.

Mfundo: Isn't this your marital bed?

Ngubane:It is, but who cares?

He throws him on the bed kissing him while taking off their clothes. They both remain naked and Mfundo kneels on the bed.

Mfundo: Should I?

He asks pointing at his manhood.

Ngubane: Please.

He smiles crawling to him ready to suck the life out of him.

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Nomtha: We should go now.

Lungelo: Okay let me say goodbye to Yokuthula.

Nomtha: Alright.

He walks away and comes back . minutes later. They walk to the cemetery.

Nomtha: He's your friend?

Lungelo:Who? Yokuthula?

Nomtha:Yes.

Lungelo:Yeah, he is new. 9th grade.

Nomtha:*smiling* He's cute.

**Lungelo:*wiggling his eyebrows*
mmmhh somebody is in love.**

**Nomtha:Shut up. I just said he's
cute.**

Lungelo:I can talk to him for you .

Nomtha:Oh please don't do that.

Nomtha:And we are here. You ready?

Lungelo:Yes let's do this.

They walk to Nokuzola's grave and kneel in front of it.

Lungelo:*nervously* So what do I say?

Nomtha: Just speak from the heart.

Lungelo: Okay uhm.... Nokuzola it's me Lungelo. I came here to apologize for taking adv...for raping you the other day at school. I shouldn't have done that, I was stupid and selfish. I know this won't make up for the pain and misery I caused you but I really regret it Zola please forgive me. I'm really sorry.... I had my own issues and I took them out on you... I hope you are resting in peace where you are and you will forgive me when your heart allows it. Nomtha misses you.

Nomtha: So much Noks. I keep on thinking that someday you will knock on my window.

Lungelo: It's okay. She heard us

They place stones on both the graves and stand up.

They start walking home.

Nomtha: So tell me Rookie, what issues do you have?

Lungelo: You wouldn't believe me either.

Nomtha: Try me.

Lungelo: Okay but promise me that you will never tell anyone.

Nomtha: I promise.

Lungelo: *sigh* Well my stepfather has been molesting me, it's been six months.

Nomtha: *Gasping* Really!?

Lungelo: Yep.

Nomtha: So evil. Did you tell your mother?

Lungelo: *Chuckling* I did but she didn't believe me. She wanted to send me away to a boarding school because of that.

Nomtha: I can't believe that your own mother does not believe you, she is choosing a man over you. I guess all fathers are full of shit. I'm really sorry Lungelo, I didn't know.

Lungelo: It's fine. I have been avoiding him.

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MaNgubane goes through the kitchen door, she was in an important meeting but had to rush back home because she forgot an important file. She clicks her heel going to the lounge and see two glasses that were empty. Maybe Ngubane and Lungelo were bonding as father and son, she smiles thinking Lungelo will now stop with his ridiculous accusations.

She walks to her bedroom but as she nears, she is hearing very weird and strange noises. She walks faster and pushes the door open. She screams in shock at the sight she was seeing.

“Ngubane what are you doing?”, She asks still shocked. He was on top of another man, no a boy. He was on top of a boy busy thrusting into him from behind. He is even so sweaty, which means they must have been doing this for long.

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Nomtha: You should burn his dick while he's sleeping.

Lungelo:*Laughing* That's just too much, don't you think?

Nomtha: It's the only way you can free yourself I'm telling you. You know how fucked up the justice system in our country is. He would be out in two months, that's if they even arrest him.

Her phone rings again and she rolls her eyes of ignoring it.

Lungelo: You should answer your phone. It could be important, that's the fifth call.

Nomtha: I don't know who this is. They are playing a prank on me.

It rings again.

Lungelo: Answer it.

Nomtha: Okay.

She answers

Nomtha:Hello.

She hears someone breathing heavily on the other side, like he or she is scared.

“Nomthandazo please help me, he wants to kill me. It’s me, Nokuzola. Please help me”

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To be continued.....

HER FATE

17

Lungelo: You guys are really abusing me. Why didn't you do your homework?

Nokuzola : We knew our buddy did it.

Nomtha: And done.

Lungelo: So Nomtha, Yokuthula said Hi.

Nokuzola: Mhhhh, love birds.

Nomtha: Shut up, we are not dating.

Lungelo: I saw the two of you kissing yesterday.

Nokuzola: And you didn't tell me.

Lungelo: Am I lying Nomtha?

Nomtha: Okay fine we are dating. I was still going to tell you guys.

Nokuzola:Ohhh your first ever boyfriend! I'm so happy for you. She hugged her and pinched her cheeks.

Lungelo:He doesn't stop talking about you.

He rolled his eyes.

Nokuzola:Stop being jealo Lu. They are in love.

Lungelo:Yeah yeah.

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Ndlovu took his phone calling the construction people. He doesn't want to anger Nokuzola more than she already is. He needs her to

forgive him, it won't be easy but he will try everything. He also calls the people managing his shops while he's gone and they report that everything is going well. He asks one of them to bring groceries to his house.

“Knock knock”

“Ngena(Come in)”

The young man entered carrying a lot of plastics.

He placed them near the kitchen table.

Ndlovu:Thank you.

He nodded and went out.

Ndlovu stood up and looked for something light to eat, he took an

apple and took a big bite while unpacking the food.

There is no fridge, it must have burned down. He calls his workplace and tells them to bring a fridge too.

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Yokuthula :Hey.

He hugged her and gave her a kiss on the cheek. She blushed hiding on his chest.

Nomtha:Hi.

Yokuthula :Awusa blushi(You are blushing non stop)

Nomtha :I love you.

Yokuthula :I love you too. I missed you so much.

Nomtha :I missed you too.

Yokuthula :Where are the others?

Nomtha :Over there.

Yokuthula :Okay let's go to them.

They held hands and went to Nokuzola and Lungelo.

Nokuzola:Love birds!

Nomtha:Sorry for keeping you waiting.

Lungelo:It's okay. We can leave now.

They walked out of the school premises heading home.

Nokuzola:You guys, we should make a pact that we won't allow anything to break the four of us apart.

Lungelo:Exactly. We have been through so much, at some point one thought they would die.

Yokuthula:Till death do us apart.

Nomtha:Till death.

They walked different directions, each heading to her own home.

Nokuzola found the construction people busy. She smiled, at least he is useful in something. She went inside and he was eating.

Nokuzola:Hi. I see you called them.

Ndlovu:I did, they should be done by next week.

Nokuzola :Thanks.

She went to her room and changed.

**It's still early, she will fetch
KuKhanya later.**

**She went back to the kitchen and
there was a fridge and a new stove.**

**All of this won't make her to forgive
him though, she took out meat that
she's going to cook while he kept
looking at her.**

She sighed and turned back to him.

**Nokuzola:Can you please stop
looking at me. You are making me
uncomfortable.**

Ndlovu :Sorry.

6 SIX YEARS LATER

PHENDULANI

“You truly are one of the best teachers we ever had in this school. Keep it up”

Phendulani: Thank you so much Principal.

He smiled and walked away. Life is going well for him, he permanently moved to Durban, there was nothing left for him in the village. He goes back from time to time to check on his family’s graves.

To his word, Philani really helped him apply for that bursary and he got it. The following year he went to University and four years later, he got his degree. He is now working as a teacher at some fancy private school, the money is good. He does not remember going to bed hungry

and his heart feels light, he no longer feels like he's carrying the world on his shoulders.

He wishes that his brother was still alive, he would have given him the best life he ever wished for. But he knows they are looking down to him.

He receives a call from Ryn.

Phendulani:Hello.

Ryn:Phe, have you knocked off?

Phendulani:Yes I'm heading home.

Ryn:Okay, let's go out for drinks later. My son finally forgave me, after 6 long years.

Phendulani:Wow that is good news, I told you to not give up on him.

Ryn:I still can't believe it man, I'm finally going to be a part of his life.

Phendulani:At last, I was tired of you calling me at night crying.

Ryn:*Laughing* Don't you dare tell people that I was crying.

Phendulani:But you were.

Ryn:To you.

Phendulani:I won't tell anyone relax.

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Nomthandazo, Nokuzola, Lungelo and Yokuthula are all at University doing their second year, except for Yokuthula who is doing his third year. They all go to the same University.

Nomthandazo is studying towards Engineering, the bond between her and her mother has become strong over the years. She can talk to her freely about everything.

She is still with Yokuthula, it's been 6 years of them being in a relationship. She loves him and she knows he feels the same too. They do have arguments from time to time, but they fix their issues at the end of the day.

They are going to a party later on, and they are going to meet at Lungelo's apartment.

Sogingqa is still rotting in jail, every attempt to make Yokuthula's life miserable dismally failed.

KuKhanya is 6 years old now and is getting more smarter. Nokuzola is the one who looks after her, she doesn't stay at res.

Her and Ndlovu have a civil relationship, she has not forgiven him but tolerates him.

Ningi never bothered to check up on Lungelo, she spends all her days drinking wine and crying over Ngubane. He sent her divorce papers a year ago, he is still in jail.

Lungelo is still minded by his aunt, he feels like she is his mother now.

She has been with him through thick and thin.

They are gathered around Lungelo's apartment getting ready to party.

Nokuzola: This dress is too tight
Nomtha.

Nomtha : Is not.

Nokuzola: It is.

Lungelo: It really is tight. My girlfriend can't be walking around like this.

Yokuthula: And who is whipped now?

Lungelo: Shut up.

Nomtha : Okay let me look for another one.

She pulled her to a room.

Yokuthula:Girls never get ready on time.

Lungelo:Tell me about it. They will come out of that room after two hours.

They laughed together and talked about other things. They were disturbed by a knock. Yokuthula stood up to answer it but was met by police officers. He frowned looking confused.

He let them inside. Lungelo also stood up wondering what the police are doing here.

Lungelo :Officers, how may we help you?

“We are looking for Nokuzola Ndlovu. Is she here?”

Lungelo :Why? Why are you looking for her?

“Young man you are wasting our time. Is she here or not?”

Lungelo :Uhh she’s not....

“Babe who are those pe..”

Nokuzola asked as she came to them but stopped on her tracks when she saw the police.

“Are you Nokuzola Ndlovu?”

Nokuzola:Yes I am.

One officer went to her and handcuffed her.

Yokuthula :Who whoa whoa!! Why are you handcuffing her?

Lungelo :Yeah leave her, you are hurting her.

“Nokuzola Ndlovu you are under arrest for the murder of Phakamani Mthembu. We found his body buried in his backyard and your fingerprints all over him. No need to deny, we also found the murder weapon.

Anything you say, can and will be used against you in the court of law”.

Lungelo :Noo no baby they are lying. You didn't do this.

Nokuzola:*Sobbing*Lungelo!

She called out for her as they dragged her away shoving her at the back of the police van.

>>THE END>>

Well, Goodbye.

