

ADULT
ROMANCE

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HER PAIN,
—HIS—
TREASURE

*All she did was to protect her mother
All he did was to save the woman he loved
Both their scars ran too deep*

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

PROLOGUE

Mama is screaming in the other room. It's always like this. Daddy waits for us to go to sleep so he could do something to mama.

I don't know what it is that he is doing to her but her scream is piercing deep in my heart.

It cuts my heart in to pieces.. I'm trying to sleep as always but I'm failing to.

Mama is still screaming, shouting and crying for help in the other room..

I search under my pillow, the okapi is still there, I stole it from Bab'Mkhize's drawer in the office.

I have always kept it under my pillow.

I sit up and switch on the light. Both Zama and Nomusa are sleeping peacefully. I sigh.. I wish I was them, I wish I was this young and didn't understand anything.

Zama is 10 years and Nomusa is 13 years.

I take the okapi in my hand and just look at it.

My heart beats fast with every scream in my mother's bedroom...

Something forces me to stand up with the knife in my hand and drags me to my mother's bedroom.

I open the door.

He's there, he's beating mom so hard. Mom is crying and begging for help. He's kicking her in the stomach.

I stand there all traumatized. I can't..

Finally he turns to look at me

"Liyana go back to your room!!!" He's pointing at me then at the door.

I can't, I want to force my legs to go back to the bedroom but I just can't. Not when I've already seen my mother. Not when my mother is laying on the floor in a pool of blood.

I'm silent, starrng. I don't know what to do.

He quickly comes straight to me, I wanna run back. He's a monster. This one is not my father!!

I know my father. I know him.

He pushes me out of the bedroom and quickly turns back to mama

"Do you see what you make me do? Now my daughter had to witness this?"

He says in his angry tone to mother.

Before I could even stop my self, I run behind him..

Soon I have the knife stabbed on his upper neck.

He tries to turn to beat me but that gives me an opportunity to stab him again on the side...

He groans so loud like a wild animal. Mama tries to shout, but she's just to powerless, she's helpless.

He beat her so hard, she can't even try to stand up or talk.

I know she wont survive this. I have to run to call mam'Betty so she would come and help me get mama inside baba's car and drive her to the hospital. She has to survive this.

I have been taking driving lessons for almost three months now. I'm not perfect in driving but I know I can drive to the hospital safely.

I panick when baba's groans and moans turn in silence...I can't think... I want to but I can't..

I'm looking at mama.

I don't know what to do.

I want to stand up and run but I sit there on the floor with mama's head on my legs and cry my lungs out.

Nomusa walks In, she just stands at the door and watches me. I can see how traumatized she is by all this..

I force myself to stand and walk towards her, I still can't stop the cries

"Nana, go back to sleep.." I sound so much like my father now. But I have to force her to go back to bed, she cannot witness all this

She looks at me before running out to the kitchen, then quickly opening the kitchen door and ran out.

"Nomusa!!!" I'm shouting. I want to stop her but shes already gone..

....

"Liyana Zulu, you are under arrest for the murder of Mthimkhulu Zulu. You have the right to remain silent. Everything you say will be used against you in the court of law....." I'm scared. They handcuff me.

I turned to look at my baby sisters. They are officially alone. Mother is in hospital fighting for her life. Father is in mortuary because of me. Nomusa is holding Zama's hand.

Mam'Betty is also standing there

"You'll be fine nana.." she keeps on saying through her tears.

This is it. I'm supposed to be starting my semester examinations in days to come. But...

This is it.. This is the end of my life. The end of me. This end of everything...

Well, this is how I got inside here. How things turned out that day, I'll always regret them...

Two years ago I went to bury my mother because she had committed suicide. The eyes I go from people. Most of them pitied me.

And here, tomorrow I'm leaving this place.

I'm excited and I'm nervous, this is my home now.

I've grown to love this place. Ive grown to love the bitter sweet moments that comes with being in here...

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..

I've been laying on this bed for the past two hours, all I've been doing is thinking.

I'm nervous, what if they tell me I cannot go out anymore or what if someone tries to fight me and I end up messing my chances of going out?

I sigh.. I need to smoke and get all this thoughts out of my mind...

But I just can't...

Images of that night appear in my mind. I close my eyes and let out a loud sigh.

Maybe I shouldn't have kept that okapi. Maybe both my parents would still be alive, maybe I would be a marketing director like I'd always wanted.

But life happened...

I killed my father, I've been in here for 15 years.

My sisters were practically alone. Mother was

depressed to a point she decided to take her own life and.... And..

Sigh

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

ONE

I look at the note one last time. It's been years, I'm nervous. I don't know how it is going to be. See, this is my home now. But I'm leaving, I've been in here for 15 years now and finally I'm leaving my home.

Zama and Nomusa must be grown up now, no- I know they are. I always think about them. I always think how life would have turned if I hadn't killed my father.

And I always think of how I would have lived my dreams soon after graduating.

My dream was to have my own money and take mama out of that house! Because I know the only thing that made her stay was that she wanted to have a home for us.

For her kids.

I sigh, women- it's sad that you'd stay sad for so long. Stay in an unhappy home home. Closed in silence so long and not know the sound of your own voice just for the sake of doing it for your own kids

"Really?"

Dragon ask me. I turn to look at her

"Yeah.."

She steps down her bed and come to sit with me on mine.

We've grown too close in the past fifteen years. She helped me survive this place. She's been in here from almost twenty years now and hopefully going out soon

"You don't seem too excited though" she says placing her hand in mine

"I am.."

I sigh

"I'm not" I continue

She looks at me

"I don't know what's going to happen. Mama left the house to all of us when she died. Zama and Nomusa have been leaving there alone for

the past fifteen years. I don't know how they will feel seeing me.."

"Wanna smoke?"

I nod my head

she lit the cigarette puff before giving it to me..

"I hardly slept last night" I say after inhaling

"I understand. You must be nervous. Go out there and live your life"

I nod

"But promise me one thing?" I look at her

"That you wont forget about me.."

I chuckle and take her hand in mine before kissing it.

She's always been soft with me but has this dark side with people. I don't blame her though, it's how it's supposed to be for one to survive this place..

"I still have more beer in here, do you want us to drink before you leave?" I shake my head no..

I couldn't even drink the bread beer last night. I was just too nervous.

I don't know who's fetching me today but I'm hoping it's one of my sisters.

I need to talk to one of them before I arrive at home, just to let them know I'm not back to be their burden on anything.

If there's anything this place has taught me in the past 15 years, is independence. I've learned to live alone and survive alone and on what I don't have.

I hand the note to Dragon. She looks at it then at me

"Keep this, mother had written too many bible scriptures for me to read and survive on. I know they will help you get through.." she looks at me once again and chuckles

"I don't need scriptures from an unknown book to survive..."

"Dipu-"

"Its Dragon. Don't use that name in here!" She says cutting me off. I cannot afford to piss her off..

I stand up and decide to take a walk. It's only a few hours to go. I have heard on the radio that it's close to 8am. Visitors will only be allowed at 10am..

I can't wait but I'm nervous..

...

There is a sign, Suncity prison as we drive out of the prison, I'm leaving. I'm never coming back here...

I can tell by just looking at Nomusa that she's nervous as well. She's done well for herself if this is her car, it's small but comfortable. She's beautiful..

There's much I wanna say, maybe start by telling her how sorry I am that she had to witness all that 15 years ago while she was that young. I know I have traumatized her. It wasn't my intention to but all I needed was to save my mother..

"I have to drive past Zama's workplace to fetch her.." it's the first thing she says since I got in here..

"Okay.." it's also the only thing I manage to say. I won't lie, it's awkward in here. I want so bad to arrive at home..

We park outside these huge building, it's big. I want to ask so bad what is it that Zama does but I decide against it. The building is fancy...

We sit there in silence, she keeps on checking her phone until it eventually rings

"I'm outside.." she answer then keeps quiet

"Ahh Zama, you should have told me, now I drove all the way..."

"Its fine" then she hangs up before starting the ignition.

I decide not to ask again

"She has back to back meetings and can't go home with us,I guess it will just be the two of us.." she's talking to me

"What does she do?"I ask

"She's a journalist, she just started weeks ago after her internship"

Oh

"Then you?" I ask again, hoping that I'm not crossing my boundaries

"I'm a nurse, I thought you knew that"

No I don't but I keep quiet...

A lot has changed, my home has changed. It is no longer the four roomed RDP house I left years ago.. It's big, too big and beautiful, but I can not feel the warm welcome I did years ago. There are pictures on the wall. There is a picture of mother. Then another one of dad, mom, Nomusa, Zama and I..

"Let me show you your bedroom.." she says behind me.

We shared a bedroom years ago. I guess things have changed.

The bedroom is just too simple, there is a bed, wallwardrobe and a full body length mirror only "I didn't know how to decorate it, I didn't know what color Is it that you liked or just anything.." Its beautiful in my eyes

"Its beautiful" I'm not used to this..

"Let me leave you to settle, we'll go shop for a few clothes tomorrow, I'll go make you something to eat." I nod before she walks out.. I sit on the bed, its comfortable.

I dont know when was the last time I've heard such comfort..

I sit alone in the bedroom, the house has changed but the memories are still there..

They are haunting me so bad.

I rub my hands together, I've always done that...
no I need to smoke.. I have no cigarette.

Sigh

"Welcome back home Nana.." I imagine my mother's voice saying that to me..

I smile at the thought. I know she would have welcomed me with warm arms. .she's been with me through anything and everything. She made sure to visit me every Thursday and this one time, when I waited for her to visit me as always, only the police officers came to me to let me know she had died..

That killed me, part of me died. I didn't fight anymore to get out of that hell, I didn't look forward to freedom anymore. I had no one to come back to, I knew Zama and Nobuhle already hated me. The only person that understood why I had done this had left..

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

TWO

The loud whistles!

The Ululations!!

Women are singing!!

Someone's daughter is crying in pain. I'm there also singing. We're welcoming her in our prison cell, that was before I was moved to high prison, where I shared my cell only with Dragon..

She's crying... So loud, so piercing. None cares, this is how everyone is inside here. No one cares about the other, but we're just here to survive, all of us. Every man on his own..

"Ndikhumbula ekasi lami...Zaba yaba yaba yaba yaba

Oh umamami.. Utatami uzondixolela..Oh oh Ndikhumbula unmtanami, andazi udla ntoni na.." we're singing, so loud in joy. None sees anything wrong with what we're doing. We're celebrating life inside here, we're welcoming her inside.

There is no future in here but you just have to live inside here because you decided to take

your own freedom away from your very own self.

She's still crying the same way mama cried that night and on the other side is groaning, the very same way baba groaned that night. The groans gives me pleasure..

"Liyana!!" Someone wants to attack me, I quickly sit up and catch them by the throat.

She can't attack me.

She's trying hard to fight

"Liyana it's me.. " she's breathing hard.

I realise I had been dreaming. Shit!

I was strangling Nomusa..

I sigh

"I'm sorry, I thought you were here to attack me.." I say honestly

She coughs

"I'm sorry for waking you up, I wanted to tell you dinner is ready.."

I can't believe I passed out while on this bed.

"I'll go wash my face and join you.." she walks out after saying that Im I honestly could see the fear in her eyes. I'm scaring my own sister.

This is how it has always been one had to always look over their shoulders. Prison life is hard, its either you fight to survive or you stay still to die. I got used to fighting. I sit up straight, it's late. Probably 9pm. I think its 9pm. I walk to what I assume it's the bathroom and oh yes it's the bathroom..

..

Zama is back from work, there are kids talking and laughing in the kitchen, they are so happy. Zama hasn't changed a bit, she's just grown, she's beautiful.

"Hi.." I say in nervousness

"Hello.." she responds. Its awkward..

"Children come!" Zama shouts to the two kids in the kitchen, they come running to her and sit on the high chairs. They are so jolly

"Meet your aunt, Liyana.." she says to them.

They look at me in silence.. the younger one smiles, she's probably 5 years or younger.

And the older one looks 12years..

"Liyana this are my kids, Nompumelelo, she's 10 and this here is her younger sister Khanyi"

she says to me, it's no doubt that the kids are nervous if I might say, they can't even say hi to me

"They are cute"

That's the only thing I manage to say..

"Its home work time.."

The older one sulks before standing up and following her younger sister.

Zama is too quiet for my liking, not that I expected any warm welcome from her. But the coldness from her.

I sigh silently.

Maybe I should start the conversation

"How have you been?" I decide to ask her. I don't know if it's a good start but I at least I would have tried

she looks at me, Nomusa is quiet too, she's busy getting the plates ready for dinner.

I wish she would just stop and sit down so we can talk, its awkward with Zama, I doubt she even remembers what occurred 15 years ago...

"Fine.." it's the only thing she manages to say

I force a light laugh, I'm trying but it's pointless. I've never tried, it's my first time. I don't know how I should go about it..

She's looking at me, the hate and the judging is too visible in her eyes.. I'm trying so hard not to take it to heart. Maybe I do understand where she is coming from. She was very young when I left.

"I thought you'd want to spend your parole years somewhere far away from us. It's funny how you decided to kill our father then push our mother to depression and still have the nerve to come and stay with us-" -Zama

"Zama!!!" Nomusa interrupts her.

"Why the hell would you say that to Liyana?"
She continues.

I'm quiet.

I shouldn't have tried

"Its fine, she had to say her heart" I say.

It's not fine. No it's not fine at all. I killed their father to protect my mother!

To help my sisters and I not grow in a broken home. Mom couldn't leave him, I didn't mean to kill him but I wanted to make him stop

"No, she didn't have to say that! I'm sorry .."

"Its fine, I'll go lay down.."

I stand up.

I'm not hungry. I got used to eating two times a day. So hunger wont be any problem to me.

I've survived all this years...

I walk back to "my" bedroom and lay on the bed, I need so bad to smoke. It always helped me distress.

My chest is literally painful. I'm finding it hard to breath but I try hard not to scream or shout.

My hands are shaking. Maybe prison was my home. If I knew, i would have committed another murder and get another sentence.

Atleast in there no one judged me, we could not judge each other. We were in there for different reasons but with same heart's, Dark..

We were away from this, from our realities.

Prison was home..

Moments later, Nomusa walks in with a plate in her hands and sits on the bed with me.

I'm quiet, she is too. I have nothing to say to her
"I understand why you killed him.."

She says.

I say nothing

"I would have done the same thing too if it was me. I remember some of the things that occurred. When mama cried helplessly and sometimes you would sit with me all night hush me to sleep while you could not sleep.."

I'm still quiet, I don't know how I feel at the moment. I've never shown any emotion to anything since I've been in there. The only time i did was when they told me mama was no more..

"Zama is just angry because of the note mama left before she died. She felt as though mama loved you enough to forget about us and just do it for you."

She sighs

"I've brought you food.."

"Thank you.." I say

"I'm off tomorrow, we'll go shop for things you will need" she says again.

I nod

"But we'll have to wait for my parole officer to come then we'll go later.." I say

She nods.

Again, I'm quiet..

She brushes my hands.

Dragon used to do that alot when she felt I was down, which I totally didn't understand.

"I love you Liyana okay?" She says squeezing my arms a bit..

I smile a little..

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

THREE

"It killed me that I had to wake up daily, wonder what my daughter is eating? How my daughter is surviving? Knowing very well that I had a plate full of meal everyday in my house.

I should have left. I know I should. Now her freedom has been taken away from her, I blame my self, she took the step I had failed to take.

Nomusa, take care of your little sister for me.
You both know how much I love you..."

I stop reading.

I don't wanna read anymore. Nomusa shouldn't have gave me this note to read, if it's supposed to make me feel any better then its not helping the situation.

I don't know how I feel about it, part of me is happy she knew I was in because of her selfishness and part of me is sad that she had to commit suicide because she couldn't handle all the pain.

No- infact I'm not sad at all. I'm not, actually I'm angry, I'm angry at the fact that she chose the easy way out.

Life is hard out there, I've seen the most dangerous side of life and I've heard to bare it all, she could have done the same thing..

"See why Zama is angry about all this?"

She says, I think she raised I'm not reading anymore..

"Yeah.." it's all I manage to say..

"We found the note on her bedside table the night she had killed herself.." I want to ask how she did it but I decide against it.

Maybe it's better this way, when I just know that she committed suicide

"She had been going through a lot. She had changed and people around here thought she had lost her mind because all she did was to roam around the streets and talk all alone.. I just didn't know that it was that deep, I just thought it was just street.." she says.. we're sitting on my bed..

"She used to Visit me every Thursday.." I say, I don't know what more to say to her

She stands from my bed.

"Get ready.. Your parole officer is outside."

Oh it's time to sign..

I get up from the bed and follow her to the sitting room too.

The parole officer is indeed sitting comfortably on the chair busy going through some documents...

Seeing her, just takes me back to prison. The brown uniform just makes me uneasy..

We go through everything. She shows me where I have to do and I sign on the dotted lines, she does too..

This is my life now..

...

I'm a bit uneasy as we walk in the mall, I cant even remember what it felt like walking in a mall...

I can't stop looking at people walking past us, the clothes they are wearing...

I'm dressed in Zama's Jeans and just a plain top and all stars. They fit me perfectly, we have the same body size..

"I think we should start here for underwears.."she says

I turn to look at her, I want to go against it but I decide to keep quiet.

I haven't worn panties in like years, I got used to it..

"This is Zama's favourite shop.." she says as we are busy checking on the clothes.

I honestly hate her fashion sense. Everything she chooses for me is just not my style. I think I could do only with Jean's and just plain T-shirts..

I ignore the topic about Zama. I haven't spoken to her. I think it's better that way.

I just hate being reminded that I killed my own father. I would do it again and again and again. "What do you think about this?" What the fuck is this?

A dress?

I shake my head no

"Haou Liyana.."

"I'm not going to wear that!" She laughs

...

"Nomusa!!!" Someone shouts Nomusa's name as we exit the the mall. We have lots and lots of plastics with us. I honestly think we went overboard. This is not enough but it's too much.. But I'm happy she got me a cellphone, at least I will be able to call Dragon. A box of cigarettes too.

She turns.. I can see her reaction, it changes as she sees a man walking towards us, she looks scared... Terrified..

The man walks towards us, looks at me then at her

"Why did you block my numbers?" The attitude?

"Here are my car keys, you can go to the car, I'll be right there in a moment.." she says trying to hand the car keys over to me. She's shaking, literally

"Are you sure you're going to be fine?" I ask, she nods.

Something is not right. He looks at me, the looks he's giving me is supposed to creep me but it's not..

I hesitantly walk to the car, I don't know how this key is used but I've seen her click something to unlock, I do the same and place all the plastic bags inside..

I can see, she's trying to fight him, their talk is getting almost physical. I want to stay here and

just keep away from trouble but my heart doesn't let me too..

I get out of the car and go back to them

"Thato leave me alone!" She says to him

"Is everything okay here?" I ask, as polite as I can

Nomusa is silent, the guy looks at her

"Is it?" He asks her

She nods.

I know it's not

"Let's go home Nomusa.." I say to her

"She is still busy, you can go.." he says to me

Men frustrated the hell out of me!!

"Was I talking to you?"

I'm surely but surely losing it. I don't want to.

Nomusa has this look of fear in her eyes..

"Liyana just go.."

She's on the verge of crying. This is attracting too many eyes on us and I do not care.

"Asambe!" I say to her, this time making sure to sound as harsh as I can.

Lord, I don't wanna get in any..

"Tell your friend to leave Nomusa. Before I do something we will all regret.." the guy says again.

I want to laugh and clap my hands once but instead I grab Nomusa and decide to walk with her to the car..

"Who is he?" I ask as I drag her to her car. She's still shaking. Maybe I shouldn't have asked now

"It's my ex, the father of my kids.." she says after long silence...

"Is he abusing you in anyway"

I didn't need to ask...

As I'm about to open the door, the guy closes it. He followed us. I'm losing it honestly. I'm not looking for any trouble but it seems as though trouble is looking for me.

I try to push him but he pushes me against the car and soon has me by my throat..

Nomusa is in between us trying hard to make him stop..

...

"I swear, that man was here to ask for directions!!!" Mama is pleading with him.. He's not stopping at all, he kicks her so hard on the stomach.

He doesn't seem to listen.

Zama is fast asleep, Nomusa cannot sleep, I'm busy brushing her back with her head on my thighs trying to make her fall asleep.

Today, he didn't even close the door to their bedroom. He's drunk. He's beating her right there.

It's painful.

Mama has to endure this all her life..

I was only 23, I couldn't even study. It was hard. Baba was a good man, the problem started when he would come back home drunk. He would accuse mama of all things bad..

And today, history repeats itself...

There is a guy in between us, he managed to stop Nomusa's baby daddy. I'm coughing hard..

The guy has him by his clothes..

Nomusa is frustrated.. She's even crying..

It breaks my heart..

The guy finally let's go of the baby daddy.

Baby daddy points a finger at Nomusa

Before uttering

"I'm not done with you.."then walks away.

I'm still coughing the guy looks at me

"Are you okay?"

I nod

"I... I'm sorry you had to go through that.."

She's still crying..

"Is this your car?" He ask

"No, its my sister's" I answer

"Get in and go home, you will be fine. Don't worry he won't do anything to you again.."

He says in a sure tone..

I don't think Nomusa will be able to drive. I

don't think I still remember how to drive. I cant..

"Will you be able to drive?" I ask Nomusa

She nods but I'm not at all satisfied

"You know what, just get your important things,

I'll drop you off where you stay and we'll send

someone to come fetch the car, how's that?" He

asks

"No, we'll be fine.." I don't trust men at all. I don't think I ever will

"I won't do anything if that's what you think"

"I said, we will be fine. Get inside Nomusa, I'll drive!"

I open the door and get inside.

To be continued

Another insert will follow at 9pm. This was yesterday's insert.

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

FOUR

I have been smoking. I missed smoking.

In times like this, I missed Dragon so much. She would brush my back while I'm smoking because she would be trying to calm me down after a fight with other inmates.

I miss her so bad. Life with her was always better. She always managed to make sure I forget the reality. She was my reality..

I make a mental note to go see her on Thursday. The house is quiet as I finish smoking and go back inside.

Nomusa has been sleeping since we got back to the mall, I think she's going to work tomorrow. The kids are not around too, I don't know if I should go wake her up and ask her if she knows where they are since it's getting late..

I want to cook but I know It'll just be hell. The last time I had cooked something was about 15 years ago. I'm not sure I can still cook...

The door opens just as I'm still planing on what I can do..

The kids run inside with their bag packs, still In school uniform and Zama follows.

I sigh silently. I'm not ready for her

"Hi auntie!!" Nompumelelo says, I smile

"Hi nana." She opened her bag and takes out a packet of snacks

"I got this for you..." I smile

"Thank you.."

"Go change, it's late." Zama says to her in a the most harsh tone. I decide to keep quiet about it.. Khanyi follows her sister to their bedroom.

Their mother is still sleeping. I should go check up on her. I'm a bit worried about her.

"You didn't cook?" And prince Zama decides to ask as I walk to Nomusa's bedroom.

I turn back to her

"I was about to.."

"So late? We usually cook at 3pm here, that's how it should be. You should know that by now.." this child..

"I'm sorry, but I'll keep that in mind.."

She ignores me..

I stand at Nomusa's bedroom door, she's busy on her cellphone. I'm glad she is okay.

I clear my throat and she turns to look at me, putting her phone away and sitting up straight.

"I just came to check on you.." she smiles, its faint.

"I'm sorry you had to go through that.." she apologizes for the hundredth time now

I walk over to her bed

"You've been apologising.."

"That's because I feel bad about it.." she says

"What's really going on between your baby daddy and you?"

"Its complicated.." I hate this

"How?"

"I have to go make something to eat for us, I'm sure you didn't cook"

I hate it when someone dismisses such serious topic.

It was always like this with mom

"I can't leave Nana, where will we go? What are we going to eat? Atleast finish school. Work for me, for your sisters so we can leave this toxic place and never come back. For now I'll hold on so we can have proof over our heads and food to eat.."

she always said that yo dismiss me.

I hate it. I hate this

"You should get a restraining order against him before it's too late Nomusa.." she keeps quiet while putting her slippers on and walking away. This frustrates me alot..

...

I walk to the kitchen, I want to help her.

Zama is busy on her laptop on the kitchen table.

Nomusa is peeling the vegetables.

I have to do something

"Do you need any help?" I ask her

She looks at me before nodding

"Yes, you can peel the potatoes for me..."

I go to the sink and wash my hands before
looking for a knife to help her

"Theo attacked me at the mall today.." Nomusa
says, she's telling Zama

Zama lifts her head from the laptop bringing all
the attention to her sister

"What?" She asks

"Yeah.."

"Why don't you go back to the police station to
report him again?" She asks. A very good
question

Nomusa sighs

"I don't understand why you would want to
protect this guy so much when he has put you
through so much hell.." Zama continues

"I doubt he'll try to attack me again, he knows
Liyana is back from prison.."

I doubt. I honestly doubt. He's going to attack
her over and over again!!!

"You mean because he knows the killers is back right?" That...

"Zama please.."

"I don't understand why you want me to treat Liyana as if she's the best sister when you know very well that she's a murderer!!" I'm still quiet, I don't wanna say anything. As much as it pierces through my heart, I force my mouth shut.

"Zama I have had the longest day, not you again!" Nomusa says

"You know what, I'm moving out. I cannot stay in the same house with the very same person that killed my own father!!!" She breathes hard. I don't understand the type of anger she has towards me!

I have been punished, why should she punish me like this?

"I don't know what it feels like to be loved by my own father, she robbed me that chance!!! She took that chance away from me!!!"

There's rage in her eyes when she says all this.

I'm laughing sarcastically before I could stop myself. I can't help it.

I stand up to go stand right in her face

"You're acting like some spoiltbrat right now.."

I'm trying so hard to act calm but I swear, I wanna stab her in the heart.

"You feel like this life revolves around you and you fucken have no idea what I went through to protect you from the very same person you're claiming I robbed you the chance of being loved by!!! Sis, you wouldn't be this woman you are today if I hadn't killed him. And you know what if I had the chance to kill him again and again and again, I would just so you wouldn't grow up in a dysfunctional home like I did, broken!!!!"

I take my pack of cigarettes and matches and just open the door and walk out.

I really need some get some air.

She can go to hell for all I care, I'm tired of trying to make things right with her. I sent owe her anything.

I don't know where I'm going to. Everything around here has changed so much. The place

doesn't have that kasi feel anymore, the houses are big, there is a tar road. Pavements, street lights.

I can see Mam'Betty's house. I heard she passed on years ago. She has been sick for a while and I heard her granddaughter is leaving with her husband in there..

I'm busy admiring the houses when a big black car passes me then stops and reserves to me...

The driver rolls down the window. I know this guy

"And we meet again.." he says..

I keep quiet..

He switches off the ignition before getting out of the car..

And comes to my side..

He's tall, very tall.

I don't know why I notice that..

"Nkosinathi Ndlovu.." he says bringing his hand for a handshake but I don't meet his instead I just look at it

"Liyana Khumalo..."

"You stay around?" He asks

"Yes and I have to go really.." I say walking away...

I hate men.

"Liyana.."

I turn to look at him

"You're beautiful.." he says

Only Dragon used to tell me that..

I walk away. I don't need any man to tell me I'm beautiful.

To be continued.

Forgive me, it's a little bit short and not edited...

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

FIVE

"You sound like someone in love.." she always has something better to say.

I laugh.

I don't know when was the last time I spoke to someone so close to my heart.

"I'm just happy I can speak to you.." i say

"You've kept your promise.."

I did, I promised her I would call her as soon as I get a cellphone.

I promised her I would always keep in touch..
I've known her numbers by heart.
She's had this phone for the past years and I
should say it's what kept us going.
She managed to sneak in deals just so we could
run business inside there.
We've survived with that phone
"How's everything going?" She asks...
I sigh..
"Its going pretty well.." I say. I'm not sure
though
"But you don't sound like that.."
See, Dragon always knows when things aren't
well on my side.
She's like the mother I've never had in my life..
"I'm just trying to get used to the place, it's not
an easy task to do though.. "
"I get what you mean. But how are they treating
you?" Again another sigh.
Nomusa is treating me so well, he children too
but Zama... She's just another story.

"Nomusa is just okay, she took me shopping just two days ago and yeah I should say things are okay between us.."I say

"And Zama?" She speaks of them as though she knows them..

Well, she does. Not in person but I always told her about them..

She's always been a great listener. I have too.

"Ahh, I don't know.." I say.

"Just give it some time, i think she's still trying to accept you and everything that's happened.."I wish I could say I understand but I dont..

"And you, How's everything?" She chuckles

"Well, still pushing life and surviving you know.." she's always been happy this one.

"Love?" I laugh

"Its still a bit early for that and besides what's that?" She laughs

Sboshwa!!!!

I can hear the warder shouting..

I chuckle, this was the best moments of my life...

"Eish lescefe! I have to go.." she whispers.

I laugh and hang up..

It's pretty much late Nomusa is working nightshift and Zama has gone out with the kids. I know for sure that she's avoiding me.

I'm trying to sleep but I can't sleep, there's an image of a man which keeps on appearing. I'm trying so hard not to think about it..

...

I'm woken up by third sense.

You know when you feel as though there's something or someone watching you...

I sit up straight, there's no one. The lights are still on, I never switch off my bedroom lights..

I wear my slippers and go check if Zama and the kids are back but there's no one, its 3:30am..

I get worried. They should be back. Oh I finished my airtime, I have to send call messages to Nomusa and I do, my phone rings in just a moment

"Liyana, is everything okay?" It's the first thing she asks..

"Yes.. I mean no..Yes.." what do I say?

"Zama and the kids are not back yet, I'm worried.." I finally say

"Oh, I'm really sorry, I forgot to let you know that they were sleeping over at her friends place.."

Why the fuck didn't you tell me?

I keep quiet instead. I don't want her to feel as though I'm making this about me.

"Its fine.."

"Its not, I should have told you. I'm really sorry.."she says again

"No it's okay, I'll just go back to sleep.." I say
I know I won't be able to sleep again. Maybe I'm just paranoid. I've always been like this prison, feeling as though there's someone watching me. It has always been like that, leaving in fear and knowing someone might just come and attack you when you're fast asleep.

One was forced to sleep with one eye open.

Its 7am when I wake up. I dozed off on the couch.

I have to be at the Home before 9am. I hate that I'm forced to start working at the home, taking care of the orphans, playing with them and all. I let out a heavy sigh as I walk to the bathroom and take a quick bath.

Nomusa is in the house by the time I'm done bathing and ready to leave the house..

"Liyana.." she says as she's making her coffee

"I didn't know you're back" I say to her

"I am, and i made sure to come back as soon as I knocked off so I can drive you to the home"

It's just a few streets away. I know for sure that I can walk there

"You didn't have to, I'll walk.." I say

"What? I cannot let you just go there on your own on your first day"

I smile.

I'll always appreciate her efforts

"So what do I tell your warder when they come here?"

Oh, they know they'll find me at the home and actually if they do find me here, I'll get in trouble cause they have assigned me to do some

"charity work" at the home, which I already hate..

"Anyway, I got you a gift to apologize for not telling you that Zama and the kids were spending the night out.."

"What is it?" I ask as she hands a small paper bag to me..

"Open.." I open, it's a box. I don't know what's inside. Oh it's a perfume.. I don't know when was the last time I owned one or even smelled nice

I thank her...

..

I already hate this place by just being here.

Most of the children here are above 15 and just a few of them are younger..

Nomusa left immediately after dropping me off..

I'm in the kitchen busy mopping the floor when some lady walks in...

"Hi.." she's shy.

"Hello" I continue doing my work

"I'm Dineo" I honestly don't want to engage in any conversation but I guess I don't need to be rude on my first day

"Liyana." I say

"Are you knew here?" She ask as though we're school kids

"Yeah, I'm forced to."

She chuckles

"I know how you feel, I've been there too but I eventually grew some love for this place. I know you will too"

I turn to look at her.

She's beautiful. She has this natural look which just reminds me of Dragon. She has a beautiful smile as well..

"You're an ex convict?" She nods

"But it wasn't anything big. Was just arrested for selling dagga.." I can't help but laugh.

She looks at me

"So they're making you do this charity thing just for being prisoned for a year or less?"

She rolls her eyes before moving to the stove.

She checks the porridge in the pot

"But it was years ago. Long time ago"

I nod

"What did you do?" She asks

"Let's just say I did something big" i say, I'm no longer comfortable with this conversation.

"I'll go clean the other rooms" I say before walking away

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

Six

Dineo..

I've scored a new friend.

We've been working together as the home for three days now and I should say she is a good person.

Nomusa is in the bedroom sleeping, she came back just a few moments ago and Zama is at work.

I feel like she hasn't been giving herself enough time to rest just because she's avoiding being in the house with me...

The kids too left an hour ago to school.

I decide to make Nomusa something to eat before leaving to work, I know it's going to be terrible but atleast I would have tried..

...

The walk to the home seems too long today, it's very hot for 8am..

I'm still walking while listening to music through the headsets on my phone when a black car stops.

I roll my eyes. When will this guy leave me alone?

He rolls the window down

"Get in, I can give you a ride.." he says through the window

What a disrespectful bastard!

I'm tired though, its pretty much hot but I don't give in. I'd rather walk then sit in a car with some stranger..

"Liyana.." oh I forgot I told him my name.

What the fuck!!!

"No, I'm fine.."

"No you're not, it's fine, I'll drop you off at the home" he says.

How did he know I'm going there?

I hesitate a bit before going inside the car.

There is a beeping sound as he drives away. I don't know what it is

"Seatbelt" he says

"Huh?" I'm lost

"Fasten your seatbelt" oh that..

I do as I'm told.

I'm uncomfortable in the car. He seems to notice, we've been quiet

"You seem uncomfortable" he says

"You're a stranger, I have to be" I say to him

He chuckles..

"How are you Liyana?" His voice is deep. Why do I notice them random things from him?

Things I shouldn't even bother my self about?

Last time I checked I hated men with all my heart and suddenly, I notice even the small things from this stranger.

No, its final, I'm a hoe! It doesn't need any discussion.

When did I change to this girl? See, this is why I hate life outside.

"I'm okay.." I finally say.

He doesn't seem to give in to my answer.

He is driving so slow, i can't wait to get out of here already.

"How are things at the shelter?" He asks again.

Okay, last time I checked, I only told him my name, not everything about my life. Wait... Is he stalking me

"I didn't tell you I was working at the home.." I say

"I dropped my sister in law there yesterday and I saw you cleaning.." sister in law?

I scan his fingers, there's no ring.

Why the fuck did I even do that?

"Oh.." it's the only thing I manage to utter

He parks outside the home

"Can I fetch you later so we can do dinner?" He asks

"No" I utter without even thinking about it

He looks at me, he's serious.

I need to get out of here as soon as I can.

"And thank you for the lift.."

"7:30 sharp, I'll fetch you at your place.." he says before unlocking the door.

Does this motherfucker know that I'm capable of killing a human being?

Maybe if I do tell him, then he'll stay the hell away from me

"Nkosinathi..." I call out his name

He smiles before his dark gaze fixes on me. I hate this already

"I'm not working here because I want to. I was forced to. I have been in prison for the past 15 years and I just came out last week. You wanna know why I was in? Because I killed a man!" I say, I'm supposed to sound calm and collected but no, my voice is just something else!

"Yah, 7:30 sharp!"

He says again .

I get off the car and just walk inside the home. MaKhumalo is already in cleaning.

"Ma.." she runs this home

She smiles when she sees me. This woman has this warn heart.

"You're early today.."

Because some bastard decided to give me lift!

I don't say

"Yah, how are you?" I ask

"I'm okay, how are you?"

"I'm good"

I'll have to put the pots on the stove, I don't even know how to cook but I have to busy my self around here..

"Is Dineo here yet?" I ask

"No, she said she would be coming in very late today..." I'm suddenly worried about her, I don't know why but I am

"Can you please go check if the kids are still fine on the other side, the nurse will be coming in today.." I nod

"And don't worry about the pots, I'll handle everything in the kitchen today" again I nod.

I walk away to the hall, the kids are there. Most of them have gone to school.

I sit and just watch the younger ones play.

This takes me back to when mama was still alive. I had to take care of Zama and Nomusa while mama was sleeping in the bedroom

nursing the wounds she would have endured from daddy's beatings.

I don't understand my emotions, I'm suddenly sad about all this.

A hand on my shoulder startle me. I turn to find Dineo

I smile

"I thought you'd be coming in late.." I say to her before she sits down and joins me

"I was until my sister came through.." she says I don't understand but I don't want to ask

"I had no one to look after my daughter, there is a strike at her school so she had no where else to go but my sister came to fetch her, she's spending the weekend with them.." she says

Oh she told me she has a 5years old daughter.

"I'm sorry to hear that.." I say

"Its fine, atleast my sister came through" Yeah.

"So any plans for the weekend? Its friday today." She asks

Some bastard wants me to go out with him.

"No, none" I say

"I have the house all to my self this weekend. You can come spend the weekend with me." I'm tempted to say yes, I really need some time out of that house but I just cant. I dont even know when those stupid warders will be coming.

"I'm still on Parole you know?"

"Argh!!" She rolls her eyes. I laugh

"But its fine, I'll just buy a bottle of whiskey and just drink my self to sleep. I honestly needed some time alone. Atleast I would cry alone" I laugh at that.

She's going through a break up. Her baby daddy just moved out of their home just days ago.

Argh. Such life problems.

See why I don't like men?

"You'll be fine though. Or you can come and spend the day with my sisters and I at our place. I'm sure they won't mind.." i say

"That sounds like a good idea.." she says

....

Its 5pm when I knock off, I'm really tired. I need to bath and just sleep

I pass by at a nearest Indian shop and buy a cigarette before walking home.

..

There's a small silver car parked just outside our home as I get inside. I don't know it, I've never seen it. Zama drives a white car and Nomusa's car is here parked too.

I walk in and there's screaming in the house as I get in.

Nomusa is in her work uniform and looks ready to leave but has a knife in her hands pointing at.. Oh baby daddy.

"Dare try something to me, I swear Theo I'll stab you!!!" She says in fear.

"What's going on here?" I ask both of them as I walk in. Baby daddy turns to me before actually laughing.

"Talk to this sister of yours to stop this madness!!" He says to me

"Theo get out!!!" Nomusa says

"You know you won't win this!!! I'm going to take my kids away from you!! I want to make sure you suffer! You cannot just decide to cut

me out of my children's lives just because I
slapped you just once!!" He says

"Get out!!" She shouts

I look at him

"Get out.." I say as calm as I can

He takes his car keys and phone on the table and
walks out.

Nomusa is breathing hard, she's trying not to cry
but it just seems too hard for her not to.

I go to her and she just lets it all out as soon as I
hug her

"Why can't he just leave me alone?" she says in
sobs

"Is it not enough that he raped me, physically
and emotionally abused me and because he has
money, he made sure the law is on his side? Is it
not enough huh?" She's sobbing so hard it
breaks my heart!!

To be continued

There'll be another insert during the day

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

SEVEN

"What's really going on Nomusa?" I ask after a while..

She's calm now. I don't like asking but I feel like I have to.

"Theo just wants to make my life a living hell.."
I don't think she fit to go to work right now. She has been crying. It's been close to an hour now since we have been sitting on this couch.

I've never seen her this messed up

"How?" I ask

She shrugs

"Should I make you tea?" I ask maybe it'll help her.

I stand up to go back to the kitchen

"I'll call Matron and tell her I can't go in today.."
that's better

I walk away and fill the kettle with water while taking out two cups of tea.

She follows me to the kitchen after a few moments.

"I spoke to Matron, she understands.."

"That's better.." I pass the cup of tea to her. She thanks me after taking it

"He was a good man, I don't know what changed.."she says after a moments of silence..
The kids are hardly around here.

She did say that they mostly spend their time at their grandmother's place. Theo's mother.

I still dont understand what he meant when he said he'll take the kids when he already has them.

They kids practically stay with the paternal grandmother.

I understand why, being a nurse is demanding.

Zama too is hardly home because how demanding her job also is..

"Everything changed when his business got successful. He changed to this man I don't recognize. He started cheating and when i confronted him he would beat me. Sometimes i would refuse to sleep with him because i would want us to test but he would forcefully sleep with me..." we're back to square one, she's about to cry.

I'm just sitting here listen to her vent.

I hate this, I hate the fact that my very own sister has to go through what our mother went through

"Why don't you get a restraining order against him?" I ask

"You think I haven't tried? Our justice system is just shit. Now he comes hwew every chance he gets to threaten me. I don't know what more he wants from me because I'm over him now.." she says and sniffs

"I think we should go back to the police station to report him, I'll be with you.."

She shakes her head

"You don't understand.."

What's there to understand?

"Musa I don't need to understand. We're reporting him again cause I know that if we dont, I'll go back to prison. I will not let him just do as he pleases with you and just sit there and do nothing!" I say.

I mean it.

Yes, I miss prison but I don't wanna go back there.

Being in there is the worst thing that's ever happened to me. I've got all the punishment. I've had it hard, the bittersweet memories as well but I just don't wanna go back there.

I've missed this freedom

"He will only pay the officers to make the case disappear and just make my life a living hell!" I don't wanna get all worked up but this is tiring, why do I have to go back to square one?

I sigh and take my cup of me and walk away

"I need to bath and just sleep, I'm tired.." I say as I walk away.

...

My hair is just a mess. I decide that I'll be cutting my short when I have money.

I'm sitting in the bedroom trying to familiarize my self with all the social media platforms when there's a light knock on my bedroom door.

I'm in pjs.

"Come in.." I say.

If there's anything i enjoy more than anything else since i got out is the privacy..

I'm shocked to see Zama walk in

"Hi.. There's someone at door, looking for you.." she says

"For me?" I'm shocked. Who would come look for me at this time of the day? It's almost 7:30pm

She nods

I stand up and follow her.

I almost roll my eyes to find Nkosinathi sitting comfortably in the kitchen with Nomusa. There is a bottle and a glass of water for him on the kitchen table.

They are laughing at some stupid joke I don't even wanna know about.

I clear my throat. Zama walks to the kitchen counter and keeps herself busy.

"Nkosinathi.." he looks at me. I must admit. He has this intimidating personality.

"You're in pajamas? I thought we had a date?"he says standing up

No I don't have a date with you..

"I know I'm the reason why she forgot I'm really sorry." Nomusa says

I look at her. Is she for real right now?

"But it's still early, you can still go and change.."

No!

"You know what, let me walk Nkosinathi out. I'll be back in a few.." I say.

I want to sound as polite as i can but i just cant.

"It was pleasure meeting you ladies.." he says to both Nomusa and Zama.

They say their goodbyes.

We walk out in silence. It's a bit cold outside. I should have worn a gown for real to keep me warm.

We walk to his car, its parked just outside the gate. He is driving another one, different in colour. It's also big.

He has his hands in his pockets. He notices that I'm cold

"We can chill in the car.." he says

"Okay.."

what TF! I should be going back inside.

I did say, I'm a hoe!!

He opened the passenger door for me and I get inside and he goes on his side and gets in as well

"Should I turn on the heater?" I didn't know cars had heaters.

I don't wanna embarrass my self though.

I just nod and he does that.

We sit in long silence. Its heavy. I should be sleeping right now or eating. I haven't had anything to eat

"I think we should drive to the nearest drive thru and atleast get something to eat. I'm hungry.."

he speaks as if reading my mind

"Yah, I'm hungry nam.." I say before I could stop my self.

Liyana Khumalo when did you become this person?

"Why did you kill the man?" He ask

His focus is on the road. I think he's asking about what I told him earlier on.

The most shocking part about all this is I feel free around him. He doesnt scare me. I don't hate him as much as I say I hate men.

I sigh silently

"I couldn't bare seeing him abuse my mother anymore.." I say

He is quiet, i don't know what he is thinking but I know for sure that he is.

I want him to ask or maybe say something but he is just quiet, his silence is heavy on me

"I was young by then though, 23 years.." I continue. Hoping he would say something. Why do i suddenly hope?

"Who was he?" He asks

"My father..."

"How long have you been in?" He ask again

"15 years" I don't know why I'm comfortable answering to him.

I dont usually talk to people about this. I always dismiss such topics.

"So Nkosinathi who are you?" I want to change the topic

"I'm Nkosinathi Ndlovu, I thought I had already told you that.."

You did but I wanna know more about this stranger that doesnt wanna stay away from me.

He parks at McDonald's and orders food for both of us.

Soon we're driving out. I'm hungry, I'm already eating the chips.

"Where do you stay?" I ask

"In Midrand.." he says without thinking

But man you're always in Tembisa..

"I have friends around here.. incase why're thinking why I'm always here. " he says

"You check on your friends even in the morning?"

He chuckles

"No, I had some business to do today Liyana.."

It sounds powerful.

Moments later we're parked just outside my gate.

We're eating. Its cost. I don't like this but I'm enjoying it.

"How old are you?" He ask just randomly.

Why?

"I'm turning 37 in two days time.."

Yes, two days time.

I'll be celebrating my birthday for the first time in years. I'm excited about it

"Two days time?" He ask I nod.

"So we are celebrating?" I laugh

"Yes, I mean I haven't celebrated my birthday since 15 years ago.." I say.

We're back to being serious.

"I love how strong you are.." he says, he's serious. His voice sounds deeper. It's.. No

maybe I shouldn't even think about it

It's getting late, I should go back inside the house but I still want to be in here..

Sigh..

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

EIGHT

I've been trying to avoid this knock on my bedroom door but its quiet clear Nomusa wont go away. I open my eyes and throw t the pillow on the closed bedroom door!!!

I damn hate this.

This is probably the first time I'd slept peaceful in years. I've been tired, my body needed this much rest.

I drag my feet to the door and unlock it then go back to Nestle back under the covers.

She chuckles

"Last night must have been to busy hey!!" She says.

I almost roll my eyes.

I came back inside the house very late.

Everyone was already asleep.

People wont believe me if I tell them nothing happened. We just spoke about anything and everything

He's free to be around. I won't lie, I enjoy his company more than I enjoy anyone's company.

Dragon will have to forgive me about this.

No, bendikhulumile ukuthi ndiyisfebe.

Why do I suddenly feel so comfortable around a man?

I thought I hated everything that had to do with men!

"What time is it?" I ask

"Very late.. Zama is off, I am too so we were thinking, how about we have some girl's day out today. Just go shopping, do our hair and nails and just everything. My treat.." I honestly don't think it's a good idea

"Nah, you guys can go.." she sighs sitting on the bed too

"I'm trying to bring back the sister bond between the two of you but you guys ain't making things any easier on my side.." I want to argue but I don't know what to say

"Just this once Liyana, I promise if it doesn't work out then I won't try again.."

Argh, this one is putting me in a difficult situation

"Okay.." I say. I know she wouldn't have given up.

She stands from my bed, I do do too, to make the bed.

I'm hoping she would walk out but she's not, instead she folds her arms and lean against the bedroom wall. Oh she's making her self comfortable in my bedroom.

I turn to look at her

"I thought we were done.." i say

She smiles. This smile it's just too naughty and wicked for my liking

"I don't mean to pry but.."

"I feel like you're about to.." I say cutting her.

She chuckles and throws her hands up in a form of surrender

"Okay okay, I'm curious..." she says

"Theres something about him." Silence..

I'm waiting for her to say more

"I don't know... He's a definition of a man.."

Eh?

"How he smiles. His seriousness, his muscles.

How that Jersey fit those muscles so perfect last night.."

She closes her eyes and cover her mouth

"Did you see his smile? The beard? Hair air mtaka ma. Where did you get him?"

I'm now folding my arms looking at her I actually wanna laugh at her reaction. Its just to hilarious. I've never seen her like this

"Who are you talking about?" I ask laughing

"Nathi.. " I finally laugh out so loud
"I swear if he wasn't here for my very own sis, I
would have made a move on him.." she says
"He's a whole snack.. No a whole meat platter."
I'm still laughing. It's been a while since I've had
such good laugh.
"Can I finish what I'm doing..." I say
She walks out laughing
"We're not done.." she says.
This one should have been a journalist.
My phone rings just as I'm done making the bed
and about to go to brush my teeth then go
kitchen and join the sisters from breakfast.
The only people that calls me on this phone is
Dragon, Nomusa and Dineo but I don't
recognize this number.
I hesitate taking the call but it rings again..
"Sure.." I say
"That sounds too ghetto.."
I chuckle. Nathi..
"Hi.."
"And that's even more streetwise."
I laugh

"Wenzani? Let me treat you for breakfast.."

"Ahh, Nomusa already has made breakfast and wants us to get ready for some girls day out.." I say

"Okay, how about you give me a call when you get back and we'll see what we can do after that?"

Sigh

"I don't have airtime" I can imagine him cocking an eyebrow as he always does.

That's one thing I've noticed he enjoys doing.

"I hope I didn't get you in any trouble with your sisters last night.." he says

"No. everyone was already asleep." I say

"That's better. The last thing I need is get you in any kind of trouble."

I smile

"Okay, I'll call you back later" he says

I hung up, I don't know what's the good way to say goodbye.

My phone beeps, there is a message.

It's an Ewallet. R5000.

I don't even know what an Ewallet service is.

Its followed by a text from him
"Buy airtime. Use your number"
Just like that...

Zama is alone in the kitchen when I walk in.
Part of me wants me to greet her but part me
just feels like ignoring her.

I don't want any drama. It's very much early for
that..

I walk straight to the fridge and get the juice
"Morning.. " I finally say.

Silence.

Sigh, you see?

I walk to the kitchen table and just sit down.
The breakfast is ready.

Nomusa walks in, I think she's was in the
bathroom or something.

She's still all smiles when she sits down.

"What time are you fetching the kids today?"

Zama asks Nomusa.

"I'm not, I'll fetch them tomorrow. I just wanna
spend the day with my sisters."

There's silence..

"So we're getting a weave for you Liyana. That short hair looks so dull.."

Gosh!!

"No Nomusa, I'm fine..."

"You're not. You have to charm Mr. Nathi.."

I roll my eyes

"Speaking of Nathi, you're so quick neh?" Zama decides to say. .

Unbelievable..

"What do you mean?" Nomusa asks.

The laughter is now gone..

"I mean just that.."

Silence, only the sounds of plates

"I mean, it's barely two weeks since she got out. She's already sleeping with someone.." she chuckles lightly. .

Nomusa is now looking at her in disbelief

"Or is he one of the thugs that comes in prison to bring you drugs to run the business inside for them. I mean he doesn't look like some guy who is in legit business"

I can't stop my self.

I don't know how I got here but I soon I'm on my feet and slap her so hard that my hand pains.

She screams. Nomusa is on her feet too.

I run to Zama's side. I have her by her clothes and slapping her with both my hands.

Nomusa quickly comes to my side and pushes me away from her.

There are screams. I don't fucken know how things quickly got out of hands.

I'm angry..

I finally let go of her and just walk out.

I start panicking as soon as I'm outside with a ciggerate in my hands.

What if she opens a case against me?

I can't go back to prison.

I panick.

Oh my God...

What have I done?

I decide to take a walk to calm my nerves down.

I don't even know where I'm walking to..

But I remember Dineo once showed me that she's living somewhere around this street.

I don't have my phone with me to call her but I
decide to ask the kids playing in the street.

I don't think they know her but one kid

Says

"Ukhuluma ngo mama ka Thando.."

Yes, that's her! I tell the kids. She always thanks
about Thando. Her beautiful daughter.

Then they show me point at some house.

It's really beautiful. The house looks so much
like a bond house.

There's a car at the gate.

I know this car, I've seen this car.

Oh, I know remember that it looks so much like
the car Nkosinathi once gave me a lift in..

I can see Dineo sitting on the green grass with
so woman and two kids busy playing.

She notices me as I open the gate.

She stands and comes to give me a hug

"Nana.." she says

I smile. She's really happy to see me

"I left my phone at home, I could have called.."

I say

"Its fine. Come join us, we're drinking wine here..."

We walk to the woman

"Oh meet my sister, Tshepiso. And Tshepi, this is my friend. The one I've been telling you about. Liyana."

She smiles.

"Nice to finally meet you Liyana.."

Likewise.

She is really beautiful. Everything about her just spells money. From her perfume to how she is dressed.

Her hair is just too neat and beautiful, shiny. The bracelets too spells money.. I'm lost in her beauty when Dineo brings me back to reality

"I'll go get another glass of wine.."

I nod.

She walks away

To be continued

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HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

NINE

Dineo and Tshidi are so free. I can tell the wine has got to them already.

They're dancing. I've never been much of a drinker so the I had just a glass of wine and watched the ladies drink.

Dineo gets up from the grass to go get another bottle of wine in the house, 4th one.

I'm actually shocked at how this ladies are actually consuming this alcohol..

"You're not much of a drinker, are you?" Tshidi asks.

I don't want to lie, she's so beautiful

I chuckle

"I've never had the chance to have some so..

Yeah" I say

"But now it's the chance."

I chuckle.

I guess she's trying to convince me to drink. I'm not. I don't feel like drinking.

I've been here for more than 3 hours now. I should probably be going back home but I just don't wanna go back to the mess I left.

Sigh

This is honestly not the life I thought I was signing up for. Being in prison was way better than being at my mother's house.

But I try to block the negative thoughts

"And I still have to drive.." she says in laughter.

I don't think she'll manage

"In your state?" I can't keep my self from saying

"I know, I know.m You sound so much like my husband right now.." she says.

Oh she's drunk

"But I'm married to a millionaire babes, I know he will make things happen. I can call him and just like that I'll have a whole bunch of drivers to take us home.."

Gosh, she's drunk.

Dineo walks back with another glass of wine.

The sister stands up and joins her, they dance to the song playing in the house.

I really need to leave..

"Ladies, I really should go home." I say

"You're such a party pooper!!" Dineo

"I really have to.."

"Let's take you home.."

No! I don't wanna die.

"No no no... I'll be fine, just continue partying ladies. I promise I'll call as soon as I get home.."
I'm finally out of the yard. It's not really that far from home.

I cant stop thinking about the situation I have left at home as I walk towards home.

How did life get here? You know, I had always been excited about getting out of prison and just fixing thing with my sisters.

I thought I would be out to fix my wrongs.

I don't wanna lie, I don't want to go back inside but I feel as though life inside was much better than being home right now...

Nomusa takes me in her arms as soon as I walk in the house.. She has the worried face on her.

"I'm sorry.." I know I should apologize

"I was really worried about you.."

"I'm sorry."

"Nathi called too, hes out there driving looking for you. He is really worried."

"I should have taken my cellphone. I'm sorry" I don't know what more to say

I walk to sit on the couch

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"Where is she?" I ask

"She went out. I don't know where she is, I couldn't even follow her because I had to sit here and wait for you to come back so I would make sure you're fine.." she says

"I'm really sorry" I say

It awkward. I know I have put her in difficult situation.

I feel as though right now she feels she has to choose between us and it's the last thing I need She closes her eyes and leans her head on the couch. She seems too strained.

"I just lost it when she included Nathi in all this." I say also leaning my head against the couch.

"I know, I would have too. She acted so childish about it" she is still not looking at me

"I don't want to come between the two of you"

"You went to prison just so you could save us Liyana. I would have done the same thing if I was in your shoes. She's a grown woman now, she has to accept that and move on or just leave us in peace.."

No..

"No.."

"Zama should just stop this madness or move out. She is working. We just need peace in here.." she says with a sigh.

"The last thing I need is to get between the two of you.." I mean it

"I know and the last thing I needed was to choose between the two of you and right now if I have to choose between my sisters, I'm going to choose the one who stayed half of her life in

prison just so she could save me.." I don't know what to say,I have mixed emotions.

A phone rings on the kitchen counter, oh its mine

I stand up to go take it.. Its Nathi.

"Nathi.."

"Liyana, ukuphi?"

"I'm home, I'm alright.."

"Okay, I'm on my way" he says before hanging up

"Its Nathi, he says he's on his way.." I tell

Nomusa

She also stands from the couch

"Its fine.. I'll go fetch the kids too. I honestly thought we'd be having some girl's day kinda thing but right now I just need my children close to me.." she says taking her car keys.

I'm sad. Maybe I shouldn't have let my anger get ahead of me. I feel as though I've disappointed

Nomusa.

"You will be fine right?" She ask

I nod.

She walks out.

I don't know what to do to pass time. I decide to clean the mess we left on the table while having breakfast.

The food seems untouched. I pack the food in containers and put them inside the fridge before washing the dishes.

My phone beeps in my pocket. It's a text from Nathi

"I'm outside.."

"Come in, I'm alone" I reply.

There is a knock after a few moments.

And he envelops me in his arms and hug me as soon as I open the door. I can't help but inhale his scent. I'm getting too familiar with it. Its manly. It's nice.

And he finally let's go. I suddenly feel empty.

"I have been worried about you" I can tell

"I went to see a friend. I just needed to get out of the house"

"What happened Liyana?" We're still facing each other on the door.

I turn to walk back to the kitchen counter, I can feel his footsteps following me.

Then I turn back to face him. He is leaning against the kitchen table

"I just lost it when she remind me of prison life.."

No, I lost it when she said stupid things about you. But I can't tell him that.

I don't want him to hate her as I already do.

He is silent, he's watching me.

I suddenly feel so nervous .

"I think you should have just walked away instead of attacking her.." this man doesnt understand.

Attacking someone is what we lived by in prison. We believed in attacking someone.

"Yeah I know.." I say.

I don't

He takes my hands in his and brings me to him.

I'm so close, very close.

"Don't ever do that again.?"

I don't understand

"I was really worried about you. I couldn't even think straight when your sister told me she

didn't know where you were and you were not in the right state to go out"

I do now.

Did she really have to exaggerate though?

I drop my gaze and he stare down at me.. I hate such serious moments

"You really should consider taking anger management classes.." I laugh.

"I did while in prison but I guess they're not helping.."

"I can organize one for you." There is an intense burning behind his eyes, it steals mynext breath..

"I'm fine. I'll be fine"

"No you're not, the last thing I need Liyana is you not being able to control your anger even to our kids."

Kids, you say.

His eyes looks into mine. I really need to get us something to drink..

"Can I get you something to drink.." I say, I sound like a child right now, its not even funny.

"No... I wanna kiss you" it comes out in a form of whisper.

He looks into my eyes before lowering his gaze to my lips. They're suddenly dry. I don't know what to do next.

He leans in and brushes his lips sweetly against mine. "I think I'm falling for you.." he whispers against me.

My heart beats fast against my ribs. I don't speak. He takes in my lips for a deep kiss. I don't know if I'm doing it right but I just follow the lead. His lips are soft. I enjoy them.

He circles his arm around me bringing me closer to him. In this masculine arms, I feel safe. It's my haven.

The air seems supercharged. Anticipation. Heat. Desire so potent its almost painful..

His phone rings in his pocket. He groans in my lips before cutting the kiss and using his free hand to get it from his pocket while his other hand is still circled around me.

"Yebo" he says as he places the phone on his ear.

His eyes are on mine as he speaks on the phone, they keep following mine. I feel so caged in his eyes.

"Where are you?" He sighs and listens

"Your irresponsible tendencies are really getting out of hand. They're tiring now"

"I'm held up somewhere right now but I'll call Mbuso so come get you guys"

There's silence.

"Okay, I love you too.." my body tenses at the statement.

He loves her, I know for sure it's a her.

He hangs up the phone with his eyes still on mine.

"I'm sorry you had to hear that.."

"I need water.." I'm trying to shift away from him.

But he still has my body caged in his arms and finally let's go. I walk to the fridge

"Is there any woman in your life?" I know to know before I could get my hopes high.

I'm in too deep already.

He is silent for a while

I know what that means

"Then Nathi what are you doing with me?" I ask

"No, you know what. I don't even need to know what you're doing with me. It's enough that I'm already in too deep but there is someone else."

"Liyana.."

"Leave.." I'm serious

"I like you, I really do. Yes she's there, she's been there for years."

"I said leave!!" He sighs and takes his keys and walks out.

I'm so angry right now. I was falling for the guys. No!!! All men are the same!

They are dogs!!

He's gone. I have my phone on my ear. I feel like screaming

"All men are dogs!!!" I tell her

She whistles.

"You already had a dick up inside your vagina?"

She teases

I'm being serious here!

"He couldn't even respect me enough to talk to his woman far away from me"

"Wooah, I think you need to calm down and tell me what's really going on"

I sigh

"That's better. Now tell me what did the man do?"

I tell her everything. I feel as though I needed this. I honestly feel like I have forgot she is the only person I can speak to about everything and anything

"I honestly think he answered the phone in your presence so you would know he is not hiding anything"

"The guy should have just told me from a get go that I was a side chick"

She laughs

"15 years neh?"

"Dragon I'm being serious here"

"Men like him are rare to find. He's transparent that one"

I squeeze my eyes shut

"Look, come see me on Thursday. I feel like we have a lot to talk about.."

I sigh

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"I will"

"And stop taking out your anger on your little sister. Rather buy a chicken and stab it all you want that take your anger out on your little sister ngoba uzoboshwa"

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

TEN

Its Monday, I honestly don't feel like going to the shelter but I have no choice...

I haven't seen Zama since on Saturday and I think it's a good thing. Atleast she hasn't gone to the police station as yet but I still cant enjoy my freedom. It feels as though the police would come in anytime and just take me back to that hellhole.

Nomusa has long gone to work when I leave to the shelter...

The streets are too busy, people are going to work some are rushing to schools. It's a busy

day for a monday morning. It's a bit cold that I had to wear a cardigan. But I'm enjoying the weather.

One thing I enjoy about this long walks to the shelter is having some me time, getting to smoke freely and just enjoying the peacefulness that comes with my smoking session. Life seems better with every drag of nicotine in my lungs.

"Now this is my therapist!" Dragon used to say when she smoked like a chimney.

I laugh at the thought.

She taught me how to smoke and I should say it's the only good thing that she's taught me...

Okay, maybe I'm exaggerating

...

"Liyana.." someone shouts my name as I'm about to walk in the shelter... Its Dineo. I smile at her. I just get a memory of how happy she is when she's drunk. I really never thought she was that talkative.

"Good morning.." she says as she's breathing hard. She has been running

"I've been shouting your name.."

"I'm sorry, I guess I was too lost in smoking that i didn't hear you.."i say

"How are you?" .we walk inside

"I'm good and I know I don't need to ask you how your weekend was"

She chuckles

"One has to live just once in a while"

"You're right. I was worried about your sister though. She was too drunk to drive"

"Her husband did fetch her."

I sigh in relief

"That's better actually."

"And wena, you don't seem like your usual self today, what's wrong?"

Argh,

"No, I'm just tired."

I'm just sad that I've spend all my day yesterday thinking of Nkosinathi and his kisses.

I'm sad that I've been forcing my self to forget about him but seems as though I'll need my whole life to do so..

I dont know maybe it's because I've never known cared for. Yes, Dragon had always been there but this is different.

I've known him for a short space of time but what I know for sure is he makes me feel wanted. Makes me feel like I'm the most important person in his world. His attention.

"Liyana.." I look at her, I've been lost in deep thoughts. Just like I have been since Saturday.

This is really messing me up

"You know you can talk to me about everything hey?"

Sigh

"A friend sent me R5000 on Saturday, can you come with me so I can withdraw it and we'll pamper ourselves?" I don't want to talk about me

"Do I know the friend?" She gives me a devilish smile. I laugh

"Dont do that.."

"So let's actually wait for you to sign then we'll speak to MaKhumalo about leaving early today,

plus I still have the house to my self, my daughter is still at my sisters place.."

"We can also get another bottle of alcohol and finish the party at your place" I say

"Sounds like a really good plan."

Makhumalo has agreed that we knock off. The officers did come and I managed to sign.

I thought we would be walking to the mall since it's a few km away but Dineo thinks it's a good idea if we get a taxi.

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I honestly feel like it's a total waste of money but then she says she will pay so I'm fine with it.

We manage to withdraw the money and I'm thinking the first shop we need

"There is the salon." She points at the salon taking my hand and dragging me there

"I don't need hair salon.."

Too late, we're already and she's speaking to the receptionist.

She tells her I'm here to do my nails and my hair.

I really dont want this but soon were offered glasses of wine.

I want to say no but I already promised her that we would be drinking. She chooses acrylic for me, pale pink. I don't know how they will look on my hands but I'm suddenly excited..

In hours time, we're done with my nails and hair, I decided on cutting my hair short and dye with blonde...

We shopped for a few clothes. Before going to the liquor store for a bottle of whiskey and wine. I don't like the taste of wine so I think the whiskey will be good for me..

...

Dineo is in the kitchen making food while I call Nomusa to let her know I would be coming home late

"Sisi.." that's how she answers. .

Its sweet.

"Nana. Uright?" I ask

"Yes, I am okay especially since I can get a hint of happiness in your voice right now.."

I chuckle

"You haven't been okay since saturday, I was really worried.."

"I know, I'm sorry"

"You've been apologising."

"Uhm.. I think I'll be coming home very late today.."

She laughs

"You're spending the night with Nathi. I understand.. Please condomise"

Ewwwww

"Good bye.." she laughs before hanging up.

Dineo walks in with a plate on hand.

The house is really beautiful.

It isn't a home. But it's a home. There are pictures all around.

The furniture is stylish, modern.

Everything inside this house looks expensive.

"You've got a beauty home.."

I say as she sets the plate between us

"Yeah, all thanks to Tshidi..."

Nice

"She made sure to leave me in a decent home when she left to stay in her house"

"Where are your parents if I may ask?"

We're busy digging in

"I don't know my dad but mom left when Tshidi and I were still young.."

"I'm sorry.."

"Don't be, I'm just glad she left. We are better off without her."

I'm suddenly sad

"And you?" She ask

"My mother committed suicide a few years ago.."

"Im sorry to hear that.."

"Yeah, she left a note. She's was depressed and no one noticed. And I killed my father"

"And that's the reason why you were in prison?"

I nod

"I had the knife with me, I always kept it under my pillow just. He was a good man when he was sober but a very bad one when he was

drunk. We always had to nurse my mother because of him. It was tiring."

She's quiet

"One time I just sat in my bedroom and listened to my mother cry. It was Painful Dineo. Nomusa couldn't sleep, she wanted so bad to go to my mother's bedroom and ask dad to sleep. Zama too, was just sleeping. I wished I be that young and not understand anything and when mama screamed hard, I just could not stop my self and I tried to stop him but he kept on blaming mama.."

She takes the plate from the couch and sets it aside before coming to sit closer to me and wraps her arms around my shoulder

"You had to do it to protect your mother.."

I chuckle lightly

"I don't regret killing him. My mother suffered enough in his hands."

"I wish the world had more women like you"

"Killers?"

We both laugh .

"But on a serious note you were brave enough to step up for your mother" she sounds so much like Dragon right now

"I know.."

"You know what, enough with sob stories its time to drink!!"

"Oh yes"

We both stand and to go the kitchen. I pour my self whiskey while she settles for wine.

Its strong on my tongue, it's good though. I know for sure after now I'll be a huge fan of whiskey.

We're having fun, I'm enjoying every moment of this.

It's late, it's dark outside, I don't care.

It's been a while since I'd been this happy and free.

My phone rings just as I'm watching her dance.

She has the hips all in right places, she's shaking them so well.

It's that pig!! I don't want to talk to him

She takes the remote and lowers the volume on the home theater

"Are you ignoring someone?" She asks

"Why did you stop dancing?"

She laughs and sits on the couch

"Because I thought I heard your phone ringing"

"Argh, it's no one important.."

She eyes me

"What?" I ask

"Nothing.."

"Hair air, you're going to tell me why you're giving me that wicked look?"

She laughs

"Okay okay, I think those calls are from someone important..' she says..

Sigh

"He was, not anymore.."

"I didn't know there was someone."

"It wasn't a relationship. If that's what you wanna know"

"What happened?" How do I even begin explaining

"He is seeing someone."

"I'm sorry"

I'm beginning to hate this word

"I'm over him already.."

"Are you?"

"Dineo don't do that.."

She sits close to me. Too close for my liking. Our faces are close. Her gaze seems to penetrate my skin, touching every part of me

"Dineo.." I whisper

"I want this.." I pull her to me. I put my self on the line and dig my fingers in her hair as I kiss her.

Her hand slid onto the back of my head and angle my head up so she could kiss me hard. This is wrong, so wrong but we both cant seem to stop instead things get heated. Both our tops are somewhere on the floor.

She's fully naked in an instant. I can't stop my self. I have my whole hands running up on her body.

I know this, I've been doing this in prison but this one just feels too wrong. I misert my fingers inside her wet heat. There are moans inside the house. Both our moans. Her breathing is as ragged as mine. I drag my fingertips up and

down her slit, parting the folds. Going in and out of her....

To be continued.

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

ELEVEN

#Not edited. I just forced my self to type. I'm still in hospital

A pleasant, warm weight press against my chest. I snuggle into it, finding the comfort in the weighted blanket. I certainly feel rested.

My mouth is too dry though.. I know its hangover. This is why I hate drinking.

I open my eyes and squint against the the early morning sunlight filling the room.. Dineo is sleeping peacefully on my side.

The events of yesterday come back to me as I blink awake. I groan and turn my face in the pillow. I wish I could bring my self to regret it. Hard as I tried, I couldn't stop, a circumstance that proved contagious when both of us lost our composure..

The sun is out. Fuck!! I know for sure that we're late

"Dineo.."

I shake her, her eyes open

"We're late.."

She groans before turning her back to me

"Dineo!!"

She sits up straight and throws the pillow on the floor in frustration.

"What??!!" I laugh

"Girl! I didn't say you should drink that much last night.."

She laughs

I stand up to go take a quick bath..

"Are you joining me?" I ask, I'm naked.

I can see the intensity of her black eyes studying my body..

"Go bath, I'll make the bed then join you.." I know she wants to sleep more. I won't let her

"No come on.."

She groans...

I pull the blanket covers away from her and run to the sitting with them. She's up behind me and pushes me against the couch then comes on

top of me.. I'm fully bound beneath her on the kiss. I can feel her breast on mine.

Things go from laughter to seriousness. I don't fucken know what to call this but here am I..

Sigh..

"I've never done this in my life.." she says

"Nami futhi.." I say

"But I'm enjoying it more than everything else I've done in my life.."

"Should we label it?" I'm asking.

She keeps quiet for a while. Her eyes are not on mine anymore, I'm trying hard to follow them

"Dineo?"

"I'm not sure Liyana.."

She finally gets up from me, we both sit.

"I'm straight.." she says

I'm confused. I'm thinking

"Then what happened between us?"

"I don't know, I enjoyed last night. I'm enjoying this moment too but I honestly don't know if I'll do things right in this type of relationship"

I'm lost

"I like you. I do but I feel like we'll complicate things if we do this.." okay let me go take shower and go home..

I stand up, she stands too and faces me.

She has this thick body and I'm average, I'm just size 34.

We're the same height though.

What the hell was I even thinking last night?

I'm starting to bring my self to regret it.

Liyana, you're a damn fucken hoe!!

She grabs my arm. I turn to look at her

"We're late already.." I'm suddenly embarrassed.

Why did I even think of doing this

"I want to do this.." she says

Wena, uconfused.

"Dineo-"

My phone saves me by ringing in the bedroo.

I leave her standing there.

Its Nomusa. Shit! I know what she wants

Part of me wants to ignore the call but I don't want to keep her worried

"Hi.." I say after clearing my throat.

She laughs

"He smashed you..." she continues laughing

"Ufunani Nomusa?"

"I thought you said you'd be coming home late, not spending all night with him."

Sigh

"I really do like that nigga, I mean he already took your panties off?" She laughed.

She finds this funny

"I'm late for work, I'll see you when I knock off"

She laughs.

..

Atleast I have my new clothes with me.

I take a quick shower, I'm trying hard to finish before she could come in the bathroom.

Things are already awkward between us, I can't handle anymore awkwardness.

..

I'm late, I don't have a proper explanation to give to Makhumalo.

I left Dineo at home, she wasn't even ready to leave as I left her home...

Makhumalo walks straight to me as soon as I enter the kitchen

"You seem to have had a very great day yesterday.. "

What are you talking about?

"You look beautiful.." oh she's talking about the hairstyle.

"Thank you and I'm sorry that I'm late.."

She nods.

I place my bag on the counter.

I need to find something to do..

Oh Today is Tuesday, it won't be a long day.

The nurses are coming to check on the kids

"It usually takes about 6 months to finally make people who come to work here forced by the police do their work.."

Silence.

"And you're the first one to come and work here without being dragged by the police."

I turn. Oh she's talking to me.

"Keep it up Liyana.."

I have no choice do I?

"I just don't wanna go back to prison."

I say to her

"And i don't think there's any reason for you to go back there"

I smile

"Tell me, did you study anything while in Prison"

No one has ever asked me that

"Yes, business management.."

The face lights up

"Are you for real?"

I laugh

"Yes, I am for real"

"Why business management though?"

"I've always been passionate about it. Atleast completing my business degree was what I owed my self after going to prison.."

She's interested in engaging further in this conversation

"So if you were given the opportunity to open your own business would you do that?"

I laugh

"Yes"

...

My day goes by really quick. I'm super tired.

Dineo didn't even bother to show up at the shelter today.

Just as I walk out of the Shelter, I spot a black car waiting. It's Nathi's, he's outside leaning against it with one of his hands in his pocket while he's busy typing something on the phone with the other. This is the first time I see him in sportswear. Every inch of him is sculpted, every muscle defined. I get a clear view of just how hulking and strong he is. My heart races...

He finally raises his face to look at me.. I swallow hard

"I've been waiting for you.." he says as I approach the gate

"Nathi what do you want?" I ask

"Get inside the car, we have to talk" he's not asking. It's demanding..

Since when does a man demand to me?

"Get in." He says again, now opening the passenger door for me.

The hell in me decides to get inside.

He goes on the other side and start the car as soon as he gets in.

We're both quiet. We're driving home.

"You look beautiful.." it's the first thing he says.

I'm quiet

"That hair color suits you. And the nails too.."

He noticed the nails?

"Nathi what do you want?"

"You never gave me the chance to explain"

"I did but you didn't bother to explain"

Silence

"She's my wife.."

I chuckle in disbelief

"You mean, you are married?"

"I'm 39 years Liyana, you can't expect me to be single at that age"

"Then you want to make me a home wrecker?"

"Do you want to be a home wrecker?"

"Nathi I'm being serious here!"

He is silent.

He parks just outside my home.

"Thank you for driving me home.."

Again he is silent.

I feel like a mad woman as I try to open the locked door.

He finally unlocks it and I walk out of the car.

I get inside the yard. He doesn't drive away.

There is a car parked outside, right next to Nomusa's car. It's a two door Audi.. I think it's one of her friends from the hospital.

It's getting dark and the lights are still off in the house.

The door is locked from inside. I don't have any key with me, we share the same key which we usually leave just under the vase outside.

I knock with no luck and I take my phone and dial her, I can hear her phone ringing from inside the house

And finally she answers

"Liyana.."

"Why is the door locked? Do you have a visitor in there?"

"Are you at the door?" She sounds so down.

Something is up

"Yes, come and open.."

"I'm coming.."

She opens after a few moments.

She looks as though she has been crying.

She's still in her work uniform. She locks the door behind me.

"What's going on?"

"I just don't want Zama to come in.."

She takes the key with her.

I follow her to the sitting room.

Ohh.

Her baby daddy is there with a gun pointing at us

"Bring the key" he says still pointing the gun at her

"Theo don't do this.." she pleads

"Bring that key to me!!!" He shouts.

I want to grab her

He shakes his head pointing the gun at me

"I would have told her to tell you to leave but her to watch you die then I kill her and then my self.." he says

"Man..."I want to talk

"Shut up!" He warns me.

I keep quiet, I'm scared

"Or what do I do? Do I shoot her, give the gun to you and leave your fingerprints on them so you could go back to prison for killing your sister? Plus I know you enjoy killing your family.."

"Theo i love you.."Nomusa says

"Voetsak!!! You love me yamasimba? You want to take my children away from me!! My own mother doesnt allow me in my own home because of you!!"

I need to start figuring a way out of this one.

He chokes his gun

"If I cannot have my children, you won't have them nawe...." he is calm.

I'm silent

"Now I need you to do a few things for me before you die."

I'm quiet..

"You Liyana are going to get a pen and paper and write the reason why you killed your own sister.."I laugh in disbelief

I'm not going to do that

"Hamba.."I turn to walk away. Maybe this is the chance to get something

"Aah ahh, not so fast.."

I look at him

He laughs

"You think I'd let you leave to your bedroom alone? Musa stay.."

He walks behind me..

I walk slowly, a man is pointing a gun at me.

I'm scared but at the same time want to kill him.

I don't even know where I'll get a pen and a paper.

I hear a scream as I walk away...

Fuck!!! Nomusa is on his back, she has her teeth on his back. He is groaning so hard at the same time trying to hit her with his elbow. She falls down. I'm quick to run back to him and get on top of his.

We are fighting for the gun..

He uses his man power but I refuse to be beaten.

Nomusa is somewhere moaning in pain and we are fighting and soon a gunshot rings out.

She screams. Pain sear through my right hip, but I just keep going until the gun falls somewhere close to the wall.

Nomusa runs to pick it and points it at Theo who is still fighting me. He stops, she's shaking..

He laughs looking at her

"I know you dont know how to use that.." he says laughing

"Shoot him!!!!" I scream..

She's on the verge of crying with a gun pointing at her baby daddy. "You won't shoot me!!" His wicked smile makes me sick

"Shoot him Nomusa!!!!"

Without even thinking she shoots her baby daddy on the stomach.. Another gunshot and again!!! He growled..

Until she drops the gun and always drops on her feet the let it all out...

He's still groaning..

I walk to her and kneel in front of her

"Give me the gun.."

She shakes her head in sob

"I almost killed him..."

He can't live.

I get my hands on his neck to finish him. She's there crying hard. He fights me until he can't no more.

Then I know he is know more.

Im going back to Prison. Nomusa is too innocent for it

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

TWELVE

I'm trying so hard to stop the bleeding on my thigh but the pain is getting worse.

Nomusa is on the floor crying, the body is here.

I'm scared.

I cannot go back to prison and she cant go to prison as well.

I've been there, I know she's too fragile for the place. I would never even wish for enemy to be in that place..

That place can make you know what life and death are, all too well.

"Musa you need to stop crying.." I don't know what more to say..

"We... we should call the police." she hiccups.

"No!!" It's not a damn good idea

Zama will be here anytime soon... I'm worried, I don't want her to find us in this situation. My bullet wound is the least of my worries right now..

She's shaking and crying..

My hands are full of blood.

"Musa look at me.." I'm forcing her to look at me right now. We have to do something about this

"Musa you can't go to jail, I don't want to go back to jail either.." I don't fucken know what to say. I'm trying so hard to ignore the pain but it's just too unbearable.

I'm losing blood as well.

I wince in pain.

"I killed him.." she keeps on saying while crying.

I don't know how to comfort her but the truth is just that we both killed him.

She still has the gun in her arms...

"We have to make a plan.. I cannot go back to jail.." it's the only thing I keep on saying.

I cant.

I wish Dragon was here, I know for sure she would come to my rescue..

I need my phone, maybe if I do tell her, she'll know what to do.

Nomusa is just useless. .we need to do something.

Jail, is where I'm not going back. I cannot go back there.

She turns to look at me

"There is no other plan. We have to call the police and an ambulance. You're losing blood.." for a nurse, she sounds so damn stupid

"No!! I'm not going back to jail because of you Nomusa..."

"I'll take the responsibility..." she says through hiccups

"Like hell I'd let you take responsibility!!

Nomusa you cannot go to jail! That place is not for you."

"What do I now ke?"

"Pull your self together.."

There's silence

"We need to stop this bleeding then.."

She stands up and rushes to her bedroom and comes back with a cloth.

This is the Nomusa I need!

"Put this on the wound, apply too much pressure on it. Zama will be here soon.."

"Call her and tell her to spend a night at her boyfriends place. You have a visitor.. "

I have the cloth with me, I'm trying so hard to apply pressure on the bullet wound to stop the bleeding. I can't help but groan so loud in pain. She panics. I don't want her to focus on me but the call.

Zama doesnt have to know about this, she already hates me for killing her father. I know she will blame me for this and make sure I go back to prison

She walks away and comes back after a while

"She doesn't buy the story but she agreed.."

"Good."

"What do we do.."

"You need to stop crying because i can't think now.."

My phone rings in my pocket..

I force my self to take it out. Its Nkosinathi. I cannot take his calls right now.

I don't need him right now..

He calls for the second time..

"Your phone is annoying me!!" She says.. She's going back and forth.

This one will make me dizzy

"Hi.." hopefully I don't sound like someone in pain.

I resist the urge to react to the pain although its stronger and more intense than its ever been.

"Unjani?"

Fuck!!!

"I.. I'm okay.."

"Liyana what's wrong?"

I can't help but groan. This pain..

"Liyana talk to me.."

"Nathi I have to go.."

I hang up

She looks at me.

"Maybe this is just a sign that we have to go to the police!"

"If I hear you talk about the police one more time, I swear you'll be next!!" I snap.

"Yes, it's in your blood!!" She says

I'm angry at her

"You know what! Fuck you! Fuck you Nomusa. If you had reported him in the first place we wouldn't be here!! You just took me back!!!"

I'm angry. I'm ignoring the pain

She started back down and starts crying...

I check the time. It's a few minutes past 7. I can't call Dragon, now is not the time. I'll only get her in trouble.

We sit in the dark, in silence the only sound in the house is Nomusa's sobs, they are getting to me. There is a cold body next to us. We don't know what more to do. I'm in pain, but I can manage to handle it.

I hear the gate open. She stands up and panics

"I think its Zama, what are we going to tell her?"

"We keep quiet and ignore her knocks, she doesn't have to know we are in here.. "

"I cant.." she says

"Nomusa put your phone in silence!"

There is a knock..

"Liyana.." its Nathi's voice!

Damn!!!

My phone rings as I'm about to switch it off...

Its loud, he'll know I'm inside

"I'm going to open for him.." she says

This one annoys the hell out of me

"Sit your stupid ass down!!!" I can't even move my leg, its painful

"No.. I'm going.."

She stands up to go open the door.

I can hear both their voices in the kitchen but cannot tell what they are saying and soon I hear footsteps coming to the sitting room. It's still dark but light enough for Nathi to see everything.

I start panicking

"Liyana.." I hear his voice nearing

I keep quiet.

One of them switches the light on..

His eyes immediately come to me, I'm sitting in a pool of blood

Then his eyes goes to the cold body next to me. I expect him to say something in panic. Instead he looks at Musa

"Go lock the door." He instructs..

She rushes to the kitchen

"Nathi you don't have to be here.."

"You need me.."

He says coming to kneel before me. He removes the cloth on my thigh. It's bad.

Musa comes back

"Do you have whiskey?" He asks

"I...Yes.."

"I need it, and a pair of scissors, hair clipper and your perfume.."he says to her, I'm starting to get drowsy. I don't know what's going on with me

She walks away

He dials something on his phone and places his phone on his ear after a few minutes

"I need your favour... Yes, I have sent you the location. I need a few guys to come here, there's

a small job we need to get rid of.... Sharp..." he hangs up....

..

"This is going to be a bit of painful but I need you to bare with me okay?" I nod. I'm drowsy. I don't know what is it that I'm agreeing to.

Nomusa is there holding my hand.

He pours the whiskey on the bullet wound.

I cry so loud in pain.. I can't... I can't..

No...

Something comes inside my skin..

I can feel so much pain...I'm crying so bad in pain.. It's just too much.

...

I wake up to the darkness.. I try to scan the room.. There is someone sleeping next to me..

Wait, what happened to me or Nomusa's baby daddy?

Have I been dreaming?

I try to stand up and walk to the wall and switch on the light..

Nomusa is sleeping peacefully on my bed. We are in my bedroom.

I'm in pain, but it's nothing compared to what I felt earlier.

I limp to the sitting room to check the body.. it's not there but Nathi is sitting on the couch, with his eyes closed...

I clear my throat.

He sits up straight and turns to look at me

"Hi.."

"How are you feeling?" I shrug

"Come here.."

I walk to sit on the couch next to me, he opens his arms for me to get in them.. I sit comfortably in his arms. It looks like I've just woken him from sleep.

He smells so good. He places tender kiss against my forehead

"Did I wake you up?" I ask

"No, i wasn't sleeping. How are you?"

"Im okay. What happened?"

"You passed out while crying in pain.." I know

"Nomusa's baby daddy?"

"I took care of it, don't worry.."

"His car?"

"Don't worry, everything is sorted."

Silence

"Why are you up, do you feel any pain?" He ask

"No...I'm just trying to remember what happened.."

He keeps quiet and leans his head back on the headrest and closes his eyes.

"Nathi am I going back to jail?" I can't stop myself from asking

"No. You're not."

Silence again

"Why did you guys kill him?" He asks, his voice is low. He is not looking at me. My head is leaned on his shoulder.

"He held Nomusa hostage.." I say

He is silent, I think he wants me to continue

"One of us had to die. He wanted kill Nomusa and pin it on me." I say

He is still silent

"I know what you're thinking. First it was my dad now him.."

"One has to do anything and everything to survive right?" He says with calm assurance that unsettles me

I'm quiet.

He turns to look at me

"I thought jail taught you that.." I look at him

"It did.."

"Everything is taken care of, you need to forget that he even existed..."his tone holds a note of strain.

"I'm worried about Nomusa"

"She'll live."

"I.."

"If there's anything that makes me fall hard for you right now is how strong you are.."

I'm quiet, this catches me by surprise, what do I say?

I pull his hand towards me and press my lips against it, softly communicating everything I dont know how to put in words. I'm not sure how to put into words. I'm not sure how to Express what I am feeling, but all I know is I'm thankful for everything he's done for me.

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

THIRTEEN

"You don't look too good.." I look at her and smile.

She's the only thing that keeps me sane right now...

I would have long given up if it wasn't for her.

"I'm just learning to get used to this place.." it's the truth.

This place is hell.

How can one be sane staring at the same walls each and everyday?

She tries to hold my hand, the warder shakes his head making her stop..

I can see the tears forming in her eyes.. I want so bad to comfort her but I cant.

I can afford to do that only with words.

"Liyana I'm sorry.." she apologises for the hundredth time.

I want to assure her that I have long forgiven her.

I forgave her the moment I stepped in this jail cell. I forgave her the moment I knew she would be a free woman.

I long forgave her when I got my welcome beating inside here. When they sang and wanted to kill me, I had given up hope and forgave her. I did this for her. She's my mother. I'll die for her

"Nomusa is still traumatized..'

"She has to, she witnessed everything that went on that night."

"I don't know what more to do Liyana. She's not eating, she cannot sleep. I feel like I have killed both my children. Zama cannot even understand what is going on. She keeps on asking where her father is.."

I'm heartbroken by this...

..

A hand on my shoulder startle me..

Its Nomusa, she sits on the chair next to mine. I thought she had gone to work and I thought I was alone in the house..

"You finished the whole box of ciggerates?"

I honestly feel like she took me back. I feel pathetic, I feel like a killer.

I've felt this way just 15 years ago and now I've gone back to square one..

Just when I was still recovering from killing my father then I have to deal with this?

"Why aren't you at work?" I ask

"I couldn't focus. I keep on seeing him whenever I try to work.." she says

"Oh.."

"I'm worried about you, what did the correctional officer say to you about that wound?"

"I lied. He suggested I go to the hospital but I told him I'd be fine.."

She nods

"I'll write a note or something to support that you've been to the clinic.." she says.

It's the only thing she can offer.

A note!

"For now we'll have to change your bandage.."

"I did that earlier on.." I say

Silence.

"Its been two days now, has his mother called or anything?" I ask

"No. I just wish it stays like that.."

I'm silent.

"I can't even go see my kids, that's how scared I am.."

"You will be fine.."

"I feel like we need to see someone, a professional.."

"And tell them we killed your baby daddy?" I ask

"No.. I mean...I.."

"You what Nomusa? Just pull yourself together and try to move on, talking to a stranger about this wont bring him back. You need to get that through your thick skull!"

Her phone rings... she looks at it before she starts panicking

"What's wrong?"

"Its Theo's mother... I can't take this.." she wants to cry.

"Your kids are at her house, you obviously have to take it.."

"No.." she shakes her head. She wants to cry so bad.

"You have to take that call!!" I forgot she can be a chicken at times.

I swear to God, This one will be the reason I go back to jail...

I snatch the phone from her and click on the answer button

"Hello?" I answer

"Hi... Who's this?"

"Its Liyana, Nomusa's sister..'

"Oh, thank God... Sisi unjani?" The person doesn't sound okay at all

"I'm okay.."

"Its Theo's aunt.."oh?

"I'm not sure if I should speak to you about this but I'm hoping you'll pass the message to Nomusa.."

My heart starts beating fast.. Act normal Liyana. I take a steadying breath making sure I don't react in atleast.

"We received a call from Theo's friend..."

There's silence..

"Its been two days and Theo hadn't been showing up at work or answering his phone calls and he had to go to his place to check if he was fine.."

She starts sobbing

"He was found dead in his apartment. They shot him..."

I don't know what to say..

She's crying hysterically... She can't even continue.

"I.. I'll tell Nomusa, we'll be there in a few minutes.."

I hung up..

I look at Nomusa. I need to fucken know how they pulled this?

Now I'm scared of everything that might come back to us. What about the securities guarding that place? They'll know it doesn't make sense

"They think it was house robbery..." I say to her

"Nkosinathi just wanted his address and took care of everything else, I didn't know he was going to make it look like a house robbery.."she's now crying.

"How the fuck did he pull that? What about the security guarding that place?"

She is silent, she's busy eating her damn nails.

"Nomusa?"

"I don't know okay!!!!" She snaps

"He had some gangster looking men in tracksuits come here and take the body and the gun. They drove his car his apartment and took him there. That's the only thing I know. Next thing there were people in forensic uniform cleaning the house and everything that has anything to do with Theo's death.."she continues
I stand up and pace around.

I honestly feel like there is more to Nkosinathi that meet in the eye.

I don't know who he is.

It's been two days since this happened. It haunts me. Nathi seems to be moving on just perfectly fine from this..

He is supportive though..

There is a knock

"Are you expecting someone?" She ask.

I shake my head no.

She goes to the door to open... Its Makhumalo and Dineo.

I haven't seen Dineo since our... Sigh. Yeah, since that.

Makhumalo has a basket with fruits in her hands.

I don't need this. Not now.

I lied to them and told them I fell in the house, I hope they bought the story.

Makhumalo comes to sit next to me

"Are you getting any better?" Its accompanied by a warm smile..

"Yeah I am.."

Dineo cannot meet my eyes. Its better that way. I'm happy about it...

I'm going through some fuckef up shit to be entertaining this one. My life is a mess right now.

"I'm getting better.."

"You better. We miss you at the shelter..."

I smile..

"I need to go change.." Nomusa says.

I nod

"Can I get you anything to drink?" I ask looking at Dineo

"No we bought cold drink on our way here.."
Makhumalo is driving..

I nod

"How are you?" Dineo ask. Its awkward..

"I'm fine.." I want to dismiss her

...

They spend a few moments before they say their goodbyes. Makhumalo did say I should come back to the shelter once I feel like I'm fully healed

I appreciate her really..

..

I don't have any dress or skirt to wear to Theo's home. I've never even worn one but I'm forced to wear Nomusa's skirt...

She's been quiet all the way to her baby daddys home. I don't want to say anything, I just want to give her the space to cry.

There are people already going in and out.

Nomusa's kids run to us as soon as they see us.

I'm sad because I'm the reason they'll never see their father again.

I feel like I understand what I've put them through. I've put my self through the same thing 15 years ago.

I see Zama's car park just at the gate and her coming out of the car and straight to us.

She hugs her sister

"I got a call from a friend. I hope you're okay..

"she says to her

I wanna roll my eyes. She nods

"You haven't been okay since two days ago, I think you've been feeling this mtaka ma.."

Jesus!!!

"I'll go help Theo's aunt in the house.." I say before leaving them.

I limp to the back of the house.

I don't feel right being in this place at all. I want to leave so bad but I know I have to stay just for my sister's sake. She needs me here. It's the only thing I can provide right now. The support.

I want to call Nkosinathi and ask him how he pulled this but I know this is not the right place to do that...

But I decide to call him anyway.

He answers almost immediately

"Liyana.." his voice is hoarse

"We are at Theo's house.."

"Who's Theo again?"

"My sister's baby daddy.."

"And?"

"We were called earlier on to come, he was found dead in his apartment. They say it was house robbery.."

"I know and the security company will have to answer how that happened and the surveillance system isn't showing anything suspicious.." he says

"What did you do?" I need to know

"I did what was supposed to be done to save you and your sister from going to jail.."

I sigh.

"How are you holding up?" He is trying to change the subject

"I'm fine.."

"You don't sound fine to me.."

"I'm just in pain, I'll be fine." I say

"I'll bring more painkillers, and do get ready say 7pm. There is something I need to show you.."

"Okay.."

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

FOURTEEN

We are back from Theo's home.

Nomusa hasn't been taking his death well since we came back from his home. I don't blame her...

She has been in her bedroom since we got back.

I need to sleep so bad, but Nkosinathi wants us to go out, which I'm not in the mood but right now I feel like I don't have it in me to say no..

What if he tells the whole world what Nomusa and I did?

I decide on wearing loose pants and a plain T-shirt and a jacket for pockets so I can take my box of ciggerate and cellphone with me. I want him to see that I am in no mood to go out.

I find Zama in the kitchen. She is busy on her laptop..

"She is not taking Theo's death very well.."she says.

I think she is on her phone.

She clears her throat. I raise my eyes to her.

Oh, she's talking to me

"Sorry?" I ask

"Nomusa.. She's not taking Theo's death very well.." she says again

"Its expected." I say

Silence

"You've been there for her, I appreciate you for that.."

"She's my young sister.." I say.

I don't wanna have this conversation. I'm tired and not in the mood to have a fight with her. I know the conversation will lead to a fight

"You didn't really tell me what happened to your leg"

"Why should I tell you?" I ask

She is silent

"I hope you don't blame me for reacting the way I did weeks ago. Thing is I'm still angry that I lost my father at a young age because of you"

"There we go again" I roll my eyes

"Okay...okay.. I don't mean it in a bad way.."

My phone beeps

"I'll use Nomusa's key to unlock the door when I come back"

I don't even wait for her to ask or say anything. I just leave.

Nathi is waiting outside. He opens the door for me to get inside the car after a brief hug. He smells so good.

...

My phone rings just as I get in the car. I look at it. My heart starts beating fast when I see Dineo's name on the screen.

I swallow hard but I know I'll have to take this...

He is not looking at me as I answer the phone

"Hi.." I say..

"Okay?" I don't know if it's a greeting or what..

"I'm okay.." I decide to answer like that.

Nathi's focus is still on the road. I know I'm acting so awkward right now..

"I feel like you have been avoiding me.." she says

"Why should I avoid you?" It gets his attention, he brings his eyes to me before taking the back on the road

"I dont know.."

I'm quiet, I really should end this call

"I don't wanna lie, I miss you.." she says

I miss her too. I miss our friendship. I miss... No I shouldn't even dare think about it

"Look, I can't speak right now. I'll call you back.." I don't wait for her to say anything.

I hang up.

There's silence. Its too heavy for me.

I feel like he wants me to explain but I decide to also keep quiet.

"I didn't know there is someone else.." he finally says closing the silence between us. He is still not looking at me.

"You are also married to someone else.."

"That's not what I asked.."

"Are you jealous?" I ask

He keeps quiet

"There is no one and infact, I didn't know you and I are in a relationship.." I say

"We haven't labeled it as yet but I know you and I will in one very soon"

I swallow

"You're hostile, so you know that?" He chuckles

"No. But I know I can be one when you get on my bad side.." if he can scare me, then he can scare anyone else.

He parks outside some building. It looks abundant. I don't trust this place at all. It looks somehow scary..

"What do you do for a living Nathi?" I ask, suddenly interested.

I feel like Nathi is a gangster hiding in suits.

I've met them, I can spot one from a distance.

Jail taught me that but Nathi is too private. I cannot tell..

"When I'm sad, I always come here.." he says.

I unbuckle the seatbelt

"What's this building?" I can't stop my self

"Its my therapy home.."

I laugh

"Come, let's go inside.."

"I'm scared.." I whisper

"I know. Come"

I open the door and walk out.

It's dark and late..

We walk inside the building. He unlocks the room inside the building and switches on the light as soon as we we get in.

You can tell the building hasnt been used in like ages. It's big and one can tell it was an expensive building before it got burned down or something.

There's only a chair and a table inside. I feel like all shady things happen inside this room. It's cold and if I could say it reeks of blood(if such makes sense). Fear flutter in my chest, my heartbeat picks up the speed.

"What goes on in here Nathi?" I ask. I sound like a little girl scared

This room reminds me so much of 15 years ago. The cold room where I faced the detective

alone. Where he questioned me and promised me I would be going to jail for the longest time. Where the detective threatened me. Where he made sure I had signed up with being in hell. Where he made sure I was going to regret ever taking someone's life like it meant nothing... Sigh...

He seats on the table...

"A friend showed me this place a few years ago.." I'm silent..

"He said it's a good therapy for men like me and I feel it will be for you.." I'm silent.

I'm scared being in here only

"I used to come here alot.."

"Do you kill people in here?"

"Yes.." I'm quiet

He laughs

"You watch too many movies.." he says

Sigh

"But I should say I used to come here. Sit on this chair all day just to think."

He stands up and walks to the wall and leans against it with his hands inside the pockets

"You know when I met my wife, she was on drugs. She Was involved with the wrong crowd.. She was depressed to a point where nothing could save her.."

I don't even know why he is telling me this
"Her mother had just left them and she had to take care of her young sister and they had no father or anyone else to look after them.."

Silence

"I met her this one night when some guys were raping her on the side of the street at night because she had to go out and get money to get her young sister school Jersey because she couldn't go to school anymore because of the cold. And getting money meant going out at night to steal or involving her self with the wrong crowd"

I think I know where this is going

"You remind me so much of how strong she is.." he says

"I fell for her, and falling for her meant carrying all her burdens. Taking all her troubles to me. It meant taking peoples lives just to save her." He

is no longer facing me. I get a hint of anger mixed with sadness in his voice.

He is calm, but I feel like his mood is precarious. Violence is lurking just under his skin.

I stand up to limp to stand up behind him. He is very tall. He turns to look at me

"How do you feel right now?"

It's now about me. I hate talking about my self.

I want to turn and go back to my chair but I feel like limping back there is going to be a lot of work

"I'm okay.."

He is looking at me, his dark gaze is not doing me any good. I feel like he can search through my soul by just looking at me which I hate with all my heart.

"You've killed a man" it's a statement

"He had to die"

"Why?" He ask

"I couldn't let my sister go through the same thing my mother went through.." I can feel this anger forming inside me

He is silent

Now I have all the strength to go back to the chair. Luckily I have my box of cigarette in my pocket and a lighter, I take it out and lit the cigarette.

The smoking doesn't help, I'm sad... No I'm angry, infact I don't know..

"Why do I keep on going through this?" I can feel my heart closing in on me.

I don't know what's going on with me, but the truth is I hate this feeling.

I don't want this

"Because you're strong."

"Does being strong mean killing?"

"Maybe"

"I'm scared I will go back to jail again. I feel like killing is in my blood now Nathi.." shy am I opening up to this guy?

I feel the tears burning the corners of my eyes.

It's been almost 15 years since I've shed tears.

Why today.

I silent sob follows.

He is still leaning against the wall watching me.

I cry for my mother, for the years I've missed out while in jail. For the lives I've taken... My emotions are just volatile. I shudder, my teeth chatter as cold pain settles into my bones.

After a few moments he walks to me. A sob heaves from my chest when he lifts me in his arms and cuddles me close. My hands fists in his shirt and I turn my face against him as I weep..

"I'm really sorry.." he keeps on saying to in low, calming tone. That helps bring me back to my senses more than anything. I blink up to him after a few moments of crying.. I study his taugth features. He seem really distressed and he presses a soft kiss on my forehead.

"I wanted you to let it all out but not like this.."he says

"You made me cry.." I say

"You are a cry baby.." I chuckle

I can also feel his manhood stiffen against my belly. I'm embarrassed right now...

(I can't keep my eyes open anymore. I'm sorry)

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

FIFTEEN

All I did was to save my mother...

All he did was to save the woman he loved...

Both our scars ran too deep

Her pain, his treasure...

Its Friday, we're getting ready to go to Theo's home for the funeral.

Nomusa has been there since Wednesday. I honestly don't know how my sister is right now.

I feel so bad for not being there with her to protect her... I know for sure that she is not coping...

Nathi promised to fetch me and drive me there, I honestly don't want to go with Zama. The only option was to go with her, I know I couldn't afford to go to the taxi rank while limping...

Which is why I opt for asking Nathi to drive me there.

"Since you promised to come see me.." she says as I answer my cellphone.

I need to finish packing and I know this one will want to spent a whole hour with me on the cellphone.

"Alot has happened in the past few days.." I say and stop packing then sit on my bed to talk to her

"What went on.. you sound so down right now.."

"Nomusa's baby daddy has passed on.."

"The guy that had been abusing her?" I remember I once told her on the cellphone days ago.

I've always known Dragon to be a good listener

"Yeah.."

"Isn't that worth celebrating?"

"It would be if I didn't have a hand in his death.."

"You mean...?"

I sigh

"One of us had to live.."

"Are you aware that you are still holding on to the anger?"

"I know.."

"Then what will do with that? Liyana you cannot keep on killing people as if it's something good.."

"I know.."

"Wenzani manje? When are you coming to see me?"

"I'm getting ready to go to his home. I'll come after the funeral."

"Do that, I won't call you to remind you.." she hang up..

...

Zama knocks on my bedroom door as I finish zipping my hand bag...

I turn to look at her when she walks in.

"Nathi is here already..." she says

"Okay, tell him I'm coming.."

She nods

"And I'm leaving already, I have to pass by the office. I'm covering Theos death.."

Oh why am I not even surprised

"Do you think it's a good idea for you to do this? I mean Theo's family is mourning his

death and you will be there with all your cameras questioning the poor family?"

"Its not my choice to make.."

I'm quiet

"And its my line of work.."

Sigh

"Please in everything you write on that blog of your, make sure you don't include my sister.." I say.

I'm begging her

She is quiet

"I'll see you at the funeral.."

She walks to the door, I expect her to walk out but she stops and turns back to me

"As much as I don't want to include my emotions in this story but it just takes me back. I feel for Nomusa's kids, I ask my self how do they feel now that someone robbed them their father.."

I'm quiet.

She walks out after uttering that nonsense.

...

"Can I make you something to eat?" I ask him

He nods.

He seems a bit distracted.

Zama cooked earlier on so I'll just warm the food.

I wait for the food to warm, I'm trying so hard to avoid his mood today but I just cant

"Are you okay?"

I ask..

He raises his eyes to look at me

"Yeah, just a bit distracted.."

"Wanna talk about it?" I ask

"Nah, it's just business. I'll be fine.. "

His phone rings..

He stands up to go answer it.

And comes back after a while. I have dishes up for him...

I expect him to eat but he is not

"Theo's death is all over the media.." he says

I'm not a fan of media so I know nothing about it

"Its expected.."

"I did this knowing it's going to affect me at the end but right now it's getting out of hand. My

tenants wants to know if they will be safe with everything that went down in their complex with the security company around.."

I look at him. I'm shocked

"That's your building?" I'm beyond shocked

He nods

I go sit with him

"Then why did you do this?"

"I had no other plan, but I will fix this.."

I'm silent.

I don't know what to say to him.

I'm close to him, I feel so bad for getting him in this. I feel like he doesnt deserve this at all.

I know he was trying to help me but doing this to himself?

I stand up and go behind him. I hug him from behind..

He turns to look at me

"I'll fix this, you don't have to worry about me."

He stares down at me, considering. I barely could breath, if I do I'll inhale his purely masculine, purely intimidating scent.

He blows out a sigh

"Can I kiss you.." it comes out as a whisper, I know we are safe. Zama has left, it's just the two of us.

I'm not sure if I want to do this. But i know i want to

I take his lips in mine, kiss him so hard that it steals both our breaths away.

I can feel the inferno building. Every stroke of his tongue dominates my own

His lips caresses me hard.

I'm a slut..

I think as he picks me and takes me to the couch,..

My hands go to his shirt, tearing at the buttons in my haste to feel his hard chest, I want to touch him. Explore every inch of this body.

He growls against my mouth kissing me harder as he shrugs out of his shirt and helps me remove the rest of his clothes. Soon I'm also naked. He weights settles over me. His hard cock presses against my wet womanhood.

I'm not sure if this is the right decision. I'm questioning my decision but all I know is I want to do this.

The last time I've been with a man was with my virgin breaker before going to prison.

He is the second men I'll ever sleep with.

Right now my mind goes to Dineo... I think of her.

I know doing this will mean labeling what I have with Nathi. Which I don't want to be a home wrecker.

He presses his forehead to mine, so we exchange ragged breaths.

"Liyana.." he groans my name and lines up with my slick opening.

I'm wet, I'm ready for him, my core is throbbing with need.

I need him so bad. It hurts.

"Do you feel what you do to me?" He ask.

I moan

His swollen cockhead presses at my entrance, parting my pussy lips as he ease inside me. I whimper at the burning stretch of him pushing

in, but he doesn't stop at the sound of my discomfort. His hands are just all over my body. Once he is fully seated inside me, he pauses. My core contracts, struggling between pushing him out and letting him in. His jaw is clenched.

I wrap my legs around him digging my nails into his sculpted as pulling him deep inside of me

The whimpers turns to moans as he goes in and out of me. He is pumping his hips faster and harder as he clings to control his threat ..

...

I suddenly feel so sad that he is leaving me here, but he promises to fetch me tomorrow after the burial.

We kiss, it's long and passionate.

Nomusa is in the bedroom alone.

I feel so sad for my sister. She is wearing a blanket and sitting on the bed. ..

"Nana.." I say to her as I join her on the bed

She looks at me and smiles

"You're blowing.." no something is up with this one

"Nomusa have you been drinking?"

"Shhh... You don't have to agree it out loud."

She laughs

"Nomusa!!"

I pull the blanket away from her she has whiskey with her.

I try to snatch it away from her but she fights me

"Nomusa you shouldn't be drinking!"

"What more can I do? I have killed him, I can't focus! I need something to keep me going..." she says.

Thank God we are alone in the bedroom.

I sit down with her. She is now crying.

The door opens, Zama walks in.

Damn, I dont need this one in here, not now.

I have to speak to this one. I have this fear that she is too drunk and might end up shouting that we killed her baby daddy just like she did now

"What's going on in here?" Zama ask

"Zama I need to talk to this one, in private.."

"No...I killed him.." Nomusa keeps on saying while crying..

"You killed who?"

"She is drunk can't see that?"

"No I'm not!!! I can't cope Zama!!! I killed him.
He wanted to kill me and make it look as if it
was Liyana!!!"

Dear Lord...

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

SIXTEEN

(Bonus insert. I appreciate you.)

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

John 14:1-3

"Shhh

Ba tlohela ba robale

Ba phahlolle diphate

ho fihlella mahlo a bona

a mela dithoko
Ha ba bokwe ke ditoro
Shhh
Kwenya modumo
Re hloka kgefutso
ho omisa meogo
ho hema kgotso
ho ana bophelo
Wena, MmaLefu le Moradi yao:
yena, Ngwetsi ya malapa
A ko botheng
Kopanyang dintshi
Isa masapo ho beng – nakwana
Re ke re phele sebakana
Robala la Kgotos Tau ya Bataung."

The young girl's poetry seem to be harmony to the low humming around me.. The hymns can push one into crying so deep. People sing with so much sadness, so much pain and grieve its just too hard to hold it in.

It's sad. There are cries all around . I'm trying so hard to keep it all together for Nomusa.

I sympathies with them. It's sad.

It's sad that I had a hand in this. I feel like I've caused all this people the pain. It breaks my heart..

"See now that I, even I, am He, and there is no God besides Me. I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal; neither is there any that can deliver out of My hand." I remember my mother's bible scripture

I have always lived by it when I would think back that I had killed my dad.

It was meant to be, she always said this to me.

"God knew he would die like this.." mama kept on saying to calm me down.

...

This day just takes me back to when my mother died. I remember how lost in thoughts I was. I could not even shed tears.

I hated her for taking her life but I I didn't blame her.

I felt sad for both my sisters, and today I feel sad for both my sister's children. But somehow I feel like I've given them the opportunity to grow

up as better men. Not to grow up and live by their father's footsteps..

The pastor says a prayer and everyone stands to go back to their cars.

I think I saw Dineo and her sister somewhere around...

Dineo did call me in the morning to let me know she is coming to the funeral and wanted the directions for Theo's home. I really do appreciate her for the support she's given me..

"Liyana.." oh, I did see her..

I smile

"How are you?"

"I'm okay, thank you for coming.." I say as I give her a brief hug

"You can come with us, it's only Tshidi and I in the car.." oh thank God.

I hated being inside the family car with Theo's family.

We walk to her sister's car, she's driving a Mercedes Benz today, it's small but beautiful.

I get inside, at the backseat while she joins her sister in the front.

Did I tell you how beautiful this woman is, I never get tired of her beauty...

"How are you?" Tshidi ask

I smile at her

"I'm okay.."

"I heard you fell and almost broke you leg but you seem alot better today, I hope you did go to a doctor.."

"I did, I'm feeling a lot better today.."

The drive from the cemetery back to Theo's home is short, it's just a few streets away.

Soon we are parked just outside the house and wash our hands.

I honestly expect Tshidi to say no to the food but she surprises me when she offers to help me dish...

Zama is somewhere around. We haven't spoke since last night.

She's not taking this well, I'm hoping her sister hasn't been drinking again. I have distanced myself from both of them , last thing I need is to cause drama like we did last night.

I swear to God, I'll end beating the shit out of Nomusa.

My bag is already packed, I'm waiting for Nathi to arrive anytime from now. He called in the morning to let me know he would come in three hours.

I just wanna leave this place and go deal with Nomusa and Zama at home..

We dish up for Dineo, Tshidi and I and just decide to sit in the tent...

"I need two bottles of wine as soon as I leave this place.." Tshidi says.

I feel like she's a heavy drinker, but I dont blame her, it's what most rich wives do...

"Why don't you come with us and spend the rest of the day with us drinking wine?" Dineo asks
We're still a bit awkward, but I'm glad her sister doesnt notice that

"Nah, I have to make sure Nomusa is okay.." I say

"I can imagine how she is right now. I honestly don't know what I'll do to my self if my husband

dies.." I'm suddenly sad, I hope her husband is a good man

"That one won't die anytime soon.." Dineo says with a but of laughter.

I love the bond between this sisters.

"Oh, I'm married to a beast nana!!" They both laugh..

I feel so much left out right now..

I see Zama walk to me...

"Can I talk to you?" She says to me..

"We'll speak at home Zama.." I want to dismiss her

"Its important.."

Sigh

"I'll be right back.."

I stand up and follow her to the gate..

"I need to know if it's true.." This child!!!

"Zama this is not the right place to talk about this.."

I say to her

"Were you there when she killed him?"

"Zama!! I said this is not the right place to talk about this!!!" I'm losing my temper.

This child is so self centered.

"I'm covering his story.." then there is silence

This is unbelievable

"And you want to write about your sister? You want to write that she killed him?"

"Did she?" She ask

"You wouldn't dare.."

Silence again

"If there is anything you need to do is to support your sister! She just lost the father of her kids.."

I say to her

"I'm just trying to do my work here Liyana!"

She is shouting

"Dare raise your voice at me again I swear I'll-"

I say pointing my finger at her.

Nomusa comes and stands between us..

She looks so much drained..

"Guys not here.." she says in a low tone..

"Talk to this child because I won't tolerate her attitude.." I say

Nomusa turns to look at her

"Zama I was just drunk.. I don't know what really happened.." Nomusa says

I know that this child won't buy this story, that's one thing for sure I know

"Then what happened? I know he was abusing you and all, I just need to know what happened to him."

"Nomusa I'm leaving.." I say to her

"Its fine, I think I'll come home later during the week, there is a ceremony they need to perform before the kids and i leave.."

"Will you be okay?" I ask

She nods, she looks really tired

"Please make sure not to drink alcohol.." she chuckles lightly

"I wont.."

I nod

"I'll go take my bags. Asambe wena Zama!"

She stands still

"Manje!!"

She follows me to the house.

I just need her away from Nomusa. I know she will just utter everything that happened.

We both take our bags and I wait for her to get in her car and leave before I go back to Dineo

and Tshidi, it's fine I'll call Nathi and tell him I got a lift from a friend..

The girl and I leave as soon as I let them know that I'm ready to go..

Dineo is now driving and Tshidi is busy on her phone smiling...

My phone rings, its Nathi.

I sigh while looking at Dineo. I honestly don't know why I feel uncomfortable talking to Dineo around Nathi, the same way I also feel uncomfortable talking to Nathi around Dineo..

But I decide to take it anyway..

"Liyana.."he says my name in his deep voice my heart melts.

He says my name so different. I find it sexy.

No no Liyana dont..

"Nathi.." the girls are quiet and I know they are listening to my conversation.

The energy on the phone is wierd but somehow steals all the control all the control with just his breathing.

Lord.

"Ukuphi, I'm at the gate?" His voice just does things I cannot explain to my body.

Liyana when did you become a slut?

I honestly blame freedom.

But his voice just makes me forget all my problems

"What? I just left the place. A friend offered to give me a lift.." I say.

"I was about to call you and let you know, I'm sorry." I continue

"I'm sad because I have plans for us.." he says

"You want to make me cry again?"

He laughs. Its sweet. It's a rare thing to hear him laugh

"No I don't want to make you cry, is the friend dropping you off at home? I can drive there and fetch you?"

"Yeah they are.."

"I thought it's a friend"

"Its friends"

"Mmmh I hope it's female friends"

I laugh

"Are you jealous?"

"Do I need to be?"

"You'll find me at home.."

"Okay, wear a dress and heels"

"I don't own that"

He laughs

"I know, I was just teasing you...I'll see you in a few.."

I hung up, I can feel Dineo's eyes on me on the rearview mirror.

I feel like a slut right now.. I feel so bad.

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

SEVENTEEN

The girls drop me off at home...

Tshidi is fighting though, she wants me to spend the day with them so bad. She keeps on talking about driving to some soa and going for a massage.

I wish I could join them, but I just wanna spend the rest of the day with Nathi.

Sigh.

I sound like umuntu o fakelwe ilove portion.

Lord...

The house is just too quiet. I had expected to find Zama already at home and oh I think back that she mentioned something about going to the office, I really want to talk to her...

There are a few ciders in the fridge, they are Nomusa's. I just need something cold. I open and just gulp it down. I need to get out of this dress as well.

There is a knock after a few moments of settling on the couch. I groan. I know for sure that its Nathi.

I stand to go open for him. Its him, he has a take away bag with him.

He looks so damn good, in sharply tailored suit...

"Hi..." he says. He leans down, his lips skim across my cheek before tickling the shell of my ear.

I'm too lost in his manly scent.

I love how he is with me..

"The dress looks so damn good on you.." he noticed I'm in a dress.

I was forced to wear it. But I just how how he notices even the small things on me...

I blush

"Thank you.." I can't believe how breathy my voice is right now.

"I hope you're hungry, I brought you food, I'm sorry I took long, I thought I should pass by the shops and get you food..." I laugh

"Thank you but I have already had something to eat.."

I tell him

"Okay, then are you ready to leave?"

"I hope we're not going to that scary place again..." he chuckles

"No.."

I walk to the kitchen with him following me and let him place the paper bag on the kitchen counter.

I think I'm fine, but I'm in a black dress and a black blazer.

I've never worn this type of clothing, it's too uncomfortable for me.

"I think you'll need to change the dress.." he says to me, It feels as though he wants to take me to that shady place again

"No, I'm not going to take you there again.." he says as if he's read my mind.

"Oh thank God.."

He laugh.

I need to wear my Jean's right now. There's nothing that would make me so much happy than getting out of this dress...

...

I've never been to a place like this. It looks so much fancy. There are fancy cars parked outside.

"What's going on here?" I ask him as we park.

"Its a pub and grill, meeting a few of my friends to celebrate a friend's wife's birthday.."

He says.

"Come.." i want to ask if he wasn't supposed to take his wife or anything.

Honestly I'm not free with this. I'm getting scared, if we're meeting his friends then they

surely do know he is married and will probably treat me like some home wrecker.

I know you know, I am. I just don't need to be judged right now.

"Are you okay?"

"I'm okay.." I'm lying, I'm not.

We walk inside him holding my hand. Its cosy. I'm enjoying the moment.

Atleast I get to forget my problems while with him..

It's not crowded inside, I had expected to find people dancing, some fighting and just everything that happens 8inside places like this but to my surprise, there are men in suits.

Some look like bouncers. Some guy comes to us. He is in suits too, he looks really really good. I can see a tattoes appearing on his neck..

"Nathi.." he says. He is intimidating

"Luu.." they shouldef bump. They both are giants..

"And I see you have a guest with you.."

Nathi chuckles

"Oh, this is Liyana.. Liyana meet Luthando. He is the owner of this place.." oh I thought so.. I honestly feel as though I'm too dressed too casual for the event happening here.

A woman comes to us. Her face lights up when she sees Nathi.

She's also beautiful. Reminds me so much of Tshidi

"Nathi!!" She says hugging him.

"Tumi." He has her in his arms.

Okay, don't overthink it.

She has a wedding ring on her finger. I'm praying so hard that it mustn't be the wife.

She is wearing a dress. It looks fancy..

"Are you going to introduce me?" She asks, I know she is talking about me.

"Oh, this is Liyana. Liyana this is Boitumelo, Luthando's wife.."

I don't expect a handshake or anything from her. I can tell by how she looks at me that she doesn't like me

"I thought you'd be bringing Mathidiso.." she says

"Boitumelo, I think you should go check if our guests are still okay.." Luthando says.

Matshidiso...

She walks away

"Can I get you something to drink?" Luthando ask me

I don't know what to drink, I feel like if I say whiskey I'll embarrass my self.

I shake my head no.

"A glass of wine will be fine" Nathi saves the day.

I'm trying so much to engage my self with people around here. I feel like Nathi is not giving his friends too much attention like he should be. He keeps on asking me if I'm okay.

I have learnt that its Boitumelo's birthday. I feel a ping of jealousy when she talks so much of her success and how lavish her life is. I wish things would have turned out like hers.

If only I hadn't killed my mother..

I'm suddenly sad but I honestly don't wanna ruin the mood for Nathi..

"You seem lost in thoughts. What are you thinking?" He ask as he pins me with his eyes. I nod.

"I think I've heard enough wine now.." it's tue. I think I'm on my 10th glass.

"Do you want us to leave?" I nod...
It's getting late.

"But only if you want us to leave.." he says.

"I'll go say my goodbyes to Luthando and his wife.."

He says and walks to them..

...

"I enjoyed my day.." I tell him.

We're parked just outside my home. It's already dark but I can see Zama's car parked outside.

I know she is in. I'm tipsy, I know I'll go straight to my bed and sleep. I'll speak to her in the morning.

"I did too and thank you for agreeing to come with me. I know I wouldn't have spent even an hour alone there.." I smile

I'm honestly tempted to ask why he didn't take his wife but I want to decide against it.

"Why didn't you take your wife with you?" Oh my mouth decides to betray me.

Liyana!! I wanna beat my mouth right now.

"She's never been with me to any parties or business functions. She feels they're tok boring for her"

His eyes are closed and he says that.

I feel like she's a drama queen. I enjoyed being there. I've never been to any party like that ever before

"Nathi.."

"Mmh.."

"I don't feel right with what's going on between us really.."

He opened his eyes to look at me

"I mean, you're married and right now I feel like your side chick. I feel like this will only hurt me in the end.."

"I know." It's simple, its clear

"But I will make sure it doesnt.."

He sounds like a married man right now

"I'm surely falling for you Liyana.."

"Then what Nkosinathi? What if she calls you right now and tells you to come home? Are you going to leave just like that? Are you planning on making me your mistress?" Why the fuck did I even ask that..

He sighs

"Come here.."his tone is softer

I slide closer. He looks into my eyes before lowering his gaze to my mouth. He leans in and brushes his lips sweetly against mine..

"I will never hurt you, that's one thing I know for sure.." he whispers against me.

My heart beats fast against my ribs.

I cant say anything..

He takes my hand, directs it to his erection, thick and hard.

"I should leave before we do something we're not supposed to do here" his voice is rough with lust.

I whimper..

He leans in to try to capture my lips but I turn and he kisses the side of my neck and frowns

"You can't kiss me and make everything alright." My body is already surrendering despite my protest..

We're lost in the intimacy when a car stops on our side...

It's a black sedan...

Gunshots ring out. The people are shooting at our car

"Shit!!!" I hear him say before he pushes my head down. I hit my head hard against the dashboard.

I'm getting dizzy. Gunshots keeps on firing. I think he is also shooting out..

Next thing I hear a car driving fast past us. I know it's the shooters and I hear him groan.. My head is painful, I'm dizzy. I feel like I'll pass out

"Liyana!!!" He says, his voice...

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

EIGHTEEN

The beeping machine sounds wake me up.

I scan the room. I'm alone in a room that looks like a hospital ward. I panic remembering what had happened...

I sit up straight but there is a drip on my hand. There's no one. I haven't been shot, so what the fuck is going on here???

The door opens and some guy walks in..

"You're finally awake?" He ask

"Where am I? Where is Nathi?" I need to know where he is. The last thing I remember was gunshots firing and a car driving away..

I want Nathi now!!!

"How are you feeling?"

"Don't ask me stupid questions. Where is Nathi?"

The door opens. Someone walks in.

I want to laugh in disbelief

"What's going on? What are you doing here?"

I ask her. I'm shocked that I'm in a hospital ward, and she's here with me. Zama of all people?

Her: "You are awake." It's a statement.

I'm tired of this already

I need to know where Nathi is. I'm scared something happened to him.. I'm thirsty, but it's the least of my worries.

"Where is Nathi?" I ask her hoping that she will answer me because if anyone between them doesn't, then I'm removing this drip on my hand and going to look for him

"He is fine, he got shot but he is fine" she decides to say

"What's really going on Liyana, who were those people that where shooting at you?" She asks.

The guy is also still standing here with her

"How am I supposed to know? I was in the damn car with Nathi.."

"I feel like you've brought your troubles of out jail to our home with you.."

I laugh in disbelief

"Can I see Nathi?" I ask the guy

"He will come see you. I have to make sure if you're okay.." he says.

Everything doesnt make sense right now

"Okay, Zama how did I get here? Where is Nathi?" I ask her even though I know she will utter nonsense

"We came with Nathi and some guy. I had called the police after I heard the gunshots. And Nathi was losing blood so I don't know who called the guy so I went out of the house when I saw the guy parking behind Nathi's car and scooped you up because you had passed out. Nathi was shot and couldn't do anything.." This is confusing

Sigh

She is still not talking to me..

Nathi walks in.. I swear to God He had only a vest and his formal pants. I can see he is in pain. My dark evening angel. I want to jump on him and just kiss him all over his face.. I didn't realise I had been this worried about him until now.

"How are you feeling?" He asks, strained. It feels as though it's only us in the room. Everyone else doesn't exist..

"I'm Okay, what about you? Have you been shot?" my voice is strangely faint I ask too many questions all at once.

Everything happened really quick.

"I'm okay, I was worried about you.." he says to me

"Thank you for everything man.." then says to the guy

"But you have to go to the hospital to make sure the wound is not too bad Ndlovu." The guy says to Nathi.

I thought we are in hospital. What's going on here?

"I'll be fine. I've always survived.." he says. I look at Zama, she has this questioning look on her face.

The guy takes my hand and slowly removes the drip.

I'm still in my clothes, so I don't need to change. I stand up and we all walk out. I realise when we walk out of that it's a small surgery. Zama is quiet. I know she has a lot to say. It's the early hours of the morning. I can tell she hardly slept.

Its cold... I'm still in the clothes I had worn for the party...

Zama's car is parked outside, there is a car I don't recognize parked next to hers

"So are you driving with me or with him?" she asks

I think its Nathi's, its not the one we were shot in...

"With Nathi." I don't even need to think to answer her

"Fine, but I suggest you guys go to the police station to make a statement because I had already called the police.." she says

Nathi is quiet, I can see hes getting annoyed
I ignore her

"I've called Nomusa to let her know what went on. I think she's home.."

"You really did have to do that?" I ask

She goes to her car..

Nathi opens the door for me to get in before he goes to his and we drive out. Sedan.

We're not driving home, it's a different direction..

"What really went on?" It's the first thing I ask when we drive out..

I don't even want to ask where we are going. I just need to go where I know I would be safe because one thing for sure i know is that those people wanted to kill us. It wasn't robbery or anything. They wanted us dead.

Just thinking of it makes me question if being a good girl in prison was a good idea.

Life in prison was better than all this things I'm going through right now.

He is silent, he looks as though he is deep in thoughts.

His phone rings. He looks at it and let's out a silent sigh

"Mandlovu.." my heart.... Dear lord

"Yes..I'm okay, it wasn't anything major. Yeah, I'm going to Pretoria house, I just need to rest, I haven't slept at all... Okay, I'll send someone to come and take you guys there, just text me when you're ready... I love you nam." A block of ice forms in my stomach

I'm not saying anything anymore.. I feel like I'll hurt my self.

He is silent, I already know we are driving so the so called "pretoria house"

"I'll take you home after you've rested." He says "Oh.." the sound leaves my chest along with all the air from my lungs as though someone has punched me..

The drive is long and silent.

In an hour we are parked outside some house. I think it's the "Pretoria house"

I open the door and follow him inside the house. It's a home.. I can tell someone lives here. I'm tired of asking and hurting my self so I'll just keep quiet..

I go sit on the sofa and he goes to the other room and comes back with a bottle of water and glass and hands it to me..

He pulls the coffee table and sits on it facing me, my legs are in between his...

I can't read his expression but I feel like I wont like what he is about to tell me.

"I'm sorry that had to happen while you were with me.." he says

"What really happened Nkosinathi? Who were those people?"

He sigh and keeps quiet for a moment..

"Saving my wife meant creating enemies for my self..."

Wow!!! Just wow!!! So I almost died for his wife's sins?

"Nathi..."

"This is my life Liyana. I chose this life and I'm scared now that they know about you then it puts your life in danger.." scared it's an understatement of how I feel right now

"But I know I will fight. I'll fight with everything i have to protect you."

Is that supposed to make me less scared..

He takes my hand in his

"I don't mean to scare you, I shouldn't have. But I just wanted you to know."

"Do you know those people?"

His nods

"And I've already dealt with them"

"How?"

"I've just made sure they never do what they did.."

"Nathi did you send people to kill them?"

Silence

"Nathi are you a gangster?"

"No.."he stands up and goes to the window
He doesn't wanna look at me anymore..

"What are you?"

Silence.

This conversation is just a waste of time.

"I need to bath, where is the bathroom?"

"Upstairs, first door on your left. There is my
towel in there, its blue you can use it.."

I stand up and walk away..

I'm naked in the shower, under the spray of
water .. I don't know what do to..

Everything doesnt make sense.

I don't fucken know how I got in this so soon.

First it was sleeping with Dineo.. Then Nathi..

Then me falling in love with him.. Then having
to live with the fact that he is someone's
husband and loves his wife..

I don't know..

How did I get here?

And Killing Theo.. Then.. everything..

Dear Lord...

I feel his naked body get in the shower joining me. I feel his warm body close to me. The first instinct is to wiggle back to him, but I stop myself. He kisses the side of my neck gently. I'm not sure if what hes about to do won't affect his wound because i know it will on mine..

He runs his hands all over my body before turning me..

He stares down at me, his black gaze penetrating deep in my soul

There is a bandage on the side of his stomach.

Pale scars crisscross his torso and abs. The scars are just too intimidating.

How many times must he have fought and won to bear so many Marks of violence on his skin?

"I don't want to be in this anymore..." I say before I can even stop myself

"You don't want to be in what?"

"In this.. What ever this is.. I don't want to be in it anymore.."

He keeps quiet

"This wasn't supposed to happen in the first place. I have been with women half of my life. I've dated women when I was in Prison and have slept with one just a few days ago and I think I love her.."

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

NINETEEN

Sipping my tea at the kitchen table in the. I look out at the kitchen window..

I can see the cars passing. People enjoying their lives. Happy.

How I so wish I could be.. It's hard, I don't want to lie. I'm heart broken..

Life in prison was better than this.. I wish I could go back..

My heart was at ease there...

"You still haven't told me how things went at the police station.." I check the time, its 7am. I have to leave at 7:30 but I feel like I'll be

leaving early than sitting here and wishing I could slap her face...

"Zama I'm not in the mood.."

She sits on the chair and drinks her tea

"Theo's story will be published today. I haven't wrote anything about Nomusa.." she says. I'm quiet

"Liyana."

Arghhhh!!!!

"Yini Zama? If you want to ask me if she killed him go ask her!!" I'm tired of this really.

It's fine now. I can go back to prison. I feel like life was better inside. She can go to Nomusa, Nomusa can confess, I don't give a fuck anymore. Right now I feel like getting a life sentence will be much better than getting my heart broken out here.

"Right... I'm sorry.." I keep quiet

"I got scared when I heard those gunshots.." i really wish she can get the message that I'm not in the mood to talk

I'm silent

I stand up and take my bag

"I can drop you off at the shelter.."

"No, I'll be fine.."

I just need some time alone.. To think Nathi didn't say anything yesterday. Our conversation just ended with an "oh" from him, I don't know what that meant...

I don't feel like being at home today, which why I have decided to go to the shelter, maybe I'll forget my problems...

..

I find Dineo already at the shelter.. She is swiping the kitchen. Part of me already regrets coming in today...

She smiles as she sees me

"Look who's here today.." I smile

"You look very much better so I won't even ask how you are."

"I'm okay, really.."

"You can sit. I'm done there.."

I sit on the chair

"How is your sister holding up?"

"Shes fine, she's still at her baby daddy's home but I think she is fine.." I say

Awkward silence fills the room.

"We haven't spoken about what happened between us.." she decides to bring this up. I thought we have and I thought she made it clear that she is not into girls..

I've just gotten my heart broken, I don't want to deal with anymore of the relationships shit..

I'm done

"It shouldn't have happened. I think we should just forget it did before we could complicate things or make things more awkward between us.." I say..

She takes the chair and sits down with me and takes my hands in hers

"The truth is I haven't forgotten about what happened between us. I can't.."

Then ufuna ngenzeni?

"Dineo.."

"I have feelings for you Liyana. As much as I am trying hard to fight it. I can't.. I can't fight it."

Makhumalo saves the day by walking in..

I quickly remove my hands from hers.

Makhumalo smiles

"I heard you were in today.."

I nod. I hope she won't overthink what she just saw right now..

"I hope you're feeling better. You cannot come here and let the kids make you worse.." I chuckle

I know how playful the kids in here are. So I know she's right

"I'm feeling much better really.." I say to her

"I heard about your sister's boyfriend.

Condolences to you guys.." that too...

I nod

"Dineo, I need you to come help me unpack the boxes in the hall. Liyana don't overwork yourself.." I nod..

...

The day goes by really quick. I'm happy to go home. I'm really tired..

Dineo comes to me as I'm getting ready to leave. I've been ignoring her all day and I'm really tired right now..

"Dineo I really have to leave.." I say before she could say anything else..

She sighs

"Please Liyana stop ignoring me. I just need two minutes of your time."

"Dineo you made it clear that you don't want to be with me!! What more do you want from me?" I'm losing my temper right now.

I'm going through alot.

"I know.. I'm really sorry.."sigh

"You know what, I'll see you tomorrow.." I take my bag and walk to the door

"The truth is I don't want to get hurt again.." it gets my attention. I stop but not turn back to her

"I'm scared of falling in love again Liyana. I've been in love with my baby daddy. He made me hate falling in love. Liyana, being in love with me has destroyed me. But I feel like I'm ready now.. I want you. I want to fall in love with you.." I turn, shes on the verge of crying. I don't know what to do or say to her

"Don't cry.." I say..

She chuckles through the tears that are now falling

"You're bad..." we both laugh

"I like you Dineo. In you I have found a friend and I don't want to lose you."

"Then don't.." I sigh walking back to her

"Lets not rush things then. Lets not label what we have. We are fine as friends and yes we can have fun here and there and see where it takes us.." I say

What the fuck am I saying?

He walks closer and hugs me..

"Oh I can't breath.."

"Have dinner with me at my home? We can cook together. I miss spending time with you.." she says

I know saying yes will be a bad idea but I know not going home will do me good right now

"Okay.."

"So are we going to my house?"

I nod..

...

I can never get enough of the beauty of this home. I swear Tshidi has a great taste..
I'm peeling the vegetables while she is on the stove.

We are having wine, it's terrible..

She's better company.

Her phone rings. It's her sister.. she says shes on her way to bring Dineo's daughter and she's coming with her husband..

"I think they will join us for Dinner.. They usually do when they bring Pretty.."

Oh..

"Its okay. I like your sister, shes a whole mood.." she laughs

"She is. I know shes probably drunk.." I can't help but laugh..

I know she is.

"Her husband is a bit intimidating though. I hope it wont scare you.."

Girl I've been with more intimidating people in Prison. What more intimidating can one be?

I chuckle

"He is a good person though.."

"I hope he is.."

She's looking at me. Her eyes flutter with warmth and something else- something I can't name...

"Thank you for agreeing to have dinner with me.." she says..

She comes to me, leans in and kisses all my thoughts away. I won't lie. It feels good. She smells good, its sweet. And I can't get enough of her.

Her tongue is stroking aggressively against mine. I'm suddenly hungry for her. Our mutual desperation is unstoppable as we devour each other's mouths...

I can hear the kids laughter and screams outside. I know Tshidi is here...

She moves away from me with a chuckle.

I'm still breathing hard when the door opens and the kids run in and Tshidi too walks in with plastics in her hands

"Ohhhh Look who's here!!!" She says in excitement

She's really a happy soul this one..

I blush. The kids run to Dineo and hug her.

Tshidi places the plastics on the table..

"Oh I'm so tired. Liyana. How are you?!!" Shes naturally loud

"I'm okay.."

And...

And.

A man walks in with plastics too. Too many plastics. First thing my eyes go on is his body..

How the T-shirt hugs his muscles body..

The tattoos..

I cant..

"Ngiyabonga Mntungwa.."Tshidi says to him as he places the plastics on the table.

His eyes to mine..

I swallow hard.

Is he Tshidi's husband?

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

TWENTY

"Her husband is a bit intimidating though.." I think bacl to Dineo's words. I should have known

"Liyana, how are you?" He asks.

It's intimidating..

I don't wanna lie, I feel like the earth could open up and swallow me.

"You guys know each other?" It's Tshidi.

I want to say I don't but he beats me to it.

"Yes. We do.." he says, his eyes never leaving mine..

I already want to leave, I don't think sitting on the same table with him and Dineo will be a good idea.

I damn slept with both of them.

I already regret coming here.

Yes, and I'm hurt, do I even need to say it? That the man I love is married to Tshidi.

This is messed up.

It's so damn messed up..

Dineo is busy unpacking the bags. I'm standing here like a lost chicken.

He checks his wrist watch.

"As much as I would like to join you ladies, I have a meeting to attend to in a few minutes .."

he says.

I'm excited that he is leaving.

"Ahh love, I thought you will be joining us..."

Tshidi sulks. I hate her for this..

His arm goes around her waist. I feel a ping of jealousy in my heart..

No Liyana don't.. I honestly don't understand my self right now. I should hate him with everything inside me after discovering that he is married to someone that treats me like a person really since I got out of Jail...

But..

"It's fine. But you'll fetch me right?" He nods then looks at me

"It was great seeing you.." he says to me

Despite my indifference to him. My as covers in goosebumps like a cold breeze had just blown through. My pulse quickens further my tongue quickly quickens further and my tongue suddenly feels too big for my mouth. I drop my gaze..

"It's fine.."

Finally, I decide to leave them and join Dineo and help her pack the grocery.

The door opens and closes, I know he has walked out.

Sigh..

I'm no longer comfortable..

Dinner is served, there is more wine but I don't wanna be here anymore.

I feel like going to the police station and asking them to send me to another shelter will be a good idea. I feel like cutting all ties with this people is the best one.

"Liyana are you okay?" My mind has been elsewhere since this people joined us.. I nod, I hope Dineo Will take this

"You have been quiet.."

I know

"I just have this headache and I know Zama must be worried about me plus it's pretty much late." For the first time I lie about Zama..

I know she won't believe me, everyone knows Zama and I don't get along

She probably doesn't even care if I'm home or dead right now..

"I can call someone to come take you home.."Tshidi..

It's late but not that late, I'll walk. It's fine

"No, I'll walk don't worry." I hope it didn't come out rude.

"No, you can spend the night with me.."Dineo says, I think. The some already got to her I keep quiet

"And Tshidi...I .." she clears her throat. I don't think I'll like what will come out of her mind right now

"Liyana and I are.. we're seeing each other."
WTF?????

"Seeing each other? Jwang?" Tshidi asks Dineo. I know she know what she means. The shock is already written all over her face.

"Like..Dating...." Dineo says taking my hand in hers

"Heh banna!!" It comes out of Tshidi's mouth.

"It's shocking I know, I'm still shocked too. But just happened Tshidi...' Dineo continues I'm quiet, I don't know what to say.

Lomtanaa uya phapha.

The glass of wine is on the table. I want to gulp the wine down so bad.

"When did this happen?" Tshidi asks in shock. She's trying by all means not to say her shock but she's failing dismally.

"A few weeks ago" her young sister answers. Lord...

Tshidi clears her throat.

"I... I don't know really. I'm shocked.. I thought you were straight Dineo"

"I thought I was too.."

It's as if I'm not here..

"Do you guys love each other?" Thsidi asks

"Yes.."Dineo answers.

I'm not going to answer that because the truth is just that I love Tshidi's husband.

I'm quiet.

Everyone goes silent too..

I really need to leave. I so wish my cellphone could ring right now and save me because I'm not answering this..

But I do take my cellphone and check the time. It's a few minutes before 9pm. I really should leave..

"I really should leave..' I say

"Okay, let me clear the table so I can walk you out.." Dineo

"Okay I'll help you do that" I say to her

"No, I think she will manage" Tshidi says..

Dineo clears the tables and takes the dishes to the sink. I'm left sitting on the table with Tshidi.

K don't know, but everything suddenly feels awkward between the both of us.

I feel bad.

And I also get a feeling that she knows about her husband and I ..

"How do you know my husband Liyana?" She asks, not looking at me but her glass of wine.

There is a lump on my throat. I can't swallow it

"He usually comes to the Shelter to donate a few things. That's how I know him.." I'm lying

She goes quiet.

It's scary.

Dineo walks back to us and I quickly stand up..

"I'm sorry the announcement had to come out just like that.. I was too excited and wanted to share my excitement with Tshidi.." Dineo says once we are outside.

I let out a heavy sigh.. I need her to know I don't like what she did but I don't know how to say it without hurting her. I thought we had agreed on being friends and just having fun, nothing else

"It's fine.."

It's not

"You should go back inside,you can't leave Tshidi alone.."

She nods.

...

"Where have you been?"

"And who the fuck are you to ask me that?" I'm annoyed. I'm not in the mood for her...

She goes to her room. I sit on the couch in the sitting room. I take off my shoes and just relax on the couch.

I need to see Dragon and just talk to her, I know she'll help quiet my broken heart..

Damn, it has been only a month since I have come out of prison but alot has happened already..

Zama comes back and sits on the couch with me "Aren't you supposed to be sleeping?" I ask her because I don't need anyone to argue with right now.

I'm tired, Ive had the longest day

She hands me a business card

"That's Noxy's card. She is a therapist. I already spoke to her and she is waiting for you to call her.."

I want to laugh in disbelief

"i don't need a therapist.."

"You do."

Sigh.

"You killed a man Liyana. You've been in jail for years for taking him away from us and I think you need to talk about it.."

"Yey wena dhoti!!! If there's anyone that need this nonsense it's you. You cannot keep on reminding me that I killed your father!!! I did

you ifavour by even doing so!!!" I've lost my
patience already

"He was a father he didn't deserve to die like
that.." she wants to cry

"I don't have time for this..."

I stand up to walk to my bedroom

"And I know that you and Nomusa had a hand
in Theo's death..." She says

I turn back to her

"And if we did?" I ask. I'm tired of this child
already.

She wants to make my life living hell.

"Then you'll go back to jail and Nomusa will go
with you because you are murders!!!"

I laugh in disbelief.

"Why is it such a big deal to you?"

"You cannot keep on killing people as if they
are animals Liyana.."

I walk back to her

"i feel like you will be next. Everyday you keep
on giving me more reasons to want to stab you
in your heart and watch you die slow painful
death..."

Silence..

"Phuma Kimi Zama! I'm tired of beating you.."

I say before going to my bedroom.

I haven't spoken to Nomusa today I text her to wish her a goodnight and ask if she's still doing fine. I know I said I'm angry. But the truth is I miss her, I miss laughing.

She doesn't respond so I know she's probably asleep right now.

My phone is empty.. I decide to finally delete Nathi's numbers.

It hurts but I have to let go for real..

I honestly want to cut all ties with him and his family.

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

TWENTY ONE

This place feels so...

Sigh..

I thought being in here was much better than freedom but now that I'm here visiting Dragon, I realise that I don't miss this place at all..

This place has bad memories. I've seen life in here. I've hated, grown to love and again hated being here again..

I've built memories in here. Memories that I'd hate to remember. Terrible memories.

I'm watching the inmates in orange overalls.

They seem free, happy. I know they're not. I've pretended and came in here looking this way when I used to come in here and see mama. I pretended to be happy so she would leave a happy woman. I wanted her to sleep peacefully but the truth is life in here ain't a bed full of roses.

I stand up and decide to leave, coming here wasn't great idea.

What was I thinking?

"Nana.." it's her. It's her voice.

I want to run to her and jump on her and hug her but I know it isn't allowed.

Seeing her brings smile to my face..

I sit back down.

She comes and Joins me

"You finally came.." it's excitement. She can't contain it. I'm also happy.

No- I'm super excited

"I did.."

"I've been waiting for you.." she says

"I know.. I'm sorry"

"Are you pregnant?"

I can't help but laugh

"What makes you think I'm pregnant?"

"You're glowing.."

I'm still laughing. Dragon has always been like this.

"No.." I say in laughter

"What's eating you?" She has always been straight forward.

I knew she would want me to talk about everything and anything as soon as I walked in

"Ahhhh. I want to hear about everything that's been happening in here since I left.." I say. I

don't want to sadden her with my son stories

"Ahhhh siya phusha nje.." she says. I know she's done. She won't say anything

"I have been sleeping with someone and her brother in law.."

It comes out just like that..

I tell her everything. I'm expecting her to judge me but she is quiet. I know if I was still inside she would slap the shit out of me.

I know she would tell me how stupid I am for everything I've done since I walked out of this place but she's quiet

Her silence is loud, it is heavy. I want her to at least say something .

"This Nathi guy doesn't sound good for you.." at least she says something

I'm quiet

"Cut all ties with both of them.." I've been planning to do that..

"And as for Zama, I think it's time you beat the shit out of her.. What happened to the Liyana that spend years in here with me? The Liyana you just told me about sounds too weak for my liking.." she says again

"Freedom changed me.."

"It made you stupid" she says.

"Liyana you cannot come back here because of a stupid thing and protecting your sister. It was either you or the guy and you chose to live both your sisters need to understand that.."

Sigh

"I wish it was that easy.." I say

"Nothing in life is easy. Kanti what the fuck did I teach you in here?"

Silence

"Liyana you promised me when you walked out of here that you that you were never coming back here."

"I know"

"You've spent almost all your life in here without a dick and now it's not easy?"

"I.."

"Don't. Cut all ties with both of them and put your sister in ICU, I feel like she wants to spend weeks in there to start respecting you!" She says
I'm quiet

"You almost died because of him. He loves his wife to a point he created enemies to protect her

then what about you? Are you going to die because it's not easy cutting ties with him?"

"No."

"Then do that"

Sigh

"Anyway I'm running this place now.."

Change of topic. Thank God..

We spend a few more minutes before it's time for me to leave.

I already miss her.

...

I find Nomusa at home when I get there.

I don't wanna lie, she looks drained. She's tired..

"Aren't you supposed to be at the shelter?" She asks. She is really tired..

"I was meeting a friend.."

"Do you want tea?"

"No. I'm tired, I just want to lie down.." I say

"Liyana.." she calls me as I'm about to go to my bedroom

"I was drunk.." she says

"Where are the kids?" I ask her

"At their father's home.."

"Oh.."

"Liyana I'm really sorry.."

It pisses me off!!!

"Sorry? Sorry that you made me kill him and now confessed about it. Yini do you want me to go back to jail??"

"No!!!Liyana I'm not used to this okay?"

"Used to what? Killing? So I kill for fun?"

She keeps quiet

"Like I said, I'm tired!"

..

There is a knock on my bedroom door. I know it's Nomusa.

I'm tired of this family drama.

I so wish I had anywhere else to go. I don't want to be in this house anymore..

She finally welcomes herself in my room..

I have my back on her but her perfume tells me it's Nomusa

"There is someone here for you.."

She says

I know it's Dineo or Nathi

I don't want to see them

"I'm sleeping.." I don't Know her. So i think it's someone important.

That gets my attention

I look at her

"She says she wants to see you .."

Who is it?

I decide to get up and go check

My heart almost stops..

"I'll be in my room if you need me .."Nomusa says.

She's standing in front of me in her expensive clothes. She's beautiful. I'll never get enough of her beauty

"Are you the slut that's sleeping with my husband?" Just straight to the point..

She's rude. I hate rude people. I know if she continues like this, I'll lose it and her husband will come fetch her here in a body bag.

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

TWENTY TWO

I stand there and just watch her. I don't know what to say to her but I know that God knows how much I am feeling insulted right now..

"Sorry?" It's the only thing I manage to utter. I don't know if it's the shock or what. I thought she didn't know..

No- I didn't think

She walks in and sits comfortably on the chair

"Do you know how many girls I've done this with?"

Silence

"Plenty...They came and left. They thought they would take my place and replace me but the truth is just that that man loves me. He has never loved any woman like he loves me and no woman will ever take my place in his life..."

I'm quiet..

Liyana swallow the lump on your throat and say something...

"Tshidi what exactly do you want?" I ask

She laughs

"Do you know what's funny? Is that I let you in my life. I've been nothing but kind to you yet I have been laughing with a snake"

"I didn't know he was married to you"

"But you knew he was married?"

Silence

"He told them he was married. I know for sure he told he is married.."

"Tshidi what do you want?" I ask again

"For you to stay away from my husband.."

"Does he know you're here?" I just can't stop myself from asking..

"You can tell him it's fine.."she says. I've never seen her this serious. The drunk and always happy Tshidi is not here..

"How many girls have you done this with?" I ask

"Plenty.." she answers

"Doesn't that makes you question yourself as his wife" Liyana!!!

"You don't know me. Do not try me Liyana.." it's scary. But I'm not shaken

She stands up and prepares her self to leave

"Liyana I will kill you if you don't stay away from him. I'm giving you this chance to leave my husband and focus my sister.."

She takes her bag and walks to the door but stops

"What you did to your father and your sister's boyfriend is nothing compared to what I'll do to you if you don't take my threats seriously.."

And soon I hear the door shut..

My sister's boyfriend? I swallow hard.

I close my eyes and let out a loud sigh..

I'm tired of this drama already..

..

I can't sleep. I'm turning and tossing. I can't stop thinking of Tshidi and her threats...

I check the time, it's almost midnight. I want to go wake Nomusa up and talk to her maybe I would feel better but my phone rings.

It's Nathi.

I want to thank God for sending him to call me because I wanted so bad to tell him his wife knows about us and the wife is the very same woman that has been very kind to me.

"I'm outside.." he says when I answer the call.

There's no even a hello or anything

"Oh.."I say

"Yes. Phuma.." it's a request...

For the first time, he is not waiting outside the car.. I feel... no.. I feel nothing. Infact I have to tell this guy to stay the hell away from me.

I open the door and get inside. I'm in my pyjamas and gown. It's warm inside the car. I needed this warmth but I can't stay for a while in here

I close the door and sit inside the car with him in silence.

I can tell he is basked in discomfort, practically thrives on it.

His eyes are on me,have been since I got in here.

Things have never been this awkward between us.

But I know that no matter how awkward things could be between us, he never takes my eyes off me.

Sometimes I feel like he is addicted to my eyes.

Does that even make sense?

"I know she was here..." It's the first thing he says

"Did you send her?" I ask him

"No..."it comes out quickly. Like he didn't even need to think about it

"Nkosinathi I knew you were married but I didn't know you were married to her.."

"What difference would it jaceade if you knew it was her?"

I keep quiet.

He has this look on his face. It's hard to look at him when he wears this expression. He has such a handsome face. He is ageing. But one can tell that the more he is aging, the sexier he is becoming

"Liyana I'm with you because I love you.."

"We're no longer together Nathi. We have never been together actually.."

I say

He is silent. I decide to join him in silence too

"When you said you are inlove with another woman. Were you talking about my sister in law?"

"No.." I answer

He sighs

"Your wife promised to kill me if I don't stay away from you. Please Nathi go tell her we're done."

"No" it comes out just like that.

What the fuck does he mean when he says no

"Liyana I won't break up with you because Matshidiso said so."

This one doesn't understand

"She know about my sister's boyfriend. She knows I killed him!"

"She always thinks she knows everything.

Matshidiso won't do anything to you Liyana, she knows I'll kill her if she does"

Why does killing sound like a normal thing in this marriage?

"Nathi I've had enough drama since I let you in my life. I'm tired now"

I say.

Why doesn't he want to make things easy for me to break up with him?

"Nathi just stop making things hard for both of us.."

"Tell me you don't love me, then it's fine I'll let you be"

I keep quiet.

I want to but I'll be lying. I want him leave me alone. But leave knowing he is the only man I've ever loved on my life..

"Just leave Matshidiso to me. I promise she won't hurt you.."

Spoken like a true married man..

"I have to go back inside..." I say to him

"Right, let me walk you inside.."

Bad BAD idea...

He gets out of the car and walks with me to the kitchen door...

He stands behind me in silence as I unlock the door. I can feel him breathing.

I'm drowning in his scent.

I know he wants to talk. Damn I also want to talk but I know I won't be able to resist him if he tries anything.

That's how weak my body gets to be around him..

"How many women did she threaten for them to leave you?"

He is silent behind

"She said I'm not the first so I know there have been more before me.

"Yes.." he answers

"Why are you doing this to her Nathi?" I ask

"Liyana we are not going to talk about my marriage.." he says

"Nathi I don't want to be the reason your wife goes to bed in tears every night. I'll never be happy with you. Which is why I want this to end before it could even-" he turns me to look at him...

"Liyana.."

"No.. Just leave.." I say to him. Finally I have gathered the strength to tell him.

"And please stay away from me.." I continue.

"I don't think breaking up with me and being with Dineo is a good idea.." he says just out of the blue.

I don't wanna talk about Dineo

"Just go home to your wife."

"Liyana you're only going to hurt her. I know you don't love her"

I chuckle

"Nathi just go"

"Break things off with her." He says

"And if I don't?"

He stares at me for a long time, his eyes unblinking. The answer he gives is a direct contradiction to the length of his pause

"You will.." he says

"Get inside, it's late.." I open the door and walk in.

He is still standing there when I close it.

I feel the urge to cry. I want so bad to cry but nothing comes out

I try to take my mind back to the horrible past, maybe it will gather the emotions and just help me cry but nothing comes out.

I can't sleep anymore. For the first time ever since I got out of prison I think of using my degree.

I need money, I cannot depend on Nomusa for everything, forever.

I'll have to ask her in the morning to help me draft a CV. I'm hoping I'll get something, even if it's not linked to my qualifications it's better than nothing. I'm a beggar I cannot choose and I have no choice, i have this criminal record which I know it's not going to make things easy for me..

...

Someone slightly shakes me. I open my eyes, it's Nomusa. I dozed off on the couch..

"Are you not going to the Shelter?" She asks me as I sit up straight..

"What time is it?" I have a fleece blanket covering my legs. It has been on the couch so I used it to cover myself to sleep

"8am.." it's already late.

And to tell the truth, I don't want to go there anymore.

I hate the place. I hate seeing Dineo. I don't want to go there

"Ahh it's already late, I'll call Makhumalo and tell her I'll go tomorrow.."

She joins me on the couch

"You hardly go to the shelter now. And I'm scared it will get you in trouble with your parole officers..."

She says

I sigh

"I don't want to go there anymore.." it's the truth.

"Why?"

I'm silent

"Nomusa I killed my father, I have been punished. I served my time on jail why should I still be punished wasn't being in jail for 15 years not enough ?"

I'm getting all worked up

"It... It was.." she says in a low voice

"I can't... I can't do this anymore.."

Tears leak from the corners of my eyes

"I hate the shelter. I hate being there more than anything.." a sob follows.

I start crying like a lost little girl. She gets closer and holds me in her arms.

I'm going through a lot. I cannot handle everything right now

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

TWENTY THREE

I won't lie, I thought this wouldn't be tiring but it is.

I opted for hand delivery. People are not making things any easy for me

The managers are even swearing at me for this.

I'm tired already.

I have last two CVs in my bag. I'm dropping them at the nearest shops

"Are you winning?" I wish I could say yes but no..

"I'm still trying..' it's the truth

"Don't give up Liyana I'm sure you'll get something. I've given your CV to the hospital's HR. I'm hoping you'll get something.."

I nod

How can I thank Nomusa for being there for me?

"Hopefully.."

"You sound like someone who has already lost hope.." she sounds so much like Dragon right now

"I'm just tired Musa. I've been going all around this town since in the morning.."

"That's how it should be Liyana..""

I honestly didn't know it's going to be like this. I'm tired already. I want to give up but just the fact that I don't want to rely on Nomusa for everything gives me motivation to still go on...

..

It's 3pm. I'm tired. All I need is to lay down..

Nomusa Is still at work..

Zama..Sigh I roll my eyes. She's at work too...

I decide to shower before going to bed.

It's been three days since I went to work.

Makhumalo called yesterday to ask if I was okay. I said no, the bullet wound is giving me problems .

The truth is just that I don't want to go back to the shelter. Life is a lot better without Nathi and Dineo..

Zama is in the house when I come out of the bathroom. She's sitting on the kitchen table with a bottle of whisky in hand

She looks drunk, I've never seen her like this
"Zama.."

She raises her eyes to look at me and laughs
"Aren't you supposed to be at the shelter?"

"Wena aren't you supposed to be at work?" I ask
She continues laughing

I go to her and snatch the bottle of away from her.

She's drunk really.

"I can't go to work, I've resigned.." she says in a bombed tone

"Liyana bring back my drink."

She continues

"Zama you're drunk just go to sleep!"

She laughs again

"Who are you to tell me what to do"

I don't wanna argue with this child

I give back her drink.

"I heard Nathi's wife was here looking for you.'

she says

I'm quiet

"Nathi doesn't love her, he is just with her

because he pities her" she says again

"How do you know all that" I also

She gulps on the whisky

"Liyana you took my man. You took everything

from me. My father, my fiance and my

happiness. I've had to deal with Matshidiso. I

knew and still know that Nkosinathi isn't in love

with her.."

She's drunk. But a drunk mind tells the truth

right?

"Zama go to sleep" I don't want to react in front

of her but my heart is beating really fast.

"Liyana I hate you but just the fact that you

chose to love the only man that made me happy

makes me to want to destroy you and take you

back to jail!"

"Zama I said go to sleep!"

She stands up

"But it's it's your blood. You always want to get away from every one's happiness!"

...

I'm pacing all around my bedroom. I don't know what to do. I'm hoping this is not true. I'm hoping this is not the reason why she hates me so much.

I can't call Nathi to ask him, I've deleted his numbers.

Now I gather the courage to go to Dineo and ask her for her brother in law's contact details.

But I decide to call Nomusa. I don't even know why but I decide to call her.

She answers on the first ring..

"Sisi.." she answers

"I'm home"

"How did it go?"

"Fine. Zama is home. And she is drunk"

"What? I thought she's at work, what's going on?"

"you Tell me?" I say

"I don't Know Liyana..."

"She said something about Nathi being her boyfriend.."

Silence

"Nomusa?"

"Liyana can we talk later, I'm at work"

I sense that it is true.

God, what have I done?

"Liyana I really have to go " she hangs up.

Lord...

I'm praying that this is not true

I should take a walk ..

The street is too empty. I know it's because the kids are at school.

I'm smoking when the back of my neck is tingled. A gloved hand claps over my mouth, muffling my shocked gasp. A sharp sting my neck as a needle sink in.

The world turns surreal as whatever they put in my body cocoons me in soft dark clouds, and I float into nothingness...

...

"Lee..." Someone whispers in my ear...

I'm feeling cold, I'm wet, I'm shaking..

It's a make..

I try to open my eyes

I'm in a room I don't recognise, lady time I was taking a walk and clearing my mind.

"What's going on here?"

I'm in pain. My ribs are painful. I know I've been beaten.

The men are in balaclavas..

"The boss said we should take her as soon as she wakes up.." of them says.

I'm still still drowsy. I feel one of them talking my pants off.

I have to fight but I can't..

I cannot let them rape me.. I Just can't ..

Extremely short and not edited

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

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TWENTY THREE

****Continuation****

17minutes 7seconds and it's still counting...

...

Ever bared so much pain that you don't care what it does to you anymore?

You bare the pain to a point where you force yourself to get in this dark world and just not feel the pain?

You don't care anymore but you're counting every second that passes by and know it won't end soon.

I've learnt the trick back in prison. I've learnt to count seconds when things weren't okay. Yes, I've gone through hell. I've suffered, I've struggled. I've seen the dark side of life, the tormenting side..

Prison is not a place I'd even wish my enemy to be in. You endure every pain. The physical, the emotional, the sexual pain..

Sigh

Yes, sexual pain..

17 minutes 52 seconds. He stops. Another one comes and forces himself on me, it's the 4th one now.

The first one took exactly 7 minutes.

Another one followed, he took 4minutes 52second

The third one took 5minues 8 seconds

And this one has been at it for 52seconds now.

The toxic fear that had engulfed me has freezed the raw scream that has been locked on my throat..

I'm not crying, I just can't.. 22minutes. He finally finishes. I'm laying on the cold floor. I don't have the energy to move anymore...

I hear the door opening and laughter...

It's a man, he is laughing

His laughter is so demonic...

I feel like the lost little girl I was 17 years ago.

How terrified I was.. This is me now.

I didn't think I would be terrified in my life ever again. I'm scared.

He comes and kicks me hard on my stomach

A plea for mercy locks in my throat.

I can't speak, could barely breath. My mind begins to shut down. The adrenaline created by fear clouds my brain

The world sharpens around me with cruel clarity.

"Lee" he says in his demonic voice

I'm groaning in pain..

He laughs. He enjoys my pain. My cries and groans makes him happy..

"Mighty Ndlovu should see this.." he says again.

I swear to God, his voice will haunt me forever

"He is known for saving women right? He should come and rescue you!!" He continues

There's silence, the only sound that's in the room is me groaning and belts buckling up.

"I want you to take a video of her and send it to him. I want him to see her. I want to know if he'll come and rescue her..."

He says

"Yes boss." Another voice answered

I don't believe in the Bible, in fact I don't believe in God but they said he is there. Where is he when things are this bad?

But the woman inside of me wants to laugh at me and ask where has this God been when I was forced to kill my father to protect my mother? When I had to kill Theo to protect my sister? He failed to protect them, I had to do his Fucken job!! To protect this people because he has failed to!

Then what the fuck am I expecting? For him to finally show up now because I know I'm in pain and now I suddenly expect him to be the "God" everyone says he is to come rescue me?

One of them kneels in front of me. I can't see his face. I know that mine is bruised, I've been beaten to a pulp.

He runs his hand on my face

"We'll see how much he loves you.." it's the demonic voice guy. I can't see him but I already know that I should fear him more than this four guys that forced themselves on me.

"You've messed with the wrong person. And I'm scared you'll be left here to suffer the consequences alone while Ndlovu is out there loving his wife even more.."

He laughs

"NC NC NC poor Lee, you just got out of jail and right now you'll have to make a choice incase he doesn't come to rescue you. Jail or death... Jail or death.. Jail or death.." he says and gets up..

I hear snaps, I know they are taking pictures and videos of me.

I'm naked, my pants and underwear are laying carelessly on the floor. My T-shirt is torn. I have bruises all over my body.

To be continued

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HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

TWENTY FOUR

#Not for the faint

"Haiy ubomi.... Zababayabayabaya oh impilo
zabayabayabaya

Ngizo buys mama wam... zababayabayabaya oh
impilo zababayabayabaya oh unghali..

Oh ongandithathi... Zababayababaya oh impilo
zabayabayabaya ndisa ncamela ukuphila.."

The prisoners sang too loud.

This was the first day I'd walked inside my
prison wall. How scared I was when the
prisoners sang too loud.

When Dragon dragged me and slapped so hard
that I fell.

I remember crying so much and calling for my
mother.

I remember shouting mercy. I was the youngest
but they said I was old enough to kill and to be
hurt. They wanted to see if I was brave enough
to handle the pain I've inflicted to someone else
before he died.

When she stabbed me countless times and
crying so loud as the knife pierced Deep inside
me. When my screams choked off on sobs as
terror took over.

They kept on singing, I understood days later
that they sang to celebrate having a new mate
inside. And i understood later that they sang to
distract the Warders.

You'd swear when they sang that they were happy and enjoyed life inside, but the truth is just that no one sang in happiness. Their beautiful voices hid so much fear and pain they bared inside. The singing hid so much and I swear if I talk about it, I would bring too many tears to too many souls.

I'm here now..

I'm the lost little girl I was.

The difference now is there is no singing. I keep on imagining the singing inside my head with every pain that shoots me.

I realise now how much their singing made the pain a lot better. I need it. It would take me in a different world, where I would not feel anything.

They sang on purpose, they knew the drill.

Atleast they didn't only hurt one but helped one handle the pain

Right now it's only me and my loud groans.

My stomach rumbles, pain shoots through my body. I wince from pain, but I don't scream. The

stinging in my eyes is not from tears, I refuse to shed them.

I won't lie, right now I feel as though I know what life and death are, all too well. I know my mother's dead. She never hears me when I scream for her , I always cry out for her when things are this difficult.

Its been close to 7 hours since I've been locked in here, left on the floor naked and alone now. It's much better than being locked with those four men and knowing that they might force themselves on me again.

I'm not trying to live anymore, I've suffered enough. I don't want comfort. I don't want to hope anymore. They're both useless and make trying and fighting seem reasonable when they are not.

Maybe death is an exaggeration after all there is nothing left for me now. I can't keep living like this. This is not life. One cannot go through so much.

Another spike of pain shoots through me at the same time as I hear the keys jingle on the other

side of the steel door. I resist the urge to react to the pain although its stronger and more intense than it's ever been.

There are footsteps. He comes and stand before me before he leans close to me. He touches me, I know he is checking my pulse
"She's still alive.." he says.

It's the devil guy.

"Yes, I've sent the video to Ndlovu"

I know he is on the phone

"Yes I've made sure."

Silence

"Again?" There's doubt in his voice

"Yes Boss!" Right there I know he is working for someone.

I'm scared.. Mama, can you see me?

"I'll do just that boss, I'll keep you updated",
There's silence.

I hear his zip lowering, hear the dreaded sound of his fist pumping his shaft.

I want to stand up and run but I have no power, the pain in my body too wont allow me.

I'm scared, this takes me back to a few hours ago.

I have to start counting again. Lord, I can't.. Haven't I been more than enough now?

I try to beat my fists against him as I thrash and scream but it's useless. He is now on top of me. He has forced himself inside of me again.

I'm dry, the pain is unbearable. He keeps on thrusting. He is enjoying this. He is moaning. I stop fighting, I go back to what I know will be my usual thing, counting every second that passes by.

I can't breathe, I gasp for air. Nothing fills my lungs. He is on top of me, his breath hot on my neck as he is enjoying himself.

I can't do this anymore. I'm tired..

...

I can't sleep. It's been 12 hours now. It's very dark in the room. I'm alone.. the door opens and there are torches.

It sounds as though they have been running. It's funny how I'm still aware of everything when I

can feel my soul slowly but surely leaving my body.

"Get up!!!!!" One of the guys says. Its them again.

There's no room for negotiation. I'm trying to but I cant, my body Is just too weak

"Phakama sfebe!!!!!! Ndlovu is on his way!!!!"

Tears immediately leave my eyes at that.

Is he coming to rescue me? Or is he the boss?

Because I know I'm in this because of him.

"Get the fuck up!!!" He yells and leans down to haul me up. I'm trying but still failing..

He kicks me hard on the stomach.

The last thing I see are the torches

The last thing I hear is the pain in my stomach.

The last thing I feel is NOTHING. So long I've waited for it. And its finally here...

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

TWENTY FIVE

[#Nomusa](#)

We've been to the police station, they said we should wait for 48 hours to pass before we could report her missing..

What's wrong with our Justice system? One has to die before they could stand up and start looking for her. Or do something?

I'm pacing in the kitchen, part of me wants me to believe she left because she wanted to clear her head but she would have been back. It's been more than 12 hours now. And I know she got kidnapped because Nkosinathi came to inform us.

I blame Zama for this...

My phone rings, it's Nathi. He promised that he would bring her back alive but.. I'm scared. I won't lie I'm very much scared..

"Did you find her?" I ask

"Not yet.." he sounds so down

This takes me back.

When I spend sleepless nights going out looking for Zama. When she was raped by so many guys because she was forced to stay away from Nkosinathi..

My young sister was damaged, getting her back to life was a procedure. I didn't think she would finally find her self again.

I can't go through the same thing again. I cannot give up on my sister

I cannot go through what I've went through: watching my sister depressed and not knowing what I can do.

I've been praying. I always do. I feel as though we have been cursed as a family.

Lord, are you punishing us because of the man we killed?

It was bound to happen.

"Nkosinathi is it your people?"

He keeps quiet and sigh

"I've kept quiet about you. I wanted so bad to believe that you've changed. I wanted to believe that you'd protect Liyana!" Tears form.

No...

I should have known and protected Liyana. All I wanted was for her to be happy

"When will you give up this life?" I ask

"I'll bring her safe.."

I hang up and sit on the couch..

A loud sob comes out. I should have told her.

But I couldn't. It was already too late. I watched him, I saw how he looks at her. I knew he loved her.

I'd seen him with Zama how he hated Zama.

The threats he made.

Unfortunately his wife didn't know how much he hated Zama and how deep Zama's obsession on her husband was.

Zama comes to sit next to me and tries to comfort me.

Anger builds in..

It's her fault!!

I stand up

"It's your fault!!!!"

She's quiet

"Why did you tell her all the nonsense you told her? She wouldn't have gone out! She would still be in here. Happy!!!"

She stands up too

"She shouldn't have dated my ex!!!"

She says in anger

"Fuck you Zama, fuck your ex!! He never loved you. Your relationship was never about love!!!"

"She broke the sister code!!" She's angry

"I'll slap you if you continue telling me that bullshit. She was never your sister!"

"Yes she was never my sister! My sister would have never killed my parents. She would have never come out of jail and fell in love with my man!!!"

"The poor man was with you because you had lost your mind. I should have let his guys kill you. You threatened to ruin his image!!! You were sick!!!"

She fuming so bad.

So am I.. I don't give a fuck on her right now. Infact she should just go to hell with her anger because the only person that matters is Liyana Right now I'm forcing my self so bad not to react

"Zama when are you going to wake up and realise that Nkosinathi was never your man? It was your obsession and it even got you in

trouble! You nearly died. Did he come and rescue you?" I'm trying to sound calm "I don't blame you. You are protecting Liyana because we both know she helped you cover Theo's death. Because you killed him!!" She says

In an instant, I'm already up and have her head against the couch armrest.

She's shouting for help, I don't care. It's fine. I think I'm finally ready to go to jail for murder because since day one when our mother died she has been nothing but a disrespectful spoilt brat! I have been nothing but patient with this child.

.

.

[#Nkosinathi](#)

Shit!!!

"They're driving out!" He says

I can see them. I have people guarding around. I know they won't make it out but I know we'll have to fight to get Liyana back.

I'm stressed. I don't fucken know what to do now. I know they've hurt her. They're doing this to get to me. They did..

It's a shoot out. We have been shooting and finally we're in.

It's dark.

I've been here before.

It angers me that Liyana has to go through the same thing. I know she will hate me. I know she will blame me..

"I'll cover the other side"

"I'll go in.." I say

"I'm coming with you" Luthando says.

..

"Liyana!" She is laying lifeless of the floor.

There are gunshots outside. They are still here.

There is a pulse, it's faint though.

"She's still breathing.." I say as I stand up

Luthando pushes me back denying me to go out

"Tengetile.." I say

I'm calm

"Take her to the hospital. The last thing we need is you going out there shooting and coming back with a bullet wound"

She's half naked.

There are bruises all over her body. I have nothing to cover her with.

"Pick your woman up and leave! L handle everything else!!"

No no no...

"I'll call Menzi and tell him you're on your way..." He says.

I have my gun in my hand. I push it to my head. Just take a look at how Liyana is..

Tengetile takes it

"Now is not the time.."

.

.

[#Dineo](#)

I stand here shocked. I know she is lying to me. I know Matshidiso. I I know she would do anything and everything to stand in my happiness.

"You're saying all this because you don't like the fact that I'm in a relationship with her." I say to her

Tshidi chuckles

"When have I ever chose who you could be in a relationship with?" she ask

I'm silent

She sits on the chair and gulps the wine in one go

"Do you think I would just pack my bag and decide to come here?"

"Liyana wouldn't do this to me Matshidiso. Liyana loves me"

"Call her and ask her if I'm lying.."

I can't. It's been two days since I we have been trying to get hold of her with not Luck.

Makhumalo even suggested we go to her home but there was no one.

I'm worried about her, this is so unlike her

"Liyana has been sleeping with my husband. I did go to her and confront her, i wanted to keep this a secret but I cannot let you stay with

someone who pretends to be happy being with you while-

I stand up

"I don't want to hear it." I say

She sighs.

She's drunk, as always but this time around she is a mess.

There is silence between us

"I don't understand what is it that Nkosinathi sees from those girls.." she's getting emotional. Right now, I'm caught in between believing her and just walking away.

"I have been nothing but the most faithful wife to him. What else does he want. Am I not enough for him?"

She wants to break down.

I honestly thought she's happy.

Truth is, we never talk about her marriage. I feel like she shares the happy times of her marriage with me than the tears behind the closed doors. I watch her break down and cry so bad. It's sad, it's painful. I've never seen like this.

I finally sit close to her and hug her.

She cries in my arms, it breaks my heart.
I honestly thought her marriage had always been perfect but as she cries today, she utters everything that has been happening behind the closed doors of her house
The tears, the hatred between Nkosinathi and her. Anger. And just everything...
It breaks my heart. She has been hiding alot of things.

To be continued

HER PAIN,HIS TREASURE

TWENTY SIX

#Nomusa

She's losing her breath...

Part of me starts regretting my decision. I finally let go of her and she starts coughing so bad.

She's in tears, she's crying so bad.

Lord, when did things get to this point.

I walk to the kitchen take out a jug of juice in the fridge and gulp the juice straight from the jug...

Mom, dad things are bad...

There is a knock on the door. I don't even ask who is it but go straight to open the door. It's a guy, I've seen him somewhere I just don't remember where

"Sawubona" he greets.

I'm not in the mood. I just look at him

"Nkosinathi asked me to come fetch you.." he says

"Why? Did he find my sister?"

He nods.

I don't even need to think or ask questions. I run to the sitting room to get my things. Zama is still crying on the couch. I don't care, she'll be fine.

....

I don't know the place we're driving to. But I notice moments later I notice that we're driving to the hospital I'm working at.

I panic...

"Did they hurt Liyana?" I ask him.

He is silent

We park. I quickly get out of the car and run inside. I know this place inside and out. He quickly runs to grab me. I fight him so hard. I hate this...

..

Nkosinathi is busy pacing up and down as I walk in the waiting area. I want to hold myself so bad but I can't.

I run to him. Soon, I get to him and push him "It's all your fault!!" I can't help. I'm shouting and crying.

I expect him to take his gun out and shoot me but he doesn't. All he does is try to hold my hands.

Zama has gone through the same thing. It was because of him and now it's Liyana. I'm angry.

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[#Matshidiso](#)

I've moved back in at home

I won't lie it's not easy. I keep on missing my husband.

It's 2:30am. I keep trying to call him. It takes me straight to voicemail...

Sigh.

I need to get a glass of wine...

I get in the kitchen. Dineo is in the kitchen.

She's sitting all alone

"Nana.." I say

She turns to look at me

"Why aren't you sleeping." She also ask me

"I've been trying to but couldn't so I decided to come sit here."

"Can I join you?" I ask

"Sure."

I sit. There's no even a bottle of alcohol on the table. I need that.

I want to ask what's wrong but I'm scared to

"So what are you plans?"

I'm quiet. I know she's asking about my marriage

I keep quiet .

Silence passes

"Tshidi.."

I sigh

"I love my husband" I say .

It the truth. I live for him. I love Mtungwa with all my heart and o would do anything and everything to save my marriage.

Just like I'd done so since we got married..

"The same husband that you've been forcing your self to?"

Silence

"Tshidi I thought your marriage was a walk in the park but after everything I heard, I think you should divorce him.." she says

She doesn't understand, she never will

"Dineo I can't do that.." I say

"Then leave me alone .."

Silence..

I've never gotten in a fight with my sister. I understand her emotions but I love Nkosinathi. I've flight tooth and nail for my marriage, I can't give up now

She is silent. I'm quiet..

"Go back to him then.."

I want to, but he has been quiet.

I love my sister with all my heart, but I feel as though she won't understand.

I go to the cupboard and take a bottle of wine
"You're addicted Tshidi. And I understand it's not because you want to.. He doesn't love you you've been holding on with hope that he might get back in love with you and it got to-"

I stand up

"Dineo I'm going to sleep.."

She stands up too

"You're drowning too deep in alcohol it's not because you want to. Ke stress Matshidiso!"

"I said I'm going to bed."

Sigh

"I'm sorry.."

Silence .

"I love Liyana with all my heart Dineo. I'm still trying to get over the fact that she lied to me knowing very well that I loved her with all my heart.."

I cover her hand with mine

"I'm sorry.." I say

"It's fine.. I just want you to be happy .."she says

"She makes me happy.." I whisper.

...

[#Nomusa](#)

"We did a rape kit and have collected all the forensic evidence. She was sexually assaulted."

I'm quiet.

I haven't seen her since I got here but I know things are very bad.

It's been more than 3 hours and they have been talking about tests and all. I'm worried..

"So we'll hand over the forensic evidence to the police just so-"

"No. We're not involving Police in this.."

Nkosinathi says.

I honestly can't believe this guy right now.

Those people deserve to be arrested. No infact they deserve to rot in jail!!

"Ndlovu we have no. Things are bad in there."

The doctor says to him

"Nkosinathi those people deserve to rot in jail!" I say to him

"And you think they will?" He chuckles bitterly.

I know this chuckle. I know he is mad

"I'll deal with this my self.." he says

"The same way you dealt with it when it happened to Zama?" I ask

He rubs his hand on his forehead.

"Another thing. Ndlovu, She's bleeding so bad. We had to take her for a scan also as the blood results came back showing that she's pregnant..."

I stand up..

"So this means she miscarried" o ask, so low, all the power in me is long gone.

I'm a nurse, I know this has affected her.

I know there might be a possibility that she might never conceive again. I've dealt with such cases. Rape cases are hell.

I feel for my sister right now. I cry out loud. I cry for her.

I cry for the pain she's going through.

I cry for the pregnancy we just lost.

Nkosinathi walks out. He leaves.

I know things are about to be messy.

One thing I know right now is, I hate him. I know it's all his fault.

My sister doesn't deserve all this pain

Lord...

[#Zama](#)

"Be strong. Focus Zama.." I keep on saying this to my self as I try by all means to hit my face hard against the wall.

"It's not working.." I say to my self again when I don't see any difference on the mirror.

I need this blue eye. I need it way more than I need anything in my life.

And finally I hit my face hard against the wall

"Ouch!!" It comes out so loud that I sit down and start crying. It painful. I feel hot blood rush down my face..

I feel dizzy.

I need to find my car keys.

Im not sure if I'll be make it to the hospital feeling so dizzy. ...

...

The drive there seems pretty long. I need to get there Asap. I know o get help they'll help me open assault GBH case against Nomusa . I need

this. She has to go jail, that way I'll know how to deal with Liyana alone..

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

TWENTY SEVEN

[#Liyana](#)

"I'm going to insert this inside you. You'll feel a little pinch here and there but it won't be painful at all.." the doctor says.

It doesn't matter anymore. I'm just angry why death didn't even take me.

See, I don't think I care anymore, I don't think there's anything that would keep me going right now.

The doctor said something about Dilation and Curettage. I don't know what it is but he tried explaining that it's some womb cleaning after miscarriage.

I'm not angry, I'm not hurt. It's not like I would have been a better mother anyway.

I feel the pinch inside of me..

I flinch. I've been quiet, my body is painful.

Another spike of pain shoots through me as I

feel something pinch deeper and deeper inside my stomach.

I'm trying hard not to feel pain anymore, but the fear those men instilled inside of me is unbreakable. Maybe that's why I hate my self so much. I'm weak and useless.

Am I supposed to cry now? For the unborn baby I didn't even know was there? Or am I supposed to rejoice the fact that it's gone and it won't suffer the way I did?

But it wouldn't have made any difference anyway because right now the only thing that kept on crossing my mind is death.

I feel a little drowsy. The voices echo and come back. I feel pain.

"NOMUSA.

I cannot do this anymore. I can not live anymore. I need a favour from you though.

Please do learn from my mistakes. I hope you've learnt something from the life I've lived, it has been hell and I've finally decided to let go.

I'm going to join your dad because I know heaven is not where I am going.

Please do go see Dragon, tell her how I much love and appreciate her. She's been nothing but a mother to me.

One time, we were sitting alone in a prison cell. She shared a lot with me. How much she had been a bad mother to her step son before she got arrested. Yeah, her husband died and left her with a son old enough to replace her dad.

Chuckle

She told me how much she has hoped for me to get married to her son as soon as I got out of prison. She said a lot of good things about him. Sometimes I would sit and think of the son. I would even have an image of him in my mind. Talk to her about him, ask her about him provide a shoulder to lean on because I know how broken she would get when she talks of him. Sometimes she wonders if he's still alive. Be there....."

I can't help but keep on thinking of the suicidal note I'll write when I get out of the this place because the truth is just that I'm tired.

I can't anymore.

Tears blur my vision.

...

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[#Zama](#)

My head hurts so badly. I try to push my self upright, but I can't.

I have a painful drip on my arm.

Where am I ?

I try to remember where I was. My car, last time I was inside my car and I think I passed out right at the hospital gate while trying to talk to the security.

I feel the tears threatening to escape my eyes..

A nurse walks to me

"Hi. How are you feeling"

I shake my head no.

I don't know how I'm feeling. It's painful my head is painful

I shrug

She checks my drip.

"You're badly injured.."she says

"It's my sister.." I say

"Sorry?"

"My sister beat me.."

It gets her attention

"To this point?" I nod.

Tears finally come out, a sob follows

"I don't... I don't feel safe around her anymore.."

I say in between hiccups.

"You mean a whole woman did this to you?"

"It's...It's..It's been going on for years.."

"Wait.."

She walks to the other nurse

"Call detective Buthelezi. I have a patient here whom would like to open GBH case." She says

Then walks back to me

She holds my arm

"The detective will be here soon okay?"

I nod

"I'll be here with you. Tell her everything that's been happening. It will help strengthen the case against her okay?"

I nod

Maybe I should also include the fact that she killed her boyfriend.

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[#Nkosinathi](#)

I walk inside the hall.

Tengetile is already here with the guys.

And the kidnappers are tied on the chairs.

I get so much angry. I don't think Liyana will ever forgive me on this one.

It angers me that a child was involved, the child we both hadn't found out about. It would have made me so much knowing Liyana is carrying my child..

"Man, I think you should calm down when dealing with this.." Tengetile says.

They are already battered. But it's not enough, they all have to die

"Did they mention who they are working for?"

He shakes his head no

"Then I think we should do more than this. I have to know who the boss is. I will kill him myself!"

I say.

I drag the chair to face all of them. I sit opposite them.

I have my gun in my hand.

One mistake, I'm shooting one of them.

I can even bare seeing Liyana right now, everything I'll do here today is because of her.

"Who are you working for?"

Silence.

I choke my gun.

"We've been using a taser, we were getting there. I don't think shooting them now will help." Tengetile says behind me.

I'm glad he's here, I would have long lost my patience.

I just need the name. Fuck!

"Deal with him" Tengetile says again.

Mandla punches the guy on the as stomach. He groans in pain.

It's not enough

"Again.." I say.

Another punch follows.

He is still coughing and groaning. There's nothing that comes out of him.

I want him to say something.

I point my gun at another one of them and pull the trigger.

ONE DOWN.

One of them cries in pain

"I can tell you who we're working for!!" He says in panic.

I need this.

Damn we're getting there

I drag my chair to him, sit and face him...

I'm looking at him, I'm expecting him to say something

"I swear, we didn't want to do this but she promised to pay us good money.." He says

"She?" Both Tengetile and I ask on unison.

"She said something about Lee messing with her.." he says.

They even have a cat name for her

"I want the name.."

Silence

"Mandla." I say before Mandla punches him.

He coughs.

"It's Mrs Ndlovu.." he says.

Wait..

"My wife?" I ask

"I don't know ..."

"Mandl-"

"Wait... I'm not sure if she's your wife. But I have her details in my phone. You can get me my phone so we can call her and prove it.." he says

"Where are the phones?" I ask Tengetile

"Mandla go get them.." He says

We wait for a while before he comes back with them.

"It's the black one.."

I take it

"Password?"

"42242" I dial.

I dial my love's numbers, they're there in black and white.

I choke the gun, place it on his forehead

I dial the numbers and press yes.

"Act funny, I'm killing you.." I say to him

It rings once before she answers

"Mjekejeke where the hell are you? You have to get out of the province before my husband could find you .."

Hehe.. Eish

My dear wife says in panic.

Without even thinking about it. I pul the trigger right straight into his forehead.

I don't need anything else.

I'm quiet shocked how the fuck my own wife could be this heartless to a point she would do this to another woman.

I hang up

"Take care of the rest. I'm going to my wife.." I say to Tengetile..

I walk out to my car.

He follows me out.

"Bafo that's your wife" he says to me

"Why would she do this to her?" I'm angry. I'm even shaking.

What am I going to do ?

"Don't do what you'll regret later.."

"I won't."

I get inside my car.

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

TWENTY EIGHT

'At times everything you've been through ; was getting you prepared for What's coming next'

-Unknown

[#Dineo](#)

There is a loud bang on the door. I keep on trying to avoid it.

I can't sleep, its 5am now. Matshidiso too slept very late.

I won't lie I'm very much hurt. Liyana has hurt me to a point I dont think I'll ever get back again.

See, with baby daddy, it was hard getting over him. I felt as though Liyana was there to mend the broken heart. I thought she would be different.

Gosh..

I cannot avoid the loud knock anymore. I stand up and get my gown then go to the door.

I laugh in disbelief

"Mtungwa?"

"Where is your sister?" The anger in his eyes.
Lord.

But I'm also angry. This man has broken my sister

"What do you want? To tell her in the face that you love my girlfriend?"

"I won't talk to you about my marriage. Call Matshidiso"

As much as he is intimidating, I won't let him get to me

"No."

He takes his car keys out from the pocket.
Fiddles through the and finally finds the butler
key

"You won't get in." I say as he unlocks the
butler door.

He ignores me and gets inside and goes straight
to Matshidiso's bedroom.

I'm scared, but I know he would never hurt any
of us. It's not in him to hurt woman.

He might be everything but he is not a woman
beater.

I follow him to the bedroom

"Nkosinathi get out!!" I keep on shouting.

The bedroom is empty, Matshidiso is not here.
Her bags are not here either.

"Dineo where is Matshidiso?" He asks, now
turning to me.

Fear flutters in my chest. This is not my brother in law. The man in front of me is scares the shit out of me.

He shakes his head before taking his phone and goes through it.

Then walks out

I follow him

"Nkosinathi what's going on?" Now I decide to ask him

He turns to me again.

His eyes...

"Nothing, I was just looking for my wife but over found her.."

"I want to come with you."

He ignores me and goes out.

I rush to my bedroom to get my phone.

I dial her numbers. It rings straight to voice mail.

I dial again, and again until she answers

"Dineo I don't want to talk." She sounds drunk

"Matshidiso where are you? Nathi was here. He is angry.." I say in panic

"I went back to my house. And I know he knows I'm here.."

"Tshidi I'm scared.. " I really am, I've never seen him like that before

"What's going on?" I ask

"Should anything happen to me, don't get him arrested, it's going to be useless.." she says to me. She's calm. She sounds drunk

You know what, I'm taxifying to her house

"And if you're thinking of coming to my house. Don't you're going to make things worse.." she

says in a calm tone again. I hate her calmness. I hate it ...

"Tshidi what's going on?" She hangs up..

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[#Dragon.](#)

"I'm not okay.." he keeps on saying..

"Khuluma nami nana.."

He is silent..

He is still the lost little child I left before I got arrested.

"Nana.."

"Mama angikho right.." he says again. I want to stand up and hug him but he keeps on disappearing.. I want to touch him. I want to tell him everything will be fine but I keep on remembering how much he hates me.

I broke this child. I know he wont forgive me

"Nana.." he keeps on disappearing.

"Nana!!!"

...

"Vukani ziboshwa!!!" I sit up straight. I have been dreaming...

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[#Matshidiso](#)

He walk in. I'm sitting on our marital bed. I keep on trying to convince my self that he would never harm me. He has never done that..

He leans against the wall.

His eyes are blood red.. He is angry. The last time he's been like this was when I forced him to go see his...

Sigh..

"So it was you?" He ask. His hands are in his pockets

"You keep on hurting me.. " I say

"Because Matshidiso I don't love you." He keeps on hurting me

"Nkosinathi what do you want me to do?"

"Matshidiso I saved you when those men kept on prostituting you! I thought umfazi when Kodwa udoti kuphela!"

"Your words will never make me hurt you.." he walks to me.

I want to stand up and run to the bathroom.

He leans to me right close to my face.

"I wont kill you. I'll never kill you. But I'll make sure you suffer way more than you made those two girls suffer. You killed me child wena. Ukhohlakele wena.."

He stands up and walks to the door

"I know way more than you think I know. I can take you down with me.." he stops.

He chuckles . Its devil.

"Do you wanna know what happened to all those that threatened me? They are six feet underground. "

He turns again and walks away.

I wanna act strong right now but I cant.vi throw the wine glass hard against the while wall. I cant keep my self together. I cry so hard...

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[#Nomusa.](#)

"Liyana.." she keeps quiet.

I've always known her to be the strongest woman ever but this woman on this hospital bed

right now.. It's not my sister. The took the strong Liyana..

Zama was once like this.. Mom where are you when I need you the most?

"I know how you feel" I say to her.

Honestly I don't know what to say to her

There is silence

I sit on the chair

"I honestly didn't tell you about Zama and Nathi because there was nothing going on between them. Zama had it all in her head. .."

Silence

I sigh..

"You're the strongest woman I know Liyana.." she keeps quiet.

My phone rings. It's a number I don't recognize

"Hello?"

"Hi. You're speaking to Detective Buthelezi..."

Finally. Nkosinathi decided to deal with this the right way

"Can you come to the police station. But I'm at the hospital now with your sister. Can you come atleast in an hour. Its about your sister?"

" which sister?"

"You have my numbers, or you can look for detective Buthelezi when you get there. Please make sure you do come because if you don't I'll come handcuff you "

She hangs up.

What the hell is going on..

To be continued.

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Thati Thethe

Dineo you broke your own heart with all those expectations you had in your tiny, Liyana obsessed brain. Could Nathi be Dragon's stepson? And if he is, didn't Liyana tell her about him and how he's dating her but also has wife, and Dragon told him to le...

See more

5

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HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

TWENTY NINE

[#Matshidiso](#)

"Matshidiso I saved you when those men kept on prostituting you! I thought umfazi when Kodwa udoti kuphela!"

"Your words will never make me hurt you.."

It can't leave my mind

"I wont kill you. I'll never kill you. But I'll make sure you suffer way more than you made those two girls suffer. You killed me child wena.

Ukhohlakele wena.."

I'm trying hard not to think of his words

"Do you wanna know what happened to all those that threatened me? They are six feet underground. "

..

It's almost 12pm. I'm still in my gown. I realise now that I'm hopeless.. I'm undeniably in love with this man. He hates me. He cant stand me.. This man has long been threatning to leave. I've been there, begging and atleast sometimes my tears would make him feel my pain. The pain of losing him. I knew Zama wasn't the type he would fall in love with. But I'd seen how he would look at her at times. How Zama would look at him. I wanted to teach her a lesson. I wanted to teach Liyana too.

I can't take his words out of my mind. In my bedroom fully body length mirror, I'm looking at my self.

I wish I could see the young woman whom Nkosinathi once loved and respected. The one he would never hurt with words.

Sinking on the cold floor, I cover my eyes and cry out loud, finally giving my voice to my pain. My body shakes off with sobs. I wish Mtungwa would just walk in and hold me...

I feel hands coming around me. The perfume. Its Dineo... I cry in her arms...

..

Moments later we're sitting on my bed, I have calmed down..

She hands a cup to me

"I've made tea.." I want alcohol. But I don't say

"What happened where is Nathi?" She ask

"Nothing. I think he went to see his girlfriend.."

I say.. I'm not facing her. I feel the tears threaten to escape as I mention the girlfriend thing

"Liyana?" She ask

I'm Silent

"What's going on Matshidiso? Mtungwa loves you what changed?"

Silence

I'm facing the wall

"Tshidi?"

I stand up and go stand at the sliding door. It's hot outside... I should be in Cape Town enjoying the beach there, the breeze.

"I've hurt your girlfriend.." I'm still not facing her

"What are you talking about?" She ask behind me

I keep quiet.

I've made sure those men did what I went through to her. I've made sure Nkosinathi hates her when he sees her

"I'm here, I keep on trying to love you but I just cant. Everytime I look at you I see al those men touching you. Fucking you. I can't. You're not the type of woman I want too fall in love with. Yes I married you but I can't" I keep on thinking back to Nkosinathi's words.

I wanted her to go through the same the same thing.

I wanted Nkosinathi to hate her for all those men that touched her. I wanted him to see those men everytime he looked at her.

"Matshidiso?" She calls again

"I think I'll be moving back home permanently. But that's if he doesnt kill me.." I say

"What did you do to my girlfriend?"she ask me

"Nothing.." I don't want my sister to hate me..

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#Nomusa

"What?" I'm shocked Zama would do this to me.

"I.. I didn't do this to her.." I'm watching her.

She is crying.

I didn't do this to her.

Yes, I might have laid my hand on her but God can attest to the fact that I didn't do this to her.

"Zama can you for once tell the truth? I didn't do this to you!!" I say.

I can't believe her right now

"And this has been going on for a while" the detective says, it's not a question but she's telling me.

What the hell has got in to this child. She told the police officers all this? I can't go to jail. I have to be here for Liyana.

"I think its time for you to leave now" the nurse says

"You're coming with me" the detective says

"Am I getting arrested?" I ask as panic takes over me

"Do you want me to handcuff you?" I shake my head no

"I need to call my lawyer. I don't even have any. I can't even afford one...

Right now I'm thinking of my kids. I can't go to jail. My kids are still young. Liyana on the other side.. She needs me now more than ever..

I turn to look at Zama

"Zama what have I done to you? Why are you doing this?" I ask.

She keeps quiet..

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[#Liyana](#)

17 minutes 7 seconds.

I'm still counting. He is grabbing me, choking me, forcing himself inside of me. The dirty talks behind. The evil laughs from those guys..

Lord..

This is the most degrading moment of my life.

These men watching my nakedness.

I keep on crying...

"Liyana.." I quickly sit up straight.

I remove the drip out of my hand. I scream so much. I cry so much. I don't know where I am.

Fear flutters in my chest. I'm
squirming, thrashing, crying and want to stand
up and run

"Liyana..." he tries to hold me.

I beat my fists against his hard chest

"Its me.. Liyana its Nathi!!" He keeps on saying.

A strangled cry rips its ways up my throat ..

"I think we should sedate her!" I keep hearing
voices as I cry out loud.

"Don't go this to me.." my voice is soft and
strangely high, like a child. Past and present
mingle, toxic fear clouding my brain.

"Don't do this.." I start hyperventilating my
chest convulsing as hysteria overwhelms me..

Too many hands cover my body. Soon I feel
something slid in my arm..

Slowly I fall into darkness..

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[#Dineo](#)

"Come, let me make you something to eat..." I
say to her.

She has been quiet. I hate Nkosinathi with everything that's inside of me. The emotional pain my sister is going through right now...

"Nah, I'm okay." She is drunk.

She has been drinking. I have cooked. I wanted to make her something to eat.

I've always enjoyed being in this expensive kitchen...

I sit on the chair and face her

"I think we should hire someone to come pack all your things. We wont manage just the two of us.." I say to her.

She chuckles

"I can't believe I'm leaving this luxury behind.."

she says after drinking the last shot of gin

"I think your happiness should come first.

Luxury will follow.." I say to her

She shakes her head

"I'm happy. I've always been happy."

I look at her

"Can you believe that your girlfriend was pregnant with his baby?" She says

WTF?

I can't even hide the shock.

"He had the nerve to tell me right in the face that I killed his baby" she laughs

Wait...

"All I wanted was for her to go through the same shit I went through. I wanted him to hate her the same way he hates me. I wanted him to smell all those men everytime he tried to touch her. But I just didn't know there was a baby involved.."

What the hell?

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TTREASURE

THIRTY

(A bit shortt)

A week later

[#Zama](#)

I have been discharged. It's the best thing ever.

Having the house all to my self is the Best thing that's ever happened to me

I think I need to write about sisters that abuse their siblings. Write how about how it affects us...

There is a knock as I'm still thinking about it..
I groan as I stand up to open the door. My heart
almost stops at the sight of him..

He has his hands inside his pockets and leaning
against the pillar...

I swallow at the sight of him... I'll never get over
this man..

"Where is your sister?"

I'm sweating with nervousness

"She's in prison" I say. I'm trying with my all to
act as calm as possible but its just too hard..

"Why?" He ask

I'm quiet.

"I thought upholile. Kanti usa shiwe yiqcondo?"

He ask..

He is hurting me...

I'll ignore his statement

"Nathi ufunani?" I ask

"Go and drop those charges. Nomusa doesnt
deserve this from you." He says.

He doesn't understand, does he?

I needed Nomusa on my side and she chose
Liyana. A stranger over me.

"I'm not doing that." I want to stand my ground
"You will and you're going to do that as soon as
I walk out of that gate. Nomusa has been
through shit already and she doesn't need your
madness right now"

I'm silent

"Nathi why my sister of all people?" I ask
I don't know what came in my mind and made
me ask this stupid question but I need to know.
He chuckles. It's devious

"Why not your sister?" He asks

"Because she is my sister Nathi. My damn
sister!"

He chuckles again before turning to walk away..
But he stops before he could walk away

"You have till the end of today to go drop those
charges..." he says with his back on mine

"Or?" I ask with a little bit of attitude

"I won't mind throwing you in a looney bin.
Again. But this time around I'll make you they
throw you in there forever." His eyes sparkled
with fury

He turns to watch me now

"You don't wanna try me Zama. I've let you off years ago because I thought you were just a child going through teenage adolescence stage."

I'm quiet

"Usale kahle nkosazana" and he walks away I'm left standing there and just watching him. As much as I feel I don't fear what he might do to me, I know he won't hesitate taking me back to looney bin. I can't go back there. I've been there, they treat you as a bad person.

The medication makes you worse. Sometimes I would wake up in the middle of the night and just lose it. I remember trying to tell Nomusa that the medication there made it worse but she didn't trust me. I got worse with each day passing by...

Sigh.

I can't go back there...

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[#Dineo](#)

"Dineo.." I still can't look at her.

I can't believe I allowed her to move back home after everything..

I still cant believe that my sister would be this heartless...

"Dineo please talk to me.." I turn to look at her

"Did it ever occur to you how the poor girl is feeling right now?" I ask her.

It's the first thing I say to her since force days ago..

She sits on the chair.

"No.."

"Matshidiso how heartless can you be? Making four men rape her like that? Making them beat her so much? Make them take pictures of Liyana's nakedness? How heartless are you?"

Shes quiet

"How do you sleep at night?" I ask

She stands up.

"I need to lay down a bit.. " she says

"I'm not surprised" I say..

She stops

"You've never been married, so you have no right judging me" she says

I chuckle.

"Even if I was married Matshidiso I would never do what you did to another woman. Your sisters girlfriend to add to that!" I say

Shes pushing my buttons

"I'm shocked you still call her your girlfriend."

She says

I keep quiet

"I love Nkosinathi with all my heart and I can never watch another woman have him."

"I now understand why he wants to leave you.

Its because haona pelo Matshidiso!!" I say.

"You said you were going to lay down" I say to her..

I hope she leaves me alone. I'm in no mood to argue with her.

"Nkosinathi said he loves her.."she says. She's on the verge of breaking. I don't need this in my life right now

I let out a light sigh...

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[#Liyana](#)

"Can we go for a walk?" I keep quiet. I don't want to go for a walk. I don't want anything. I just want everyone to leave me alone.

"Liyana.." she says

"Can you leave me alone?" There is silence.

Nathi walks in..

"I'll take over from here. " he says, I think to the nurse.

I hear the door opening and then closing. There is silence. I know I'm with only him in the room. I try to eye for something I would stab him with in case he tries to harm me. I see nothing.

I have nothing... What if he tries to force himself on me? What will I use to defend myself with? I feel the tears forming in my eyes..

"I don't know my mother..." I hear him say...

Silence

"I've never seen her. I don't even know what she looks like but I should say I was raised by a perfect father.."

He sighs

"He was a single father. But he couldn't stay single forever right?"

I'm quiet

"He had to marry someone. He had to find someone to share his life with. His dreams with. Someone who would be there when he built his empire.."

" He found someone he would love. The woman of his dreams. The woman who was two years older than me. A woman who didn't even care what the world brought to her.."

There is long silence. He chuckles

"I shouldn't be telling you all this. I mean you have enough problems already.."

He keeps quiet.

He tries to bring his hands to mine but I flinch making him not to bring them anymore

He sighs

"I've been told to never act strong even when there is no need to be. I've been told to always have a room to be weak. Liyana I-"

"Nkosinathi gett out.." I say silently

"Li-"

"No leave. Leave before I do something I regret.."

"Babe.."

"Leaveee!!!! Nkosinathi leaavee!!!!!!!" I'm shouting. For the first time in years I shout and tears follows.

I bite my lower lip to suppress the sob that threatens to escape my lip

Kanti when am I going to die?

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

THIRTY ONE

"Depression does not start from that one painful event that has happened in your life. It is a built up. It goes in stages, it starts from the bottom until you reach a breaking point"

...

It hits me that I almost became someone's mother.

How does one deal with the emptiness?

"I'm Nombuso.." she says to me

"How do you feel today?" I don't know

Empty? Shattered? Broken

Do I tell her that?

Instead I keep quiet

"It's okay to cry' I know. Dragon always said that to me I don't want to hear anymore of that . She keeps quiet. For the first times in days I'm enjoying silence...

"Your doctor told me your healing process is going just great.."

I keep quiet

The door opens..

Nomusa walks in. I feel the tears threatening to escape.

I haven't seen her in days. I've been counting.

Every second that passes by with me not seeing her, I counted it

I thought she didn't want to see Mr anymore..

She comes and holds my hand. I don't remove it.

The warmth..

"I'm sorry I didn't come.." I want to say it's okay but I know if I try to open my mouth to talk, the first thing that will come out is a sob. I don't want her to see the broken me. I've always been the strongest in her eyes.

"I'll leave you girls." Nombuso says as she stands up

"Liyana will have our next session same time tomorrow okay?" I keep quiet

"Don't leave.." Nomusa says..

She sits back down

"Liyana Zama got me arrested. I was arrested.." Nomusa says..

She grabs another chair and sits down

"Liyana has been through hell.." Nomusa says

"Tell me about it.." Nombuso answers. She has pad in her hands

"I feel as though Liyana doesn't talk about everything. I've watched how much she's kept things inside of her. I feel she doesn't want to open up to us." Nomusa says

Moments pass with them talking.

Nombuso finally takes her things and leave...

We sit in silence. I want to talk but I'm scared as soon as my mouth open, I'll start crying..

"I'm going on a hearing next week. I have been suspended from work because of Zama.." she says after a while

"I'm risking my job by being here but if being here with you means losing my job then so be it because I cannot leave you by yourself."

"I almost became someone's mother Nomusa.." I say. There is happiness inside of me when I don't feel my voice breaking..

She tries to hold my hand again but I move it. I don't want pity.

"I know Liyana.."

"God is punishing me for all the wrongs I've done.." I say

"Don't say that Liyana.." she says

What does she want to me say

"In all my life, I never thought of pregnancy. I never thought I would have someone call me mom and for real God made sure that I never got that.."

I chuckle.

"My heart desires are turning into reality. " I say This time I can feel my voice almost breaking. I can feel something inside of me feel the pain.

"When am I getting discharged? I'm tired of this place already.." I say

"I think tomorrow.. But I need you to promise me one thing Liyana.."

I keep quiet

"That you will fight this with me.. that you will fight hard. I'm not saying you should be strong about this but I'm saying I'll be here to give you a room to be weak. A room to cry off everything till we both will be fine.."

She says

"They kept on talking about their female boss,"

Silence

"Which women would do this to another woman Nomusa. Which women would allow other men to molest another woman?" The tears of pain finally broke free

She keeps quiet

"For the first time in my years I felt wrung out, weak, small and helpless!" I start to cry once again..

"She's still alive..."

"Yes I've sent the video to Ndlovu"

The voices I've been trying to forget, phantom voices whispered accriss my mind. Terror and

Shame mingled in a sickening mixture, making my stomach clench and my head spin. I couldn't think; I couldn't think about the voices. All thoughts blanket out, overtaken by pure icy panic. The cold sank into my bones, and I shuddered violently.. Warmth enfolded me, slowly, the ice ebbed away.. I became aware of Nomusa's voice

"Liyana... It's okay.. it's fine.." she smoothed her arms around my body.

mess. I don't think I'll ever back from this....

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[#Matshidiso](#)

I have decided to meet up with a friend from high school, Dipuo.

I just need to get my mind off things. Maybe going out with someone who doesn't know my problems

She smiles when she spots me. I have ordered a bottle of wine and cheese platter, it will do for now. I'll cover the expenses since I invited her

"Marriage looks so damn good on you.." she laughs.

She looks so beautiful. Money has done her pretty well.

I can see the huge stone on her finger. It's doing her pretty small finger well. The nails too..

Sigh, I miss this life.

I miss receiving the calls from Nathi asking what I'm drinking or eating..

No Tshidi don't do this to yourself.. I try to tell my self..

"Look at how beautiful you are.." I chuckle

"Don't play with me like that. Look at you Dipuo."

She laughs

"God blessed me with the most perfect husband girl. I have every reason to be.. How are you?"

I feel as though she is bragging.

It would have been a different story, just weeks ago..

"I'm okay, how are you?"

"Couldn't have been better. I asked Luthando to send Nathi an invite to our house warming. You

guys didn't show up. I have been worried that you dumped me.."

I chuckle at that ..

My heart breaks though. He didn't even tell me about it.

The waiter arrives to take both our orders

There is a lot I want to say but I feel as though she'll judge me. I mean she once was a side chick before and finally got married to Luthando.

Something inside me moves at the thought.

There is a possibility that hr might marry her "Tshidi are you sure everything is fine?" She asks me as our orders arrive...

"Yes.."

Sigh

"No"

Fuck I don't know

"Nathi wants to divorce me." I say

"Oh my God Tshidi. Why? What happened?"

I keep quiet..

"I know you will judge me.." I say

"If you cheated on him I will.." she says

"He cheated on me" I say

"And wants to divorce you?"

"I kidnapped his side chick..".

There is silence..

She's quiet and looking at me

"I made men rape her. I didn't know she was pregnant and she lost the baby. "

"Tshidi..." There's hint of shock in her tone

"I had to do it Dipuo. He said so many hurtful words to me. He said when he looks at me, he sees all the men that raped me and the same thing had to happen to her.." she's quiet

"All I ever wanted was for him to love me the same way I love him.."

"Have you tried talking to him?"

She asks

"Kae Dipuo? Jwang? He chased Md away from our home. He made sure to close down every connection between us"

It hurts.

She's quiet. She's thinking

"Why don't you fake pregnancy?" She ask.

I'm quiet

"Pay a doctor if you have to. Tell him you're pregnant. Nathi always wanted a boy child. He always told Luu, you can fake that. Trap him with that.."

"Then what happens next?"

"We will cross that bridge when we get there. For now we have to trap him with pregnancy. I'll make Luu believe that you are pregnant and I know he'll go congratulate him.." it is a good plan. .

What would I have done without Dipuo?

To be continued

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HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

THIRTY TWO

When does one heal after everything that's happened?

I have been discharged, it has been a month now.

The physical wounds are healing but I don't think the emotional pain will fade. Nomusa's hearing led to a written warning. I feel bad for her, she only wanted to be a sister to Zama.

Speaking of Zama, she moved out just days after I got discharged, I always knew she had she hate buried deep inside of her but then you'll understand why I'm not surprised she did what she did. Nothing Zama does supprises me anymore. Not after that first unbelieving shock, her trying to stab me; unreasonably and totally destroying the me I was. The me I would have become.

Sigh.

There is a knock as I try to get some sleep. I've been living of some sleeping pills and I should say they're the only thing that helps me sleep better at night.

It's during the day. Nomusa is at work. I'm expecting no one, which is the thing that scares me to open the door.

A knock again, this time I'm standing behind the door contemplating whether to open or not but I finally do. It's a man in black clothes, my heart starts beating at him.

"Sawubona.."I'm standing there just looking at him

I know him. He is working for Nkosinathi.. I haven't seen Nkosinathi since I came back from the hospital. I heard Nomusa saying he is out of the country for some business.

It's a good thing actually that he is not here. I don't want to see him.

"I have been sent to bring this.." he says handing me a brown doggy bag. It must be lunch, this is all Nomusa's fault, I told her I was fine and would prepare something to eat when I want to..

"Thank you.." the question is why would she send someone who's working for Nathi to bring me something to eat?

"I know I'm not allowed to speak to you but how are you?" He asks

What kind of a question is that?

"Is there anything else?" He keeps quiet

"Tell Nomusa to stop asking you to bring me food" I say to him

I'm about to push the door closed when he slightly pushes it. Horror washes over me and turn to slap him. The old Liyana would have

him by his throat right now but this one... this one is beyond damaged to even try to fight a man...

He doesn't fight back, instead he keeps quiet and looks at me.

I look at his eyes, The intensity in them almost makes me scoot back. He parts his lips to tell me something, but no words come out. Time passes, the only thing I can hear is my heartbeat as he stares at me. His eyes won't break free from mine and I'm too scared to look away.

"I'm sorry" he says flatly, but then turns away as if the sentiments were genuine..

For some reasons, Just hearing those words is what breaks me. The tears fall and I wipe them. I somehow expect him to ask me why am I crying but he doesn't.

I struggle to calm my self but somehow I do and finally close the door.

I'm a broken woman, I don't think I'll ever come back from this...

[#Matshidiso](#)

"You can not sit here all day. Pity yourself over the things you've caused to yourself. Had you accepted that Nkosinathi is a cheating bastard and left before you broke apart. This wouldn't have happened."

She's never been married, I don't expect her to understand.

What hurts the most right now is he blocked every card I have with me, he went as far blocking me from our joint account.

I have nothing in my savings, I've never even saved for rainy days.

I'm quiet..

"You need to come help me at the shelter to keep busy. You can't just stay here and do nothing all day"

I'm used to doing nothing all day. All I ever did was go on vacations every chance I got or change my nails and hairstyles like my underwear

"I'll come.." I say silently

She sighs and goes back to the kitchen then comes back after a while. She has made tea for herself

"I'm pregnant.." I say to her.. I've been fighting to tell her this for weeks now but I finally do. Maybe she'll help me get through to Nathi. She keeps quiet.. She heard me, I just cant read her reaction..

"When did you find out?"

"Few days ago. You have been distant that you couldn't even see that I wasn't feeling well.

Dipuo took me to her doctor since I couldn't afford one.." i say, I hope she buys my story

"Okay" just plain okay. I expected more than just okay from her.

"Dineo when will you stop treating me like I'm some stranger? I miss my sister" I sat before I could even stop my self

"When you apologize to the poor girl! Oh but how will your sorry help the poor woman because you've destroyed her?"

I keep quiet

"Yes she dated your husband but couldn't you punish your husband instead of the poor girl. She wasn't committed to anyone for heaven sake!"

Its her feeling talking now, I understand

"Just go and apologize to the poor woman" I wont but I keep quiet.

She gets up and leaves the room.

As she walks away, I can feel something inside me breaking. Not my heart, something deeper.

I've never been at odds with my sister like this.

I hear her talking to someone outside. I

recognize the voice. Its Nathi. I want to stand up and run to the bedroom, I cant let him see me like this but I'm already late, he's inside the house..

Hes walking towards me. I'm in my gown, its bloody fucken 3pm but I'm in my gown. I didn't see the need to bath and look beautiful. In broke. The only thing I have been left with is a car, which I think he might take.

We got married out of community of property, I'm not going to get anything out of this

marriage, even if we were not 1, he would still make sure I walk out of this marriage with my bags full of my clothes only. Nothing more I stand there and watch him. I watch the man that withdrew from me, leaving me bereft of his charm.

"I hear you're pregnant." It's a statement .

"Dineo couldn't wait to run to you and tell you that?" I say with an eyeroll

"I heard it from Tengetile and his wife." He says quietly

"Nathi what do you want?"

He's quiet

"How far are you?" He asks

"A few weeks"

"What's a few weeks?"

Sigh

"I dont know okay!"

"Okay, get ready. We're going to a doctor"

I laugh in disbelief

"You have been gone for a whole month. You blocked me from everything you own and now

you come back and command me to do what only you wants?" I'm getting angry
"I'm not here to beg you Matshidiso. You told those people that you're pregnant. I had to travel down to South Africa because you told them you are pregnant. So I'm here. I'm not here to make love to you but I'm here to confirm your pregnancy."

My throat feels tight. But I refuse to cry in front of him

"I'm giving you 5 minutes to get ready, I'll wait in the car" he walks out...

To be continued

HER PAIN HIS TREASURE

THIRTY THREE

[#Matshidiso](#)

The urine test has been conducted. At first it was just a thing I wanted to keep Nathi with but as the results came back, I realised that it was something I had to live with for the rest of my life. Dipuo spoke it into my life. Reality happened..

We sat there waiting for the results. I knew the truth, he was about to find out the truth as well...

...

The doctor came back with the results, Nathi has been silence since we left the doctors office. His silence scares me. I'm scared...

He parks just outside my home. He says nothing, he unlocks the door for me to get out instead I ignore my fears and remain seated...

The physical and emotional space is there, it's too much.

"Where to from here?" I ask

"I don't know. I need to digest this.." he says after minutes of silence..

He is alot calm. Something wants to tell mr he has forgiven me.

"I need money to push through"

He chuckles

"And you're telling me that because?"

I keep quiet and heave a sigh

"Nathi..."

"Matshidiso you're not getting my money again..." he says

"Even when I knew I couldn't love you, I still made an effort to make sure you're the happiest wife alive. You took my efforts and threw them right in my face, you took my money, my hard earned money wabona kuncono ukuthi uhlukeze umuntu engi mthandayo ngayo!"

Anger is evident in his tone

"Nathi I did that because I was angry" sigh

"You kept on saying painful things to me, all you ever did was to hurt me with your words.. I wanted you to see her the same way you did with me.." I say, hoping that I didn't touch his anger buttons

"Liyana will never be anything like you. I'll never see her as a cheap whore like you are. She's more than the woman you would ever be." It's cold. He just wants to hurt me, I try to convince the tears not to fall.

"Can I go now?" I ask brokenly

"We'll meet at my doctor's office on the 2nd."

He says.

I open the door and walk out.

He drives off immediately as I step away.

I swallow over the emotion thick on my throat
I sit on my bed and let all the tears run down the
sides of my face.

When I found out I was pregnant for real two
weeks ago my whole life fell apart. I wanted it
to be a lie. I cannot mother someone else, not in
this state.

With every breath I try to let go of Nathi's
words. I sink into calm, comforted smell of the
house and fast for its quietness that's letting me
be. Then I let sleep take its hold.

I wake several hours later to the sound of dishes
clanging in the kitchen. I rise and try to tame my
bed head in the mirror that rests atop my
dresser.

My eyes are puffy, but the uncontrollable urge
to cry until I have nothing left is over. The sun
has set. Time has past and for now, Nathi's
words have lost enough of their potency
"You're awake. Dinner will be ready in a few"
she says as soon as I walk in the kitchen.
She's in a lighter mood now..

"I'm thinking of going to see Liyana tomorrow, you wanna tag along?"

I sigh, I knew it wouldn't last forever

"No" just that

"I dont think sitting all day in the house or crying yourself to sleep with help you in any way..."

"I just need money. I wanna go away for a while"

She stops and turns to me

"Is there any other thing you get to think of except getting away or getting drunk?" She asks I'm not in the mood to fight her. Maybe I should speak to Dipuo to atleast lend me a few thousands

"I'm going back to sleep.." I say

"Yes. That's all you ever do now."

"What exactly do you want me to do Dineo because apologising to your girlfriend is one thing I'll never do. The bitch had to feel the pain I felt. She had to know the pain that came with loving Nathi and not being loved by him back because all he could see when he looks at her is

those pictures he got or the dirty things those men did to her..." I say without even thinking She walks to me. She spits on my face.

"Onale Pelo empe and I understand why Nathi never loved you!!!!!" She walks away. The hatred in her voice as she said that broke everything inside of me

I stand there, I don't even have the energy to wipe the saliva on my face...

[#Liyana](#)

I thought being in here was the worst thing that's ever happened to me, but I realise now that it was the best thing ever.

Prison saved me from alot of things, it protected me.

For the first time in weeks I want to talk. I want to share my emotions with someone..

She walks in with a warder..

She looks at me, she's pleased to see me but in her eyes, there's something.. pity.

I want to stand up and hug her but I know it's not allowed in here. This woman right here ie

my happy place, I don't know if that makes any sense but she's my heart.

"Liyana.." she says before she sits

I force myself to smile.. I haven't done that in such a long time

"You don't look too well. What's wrong? Yini baya ku hlupha lapha handle?"

Yes..

The difference is evident but I just didn't think she would notice that this quick.

"Sawubona ma.." I say and she finally sits.

"Liyana what has been happening to you?"

Sigh...

I think I regret coming here..

"A lot has been happening.." I say after a moment of silence.

She's looking at me, her eyes keep following mine. How will I even begin to tell her everything when she can't move her eyes from mine?

Don't cry Liyana.. You just came here to offload the pain but not to cry. I'm trying as hard not to cry.

It hurts and my stomach churns with a sickness of who I am. Who I've become. I don't want to be like this. I don't want to be this person.

"Khuluma nami nana.." its Dragon. Its the woman I've been in a prison cell with for years. Its the same woman that stabbed me when I first walked in here and again nursed my wounds . It's the woman that became my mother in here.. my protector.

I see her.

I bite my lower lip to suppress the cry that wants to escape my lip.

"I miss this place..." it comes out. Not that I miss being in here, I miss the protection.

"I was kidnapped.." I say. Breath Liyana

"I thought life outside was okay. I craved freedom but not what I've been going through. I feel like it's only now, I get punished for all the bad things..." I say, I stifle a sob. But they are getting harder to hold back.

I came here to talk, I remind my self.

She wants to bring her hands to mine but the warder is quick to shake his head. She holds back. I can tell it's the toughest thing to do.

She wants to comfort me

I wipe the tears with the back of my hand.

"They were four of them. They kept on taking turns on me." I'm calm now

"They were beating me, kicking me and only found out at the hospital that I was pregnant and lost the baby" I say

"Oh mtanami.. "

"I'm okay now."

"Do you know those bastards?" She asks?

I shake my head no

"They kept on talking about their boss. Who's a woman. They kept telling me I should learn to stay away from people's husbands.. " I say.

Shes quiet, she wants me to continue

"They said something about sending the video to Ndlovu"

"They were taking videos of you?" She asks

"Yes, the vulnerable me.." I say before wiping the tears and letting out a small chuckle

"I had a dream about you. I saw you holding a baby, but the baby was already dead. There was blood everywhere. I knew that something wasn't okay with you nana but I fought hard to believe that you would be fine and fight whatever that's coming your way. I didn't think it was this deep.." she says. I'm quiet

"The husband they kept on talking about, was it Nathi? The one you told me about?"

I nod

"First it was the shooting and now the rape? I need to deal with this boyfriend of yours! You went out there to build yourself not for him and his goons to break you apart this much." I'm quiet

"I need his surname"

"He is dangerous." I say

"I don't care, if it means killing him so you can be able to live without pain out there then I'll gladly do it Liyana."

Silence

"I didn't raise you in here for some dick to bring nothing but trouble in your life."

"I'm going to be fine" I say

"No. I hate seeing you cry Liyana.." she confesses, for the first time she tells me..

I want to hold her hand and promise her that I'm going to be fine..

"And in future never come in here to tell me you miss being in here." I keep quiet

"Ukhohliwe Liyana? You forgot how brutal this place can be? You forgot all the pain you suffered in here? Ithi ngikukhumbuze ke mtanami. This is the same place people cry each and every night because they want to go out of. The very same hell that's much easier to get inside but very hard to leave. People die every night in here, prayer doesn't work. You get stabbed or killed for something you don't even know. You turn to be someone else's boyfriend not because you're willing to but you're scared to die. This is the same place where you slept with a toothbrush under your pillow every night to protect your self. Never come in here to tell me you miss this place. Cry all you want, I'll be here to offer a shoulder but I won't let you push

your self to come back here. Mina angisayi ndawo, this is my hell but I'm willing to protect you at all costs. I'm going to find that Nathi and the men that did this to you and brutal death will be nothing compared to how they will die. If it means serving another life sentence in here then so be it."

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

THIRTY FOUR

"You have been in a lighter mood since yesterday.." Nomusa says behind me. I smile at the insistence of her voice.

I don't know, but I feel as though ever since I went to see Dragon, so much weight has been lifted off my shoulders.

Not that I don't sit and think of what has happened to me and sometimes even end up in tears. I still do... but I feel lighter

"What's wrong with deciding to cook for your young sister?" I ask turning the stove off.

I don't know how to cook, I have been following instructions from YouTube, hopefully the food is eatable.

"I hope the food is great" she says as if she'd read my mind.

"I think." I say before turning to her.

She sits on the chair, she's not going to work today, it's her say off.

"How about we go do a little shopping after lunch?" She ask

I don't think it's a great idea. I'm a emotional wreck, I don't wanna fall apart in public.

"I don't think I can go, I don't know what time my parole officer will be coming here"

I know, I'm not ready for the public.

She's eyeing me. I don't want that. I don't know why I suddenly hate eye contact.

"How are you feeling?" I hate this question.

I'm quiet. She is still looking at me, expecting me to say something. I consider lying. I could tell her I'm okay, that she shouldn't worry about me, the sort of things people say when they want to just go through their misery alone. But

what's the point? My sister has to know things I go through and for the first time I want to open up.

"Dragon wants to kill Nathi." I say

"You went to see her?"

I nod.

"Oh, now I get why the mood has been lifted"

We both chuckle

"She thinks he is a curse in my life." I say

before I let out a soft chuckle

"And you'd let her kill him?" She ask

"She'd never win." I say

"You want him to die?"

I shrug

"Have you seen him since..." she clears her throat

"Since after the rape, after leaving the hospital?"

She finally says

"I don't wanna see him" I say before I could stop my self. I don't want to see him.

"All we had has been destroyed. Whatever we had is lost pain and misery. I hurt Dineo as well.

I should have just been with her because being

with Nathi has brought nothing but pain in my life."

"Do you love Dineo?" She ask

I shake my head no. I don't.

"I thought I did, but I realise now that I didn't. I loved Nathi. I loved him but since I know nothing about love I couldn't admit it my self." I say

"And what do you think about his wife?"

I keep quiet.

I honestly dont know what to think of Matshidiso. I fell for her man, I didn't know he was married to her.

Alot of confusing thoughts consume my mind

..

The men that kept on raping me and telling me Ndovu loves his wife more than anything.. Lord I don't need to go back there.

Then Nathi telling me is not in love with her.

..

Sigh...

"My mistake was to fall for her husband" I say

"Don't you think she was behind this?"

"I know she was, I'm just scared if I find out it really was her, I'll kill her."

"You don't have to do anything that will get you back in prison.." she reminds me of Dragon. I let out a soft chuckle

"Have you spoken to Zama?" I ask

"No, I don't want to. I'm better off without her" she says in a dismissive tone.

She's always been fond of Zama, she practically raised her and now I understand her anger.

Zama does what Zama wants to do. Always has and I suppose always will.

...

[#Dineo](#)

Makhumalo wants us to go see Liyana. As hesitant as I am, I have no choice. I have to there and pretend to be the caring friend

The truth is as much as I hate my sister for what she did to her, I also hate Liyana for breaking my heart. I hate her for falling for my sister's husband.

I have packed the fruit basket and took it to Makhumalo's car and now waiting for Makhumalo to tell us we're leaving.

Makhumalo walks in

"Are you ready to leave?" I nod before following her to her car. She hands her car keys over to me, so I could drive.

I don't know but I suddenly feel the nervousness as we drive in her street.

I think Makhumalo notices that..

"She will be fine.." I think she is trying to reassure me.

"Yeah, she's a strong woman" I say. I don't want to talk about Liyana. I have alot going on in my life right now, like nursing my very own pregnant sister whom Nathi doesn't even want to see.

I'm glad we park outside before this conversation could go even further. Her sister's car is parked just outside, I know she is around. I allow Makhumalo to knock, the sister opens the door and seems surprised seeing us

"Come in." She says.

Seems like they've been having lunch. Liyana is busy clearing up the table.

A lot of things crowd my mind as I stare at her. Before everything happened, I'd forgotten that old feeling of abandonment, but it instantly comes back flooding as I see her. I don't think another woman would give me the direction Liyana gave me, meaning for life.

I take a deep breath, willing the urge to cry away. There has been too many tears, too much water..

She has lost so much weight. Makhumalo hugs her. I don't want to.

"How have you been?" She smiles.

"Getting there" That's the Liyana I know. I almost smile at her trying to be kind hearted.

"Hi.." I say while looking at her

"Sure." She says

It's awkward

"Let me quickly prepare something for you to eat" the sister says

"No, we've had something before we drove here" Makhumalo says

They are engaging in conversations. I'm just sitting there all quiet.

Liyana is getting better with time. There is laughter in the room. I feel so left out..

"I see you're getting better." I decide to say, I want to say something. Maybe apologies for the damage my sister did to her, even though looking at her right now I think she deserved it. This woman broke my heart.

Then there is silence

"My sister was just angry because you took her husband away from her.." I say

"What?" Liyana's sister ask

"Yeah, I hate her for what she did to you. But I hate Nkosinathi even more. The least he could have done was to apologize to my sister for all of this, instead he is so angry and the sad part about it is my sister is left with a broken heart and a pregnancy which Nathi doesn't want anything to do with. He took everything away from her, he is divorcing her but isn't taking everything away from her enough punishment?"

I let out a loud sigh

"I hope you'll one day find it in your heart to forgive her" I continue
I don't know why I suddenly had to say all that, but Liyana stands up and walks away.

Sigh.

I didn't mean to upset her.

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

THIRTY FIVE

(NOT EDITED)

If there is one thing I wanted in life, is to let go of the past and just move on from the pain.... but I cant..

Alot has happen.. I have to revenge for the pain. I'm sitting on my bed with Nomusa's phone in hand. I don't know if I'll face what I'm about to do. I have this fear that he will see the weak me. I don't want that...

But I cant keep my self away from dialing his numbers... It rings twice before he answers.

"Nomusa?" My heart stops for a moment.

My word, my speech, my whole body goes into a frenzy of emotions..

"Hello?" He says again

I hang up. I shouldn't have done that. I could feel my hands sweating and shaking.

I try to take several deep, clenching breaths to calm my animal emotions

Nomusa walks in and sits on my bed. She is worried.

"Liyana.." I turn to her and give her a faint smile..

"Have you called him?" She ask

She is supportive. She understands why I want to do this. She understands my pain. She understands everything.

"I couldn't talk. I hang up as soon as I heard his voice"

"Do you think calling him was a good idea?"

I shrug

"Liyana don't do this to yourself"

"What am I supposed to do? I want to look him in the eye Nomusa" she sighs

"Dineo had a motive. I know she said all that to hurt you"

"How?"

"The way you are now. Seeing him will only disturb your healing process Liyana. You were coming good. " she says

"I found you in the kitchen this morning, making breakfast and singing. That made me happy. I had missed my sister so much. The same sister who would stand up for me on Zama. The same sister whom people fear. And the strong one."

She says

I'm quiet and playing with my fingers.

I don't know what to say. I'm an emotional wreck. Those men destroyed me and going to the Liyana she misses will take a lot of time.

I don't even think I'll ever go back there

...

[#Dragon](#)

"Asambe sboshwa!!!!"

Sigh

I stand up and walk to the door. I wonder what is it now.

I've been trying to play my books right. I've been trying to connect to the outside world to revenge for Liyana.

My baby girl doesn't deserve the tragedy she's going through.

"Do I need to search you?"

I roll my eyes

"Do I need to teach you how to do your job?"

"Uyaphapha Dragon! Move!!" The warder says to me. I chuckle.

Ngizombulala lona! I cant wait for the day I slit his throat.

I have a visitor. I notice that as we walk to the visitors hall..

I'm pleased to see her. I smile at her. I dont believe in God, but all I know is my God is coming through for me this week.

"You're my second visitor this week" I say to her before I could seat.

She looks up at me and smile.

She doesn't look too good. She's not my happy daughter. She's not wearing any weave or have her nails done. I've never seen her this natural.

"Nana.." I say to her

She stands up and wants to walk away and I quickly grab her with both my chained hands

"Nana? Yini?" I'm starting to feel as though everyone comes here for their problems. Not that I'm complaining though.

I've never had the opportunity to be a parent. But this two girl, gave me the opportunity to mother them.

"Coming here was a mistake" she says

I raise an eyebrow

"Coming to see me was a mistake?" I ask

"No! Coming to see you wasn't but.." she sighs and sits back down

"Am I a bad person?" It's her first question. I don't understand where this is coming from

"No. You are not a bad person baby"

She is not. Shes been trying by all means to reconnect me to my son. She's never in her life ever treated me as the woman who went to jail because of mistreating her step son. She's never seen me as an inmate. Infact, all she did was to treat me like her mother.

Tears form in her eyes. I can already tell that what she came here for I'd much deeper, I've never seen her like this.

Right now I wish this people could remove this handcuffs and allow me to be a mother for once.

My heart breaks for her

"I'm pregnant.." Isn't that worth celebrating? He has always wanted a baby boy. I want to stand up and ululate.

"Oh my God. God finally came through.."

She chuckles through her tears and shakes her head.

"He wants to divorce me.." okay this is taking a turn I didn't want to see.

"What?" I'm beyond shocked

"Why would Nkosinathi want to divorce you?

You guys love each other"

She keeps quiet

"Matshidiso did you cheat on my son?" I cant control the anger that's building inside of me. I have a knife in my shoe, I won't hesitate taking it out and jumping over this table and stabbing the shit out of her if she did. My child has been

broken enough, I will do anything and everything and protect him even when I'm in here, I owe him that.

"No no no! I didn't cheat on him mama.." she says quickly

"Then what?"

She is silent.

"Matshidiso khuluma. Bua!" I won't let their divorce happen. Matshidiso has done nothing but to keep my son together.

She wipes her tears

"Waitsi ma. I have done nothing but been a done wife to him.."

She keeps quiet

"All he kept on doing was to remind me of my past. He would keep on saying hurtful things to me. He said I'll always be a prostitute in his eyes. That he would never love me. That whenever he tried to touch me he saw all those men that kept on violating me.", she hiccups.
I'm quiet.

"I couldn't anymore mama. He went out to cheat on me after everything. I tried to make him see that I love him instead he kept on hurting me.."
I ignore the warders. They can go to hell for all I care. I hold her hand as an assurance that I'm here for her. I'll call Nathi. I will make sure he comes to see me

She keeps quiet

"Ma I didn't want to hurt anyone. The last thing I wanted was to make another woman go through what I went through, but I wanted Nathi to look at her the same way he looked at me.."

she says

I'm not confused. I already can hear where this is going but... I'm trying by all means to block whatever I think she is talking about.

Lord, I can feel my breathing closing in on me...

"You harrassed another woman?" I ask

"It wasn't my intention to hurt her"

"You harrassed Liyana?" I ask

She quickly raises her teary eyes back to me.

"You know her?"

If I have to choose between the woman that kept my son together and choosing the child that treated me like her very own mother regardless of the pain I brought to her when she got in here, then this one can go to hell.

I have no shoelaces. I've done this. I can kneel and pretend as though I'm fixing my shoes while reaching for the knife.

I do, the warders don't notice a thing.

Before I could even stop my self, I jump on the table to her. I have to aim at the neck before the warders can get to me.

Indeed, the first stab gets to her. The chaos starts.

She's screaming. The second one and the third one.

The last thing I remember is the warders beating the shit out of me...

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

THIRTY SIX

(SPONSORED INSERT)

[#Forgive](#) me. The weekend got hectic really.

.....

I can feel people talking as I'm trying hard to sleep.

I know the voice... I've heard this voice...

Lord...

What have I done.

There's a knock on my bedroom door. I know who it is.

She welcomes herself in

"Liyana.." I'm pretending to be asleep, I ignore her.

She comes and sits on my bed and slightly shakes me..

"Yini, Nomusa?"

"You have a visitor"

I keep quiet, I dont even need to ask who that visitor is..

I sit up straight and turn to look at her

"You called him " there wasn't any need to remind me.

I already hate my self for that- No I dont. Sigh. I dont know.

"Tell him I'm not feeling well." She shakes her head no while removing the blanket

"You need to do this Liyana." She says

"What if I cry in front of him? I don't want him to see me crying.."

She brings her hands to mine

"It's fine. It's okay. He doesn't need to see the stronger you to understand that you're okay or the crying you to note that you're not." She says

"Nomusa you don't understand" I say

"I don't need to understand. Go see him, at least find the closure you need.."

Why?

I let out a loud sigh.

I stand up and grab my gown.

"Remember to open your heart." She says as we both walk to the kitchen.

He is there, he has a glass of water in hand. I have to be a big girl, I have to face him and talk to him. It has been a while since I last saw him. I remember how I broke down when I saw him..

"I'll be in my bedroom." Nomusa says before patting my hand gently.

She walked away, her shoes echoing on the pavers until she was in her bedroom.

"Sawubona"

"Yebo, unjani Liyana?"

"I'm okay." I don't need to ask about him. I don't need to know.

There is silence.

I'm rigid from his presence, aware of the man in front of me. He is staring, I keep on playing with my suddenly shaking hands. I'm not sure if I'm scared or nervous, or both...

"I was happy when I found out it was you that called.." he finally says after moments of heavy silence.

My pulse is so strong in my neck. My mouth is dry, and I don't know what to say. I I honest don't know how I feel about this man one minute to the next.

"Liyana..." I shake my head. I don't know what got but I find my self shaking my head. It was bad idea calling him. I shouldn't have.

"I shouldn't have called you." I finally say

"I'm happy you did" he says. He is always ready to say something.

"You know that it was your wife right?" I ask
He nods.

I didn't expect this from him. I glare at him, unable to hold back any longer

"She punished me instead of you Nathi. I didn't cheat on her but instead she came for me!" I say
His lips tighten, but his eyes bore into mine with so much intensity I'm not ready for.

I'm mad, but I'm hurt more. I'm ready for a fight, but all I really want is...

What do I want? An apology? Or to be told that he'd let me revenge my self to his wife?

He heaves a heavy sigh before brininghis hand to his face and brushing it in frustration.

"I'm angry Liyana. I'm angry at Matshidiso for doing the shit she did on you but I'm more angry at my self for never divorcing her before she could destroy you guys" he says.

That's the line married man always wise to make women feel better, but it doesn't.

This is the reason why I hate men, their lies! It makes me sick.

I turn and walk to the sit on the couch, he follows me and grabs the coffee table and sits on it facing me.

"Liyana I'm sorry you had to go through all the trauma because of me." He says, he thinks his sorry will wipe away all the shame, the disgrace, the depression his wife brought to me.

He thinks his sorry will bring back the lost Liyana.

"Nathi, you have no idea what your wife has put me through. You know being raped by different men, them beating and kicking me as if I'm some animal!" I can feel the tears forming.

I didn't want him to see the vulnerable me but I can't keep it together.

He tried to touch me, I shake my head but that doesnt stop him from bringing his hands to mine. My heart wants to explode at his touch

"Liyana I don't see you any differently, you're still the same strong Liyana I fell for. What she did to you wont make me see you any less of a

woman, infact if there's anything you need to know is she made me love you even more..." he says

Everything inside me is rioting. My thoughts scattered with unspoken emotions. I brush his hand away brusquely.

"Go back to your wife Nathi. I don't want any trouble." I say

"I'm divorcing her"

"And that's supposed to make me happy?"

He heaves a sigh

"I should have left her a long time ago Liyana."

He says

"I don't care."

Silence

"I heard she is pregnant..." I never thought saying this would break me so much.

"It shouldn't have happened."

"Yet it did." I chuckle

"Why am I even saying this. You guys are married."

His hands travel to his face again.

"It's sad I'm left to deal with my miscarriage while you and your wife will be parents." For the first time since after the incident, I feel the pain of my miscarriage.

It hits me that I almost become someone's mother and now I have to deal with the fact that I would never have a baby of my own.

"I'm here Liyana. I'm not going anywhere, I'll be here with you forever..." he says

His words make the emotions well up even harder

"I'm going to punish her in the worst way." He says

He doesn't know I'm coming for her, even if it takes me back to Prison, it's fine life in prison was a whole lot better than all this pain.

Through my watery vision, I see him also getting emotional

"I know she did this because she wanted me to see you differently. Liyana that woman doesn't understand what I feel for you. I love you so much Liyana and she doesn't know that the pain she caused to you is my treasure." He says.

I dont know why but a sob heaves from my chest and he stands and sits next to me and cuddles me close. My hands fists in his shirt and I turned my face against his as I weep and shook. He holds me in his arms while I cry, all the fear and pain lingered inside of me spilling out to soak his T-shirt with my tears.

To be continued.

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

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THIRTY SEVEN

She has been taken in solitary confinement. Her body hurts more than anything else.

She knows she's going to spend the rest of her life in prison, not that she wanted that but with everything that disturbs her daughter, she wouldn't let it go. She would rather die in prison than let another person cause pain to her daughter.

"I don't want you to do anything that would land you back in this hell!!" She remembers her words to Liyana, her princess. The only child that made her believe she still had it in her to be a good mother.

She's ready to die in here. She's ready for everything that comes in her way.

She's angry that her son is the reason behind all this.

But she's more angry for never asking Liyana about the Nkosinathi she always spoke about.

"I've hurt my son Liyana. I've been nothing but a bad mother to him and nana I just need a small favor from you. To look after him when you get outside..." she remembers her words to Liyana again.

Is it a coincidence? Did it happen because Liyana had the same strong heart as her son's? She doesn't know.

But being in Solitary will always be her worst nightmare, she's always in here, it doesn't bother her anymore but just the fact that when she gets out of there, she's going to court for another

sentencing which might be life sentence makes her sick. But she doesn't feel anything anymore, even fear.. What? Did I just say fear?

She can't move. This room, in particular, is one she used to be terrified of. The dark walls that are deep and cold, and nothing but a cold blanket to cover her when she's feeling cold. Her wounds are painful but its nothing compared to her heart. Nathi is her son, she loves Liyana.

She's no longer afraid of this room but how is one expected to be sane, watching the same walls each and every second?

She is strong, she doesn't need to remind her self, this is just a phase....

She's just worried about her sanity.

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[#Dineo](#)

I'm unsettled, I have this bad feeling. I have received a call from people who claimed that are the police and got my numbers from Tshidi's

phone. They had to call me because my numbers were saved as dearest sister.

They are on their way, I don't know what is it that they want because they asked me to come to the police station but I refused and they instead asked to come to my home and I gave them ..

There is a knock, I honestly don't know what to expect.

I'm scared, what has she done now?

And indeed its the police as I open the door.

"Good evening.." the greet. Its the three of them but one of them is not in their uniform.

"Hi... Come in." I say.

I don't need to offer them anything to drink. The lining of my mouth has already dried..

"I'm Dinero. Tshidi's sister" i don't know why I'm introducing my self but maybe its because they would want to know me.

"Mem, a woman was stabbed to death by one of the inmates at suncity. We have been sent to come here and ask you to identify the body."

What body.

My sister wasn't an inmate.

I've seen the story on the news about two minutes ago but how does that concern me Matshidiso is not an inmate, what's going on "Stabbed to death? My sister isn't an inmate."

"The woman stabbed wasn't an inmate.. " one of them says in attitude...

"Matshidiso was visiting her husband's mother?" I ask. Its like I already know everything.

I'm suddenly scared, I'm feeling cold. I'm wearing my gown but I feel as though I need something to warm my self.

My hands are shaky.

I don't know what to do.

"I need to call my brother in law and ask him to come with me.." I say. I'm hoping he will answer his phone..

I don't know where to even start looking for my phone. Right now, I'm holding in hope that Matshidiso would walk in and tell this people to walk away.

I don't know where she spent all her day, we haven't been in talking terms since days ago, I suddenly feel bad. I feel like a bad sister, I allowed her marital problems come between us. I have to make things right with her, life is short.

"Mem?" I'm shaking, dialing Nkosinathi's numbers...

It rings till voice-mail. I dial again

"Dinero.." he says

"Nathi there are people here, they want me to come with them to the police station to identify the body whom they think is Tshidi"

"What? Where is Matshidiso?" what kind of a dumb question is that?

"I... I don't know."

"Which Police station is it?" He ask

"Bare Sun City.." I say

"I'll meet you there.." he says before he hangs up

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[#Liyana](#)

"He said something about identifying a body.." I say to Nomusa.

I'm worried about jim.

"Do you think its associated to what I saw on the news?" I didn't watch the news.

I've been in here with Nkosknathi since two hours ago

"What happened?"

I ask

"Apparently a woman was stabbed in Sun city when visiting what people think might be her mother.."

"What?" It rarely happened.

I've been in there but none has ever happened.

We knew the punishment that came after that.

Being in solitary is no child's play. No one

wants to find themselves in there...

..

Hours have passed, I can't sleep. Nothing is not getting back to me to tell me what really happened. I'm getting worried

"I need you to borrow me your phone so I can call and find out how everything went." I say to

Nomusa. I'm suddenly the most caring girlfriend.

She was asleep, she sits up straight

"What time is it?"

"Few minutes after midnight." I say

She hands me her phone

"I'm worried about him Nomusa. He hasn't called.." I say to her.

His phone rings once before he answers

"Hello.." his voice is just plain, I don't can't tell from his voice if he's fine or not

"Nathi"

"Sthandwa sam"

"Whats going on?"

"Matshidiso was stabbed to death by my mother.." he says, its blank.

I don't know anything about his mother

"We're still at the Government mortuary, we have to move her to a private one.." he says

I don't know how I feel. But why would his mother stab her?

"Your mother is in prison?"

"She has been in there for more than 20 years now. Look, I'll come straight there when I'm done with everything.."

He hangs up, there are so many unanswered questions.

There is a lot I need to know.

To be continued

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HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE
THIRTY EIGHT

#Dineo

Anger, numbness and most of all disbelief its all thats crowing me.

No...

No...

No...

I've been crying. Why would she do this to me. I was going to ask for forgiveness for judging her. Nothing tries to touch me but I stand up and push him.

"This is all your fault!!!" Its his damn fault. His mother did this. The police try to hold me back .
"Ntlogeleng!!!! His mother killed her. She killed her!!!!" I keep on saying. Another sobs follow. I sit down, lord why would you do this to be, she's the only person I was left. The only family I had.

Matshidiso is dead. Murdered. Everything wound me around me, again and again. I gulped deep breaths. Slowly, in and out. Desperately trying to sooth my shattered nerves. Only a few hours ago, her heart was beating. She left home and now.

"How could a woman stab another woman so painfully? She respected her more than anything, treated her like her own mother even when she forsake you! She stepped up and became the mother your mother failed to be!!!! How can she have a propensity for such evil?"
I can't stop talking and crying. She's gone...

...

[#Liyana](#)

Its 2:30am.

I still can't seem to sleep, Nathi has not yet returned to me.

Alot doesn't make sense, he never said anything about his mother, damn I thought she had passed on years ago.

He hardly spoke of his family.

Yes, Matshidiso deserved this, infact. I have no pity in me for her. But I pity his mother. The woman who spent more than 20 years in Prison and will be facing a possibility of Life sentence. I know life in prison, I've been there, done that, I know how scary it can be.

Fresh fear crept into my bones at the thought of his mother who might be in solitary at this moment, in cold and alone.

The fear seeped into the depths of my mind, reaching the distant corners, the areas I'd protected. The areas that always guarded hope.

Nomusa's phone rings just under my pillow. I check it, its him

"Nathi.." I answer

"I'm outside."

"Come in.." I don't know why but I know that its because I have the fear of seating with him in a car at 2:40am. What if history repeats it self?

"Liyana I can't come in there.."

"Yes you can Nathi.." he heaves a sigh.

"Vula ke.."

I stand up, I don't need to get my gown.

I go unlock the door and wait for him to come.

He indeed comes, he has changed to tracksuits.

His hands are inside his pockets.

I can smell the fresh masculine shower gel from him...

He closes the door and locks it behind him then follows me to my bedroom.

He sits comfortably on my bed, I don't feel too good about this but I guess it is what it is. I'm here...

"What went on?" Is the first question I ask

He removes his shoes.

Okay..

"She was stabbed" his voice is devoid of emotion

"You told me that.."

"Come sit down.." something darker stirred in his black eyes.

I sit and keep quiet, I'm waiting for him to tell me what really went on, why he never shared anything about his mother.

"I'm tired, I've had a long day.." he says, his tone holds a note of strain, he lays on the bed, his hand balancing his the back of head
"But I'm okay now since I'm here with you."
"

He is trying but its not working

"Hair air Nathi" he laughs.

"Yini, am I not supposed to be happy that I'm here? With the woman I love?"

This is honestly not the time, I join him on the bed.

He turns to face me

"I'm happy I'm finally with you.." he says

"Nathi we need to talk ngo Matshidiso." I say.

He heaves a sigh

"My mother never wants to see herself out of trouble. I'm tired of her" he says

I want him to open up to me.

"That woman is a problem herself, I'm still questioning my self even today that what is it that my father saw in her." He sighs and covers his face with his hand

"Was it Matshidiso?" I ask, he nods the removes his hand

Then there's a hint of pain in his eyes, an illogical yearning to erase it rise up within me. He leans in and want to capture my lips with his, I turn my face away

"We are not doing that Nathi." I say

He frowns lightly

"I just miss your lips, I won't do anything you don't want."

"This is the time for us to talk not kissing"

But my body is already surrendering, despite my protest.

"Ikiss nje.." he says shifting me closer to him and kissing me

The kiss gets heated, he comes on top of me.

I don't like this but...

Deliciously deep, our tongues dance and duel.

He kicks my leg out a few inches and tugs at my

pajama pants. He dips his hand beneath the band, dragging his fingertips down the front of my panties, lower and lower until he finds his mark on my thighs. Then adds enough pressure making me cry out.

He brushes his lips along my jaw and whispers against my ear

"I miss you.." I don't know what to say, I barely stifled a groan as he ventures lower. He slides my panties to the side so I could feel his fingers on my Clit and strokes me slowly, making me shiver everything he grazes my clit.

"Uyangipha?" Its a question, his tone is low, laced with lust and barely harnessed restraint. His lips are teasing the shell of my ear, I can't focus. "Liyana?"

"Yes.." I trail off on a low moan when he traces around my clit in a circular pattern.

Suddenly the world spun as his strong hands maneuvered my body.

He reached for his zipper and freed himself from his slacks. I could feel his hardness.

Soon both our clothes were laying carelessly somewhere on the floor.

He groans long sound of pained release and he opened for me. I felt as though he'd emotionally dropped so many barriers between us. Letting me see into his tormented soul

For the first time, I wanted him. All of him.

Good and bad, ugly and beautiful. His swollen head pressed at my opening, parting my pussy lips as he eased inside me. I whimpered at the burning stretch of him pushing in, but he didn't stop at the sound of my discomfort. My whimpered turned into moans. I wrapped my legs around his hips and dug my heels into his sculpted ass. He began to move, pumping his hips faster and harder as he clung to his control by a threat.

This is how it was meant to be between us: our bond so strong that it was nearly too much to bear. He hit my g-spot, over and over again, making my pleasure build up inside me. My entire body tensed, my toes curling and my legs shaking around him. I let go, my orgasm

claimed me with a shocking force, he didn't stop. My scream mingled with his wild roar. He drove deep one last time, holding himself inside me as he emptied his cum into me.

..

"I've never seen my mother.." he says

"The woman that stabbed Matshidiso is my stepmother.." he says as we are cuddled in bed
I'm confused

"My father was the only parent I'd known and shared half of my life with. He was the most perfect father one could have, taught me life and everything. We had this strong bond until he eventually decided to get married."

There is a moment of silence

"He married a fierce woman, that's the only thing I liked about her but just hated that she was young enough to be my father's child.." he says

"How old was she?" I ask

"She was just a few years older than me.." that's not the answer I'm expecting but I decide to keep quiet

"Dad passed on a few years after marrying her. Life changed, she changed to the worst person ever. She shown her dark side..." he says

"And?"

"She made me do things, she became the devil herself and I was happy when she finally got arrested because that woman had done nothing but to destroy me..." he doesn't go into detail..

"I'm still angry at her Liyana. I'll never forgive that woman for all the pain she brought to my life, she promised my father she would mother me, instead she took me for her boyfriend.

People hated me thinking I helped her kill my father because after my father's passing, I had to do all the bad things for her.." he says

"What's those bad things Nathi?"

Silence

"Did you kill for her?" Again, silence

"Why is she in prison?"

"Her sins finally caught up with her.." just that.

Everything dark stirred in the depths of his eyes:

Anger and pain

Something about what his mother has done in the past, triggered him, and for the first time i feel he needs me to sooth him..

"You have to forgive her.." I say.

"I can't.."

"Because you don't want to." I say

"Why did she stab your wife?"

He shruggs and chuckles bitterly before standing up and walking to get my gown and wear it.

"You know what shocks me, is they got along very well. Matshidiso always forced me to go see her. She wanted so bad for us to talk and put the past behind us."

I stand up too, I need to get a towel and wrap it around my body, its almost 5 am. I don't think we'll be sleeping.

"This doesn't make sense.." I tell him

"It doesn't.Dragon loved Matshidiso more than anything.." he says

"D... Dragon? Who is Dragon?"

Nkosiyam!!! This doesn't make sense.

I say a silent prayer that he's not talking about the same Dragon.

My mother...

"I wanted to make him a better man, I wanted to turn him like his father. I destroyed that child Liyana, I destroyed him beyond repair and I regret it each and everyday. I hate my self for that and right now you'll have to forgive me if I'm being extra but I'm here, I want to better my mothering skills so when I go out there, he would know that I can be the mother his father left to mother him.."

Dragon's words play in my mind

"Are you Dragon's stepson?" I ask him before I could even stop my self

"Do you know her?"

I'm getting dizzy, I need to sit down..

I try to hold on to the bed and he rushes to balance me

"Babe upright?"

Tears blurr my eyes

I shake my head no

"She promised she would find the person who did this to me but I didn't want her to do it like this.." I'm not making any sense i know..

"Liyana?"

I'm not okay. I have stopped smoking but I feel I need a smoke right now.

To be continued

HER PAIN, HIS TREASURE

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THIRTY NINE

I was scared. I was in pain, in a lot of pain, the only thing that made sense was death.

Another shot of pain shot through me at the same time as I watched her, the woman who had stabbed me walk to my bed and sit with me..

I didn't know what to do, I was scared. I knew she would stab me yet again.

I couldn't move, I needed a doctor, I knew I would die if the doctor didn't attend to me , but I'd seen that they work with the warders, If I had

tried to ask one of the warders to help me, they would kill me.

It's funny right? That I had thought the only thing that made sense would be death, yet on the other side, I feared dying. I wished it weren't true, but even as I had accepted death as my fate, I was terrified.

"Skeif.." she said.

I looked at her, I wanted to tell her I don't smoke but I was scared of what would come next.

Everyone in this cell praised this woman, they treated her as God, they worshipped the ground she walked on.

If she were to ask you to jump, all you had to do, was ask "how high?"

I could feel the bags under my eyes, the desperate need for sleep. But I couldn't. Not when I was inside this hell whole, not knowing what they might do to me

"I... I.. I don't... Smoke.." I stuttered forcing my dry throat to swallow, the pain still present.

She raised an eyebrow

"Everyone smokes in here.." she said

Me:"But.."

Her:"Voetsak man!!! Take this and smoke!!!"

With my shaky hand, I took the BB and puffed and cough for the first time.

Everyone laughed, except for her

"Nihlekani?" She asked

Then there's was silence

Her:"Don't you have anything to do? Yini

Nikhathele ukuphila?"

Silence again

"Voetsak! Culani!!!"

And just like that the singing started again.. I knew I would be stabbed again, people were sining so loudly..

"Ubukeka umcani, how old are you?" She asked

"2..21" I couldn't hide how terrified I was. I was shaking. I silently praid for mercy.

Lord, you knew I was doing it for my mother.

"How long will you be serving?" She asked

"Fif... Fifteen years.." I was shaky. The fear she'd instilled in me was unbreakable

"Umcane kanje? What did you do?" She asked

"I killed..." I was shocked at how I spoke so proudly about it

She laughed, a devil laugh.

"Why?" She asked

"He was abusing my mother.."

"Who?" She asked again

"My dad.." she whistled

"You killed your father?" Silence

"People in here call me Dragon. I'm Dragon, I'm like a Dragon, the Dragon you see in movies. I bite..." she said..

She took out her knife

"You are in my house, this is my house. Wonke umuntu uzwa ngam lana, including that one.."

she said pointing at the warder

"I like you already, which is why I'll be putting you right under my wing"

I was quiet

"You wanna get along with me you'll listen to me and follow my rules. Kune nombolo la ekhaya, I'd hate to see you associate your small ass with it. You want protection, I'll be here for you. You won't be anyone's girlfriend. Kodwa

you are going to church and study.

Uyangizwa?" I nod

"Yey man voetsak! Ringa!"

"Yebo ma.." I said ..

...

I narrate the story as if its something thats happened last night.

Nathi is sitting here, he's just listening to me.

I'm in tears

"She's the reason why I came out of the prison with no scars all over my body.." I say

He hasn't said anything. I want him to say

something, atleast assure me that after

everything I've said, he would find it in his heart to forgive her.

He's quiet, he is sitting on my bed with his hands covering his face. I didn't want this.

Damn I didn't want such coincidence to happen in my life.

Its close to 6am, the sun is coming out, I know Nomusa will be waking up soon..

"Nathi.." he raises his eyes to look at me

"Dragon is not a bad person." I say, and I mean it. I know she's not.

That woman practically raised me to this age.

"You don't know her." He says

"I have been with that woman 15 years of my life. I slept, woke up, bath with her in the same cell. She protected me. She kept me sane and right now if I have to choose between anyone in my life then everyone can leave me and I'll always choose her over everything." I say

"Liyana that woman is the devil herself, you wanna know why people gave her the name Dragon? Its because she's the Dragon herself, she's capable of doing everything bad!" He says

"Then she has changed!" I say. I'm trying to protect her

She chuckles bitterly while shaking his head.

I've never seen him like this.

"That woman would lock me in a room for days, with nothing to eat. When my father died, it was my death sentence to be left in the hands of that woman. Everyday I created a mark on the cement floor, laying there not eating, unmoving,

unchanging other than the pain, because I would be in punishment of not giving her the sex she'd wanted. I would create marks in a dark room. There were dozens of lines just like that. I started them to count days, but they turned in to something else. Each was the same as the last because I was hoping for something to change. Something inside of me or inside of that dark room to break up the monotony. But I finally stopped caring. She would become easier on me when I was pathetic and I became even worse pathetic knowing she was the reason behind it, she was the motivating factor behind my pain! Then you have the nerve to tell me she has changed?" He says

"That fucken happened for over 20 years ago Nathi! Can't you forgive?" I'm losing

"Will you in life fucken forgive those men that kept on taking turns on you?" He is losing it.

Fuck him, he has no idea what those men did to me.

"Nathi, you can't compare the two!"

"Kuyafana Liyana, its the same thing! Or am I expected to forgive because I'm a man and it was my mother that did all that shit?" The fire in his eyes.

He stands up, he looks for his clothes and starts dressing up

"Uyahamba manje? Nathi sisakhuluma!!"

"Liyana I need to think" he says

I keep quiet, maybe I shouldn't stop him from leaving, maybe its the best choice for the both of us right now.

I let him get dressed, I expect him to leave as soon as he is done getting dressed.

I stand up to go open the door for him, he grabs my arm. Making me look at him

Its hard,

"I hate her with passion, you love her wholeheartedly because she has protected you.

Then where to from here? What do I do

Liyana?" I keep quiet.

He stares down at me, kisses my forehead

He walks out

The tears that spilled from my eyes welled up from a place deep inside as emotion flooded free.

"Sawubona.." I hear him exchange greeting with Nomusa in the kitchen before saying good bye to her then the kitchen door opening and closing.

I need to wipe this tears, Nomusa cannot see me crying. I have to act strong..

I take my gown and wear it, I had been in a towel since after our sex.

Right now I needed a shower more than anything.

For the first time in years, I knew I would be in a situation where I have to choose between two people and lord forgive me, I would never chose the son over her mother. Yes, I love him, I admit I love Nkosinathi but Dragon comes before him...

Nomusa is in the kitchen making breakfast, there is concern on her face as she sees me walking in..

"Whats going on?" She ask me

"Matshidiso was stabbed to death." I tell her
"Matshidiso? His wife? Dineo's sister?" I nod
"Oh my God Liyana. I saw that he wasn't okay,
I understand the pain he is going through right
now.."

I'm quiet

"As much as I hate that family, no one deserves
dying so painfully.." she says

"Dragon stabbed her." I say

"Who's Dragon? Dragon you mean UMah?"

I nod

"No...I don't understand Liyana. I'm confused
right now. What the hell is going on?"

"Dragon is Nkosinathi's mother. I know she did
it for me because I know she found out
Matshidiso was behind everything. Her son
hates her, I love her. I don't know if this is a
coincidence or it happened because this is a
small world.." my voice is breaking

"Dragon will be spending a very long time in
jail because of me Musa.. Why.... Why would
Dragon get.. get her self in so much trouble?" I
said brokenly. A strangled cry ripped it way up

my throat. I didn't want her to see me like this but I couldn't help it. I struggle to calm my self down. She comes to my side and hold me.

To be continued

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FORTY

Two families are arguing KwaNdlovu.

Matshidiso was the Ndlovu wife. The Ndlovu's took and introduced her to their ancestors and right now the Ramabolu's want their daughter to be buried at her home.

They were divorcing. Nathi mistreated their daughter, all this was caused by Dineo who went on to tell her uncles that her sister was back at home with nothing, Nathi chased her out of their home with nothing but just her luggage with her clothes and toiletry only.

They blamed Nathi for his cheating. Not only did they want their daughter to be buried at the

Ramabolu homestead, they also wanted Nathi to pay a fine of the shame he has caused to their daughter.

"His mother killed her" one of Ramabolu uncles kept on saying

"She is not his mother!" Ndlovu uncle also kept on arguing

"She raised him! She was married to his father!

That makes her his mother" Ramabolu

This was really frustrating Nkosinathi. Not that he cared, he just wanted this to be over and done with. He wanted to move on, this was holding him back.

"Sifuna inkomo zakwa Ndlovu ke. Angisho you want your daughter back? Then bring back all our cows!" Ndlovu says.

They spoke of her as though they spoke of someone who was still alive.

"Its fine, malume. They can take her.." Nathi finally decides to say

The uncles won't let it easy, no infact thats one thing they will never do. This young people think this is just a game where you decide to

introduce another person to your ancestors and just like that tell them you don't want her anymore.

"Ca Mshana. Thats not how it works." On of the argues.

Nathi stands up and walks out. He is tired, both emotionally and physically. It has been the longest two days ever since Matshidiso passed on and if there's anything he wants more than everything, is for her to be buried so everyone could move on in peace.

He is willing to bury her, he will be giving her a dignified funeral, she deserve it. His mother killed her, she was his wife.

He once loved her. Yes, she once made him happy but that was before he realised what she was capable of.

Dineo walks to her as he stands outside, right now he is not in the mood, he doesn't need her telling him how much his mother killed her "I hope you're hope" she says.

He sighs

"Kahle kahle ufunani kimi Dineo?"

"I want you to let me bury my sister in peace, we both know you never loved her" he keeps quiet.

"Your mother killed her, just-"

"Yey aume kamcane wena. Matshidiso was my wife, she will be buried here. "

"I will never forgive you for this" she starts sulking

Nathi doesn't give a damn.

She walks away. He starts asking himself what exactly is Dineo doing here because this was supposed to be the elders meeting.

He sees one of his uncles walking out of the house. He doesn't need to hear what he has to say. He has had the longest day of his life today, all he needs is to drive back Gauteng and just move on from this but he can't, he will be spending about a month in this home.

The home he hates, he suddenly hates tradition, had he built himself a house here in Kwa-Mashu then he wouldn't be burying his wife in this homestead.

Not that it didn't have memories, it did.

The good and the bad, he spent years of happiness with his father in this very same home... but that was until his father introduced a witch to them, his step mother. Things changed. Two years after his father, his mother got arrested, it was the happiest moment of his life. He knew he had to leave this home, go start life elsewhere, the first thought that came to his mind was to sell this home, but he knew he would be disrespecting his father's memory. He locked this home and left, he never looked back and now he's here. He has to bury Matshidiso here.

Some of his aunts were here already, the first cow would be slaughtered already. The funeral arrangements were to begin.

"It's done." His uncles says

"What's done?" He asks. Nathi hates them. He is just patient with them because he needs them right now.

Where were they when the poor young boy cried mercy in the hands of his step mother?

"We are burying her lana." He says

Nathi nods.

"What went on really Mshana? Couldn't you come and let your uncles know thing were bad in your house?" His uncle ask

"My house you say?"

"Yebo"

"You wanted me to tell the whole world what went on behind the closed doors of my house?"

He asks, its tense.

"You.."

"The fist cow will be arriving today, I think her family members will be arriving today, we are burying her on Saturday." Nathi says dismissively..

.

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[#Liyana](#)

Nomusa is packing an overnight bag in her bedroom. I don't really know if she's going to work or anything.

I feel like she's sad today, she hasn't said anything to me since in the morning and right now I feel I have to be the big sister and knock

on her bedroom door and sit with her then ask,
what's really going on.

I do so, she tells me to come in.

I sit on her bed.

"Unjani?" I ask her.

"I'm okay." She says

"You are sad" I say to her

She heaves a sigh before closing her bag and
sitting down.

"Its Theo's cleansing ceremony tomorrow." Oh
that.

I had to totally forgotten about that person. I
now get it why my sister's mood is like this
today, she has tried her outmost to move of from
ki... No, I mean his death and now she has to go
back to his home

"I'm scared of the looks and everything I'll get
from that family as soon as I arrive there, I
dumped everyone after their son's burial, I
dumped even my kids there. Its been months
since I had seen my kids, I was angry at their
father that I even my punished my own children
for their father's sins.." she says.

She's sad, I hate seeing her like this. She had to, I understand why she had to dump them.

"They will understand you had some healing process to do, its not easy losing someone you once loved Musa. Theo was the father of your kids." I say

"They won't say the same thing." She says.

I stand up and go sit close to her

"I'll go pack an overnight bag also, ill come with you." She laugh lightly

"Are you going to fight my battles?"

"If thats what I have to do, then its fine, I'll bring my knife with." We both laugh

"And when are we going to Kwa-Mashu?" She ask

"To do what?" I ask

"Come on, don't tell me you are not going to support the man you love."

"I'm not burying Matshidiso. I'm not going" I say dismissively

"Why? Is it because you also believe in the myth that you shouldn't bury someone you once shared a dick with?"

I want to laugh but its all not funny.

"No, its because I don't want to bury her"

"Why Liyana?"

"Nomusa I'm angry! I cannot go watch people cry over someone that's made me suffer!!"

"Yes!!! The very same way you shouldn't keep on mentioning how good uMah is to Nathi! She was good to you bad to him. Myeke!!! He will forgive when he wants to the same way you will forgive when you want to!!" Shes shouting, she had never raised her voice on me before.

"Nomusa do not raise your voice at me!!!" I warn her .

"You're not being fair Liyana. You are not being fair on Nathi. Not infact you're being immature right now"

"Uyangithuka manje. " I say

"Nathi is going through the most now, he has to deal with the death of Matshidiso and his mother. Then now he has to stress over you because you think you know whats good for him? Hate me Liyana but we both know the truth. Nathi loves you, you are taking an

advantage of that. You want to be the good daughter to uMah by making Nathi compromise for you.."

I stand up.

"I'll go pack, I don't wanna argue with you"

I walk out.

To be continued

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FORTY ONE

"I just need to see her, please can I see her.." I say to Thuli, the warder. I knew it wasn't going to be easy seeing her especially since she's in solitary. But I knew I would see her, the corruption in our country would help me see her.

They can break the rules with just a few thousands.

"Liyana you know the rules in here. I cannot break them for you." she says sigh.

I just need to see her, I want to talk to her, that's it. Can't she see I'm desperate? But I know this people, they enjoy taking you around the bush before they could give you what you're here for. I'll play along.

"Thuli ngiyakucenga.." I say to her

She sighs

How many rules have they broke in here for people? I know I won't be the first one and I certainly won't be the last. I just need to talk, it won't even take an hour.

I sigh.

I have about 4k in my bank account, I can transfer it to her

"Okay, how about R2000 for cold drink?"

"Don't temp me Liyana.."

"Can't you see that I'm desperate?"

"Okay okay, its fine, we'll meet in Town so you can give me the cash. For now, I'll check if there isn't any nurse coming in, you'll go there as a

nurse, I'll be at the door guarding you guys. 10 minutes is all that you have."

She says, I nod

..

She is resting her head against the wall with her eyes closed.

She doesn't look too well, this is not the Dragon I know, the Dragon i know doesnt let pain get to her this hard.. She's writhing in pain.

I clear my throat, she raises her eyes to me then smiles

"How did you get in?"

"I'm a nurse, can't you see?" She chuckles

I take out a ciggerate from my shoe and hand it to her and a lighter.

"You have no idea how much I needed this. My therapy.." I chuckle.

I go sit on her single bed. Its not comfortable at all.

"I'll be going out of here tomorrow and hopefully I'll get the treatment I need."

"And court?"

"I don't know yet, but I heard they have appointed another useless state lawyer for me, but I'm going to plead guilty." She says. There is pain in her voice

"How many years do you think we'll be facing?"

"20plus with no possibility of parole.."

"I'm sorry" I say

"Its okay" she puffs

The darkness in this room is unsettling.

Sigh, but what did I expect, I mean this is a devil's room, the punishment room

"How are you?" I ask

"Ahh ngimnandi. You know you can never take a queen down." Eish, this one and acting strong.

"They are burying her on Saturday.." I tell her

"Okay" its just that.

I can't read her emotions, she's always been blank. I get it now where Nathi got this. From his stepmother.

I'm still hung over the fact that this woman, the woman I value with everything in me is the mother of the man I'm sleeping with.

Sigh, when did things get here?

"Nothing makes me happy like knowing you are involved with my Nkosinathi." She says

"I'm just angry he didn't man up enough to protect you from the shit Matshidiso put you through.." she continues

"I didn't know you are his mother." I say

"Small world right?" She chuckles

"I..." I sigh

"I don't think I can continue with him after this Ma."

"Why?" She asks

"Matshidiso is out of the way now. Not that I didn't like her as my daughter in law, I did, she had been there for Nkosinathi since I was inside here, she mothered him but I hate her for what she did to you. Don't punish him because of Matshidiso's actions." She says

"Just a few months ago you wanted me to stay away from him because he brought nothing but trouble to me"

"Yes. I still do, but I feel you guys need each other more than anything now. Liyana the possibilities of me getting out of this place now

are very slim. I got angry when Matshidiso spoke of you, i got angry when she mentioned the things she had done to you." She says

I keep quiet

"Nathi will never forgive me for everything I have done to him, I don't expect him to but the only thing I'm asking from you is for you not to expect him to. Just keep him safe and sane for him Liyana, its the only thing I'm asking from you.." Thuli opens the steel door

"Time up." She says.

I don't want to leave as yet.

I hold Dragon's hand

"I'll come back next week"

"He needs you both emotionally and physically right now Liyana. Please, support him." She says

I stand up.

I'm trying by all means to block the tears from escaping my eyes but its hard. I'm such a cry baby..

She smiles as I walk out.

This is hell. The difference is, this one is cold, very cold and dark. I hate seeing Dragon like this, she doesn't deserve this.

...

I sit in Nomusa's car and close my eyes. This is too much for me to handle. This was definitely the first time in my life where I hated seeing Dragon like that. She wasn't the same strong Dragon. She was someone who seemed to have lost hope in life. For that matter, I hated Nathi even more. This is his fault! Hadn't he went out with me, then this wouldn't have happened.

Lord, I know you are there, I know you are watching my struggles, my pains.. why do you keep on hurting the people I love?

I could see my eyes on the rear view mirror. The shadows under my eyes are the bags with which carry the weight of everything I have done and everything that has been done to me. I decide to drive after a moments of sitting in the car and forcing my self not to cry..

I'm driving home, I'm driving to Theo's home. Nomusa left earlier on and said I would meet her there...

There were few people in the yard, some were busy. Some were just gossiping.

I'm shocked to find Zama's car parked outside. What is she doing here?

Oh, Nomusa kids run to hug me as soon as they see me walk in. I'm excited to see them

"You guys have grown so quick, look at you!" I say to them.

They take me to their mother's room, Theo's bedroom. She's sitting in the bedroom alone

"Sawubona?" She looks at me

"Yebo.." I sigh before sitting on the bed with her

"I'm sorry about earlier on." She's the first one to apologize.

I had a lot of thinking to do really, she said a lot of things that makes sense, I'm not being fair on Nathi. I should just give him some time, he will forgive his mother when he wants to

"You said a lot of things that made sense.." I say

"Just put yourself in his shoes Liyana, would you forgive someone that made your childhood life hard?"

I shake my head no.

"Exactly, but its okay if you understand me.."

"Why are you sitting in here alone?" I ask her

"I'm just tired of the cold shoulder I have been getting since I got here, so I decided to hide in here till you come. Even Theo's mother hasn't said anything to me since I got here.." she says

Sigh

"Its okay, just let them be, I'm here now. Do you want me to get you anything?"

She shakes her head no

"I saw Zama's car outside, when did she get here?" I ask

"Turns out she's the favourite of this family, she has been coming here every week to visit my kids." She says.

Oh, speak of the devil, she walks in.

She's wearing a tight dress, a jacket and a Headwrap.

She has a tray with tea and scones in her head.

"Oh Liyana, i didn't know you were around, I didn't bring an extra cup." She says.

There is a hint of attitude in her tone.

I'm tired, I've had a long day already, I won't entertain this child.

She places the tray on the chair.

"I see you've succeeded in Killing another human being.." she says to me

"Don't mind her" Nomusa says

"Now tell me, are you going to marry her husband since you decided to move her out of your way?"

"Zama, Phuma." Nomusa says

"Yes, you are going to defend her. As always.

Nomusa does it ever occur to you that I miss you? That I miss my sister before Liyana got out of prison?"

"Weeh Zama, this is not the time nor the place for what you want to start" Nomusa says. She's losing it.

"Liyana, because this time around you grew tired of getting the blood in your hands, you

decided to sent Nathi's mother to do the dirty job for you?" She ask

"Zama I'm not in the mood.."

"Oku ngapheli kuyahlola Liyana, everything bad you do will come back to haunt you.."

I stand up and walk to her, Nomusa is quick to stand too and come between us

"Zama, aumphume Kimi!!!"

"Or what Liyana, are you goings to kill me like you did with my father and Theo?" There is noise. I'm sure everyone heard her.

I'm tired of this child. Life has been going just great without her.

Nomusa's weight is nothing. I push her to the side going to Zama and soon I have her but her top.

I hit her against the wall

"I'm tired of your behavior wena!!!" I say hitting her against the wall.

I swear to God, if there's one thing I need in my life right now is to kill this child and if it takes me back to prison then so be it.

Nomusa is grabbing me. There are noises coming in. People are stopping us. Zama is just the she devil, I'm questioning my self why hadn't I killed her when I had the time. To be continued

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