

HOLDING HANDS

A romantic scene at sunset. A man and a woman are silhouetted against a vibrant sky of orange, yellow, and blue. They are standing on a grassy hill, holding hands. A large tree is on the right, and birds are flying in the sky.

*The Best Gift A Man Can Give A Child
Is Loving Their Mother*

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PROLOGUE

Zenzele



Me : as you're leaving for army
, when will you be back ?

I'm just asking

But I don't even understand
this

I don't get why he has to leave

He's been serving in the
country for over three years

And now he's leaving

Just like that

I don't even hear him talking
about a position

Or anything high rank , but he's
leaving

It doesn't make sense to me

Zak : I don't know , it's never a certain with these things

I sigh

Me : why do you have to go ?

Zak : is that a rhetorical question ?

Me : you have been serving fine here

Zak : and now it's time to leave , I go where the job takes me you know that

I shake my head slowly

Zak : what's the problem
Zenzele ?

I sit down

Me : it feels like you're abandoning me , like I'll be left all alone now

Zak : that's crazy , we're brother's . How can I abandon you ?

Me : we're twins , and all our lives we've been together .

Now you're going to Botswana ,
I don't know for how long . I
don't even know if you'll still
come back alive

He sighs

Zak : stop worrying , I'll come
back . Be home for dinner , you
don't want to upset mom

I don't even feel like going to that dinner , and she will makes big deal out of it

It'll just feel like we're saying goodbye to him

I am not happy about his leaving , and it's just making me sad

I may sound like a child right
now

But my brother has always had
me

He's always held me

And now without him , I don't
see how I'll cope

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Zakhele



I get into my car and go silent

I understand his fears

We've never been apart

Even when I was serving

We always made sure that he
knows I'm close by

I can say I'm the sane one

He's the unruly one

Without me around , he barely
has anyone to keep him in line

But I have to leave now

I cannot lose out on this job

I've just been placed as
commander to my task team

And I didn't tell him

Because this now means having
more responsibilities

And I'll barely be around

I have to serve where my team
is at

Now we've been dispatched to
Botswana

We could be there for months
or even a year

I didn't want to tell him that

I hope he can survive and just
stay out of trouble

Even though I know that's hard

And he will barely survive

I'll keep my head high , to make
sure I come back to him in one
piece

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Bofelo

Bofelo



Mom : you're starting your new
job tomorrow

I look at her and smile

Me : yes

Mom : are you happy ?

I can't exactly say I am happy

I studied office admin

But now I am stuck going to be
a cleaner

Life hasn't been easy

But she's sick and needs
medication

I can't afford to be without a
job

So I'll just take whatever job
comes my way

Just as long as it'll pay bills

And put food on the table

For a cleaner R6 500 , is not bad
at all

So we'll make do with, and it'll
see us through

Me : yes , it's a job . And I'll
make sure I work hard and
keep it

I won't stop looking for a job I
studied for

But if it doesn't come , I'll keep
the one that I have

Times are hard

Mom : you behave yourself
there

Me : I will

Mom : is your accommodation
ready ?

Just a backroom at someone's
house

I can't afford to travel from
Pretoria to Soweto everyday

I'll spend a lot on transport

Rent is just R1 200 , it's not bad

Considering its in a safe place

And the room is good

It even has a shower and toilet
inside

So I am not complaining about
its condition , or the rent

Me : yes , I got the key when I went to pay the deposit for the rent

Mom : that's good , let me leave you to pack . I'll cook don't worry about it

She walks out

I sit down on my bed

I will not even take a lot of clothes

Just enough clothes to keep me going and having changes

We have uniform

So I won't even need clothes for work , it'll be just for change at home.

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INSERT 01

A MONTH LATER

Bofelo

I am so tired

My feet are hurting

When women in heels say ,
their feet are killing them

I wonder how they feel

Because I'm in flat pumps , but
they're killing me

It's been a month holding my
job

And I can't complain

As much as it's a lot , and
strains me day in and day out

But I have no choice but to hold
on

I clean the executives offices

And it's straining

Most of them , they just feel so
high

And they're demanding , just
pure stupidity

But also , they love making a
mess for no reason

Just to throw orders

I sometimes clean a single
person office three times a day

And that's just crazy

We ought to clean only in the
morning , and in the evening
when they knock off

But complaining doesn't help

We got paid today

I'm supposed to go home

But I think I will just send my
mother money

So she'll be able to buy what
she needs

I also have to get a few
essentials for my room

Like a kettle , it's a need

I struggle when I need tea

I have to boil water with a pot

And it doesn't even taste the
same

Mpumi : I just hate that we
have to work like slaves

I laugh

She's the one person I'm used
to here

The one person I actually can
talk and be myself with

The other cleaners , they love to kiss ass a lot and impressing everyone above them

As for everyone else , they keep to people on their levels . They don't mix with us

Me : let's just finish up

Mpumi : how many offices are you left with ?

Me : just one

I hope he's gone

Mpumi : okay , I have to clean
the boardroom . After that I am
done

Me : let's go , I'll wait for you if
I'm done first

We part ways as I get into the elevator going to the executives floor

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Zenzele

Lefa : so you're coming ?

Me : yeah

It's not like I have anything to
keep myself busy with

Work is just a distraction to me

And any chance to just mingle
and get drunk

I'll take it , arms opened

Lefa : great

The door opens and we both
turn looking

This girl walks in

And she's a beauty okay

Even in a cleaners uniform ,
she's still banging

And fucking around , is what
keeps me sane

Right now , I can only just
imagine myself with her

Her : sorry sirI thought you
had left

Lefa : it's okay

He says with such a smile

I wonder if they fuck

Or maybe he wants her

He's no different to me

Worse he's just a divorcee

With three kids

I'm better

Never been married , and I
don't have a creche of kids

Her : I'll come back later

Lefa : no ! Just give me a
second , we're just leaving

She nods and stands by the
door

I haven't taken my eyes off of
her

And she looks like the down
and quite to earth types

She has her head bowed

Lefa : let's go

He nudges me

I shift my attention to him

Lefa : let's go

Me : sure

I had drifted off to her

And we walk past her , she's
running her eyes away from us

We walk out

Me : fuck !

He laughs

We get into the elevator

Me : who was that ?

Lefa : a cleaner

Me : a name

Lefa : Bofelo

Me : mhm-mhm , who's
tapping her ?

He shakes his head

Lefa : I don't know much about
her

Me : she cleans your office ?

Lefa : yeah

Me : great , so you can find out
for me

We get out as the elevator
stops

We walk out heading to the
parking lot

And he laughs

Lefa : I am not your skivvy

Me : I know that , but I want
that woman . And she works for
you

He laughs

We lean against his car

Lefa : you just want to fuck her
, I don't want drama

Me : it's okay , I'll make sure
she knows it's just a fuck and
nothing more

Lefa : no

Me : come on ! Do you want her ? I can back off

Lefa : I don't want her , just that I don't want you to make things awkward

Me : I won't

He sighs

Me : fine leave it , I'll ask her myself . But she'll be at your dinner right ?

He laughs

I guess not

Lefa : she's just a cleaner , why would she be invited to a dinner with business people and executives ?

Me : you don't wanna be seen like you're not treating your employees right , these cleaners are also a part of your company . And I just need you to invite one of them , just one

I move over

Me : do me that at least

He laughs shaking his head as I
walk away heading to my car

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Zakhele

Mom : I feel like your brother is drinking more than he should lately

I regret making this call

I have signal

And I thought I could call

But of course , she's just
complaining about him

Me : I'll talk to him , I have to
go

I drop the call and heave a sigh

He has been ignoring my
attempts for communication

And I won't push

I know he needs time to adjust

And accept that I'm serving out
of the country now

When he's okay , I know he will
reach out

I don't want to push , and seem
like I'm forcing myself on him

He just needs his space for him

And I have eyes on him

I know he's safe , and not in
danger

Also he's not being reckless
about anything

I have nothing to worry about

My mother will always blow
things out of proportion

That's just her way , and she
doesn't need anyone to help
her with it

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INSERT 02

Bofelo

Mom : I got the money , I was even able to rush to town this morning I'm in a taxi headed home now . I didn't have

airtime to call yesterday , I managed to get everything . Even the medication the doctor said I need , I bought enough for two months . I hope now I'll get better , and I can be able to get back to sewing . At least it also bought money home

I smile

Me : I'm glad , but for now
please let's focus on your
health

Mom : don't worry my child ,
God will see us through

This woman is a prayer warrior

Always trusting God in
everything she does and says

Me : yes , I will come home as soon as I can

Mom : alright , you will come when you can

Me : I have to go now , we will talk later . I'll buy airtime , and get free minutes so I'll call

Mom : okay , have a great day at work

Me : thank you

I drop the call

I've just gotten off the taxi

And I just had to call her first

I am early today , because
we're going to go to town with
Mpumi

And we're knocking off early ,
because of the party that's
happening

These people are living the life

And we can just envy and wish
it was us

But we know we're not invited

Understandably so , we didn't expect to even be invited

We're just cleaners , we have no business attending such events

I walk inside the building

Zizo : the boss is asking to see you

She says as I pass her reception
desk

Zizo is the receptionist

And she thinks she owns this
place

Her attitude just stinks

She's very rude and lacks
manners

Why didn't she even greet me ?

And for that reason , there's no
boss I'll be going to see

I just walk past , as if I didn't
hear her

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Lefa

He keeps lifting his eyes

Looking at the door

But it's been over 30 minutes
now

And Bofelo hasn't walked in

Now he knows she cannot be
this late

That would just be calling for a
warning

Though he knows how much of
a hard worker she is , and she's
never been late ever since she
started working here

And she's the best at what she
does

Maybe if she's late , there's a
reason why

He chuckles shaking his head

He cannot believe he's actually
going ahead with Zenzele's ask

It's just crazy

Bofelo seems really down and tamed

Zenzele is just out there and he's a man of fun

He fears for her if she dares even falls for him , or makes more of what might happen between them

Because she would have fallen
alone

That's not Zenzele's things

He takes his office phone and
calls reception

Zizo : sir ?

Lefa : is Bofelo still not here ?

Zizo : she long arrived , and I
told her you asked to see her

He frowns confused

If she's here , and she knows he
wants to see her

Then why hasn't she come ?

He sighs

Me : okay thanks

Zizo : why do you want to see her ?

He drops the call , Zizo sometimes forgets her place

Few minutes just ponding with his thoughts

He gets up and walks out of his office

He walks around the executive floor

Knowing that's where he will find her

At the last door , he walks in as it's slightly opened

And he doesn't see his MD
inside

He looks at her while she's
wiping the desk

Lefa : Bofelo

She turns and looks at him

A part of her scared

Hoping she's not in trouble or
getting fired

She just worked her first month

And she did her best

Yesterday morning was the
best , when the money
reflected

It felt good to have a salary

Me : I long asked to see you

She wipes her hands

Bofelo : Zizo told me sir

Lefa : you didn't come

He doesn't understand why she
didn't come

Bofelo : she was very rude
about it

He smiles

Lefa : okay , I am sorry about
that . But can you please come
see me , when you're done
here ?

Bofelo : yes sir

He gracefully walks out going
back to his office

And she's left relieved to be out
of his sight

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Bofelo

I haven't stopped asking myself
what did I do

Or maybe I missed a spot
yesterday

And now he's called me to
complain

Or maybe fire me

I mean , his important things I
don't even touch

Like I make sure of that

I find and leave things as they
are

I knock softly and he answers
from inside

I walk in

And as soon as he lays his eyes
on me

He closes his laptop

Lefa : thank you for coming ,
please come sit down

I walk further in and sit down
on the opposite chair

Lefa : I know this must be
strange

Very strange

Because our talks are usually greetings and nothing else beyond that

Lefa : uhm ...I know you know about the dinner or party whatever it is

Okay !

I believe everyone in this company knows

Me : yes sir

Lefa : I would like to personally invite you , if I could invite all the other cleaners I would too . But the guest list is already full

So if it's full why am I being invited ?

Me : sir ...I don't mean to be
rude

He smiles

Lefa : it's okay , you can say
whatever you want to say

Me : why am I invited ? I
thought this was for important
people

He chuckles

Lefa : everyone is important
Bofelo , maybe next time I'll
choose someone else . But this
time around , I am choosing
you . Like I said , I am asking . If
you can make it

This is a shock !

What will all the others even think ?

Don't get me started on the executives

They'll just look down on me the whole night

I don't think I want to torture myself like that

My hair is a mess , my nails
don't even get started on them
. They're worse

I don't have fancy dresses or
shoes

I'll just be embarrassing myself

Me : I am sorry sir , but I will
have to decline . Maybe you
can take someone else

With his dashing smile he leans
back on his chair

Lefa : no , I wanted you Bofelo

I don't understand why , and
he's failing to explain

Lefa : why can't you ? It's not a
must yes , but I am asking out
of curiosity

I sigh

Me : I really look like a mess ,
and I don't even have a fancy
dress

Lefa : it's okay , I understand .
Maybe you can think this
through , if you do change your
mind just let me know

I will not change my mind

Me : yes

Lefa : thank you , that was all

I get up , and head out

That was just very strange

I don't understand why I'm
invited to a dinner with

executive , and important
business people . When I'm just
a cleaner

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INSERT 03

Zenzele

Me : what ?

Lefa : I tried , and she said no

Me : come on !

He laughs

Lefa : just give it up

Me : no , exactly what did she
say no for ?

Lefa : something about not
having something to wear

I chuckle

Me : all women are like that

I get up

Me : I will have that fixed , and
she'll change her mind

Lefa : I don't even want to know how you plan to do that

Me : fine ! Just watch and see , but that woman will be in my arms tonight . And she'll definitely end up in my bed

He laughs shaking his head

Lefa : you're fucking disgusting

Me : let me go , wait ... when
HR ordered uniforms for your
cleaners they had their sizes
right ?

He laughs

Lefa : oh fuck no ! I am not
doing that

Me : come on , it's just an ask

Lefa : we both know where it's going , now I must go and look like a pervert . Asking my HR about Bofelo's size

Yeah that's what he'll do

Me : help a friend out

Lefa : why the fuss ? It's not like you're going to marry her

Me : you're going off right now
, best we just stick to this what
I'm saying

He shakes his head with a sigh

But I know he will do it

I'm not even asking him to
move a mountain for me

This won't even take his whole energy

It won't even take much just going to HR

How hard can it be finding someone's size ?

All they have to do is look through their records of buying

And it'll be there

And I'll be sorted to get her to
come to the dinner with me

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Bofelo

I look at the dress and shoes ,
there's even a voucher

To the salon that's right next to
the office

And it's for today

A voucher for my hair and nails
, as well as a face beat

Doesn't say who it's from

But I believe it's from the boss

Just I don't get why he would
go to such trouble

Just to get me going there

It doesn't make sense

These look expensive

The dress and the shoes

And they're my sizes

Voice : I hope that will get you
to honour the invite

I turn and look at him

Lefa : so ?

Me : sir , you didn't have to get
me these . You could have just
asked someone else

Lefa : no Bofelo , I asked you

I sigh

Me : these things look
expensive sir

Lefa : yeah , but the person
who wants you there has
money . And can afford to buy
you such , please do avail
yourself

Did he just say someone else
wants me to go there ?

He walks away as I'm about to
ask him who is the person

I heave a sigh

Who would want me going to
that dinner , and why ?

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Zenzele

Lefa : you really went out , she
was just stunned

Me : yeah

I heave a sigh

Me : do you think she will come
?

Lefa : I don't know

Me : if she doesn't , I have
spent all that money for
nothing . Like all my efforts ,
she has to come

He laughs

Lefa : stop being dramatic , let
me go . I have to get ready

Me : sure

He walks to his car

I shake my head heading to
mine

I'll go get ready as well

Just crossing fingers that Bofelo
will be there

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Bofelo

I didn't want to do this

But I told Mpumi , and she
convinced me otherwise

When she said , at least I'll get
to see who wanted me there

I was just very curious about
that one

She came to the salon with me

Even though it meant now I
couldn't go to town to get the
things I need

Mpumi : you look beautiful

Me : you think so ?

Mpumi : I know so , now you
look like the rest of them

I smile nervously

I'm getting dressed at her place

Because she's closer to the office than me , I'm a bit far than she is

Me : I hope I don't embarrass myself there

Mpumi : you're worrying about nothing

I hope so

Or else , I will be the talk of the office for eternity

Me : let me go

Mpumi : I'll walk you , just so I can grab coffee

That's calming me down

I don't have to walk for 5 minutes on my own

The dress is not that long , it
doesn't even need me to hold it

So that's better

And the heels are just a perfect
height

Even though , I can tell I won't
survive in them

We walk out , she locks the door and we leave

I'm so nervous

As we approach the office

And I'm seeing the cars parked in front

I know this is not just some event , but it's really high class

Mpumi : you're going to be fine
, if anything happens you have
me on speed dial

Me : wish me luck

She smiles

Mpumi : take a picture with
your guy

I laugh

Me : he could be without an
eye , or big ears

She laughs

Mpumi : guys with big ears ,
you were dealt somewhere

She shakes her head

We hug and part ways , as I
walk inside

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INSERT 04

Zenzele

Fuck !

She's here

And she looks so stunning

She might be looking out of
place

Showing this is definitely not
her scene

But damn !

Me : you did good

He looks at me and shakes his
head with a smile

I grab a glass of champagne ,
walking over to her

Me : you look breath taking

She turns and looks at me

I smile

Me : hi

Bofelo : hi

Me : I'm Zenzele , remember
we met in Lefa's office ?

Bofelo : yes

Me : thank you for coming , I
was thinking you wouldn't
come

Bofelo : it's you ?

Me : me ?

Bofelo : whoyou wanted me
here ?

Me : yes

She frowns

Bofelo : why ?

Me : well , I didn't want to
come to such an affair without
a date

Bofelo : and you had to send
your friend , you couldn't ask
me yourself ?

I chuckle

Me : maybe that's why I would have come here without a date . Words always fail me

Bofelo : I don't know , it looks like you have a lot of words . Maybe you wanted me to send rejection through him

Me : well maybe , I mean my ego would have been bruised big time hearing no from you

She smiles

Me : but , I'm glad you came .
So thank you

Bofelo : this is not my scene

Me : yeah well , do you drink ?

Bofelo : occasionally

Me : let this be occasionally

I hand her the glass of
champagne

Bofelo : thank you

She takes a sip

Me : we can sit down , and just
enjoy free drinks and food it's
free after all . And well maybe

after this , we can just
disappear

Bofelo : I have no intentions of
doing disappearing acts

I laugh

Me : noted ! But the night is
still young , let's not be hasty
we will see how it pans out

She smiles

I take her hand , and we walk
over to one of the tables and sit
down

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Bofelo

So much for a person who said
words fail him

He's been going on and on the
whole night

He's told me he has a twin
brother

Who's a soldier , and is out of
the country

From his words , I've gathered
they're very close to each other

Their father passed away

But their mother is alive and
remarried

The relationship there is not
that much great

Especially with him

Guy even called himself the
black sheep of the family

Overall it hasn't been a bad
night

I've had fun

We've been sitting ever since

He didn't even bother to
socialize

We've just been talking

Me : do you have your phone with you , so I can Uber to my place ?

Zenzele : I can take you

Me : uhm ...I don't want to inconvenience you

Zenzele : crazy , or we can just head over to my place

Me : I am drunk , and I don't trust myself

He smiles

Zenzele : and I don't either , but what's the worst that could happen ?

He better not be thinking I'm one to be played

Drunk or not , whatever I do is
always a decision of mine

Me : I barely even know you

Zenzele : maybe we don't even
have to know each other

Ah !

This one fucks and passes

He leans over , placing his lips
on mine

I should leave

I think this alcohol has gotten
into my head

I kiss him first , and he kisses
me back

Zenzele : let's just go

He says as I pull back , he gets up taking my hand

Zenzele : I think you should lose these

Me : oh , I love them . Are you going to take them back ?

He laughs

Zenzele : no , they suit you . I'll
send you money , so you can
buy three more pairs or five

He crouches down , and I
balance myself with his back

He takes the heels off

And we take the back exist
leaving

The breeze outside , I shiver a
bit

And he takes his suit jacket ,
covering me with it

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Zenzele

I look at her , with her eyes closed rubbing on her thighs

Me : are you sure ?

She opens her eyes

Bofelo : please use a condom

Me : I don't have , but I'll get you pills tomorrow . I promise , and I'm clean . I don't keep

relationships , so I test like
every three months

Bofelo : I don't want to fall
pregnant

I smile pecking her lips

Me : you won't , my sperm is
probably weak . At my age I
haven't made a child

She laughs locking her legs
behind my back

I'll take that as permission to go
on

I rub my dick on her pussy
before pushing through inside
of her

She clings her hands to my back
tight

I thrust in through , as her walls
close in on me

Me : shit !

I curse under my breath

She's so fucking tight , and has
just the right feel and pleasure .
The warmth inside of her , just
want be buried deep

I pick up my pace as she adjusts
, and accommodates me

I go in faster , taking deep
thrusts

Her moans fill the room

They are driving me insane

I bring her face to face me

I lean down taking her lips mine
, we kiss

I deepen the kiss as she tries to
pull out

I can't cum faster

Her moans are soft and sweet
like that of a goddess

She removes her legs behind
my back , as her cum graces my
dick

I go in deeper , feeling my dick
tighten inside of her

I pull back deep groaning

I shoot up my cum , and
continue to thrust in

This cannot be done

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INSERT 05

Bofelo

He pulls out slowly

And places a kiss on my lips

We lock eyes for a few seconds
and he gets up

Me : can I shower before I leave
?

My body is sore

My head is pounding , I'm sure
it's all that champagne

Zen : sure , but you probably
need some hangover
concussion

Me : no , I'll just get grandpa I'll
go sober

He looks at me and smiles

Zen : a woman who knows
exactly just what works for her ,
it's okay I'll get that grandpa

He picks up his pants and briefs

I sit up straight as he gets
dressed

Zen : should I make you
breakfast ?

Me : no , I'll rather shower and
leave

He heaves a sigh

Zen : I hope you didn't take offence , when I said I don't do relationships

Me : no , I am an adult and not a child . You're still getting me the pill right ?

Zen : yes , and we'll test so you can see that I didn't infect you

Me : okay , I don't want a
fatherless child

He laughs

Zen : if the baby happens to be
there , I would step up . The
baby knows nothing

Me : no , I'll rather there's no
baby

Zen : you're so determined ,
and I have a feeling there's one
. Wena (you) you're going to
return her back , maybe we
should forget the pill

We laugh

Zen : the shower is that way , at
least let me order . You can't
leave on an empty stomach

What's the point ?

Because I am hungry

Zen : please , give me your
number so I can send you the
money for the shoes

Lord !

Like for real ?

Didn't I embarrass myself there
?

Me : you were serious ?

He smiles

Zen : yes , you love those shoes
. And it's the least I can do

Wow !

I thought he was kidding

Me : this is not some give and give situation right ?

He laughs

Zen : Bofelo , me and you consented to what we did . And I promised you the shoes , before we even got to bed . So

no , I'm buying them because I
said I will

Me : thank you

Zen : you're welcome

He smiles and walks out

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Zakhele

Tefo : skwata , it's your brother

He hands me the phone

And I'm shocked

Because I've been trying to get
a hold of him

Me : sure

He laughs

I guess he's in a good mood

Me : who did you fuck ?

Zen : this sweet mommy , shit
she gave it to me good . Can
you believe I popped money for

heels , because she loved the
ones I bought her to an event

Me : Hlase

We laugh

Zen : I'm telling you man , I've
never had anyone like her

Me : are you falling ?

Zen : Nah , I wish . She's too good for me , I would hurt her too much . She needs a good man , a man like yourself . But I'm glad I got to strike in there , I'm in my feels right now

I shake my head

Me : if these women knew how you gloat , they wouldn't let you have them

Zen : come on , she's the first
one I've ever gone gloating
about

Me : now I wish I can meet her

He laughs

Zen : this one , is not the kind
we could pull a twin magic on

Me : ah is that so ?

Zen : she saw our pictures this morning , and she could tell us apart

Me : I'll believe that , if I ever get to see that

Zen : let me leave you man , sorry I've been AWOL . I've just been down

Me : I'm glad you're good now ,
it feels good to hear from you

Zen : come back in one piece

Me : I'll see you soon Hlase

Zen : let me go work , I gave up
a lot of money . I must work

Me : did you make a baby ?

He laughs

Zen : I wish , but no . She took the baby back , and made me buy ingredients for that

I laugh

Zen : I have a feeling I had left one in there , but my chance of being a father is gone now

Me : you're insane

He laughs as the call gets cut

And I see it's the connection
from my side

I am happy he's okay

And I know now , he will finally
stop ghosting me

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Bofelo

After he dropped me off

I just slept

I was tired , and having a
headache

But I'm much better now

He got me the morning after
pills , and I took them

And we both tested , results
were negative

He sent a whole R30K

I was shocked

And I went on to check the
prices of the shoes

And it's R5K each

There's no way in hell I am
buying such expensive shoes ,
like never

Maybe I can buy one pair ,
because I do love the shoes

I'll use this money to get my
mother second hand couches

And a wardrobe for her room

I cannot believe that I had a
crazy one night stand , it's not
like it's a thing I randomly do

But it's over now

Even if I never see that man
again

I wouldn't mind

What's done is done and over
with

I'm going to go to town , and
get the few things I need

And then I'll go see Mpumi

I'm sure she's dying to know
what happened last night

Unfortunately for her , I have
nothing to say

Well nothing juicy as she would
always say

She's dramatic that one

But I'm not telling her what
happened

Especially the night stand , I
don't want to be judged

Someone might say , oh that
was too easy or too loose

Just because I'm a woman who
didn't have a problem
whatsoever with a one night

stand , but I'm a woman and I'll
just get judged for that

If I was a man , it wouldn't
matter

I make my own choices and I
have no regrets whatsoever
about last night

I enjoyed myself , and the itch
has been scratched

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INSERT 06

FIVE MONTHS LATER

Bofelo

I'm going home this weekend

I miss my mother so bad

I just want to spend time with
her

I'm glad the pills have helped
her

And she's getting better

She keeps saying

But now I would like to go and
see for myself

I last saw her two months ago

Last month I couldn't go home

I was so sick , I just didn't want
to burden her

I'm better now , and I haven't
felt anyhow in a while

Mpumi : have you gained weight ?

I pull the jean up

I don't even want to entertain this talk of hers

Because I do feel like I've gained weight , and I hate it

But mostly just my hips and
bums

I feel like they've gotten bigger

My jeans are a struggle now

And I've been wearing a lot of
dresses because of this

Jeans now feel uncomfortable

Mpumi : but it suits you

I laugh putting on sneakers

I'm just going to pass by the
office

She said there's something she
wants to give me

For my mother

But she hasn't even told me
what

I can safely say , this has
escalated to friendship

Me : I'm done , let's go

I grab my sports bag

I packed a few dresses

Because I don't want to
encounter problems when I get
home

And find my clothes not fitting
me

We leave heading to the office

We get to reception , and she
goes on to greet Zizo

I just ignore her

One thing about me , if you fail
to be nice to me once

I will never be nice to you ever

Not even ten years after

Voice : Ms Mogale

I lift my eyes and look at him

Me : sir

He smiles

Lefa : can you come up to my
office a bit ?

I look a Mpumi

Mpumi : you'll find me here , I'll
go get that parcel

She walks away

I follow this man to his office
with Zizo giving me nasty stares

Who doesn't know now she's
busy fucking the boss

Mxm !

We get to his office

I'm thinking he will talk

But he goes on to settle and
takes his suit jacket off

I'll never understand the logic
to wear a suit , only to remove
the jacket when you get to the
office

Rich people are strange

Or is that how it was created to
be worn ?

He sits down , and only now
looks at me

He smiles

Lefa : I'm sorry , please sit
down

I pull a chair and sit down
putting my bag down right next
to me

Lefa : leaving ?

Me : just going home

Lefa : alright , I know you're off
. And it seems like you won't be
around during the weekend

He better not ask me to come
to work , or to work today

Like he better not

Because I will tell him no

Lefa : I have a predicament
here

Me : oh !

Lefa : it's kind of personal

I hope it's not about Zenzele
either

I've seen him quite a few times

He comes around here like he's
some part of the furniture

But we just greet and pass each
other

That's where it ends

He hasn't made any advances
towards me

And I'm not about him either

Lefa : my helper left , she went
home . I'm not sure how long ,
she has a personal crisis . I can
deal with taking my clothes to

dry cleaning , but the house
...it's a problem . I hope I'm not
overstepping any boundaries ,
but do you think it's possible
that we work out a payment .
And during weekends , just
Saturday I think . You can come
over , and help . I could get
someone , but an unemployed
person might have trouble
understanding the job is just
temporary . Just until my helper
is back

Wow , okay

Me : how much will you be paying me ?

Lefa : I can give you 1.5 or 1.8 for that one day , I can't say I'll pay you monthly . Because she can be back even before a month is over

Me : I see

Lefa : so ?

Me : I can come next weekend

He smiles

Lefa : thank you , I thought you
will tell me where to get off

Me : why ?

Lefa : you're a very scary woman , I don't know if you've never realised that

What ?

He laughs nervously

Lefa : I will see you next week then

Me : yes sir

I get up grabbing my bag

Lefa : once again thank you , I
know I might have overstepped

Me : its okay , I'll be getting
paid

That's all I really care about

Even though I've just been
degraded to some cleaner

I don't care

I've been sending CV's around

But they just keep rejecting me

Who needs an administrative
clerk or assistant out of the
blue

People are covered

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Zenzele

Zak : what do you mean ?

I sigh

I don't want to ask him for
money

I know he would just give it to
me

But I just want to be
responsible once

And get myself out of my mess

My company took a knock

And now finances are a mess

Me : you know I have shares in Lefa's company , like 35%

Zak : yeah

Me : uhm ...well , I'm thinking of selling them so I can fund my company

Zak : why are you in trouble ?

Me : something like that

Zak : but those shares

Voice : skwata areye monna
(soldier let's go)

Says a voice on his background
and he sighs

Me : I won't sell , when will you
be back ?

Zak : soon

I don't know how soon is soon

Me : okay

Zak : if you need money Zen
just tell me

Me : yeah I will

Zak : okay I have to go , we're heading to Kasane

I laugh

Me : have fun

He laughs dropping the call

I sigh putting my phone down

I'm caught between a rock and
a hard place right now

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INSERT 07

Bofelo

Me : you look better indeed

She laughs

Mom : I knew you didn't
believe me

I smile

Me : I just wanted to come see
you myself

Mom : those pills really helped ,
I'm thankful for your job .
Because you were able to send

money for them , and they
really helped

Me : it's okay , I'm really just
thankful for your health . I'm
happy seeing you happy

My mother is my everything

After we lost my father and two
brothers , to an accident

Five years ago , it has always
just been us

This woman is all that I have

And I cannot imagine this life
without her

Me : so my boss asked me to
come help at his house , and he
said he will pay me 1.5 or 1.8
just for one day

Mom : help with what ?

Me : cleaning his house , he said his helper went home for family issues . He has no idea when she'll be back , and he doesn't want to hire someone who's unemployed . Because they'll be without a job when his helper comes back

Mom : won't that take a toll on you ?

Me : no , I'll manage . And we can use the money

Mom : you're already doing a lot , please don't overwork yourself

Me : it's okay , I'll need it . I've managed to save some money ,

I was thinking tomorrow we
can go look for couches

Mom : those things are
expensive

I laugh

This woman and money

Me : second hand couches
mom

Mom : okay , but I hope you
have things at your place too

Me : I do

Mom : okay , I will start
working now . There's 5 ladies
who want dresses for a
wedding

Me : please take it easy

She smiles

Mom : don't worry , we might
be needing this money soon

I frown

Me : what do you mean ?

She heaves a sigh

Mom : you know you can tell me anything , you don't have to hide anything from me

Me : yes , I know

Mom : I don't mean to be forward , but when were you going to tell me you're expecting ?

Me : expecting what ?

Mom : Bofelo

Me : mma ?

I'm confused right now , cause I
have no idea what she's saying

Mom : how far along are you ?

Me : with what ?

Mom : the baby you're carrying

I dart my eyes to my tummy

With a frown

Me : the baby ?mom what
do you mean , like what are you
talking about ?

Mom : you don't know ?

Me : know what ? I am not pregnant if that's what you're talking about

Mom : you have gained weight

Me : yes , I'm working . And your health is better , I really don't have stress

She takes a deep breath

Mom : I have lived , and I know these things . I was a midwife , I can spot a pregnant woman

Yes woman !

But being a midwife doesn't qualify her to say I'm pregnant

Me : I am not pregnant , I'm not dating . And I have been getting my periods , maybe not heavy

as before . But I've never
missed a month

She shakes her head

Mom : come here

This is crazy

I walk over to her , and she
raises my t-shirt up

I laugh

Me : mom really ?

Mom : look at this , this line stays under your bellybutton .
But once you're pregnant it goes up

I look at the black line

Okay !

I have seen pictures of
pregnant women , and she's
right

Me : you can't diagnose me by
this line

I move back

Me : like I don't even show that
I'm pregnant , and if I was then

it would mean I'm 5 months pregnant already . That's the last time I was with a man , and I took morning after pills

Mom : those things of yours , they never work

No !

They have worked before

It wasn't my first time taking
them

Me : mom please , right now
you're giving me stress

Mom : denial , when you're
ready just go to the clinic

She gets up and goes outside

And I'm just left stunned

There's no way I can be
pregnant

No ! It can't be

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Zenzele

Me : you did what ?

He laughs

And I don't find it funny

Lefa : I need help

Me : and couldn't you hire a
cleaning company ?

Lefa : those people are
expensive

Me : and you have money ,
you're able to hire here

Lefa : yeah and paying her
reasonable

I don't like this

Lefa is not blind , and he might
just fall for her while she's at
his house on weekends

Isn't it enough that they see
each other here at work ?

I've been eyeing her , and she's
just glowing on another level

It's a pity I didn't get her
pregnant

I wouldn't have minded her to
bare me a child

I was sneaky enough , but I
guess my pills didn't work

And my sperms just went to
waste

Me : you know what , it doesn't
concern me . Listen , if I were to
sell my shares . Would you take
them , market price ?

Zakhale will probably kill me
when he finds out

But I'll rather save a company I
own alone

Than to keep shares on a
company , I share with two
other people

Lefa : you want to sell ?

Me : I am just asking

Lefa : well , I would look into my finances and see if I can afford them . But you'll also have to include Reign

Me : yeah , you two get first preference I know

Lefa : what's happening ?

My phone beeps

I take it out and look at the text

Me : uhm ...I have to go

Lefa : Zen what happened , do
you want to leave the company
?

Me : I was just asking

I get up

Lefa : well , I hope you're not
selling

I won't be offending anyone if I
do

Me : sure

I walk out and make a call

Me : yeah ?

Gudu : we can hit the score , if
you're up for it

This is just temptation

Me : how much?

Gudu : 7.5M

I sigh

My share from this , I would be able to keep my shares and save my company as well

But just thinking about Zakhale , he will snap my neck

Me : I told you I'm over this

Gudu : just think about it , get back to me in two days

He drops the call

I am fucked !

Maybe I should just cry back to
my brother

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INSERT 08

Bofelo

I don't have peace

Like I don't have peace at all

And right now I am scared

I just cannot be pregnant

I sneakily got a pregnancy test
when we went to town
yesterday

And I have to leave tomorrow

I'm thinking I'll take it when I
get back to Pretoria , I don't
want to do it here

I just can't afford to be
pregnant

A fatherless child !

No ways

How could I bring a child , into
this life ?

No , this cannot be happening

Mom : don't stress about it ,
you'll give the baby stress . If
really you haven't been
naughty for five months , then
you're far . Don't jinx your
pregnancy this far , just four
months to go

What ?

I laugh

Me : mom please , you're just stressing me worse . This baby will be fatherless

Mom : why ...where is that man ?

I sigh

No !

This is embarrassing

Me : we weren't together

Mom : it's okay , I will take the baby after three months . And you can continue with work

This woman !

She's really serious about this matter

Mom : when you're ready ,
you'll let me know

I shake my head

I will take that test when I'm
back in Pretoria

I will adjust and digest this on
my own

If I'm really pregnant

Of which I doubt I am

I'll just have to wait and see

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Zenzele

It's times like this I wish my
brother was here

He would be speaking some
sense into me right now

Because I'm tempted to do that
heist

But I long got out of this
business of breaking the law ,
and being involved in crime

If Zakhale gets word about this

He will definitely come down
on me

Right now I don't know what to
do

Because I do need the money

I call him , and his phone rings
unanswered

I heave a sigh

He's probably unreachable

And at this point , I can only
wait for him to call me

I don't know when that will be

Could be a few days a week or
more , even a month

Maybe selling the shares , is
what I'll just have to do . Why is
it so hard ?

At least I won't be getting my
hands dirty

And I don't risk putting my life
in danger

I send Reign and Lefa a text

Hopefully one of them will be
able to buy the shares market
price

Right now I can only cross
fingers and be hopeful

This way the money will be
clean

I'll just have to focus more on
my company

And doing damage control

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Bofelo

I'm doing dishes

She has gone to bed

I just can't catch sleep

My mind is all over the place

And I just figured I should clean

Since I'm leaving tomorrow

I don't even know when I'll be
back

Since I'm taking another job

And it's on weekends

And I don't know how long I'll
be working there

So I might not be back home in
a while

So I might as well clean , and
leave her house clean

I wish I can delay my leaving ,
and just stay around for a bit

Because I'm scared to take the
test here

But I'm also scared to go back
and take it

Because what if really I am
pregnant

Single mother loading

Never saw that to be myself

But what will I do ?

I mean , five months is a long time . And I can't abort , not in this stage

That would just be stupid and risking of my life

I could die

Now this is what I call a
predicament

My phone rings , I wipe my
hands and reach for it

And it's Mpumi

Me : hey

Mpumi : I thought you'll be
asleep , I just took a chance

I laugh

Me : no , I'm doing dishes

Mpumi : you're coming back ?

Me : yes tomorrow

Mpumi : okay , I think I need to
move out

Me : why ?

That's strange cause she loves her place , even though I don't like it . Well the man

Mpumi : I'm scared

Okay !

Me : what do you mean ?

Mpumi : can you believe this man made a move on me ? And it's just us , his wife and kids went to Free State . What if he comes in here and rapes me ?

Me : your landlord ?

Mpumi : yes

Me : Mpumi !

She sighs

Mpumi : I know you don't like him , and you've said before that he looks dodgy . I've never taken you serious , but now I see what you've been saying all along . I haven't left my room today

Me : my goodness , now what are you going to do ?

Mpumi : that's why I need to
move out

Me : but for now , you're there
Mpumi . And his wife is not
there

Mpumi : maybe I'll go to a hotel

Me : well , that's expensive

Mpumi : I have no choice right now

Me : can you sleep tonight , and tomorrow you'll come over to my place . We'll share until you get something

Mpumi : are you sure ?

Me : your safety comes first

Mpumi : won't your landlord mind ?

Me : mind for what ? You'll be in my room , and we won't bother her

Mpumi : okay , and I won't be around for a while . Just maybe a few days , I'm sure I can find a place sooner

Me : okay babe , let me get
some sleep . I'll come around
early

Mpumi : okay , thanks a lot

Me : lock and make sure you're
safe . And don't take the key
out please

Mpumi : okay I'll do that

Me : mom says thank you for
her tea set

She laughs

Mpumi : I'm glad , I'm happy
she loves them

This one is a good person

And my mother likes her

Me : goodnight

Mpumi : goodnight love

I drop the call

I'm scared for her to be honest

And now I wish I was back
home , cause she would be
coming to my place right now

Because I've always seen that
man somehow

He has a very wandering eye

And he's just a pervert

And worse he's married , and
very old

He's just a disgusting man

I hope Mpumi will be safe
tonight

And she can find a place to
move to

Where she will feel safe

Surely he just saw a chance to
sneak on her

Because his wife is not around

And poor woman , probably
doesn't even know who she's
married to

I doubt if she knew he can't
keep his eyes to himself

She would have left him alone
at home with their tenant

I finish up

And grab a fleece heading over
to the couch

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INSERT 09

Zenzele

This week I haven't spoken to
Zakhale

He texted , I think it was on
Wednesday

Just as a reminder that he's still
alive

I appreciated that

But talking to him would have
been better

But then again , I guess I'll hear from him

Once he can get in touch

Lefa : I have to go home , my mother is coming . You know how it is

Me : yeah , I heard my mother saying something about that

Lefa : mhm , they're probably going to have tea and gossip about us

We laugh

Me : I should get going too

Lefa : tell me though , are you serious about selling your shares ?

Me : yeah

I have no choice

I'll rather sell my shares than
resort to crime again , that's
fucked up

If we get caught , there's no
Zakhele to clean up my mess
here

Lefa : okay , I think I'll take them . Reign is still yet to look into his investments

Me : its okay , I don't care who takes them . I just need money

Lefa : you're not in trouble are you ?

Me : what ?

He sighs

Lefa : what I mean is , if you need money to bail you out of something or you're in trouble . Then I'll definitely , chip in and help

Me : no !

Lefa : okay , I'm not fighting

Me : you know what , I think I'll
take my leave

Lefa : sorry

I get up

I'll never be in the mercy of
anyone except my brother

If help is not coming from him

Then I don't want it

I hate pity from other people

Companies get into finance
troubles all the time

But just because it's me Zenzele
Khoza , it'll be like I messed up
as always

My brother will never judge

And he won't throw comments

So he's my go to , no one else

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Bofelo

Mpumi has been living at my
place

I told my landlord

And she was okay with it

Because it's not a permanent
thing

As for me , a week has gone by

And I still haven't taken that
test

It's because Mpumi is there

We go to work together , and
come back together

So I don't want her into that ,
that's why I haven't taken it

I'm on my periods right now

The fear has gone down

Because , how can I be
pregnant ?

While I'm on my periods

And my stomach is not big

Just my hips and bums nothing
else

I'm at Lefa's house today

And this house is huge

I don't understand how he
thinks I can be able to clean
such a huge house in just a day

Like it's big , there's 7
bedrooms

A lounge with a living room , a
kitchen and dining room

That's really a lot

But I've cleaned all the
bedrooms

And now I'm in the kitchen

He's not here

That's giving me time to clean
freely

Without anyone watching me

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Zenzele

I am so annoyed right now

I don't even get along with my
mother

But she had to call me to drive
her to Lefa's place

Apparently her rich husband is
out of the country

With their driver

And now I must play her
chauffeur

It's insane

But to avoid drama , here I am
dropping her off

After this , I'll switch my phone
off

Because I don't want her to call
me to come pick her up

She's not an invalid , and she
can drive

But she just loves living like a
queen

I walk inside the house
following behind her

And I'm shocked seeing Bofelo
here

But then I quickly remember
that Lefa said she'll be helping
him out

So she's here for that

His mother walks in

And they greet each other with
my mother

My eyes and focus is just on
Bofelo

And she's just looking at these
two dramatic women

Mom : oh Lefa is playing in the game again ?

She asks looking at Bofelo

Mrs Tsie : no , she's the maid

Did she have to call her that ?

Me : she's not a maid , she's merely helping him out

Mom : doing maid duties ,
which makes her one

Mxm !

Mom : I would never allow such
, you even look pregnant

What the hell ?

I look at Bofelo , and maybe I
am blind

But she doesn't look pregnant
to me

More glow ? Yes

The hips have gotten wider and
the ass

But pregnant , no !

Could it be though ?

Unless it's early months

Meaning it wouldn't be mine

Well , that's painful

I think if it was mine , at 5
months she would be showing

Mrs Tsie : kids of today , what
does the baby's father even say

Mom : when she's working as a maid , and dressed like this in another man's house . Lefa must be very careful , this one cannot be trusted . She will seduce him

Me : she's way out of his league, stop judging people . I'm leaving , and don't call me to come fetch you

I turn towards the door

Mom : you better not be liking her , I would really kick her out of my house and erase you as my son

Me : I wish you can erase me now

I click my tongue and close the door heading to my car

Fucking judgemental old
women

They went for rich men , they
know nothing about
independence

And working hard for their own
money , even if it means
cleaning and working for other
people

I drive out

I wish I hadn't lost her number

I would call her , and ask about
this pregnancy

I'm not that informed

But if it's mine then she's far ,
but why is she not showing ?

I'll have to find time and talk to her

I think if it's not , she will tell me

But I would be fucking ecstatic if it's mine

But what are the possibilities of that ?

I heave a sigh as I get on the
free way

Me : fuck !

Why couldn't she just get
pregnant that night we had
together ?

Talking to her will take me out
of my misery

Unless my mother was
speaking her nonsense and
being judgemental as always

I don't want to offend Bofelo by
asking her

But if I don't ask her , it'll be
torture

And I won't rest

I'll be asking myself what if

And that won't help with
anything

I doubt she would lie to me

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INSERT 10

Bofelo

I will never set foot in that
house ever again

Yes I'm poor

Sure I need the money

But I will not stand two grown
ass women

Coming down at me throwing
shade comments towards me ,
as if I'm their age mates

Never !

It's disgusting

Lefa can keep his job

With his mother there , maybe
she can turn to be his maid

I will not degrade myself like
that

Just because I'm in need of
money

I was so annoyed , I just left
right after Zenzele left

Because they kept going on and
on

They just couldn't shut their mouths up about me.

It's like they had nothing to talk about

Except discussing me , as if they know me . Or I'm their reason for their stupid get together

Mpumi went out

I've taken the test and just
waiting for the results

I so hope I'm not pregnant , like
I just can't be

Right now it's like my periods
have stopped

I changed a pad an hour ago

And it's still clean , and my
urine is clean too

I am so anxious right now , I'm
scared out of my mind

I just cannot see myself having
Zenzele's child

Not after what his mother said
to me today

I have never seen nor met such
a bitter woman

I don't like her

And she definitely doesn't like
me either

Imagine carrying a grandchild
to that woman

I pick up the pregnancy test

And I scream my lungs out with
tears streaming down my face

But I quickly compose myself

Maybe it's wrong

Like , maybe it's because I took
it during the day

That must be it

They say the morning urine is
the one that's very much
accurate

Oh no !

Its accurate , I'm just in denial

My mother saw me , his
mother saw me

Me : oh my God ! No ...no

I sit down on the floor crying

My worst fear has come to pass

Like a whole over 20 weeks
pregnant

But how ?

When I look like this , and I
don't look pregnant

Like , only my mother and that
bitter woman saw that

I swear , I am finished

It's a Sunday tomorrow

I can't even go to the clinic

What am I going to do ?

I cannot have this child

I took the morning after pills ,
why didn't they work ?

This is a mess of a situation

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Zakhale

Me : what ?

Lefa : I think he needs money

Me : he didn't tell me this

He sighs

Lefa : he wants to sell his shares , I'm okay with buying them . But also if it's money he needs , and I can help . Then

there's no need to lose his
shares , we started this
business together

Me : thanks for telling me this ,
I'll talk to him

I drop the call

We're flying out of Kasane back
to Gaborone

And as soon as I got a signal , I
got Lefa's message

Saying it's about Zen and it's
urgent

I called him , cause I got
worried

I don't understand what's
happening

Because I spoke to Zen , and I
told him if he needs help he
should just tell me

I call him , and his phone
doesn't go through

Me : shit !

I hope he's not out there doing
anything that will get him into
trouble

I click on my banking app , and
send him money

Hopefully he's safe where he is

And he can see this money ,
before he gets into danger

I heave a sigh trying his number
again , and it's still not going
through

Zen might see this as if Lefa is
going behind his back

But this is what good friends do

They look out for each other

And he's worried

Clearly he cares

If it was someone else , they
wouldn't try means to help Zen
keep his shares

They would just be glad to take
them off his hands

But not Lefa , even though he
has that option

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Zenzele

I stop by the robots , and the
robot is red

It's late , I just decided to go
have a few beers alone

My mother really annoyed me

Right now I wish I had Bofelo's
number or something

Just so I can call her and
apologize

Just for the way my mother was
so rude to her

And also ask about the
pregnancy

I grab my phone , maybe Lefa
has her number

I switch it on , and I see my
brother had called me

Now I wish I hadn't switched
off my phone

But I gasps as the bank
notification message pops up

He's sent like 1.3M

Me : what

The robot turns green , and dial
him driving through

But out of nowhere

A car from my left just comes in
high speed

Knocking my car off the road ,
and I damn feel it rolling over
and over and over again

Until a loud bang , and it
sounds like it's a rock of some
kind

My head is pounding

And I'm just hearing sounds in
my ears

It's just dark , I'm feeling pain
all over my body

I can't even open my eyes

And by the way I am , it's like
this car is faced down

I hear my phone like it ringing ,
from a distance . There's the
smell of petrol

I feel trapped

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Zakhale

I call him again

And this time it rings , it rings
until it stops

He was calling , and the call just
dropped

Me : damnit Zenzele !

My heart is pounding

I have a very bad headache

Something is wrong and I can
just feel it

I call him again , and it rings

Just when I'm about to hang up
he answers

Me : where ...

He coughs , and a sharp pain
hits me right in my heart

I crouch down , as I loose
balance and almost falling

Zenzele : I ...don't have ...time
...timeyou know ...
remember my flex girlher
name Bofelo she works for
.... Lefa . She's a cleanerfind
herfind ...

And he coughs again

I've seen war , I've seen death

And this , this is it

I don't know what happened ,
but I know this is it

Tears stream down my face

Zenzele : shecould be
Pregnantmaybe it's mine
.....take careof our child
.....our child and herII
love you

The deep breaths follow

I close my eyes

Zenzele : let her ...have my
sharesif the baby ...the
baby

I hear the phone falling down
on what sounds like metal

And what follows , is just
sounds of sirens

I drop the call and sit down
balancing myself with the wall

He's gone !

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INSERT 11

Bofelo

I have been a mess

I don't know what kind of bad
luck this is

And I've just been hearing his
words play in my head over and
over

Saying if the baby happens to
be there , he will step up

Well , the baby is here and he's
gone

I feel so stupid crying for him

But I just find myself hurting
when I think about his death
and all

It was all over the papers

And the guy who knocked over
his car , was arrested

He later died in the holding
cells in just hours

Media reported he wasn't that
hurt , that's why he wasn't
taken to the hospital

But to this day , no one knows
how he died

And they're laying Zenzele to
rest today

I heard from Lefa

But it seems like his family
clearly asked for privacy

He hasn't been to work for the
whole week

I can only imagine how he is

When I'm here hurting , and all
I had was just a one night
encounter with him

Now he's gone , I'm left with
his child and they'll never know
each other

Yes , I wasn't planning on
telling him ever

I had already decided with my
heart

That I'll raise this baby alone

I would take him or her to my
mother

And I'll continue with work

But I did not anticipate him
dying just like that

Over one reckless drunk driver

This has brought me nothing ,
but memories of how I lost my
father and brother's

The pain is just there

Even Mpumi can see something
is wrong

But I don't even want to bother
her

I'll get over this pain on my own

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Zakhale

Lefa : wewe have to go

I look over at the freshly
covered grave

When I saw that coffin go down
, I knew he was really gone

And he's never coming back

I'll never see his annoying self
again

I lived for this guy

I went to war and made sure I
survive and came back for him
all the time

I knew he couldn't survive
without me

Now he's gone

Without him , exactly what am I
living for ?

I might as well go to war and
come back a corpse

I have no reason to go and
come back alive

I have no one to live for now

I never saw my brother dying
before me.

Maybe before

When he was busy with gangs
and doing wrong things

But now , now he had turned
his life around

He was doing better

And he just dies , because
someone decided to get drunk
and get into their car and drive

How I wish I killed him myself

Lefa just decided to be too
forward , and take matters into
his own hands

I turn and look at him

Me : I'm going to his place , I'll lock the house and I'll take the car to my place . I don't want anyone going to my brother's place , they must leave his things alone . I'm leaving

Lefa : waitwhat do you mean you're leaving ?

Me : I'm going back to work

Voice : what's going on here ?

She walks over in front of us

Mom : we have been waiting
for you , we want to go home

Me : you go , I'm leaving

Mom : leaving ? There's no such , we just buried your brother . You just can't leave

Me : I can and I am

I don't like her

But today she just annoyed me.

She sat there , with shades and a big hat with heels so long

She didn't look like a mother
mourning her son

She just looked like a witch of
some kind

Like she was rejoicing

And was just too happy to rock
funeral wear

Me : I'll keep in touch , I need something from you . But right now , I'm not at my best . I need to go and tame down

He just nods , with pain just evident all over his face

Mom : I don't even know where I went wrong with you and your brother

She clicks her tongue and walks
away from us

We just keep taking blows from
this woman.

Because my father failed to be
the man she wanted

And she decided to replace him
with his friend

So she directed all that hate
she has for him to us

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Bofelo

Mpumi : can we go out ?

I look at her

Since I didn't go to Lefa's house

I've been sleeping , cooped up
in my room

I didn't even tell him I won't
come back

But he did pay me for last week

He's at his friend's funeral
today

He'll probably ask me Monday ,
why I didn't go back to his
house

Me : where ?

Mpumi : anywhere you want to
go

Me : I just don't feel like seeing
people

Mpumi : it's okay , we can even go to the park

Me : I'll just be bad company

She smiles

Mpumi : I can see you're not okay , I just don't want you depressed . We don't even have to talk if you don't want to

Maybe going out is what I need

Because here I am hurting , and
just crying myself to a river of
tears

Me : okay , let me get ready

Mpumi : great , and I just want
to say thank you

Me : for what ?

Mpumi : taking me in

Me : that's no big deal

Mpumi : it is to me , and I found a place . I wanted to move tomorrow , but I don't know if it's a good thing to leave now while you're not okay . I wanted to tell you

yesterday , but this hasn't been
a great week for you . You're
not okay my friend

Me : don't worry , I'm not
suicidal . I can help you move
tomorrow , and Monday bright
an early you'll see me alive and
well

We laugh

Mpumi : you're crazy , but at least that got you to laugh . Get ready , I'm just going to get
airtime

Me : okay

She grabs her phone and walks
out

It hasn't been bad living with
her

She's not annoying

And she also cleans after
herself

It really wasn't bad at all

I just wish I could burp and just
tell her what's hurting me

Life is not fair

Zen didn't deserve to die

He didn't deserve to leave his
kid

Now my child is fatherless , and
there's no choice about it

I am hurt , I do not want to lie

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INSERT 12

THREE MONTHS LATER

Zakhale

Tefo : see you when you see us

I laugh shaking my head

I grab my bag and head over to
the Uber

I want to go see Lefa

But I need to go to my house
first

And just freshen up

I only have a week here

Then I'm headed to Namibia

Being away just helped me deal
with my pain

I avoided a lot of things

And now my head is in a better
space

Some days were just harder
than others

I found myself calling him

And then I'll remember , he's
no more

I was forced to attend therapy

To help deal with the loss

I don't know about that

But I did it always

We get to my place , I pay the
driver and head inside

It's so quite

I'm sure MaZodwa is in her
cottage

She stays around here even
when I'm not home

I unlock using my key

The house is clean as always

She doesn't slack just because I
am not around

She still does her job and is
loyal to it

I head up to my room

I put my bag down , and place
my phone on the bed

I take my clothes off and get
into the shower

I stand in for a few minutes

Still adjusting to this reality

I'm back home , and he's not
here to annoy me

He wanted me to come back so
bad

He kept asking when I'll be back

And I had to come back to his
cold body

Such is life

I walk out of the shower , and
dry myself

I'm sure Lefa is at the office

I didn't even tell him I'm
coming

I take out a navy suit and put it
on

He would be laughing his ass
off

He always said , I'm the first
soldier who can rock a suit and
look like a civilized business
man

I grab my phone and head out

Still no sight of MaZodwa

Guess I'll see her when I get
back

I grab my car keys and drive out

I park my car , and take a deep
breath before walking out on
the parking lot

I walk inside the building

And I just have crazy stares on
me

I don't even get what they're all
about

Maybe they think they're
seeing a ghost

I head to the elevator and press
his floor

I get out and walk to his office

It's slightly opened

And he's sitting on his desk ,
with his head bowed down

I walk in

Me : you look like a mess

He lifts his head and side smiles

Lefa : hey man

He gets up and walks over

We briefly hug

Me : how are you ?

Lefa : trying

Me : you've lost weight

He sighs

Lefa : it's hard

Me : I know , but don't let pain
consume you

He nods

I head over grabbing a bottle of water

Lefa : you're back ?

Me : yeah , he left his things to me like everything . And I need to sort out a few things

Lefa : like his shares

Speaking about those shares

His last words to me have been
haunting me

Me : listen ...

I sit down

Lefa : I hope you're not selling
them , you don't have to be
involved in the day to day
running like he wasn't . But you

can still keep them , I was
against this whole selling
business

Me : I need your help

Lefa : okay

Me : there's a woman , Bofelo

He smiles

Me : I need to find her

Lefa : why ? Your brother was
crazy about her

I chuckle

He was crazy about her other
things

Me : there's something I need
to talk to her about

Lefa : okay

Me : so where can I find her ?

Lefa : somewhere around this
floor

Me : so she works here ?

Lefa : yes

Me : I see

I thought it would be hard to
find her

Lefa : let me go find her , she's
on this floor I'm sure

Me : thanks

He walks out

I lean over my hands over his
desk

After a while the door opens

Lefa : here she is

He says and closes the door
back

I get up and turn looking at her

No wonder he was crazy

She's beautiful

Me : hi

She doesn't look shocked to see
me

I guess it's because she knew
he had a twin

He even said she can tell us
apart

Me : I'm Zakhale

She nods slowly , and I see the
tummy

But it's big , to an extent that
she can even give birth now

Me : please come take a seat

I move over to the couches

And she walks over and sits
opposite me

Me : the baby is his ?

Bofelo : yes

Me : and you had told him ?

Bofelo : no

There's just pain that cannot be missed in her voice

Me : then how did he know you're pregnant ?

She sighs

Bofelo : his mother

I frown

Bofelo : I was working for Lefa ,
helping at his house . He came
with his mother there to the
house , and she threw hints

I don't get this

Me : how did she know ?

Bofelo : old people have a neck
for spotting pregnant women .
My mother had also seen me , I
didn't get a chance to tell him .
We didn't talk that day , but I
didn't think it was also fair to
tell him . The baby wasn't
planned , and I had taken pills .
When I found out , I was five
months . And there wasn't
anything I can do

She sighs

Me : I see , how far along are you ?

Bofelo : this is my last month

Me : why are you still working , when you're this heavily pregnant ?

Bofelo : I have to

I won't ask further

Me : when is your next doctors appointment ?

Bofelo : I attend at the clinic

I wonder if she even knows the gender

Me : I don't want to commit to anything , because you didn't

tell him . For your reason , I understand . But I would like to take you to see a doctor , I just want to see the progress of the child

Bofelo : you can do a DNA test

Me : that will not be necessary , if the baby is his it'll be a copy of myself

She looks down

Me : I am sorry , he would have loved being a father . His last words to me , was to find you and take care of the baby if it's his . And that's exactly what I plan to do , so don't think this baby is fatherless . I lived for my brother , and now I'll live for his child

She looks up with glossy eyes

I'm not blind

But I can see she's dying with
grief

Maybe not for her , but for her
child

Me : what time do you knock
off ?

Bofelo : at 18:00

Me : I'll come get you before
lunch

Bofelo : I don't want to get into
trouble , I need this job

Me : trouble , is a boss letting a
heavily pregnant woman work
like this . And it's not like you
didn't come to work , you're

just knocking off early . I need
us to go see a doctor

I get up

Me : let me have your number

I hand her my phone , when
she's done she hands it back

Me : is this number linked to
your bank account ?

Bofelo : yes

Me : okay , thank you for
keeping this baby despite
everything

She nods looking down

I head over Lefa's desk and
grab my keys

I walk out

And I find him downstairs ,
flirting with his receptionist

Without a doubt , they're
fucking

Lefa : you're done ?

Me : mhm , I'm not pleased
with you right now . Do you

want her to give birth in this building ?

He laughs

Lefa : that woman is stubborn ,
I long told her to stay home .
But she doesn't want to , I told
her she'll get 4 months of
maternity leave instead of 3

Me : before lunch , let her leave

Lefa : really ?

Me : I wasn't asking you

He laughs shaking his head

Lefa : fine , she's leaving

Me : we'll talk about those
shares , for now I have things to
do

Lefa : it was good seeing you

Me : likewise

I walk out heading to the
parking lot , getting into my car

I drive off

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INSERT 13

Bofelo

I can't believe my eyes

This has to be a mistake of
some kind

Like Zakhale just sent me 100K

It can't be

I'm sure he wanted to send 1K

And he just made a mistake
here

I'm in the toilets

I locked myself in here after he
left

And I cried a river

I don't even know why I was
crying that much

I think this pregnancy is also
messing with my emotions and
hormones

I'm sure I look like a mess right
now

It has sunk in , Zenzele is gone

He will never get to meet his
child

Even if he wanted to

I open the door and Mpumi is
outside

Me : hi

She says nothing but just hugs
me so tight

I can't help but tear up again

Lord knows I've needed a hug

Mpumi : whatever this is , I am
sorry . And I can see you're
hurting , I feel useless because
it's like I can't help you

We pull back wiping our tears

Me : no one can help me

I don't know what takes pain
away

Me : you know the baby ?

She nods

Now my tummy is visible

But it's not big , it's just a
beautiful baby bump

Me : the father was Zenzele
Khoza

She pops her eyes

Mpumi : the guy from the tragic
accident ?

I nod

Mpumi : my friend

Me : we weren't together , this happened the night of the party here . He was the one who bought the dress , and organised everything . From there , we went to his place and spent the night together . He did get me the morning

after pills , but looks like they
didn't work

Mpumi : my friend you're
hurting , babe I'm so sorry I
didn't know this

Me : my child is going to grow
up without knowing his father ,
Zenzele is gone without
knowing he left a baby behind

Mpumi : babe He'll be your
angel now

Me : I should have told him , I
should have told him . But I
figured I'll keep the baby myself
, and I won't bother him with a
child he didn't plan

Mpumi : I'm sure he would
have been an amazing father ,
despite everything

Maybe

But that's a thought right now

Me : let's go , before we get
fired

Mpumi : I think you should take
your leave , you're not okay
and you're close to giving birth

. This stress can't be good for
the baby

I laugh

Me : you sound like my mother
right now

She smiles

Mpumi : mother knows best

I thought she would be angry ,
when I went back home and
confirmed that indeed I'm
pregnant

But she wasn't

That woman is my support
system

She said I'll be home for my
maternity leave

But once that's done , I'll come
back to work and she'll mind
the baby

The woman is working now , I
managed to buy her a new
sewing machine

And she's bringing home
income like she's always
wanted to

I wonder if Lefa will let me
leave now

After I said I don't want to

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Zakhale

She opens the back door , I look
at her and wait until she's in
the car

Her eyes are blood shot red

And they even look puffy

I can tell she was crying

Me : come sit in the front

She looks at me

Me : come

She gets out , and gets on the
passenger seat

Me : should I get you
something to eat ?

She shakes her head no

I drive off heading to the doctor

The whole time , she has her
face looking outside the
window

We arrive , and the doctor is
waiting for us

We walk in

Doc : Mr Khoza

I just nod

They exchange greetings , and
converse a bit

While Bofelo gets ready for a
scan

Me : can we do a 3D ?

Doc : not a problem

Bofelo shakes and frowns as
she puts the gel on her belly

I hold her hand

She looks at me I ignore her

My eyes are on the monitor , as
the doctor goes on to show us
the baby

Doc : he's fully grown , and
ready to come

Bofelo : it's a boy ?

Doc : yes

She says with a smile

I watch Bofelo as tears stream
down the side of her face

I wipe them with my thumb

This woman is hurting

It must be painful

To someone else it might look
crazy

But it's not

The father's baby is gone

And it's sinking in now

That without a choice she will
be a single mother

But I'm here , and I'll make sure
that never happens

This baby is mine , I will honour
my brother . He left me
someone to live for

Doc : without a doubt , next week this boy will be ready to be here

Me : next week ?

Doc : yes , that's the due date

Fuck !

I won't be here

Because I only have a week
home

How can I miss the birth of my
baby ?

Me : you really shouldn't be
working , you might end up
giving birth at work

She looks at me

Me : tell Lefa you're taking your leave , as in now . Tomorrow you won't go to work

She just nods

I don't know , but I feel like she's scared of me

She doesn't strike me as a timid person

Doc : this wraps it up , let me
print the scans for you

My phone rings

Me : excuse me

I walk out the door answering
my phone

Me : sure

Tefo : skwata , how are things ?

I chuckle

Me : I ...I'm going to need
another week here

Tefo : you mean take two
weeks ?

Me : yeah

Tefo : how are we going to manage ?

Me : you'll manage fine ,
there's nothing I can do . I can't
leave , I have a situation here at
home . And it needs my
attention

Tefo : so you'll be missing
Namibia ?

Me : yeah , when you dispatch
back to Kasane I'll find you guys
there

Tefo : alright , we'll see what to
do

Me : thanks

Tefo : no stress , was just
checking in

Me : a re jole wena (we're not dating)

He laughs

Me : stop with these creepy calls of yours

Tefo : skwata , you miss me monna . Sharp !

He drops the call , I shake my
head opening the door

Bofelo : can I ask something ?

The doctor is helping her

And they have their backs
turned against me

Doc : anything

Bofelo : it's not about the baby
, but ...

She shrugs

Doc : you can ask , feel free

Bofelo : let's say someone
sends you 2K , and they only
intended to send you 200 . How
do you tell them that they
made a mistake ? Like do you

just go like , hey you I think you
made a mistake with the
money you sent ?

They laugh

What an awkward woman

Like is she for real ?

Doc : yes , exactly that's how
you do it

Me : I did not make a mistake
with that money

They both turn and look at me

Doc : problem solved , I'm
going to give you a prescription
. And I'll have a note for your
delivery , for when you go to
the hospital . Because you have
been attending at the clinic ,

and your last appointment was with me . So if anything happens , they'll need to call me in at the hospital as your doctor . But I always prefer to deliver my babies , you can also call me when you start having contractions . And we can meet there

Me : which private hospital would you recommend ?

Doc : there's a few , but since we're all in Pretoria it'll be best that she goes to one here

Bofelo : I want my mother with , when I give birth

Me : your mother will come

Doc : okay , let me bring your prescription

She walks out

Me : where is home ?

Bofelo : Soweto

Me : okay , and you live this side ?

Bofelo : yes

Me : then she can come

Bofelo : I live in just a one room
, and she wants the baby home
after giving birth

Me : then you'll come to my
house

She pops her eyes

Me : best for everyone , after
birth you can go back home

then . I took a week off from
work , I only had a week here .
But I don't want to miss the
birth of the baby

Bofelo : oh okay

Me : talk to your mother , tell
me what she says

Bofelo : okay

The doctor walks back , with
her prescription

And she writes the letter

Also gives me her numbers

I think I'll definitely do call her ,
so she can deliver the baby
herself

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INSERT 14

Zakhale

Mom : he gave you everything ,
and left us nothing

This woman is just annoying me
right now

Me : are we fighting over his assets ? Things he worked hard for , on his own . For himself

She sighs

Mom : all I'm saying is that we were a family , I'm his mother

Some mother she is

Me : I don't want anything from
him

Mom : then you can give your
sister and me something

Me : no

She frowns

Mom : no ?

Me : I am not giving you and
your daughter anything that my
brother worker hard for

That child is the reason my
father took his own life

She stayed in a marriage with
him

And got pregnant for his friend

And made my father support a
child that wasn't his

This woman !

Me : if Zen wanted you to have
anything from him , he would
have left you something

Mom : but you said you don't
want anything from him

Me : Zen left a child behind ,
and everything of his will go to
the mother and that child

Mom : he what ? What child ?

Me : that's not your business ,
but just understand you're not
getting anything

Mom : he hated me , but your
sister did nothing

Me : yeah well , it is what it is

Mom : you're just being selfish

Me : it's like you wanted him
dead , so you can get his money

She raises her hand to slap me

I grab her arm

Me : don't do that nonsense
with me

Mom : I'm your mother

Me : that card doesn't work
with me

She yanks her arm off , and
grabs her bag

She runs out

I shake my head

Me : MaZodwa

She walks in

Me : can you please fix the two
rooms downstairs

MaZodwa : okay

Me : I'm expecting two visitors ,
your workload might increase .
So I'll increase your salary this
month , but they'll only be here
for two weeks max

MaZodwa : I am here to work ,
you don't have to increase my
salary

I laugh

Me : thank you ma

MaZodwa : let me get on with it

She walks away

I don't know if Bofelo's mother
will agree

But it's better they're this side

And leave when the baby has
been born

My phone rings

Me : yeah

Lefa : are you still coming ?

Me : yeah , I'm on my way

Lefa : okay , I wanted to head out . But I'll wait

Me : sure

I drop the call , and finish my coffee before heading out

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Bofelo

Me : remember I said the baby's father and I , were not together ?

Mom : yes

Me : well , that accident that happened three months ago . And the driver was killed in the holding cell , the man who passed away was the father

She sighs

Bofelo : he was a twin brother ,
and his brother is around . He
said his brother asked him to
take responsibility of the child

Mom : what do you mean ?

Me : he sent me money , and
he also took me to the doctor
yesterday . I asked that I want

you to be here , when I give birth . Because he wants me to give birth here in Pretoria

Mom : you won't be in Joburg ?

Me : that's what he wants , so he said you can come this side if you're okay with that . The baby will be born next week , that's the timeline the doctor gave us

Mom : but where will I be staying Bofelo ? Your place is small

Me : I know , he offered his house

She laughs

Mom : I should go live in my son in law's house ?

What son in law ?

My mother has drama though

Me : mom ! I did not say I'm
with him , or anything like that .
He's the uncle to this baby ,
and not the father

I don't get what's funny about
what I said

Mom : don't be crazy , they
were twins . That technically
makes him the father

I laugh

Me : okay , father . But will you
come , I want you this side .
Then we can go back home
together

She sighs

I'm just crossing fingers she
comes

And this person can come even
before that next week

Mom : okay

Me : thank you

And I think it'll be less awkward
being in that man's house with
her around

Because he scares me

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Zakhale

Lefa : I thought you were going
to tell Bofelo to stop working

Me : where is she ?

He smiles

Lefa : around here , and
definitely working . You can
best believe that

I sigh

He laughs

Me : exactly how stubborn is that woman ?

Lefa : very stubborn

Me : give her leave by force

Lefa : she's going to hate me

Me : it's fine , she'll get over it when she comes back after 4 months

He laughs

Me : I'm here to talk about the shares

Lefa : okay

Me : I am not selling

He smiles

Lefa : great

Me : I am signing them over to
Bofelo

He pops his eyes

Lefa : what ?

Me : yeah

Lefa : waitwhat am I missing ?

Me : with ?

Lefa : this

Me : it's what Zen wanted

Lefa : okay , I know there's history there . But I thought it was a one night thing

I chuckle

Me : yeah , that one night thing
turned into nine months and
here we are

Lefa : he'swait , he's the
father ?

It's the shock , just too much

Me : yes , now get over your shock . Do you think you can do what I asked ?

Lefa : wow ! I've never even thought , it could be him .
Bofelo really wasn't showing anything , for quite a few months

He looks down

Me : don't look so sad now ,
you'll be an uncle

He heaves a sigh

Lefa : my boy would have been
so happy

Me : and it's a boy

He shakes his head

Lefa : this isn't fair

Yeah well , what can we say

Me : he wanted her to have the shares , obviously that's an investment to the child's future . I would say give them to him , and she just holds proxy . But no , give them to her

Lefa : i don't see a problem

Me : okay

Lefa : we will just have to get the transfer of shares , from you to her . Because they're left in your name

Me : I'll get my lawyer on it

Lefa : I can't believe Zen left a child behind

He heaves a sigh , that's just
accompanied by emotions

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INSERT 15

Bofelo

And I thought Lefa's house was
big

This is like twice the size of that
one

My mother will be arriving
tomorrow

As for me , I was dragged off
from work

Cause apparently I don't listen

And I'm just being stubborn

That was a first

I've never been called stubborn
ever in my life

But I just left , and just like that
I've taken my leave

I've been shown my room

And it's beautiful

Right now I'm having a snack as
Zakhale walks in

Zak : yeah , I'll call you . Sure

He drops the call

Zak : have you met MaZodwa ?

Me : yes

Zak : okay , I've organised a driver for your mother tomorrow

Me : thanks

He pulls a chair and sits down

Zak : I am sorry I took so long to reach out

Me : it's okay

Zak : you should have been to his funeral , my mind was just not in a good state

Me : your mother hates me , she would have kicked me out

He chuckles

Zak : she hates us too , so it wouldn't have mattered

I could tell from how Zen spoke to her that day , at Lefa's house

I guess the relationship between them isn't that good

Zak : I'll take you to his grave , this afternoon . If that's what you want

Me : really ?

He nods

Me : I would appreciate that

Zak : okay , you can rest . Then
we'll leave around 15:00

Me : okay

I don't know , maybe I could go
there and tell him about his son

I don't know what difference
that will make

But maybe I'll feel better

Even though he's gone now ,
and can't do anything about it

But I have a feeling he's looking
over us from the grave

Because life doesn't feel like it's
going to be that hard

With his brother here , it'll take
the burden of being alone
raising this baby

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Zakhale

She looks so nervous

I swear , it's like she's about to
do something so difficult

I park my car by the gate

I get off and help her out

We walk to his grave in silence

And it hits me

It's when you start visiting
someone's grave

It sinks in that they're really
gone

And this is only where you'll
see them now

We get to it

I turn and look at her

Me : I will give you space

She looks at me with glossy
eyes

I turn and walk away

There's probably things she
wants to talk to him about

Things that don't concern me

I stand over a bit further

Watching her as she wipes her
tears

I heave a sigh looking down

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Bofelo

This feels so surreal

And I hate that I'm crying

I kneel down , placing my hand
on his grave

Me : hi

I laugh through my tears

Me : II don't know how this is done , I've never visited a grave before

Not even the graves of my father and brother's

Me : guess what ? You said you feel like you left a baby in me , and the baby is there . Your pills didn't work , and here I am with your child . I'm so sorry you'll never get to meet him ,

that he'll never see you . I am
sorry , you left without even
knowing about him . I'm sure
you would have loved him , and
been a great father . I wish I
had told youI didn't , and
thought I could raise him alone
because what we had once a
once off thing . I didn't want to
burden you , with what you
never asked or planned for .
Now I'll live with that regret ,
for the rest of my life

I wipe my tears

Me : watch over him , when
he's old I'll tell him about you .
And

I turn and look at his brother

Me : well , maybe he will be
lucky enough and meet you
through your brother . He's

here and doing right by us right
now

I spend a few minutes silent

And I get up , dusting my knees

Me : I'll bring him to your
resting place , once he's here .
You had such a funny name ...

I slightly laugh

Me : I can't call him ZJ , that would be crazy . But he will be Junior , so thank you for leaving us with a piece of you . It's like he knew and survived , at least you left something behind

I close my eyes briefly

Me : don't sleep forever , look back to us

I turn and head to his brother

He says nothing and we walk to
the car

I want to ask if he doesn't want
to talk to his brother

He opens the door for me , I get
in and he walks to his side

He drives off to his house

Right now I just want to sleep

Zak : are you okay ?

Me : yeah

I could be so wrong , but he
looks so concerned

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Zakhale

I open the door , and she's
asleep

After we got back , I heard her
crying in here

And I couldn't take it , so I went
out and gotten her snacks

I just took some time , to get air

I hope she can find herself
again

And get better

For the sake of this baby

I doubt this crying too much is
okay for the baby

I hope with time , she can be able to forgive herself for not telling him she's pregnant

She didn't know that he wanted this baby with her

And knowing my brother , I wouldn't he surprised if he got her some vitamins

Zen was sneaky as they came

And he wanted her as his baby
mama

At least , he got that

Even though he's not here , to
experience and go through that
with her

I walk in , and cover her up

I leave the light on

Cause I don't know if she hates
the dark or not

I walk out , closing the door

My phone rings , I heave a sigh

Me : what ?

Thami : Zakhale

Me : don't call my name , what do you want ?

He sighs

Thami : can you fix things with your mother ?

Me : don't annoy me , and don't call me . Isn't your money enough for her , that she wants

my brother's money ? Or are you suddenly broke , and can't afford her standards ? Maybe it's just greed , she's always been a gold digger hasn't she ? And drove my father to the grave , with your bastard child

Thami : she just feels

Me : okay , I don't care about her feels . Don't call me Thami , we're not friends

I drop the call

These people know how to
annoy someone

He hasn't called me in two
years

And now because his wife is
crying over things that have
nothing to do with her

He calls me

Just fucking annoyance

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INSERT 16

Bofelo

I thought it would be awkward
with my mother around here

But it doesn't seem like it

They're just natural

Zak : I want to do things right , I
know it's what my brother
would have wanted

Mom : what do you mean ?

Zak : I want to pay damages for the baby and dowry , so he can use our surname when he's born

Why didn't he tell me this ?

Like I know nothing

And my mother is smiling , why wasn't I told ?

Mom : oh my son , that's nice
and a very good thing . I don't
see a problem with that

Zak : thank you

He sighs

Zak : the relationship with our
family is not that good , they
might not even accept this baby

. But I am , and I will be sure to take care of Bofelo and the baby . I will handle everything myself , and keep them out of this

I think that's good

Because I already know his mother doesn't like me

So that works for me

That woman said she would
kick me out of her house

I don't even want to see that
happening

Mom : I understand , my
husband passed away with my
son's . It's only us , but she has
an uncle that will be available
for the talks

Zak : thank you , I'm leaving
after the baby is born . So I
would like us to do this before I
leave

That's soon

Mom : not a problem my son , I
will call her uncle

He gets up

Zak : thank you so much , I'll
give you time to talk . Please do
feel at home

My mother smiles with a nod

Mom : you already welcomed
us into your home , it feels like
home already . Not awkward at
all , like a son in law's house

Someone please warn this
woman

I cough like crazy

Why is she throwing son in law
hints

He looks down shyly and smiles

I don't know about what

Zak : mawakhe , drink water

Mxm !

He walks out

And I look at this woman

Me : really ?

Mom : leave me alone

Yhoh !

Mom : he's doing a good thing

Me : I didn't know that

Mom : he's a good man ,
whatever women he will marry
will be very lucky

I laugh

Me : I don't like soldiers

She laughs

Mom : are you crazy ?

Me : no , they leave babies
everywhere they are . I mean ,
these people are never in one
place

Mom : something must be
wrong with you

We laugh

There's absolutely nothing
wrong with me

He must just get rid of this
thought that Zak is her son in
law

What if the man has a child and girlfriend ?

Or maybe a fiancé , even a wife

She must get away from that

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Zakhale

Crazy woman !

But I don't blame her

I know these guys , they have
women everywhere

And some end up leaving kids
there

So you can never know

But not all of us are like that

I'm in the kitchen working on
my laptop

I'm actually just trying to place
the money Zen left

And she walks in

She heads to the sink to wash
dishes

I just let her be

Even though I want to tell her
to rest

Me : I don't have kids
everywhere , in fact this will be
my first born

She turns and looks at me

Only to find me looking at her

There's that shock , that I
actually heard you say soldiers
leave babies everywhere

Bofelo : okay

She turns back to what she was
doing

Me : and I have no wife or any
woman whatsoever

She giggles

Bofelo : okay

I heave a sigh

Me : I don't know what to do
with his house and car

The silence , I don't know what
it means

Me : maybe you can take them
, even if you decide to sell them
it's fine

Bofelo : it's too soon , yes my
son could use a home . But I
don't know how I'll feel living in
his house , also I don't think it's
right to sell it

She heaves a sigh

Bofelo : Isn't the car a wreck ?

Me : it is , I'm talking about the other one . He had two

Bofelo : okay

Me : do you drive ? Maybe you can use it

Bofelo : if you're okay with that

Me : I am , then it's settled .
The house as well , it's fine to
keep it . If you want to move in
there , then you can always
renovate it

She turns wiping her hands off

Bofelo : why are you giving me
things your brother left you ?

Me : you're carrying our heir
there , we take care of our own

She smiles

I'm glad this went well

She can keep the car and use it

And the house , it'll be her
choice what to do with it

And she will also have
something from him

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Bofelo

Mpumi : are you okay though ?

I lay down on the bed , putting
the phone on speaker

Me : yeah , mom is here

Mpumi : that's better

Me : and he took me to his
brother's grave

Mpumi : and ...how was it ?

I sigh

Me : I think I made peace
somehow

Mpumi : and friend , you're not alone . His brother is there , you have support

Me : yeah , I think I should be grateful for that

Mpumi : see ? It's not all so bad

I guess so

Me : he gave me his brother's
car and house

Mpumi : what ?

Me : yeah

Mpumi : wow that's huge

Me : mhm , but I feel conflicted
about that . Moving into his
house , like that was his

personal space . I don't think I
have any business having his
things

Mpumi : you have a child now ,
his child . So you'll definitely
need a home to raise that baby

Me : makes sense

Mpumi : and a car will make
your life so much easier

Me : true , but I think I'll take time before I even put my focus on that

Mpumi : at least you have them , and they're there for you to use whenever you're ready .
You can take your time

Me : yeah , I just need time

Mpumi : don't worry , you have
all the time

Me : yeah

She laughs

Me : what ?

Mpumi : oh it was Zizo with
drama at the office today , girl

lost it when one client was
apparently flirting with Mr T

I laugh

Me : what ?

Mpumi : I'm telling you , and
the man was so smitten by
Scarlett

Me : Thee Scarlett Thusi ?

Mpumi : the one and only

Me : wow , Lefa is a skirt chaser
though

She laughs

Voice : what man hurt you ?

I turn and look back to find him
standing by the door frame

Me : no man

Zak : really ?

Me : yes

He chuckles as if I'm lying

Zak : right , I'm going to sleep

Me : goodnight

Zak : you have a negative mind-set about men

He turns and walks upstairs

Mpumi : what was that ?

Me : my strange noseey baby
daddy

She burst out laughing

Like must he always hear my
awkward conversations ?

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INSERT 17

A WEEK LATER

Bofelo

Zak : you have everything that
you need right ?

I nod

Zak : okay , if we're leaving
something behind I'll make a
plan to have it brought to the
hospital

He's so calm

And I feel like screaming right
now

This baby is coming

And I'm in pain

Zak : the doctor said she'll meet
us at the hospital

Me : okay

I walk to the car as he locks the door

I open the back door , my mother is coming with . This is why I wanted her here

Zak : no , get in front

What's his deal ?

Me : I'm in labour , I might
scream or slap you and we'll be
in an accident

Zak : I'm immune to pain , I can
tolerate noise . Get in the front
, let's go

I sigh

He walks over and opens the
door for me

I close the back door , and my
mother is laughing . I'm sure
she's having a blast

I get in and he goes to his side

He drives out , heading to the
hospital

Tears just stream down my face

If anyone ever told me this
thing is this painful

I would have played very far
from the boys

I look at him as he holds my
hand

And he side eyes me

I don't know

This gesture feels like he's
assuring me that it's okay

I place my hand on my tummy
rubbing it

I just want this baby out of me ,
like right now

And I feel like this car is not
moving at all

To think today I woke up
feeling fine

And out of nowhere ,
everything just turned sour

Without even a notice

I actually thought I peed on
myself

Thank my mother who told me
what's happening

Giving birth is just disgusting

These people don't have to
come in this manner

It's just uncalled for

And Zak was out

I had to call him to come back

Because I felt like I was dying ,
and I just couldn't wait

But turned out he wasn't far ,
so he made it in less than 5
minutes

If only he can make it to the
hospital in that 5 minutes

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Zakhale

Lefa : you're a father now ?

We laugh

Me : can you believe it ?

It feels surreal , that he's finally
here

Lefa : you're growing up

Me : I can't believe I have real responsibilities now , something I cannot run away from

He laughs

Lefa : you're already taken , I swear I have to come see that boy soon

Me : yeah buy something , you
don't see babies empty handed

Lefa : why is he expensive ?

Me : that's just how babies
come into the world

It's like I'm looking at myself
and Zen in the mirror

He's just a whole combination
of us both

It's insane

I haven't put him down since
his mother gave him to me
after feeding

She took a bath and then slept

And I've been with him

His grandmother went home

Since it's late

I couldn't have her sleep in
hospital

I don't think I will leave

Two hours of labour and he
finally arrived

It was already late in the
afternoon

Lefa : I'll see what I can do

Me : sure

Lefa : and congratulations

Me : thanks man

I drop the call and look at him
blinking

He's so tiny , I had fear that I
would drop him

But as soon as he was in my
hands , I just couldn't let him go

Me : Zen would have loved you
so much

I feel like my brother was
robbed

He was robbed of this
opportunity

And he will never get it

I hope I don't disappoint him ,
ever

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Bofelo

I can't believe he's here

And it's middle of the night

Junior is definitely sucking his
thumb

I try and sit up slowly , so I
don't hurt my stitches

I look at them

I can't tell if Zak is asleep or
what

But he has his head bowed

He's looking at Junior

I don't understand why he
didn't wake me up

Or put him down , so he could
leave and go home

It cannot be comfortable
sleeping on the couch sitting

With another human being on
top of you

Me : Zak

He lifts his head

I guess he's wide awake

Zak : why are you up ?

Me : I wanted to check on
Junior

Zak : it's okay , you can sleep . I
changed his diaper , the nurse
showed . But if you're not
sleepy , maybe you can feed
him . I don't know , or give him
something to chew on .
Because he's sucking his fingers

I smile

I don't want war

I'm all about love and peace

So there's no way in hell I'm
waking up this baby just so he
can eat

He will wake up on his own

Me : your back must be hurting

Zak : I've slept in worse places ,
this is comfort

I can't believe he stayed up

And even changed him

I struggled to breastfeed , even
changing the diaper

My mother had her work cut
out

He was showed but he got it

Zak : thank you for this
beautiful gift , my brother
would have appreciated this

I smile

I think Zen was going to be
jealous

Junior just decided to be a
traitor

He looks nothing like me

He's more Zak than he is Zen

Of course Zen is there , it would
be a miracle to not see him

But one look at Junior , Zak
pops out first

Such a child !

It doesn't make sense

Why would he look more like his uncle , than his biological father ?

But the doctor said , the two share the same DNA

And basically are just one person

She said it in such a way , that
even Zak just brushed it off

I don't even think he took his
time to look at how the baby
looks like

Or who he looks more like
between them

I'm glad it's over

He's here and he's safe and healthy

Our doctor was very happy

We have nothing to complain about

I hope they won't keep us here for long

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INSERT 18

Bofelo

Mpumi : he is so cute

I smile

Me : yeah

Mpumi : at least you don't have
an ugly baby

Me : really though ?

We laugh

Mpumi : people don't like ugly
babies

Me : this baby has no one to entertain him , it's just us

Mpumi : Lefa thinks he's an uncle

I look at her

Mpumi : don't look at me like that

Me : no , why would you say that ?

Mpumi : because he excused himself at work , and said he's going shopping for his nephew

Me : could have talked about anyone

Mpumi : Lefa is an only child

Me : how do you know so much
?

She laughs

Mpumi : I've been working for
that man for years

Me : well , I don't know . Yes
they were friends with Zen , but
I didn't tell Lefa anything

Mpumi : we shall see

Now that would just be
awkward

My boss now buying things for
my son

Zizo would definitely think I'm
taking her man for real now
and pining him with a baby

The door opens and they walk
in

Mpumi gives me that , I told
you so look

I guess Zak told him

Cause I don't remember
discussing my baby with Lefa

Lefa : Mpumi

She smiles

Mpumi : sir

Lefa : hi mommy

Please no

Me : I'll age fast , no please no

He laughs

Lefa : okay , I am not here to see you anyways . I'm here to see my nephew

Right !

Now I can't take that away from him can I ?

Mpumi gives him the baby

And he just goes on to get so emotional

Like the emotions are just so evident on his face

Lefa : he's more you than Zen , are we sure though ?

Zak smiles

Me : what are you trying to say
?

Lefa : nothing , they're basically
one person

This man

But at least I'm not the only
one who can see that , what a
combination of a baby

Lefa : he's handsome ,
congratulations you've done a
great job

Oh wow !

Me : thank you

The love for Zen must have
gone so deep

That seeing his child today , has
him emotional

He's probably thinking of how
unfair this is now

Zen not being here now to see
his son

Because someone just decided
to cut his life short

But seems like he's not alone
after all

There's two men in his life ,
who will be there to guide and
groom him

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Zakhale

Me : are you okay ?

He sighs

Lefa : yeah

Me : Lefa , you don't have to
die with pain inside

He leans against his car shaking
his head

Me : I know it's hard

Lefa : I don't know how to move on from this , everyday I think he'll burst into my office for nonsense . But he doesn't , I think he will ask me to help him score girls just so he can fuck . But no , he's not there . It's just not the same anymore , nothing makes sense Zak . Nothing at all , and now there's that little boy in there ...

He shakes his head , tears
streaming down his face

I hold him , giving him a hug

Me : you don't have to act all
strong Lefa , because you're
breaking apart bit by bit

Lefa : I don't know what to do
Zak , he was a part of my life
everyday . I saw him everyday ,

and nowI'll never see him
again

I move back as he wipes his
tears

Me : that boy in there , he
needs men in his life . He needs
a father , and he needs an uncle
. And besides me and you , he
has no one . I say God knew
what he was doing , making this
baby survive . My brother left

us something , he left us a piece of him . We can cherish and appreciate that , and make sure that we're there for this boy . He's what we have left of Zen , you used to see him everyday and now you don't . But Junior is here now , he's who you can see now . And you'll know you're doing Zen proud

He chuckles

Lefa : are you a therapist now ?

Me : yeah , it's not easy dealing with a bunch of soldiers . We all see and witness death , but they heal in different ways . Others it takes years to even get over grief , we're not the same . So I'm not stunned that after 3 months , you're still this hurt . While someone might say , it's been a while no just heal

and move . There's no such
thing as that

He nods

Lefa : I think I'll attend therapy ,
I don't know man . But I feel
like it has helped you

Me : go on , you'll let me know
how it goes

He goes on to chuckle with a
smile looking down

We've always gotten along ,
because of Zen

But now I feel like we're getting
close

I'm maybe scoring myself
another emotional wreck little
brother here

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Bofelo

He's been looking outside the
window

Just standing there and not
saying anything

I want to ask if he's okay or
what

But I don't want to seem
forward

Mom : you know when a man
has been good to you , it's only
right that you worry about him

I look at her , she's sitting
beside the bed

She's holding Junior

Me : what ?

She smiles

I heave a sigh and look back to
Zak

The room is big and spacious

So he's further from us

I doubt he even heard my
mother

Because she wasn't raising her
voice

I shake my head and slowly get
off the bed

I put on my slippers

If he tells me off , my brain will
gladly remind me of just how
stupid I am

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INSERT 19

Bofelo

I stand over next to him

There's nothing that he's even
looking at

His eyes are out there yes

But they're not looking at
anything in particular

Me : hey

I look at him , and he side eyes
me

Me : you've been standing here
for a while , are you okay ?

He takes a deep breath and
looks back

I see my mother is not even
paying attention to us

He takes my hand into his

Zak : tomorrow is my last day
here

Oh !

He's just been so around

It totally slipped my mind that
he's going to leave

Zak : and I don't know how long
I'll be gone for

He already stayed an extra
week here

Just so he can be around when I
give birth

And that's done

Now he has to leave

Me : thank you for being here ,
and not leaving our sight . It
meant a lot , and I sure didn't
feel alone

Zak : I'll keep in contact , but
it's hard when I'm out in the
field . I barely have signal , so
you can't reach me most times .
But I'll make sure to call ,
whenever I have signal

Me : thank you

Zak : if you guys need anything ,
don't hesitate to tell me .

He has done so much already ,
and I have money

I hadn't used the 100K he sent

Me : I will

We're getting discharged today
, and going home

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Zakhale

Me : yeah , I am leaving

Lefa : don't be gone for months
again

I chuckle

Me : I have a son now , it'll be hard to stay away from home

Lefa : better

Me : watch them for me , if they don't reach me . Bofelo might not say anything to you , but please just be there .

Lefa : I will , don't worry about it

Me : I know I can rely on you

Lefa : always , I'm doing that
therapy nonsense now

We laugh

Me : good , and keep you with
it . Don't be too quick to give
up on it

Lefa : I will try , I have my first appointment tomorrow

Me : don't be too quick to diss it

Lefa : hopefully , it won't annoy me too soon . And I'll definitely see it through then

I chuckle

He better see it through for his
sake

Because carrying this pain with

He will never let go of this pain

Me : let me go take them home
, I just came to get the baby's
things

Lefa : alright , I'll pop in Soweto once in a while . That's the only way , I can do as you have asked

Me : I appreciate that , and just fall in love with Junior alone

He laughs

Lefa : are you gone ?

Me : I'm gone now , so watch
me leave

I say heading over to my car

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Bofelo

I look at him

He's holding him , so close to
his chest

It's just a sight , and I can't help
but steal a picture

Zak : I love you so much ,
always know that . I have to go
to work now , because you and
mommy need money . And we
don't want granny to stress ,
about taking care of you two .
It's my responsibility now , so I
must go make money . But I will
be back , and you stay here and
be good to mommy and granny

. Don't give her more grey hairs
, be a good boy .

I smile

He turns and finds me staring at
them

Me : sorry

He chuckles

Zak : it's okay

He puts him down on his cot ,
and places a kiss on him

Zak : I love you

I would say this is pure love

He walks over , and I move
away from the door

Zak : please walk me out

I nod

He walk in the kitchen

And he says goodbye to my
mother

We walk outside to his car

Zak : I might not be here , with
you guys everyday . But just
know , we're holding hands .
We're together in this , and
you're not alone

He must not get me to cry

Because I've always thought I'll
be a single mother

With no one besides me

And the death of Zen just
finalized everything , and made
it certain

I did not see a way out of that

But he's here

Me : thank you

I find myself just hugging him

So awkward

Like why did I do that ?

No , it's not me

It can't be

It's just emotions

I try pulling back do
embarrassed

But he just engulfs me into a
tight hug

Zak : take care of yourself

Me : you come back alive

He chuckles

We pull back

Zak : the car is ready and fuelled for you , Lefa will bring it tomorrow . So you can be able to use it , whenever you need

He's so thoughtful

Me : thank you

Zak : I have to go now

Me : bye

He smiles and gets into his car

Few seconds later , he drives
out

I heave a sigh walking back
inside

Mom : you know , it's only natural that two people who care and takes care of each other fall for each other

What ?

I frown

Me : what's with you ?

She laughs

Me : mom stop ! Zak is just being nice , and caring for his brother's child

Mom : stop saying that , he's his child

Me : yes , his child

Mom : get used to that

Me : okay , but still there's
nothing here

Mom : keep saying

Wow !

And she goes on to her sewing
machine

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INSERT 20

Bofelo

Mpumi : adjusting to
motherhood ?

Me : yes , it's been a crazy
week . But we're making do

She laughs

Mpumi : you will be fine

Me : mhm , I'm busy sorting out the gifts . You guys really went out

They sent over gifts

And said they felt bad there was no baby shower , so this is them making up

I really didn't even expect anything from them

It's the cleaners from work

But it was nice of them to do this

And it's appreciated , especially because they didn't have to .
But they did

Mpumi : you deserve it mommy
, enjoy yourself

Me : someone is crying , we will
talk . This baby eats a lot

She laughs

Mpumi : kiss him for me

Me : will do

She drops the call , I place my phone on the bed

And walk over to his cot

Me : like you ate 20 minutes ago

He looks at me and he's quite

Mom : he just loves attention

Me : then I will never be able to do anything

Mom : just keep him close

Me : he was in his cot

Mom : and he can't see you from there

Okay !

Me : okay , I'll place him on the bed

She walks back

I place a pillow behind him ,
and I sit down and continue
doing what I was doing

I guess he really loves attention

And doesn't want to be left
alone

I don't know how he expects us
to mind him 24/7

Some people are just too much

And they think we have nothing
to do

They want to be full time jobs

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Zakhale

Me : is there a signal up there ?

Tefo : I managed one bar

Me : a bar is better than
nothing , I need to make a call

Tefo : you can't go a week
without a call ?

I chuckle

Me : I'm a father now

Tefo : mhm , go up there

That's exactly where I am
headed

I haven't spoken to Bofelo since
I left

Things have been hectic

I just want to check in on them

Me : I'm out if anyone asks for
me

Tefo : sure

I grab my phone and walk out
heading to the hill

There's always better coverage
up

Than down there on camp

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Bofelo

Me : hello ?

Zak : hey

I smile just hearing his voice

Zak : how are you ?

Me : good

Zak : that's good , how's my boy ?

I look at him

Me : being good , but an attention seeker and he eats a lot

He laughs

Zak : I miss him so bad

Me : I'm sure he misses you too
, he has no one to carry him
around

Zak : don't be mean

Junior is the mean one

Zak : but I'm glad , you're both
good

Me : are you good ?

Zak : yeah , I hope I can be back
in a few months or so

Just as long as they won't turn
into a year

Zak : you guys don't need
anything ?

Me : no

Zak : okay , but I'll send some money while I still have some coverage . I don't know when I'll have it again

We don't need the money , but I don't want to sound ungrateful

Me : thank you

Zak : you're welcome , go get a
massage or something

Me : I definitely will

Maybe I will not

I'm thinking I should just
renovate Zen's house

When I go back to Pretoria I can
move in there

But I'm not sure yet

And maybe I should wait for
Zak to be back , so we can talk
about this

Before I start renovating

I'm sure there's things of his
brother that he will want

Not that I plan to get rid of
anything

But should he want something ,
he should be able to just get
them

Without me making up my
mind that I'm keeping them

Zak : I'll call soon , give my boy
a kiss . Tell him I love him

Me : I will , and you be safe

Zak : always

The call cuts

I just appreciate that he called

Me : hey , daddy says he misses
you

He takes his thumb out of his
mouth

Me : I don't understand why
you suck your thumb

I laugh leaning down giving him
a kiss

Me : that's from daddy

My phone beeps

I take it , and it's a bank
notification

I laugh

Me : I swear , you Khoza people
have money for days

I remember Zen once gave me
so much money for pairs of
heels

His brother came and just topped that crazy

And now he's sent 75K

And it was said I should go to a spa

Like how expensive can a spa be ?

I'm sure it's not this expensive

I wonder if my mother would ever be okay into moving with me

I mean wouldn't that be better ?

And I wouldn't have to live so far from my son , I would go to work and come back home

I should speak with her

But after I've done some
serious talking with Zak

I need to be certain that he's
really okay with giving me his
brother's house

I don't want to spend money
renovating the place

And only to be kicked out

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INSERT 21

Bofelo

Me : mama (mom)

She looks at me

I sit down

Laying Junior on my thigh

Me : re ka bua ? (Can we talk)

Mom : ee (yes)

I heave a sigh

Me : err ...ke batla re bue ka
taba ya ntlo (I want us to talk
about the house)

Mom : ntlo efe ? (Which house)

Me : the one that was Junior's
father , akere Zak o mphile
yona (he gave it to me)

Mom : oh , jwale o lo dula moo
ha o kgutlela Pretoria ? (So

you're going to stay there when
you go back)

Me : ke ne ke nahana jwale (I
was thinking so)

Mom : bothata ? (So what's the
problem)

If she turns me down

I will be very disappointed

Me : I was thinking of renovating it , and then moving in with you and Junior . That way we won't be apart , we will be staying in one house . I can go to work , and come back to him . As much as I love my job , I don't think I'll be able to live apart with my son .

Mom : I see

Well , that's not promising

Me : ke batla ho bua le Zak pele
(I want to talk to Zak first)

Mom : ka eng ? (About what)

Me : yona taba ya ntlo (the
issue of the house)

Mom : e entse jwang ? (What
about it)

Me : he gave me the house yes , but it was just by word . If I'm to move in there , then I'll need something . Maybe a tittle deed , because I don't want to invest into that house and only to end up on the streets one day . His mother doesn't like me , if she ever finds out I have a child with her son and I live in his house she might try me . I need to at least have something I can

stand on , even legally if it'll
ever come to that

Mom : would that woman be
that evil ?

Me : if a person doesn't like you
, there's no way they would like
your child

I don't trust that woman

Me : she might hurt my child ,
just so she can get to me . So I'll
rather be safe than sorry

Mom : but Bofelo , do you even
have money to renovate that
house ?

Me : yes , his father sent money
. I haven't used it , and it's a lot
of money . I don't intend to
spend it all at once , I'll save
some

Mom : now you want us to
move ?

You can never take a woman
out of her township

Me : I'm asking , I don't want to
take Junior alone . Because I
don't want to leave you here

Mom : I am fine here

Wow !

Is this her saying she's not coming

What a failed attempt

Me : okay , but I don't trust to leave Junior with a nanny .

Honestly , I would be at peace knowing he's with you

She laughs

Mom : now I'll be your nanny ?

Bathong !

Me : but if you two stay here ,
you'll still be his nanny

Mom : drama !

She's the one with drama

Me : at least , ere o tla e
nahana (say you'll think about
it)

Mom : okay , but what happens
with my house ?

Me : you'll rent it out , the
money will come in handy for
you

Mom : heh ! You have thought everything

No !

Actually I just thought about that right now

Because I know she would never agree to sell our family home

Me : so you'll think about it ?

Mom : yes

I smile

Me : thank you , that's all I was asking for

Thinking about it , is definitely not a no

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Zakhale

Tefo : skwata

Me : sure

Tefo : don't you want to make a call ? I have a few bars

Me : you going out ?

Tefo : no , I am around

Me : alright , thanks

He hands me his phone and walks out

I now know her number by
heart now

I dial her , and it rings for a
while

Bofelo : hello ?

Me : hey , it's me

Bofelo : oh hi

Me : are you guys okay ?

Bofelo : yes , we're okay

Me : okay , one of the soldiers lent me his phone to make a call . Figured I should call , and check in on you

Bofelo : thank you , we appreciate it

Me : no problem , how is my boy ?

She laughs

Bofelo : sleeping

Me : he will get fat , why is he sleeping during the day ?

We laugh

Bofelo : his father is a soldier ,
you'll train him when you get
back

Wow !

And for the first time ever , I
hear her saying I'm his father

I never wanted to push

Because I thought maybe she
would feel like it's betrayal
towards Zen or something

I was ready and okay to be
whatever she will see me as to
him

Even as uncle

This means a lot to me coming
from her

Me : hey ! I want him to choose
a decent career

She giggles so sweetly , I
chuckle

Bofelo : it's decent being a
soldier , it overcomes being a
criminal

I chuckle

Me : that one he will never be ,
because he's going to be one
disciplined young man

Bofelo : you'll see what to do
with him , when you get back

Me : we'll go on a diet

She laughs

Bofelo : he will die , he eats a lot . I don't even have baby fat , cause he's finishing all of me . And he's really sucking his thumb

Wow !

I feel like for the first time , we're having a conversation and she's free with me

I take this as a big step

Me : don't worry , he will out
grow it . I used to suck my index
finger

Bofelo : no !

The exaggeration

Me : yes

She burst out laughing

Me : mawakhe , it's not funny

Bofelo : it is funny , then he surely took that from you

Me : that's because Zen used to take my bottle from me , so I had to find other means to survive

Bofelo : poor you , so how old were you when you stopped ?

Me : until middle school , when I started noticing girls

She's dying of laughter at my expense

Bofelo : first girlfriend in grade 4 ?

Me : 3 actually , and she was white . We didn't even last for two weeks though

Bofelo : he better be a Casanova like Zen

Me : you're ruining the child

Bofelo : he has two personalities in him , and we can thank oHlase for that

Shit !

We're really being acknowledge
here

Me : please send a picture
when you can

Bofelo : let me send a few ,
then you can transfer to your
phone

And seconds later they come through

Me : thank you , he's really growing

Bofelo : yeah he is

Me : but there's none of you

She giggles

Bofelo : but you didn't say

Me : it's common knowledge
really , when a baby mama
sends pictures of the baby she
also sends hers

Bofelo : I'm a first time baby
mama , I didn't know that

Me : well now you know

Bofelo : okay

And the phone beeps

It's a few of her own and some
where she's with him

Me : I'm glad you guys are
doing good , it gives me peace
out here

Bofelo : we appreciate you
calling , cause we know you're
still safe

It's the care that she has

Me : I'll be safe always , I have
you guys to come back to

There's silence for a few
seconds

Me : have you decided what you're going to do about the house ?

Bofelo : do you have enough time to talk ?

Me : yeah , this phone is much better than mine . And you can keep the number , Tefo has bars more than I do cause he goes out a lot . So if there's anything and you can't reach

me , you can always get me
through him

Bofelo : okay , but he shouldn't
call me . Unless it's on your
request

I love a woman who can set
boundaries

Me : he won't

Bofelo : alright , so I was talking to my mother yesterday . And I was thinking of renovating the house , then we three move that side . Because I don't feel okay , that I'll be leaving Junior here . Honestly , now that he's here . I don't see how I was going to survive leaving him , now the house is there . We can be together , and I'll still be able to continue with work and come back home to him

Me : I like that idea , no mother should be separated from her child . And he will still be young

Bofelo : yeah , but I am scared . Your mother doesn't like me , what happens when she finds out everything and she kicks me out of the house ?

That damn woman

She would never do that , but I get her fears

Me : I'll talk to my lawyer , and have him transfer the deed of the house to you . Will that give you security ?

Bofelo : yes , then I'll have a legal leg to stand on

Me : alright , you'll have the deed in two days

Bofelo : thank you so much , but I wanted to wait until you're back . So you can take some of your brother's things if you want them

Me : I don't want anything , we didn't even have the same style even on clothes

I chuckle

Bofelo : it's okay , I plan to keep things as they are and his furniture . Even the main bedroom , I'll leave it as it is . Junior will grow up , and maybe he'll want some of his things

Such a thoughtful woman

Me : then you can start renovations , you'll give me a quotation when you're done

Bofelo : but I still have the money you gave me , I plan to use it

Me : no , that money is for you and our son . I'll give you money for renovations , I'm away from home now in another country . And it's not

for nothing , I'm not doing this
for myself but it's for you two .
I live and work for the both of
you

My brother may have left me ,
but he left me with something

After his death , I didn't see no
reason to live because I lived
for him

They've taken that place for
him now

While he watches over them on
the other side

Bofelo : now I've run out of
words of thanks

Me : I'm just doing my
responsibilities

Bofelo : okay , I'll tell you

Me : I'll hear from you

And I hear him crying on the
background

Bofelo : he's just woken up ,
and he's crying cause he's in his
cot with no one next to him . I
think I'll get him a teddy

This boy really is an attention
seeker

Me : it's okay , attend to him .
We will talk

Bofelo : alright , take care and
be safe

Me : always

I drop the call

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INSERT 22

FOUR MONTHS LATER

Bofelo

Mpumi : it's good to have you
back at work

I laugh

I'm finally back at work

Maternity leave is over

And it's now time to work

I was so sad this morning when
I had to leave my baby at home
, knowing I won't be with him
the whole day as usual

I can't stop stressing if he's
okay

If he's not crying for me

It's just crazy being a mother

Because everything just stops

And your whole life revolves
around that tiny little person

Me : it's good to be back , but I miss my baby . Now I'm used to just seeing him every second

Mpumi : you'll get used to it , don't worry

Me : yeah

Mpumi : so how far are you with moving ?

Me : we should be able to
move after the weekend ,
they're still finishing his room .
Just tiny final touch ups

Mpumi : you have done
amazing babe , I'm really proud
of you

I smile

Me : all I did was make plans ,
and the man paid

She laughs

Mpumi : I don't know whether
to say , you're blessed or your
ancestors work overtime or
what . Because girl , you meet a
brother and have a child . And
the other one comes , and just
sweeps you . It's like double
blessings

We laugh

Me : don't be silly , there's
nothing between me and Zak

Mpumi : keep telling yourself
that

Not another my mother

I can't deal

I don't know what makes them
think or believe that there's
something going on or
happening between us

We're just civil with each other
, we're raising a child together

He takes good care of me and
Junior

But I doubt he sees me beyond
anything

Than just being his baby mama

Me : let's go work

She laughs

Mpumi : it's fine , run away
from me . But the truth always
prevail

Me : whatever

We part ways going to our
different floors

I still have to see HR

Since I'm back at work

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Zakhale

I drive through

And I can see they're all home

That's good

Because I can tell them once
and for all , to stop fucking with
me

They had to have lawyers , busy
sending me papers while I'm at
work

Through my lawyer

I park my car and walk out

The lounge door is opened , I
use it walking inside

And she's in the lounge with
the husband

Mom : and then ?

Me : and then what ?

Mom : you're here , you didn't
even knock

Me : knock for what when the
door is opened ?

She gets up

Mom : what are you doing here
Zakhale ?

Me : I am here to tell you to
stay away from me , stay away
from things that belonged to
my brother . You don't know
me , so stop trying to provoke
me . Because I will finish you ,

you will go back to being
nothing but the girl from
Refilwe in the shacks . I will
take away this wealth that he
has , and you will be out of
here before you can spell
lawyers and wills and all that
nonsense . You've never loved
Zen , but you're busy fighting
for his money

Mom : he was my son

Me : your husband makes
money illegally

She looks at him

Me : and one word from me all
this will be gone . Keep trying
me

He looks at me with his eyes
popped

Mom : you're not being fair

Zakhale

Me : what's fair is what Zen saw fair , you don't deserve anything from us . When you chose to whore around , you ignored us . And we practically raised ourselves , he went to jail and not once did you even try to act like a mother and help him . Instead , you watched and said he should

learn . Well he learnt , and now
you want what he worked very
hard for . That will never
happen , you have been
warned

I look at the husband

Me : keep your wife on a leash ,
otherwise I will ruin you . And
you'll kiss goodbye to this good
life , and the young girls you go
around fucking in Dubai

Mom : what ?

She looks at him , he has his
head bowed

Mom : what is he talking about
? You're cheating on me Thami
?

And he clears his throat

I turn and walk out heading to
my car

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Bofelo

Lefa called me into his office

I don't know for what

He's been playing uncle

Coming over to Soweto now
and then

Me : is something wrong ?

Lefa : it's good to have you
back at work , but Mmagwe
Junior I don't know how
comfortable you are being a
cleaner in a company you own
35 % shares in . I thought you

won't be coming to work
anymore , because you're due
to your divides like next week

What is he talking about ?

I just give him a confused look

Lefa : what ?

Me : no , what are you talking
about ?

Lefa : don't confuse me please

Me : are you not confused
already ?

He laughs

Lefa : no , I am not

Me : then please explain
yourself

Lefa : akere Zak gave you the 35% shares , that Zen had in the company . So now they're yours , and as a shareholder you're entitled to dividends at the end of each year . And next week , that's when we close a year in the company

Me : I don't know what you're talking about

Lefa : so he didn't tell you ?

Me : no

Lefa : my bad , I thought he told you . Because I had actually been waiting for your signature , on that transfer of shares contact

This is crazy

Zak did not even hint anything
about this

But isn't he doing too much ?

Already he's given me a car and
a house

And now shares

Like this is a lot

And it feels like I don't deserve
any of this

I really don't

Me : can I please just get back
to work ? I will talk to Zak about
this , because I know nothing
about all of this

Lefa : okay

I get up from the chair and walk out of his office

Voice : you're back now and you won't stop going in and out of that office , it's like you're like a black fly inside a glass of milk

I heave a sigh and turn looking at her

Me : like Lefa is not all of that , and not all of us see him and feel like dropping our panties on the floor . Like gather your confidence please , I am not an office fuck . Not all of us are okay with such statuses , so please stop annoying me . I'm not your friend Zizo

Her jaw is dropped

I turn back and leave her
standing there

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INSERT 23

Bofelo

Voice : hi

Oh my God !

I am not day dreaming , like I
just cannot be

I turn and it's him

I involuntary smile

Me : you're back ?

Zak : yes

Me : uhm

I slightly laugh

And just find myself hugging
him

With that Zizo gawking at me

And I get a hold of myself

Why am I hugging him ?

I'm so embarrassed right now ,
I pull back slowly . But he
engulfs me into a tight hug

Me : I am sorry

Zak : no don't apologize , you
didn't nothing wrong

I can't believe he's here

Literally after four months of phone calls and not seeing him

Zak : I see you're hard at work

Me : first day back

Zak : mhm , I miss my son . I wanted to go to Soweto , but I figured I should come get you so we can go together

Me : it's not even lunch yet

Zak : I know , but Lefa will give you this day off . And it's not like you didn't come , you're just leaving early

Oh my word !

Now Lefa will think I really don't appreciate my job

Just because he told me I'm a shareholder

Me : I don't want to be in trouble , or look like I'm being treated differently

Zak : there's no such thing as that , let me go talk to him . Go change , so we can leave

There's no winning

Me : okay

He smiles

Me : it's nice to see you back

Zak : it's good to be back

He moves back and heads to
the elevator

Voice : mhm-mhm that man !

I turn and look at her laughing

Mpumi : friend , doesn't he
have soldier friends he can
hook me up with ?

This one is mad

Me : I know one Tefo , but that
one loves women . Every time I

call Zak through him , he's
always talking about women
and wanting me to hook him up

Mpumi : you're killing me ,
damn ! Soldier's are the shit I'm
telling you , even the whore
Zizo was gawking . I'm telling
you , guard your man

Me : he's not my man

Mpumi : let him slip through
your fingers , and you'll cry

Nonsense !

What can I even do ?

I don't want to embarrass
myself making a move on Zak

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Zakhale

Lefa : why didn't you tell her ?

I shrug

He laughs

Lefa : I looked so lost in front of her , like I didn't know what I was saying . Even I confused myself

I chuckle

Me : don't worry about it , she will sign the papers . I'll make sure of it

Lefa : alright , before the dividends are out

Me : sure , I'll see to it

Lefa : thanks , how long are you home ?

Me : quite a while

Lefa : okay , that's a first

Me : I'm actually on injury leave

Lefa : what ?

Me : nothing serious , just my leg . I've been assigned for physiotherapy , just to get it back in shape

Lefa : don't you think you should stop being a soldier though ?

That will never happen

Me : and do what ?

Lefa : man , it's not like you
don't have money

Me : when you have other
people , who are your
responsibility you need to make
money everyday . Bofelo
cannot wake up one day , even
when I'm dead . And find out
that bank accounts are empty ,
I'm not business smart . All I
know is this

He sighs

Lefa : now it was a minor
incident , what about next time
. You can come back home ,
without a leg

I laugh

Me : never , I'm still yet to
teach my son how to ride a

bicycle and kick a ball . So don't
worry

I get up

Lefa : you're just stubborn

Me : well , can I get her and
leave ?

Lefa : yeah , I hope you can
convince her to stop working .

It'll be awkward , to have a whole shareholder working as a cleaner in her own company . It just doesn't make sense

I chuckle

Me : keep me out of it , and don't fire her

Lefa : I cannot do that

She's stubborn , and she's probably just never going to stop working

Me : I'll see you around

Lefa : thanks for stopping by , even though I know it wasn't for me.

We laugh as I walk out and head to the elevator

I get down , and she's changed

She looks stunning

One can't even tell she's a new
mom

And one that's still
breastfeeding at that

I walk over to her

Me : sorry if I made you wait
long

Bofelo : no it hasn't been long

Me : okay , we can go

I hold my hand out , and she
takes it getting up grabbing her
bag

And we walk out heading to the
parking lot

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Bofelo

If I don't arrive at work
tomorrow

And find the whole office
pointing fingers at me

It would be a miracle

The way Zizo was staring at us

I'm sure she had a mouthful to
say

We're headed to Fourways mall
right now

Zak said he wants to get a few
things

That he can't go to my home
empty handed

That's new to me

But I will let him get what he
needs , then we can go

I wanted to ask him about the
shares

But I think I'll ask once he has
seen Junior

I am still shocked about that

And I really don't deserve
Zenzele's shares

Like exactly what did I do to
have them ?

Absolutely nothing

So he should keep them , his
brother left them for him

I'll ask and hear what he says

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INSERT 24

Bofelo

I look at them playing

And I know my son is at his
happiest , even the giggles are
attesting to that

Because he has all the attention
to himself

He's just making noise , he even
has arms and legs in the air

Voice : come here

I'm almost startled by her

And she grabs my arm we walk
into the kitchen

Me : what did I do now ?

She laughs

Mom : what makes you think
you did something ?

Me : hah , you just took me like
I did something

She laughs

Mom : no , you did nothing

Me : okay

Mom : you know , I don't know what happened between you and the other brother . But what I would find really disturbing , is if you two were lovers and today you have fallen for his brother ...

Me : whoaI did not

I take a deep breath

Me : Zen and I we were not
dating

Mom : just as long as there
were no romantic feelings ,
then there's no need to feel like
there'll be betrayal if you date
his brother

My mother though

Should we even be talking
about Zak like this ?

While he's in the next room

Me : can we not do this

Mom : I'm just telling you , so
you don't cry when someone
finally takes him

Me : but there's nothing , he's just Junior's father

Mom : that you're very happy that he's home

She's not being fair

Me : because he missed his son , and now they get to be together . I mean , calls are not the same as seeing someone in

person . That's all , it doesn't
mean anything

I don't know who I'm trying to
convince

Her or myself

Mom : if you say so , but I know
you care about that man

Yeah well

Me : he cares about us too ,
he's never missed a month for
maintenance . And he paid for
the house renovations ,
without even being asked . He
cares for us so effortlessly , so
how can I not care about him ?

She smiles

Me : don't get ideas though

Mom : keep caring , and hiding those feelings . One day , he will be caring elsewhere

She walks into the kitchen

Me : wow !

Clap once situation

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Zakhale

Me : your granny is working overtime , trying to hook me up

He giggles

Me : you have grown man , in just four months and you're this loud . You should also be on my side , always check the coast for me . So I'll know if I

stand a chance , or there's
competition

I peck his cheek , and he goes
on to suck his thumb

Voice : sorry , can we talk ?

Me : sure

She walks in and sits down on
the bed

Bofelo : uhm ...Lefa told me something today . And you've never told me anything

Me : yes about the shares , you have to sign that contact . And you're keeping those shares , they're yours

Bofelo : your brother left them to you

Me : one thing I know , is that he would have moved mountains to take care of Junior and his mother . Now this is me just doing that , I have no need for those shares . The only thing is that , I don't want you to ever lack where Junior is concerned . You gave us amaHlase , the most precious gift ever . And we can never thank you enough

She smiles

Me : so please sign them

Bofelo : okay , I just feel like I don't deserve them . I did nothing to deserve them

Me : take a good look at this photo copy of mine , and you'll understand what you did

She slightly laughs

Bofelo : I want to keep my job
though

Me : okay , only Lefa finds that
awkward . But I don't

Bofelo : he better leave me
alone

I chuckle

Me : do you think you two can
come spend the weekend at my
place ?

Okay !

That just decided to go out of
my mouth

I think it was just at the tip

Me : the guys at your house
said they'll be done by Sunday ,
on Monday you can move in .
But I just want to spend time
with you two

Bofelo : I'll ask my mother if it's
okay

Great !

I smile

That woman is me all the way

She's definitely going to say yes

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Bofelo

I should have expected my
mother to say yes , to us going
to his place

Zak is regarded as the son in
law

So there's no way she was
going to say no

Right now , we've just arrived
at his place

I hope we three can spend the
weekend together without
awkwardness

I just wonder how long he'll be
around this time

Maybe it's a week like last time

Hopefully he can spend enough
time with Junior

He walks in

And I'm breastfeeding Junior

I'm not even covering

Cause I didn't think he'll walk in
here

I don't even have a blanket
with me close by

Zak : is the room fine ?

Me : yes

I'm so embarrassed

I get up , and open his bag
taking his small blanket

I cover him , he pulls out and
cries

Like really ?

Me : what's with the drama ?

What's he crying about ?

I sit back down on the bed

He's even slapping the blanket
with his tiny hands

This baby is just a lot

Zak : why are you covering him
up ?

I look at him

Me : I didn't know you were
going to walk in here

Zak : it makes you
uncomfortable ?

Me : no

Zak : then ?

Me : I don't want it making you
uncomfortable

He chuckles

Zak : remove that blanket ,
you're making him cry . You
disturbed his feeding

Great !

Now this man is going to see
my boobs

How nice ?

I remove the blanket , and
someone just grabs my boob
sucking so hard on my nipple

He pinches my boobs

Me : ichu (ouch)

Me : askies Hlase (I'm sorry)

I wipe his tears , he closes his
eyes

Zak : don't abuse him like that ,
I don't have a problem
whatsoever with you feeding
him in front of me

Me : okay

I thought he would mind

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INSERT 25

Bofelo

It's middle of the night

My eyes are even painful

Some of us want to sleep

Like the rest of the people who
are sleeping right now

But someone is being a chatter
box

He doesn't want to sleep

I'm tired to be honest

Me : robala hle (please sleep)

He just makes noise , causing
me to laugh

Me : ke bosiu (it's late)

I'm talking alone

I don't even hear what he's
saying , but I'm sure it's
daylight to him

And time to be talking

And I can't ignore him , because
he's going to cry

This is crazy

Me : nna ke batla ho robala (I
want to sleep)

Not even the thumb is helping

He's not hungry , his diaper is clean

But there's no sleep

He's wide awake

He's holding his one foot

And just foreign language is coming out of his mouth

Me : robala baby , re tla bua
hoseng (sleep , we'll talk in the
morning)

He gives me the toothless smile

I laugh

Me : I give up with you , I don't
know what to do anymore

He goes on and on

There's even smiles and giggles
in between

And I have to keep and
maintain the conversation
going

Because when I close my eyes ,
or I go quite it's the water
works

Someone should have warned
me that being a mother is this
hard

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Zakhele

I open the door

And she's sitting on the bed

While he's laying down on the
pillow

His one foot is up , and he's
holding it with his hand

He's really talking

Me : sorry , what's the noise all
about ?

She looks at me

Bofelo : we didn't mean to
wake you up , sorry

Me : no you didn't , I was up to
get water I saw the light on .
Why is he not sleeping ?

Bofelo : I don't know , I'm
asking myself the same thing

Me : so it's not a norm ?

She shakes her head

Bofelo : no

Strange

Me : maybe he feels that he's
home , he just can't stop talking

She looks so tired

Me : you get some sleep , I'll
watch him

Bofelo : he's dramatic , he will
cry if you don't entertain this
talk

Me : we'll go have boys talk

She laughs

Bofelo : are you sure ?

Me : yeah , don't worry about it

Bofelo : if he gets too much ,
you can bring him back

Me : I would hate to wake you
up , I'm sure we will be fine

Bofelo : okay

I walk over to the bed and pick
him up

Me : let's go , and leave
mommy to sleep

I look at her

Me : you'll get some sleep right
?

Bofelo : I'm probably dead , the
second I close my eyes

I chuckle

Me : good

I take his small pillow and the
small blanket with his bottle

And a few diapers

Me : goodnight mommy

Bofelo : good luck

She lays down and covers
herself

I laugh going out

Me : you're driving this woman
insane

He smiles

Me : it's not cute

And the talk goes on

I hope he will asleep

Because as much as I'm awake

I don't think I want to have a
conversation with someone
that's four months

And I'm not hearing what he's
saying

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Bofelo

I wake up and it's morning

That slight being lost looking
next to me and there's no one

Then I remember he was taken
last night

I wonder if he managed to
sleep

Seeing that Zak didn't bring him
back

I get up and grab my gown

I walk out to his room , I knock
and it's quite

I open hoping I don't see
anything that will make me
blind

And there they're still asleep

He's sleeping on top of him

I smile walking over

And I notice the bandage on
Zak's thigh

He's wearing a short and
shirtless

I try to take Junior from him

But he opens his eyes and looks
at me

Me : sorry I'm in your room , I
knocked and you didn't answer

He smiles with sleepy eyes

Zak : it's okay , we're sleeping .
It was a long night , at one
point we even went to watch
cartoons

Me : what ?

Zak : yeah

This is crazy

Me : I see you're hurt

He lifts his eyes

Zak : it's nothing serious , I
need to attend physio

Hopefully it's nothing serious
like he says

Me : okay , let me take him . So
you can sleep

Zak : no , it's still early . And
you can climb on the bed and
join us

What ?

I pop my eyes

Zak : what ?

He asks with a chuckle

Me : you just invited me on
your bed

He smiles

Zak : yes I did , come

He moves a bit , making sure he
doesn't wake this one up

I shake my head getting on the
bed

Zak : do get some sleep

Me : okay

He brings his arm out , and I lay
my head down

His hand lands on my shoulder

What a family dynamic

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INSERT 26

Zakhale

Lefa : what's going on ?

Me : with what ?

He laughs

Lefa : what's that noise ?

Me : yeiiy the woman of the house is here , with the master . I think he's starting to talk , so he's being loud

He burst out laughing

Lefa : this woman has captured you

Me : mxm , leave me

Lefa : it's okay , just don't wait
and take forever . They'll take
her away

Me : who ? Because my boy is
here , and he's watching the
coast for me . And I'm trusting
mother in-law , she's cheering
for me one way

Lefa : listen to you flexing and
all that shit

Me : Lefa don't call me again ,
I'm spending time with my
family

He laughs

Lefa : Bofelo needs to put you
out of your misery

Me : bye

I drop the call laughing

I head over to where they're seated

Me : is he allowed to go out ?

Bofelo : he's passed three months

Me : I was thinking we can go outside in the garden

Bofelo : is there a picnic ?

I laugh

Me : it can be a picnic , if
mommy wants one

Bofelo : the weather is nice

Me : yeah , that's what I
thought as well

Bofelo : okay , we can go

Me : mhm , I'll go set up

Bofelo : thank you

I don't think I've ever met a
person who's as appreciative as
she is

She'll always say thank you

Even for the smallest things
ever

Things that no one would ever
take for anything

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Bofelo

Why is Zak laying his head on
my thighs , with his son on his
stomach

I feel like I'm being abused right
now

Someone is too comfortable

Or is it payment for sleeping on
his arm ?

This is so awkward

We're basking outside in the
garden

Just enjoying this beautiful day
out having a picnic

Like some cute little family

Me : how long are you staying ?

The braveness I have asking
him this

But I've been wanting to ask

Zak : until I'm done with physio
, I'm on injury leave

Me : I thought you said it
wasn't serious

Zak : it's not , they just love to exaggerate . We're soldiers , we're ought to get shot and hurt

Me : you were shot ?

He sighs

Zak : yeah , took a week to take the bullet out

Me : this job is dangerous ,
Junior needs a father

He takes my hand

Zak : I am not going anywhere ,
remember it's us holding hands
through this

Me : don't get shot again
soldier

He laughs

Zak : I'll try my level best

Me : that's all I'm asking for

We can't lose him too

Right now he's all we have

I don't need my son growing up
without a father

He's already lost one

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Zakhale

Me : is everything as you
wanted ?

She smiles

Bofelo : it's beautiful , I love it

I smile

I'm just glad she's happy

At least she'll be living in a
place that she loves

I think her mother will love it
too

It looks so different

I can't even tell it's the same
house Zen lived in

My phone beeps , I take it out
and sigh

Bofelo : something wrong ?

Me : it's time for my physio

I hate that today is cut short
because of this

Me : I have to go , do I leave
you guys here or drop you off
home ?

Bofelo : uhmcan't we come
with you ?

Me : you want to come with ?

Bofelo : if that's allowed

I chuckle

Me : I'll make it be allowed

I feel like it's not about leaving
them

But this feels like support

Some kind of a , we're here
with you

Me : let's go

I pick Junior up

And we all walk out , heading to
my car

I strap him in his seat

Me : behave , and stop talking
too much

He smiles

I laugh closing the door

And I open the door for Bofelo ,
she gets in

I head over to my side and
drive out heading to the doctor

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Bofelo

We just got back from the physio

The two are taking a bath , together

I don't even want to know how that is happening , the whole picture doesn't make sense

Just as long as they won't
drown each other

I decided to call my mother

Tomorrow it's Monday , and we
have to move to the house

Me : we went to the house
today

Mom : and ?

Me : it's great , I think you'll like it

Mom : I take it you like it

Me : I do

Mom : and how's my baby getting along with his father ?

I laugh

Me : they get along great , they
have these boys talks I don't
understand

She laughs

Mom : I'm glad you agreed to
just spend time together

Me : as if I was going to refuse

Mom : you're my child , I know
you

This woman

The lack of faith in me though

But she's right

I don't think I was going to
agree to coming here

If it wasn't her saying yes when
I asked her

But I have no regrets
whatsoever

It has been a great weekend

Me : okay fine

Mom : it's okay , I'll see you
guys tomorrow

Me : alright

I drop the call

I'm glad she's coming with

It will be great just being
together , and not being
separated again

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INSERT 27

FIVE MONTHS LATER

Bofelo

I try him again , and it doesn't
go through

I heave a sigh

I can't help it , I'm worried

We haven't spoken in two days

And he was supposed to be
back in Botswana

But I can't get a hold of him

Now I have no idea if he made
it back from Mozambique or
what

We haven't seen him in three months

The last time he was home , he stayed for two months and left

It'll be useless to call Tefo

Because he's here in South Africa

I'm sure he also hasn't talked to
him anyhow

Unless maybe there's a way I
wouldn't know about

Junior crawls over

I smile just looking at how
much he's grown

He's nine months now

We're soon to close a year , in
just three months

And he started crawling last
month

Zak was so happy

But he was sad that he wasn't
around to witness it

But then , I think he's going to miss him walking

He's already started holding onto furniture and standing up

Someone will be walking soon

Me : Hlase

He giggles

My baby , he's so like those two
Khoza men

I mean , you can side eye him
and you'll see one of them

You look at him directly , and
you see another

He's just a funny baby

We've moved into the house ,
and we're settled

We haven't had any drama
from anyone

Lefa had me quit my job

He went on about how its
uncomfortable for him , to have
a shareholder as a cleaner

It was just annoying to be honest

But I got a job at Khoza Industries

The company that Zen owned alone

Zak hooked me up with a job there , as an MD

I know , nepotism

I don't deserve that job

I studied office admin

But I'm a whole Marketing
Director

Oh yes , one that's back at
school by the way

To actually study for the position that she has

As much as I didn't look down on being a cleaner

I did get Lefa's point

When dividends were sent , I was shocked at just how much I received

I understood his point

And I let things be

This one and school along with
work , have been keeping me
so busy

I pick him up , and head over to
the lounge

Me : I'll try and call daddy again

We sit down

Junior : da....dada

What the hell ?

I pop my eyes

He laughs

Me : no , ere mama (say mama)

Junior : dada ...

Me : oh baby no ...like what
kind of a child are you ? You're
supposed to say mama Junior ,
mama

I tear up

Junior : da

Ah , worst betray ever in the world

Like how can he do that ?

His first powerful words cannot be dad

Like it can't be

How can he ?

I take my phone and record a video

Me : Junior , baby ere mama
(say)

Junior : dada ...

Me : aa (no)

He laughs

Me : ere mama hle (say mom please)

Junior : papa (daddy)

This is so wrong on so many levels

He just upgraded dada to papa

Like what about me ?

Junior : papa (daddy)

Yhoh !

Is there worst pain ever than
this one ?

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Zakhale

I lay down grabbing my phone

I had to walk to the hill just for
signal

And it's been refusing for the
past two days

I'm grateful when I receive one
bar

It's better than nothing

I open my data , and her
message pops up with the
missed calls

I'm sure she's so worried

I open the video , and my heart
jumps for joy

I watch it as it plays , tears burn
my eyes

Like how much more sweet can
my boy be ?

I chuckle shaking my head

Mawakhe (his mother) , doesn't
sound very happy at all

And from being called dada , to
papa just like that

My heart is in knots of
happiness

No words can describe what
I'm feeling right now

Like after not seeing them for
months , this is what welcomes
me

I video call her , and after a
while she answers

Me : mawakhe

She smiles with glossy

Me : hey , don't cry

Bofelo : you're okay ?

Me : I am so sorry I worried you
, I just couldn't get signal for
two days . But I'm going to

Gabs , so it should be better .
I'll call everyday

Bofelo : I'm glad you're okay ,
and in health right ?

Me : yes , I'm all good . No gun
shot wounds , just a few
scratches and grazes

She smiles shaking her head

Me : I heard

Bofelo : I am not happy

Me : he will call you mama
soon , don't worry

Bofelo : you're just happy ,
because he called you first

Me : you have no idea how I'm
feeling , thank you for sending

the video . I feel like I'm missing
out on so much

Bofelo : don't beat yourself up ,
we will come take videos of
everything you're missing

I smile

Me : thank you , I appreciate
that a lot

I look at my battery , and it'll
die out soon

Me : I have to cut the call , it's
my battery . But I promise ,
tomorrow I'll call and even get
to talk to him

Bofelo : he's going to be so
ecstatic to see you

Me : I can't wait to see him

Bofelo : I'll await your call tomorrow , and I'll be home so you can call anytime

Me : why are you not going to work ? Is everything okay ?.

Bofelo : everything is fine , I have a few days off at work

I don't want to ask why

Me : okay , we'll talk tomorrow
. Give my boy a kiss , tell him
daddy loves him so much

She smiles

Bofelo : and he loves you too

I drop the call with a smile

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INSERT 28

Zakhale

Me : when are you flying back ?

Tefo : tomorrow

Me : I need a favour

Tefo : okay

Me : can you fly over with my people , I would say they come on their own . But I have a feeling they won't want to come , so please bring them

Tefo : they know ?

Me : not yet , but I'll talk to them . I wanted to make sure first , that I do get that favour

He laughs

Tefo : it's not a problem

Me : thanks man

Tefo : alright , do keep in touch
though

Me : yeah I'll do that , I'm
heading to Gabs now . I'll be

there to meet them at the
airport

Tefo : alright

Me : sure

I drop the call

Maybe she might not even
want to come here

But I miss them

And she has days off

I can't go home , I figured they
should just come and visit me

I hope she agrees

I grab my phone and call her

Just holding thumbs that she
says okay

It rings for a while , and she's
not answering

I drop the call

Slightly worrying

She's never left her phone
unattended

I heave a sigh calling again , and
on the first ring she answers

Me : you scared me

She sighs

Bofelo : Junior pulled my bag
off the bed . He threw my
phone , and now the screen is
cracked

I want to laugh

But she sounds hurt , so this
can't be good

Me : I'm sorry , we'll get you a
new phone

She sighs

Bofelo : he's going to ruin my things , he just grabs everything and anything . We even lock cupboards now , he broke my mother's cup

Can he just not ruin my thing of them coming here ?

Why are his tiny hands so busy

Me : I'm sorry mawakhe

She sighs

Bofelo : it's okay , he's growing now . I wish he stayed a baby

I laugh

Me : he's still a baby , just busy and holding on everything .
He's going to break a lot of things

Bofelo : this is not living

Me : why don't you bring him
over , and he'll spend time with
soldiers and learn some
manners

She laughs

Bofelo : you don't even want
him to be one

Me : I don't

Bofelo : and you want him to
come when ?

Me : tomorrow

Bofelo : hah !

I laugh

Me : what ? He's coming with his mother right ?

Bofelo : I wasn't asked to

Me : oh , but I am now

Bofelo : are you being for real ?

Me : yes

She can just agree

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Bofelo

Mom : will you be safe flying
with a baby ?

I laugh

Me : yes , we will be safe . And
Tefo is a qualified experienced

pilot , Zak trusts him with our lives . Don't worry , nothing will happen we'll be safe

What a trip

Out of nowhere unexpected , now we're flying out of the country

We didn't even plan this , but I just couldn't say no

Mom : okay , but call me or something as soon as you get there

I smile

Me : I will

I can't believe I'm using my days off from work

And going to Botswana

I'll probably be staying in some
BDF camp

Surrounded by soldiers and all

Jesus !

I hope that won't be that case ,
otherwise lord better give me
strength

I wanted to decline when he
asked

But for the fact that we miss
him

Figured it would be great to
just spend time with him

Even if it's just a few days

Mom : keep him safe

Someone is having attachment issues right now

Me : I will , and I made sure he got all the shots he needs

Mom : I'm going to miss him , this house is going to be so lonely without him

I laugh

How do you miss someone who ruins your things ?

I wouldn't

My mother loved her cup , like she used it daily

Replacing it won't even matter , because the cup held great

memories for her . She's had it
for quite some time

Me : we're coming back

She's in her feels right now ,
and emotions are high yes

I'm done packing

Tefo will be here in a few
minutes

This happened fast , I was told
yesterday

Today we have to leave

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Zakhale

Tefo : skwata

Me : sure

Tefo : we've landed

Me : I'm at arrivals

Tefo : okay , we're heading
your way

I drop the call

A few minutes pass

And so much for people saying
they're coming my way

When I end up being the one
noticing them

I walk over to them , as Tefo
pulls the bags

Me : hey

They turn and look at me

I lean over giving her a hug , my
boy is sleeping

I pull back , and just admire this
beautiful woman . She shyly
looks at me , and smiles

Bofelo : hi

She says with a smile , I lean
over giving her kiss

And she's taken aback by that

I don't blame her , but it was
long over due

She wraps her one arm around
me as we kiss

The wait ...was damn worth it

After a few minutes I pull out

She's stunned , there's that
shock on her face

It's just cute

I take Junior from her

The champ is sucking his thumb

I take Bofelo's hand

Me : skwata thanks man

Tefo : anytime , let me help
with the bags

We all walk out to the parking

Tefo : what happened to the
legend 50 ?

I laugh

Me : I'm not trying to impress
with that , it's done already

Tefo : sneaky you

I rented a car we will be using
while they're here

I even got a car seat

I want to accommodate them
better when they're here

He puts the bags in the car

I strap Junior in

Tefo : I will see you beautiful
people around

Bofelo smiles

Bofelo : bye

Tefo : sure skwata

I nod , and he walks away

I open the door for her and she
gets in

I walk to my side and drive out

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INSERT 29

Bofelo

I just can't catch sleep

His place is small but clean ,
way too clean it's suspicious

Can't believe a single soldier
stays here

He said he's at camp most of
the time

But he still wanted a small
place on his own

Just for space and peace

But I don't mind it

It's a kitchen and two
bedrooms

Tefo uses the other bedroom

It's not like I expected to come
here and find a mansion

He's in a foreign country

Clearly he's not here to settle

I look at Junior sleeping so
peacefully

I wish it was me

But I just can't seem to catch
sleep

My mind is running around

I'm startled by a knock at the door

Obviously it's him

Me : come in

He opens the door and walks in

Zak : hi

Me : hey

Zak : can we talk ?

No !

Zak : you're not asleep cause
you're not at rest

Me : we can talk in the morning
, I'm trying to catch sleep

He smiles

Zak : no , we gotta talk now

I heave a sigh

Zak : come so we don't wake
him up

Me : okay I'm coming

Zak : now in my room

Why his room ?

Can't we talk in the kitchen ?

Me : I need to grab a gown

Zak : it's hot in Botswana , are you cold ?

Me : no , but I'm wearing shorts

He chuckles

Zak : come as you are

Drama !

I get up and we walk out to his
room

Zak : come take a seat

Take a seat on the bed ?

I frown , but sit next to him
anyways

Zak : I missed you guys so much
, and I was damn excited seeing
you two . And the kiss

Yes the kiss that's making me
not be able to sleep right now

Me : the kiss , you were just
excited to see us . And you got

carried away , and it meant
nothing

He raises his brow

Zak : says who ?

He moves closer to me

Me : you just said you were
excited

Zak : yeah , but I didn't say I
kissed you out of excitement . I
kissed you because I wanted to

What ?

Zak : was the kiss a mistake to
you ?

Me : I didn't kiss you

He smiles

Zak : you responded

Me : because you kissed me

He tilts my chin

Zak : let's see that

He brings his face closer , just
inches away from mine

His lips brush over mine

Don't I initiate the kiss first ?

He deep chuckles

Zak : now we're even

I smile through the kiss as he
deepens the kiss

I place my hands on his arms

He has his hand on the back of
my head

I let out a slight moan

And that baby just cries

Like really !

We pull out slowly

Me : I'm sorry

Zak : mhm , let me go check on him . Don't go anywhere

He gets up , and brushes his thumb on his lips

He walks out

I heave a sigh , just wondering what this is

After a while he walks back in

And he's alone

Me : is he sleeping ?

Zak : yeah , his toy had fallen . I
don't understand why that boy
sleeps with a toy

I laugh

Me : it's not a toy , it's a Lovie

Zak : the teddy's name is Lovie
?

I smile

Me : no , the toy is a Lovie . My
boy is a lover , he doesn't want
to sleep alone . He wants to
hug something sleeping

Zak : I see , and now I want to hug someone . Spend the night in our bed , I'll move in there

I smile

Me : let's go

He takes my hand and we walk to the other room

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Zakhele

Me : good morning

She smiles

Bofelo : morning

Me : you slept well ?

She nods with a smile

Me : I see everyone is awake

I don't understand why he had
to pull me with my beard

Just so I can wake up

Kids lack peace

Bofelo : sorry he woke you up ,
he was just being fussy

Me : I'm awake now

Bofelo : sleep cut short

I chuckle

Me : I was thinking I can book
into a hotel

Bofelo : why ?

Me : I want you guys
comfortable , I know this is not
the best

Bofelo : it's home to you , we
don't care . We're just happy
we're with you

Me : really ?

Bofelo : yes , it's not about the place . It's just about being together

Me : okay

Bofelo : even if you took us to camp , we were going to be fine

I laugh

Me : I'm sure , but I wouldn't
want those guys going crazy
over my woman

She laughs

Junior : papa (daddy)

I look at him

Me : Hlase

He crawls on top of me

This boy is heavy , but he
doesn't care

Me : ungawi (don't fall)

I move my head to her chest
and lay down

But someone is quick to push
me

Me : don't be jealous like that

Junior : ah ...aa

Me : ungabi nomona (don't be
jealous)

Junior : aa (no)

And he's still pushing me

Me : I think I liked you better ,
when you didn't talk

She laughs

Me : he's abusing me

I lift my eyes looking at her

Bofelo : he's your relative not
mine

I chuckle

Me : so when he does crazy things , he's related to me

She shrugs

I have my work cut out for me

With a jealous someone who doesn't want me , on his mother's chest

Who just happens to be my
woman now

It's going to be a battle now

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INSERT 30

Bofelo

It's been a great week being
here

Thinking we have to go back in
a couple of days

I'm dreading even thinking
about that

Zak has been around with us ,
like everyday

He has Tefo holding the fort for him at work , that gave him time to be with us

We went to the BDF camp a few days ago

And it was just insane , soldier's are crazy

Like it was an experience

I never wanna be in the same
space as those people ever
again

We ended up spending our day
there

Being fussed over by them

Now Junior has more than 30
uncle's

At least he's rich

That one thing makes me
happy

Like those soldier's made my
baby rich

Whoever held him , just gave
him money

And he did tear a few notes

I was so bored , like he doesn't
know money to an extent that
he would tear it

Surely he thought it was paper

But it wasn't anything a tape
wouldn't fix

Zak called me crazy

But I fixed that money sham

We were at the salon today

And went out for a dinner date
, at some fancy restaurant

And it was just stunning

I've put Junior to bed

And I'm done taking a shower

Zak was busy on his laptop

But he walks in as I get in bed

He looks at me and smiles

I laugh

Like there's just a way he looks
at me

And it make me feel like I'm the
only woman he has his eyes for

This man really held my hand

And to this day 9 months later ,
I've never felt alone

He's right there in my heart , I
don't even know how he got
there

But he's there , and as long as
he has me

He's not going anywhere

I watch him as he takes his
clothes off

Zak : let's get married

Me : what ?

I ask with a slight laugh

Zak : I said let's get married

Okay !

We've been official for what ? A week , and we're there

Zak : I don't want to date , I'm not interested in being your boyfriend . I want this , us

forever . There's no greater gift
, I can give to our son than
loving his mother right . And
giving you two a warm home

Oh my god !

He's serious

Me : we went out for dinner ,
shouldn't you have proposed
there ? In that beautiful

romantic set to , and not in
your three room ?

We laugh

Zak : no

He walks over , and I see the
small white box in his hand

He opens it , and it's a stunning
single silver diamond ring

He takes my left hand and
slides the ring on my ring finger

Me : what a shady proposal

We laugh

Me : it's beautiful

Zak : not more than you

He leans down and we kiss

Me : I should start planning ?

Zak : yeah

He moves back and places his
platinum card on the night
stand

Zak : you have all the funds
available

Me : I need input , it's not my
wedding alone

He smiles with a chuckle

Zak : you have all of me

My mother is gonna die

He takes his watch and walks
over to his wardrobe

I'm just stunned by my ring

It's after a few sighs I turn my
gaze to him

And he's still by his wardrobe
and it's opened still , looks like
he's looking at something

Me : what's wrong ?

I get off the bed and walk over
to him

Zak : you'll think I'm crazy

Me : what ?

He crouches down and picks
out a watch

Not the one he was wearing
tonight

Me : what

He turns and looks at me

And there's an orange dot on
the watch

It's very faint

Zak : this watch

Me : what about it ?

Zak : Zen has a chip in him

Me : a chip ? Like a tracker ?

He sighs

Zak : yes , when I joined the
army . He started misbehaving ,
and was arrested one time .

When I got him out , I put that
chip in him

Me : okay , but what does this
mean ?

Zak : mawakhe , he's dead .
There's not supposed to be a
signal here

Okay !

No , no we're not doing this

I walk back to bed and sit down

Me : can we not , like please .

Right now you want to say Zen
is alive ?

Zak : I haven't used this watch
in a long time

Me : you're not answering me

Zak : because I don't know
what to think right now , either
this watch signals red or this
orange and green . Depending
on the rate of his heart

Okay !

Call me whatever , but I don't
care

I cried enough for Zen , they
buried him

And I'm leaving this
conversation here

Me : please , while still at that .
Make a decision , wether we go
on with this wedding or not . I
think I will take this ring off , in
case you change on me and I've
already been excited and told

myself I'm getting married to a man I love

Zak : no , I didn't call the wedding off . I am not doing that , please don't hurt me and take that ring off . I just need to do this , I need to find out why this is giving a signal . Because there's no way this chip could react , unless taken out of his body and put in another

Me : you're making my head
spin with all of this

He laughs

And I don't find what he just
said right now funny

Zak : please , let me make a call
. I'll come to bed , and you can
tell me exactly when should I
send my people to yours

I smile shaking my head

Zak : I love you so much , and
you don't ever have to doubt
that

Me : I love you

He walks over and pecks my
forehead , grabbing his phone

I lay back rolling my eyes

Like what a way to end what
was supposed and meant to be
a great day

What he's telling me right now
is just things from the movies

Zen is dead , and nothing will
bring him back

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Zakhale

Me : I need a favour , I can't use
the military resources . I have
Tefo , I'll use him on the side .
But I need your guys , and
people who can be trusted and
discreet

He sighs

Lefa : I can make that happen ,
why ?

I sigh

Me : the watch that's
connected to the chip on Zen ,
is flickering an orange signal

Lefa : no !

Me : this is crazy enough , but I need to make sure . My woman is already not happy with me , I proposed and now she thinks I might call things off because of this . I can't be long on this call , but gather your men for me . Because if Zen is alive out there , I have to find him

Lefa : Zak , you never do anything unless you trust your story

I don't want to give him false hope right now

Because I don't know what's what

Me : Lefa the watch is not supposed to be giving any signal , unless his heart rate is beating

I shake my head slowly

Me : can I trust on you to put your emotions aside , and we follow through with this ?

Lefa : sure

Me : thanks

Lefa : congratulations on the proposal

I chuckle

Me : let me go make up

I drop the call and walk back to
the bedroom

And she's right where I left her

Just she's laying down looking
up

I get on top of her

She opens her eyes looking at
me

Me : 3 months

Bofelo : what ?

Me : that's the time we have to
plan our wedding

She sighs

Now she has fears and I
instilled those in her

Bofelo : don't you want to

Me : no , I'm not cancelling or
postponing anything . We're
getting married , nothing
changes . I'll deal with this on

the side , and it won't affect us
anyhow

Bofelo : you promise ?

Me : my heart , is all for you . I
promise

Bofelo : I love you

Me : and I love you

I hold both her hands
intertwining our fingers

I lean down and we kiss

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INSERT 31

TWO YEARS LATER

Bofelo

Thami : can you please talk to him

Me : no , and I don't appreciate you tricking me into meeting with you . Your wife doesn't like my husband , I don't know what makes you think I have

any interest into mending their relationship . Zak is not a child , and if he wants a relationship with his mother he will fix it . I didn't break it , so I see no need to interfere . With all due respect , please don't ever contact me again . My husband will not appreciate me meeting with you like this , so please don't cause me problems in my marriage . Your wife made it clear she will never accept me ,

or my child . She wasn't at my negotiations . She didn't even bother coming to my wedding , I don't know what makes you think Zak would be interested in mending this . All the Khoza family members were there for us , they accepted their grandchild and me . Your wife couldn't do that , she has never been a mother to him

I get up grabbing my bag

I take out my purse , and place
a few R200 notes on the table

Thami : I got the bill

Me : no , I don't want it to be
said I'm sponging off your
money

I move the chair

Me : let this never happen
again

I walk out of the restaurant and
head to my Rover

My phone rings as I settle in the
car

I smile

Me : daddy

He chuckles

Zak : uphi ? (Where are you)

Me : I'm coming home , there's something I need to tell you

Zak : okay , we're having a swim here

I laugh

Me : don't drown

Junior loves water

And the fact that there's a big swimming pool at home

He just doesn't get enough of being inside the water

Zak : I love you , drive safe

Me : I love you more

He drops the call , I put my
phone down and drive off
heading home

After a while I arrive , and park
my car on the drive way

I get out , and walk inside the
house

And I hear the laughter outside

I smile heading upstairs

I change into shorts , and his t-
shirt

I put on flip flops and walk
down going outside to the pool

Junior : mama (mommy)

I laugh

Me : sawubona Hlase

He laughs just splashing water

Me : hi baby

He bites his lower lip

Me : please stay away from me

He laughs

Zak : come here

I walk over and take my flip
flops off

I sit down next to him , dipping
my feet into the pool

I lean over placing my head on
his shoulder

He places his hand behind my
back

Zak : you said you want to tell
me something

I sigh

I hope he doesn't get upset ,
and this doesn't cause conflict
between us

Me : I saw your step father

His expression is blank

Me : he asked me to intervene ,
and have you mend things with
your mother

Zak : I have no interest to do anything with those people , especially her

Me : I know that Hlase , and I told him . I'm just sorry that I met with him

Zak : thank you for being honest and telling me , I appreciate it

I smile and lean over giving him
a kiss

Me : I love you

Zak : I love you more

Me : baby take him out of the
water , so we can go in and
have lunch

Zak : what's wrong ?

I laugh

Me : I don't want to catch flu

He smiles

Zak : okay , get out we're
coming

I'm leaving them , I won't stand
cold water

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Zakhale

Me : sure

Lefa : I have something for you

Me : what ?

Lefa : we finally managed to get
a location on the tracker

Fuck !

After so long

We've been looking , and we
just kept hitting brick walls over
and over again

I even had that grave dug up

And I didn't even tell my wife
that

Me : where ?

Lefa : Maputo Mozambique

Me : we're on the next flight
out available

Lefa : I'm scared

Me : get rid of that fear , we're leaving and doing this

He sighs

Me : make sure you don't lose that location Lefa

Lefa : yeah

I drop the call

Me : fuck !

How am I going to tell her this ?

I've been busy with this matter
on my own

Not telling her anything , just
keeping everything a secret and
away from her

I walk in the bedroom , and
she's laying on the bed

With Junior sleeping on top of
her belly

Me : is that big head not heavy
on my girls ?

She laughs

Bofelo : they love this , they're always quite and peaceful when he sleeps like this . He calms them down , they love his presence

I smile

My wife is expecting twins

Now how do I break such news to her ?

I cannot afford to have
anything happen to her or our
kids

Me : mawakhe

She looks at me

And her expression changes as
stares into my eyes

Me : I have to go to
Mozambique

Bofelo : you're on leave baby

Me : it's not work

She goes quite until she heaves
a sigh

Bofelo : are you still chasing
ghosts ?

Me : I just need a week max ,
and I will be back

She sighs and hugs Junior

Bofelo : just do what you want
to do , keep your ghosts away
from me and my son

This is just a fucked up situation

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INSERT 32

Zakhale

Me : babe

She just turns and looks at me

Me : I know you're not happy ,
but I don't need you to stress

She's just giving me silence

I sit down on the bed

Me : I love you , and I love our
kids . I'm not going anywhere , I
will be back I just need a week
or even less

And she tears up

I know this is not hormones

Me : please

She sits up

Bofelo : do you want to tear our family apart ? You're busy chasing and digging ghosts of the past , bringing this whole nonsense of a mess into our lives . You want to break our

family apart , what do you think
is going to happen if Zen is alive

....

Me : I'm not doing that

Bofelo : that's exactly what
you're doing , what do you
think is going to happen when
you bring that brother of yours
you think is alive into our house
?

I hate seeing her shedding tears
like this

We've been married for a year
and 7 months

And we barely even fight or
argue

This cannot come between me
and my wife

But I have to go and get my
brother

I pull her closer and hug her

Me : I'm sorry , and I love you . I
just need you to trust me on
this , I told you I'm not going
anywhere . I'm holding your
hand through this life thing ,
we're holding hands . I'm giving

my kids the best gift ever , and loving their mother . Please , don't say I'm breaking our family . This is us , and nothing will ever break us . Not even this

She finally hugs me back

Me : I love you , I love you so much

I pull back slowly

And cup her face

Me : I won't hurt you , and I
won't allow anyone to hurt you

I wipe her tears off

I lean over giving her a kiss and
she kisses me back

I slowly push her back down
slowly , getting in between her
thighs

I pull her panty down , trailing
over to her neck sucking hard

She lifts her lower back up

I lean down trailing kisses to
her boobs , going down to her
tummy

She moans slightly , I pull my
briefs down taking them off

I part her legs getting on my
knees

She grabs on the sheets as I rub
my dick on her coochie

Opening her folds with it

I thrust against her clit

She throws her head back
moaning

I curse under my breath

Going to her open , I slide
through and take slow thrusts
with just half of my dick

She's 7 months pregnant

I really don't initiate sex that much

Because I don't want us hurting the babies

I hold her thighs as they shake against my lower body

She lifts her head and we lock eyes as an orgasm hits her

Me : I fucking love you woman !

She smiles

I move back a bit and lean over
on top of her

Making sure I don't push my
weight on top of her

Me : please forgive me

Bofelo : the kids and I need you
baby

Me : and I'm not going
anywhere

I need her to know and
understand that

She locks her legs behind my
thighs

I push through taking deep thrusts , making sure I hold myself back

She closes her eyes as I thicken inside of her shooting up my cum

I deep groan

Me : look at me

She slowly opens her eyes , her
walks closing in

And she slightly pushes me out
as she cums , locking eyes

Me : I love you and our kids

She smiles

Bofelo : we love you

I chuckle pulling out , and I
place kisses on her eyes

She laughs

Bofelo : stop being silly

Me : we're lovers and not
fighters

She giggles

I turn to the side giving her a hug

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Bofelo

Mom : you haven't been
yourself since your husband left
, what's wrong ?

I look at her handing Junior the bowl

Junior : mama ke je ? (Mommy should I eat)

Me : eya baby (yes)

He smiles

Yhoh ! My baby love's food

He sits down on the mat

Junior : tanki (thanks)

He folds his arms and says his
funny prayer

I laugh

Junior : amen

Me : amen baby

I look at my mother

Me : Zak believes his brother is
alive

She pops her eyes

Me : exactly

I shake my head

Me : I really thought we were over this , it all started in Botswana when we went to see him . Over some stupid watch , that was supposedly connected to a tracker on his brother's heart . Whatever that nonsense was

Mom : waitare you being for real ?

Me : as real as it gets , now he's gone to Mozambique . Because he and Lefa found something

Mom : but what does all this mean ?

I shrug

Mom : will he be back and take everything that belongs to him ?

Me : I don't even care , I will gladly give him back his house and shares . Along with the car , I barely even use it

I have three cars now

I bought myself a car , and recently now Zak bought me a Rover

Me : he can fire me from his company , I'll focus on school .
Get my degree and I'll find a job , but the one thing he shouldn't think he will take away from me is my son . Because that will never happen

She sighs

Me : that will never happen , he will wish he stayed a ghost

Mom : let's not think ahead , he could not be alive . And maybe he will come at peace

Me : he better come with peace , and not come here to disrupt our life

Mom : but now ...so who did they bury ?

Me : I don't know , and I don't care to know . I wonder if Zak even thought about that , but he's a soldier . Maybe he did his due diligence , unless he was just over clouded . And he's just excited about the possibility of his brother being alive

Mom : this doesn't make sense

Me : I just hope they're not going to cause me drama with

this , I don't even care about
this fancy life and the money .
We will move back home if
that's the case , I just don't
want their drama near me

Zak tried to make sure he
leaves with us being okay

But I won't lie and say I'm okay

Because I am not

How is it that he's alive ?

I just don't get it

It doesn't make sense to me

I hope someone else doesn't
come back crying

Because there's no Zen that's
alive here

I think he's gotten his hopes
way too high

For something that just might
not be

All this just seems and sounds
crazy to me

I totally got it out of my system

I went on to plan our wedding

And asked him nicely , to never
tell me about a Zen that's dead

He's dead !

And that's the peace I made
with myself

And it's clear he hasn't and
probably never will

I just hope he knows what he's doing

Because if there's no Zen , he'll be disappointed

And if I tell him , I told you so

It'll be like I'm some kind of an unsupportive wife

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INSERT 33

Zenzele

Gudu : I told you he's here

I look at him

And he doesn't look happy at
all

Me : and I told you I have no
reason to run or hide from my
brother

I heave a sigh

Me : the fact that he came here
, it means he knew I was here ,
running is pointless

Gudu : it's that fucking tracker
you have that we couldn't get
out , we better not get into
trouble . This guy is the army's
commander , he can put us in
jail for the rest of our lives . He
can fucking ruin us

Me : you did nothing wrong , in fact what you did was save me .
Stop panicking

He shakes his head

Gudu : you don't get it do you ?
We faked your death , and erased you . And we fucking replaced you with someone else , we paid officials to get away with this shit

Me : you saved me , had you
not made it to that crash I
would have died

Gudu : I swear Zen , if your
brother

The door bursts open

There's just anger on his face

I've never seen Gudu scared

But right now , he looks like
he'll piss on himself

Zak : get out

Gudu looks at me and swallows
hard walking out

Lefa closes the door

And there's just pain on his face

Me : I can explain

There's nothing I can say

Zak : I cried and mourned over
you , we buried you . So I'm
listening

I get up and pour a glass of
water

I walk back to the couch and sit down

I won't even ask them to sit down

Me : I had gone to Lefa's house to drop mom off , I found Bofelo there . And mom and his mother were mean to her , I tried standing up for her . But

you know how they are , and they made comments about her being pregnant . A part of me was happy , but another was like it wasn't mine .

Because if it was mine , she would have been showing at five months . As always we got into it with mom , and I told her not to call me to pick her up . I left and switched my phone off , so she doesn't reach me when she calls . I went to a bar , and

had just a few beers . I wasn't drunk , that much I'm sure about . I wanted Bofelo's number , so I can apologize and ask about the pregnancy . So I wanted to call Lefa and asked him for her number , but as I switched my phone on I saw your missed calls and the money you sent . I called you instead , the robot was red of course I had stopped . But as the robot opened and went

green , I drove through . And that's when a car from my side came to me , it all happened so fast I couldn't even sway my car . It rolled over quite a few times , until it hit what I believed was a rock . I could hear my phone ringing in the midst of all that , I don't know how I caught it or how I got out of the car . That's when I could talk to you , but the car caught fire and I lost consciousness there

I take a deep breath

I lift my eyes looking at Lefa
and he's sitting down on the
floor

With his head buried on his
knees

Me : I was told I wasn't dead
when I was taken from the

scene , they took me to the hospital . I was in a coma , the guys heard about it and they headed to the hospital . They bribed the doctor who was attending me , so he could tell them what was happening . The doctors were not hopeful that I was going to live , when they wanted to take me they refused because the guys weren't family . Gudu trusted this doctor from here , and he

had hope that he would help me . Unlike the doctor there , who had given up that I would wake up and live . So that night , they stole me from the hospital and replaced me with a body of some guy who died . That's how it was said I'm dead

Zak : I'm not stupid Zen , I know you . I saw your body in that morgue , and in the casket

I sigh

Zen : I really can't answer for things I don't know , I also don't know how they managed to change the facial of a dead guy to look like me . And they shipped me out of the country

Zak : what you're telling me right now is bullshit

He's angry , and I feel like he even wants to beat the hell out of me

Me : we weren't pulling any score , I wasn't trying to run away from anything . I swear , I didn't plan all of this

Zak : then why didn't you come back home ? For a whole

fucking two years , don't you
know where home is ?

Tears burn my eyes

Me : I was in a coma for a
whole year Zak , I woke up and
I didn't know who I was . I
didn't know nor remember
anything , and it took 9 months
to recover the memory loss

I let out a sob

As I replay the whole scene of
when I came out of a coma

Me : they put up pictures of
you guys in here , and pictures
of us together . They did
everything they could to help
me remember , but still I
couldn't . I've been on my feet
fully for less than a month , and
I had to think of a plan . Of how

I'm going to get out of this mess , without involving them . They would go to jail , for faking my death and bribing the doctors as well as the coroner .

I look at them

Me : I am sorry , I wish I could take it all back . But I had no idea of what was happening , and I didn't know

Zak : nonsense ! All this shit they did , they could have done it without putting us through shit thinking we lost you . Having us bury a fucking stranger , they're your criminal friends . And they just don't know how to abide and follow the law , all this shit you're telling me right now there was absolutely no need for it . We could have flown this doctor

there , and he would have worked on you . He could have saved you still , what was the need for all this ? The lying and scheming , like it was something planned

I sigh

He's angry right now and he won't hear anything from me

Zak : they had two years , two fucking years to contact us and inform us that you're alive and what's happening . But no , they kept you here like some kind of a fugitive

I can't be held responsible for how other people think

Or how they do things

Me : I was out of it , and I had no control over anything that was happening . I lost myself , and

I wipe my tears off

Me : Zak I would never hurt you deliberately , I could do this shit to anyone but not you

I get up

Me : Lefa boy

I walk past Zak and crouch
down next to him

I place my hands on his arms

Me : I'm so sorry

Words fail me as I hear his cries

Zak : they shouldn't have taken
you

I won't advocate for anyone ,
because it'll be like I agree with
what they did

Like I applaud them

The only thing I'm grateful for ,
is that I'm alive

Me : I wished death every single night laying on that bed , not knowing who I am . Not knowing my name , or where I come from . Or where I was

I heave a sigh

Me : they heard you were in the country as soon as you got to Maputo

I turn and look at him

Me : and they wanted me to
run because they're scared ,
but I stayed . Because I want to
go back home Zak , I want my
life back

I break down

It hurts so bad

When he's like this I know he
won't hear anything

And he won't understand
anything

It's useless even trying to
explain to him

And he will leave this matter at
that

From hereon , I know he won't
push it

Because he doesn't care to
actually hear any explanation ,
and for it to make sense to him

I don't blame

I know the situation is fucked
up , I can't dispute that

And I also know a lot of
cleaning up has to be done

To fix this shit of a mess

And to get me back on the
system of the living

It could even be a case

That's how fucked up it is

Because a man was buried in
my absence as me

They'll want to know who is
that man

And how he died

I know he's angry worse
thinking about all of these
scenarios that could happen

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INSERT 34

Zakhale

Lefa : he doesn't look good

I side eye him

And he looks like he's lost or
confused

Like maybe he's never seen this
place before

Me : let's go , I broke rules to
have you into this country

He says nothing but picks his
pace

We head over to the parking lot
and get into the car

Lefa drives

Me : I need to fix this mess , so
while I do that you need to stay
put

Zen : okay

He says with a nod

Me : and you'll go to my house
right now , you'll stay there
until I say otherwise

He nods again

Hes just looking outside the
window

After a while Lefa parks at my
house

Me : you'll be alone here , I
can't even have MaZodwa
knowing you're back here and
alive

Lefa : guys I should leave

Me : thanks for this , and for
not giving up . He could have
saved us a lot of energy , for
the two years we were busy

looking for him with fail . But
we're here now

Zen looks down

Lefa : it's alright , we'll talk

He gets out of the car

And I see a car parking by my
gate

I guess that's his ride to his place

Me : go in , I need to leave . I left my wife and kids , to go running after you . I should go to my family right now , I'll come see you tomorrow

Zen : you're married ?

Me : yes to Bofelo , and you ...

Zen : you married her ?

His facial expression has
changed

And his tone is just off

Me : I did , now you'll do me a
favour and not disrupt my life
with her and our kids

Zen : kids ?

I don't get what has him hurt
right now

Me : there's Junior , the baby
you purposely put inside of her
. Then you went on to fake your
death

Zen : I did not

Me : fuck off , I told you everything you told me . Was just utter nonsense , but we're here now . And you're going to fucking stay away from my family with drama

Zen : how could you marry her though ?

Me : don't come here , playing the jealous victim . She was nothing of yours , you were not

together . You didn't love each other , you were not crushes . Just a one night , you're having no feels towards my wife . I did what you asked , and I took care of your son . So don't come at me like you're all righteous , and I did you wrong

He sighs looking down

Me : go in the house Zen

Zen : can I see my son ?

Me : my wife is heavily pregnant , do you think she wants to see you ?

Zen : my son

Me : hey ! Tomorrow is yet another day , and you'll see Junior if his mother permits it

I look at him

Me : people cried for you , we went through pain and shit .
And we had no choice , but to be subjected to therapy . You have no idea the pain you have caused us , and right now you have to let us be . No one is going to throw a red carpet just for you , we're not over the mood over seeing you .

Because you're just a reminder
of our pain , nothing else

He gets out of the car and
bangs my door while at it

I shake my head with a chuckle
driving out

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Zenzele

He was not kidding

They're really married , and yes
she's pregnant

There's pictures in his house

Or should I say their house ?

From when Junior was born

To when they got married

And the new pregnancy

It hurts to be honest

Maybe if what happened didn't
happen

This would be me and her and
our son

But my brother has taken that
from me

He's been a father to my son

He knows him and not me

I feel robbed

I feel robbed of having this life

I haven't been able to fall
asleep

Maybe I should have gone to a
hotel or something

Because being in this house it's
just painful

And just a reminder of what I
could have had

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Zakhale

I walk into his room and he's
awake

I smile and lean down giving
him a kiss

Me : sawubona Hlase

He smiles lazily

Junior : baba (daddy)

Can only be my boy ,
addressing us with our
languages

I thought he was just going to
grow up being one confused kid

But no , he gets it . He never
speaks Zulu with his mother

I cover him up

I don't know why he's awake
this time of the night

Me : lala boy (sleep)

He just stares at me for a while
and eventually closes his eyes
after a while

I leave his light on and walk out
going to our room

I walk in , and head to the
shower

I take a quick one , just because
I had a long flight

When I'm done , I dry and put
on my briefs

I head to bed

Getting behind her , I make
sure I don't wake her up

But it's like she's already awake

Me : I'm sorry

I place a kiss on her back

Bofelo : and ?

I heave a sigh

Me : can we talk about this in
the morning ?

Bofelo : no , we're talking about
this now . Did you find him ?

She puts her light lamp on , and
sits up straight

Bofelo : is Zen alive ?

Me : yes

She chuckles so bitterly

Bofelo : what did he have to say
for himself ?

Me : it's not important , we can
talk better in the morning

Bofelo : you know what ? I don't even care to know what he had to say for himself , I cried for that man . And he thought faking his death , was the way to go

Me : that's not how it happened

Bofelo : I don't want to know , can you give me your lawyers contact ?

I lift my head and look at her

My heart pounding

Me : for what ?

Bofelo : will you ?

Me : no , for what ? You're not divorcing me , that's not going to happen

Bofelo : it's fine , I'll find myself
a lawyer

She says with a smile

Me : I will contest and fight that
divorce , with everything I have
. Good luck to you

I hug her lower waist , and
place a kiss on her tummy

Me : Zen is at the house , and I
told him about us

She says nothing

Me : I love you

I know I'll get silence but it's
fine

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INSERT 35

Bofelo

Zak : here , he will see you
around 12:00

He hands me his lawyers
business card

I smile

Zak : do tell him , I'll fight both
of you . But like I said , good
luck anyways

It can only be my husband

Saying he won't give me a
divorce

Something I did not even talk
about or mention

But still go on to giving me his
lawyers number

And he's already set up a
meeting for us

Zak : he's coming here

I nod

Me : thank you

He chuckles shaking his head

And walks around the room , I
don't even see what he's doing

But he's naked , like very naked

And I'm just watching him
going around

I can't help the hot flushes as
his dick keeps moving around

One thing about this man , his
backside is very sexy

And he has such a tight firm ass

Me : baby ?

Zak : mhm

Me : please wear something

Zak : why ?

Me : why are you walking
around naked

He chuckles

Zak : I'm in our space

Me : yeah , and you're making
me uncomfortable

He smiles

Zak : what's uncomfortable
here , because you know
everything

Me : you're not a mean
husband

Zak : never

Me : then please

Zak : are you horny ?

I nod

He balances himself with my
dressing table

I burst out laughing

Zak : I see

He goes on to stroke his dick

Me : uh

I move the sheets off of me

I take my panty off

My girls hate clothes

Like when I'm in my room I'm
barely in clothes

Even Junior is used to seeing
me with a panty and just bra in
here

So I sleep with just a panty at
night

I move over to the side , and lift
my legs up parting my thighs

I will not be denied pleasure

Zak : shit !

What was he doing walking
around the room naked ?

Two can play this game , I love
that we're both do entitled to

each other . There's no denying
one another

Zak : are you seducing me ?

I burst out laughing

Seducing him for what ?

This man is insane

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Zakhale

I walk over , and she laughs

Me : like really ?

I lean down , rubbing my dick
on her coochie

Her flaps hugging tight on me

Bofelo : I thought we're getting
naked

She aches back

I lean down , brushing my lips
over hers

She pulls my lower lip , as I
thrust through

Given her slow deep strokes

She lets out slight moans ,
placing her hands on my arms

She goes on to fuck my dick

Locking me in with her coochie
lips and letting go

Me : fuck babywait ...

She pulls me in for a deeper
kiss

My dick thickens inside of her ,
stretching up her walls

She lets out muffled moans

And I jerk off offloading my
cum inside of her

Me : shit

She locks me back with her legs
behind my thighs

I pick up my pace going in
faster

I move my waist only , so my
weight doesn't fall on her

Me : I love you

She lifts her lower back , as her
cum graces my dick

And she throws her head back

Screaming in pleasure

Bofelo : ahhhhh

She tightens her hold on my
arms

Her body shaking a bit

I just watch her in admiration

After a while she calms down

I trail kisses from her neck
going down to her tummy

Me : Nkosazane zika baba
(daddy's princesses)

She laughs as I pull out of her

Bofelo : you just did nasty
deeds , and you go on to greet
my kids

I laugh

Me : why are you even thinking
about that ?

Bofelo : they just felt pokes

No !

This is wrong

Me : as this was our last day
having sex

Bofelo : not happening , I will
have sex until I give birth

Mhm-mhm

Does the doctor advice this ?

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Bofelo

He places a peck on my cheek

Zak : are you going to tell me
why you're meeting with him ?

I shake my head

His lawyer has arrived , and
he's waiting for me in the
lounge

I'll be charged

But I don't care , this one will
pay that bill

I head to the door and he follows me out

I laugh looking at him

Me : where are you going ?

He ignores me

Okay !

We get to the lounge and
exchange greetings with Dante

We sit down

I look at him

Me : babewhat are you
doing sitting in on my meeting
with my lawyer ?

He looks down

Its just so funny

Dante : Khoza ?

They look at each other

Zak : shut up , I pay you . Just
do what you came here to do
to

Poor Dante

Me : whatever I say to you
doesn't leave right ?

Dante : yes , you're protected
by the attorney client privilege

Me : okay , what about him ?

Dante : he can't say anything
either , if he does you're liable
to sue him

I laugh

Me : you hear that babe ...

He side eyes me

Me : I will sue you

He puts his hands over his head

Loving people's matters will get
you depressed

Just look at him

I never asked him to join me

But he's here

That's why they will bill him for
this meeting and not me

I don't have money to pay
lawyers

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INSERT 36

Bofelo

Me : I accumulated some things
, from someone who was
believed to be dead . But now
he's alive , and as he's back I
want to give him back his things

The eye Zak is giving me

But he should give it rest

Me : you want to say
something ?

I look at him

And he just shakes his head

I guess he doesn't want to say
what's on his mind

But I did say this to him

Even though I didn't say it per se , but I did say if Zen is alive he can take his things

Now that Zen is back , I want nothing from him

He should take his things

Dante : things like ?

Me : property , shares in a company. A car and a house

Dante : and is the person fighting ?

Me : no one is fighting anyone here , I just want to give them back because he's alive

Dante : well I see

Me : well I want to hear that
you can do that

Dante : of course

I smile , I want nothing tying me
to his assets

Me : thank you

Dante : I will need all the legal
documents that you signed

Me : just the transfer of shares ,
and the deed of the house . The
car he can just take

Dante : it won't be hard , we're
just making a reverse

That's better

Me : okay thank you

I will hand over what he needs

And hopefully this will be done
soon

Me : charge the bill to him

Dante smiles

Zak : did I call lawyers ?

Me : yeah , and you were
sitting in on the meeting

He shakes his head holding my
hand

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Zakhele

Bofelo : why are you sulking ?

I shake my head

She slightly laughs

She runs her hand through my
hair

Dante is gone

And I guess their meeting was
that fruitful for her

I don't support this whole
giving Zen his things

But it is what it is

She gave him the transfer of
shares and the deed of the
house

Bofelo : did you really think I
was going to divorce you ?

I heave a sigh

Me : you said I'm breaking our family chasing ghosts

Bofelo : I just figured if you're for us , then we'll deal with whatever drama your brother may bring . Please try putting yourself in my shoes when I said that

I brush her belly

Me : I will never let anything come between us , not even Zen . But I also couldn't stay knowing my brother might be alive , and I do nothing about that

Bofelo : I understand

Me : we're okay right ?

She goes quite

I lift my head looking at her

Me : what's wrong ?

Bofelo : nothing is wrong

Me : are you sure ?

Bofelo : yeah , Junior knows you as his father . Now there's Zen , I just hate all of this . Do you know why I gave him , his assets back ?

Me : indulge me mawakhe

Bofelo : because you're my husband , you're that boy's father . And it would be very

awkward for me , to keep
assets of another man . He's
alive now , and it's not that
easy . I gave them back ,
because I don't care . And I
know you will take care of
Junior

I smile

Me : that means so much to me
, I didn't even think about it
that way . But we're not going

to keep the truth away from
him , either way I'm still his
father . That boy is my DNA

She holds my hand

Me : I love you

She giggles , and my girls kick

Bofelo : sharing my spotlight

Me : let them shine , they just heard me say I love you . They think I'm talking to them

Bofelo : they love being loved

We laugh

Me : when are you moving home ?

Bofelo : home ?

Me : we're married , in
community of property . You
know you have a home right ? I
only allowed you to stay here ,
because you fixed this place for
yourself

Bofelo : and what about my
mother ? I thought maybe we
would go back home in Soweto

I chuckle

This I've never heard

Me : my number one
cheerleader goes wherever we
are , why would you go to
Soweto when you're a married
woman ?

She smiles

Bofelo : I'm jealous

I laugh

My mother in law and I get
along very well

Like I have a mother in that
woman

She doesn't say I'm just a son
in-law

I'm her child

Me : I'm a man surrounded by
woman , we and Junior are
blessed

Bofelo : true

And he just walks in without
even knocking

Junior : baba (daddy)

Me : Hlase

Junior : ulele ? (You're sleeping)

Me : yeah , buya (come)

He walks over to my side

I move over and pick him up

And he just goes on to sleep on
the tummy

This boy loves his sister's

I have no doubt he's going to
be a great brother

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Zenzele

I watch him as he walks in

Zak : come let's go

Me : where are we going ?

Zak : my wife wants to come
back , so you'll have to head to
your house

Me : why didn't you take me there ?

Zak : because she lives there with Junior , but they're coming back home . I gave her the house and your car , as well as your shares . But she's giving everything back

Me : what ?

Zak : let's go

He grabs his keys and walks to
the door

I shake my head

We walk out and head to his
car

He drives out

I can tell he's going to my house

Or rather what used to be my house

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INSERT 37

Bofelo

He walks in , and I get up and hug him

He laughs

Zak : someone missed me

Me : I didn't see you the whole day

He pulls back and we kiss

Me : I was missed too

Zak : you're always missed
when you're not next to me

Me : that's cute

Zak : I am cute

I laugh

Me : I don't know about that

Zak : don't be jealous

Me : what's going on ?

I know my husband

I can tell when there's
something with him

Zak : I was out there trying to put fires out , and trying to bring Zen back from the dead . Covering his shitty story , with his criminal friends

Me : and ?

Zak : it's not easy , there's a lot of questions . And they want to know , who we buried and all of that . So I had to cover up , making sure the doctor and the

coroner are covered . As well as those who kept him for two years

Me : I see

Zak : after they're done with investigation and all , they will put him back into the system

Me : good luck

This whole situation is just
insane for me

And the sooner we're out of
here , the better

So Zen can get back his things

Zak : he's here

Me : in the house ?

Zak : yes

I sigh

Me : I see

Zak : you're not offended ?

Me : no , it's his house

Zak : I should have told you I'll
bring him , we'll get movers so

your things can be taken home
. But we can leave today , so he
can have his place back

Me : that's fine by me

We do have clothes and
everything we need back at his
house

After all we did live in between
the two homes

Me : I just have to talk to my
mother about this

Zak : okay

Me : go shower

He frowns

Zak : am I smelling ?

I laugh

Me : don't be dramatic , you've been running around out there

Zak : okay

Me : don't sulk , I'm going to talk to my mother

I walk out going to my mother's room

I walk in and she's busy on her sewing machine

Me : woman can we please talk

She laughs

I sit down on the bed

Me : yes Zen is alive , so I've decided to give him back his

things . The house and car
along with the shares

Mom : oh ?

Me : yes , so now we have to
move to Pretoria North

Mom : finally you'll go to your
home and live with your
husband

I laugh

Me : I've been living with him

Mom : in a house that was
yours , and not your home
together

This woman !

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Zenzele

Voice : baba (daddy)

I lift my head and look at him

Damn !

I just get overwhelmed by
emotions

This is my copy , my very own
doing

A whole Zakhale and Zenzele in
one person

He just looks at me a bit
confused

I'm caught right now

I don't even know what to say

Because I didn't expect to just
see him

I can't believe I made this
person

Voice : Junior

I turn and look at her

Fuck !

She's still stunning as ever

It's like she hasn't changed a bit

Even with pregnancy , she looks beautiful

Me : hi

The little man walks over to her

Bofelo : Zenzele

Okay !

She's not happy with me

I wonder if she knows I messed
up with the pills

Or maybe she thinks I'm here
to mess up their family

Bofelo : Hlase , go upstairs to
daddy

Junior : yageza ? (Is he bathing)

She smiles

Bofelo : yeah

He goes up the stairs

And I just can't take my eyes off
him

Bofelo : can we talk ?

Her voice brings me back

I sit down , and she comes over
and sits down

Me : I'm very sorry

Bofelo : right

She says with a nod

Me : if I can undo everything back I would , maybe if I didn't leave you at Lefa's house . Or maybe left with you , what happened wouldn't have happened . We would have gotten to raise him together

Bofelo : please , I am married to your brother . Don't make that awkward , we're willing with Hlase to make a way to raise him the three of us

That hurts

It really hurts

My brother has what could
have been mine

And now there's two more
coming

Bofelo : but don't think you'll take my son away , or pull him from us . That will not happen , we're not fighting but talking . But I'm telling you now , I'll bring hell down . So please , come with peace . I'm actually not interested in knowing anything , because I cried for you . And it took my son being here , for me to break out of that shit . Because he needed someone , you dying didn't

mean his life had to die with
yours . I grew a thick skin for his
sake , so now I'm over it all

Wow !

Even if I were to dream

I don't stand a chance here

Not with her , not ever !

Bofelo : I have signed over your things , the shares and house . I've sent a resignation letter to your company , I was working there as an MD . And you can have your car back

Me : you don't have to give me back any of those things , my brother did good giving them to you

Bofelo : no , it's for my peace

Me : for our sons sake , keep
the shares . I could use the car
and the house

She smiles

Bofelo : no , take them

Me : hell , just take them as a
gift for pushing his big head out

We laugh

Bofelo : I won't lie , I loved
holding onto them

Me : please do keep them , and
maybe when he's older and you
don't want them you can give
them to him

Bofelo : we don't play with kids
with money

I chuckle

Me : and you don't have to quit your job

Bofelo : I don't even qualify for it , my husband gave it to me . I'm damn good , but I'm at school now studying for it now . So maybe leaving is the better option

Me : you'll have your job when
you come back

Bofelo : level's in the Khoza
home

We laugh

Voice : and you're not killing
each other

He comes over with Junior

He sits down and puts him on his lap

Me : why would we be killing each other ?

Zak : she doesn't like you very much right now

I figured

Bofelo : I don't know how you two find this family dynamic normal , my husband's twin brother is my baby daddy

Mhm-mhm

Zak : I never wanna be called a step father or uncle , honestly I will kill someone

Who wants to be called uncle ,
when we're basically the same
and the one person

Junior : baba , ufana nawe
(daddy he looks like you)

We laugh

Zak : ufana nathi (he looks like
us)

Junior : nathi ? (Us)

Zak : yeah

Junior : mhm , ubani ? (Who is he)

And now comes the big question

Zak : ubabakho (he's your father)

Wow !

I look at Bofelo and she's
smiling

Maybe I should be grateful ,
that I'll be in his life

And be his father

That he'll know me as his father

That he won't be kept away
from me

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INSERT 38

A MONTH LATER

Bofelo

Zakhale : I think this is all it

I smile

Me : thank you daddy , and
Hlase for packing our bags

They laugh

My two men have been busy

The doctor advised us that at 8
months

Anything is possible to happen

It's twins , they might come
early

So we're preparing ourselves
now

Because we don't know what
might happen

Junior : baba cedile ? (Daddy
are we done)

Zakhale : yebo boy (yes)

Junior : tsamaya mama (I'm
leaving mommy)

I laugh

It wouldn't be him

He would rather be in the pool

Or in the kitchen eating

Not sitting here and packing
small pink clothes

He was just doing us a favour

Me : okay baby

He walks over and brushes my
tummy giving the sister's a kiss

Me : oh my boy

This one is a lover no lies

He walks out

Zakhale : Mawakhe what's
wrong ?

Me : I didn't say anything is
wrong Hlase

Zakhale : I know , but I know
you

I sigh

Zakhale : talk to me

Zen has been back for a month

The headlines that he made

But all thanks to having Zak as a
brother

Because he cleaned up , and
made sure they don't blow
things out of proportion for his
brother

I think we're slowly getting
back our lives

Slowly but surely

But I won't lie and say I'm not
restless

Me : your brother is back , he's
spending time with Junior . I'll
be honest that , I don't like the
fact that you're going to leave

He smiles

Me : honestly I want you next to me and our kids

Zakhale : the only way I can be back is if I leave the army

Me : you love your job

Zakhale : yes , but I love my family more . And I do get where you're coming from ,

there's uncertainties . So I
understand

I'm glad he get that

I don't even want Zen to wake
up one day

And think out of the box

I want Zak here

Zakhale : I will leave

Me : baby

Zakhale : no , if they can't
station me back in the country .
Then the only option , is that I
come back

Me : I don't want you to leave
your job , and come back home
to be miserable

He laughs

Zakhale : miserable ? Never , I'll fund you to start a Marketing company . And I'll be a stay at home dad

No !

I burst out laughing

That Junior even walks back in

I'm guessing he was in his room
and not far

He heard the noise

Zakhale : hawu ndoda ! Just
hearing noise , you come
running in here . Nothing is
happening to your mother , you
don't trust me with her

He's just looking at me with a
frown

He's like Zen when he wakes up

Me : hi baby

He smiles

I wipe my tears off

Me : buya (come)

I pick him up , and sit him on my lap

Me : no , we didn't speak about starting any company or having you as a stay at home dad

Zakhale : I could use the break mawakhe , just think about it

Me : are you being for real , or
it's just a bad joke

Zakhale : no , I'm being serious

Wow !

Zakhale : but we'll talk about it
some more right ?

Me : yeah , I think we can do
that

Zakhale : alright , I'll call them
at the office and hear what
they say

I nod with a smile

Junior is gawking at me

Even now my son still doesn't
get why I cry when I laugh

He just looks at me funny , like
something is wrong

But I know he cares

Like I believe that , when God
gives you a son

He's merely saying , now you're
ready to be given pure love

Because this is it

This little human being is the most caring person ever , and he cares so effortlessly

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Zenzele

I am so thankful to my brother

For everything that he has done
for me

Despite the hardships we went through

With the police wanting to open a case and all

I've always hated him being in the military

But this time around it worked for us

He pulled strings and did
everything he can to make sure
the situation doesn't escalate

And he did it

Now I'm fully back on the
system

I can now do things I want to
do

Without having the fear that
computers will kick me out

And they'll say I'm dead

He brought back all of the
money that was with him

I only asked he keeps the one
he used investing for Junior

Life hasn't been that bad to be honest

Everyone who was involved in this , is safe

And I have my life back

Right now I'm just trying to pick up pieces

My mother fainted
“apparently” when she heard
that I was alive

I’ve never seen nor spoken to
her

I swear , that woman will never
love us

Like she just can’t help herself

One thing I'm happy about

Is the fact that I get to see my
son

I get to spend time with him as
much as I want

I'm so grateful for this chance
of being in his life

I'm just making up for lost time

Two years is a lot of time , time
that I lost

Compared to the month that
I've had with him

I won't lie because it hurts

It hurts seeing my mother
having this family

Something I so believe if shit
hadn't happened

It would have been mine

But I'm trying by all means

To just accept , Bofelo and I
were never in a relationship

And maybe we were never ever
going to be

So that ship , maybe doesn't
even exist

I get out of my car

And I spot a car I don't know

I hope they don't have visitors

I just hate being in the
presence of people as of late

Some people what happened is
still on their mouths

And they still talk when they
see me

I knock and the door opens

My eyes dart to the dark
beauty next to Bofelo

Me : mhm , hi

Bofelo laughs

Her : hi

Me : do I know you ?

Her : no

Me : but how ? I mean , you
look familiar

Her : oh yeah , I work at your company . Or her company now , I'm the new receptionist . But in your times , I was a cleaner

Me : in my times , like are you mocking me ?

Her : never

Me : coffee , drinks or dinner ?

Bofelo : you're seriously asking
my friend out , on my door step
?

Me : mawakhe , she's leaving
clearly . I'll never get this
chance again

Bofelo : dine her , like wine and
dine her . Stop with your shady
coffee dates , like what's that

even ? Have you lost your
touch in death ?

I smile

Me : it's a date then , can I have
your number ?

She looks at Bofelo , like she's
looking for some approval

Me : don't stand in my way

They laugh

Bofelo : you're ungrateful , I
just spoke on your behalf right
now

Me : the number then

Bofelo : yhoh Mpumi , sort your
ghost date out

She turns right there and walks
back in the house

Finally , I get the name

Mpumi : use it wisely

I smile handing her my phone

Me : I intend to

She puts her number in

Me : thank you , I'll call you

She dashes me a smile

Mpumi : mhm , bye

I move out of the way , making
way for her

I stand by and watch her as she
walks to her car

Until she drives out

Voice : wavuka umalambane

And they burst out laughing as I
walk in

Me : you two behave like kids

Bofelo : you have a liver sham

Me : mxm ! How are my girls ?

Bofelo : ready to come

Zakhale : you owe them shopping , since you're about to tap now . We might not have access to your money

What the hell ?

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INSERT 39

Bofelo

Me : I don't know , it just feels somehow like relief . If Zen is out there dating , it's the best thing ever

He laughs

He mustn't get me anyhow

Just as long as his brother is
moving on with his life

Trust me , we will all move and
in peace

Zakhale : and you don't mind
him being with your friend ?

Me : no , Mpumi might just be what Zen needs . Like I have no reason to mind at all

Zak : and what is that ?

Me : a good woman to tie him down

Zak : whoa ! Do you see them getting married already ?

Me : it's there , written in the stars I tell you . I hope Mpumi agrees , and the date goes well

Zak : mhm , match making

Me : Zen needs a woman , it'll put his mind in the right places . And I don't mind Mpumi , because I know her

He smiles and walks over

Zak : and what about what I
said ?

Me : can I really hold a
company ?

Zak : you can , I know that you
can

Me : but I fear if you leave your
job , you'll be bored

Zak : I won't

Me : baby , I don't want you
resenting me or not liking your
time with the kids anymore .
Because you're home watching
them

Zak : well , I was actually
looking into buying a car
dealership

Me : what ?

Zak : yeah , just a thought . Of course , I'll look into it once we have spoken about it and reached an agreement .
Together me and you

Me : I thought business wasn't your thing

Zak : still isn't , but I'll just have people do all the work . And I also rely on you , to handle most of it

I hear my husband right now

But this man , knows nothing but just being a soldier

And if he stops , I swear he will not be happy

And I don't want a grumpy
moody husband

Just because I was selfish and
wanted him home

No ways

This won't work

He won't even be managing the dealership himself , people will be doing the job for him

Exactly what will he be doing ?

Cause it sounds like nothing

Me : baby please ask for an exchange or whatever

Zak : what ?

I laugh

Me : like I don't know , have a
solder from this side go there .
And they keep you here

He's stationed at the borders
of Lesotho right now

I can see this is what he knows
and loves

I would really be selfish if I take it away from him

So maybe he's better being closer to home

Zak : but I just came with a business idea

I laugh

Me : yes you did , but let's
exhaust all our options first
before we say quit

Zak : I see what you're doing ,
and thank you

Who wants a grumpy husband
?

Definitely not me

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Zenzele

Mpumi : okay , that sounds
hectic

I smile

Me : it is , what it is

I just told her my risen from the
dead story

Mpumi : but you got your life back , you should be grateful for that

I let out a slight chuckle

Me : I am , just that things between my brother and I are somehow . And before all this shit , we used to be tight

Mpumi : maybe it's just not
easy on him , I can only imagine
how it must be

Me : it's not that , he just
doesn't trust me . He thinks all
of what I said , is lies

She smiles

Mpumi : is it ?

Me : no , I mean my story
somehow maybe doesn't add
up . But I was out of it , how am
I supposed to know how the
guys got to do what they did .
They just told me what they
told me , and I didn't question
them much

Mpumi : give him time

Me : I hope that works

Mpumi : it'll work just fine

Me : thank you for this date ,
and hearing me out

I take her hand into mine

Mpumi : it was a beautiful night
, I don't even remember the
last time I was on a date with
anyone

I chuckle

Me : don't kid me like that , a beautiful woman like yourself

Mpumi : either the men are blind , or something is wrong with you

We laugh

Me : nothing is absolutely wrong with me , trust that

Our waiter walks over , I settle the bill

Me : keen for a night cap ?

She smiles

Mpumi : not like I have anything better to do

Me : great then

I guess this date didn't go as
bad

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Zakhale

Tefo : like really ?

Me : yeah

Tefo : I can't believe they
granted you that request

I laugh

Me : don't worry skwata , I'll
still see you . It's not like I'm
parting ways

Tefo : yeah well , all the best
with the family

Me : thanks man

Tefo : and I appreciate you
letting me know

Me : I wouldn't just disappear
without a word , I know you
would go insane

He laughs

Tefo : you're a family man , I
understand what takes priority

Me : yeah

She walks in with Junior in hand

Me : we will talk man

Tefo : alright

I drop the call

Junior : baba (daddy)

Me : woza (come)

I hold my hand out

He walks over , I pick him up
and place him on my lap

Me : uright ? (Are you alright)

He nods , and sucks his thumb
laying his head on my chest

Me : mawakhe , is he okay ?

Bofelo : yeah , he wants to play
with my mother's cloths

I laugh

Bofelo : those cloths are very expensive , Ankara doesn't come cheap

Me : sorry

Bofelo : he must get over himself , how did it go ?

Me : they'll station me here

She smiles

Bofelo : baby you're going to be home with us ?

I nod

The emotion on her face is just priceless

Bofelo : thank you so much , myself with three kids

She shakes her head

Bofelo : I just wouldn't

Me : you also have school
mawakhe , I need to be home
with my family . It can't be
everyday yes , but I'll never be
away from home for a whole
week . Unless there's a crisis ,
but I'll be here

Bofelo : thank you

She walks over and sits down
next to me , laying her head on
my shoulder

My two or should I say four
clingy people

But I wouldn't be me without
them

This family means everything to
me

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INSERT 40

Zenzele

I place the breakfast tray on the
night stand

I sit down on the bed

Me : good morning

I caress her cheek

She slowly opens her eyes with
a smile

Me : hey

Mpumi : morning

Me : it's a good one

We laugh

Me : you slept well ?

Mpumi : yeah

Me : I also did , thank you for
spending the night

I think like , for the first time
ever in my life

I had a woman in my bed

And I didn't even touch her

We got back to my house last
night

Had a bottle of wine and just
slept

I cuddled her into my arms the whole night

And not once did I even initiate intimacy

Like that was a first

Me : I made breakfast

Mpumi : is it edible ?

I laugh

Me : very much so

Mpumi : can I shower quickly ,
just to wake up fully ?

Me : yeah

Mpumi : okay

I lean over and place a kiss on
her cheek

She smiles getting off the bed

And goes to the bathroom

I make the bed and get her my
briefs and t-shirt

I place them on the bed

After a while she walks out
wrapped in a towel

Mpumi : we having breakfast in
here ?

Me : yeah , breakfast is in here

Mpumi : and we're also in here

Me : exactly

She comes and sits down next
to me

Me : you're so beautiful

Mpumi : don't be silly

Me : I am serious , I've never
been a relationship guy . But
right now , I think I want to try
this

Mpumi : try what ?

I hold her hand

Me : a relationship with you

Mpumi : really ?

Me : yeah , I know things might
be somehow . Considering that
you and Bofelo are friends , but

....

I sigh

Me : Junior is mine biologically

I don't want lies

Me : if we're to have a
relationship , I want everything
out there

Mpumi : I know

Me : you know ?

Mpumi : yeah , when we
thought you died . She told me
, she told me you were the
father

Me : wow , okay !

Mpumi : but , I also appreciate
you being honest

Me : I don't want lies and secrets

She smiles

Mpumi : that's great , I also wouldn't want to find things after starting a relationship . I appreciate this truth

Me : are you saying , you're handing me a chance ?

Mpumi : if Bofelo won't find things awkward , that I'm with you

I chuckle

Me : there was never love there , maybe I had hopes at some point . But she has never

looked at me anyhow , and now she's happily married to my brother . She's my sister in-law , she's not even my baby mama

She laughs

Me : Junior is theirs , I'm just the second father . Because he's my blood , and I'll never desert him . The same goes for the girls that are coming , I'll also be a second father to them

. I doubt , Bofelo would find anything awkward . She will only have a problem with me , if I dare use or hurt you

Mpumi : it's not about asking for permission or whatever , but please let me talk to her

Me : by all means

She smiles and leans over

I place my hand on her waist

She brings her face inches away
to mine

I capture her lips into mine

And we kiss

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Bofelo

Me : what ?

I look at her and laugh

Me : are you being for real ?

Mpumi : come on

Me : baby !

I call him out

Mpumi : oh please don't

He walks in

Zak : mawakhe

Me : your brother is dating

He frowns

Zak : dating who ?

Me : Junior's aunt

He chuckles

Zak : you're really brave

Me : no , that's good for him .

He just shouldn't hurt her

Zak : when has ever Zen dated
?

Me : he is now

Zak : does he even know how
to do that ?

Me : well , Mpumi will keep you
in the loop

I look at her

She has her head bowed down

It's so funny

She looks like a 5 year old being
caught stealing sugar

He laughs shaking his head
going out

Mpumi : like really though ?

Me : you were just funny asking me if it's okay to date him

Mpumi : I don't want to offend you friend

Me : don't be silly

I have no business whatsoever with Zen , and who he dates has nothing to do with me

Even if it's my best friend

The fact that we have Junior , it
doesn't mean we're tied to
each other

We're not together

And we have no say
whatsoever about each other's
lives

Who the other one dates , has
nothing to do with the other
one

So I don't mind at all

After all Mpumi is just my
friend

I'm married to his twin brother
, now that's crazy

But he respects my marriage

And he understands that I'm
for his brother

That's never going to change
not now and not ever

So I won't stand in his way of
finding happiness

Me : I'm happy for you

She smiles

Me : so please , if you're giving this a chance . Then by all means do it with your whole heart , don't hold anything back . Don't lose your chance of love , thinking about me . I couldn't be bothered , Zen deserves love and so do you

She sighs , and it's a sigh of relief

I laugh

Me : you're dramatic

Mpumi : no , now I can be with him in peace . Knowing that you're okay

Me : you didn't even need to worry about me in the first place , but I appreciate you considering me

I hold her hand

I'm really happy for my friend , I hope Zen's intentions are true about her . That's all

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INSERT 41

Bofelo

Such a beautiful and amazing
day

We're just here having a good
time

It's barbecue day

My mother went to Soweto , to
drop off orders

It's just Zen with Mpumi , and
Lefa with that Zizo

Mxm !

And well a few of their friends ,
most I don't even know . But
it's not packed

It's just a beautiful day

Me : I hope you don't feel
neglected

She laughs as we look at Zen
and Junior , they haven't left
each other's sight

Mpumi : he's great with him

Me : yeah , they have an amazing relationship

Mpumi : I think that's what makes me just fall for him more

I laugh

Me : you're a gone girl

Mpumi : too soon ?

Me : can never be too soon

We laugh

I love this for Zen and Mpumi

Me : welcome to our family
dynamic

She laughs

Me : oh shit !

I look at her

Me : don't make a fuss , don't
scream . Be normal , go and call
my husband for me . The twins
are coming

She pops her eyes

Me : now please auntie Mpumi

She gets up and rushes out , I
lean over and grab the fleece
on the other couch

I get up and tie it on my boobs

Zak walks in and he looks calm
as ever

I should be used to it now ,
even with Junior he was very
calm

Zak : really ?

Me : yeah

He takes my hand

Me : I need to change baby

Zak : okay

He carries me to our room

He takes the bags , and gets me
a clean dress

He helps me change

Me : don't leave Junior behind

Zak : okay , I've texted the
doctor

I just nod

He takes the three bags and we
walk outside

We use the kitchen door ,
heading to my Rover

It's big enough

Zak : I'll bring the seats later
mawakhe

Me : okay

I get in the car , he goes on to
get Junior

The pains just intensify

And tears stream down my face

I take my phone and call my
mother

Me : your babies are coming

Mom : are you already at the hospital ?

Me : we're going there now

Mom : okay , from here I'll come there

Me : okay bye

I drop the call

Zak finally walks over with
Junior

I wipe my tears off , I don't
want him to see me crying . He
might just cry as well

Zak straps him in his seat

He comes in to the front , he
drives out

Me : your brother better not
burn my house

He laughs holding my hand

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Zakhale

Junior : baba bafana no bani ?
(Daddy who do they look like)

I laugh

Me : nathi (us)

He smiles

Junior : no baba futhi ? (Daddy
also)

Me : yeah

He turns and looks at them

Junior : niyabathanda mina (I
love them)

My boy is a lover

Bofelo : nabo bayakuthanda
(they also love you)

He laughs getting on his to toes

He places kisses on them

Bofelo : oh Hlase !

This boy is charming my wife
with his cuteness

Bofelo : baby what are you
going to name them ?

Me : you want me to name
them ?

Bofelo : yes , they need names

I didn't think about names

Me : Inganathi and Ibanathi

She smiles

Me : you can always come up
with yours

Bofelo : no , I love Inganathi
and Ibanathi . They're beautiful

Right on top of my head

At least they don't suck

My phone rings

Me : it's Zen

She laughs

Me : yeah

Zen : are my girls there ?

Me : yeah

He sounds so excited

This labour was just 30 minutes

It wasn't the same as last time
for two hours

Zen : shit , I'm getting rid of
your guests . And I'm coming
there to see my babies

I chuckle

Me : bye

Zen : waitwho do they look like ? Me or you ?

Me : why would they even look like you ?

He laughs

Zen : Junior looks like you

Me : My DNA is stronger than yours

Zen : nonsense

He drops the call

Bofelo : you're really holding your fight as to who do they look like ?

Me : he started it

She smiles shaking her head

Bofelo : thank you so much ,
thank you for being in my life
when you did . Thank you for
loving me , making me your
wife and the mother of your
kids . I feel honoured to have
you , to be called your wife . I'm
truly blessed to have had you
holding my hand throughout
everything , without you I

probably wouldn't have been strong to have made it . I can never thank you enough , now there's two more of us to share you .

Me : and I wouldn't change anything

I lean down giving her a kiss

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THE END