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HER EVERYTHING NICE

#1

First day of registration, I have been standing in this line for 15 minutes now and my patience is slowly wearing down. I hate this process the most it's my fourth and final year doing this and I hate it as much as I did all those years ago, this is the National University for God's sake surely they can do better than this.

I feel somebody tapping me lightly on my shoulder, oh it's my turn to get the Registrar's signature and officially be registered for my final year tionally!!!

I decide to pass by the shopping complex and buy a few groceries to get me by until I get my student allowance which could be a month or two from now depending whether Mr Manpower decides to be nice or mean as usual. I smell him

before I see him "hello chubby cheeks" he says, his voice gives me chills and my clit jumps in excitement, the little hoe traitor. "Hello to you too Thabiso, I'm not chubby cheeks and why are sneaking up on me again? I told you to stop following me around"

He smiles and continues to throw goodies in my trolley, I smile knowing he'll be paying for all my groceries

yay! My money will be saved.

Thabiso is my ex, we were together for 2 years straight until he decided to be a male prostitute and stick his penis in some hoes vagina. That was my first heartbreak and I'm still on my road to recovery, you'd think he'll give me space to breathe but no he's everywhere I go begging and nagging for a second chance. I love him, I really do but I'm not ready to forgive and forget yet plus he was my first everything I feel like I should live a little, explore a few more dicks before I decide to settle with him. We were so happy and the sex, good gawd the sex was out of this world. He decides to take me to my place after paying for all my groceries packing then in his car, he does that all the time, buy me things and make decisions without asking me typical cheeseboy tendencies I guess no-one ever said "no" to him as a child, sigh!

HER EVERYTHING NICE

#2

"How long are you planing to punish me like this, I wronged you that I admit but I have changed and have grown from boy to man now. I know what I want and it's you, it has always been you chubby cheeks wame omuhle, allow me to take care of you and love you correctly this time and you won't regret it I promise sthandwa saam" he says, did I mention he's half Zulu and how sexy he sounds when he calls me "sthandwa saam"? It's the deep voice for me and the intense look he's giving me right now, I'm lost in those eyes and my heart is racing as he comes closer until his face touches mine, his kiss is intense, gentle and full of a lot of unspoken words and promises, it feels like home. A moan escapes my lips as he deepens the kiss, he lifts me and I'm pressed against the cold wall, before I know it I'm naked and on top of him on my new bed courtesy of him, he bought it for me last week because my old one was starting to make those tsiri tsiri sounds, he flips me over and pulls me to the edge of the bed and kneels on the floor my pussy is in his face and before feasting on it he blows air directly at my clit, it feels like dejavu, he did the same thing 2 years ago on the fateful night he took my virginity, he traces his tongue around my clit before taking it all in his mouth eating me out like I'm his favorite meal

I loose it and start screaming and panting, I'm close so close to coming undone and my hand is holding his head I'm literally riding his face now. I feel my orgasm building and I ride him harder and faster not giving him time to breathe if he dies he dies, it will be for a good course.

"Yeesss..." I say as I cum all over his face shaking like a broken washing machine as he continue to devour me mercilessly making my orgasm last longer.

"Who's your daddy?" He asks with a smirk on his face looking down at me as I struggle to catch my breath, moron! "Are you going to fuck me or stare at me the whole night?" I ask giving him a seductive smile, I haven't had sex in 6 months so I'm eager to get all of that glorious dick. He gently positions himself between my legs and I close my eyes in anticipation, "look at me chubby cheeks", he whispers and I oblige. I flinch a little when he penetrates me he's so big and I'm so tight it feels like he has grown bigger since the last time he was inside me, he starts moving slowly giving me long soft strokes while kissing me, the kiss is deep and raw as he ups his pace and before I know it he's fucking me harder and faster hitting that same spot over and over again causing me to scream at the top of my lungs as my secod orgasm of the day washes over me.

Three rounds and a couple of orgasms later I'm dog tired and ready to sleep the exhaustion out. It's 8pm already he's

sleeping peacefully by my side, I take a look at him this beautiful man that I love with all my heart, my everything nice mageba waka. He opens his eyes and give me that Colgate smile that make my knees go weak I have a thing for his teeth, weird I know. "I love you, but I haven't forgiven you, not yet. I feel like I gave you too much of me too soon and tied myself down to you when I should have enjoyed my varsity life. Maybe someday I'll forgive you but not now Thabiso, now I'm going to live my life and enjoy my last year as an university student go out, date other people and make mistakes and this time please accept my decision and give me space. Don't forget to leave me money for emergency contraceptives on your way out. Goodbye Thabiso."

HER EVERYTHING NICE

#3

It's been 4 weeks since my last encounter with Thabiso and I think this time around he finally got the message loud and clear because he hasn't been bothering me or following me around. I must admit I miss the attention but I'll live after all I am the one who asked for space and space I got.

I smile thinking about the first time we met, It was just a normal day on campus and my rusty antisocial freshman self was sitting alone going through my phone waiting for my next class "why are you always sitting alone looking like a lost puppy" I remember him asking.

"are you talking to me?" I asked shocked at his audacity to talk to me like I'm his friend or something, and what's with the weird accent? Is he foreigner or something?

"Do you see anyone else here besides you? Of course I'm talking to you" he said giving me that smile, yes that one that makes my knees weak.

"Why are you talking to me and what is it to you if I'm always alone?" Yes I know I can be rude sometimes and I hate it when strangers act like they know me.

"Because I'm your new boyfriend,that's why" he said winking and laughing, oh my gawd he's beautiful! That's the hoe in me getting excited and imagining scenarios in my head that could

make my parents disown me. The virgin marry in me responds " I don't need a man and you're not my type" I said and left because I didn't trust myself around this guy not at all.

I bumped into him again a week later on my way back to my place, " you are everywhere" I said rolling my eyes dramatically. "Oh you remember me? I don't remember you, who are you again?" He asked smiling, I rolled my eyes and continued walking. "My name is Thabiso by the way

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Thabiso Mziwoxolo Buthelezi. Shenge, Sokwalisa,
Phungashe, Mnyamana

kaNgqengelele!" Oh he's Zulu I thought, that explains the weird accent.

"Hello and bye shenge, I'd really love to stay and chat but I got things to do and places to go.my name is Bophelo Mosebo" I replied.

It became our routine, meeting randomly, having brief conversations until that fateful day when I almost lost my life and we became official but that's a story for another day, right now I need to hit the library and prepare for my test, sigh!

4

You have been staring at that mirror painting your face for over an hour now, come on we're going to be late Phelo" that's Thatohatsi, my best friend. She must chill perfection takes time plus I didn't want to go to this stupid party in the first place I'm doing her a favour here she must show a little appreciation.

"Ok, ok I'm done grumpy pants, what's wrong with you by the way, you have been in a bad mood all day?"

I ask concerned this is so unlike her. "It's Pheello, he's not answering his phone, I've been trying to call him all day" I roll my eyes internally.

Pheello is her boyfriend, he's married and as stingy as they come I don't understand why she wastes her time dating a married man

Who doesn't even give her enough money, if it were up to me they'd have broken up a long time ago but my dear friend here is "in love" with him. "Maybe his wife has been around so he can't call! you, forget about him and let's go and have fun, we're too young and beautiful to be stressing about men wena friend" I say trying to comfort her. "Are you sure you're going to be okay?" She asks concerned. The thing is I haven't been comfortable going out since that night 3 years ago when I almost got raped and Thabiso saved me.

It was on a Saturday after getting our very first lumpsum and my friends and I decided to throw a celebration party. I had never tasted alcohol before but that day I decided to break my drinking virginity. What was supposed to be a small party became so big because my friends invited their friends and so forth. I remember drinking so much wine I felt my head spinning and I was so close to blacking out

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that's when I decided to call it a night and stumble my way to my place and call it I night.

I didn't realise that I was being followed by this guy, next thing I know I'm being shoved and dragged down to the ground, I couldn't even scream because he had a knife on my throat or move because I was drunk and he was too heavy and strong. I didn't realise his intentions until he started unzipping my pants. I remember thinking this is it, I'm about to loose my virginity by the side of the road to a stranger, all this time I had a locked vagina thinking one day when I meet a guy and fall inlove I'll finally give him my innocence here goes that dream.

I guess I blacked out because I woke up the following day, with heavy eyes,a headache from hell and a dry throat. I then realise I was not in my own room but rather a strange place, just then I saw him, Thabiso sitting at the edge of the bed staring in

space.

"Hi, what happened" I asked confused.

He sighed in relieve and told me how he saw me at the party the previous night, and watched me leave and followed a while later because he could see I was out of it and worried about my safety. That's when he found that guy fiddling with his zipper trying to help himself with me.

"What happened to him?" I asked freaking out. " don't worry your pretty self about it, I took care of him " that's all he said that became the beginning of our relationship.

"Stop, day dreaming big head it's time to go." Seithati says interrupting my thoughts.

5

This is a beautiful house I think to myself as we make our way inside, it screams class, status and money, lots of it. I'm not even going to talk about the expensive cars we passed by at the drive way, this is the life I deserve I think to myself. now explain to me how Seithati knows such rich people? I feel a little out of place but remind myself that I am beautiful smart girl who deserves nice things.

I scan the room, it's full of expensive looking men and a lot of beautiful girls, but there's this one guy. He's seated like a model posing for magazine cover pictures, he looks like a one too, a light skinned beautiful man, not my type because I love my men dark skinned like Thabiso but boy oh boy is he hot! He spots me ogling at him and smirks, my cheeks are red with embarrassment as I move to the other side of the room to get myself a drink, I need it. See, I am a cider girl, a savanna girl to be precise, I may be a little snobbish and all but these taste buds are ghetto like that but tonight I decide to try some bubbles, I have to fit in and look the part.

"Pink champagne? Come on you can do better than that. Surely a confident girl like you with such beautiful daring eyes can handle something stronger, a whiskey maybe?" It's that moron, the light skinned hot arrogant moron I spotted earlier.

"Don't tell me what to do, I hate that" I say annoyed by his arrogant tone, but my panties are soaked and I feel goosebumps, oh my gawd I'm such a whore!

"Teboho, that's my name. Anyway did you come here alone? You have been all alone for a while now." He asks. Yah, where is Seithati? That bich disappeared on me as soon as we walked through that door!

"I came with a friend" I reply. "Also I was really enjoying my own company before you imposed yourself on me"

"Fierce, I love it, maybe I should spank that little ass and gag that smart mouth and see how fierce you'll still be after that!" He says with a grin on his face!

Bastard! My whole face is red with anger, yah neh yellowbone problems! How dare he talk to me like I'm some type of prostitute! ! By the way my ass is not little, far from it actually! Why am I turned on by his arrogance what is wrong with me?

"Sorry to disappoint you, but I'm not interested

I don't do yellowbones, I love my men dark and manly. No offense" I say walking away. He follows me to the balcony, this one is trying my patience I tell, there's a thin line between being persistent and borderline annoying!

Four glasses of champagne later I find myself laughing loudly at his jokes and flirting subtly with him, I told you I'm a low-key whore! I find out he's actual the owner of this house and 34 he doesn't go in details about what he does for a living and I let it go, he's not married yet before you judge me.

I initiate the kiss, and he responds, he's not a very good kisser but I'm drunk and horny so I look past it, he deepens the kiss and roughly grabs my ass, by deepen I mean shower me with saliva and stuff my mouth in his. Okay, we're going to have a problem if he keeps kissing me like this, I'm disappointed and turned off at this moment.

"Maybe we should take this to the bedroom" he says and I nod in agreement. Don't look at me like that, I'm a single, tipsy and very horny woman, I deserve some dick. Clothes are flying and we're exchanging saliva as soon as the bedroom door closes,

"lock door" I remind him, we don't want an audience now do we?

He doesn't waste time, he wears the condom and I lie on the bed missionary style, he has an average dick, ok I can live with that. He roughly penetrates me, ok ok slow down cowboy. one, two, three, four, five weak strokes and he roars like a wild animal and cums, just like that. How long was that? 30 seconds? You must be shitting me! What a total waste of sin! I grab my clothes angrily and put them on, leaving him passed out on the bed with condom still intact and look for Seithati. See these light skinned handsome men? They'll disappoint you my sister.

"Where have you been and what happened to you hair?"
Seithati asks.

"We have to go, I'll tell you later." I say making my way out of the house and calling a cab. I shouldn't have come here!!

6

"Okay bitch, spill" Seithati asks as soon as we get to my room. "not now" I say bored.

"You don't get to make me leave the party this early and not tell me why! Also I saw you cozying up with mr handsome. He's a great guy by the way maybe he'll help you get over Thabiso once and for all I'm rooting for you. You two make a cute couple" she says excitedly. "Don't get ahead of yourself, maybe if lasted more than 30 seconds in bed I'd consider it!" I say while removing makeup from my face.

"Biiiiitch ! Whaaaaaaat?? You already fucked him bitch you don't waste time. I'm so disappointed in him though he looks like a tiger in bed, I guess you can never judge a book by it's cover" she says. "Enough about him, I want to get some rest good night."

I'm woken up by my ringing phone, it's my dad, I smile.

"Happy birthday moketa wa papa" he says, and I can feel the love and warmth in his voice. "Thank you papa. Hake sale moketa!" I say laughing. I'm literally a size 34 now I don't fall under the category of skinny women anymore but my father didn't get the memo to him I'll always be that skinny 5year old

baby. "I don't believe you're 21 already, it feels like just yesterday when you used to be my small talkative monkey, saying you want to be a boy when you grow up because boys don't cry." He says laughing. I love this man.

My mum calls next, "papa already beat you to it" I tease. "I've made peace with it, when are you coming home or have you married yourself to some boy Roma moo?" She asks. The drama guys! I was home two weeks ago, this woman is exhausting I tell you, always bringing drama. "mama you do know that I'm a student right? I can't up and come home on a Wednesday, what about school?" I ask. Five minutes later I manage to get my mother off my back and get ready for the day.

It's been a long day of responding to birthday wishes. Daddy dearest and my big brother spoilt me with a couple of thousands, yes I'm the baby of the family and a daddy's girl through and through. Nothing from Thabiso so far, I know I asked for space and all but come one it's my birthday for crying out loud, I mean even 30 seconds Teboho called, don't ask me! where he got my numbers from I don't know either.

I decide to pass by the liquor and get myself a few savannas. Wait a minute who's Thabiso with and why is she laughing so loud, whore! He's not that funny

trust me I know this man. "Hello Thabiso" I say with so much attitude, I'm fuming. "Hi" he responds. Why is this ugly bitch sizing me up, she must try me abeg. Okay she's not ugly, she's a pretty girl actually skinny, tall, cute ass. "Who are you and why are you with my man" I ask looking her straight in the eye, I'm not afraid of anyone. "It's none of your business, I don't see a ring on his finger so as far as I'm concerned he's single. Now if you don't mind we were busy with something before you rudely interrupted us" she says. This skinny bitch, she doesn't know me let me shock her. "Sheba mona mantsho. You have lipstick on your teeth, clean that it's unappealing. He's not attracted to skinny ugly bitches for your information, also with all that attitude maybe you should direct it to scrubbing your neck properly next time you take a bath, bye!" I say, "Thabiso, let's go. He follows me trying so hard to hide his laughter as we make our way to his GTI.

"You're so sexy when you're jealous" this fool! I'm still fuming but I decide to remind him exactly who's boss incase he decides to entertain some skinny bitch again. I fiddle with his

zipper and bend over from the passenger's seat and grab his soft manhood. I start rubbing it slowly staring straight in his eyes before circling my tongue around the head. I spit on it, massaging his balls and start sucking. He's fully erect now, good, I gag on it not neglecting the balls. "Shit" he whispers under his breath and start moaning as I give him a handjob and suck his balls. He's shaking and cussing now, good!

I suck and spit and gag until he cums in my mouth, roaring and swearing, I swallow all of it. "Don't forget where home is" I say and leave him still shaking.

"We need to talk." Thabiso says barging in like he owns the place. "I'm listening. " I say, honestly I'm too tired for this, I had a very long eventful day all I want is for today to end. "This hide and seek you're playing needs to stop, I love you and I know you feel the same. I messed up in the past and I admit it, all I'm asking is for you to let me make things right or let me go because honestly this is exhausting and we can't go on like this. You don't get to use me when you're bored and discard me like a used toilet paper the next day, then turn around claim me like I'm a possession, I'm not your toy Bophelo. I am a man with feelings." He says, okay I've never seen him this serious before.

I sigh heavily, " I'm sorry. " that's all I say, honestly that's the best I can do. "I'm sorry too, for ignoring your birthday. That was petty of me and I promise I'll make it up to you my chubby cheeks." He says giving me that smile that warms my heart. "You better." I Say giving him a baby kiss before taking off my clothes and getting under the covers. It's a night for me, he hesitates a little before taking of his clothes and cuddling me straight to sleep.

Something is poking my butt, oh it's Thabiso's morning erection, I need to pee. I try to untangle myself from him but

he's holding me tightly and refuses to let me go. "Babe, I need to pee." I say and he turns me around and start kissing me. "I'm not a fan of morning breath." I tease in between kisses, "I really need to pee babe." He let's me go eventually. we spent the whole day eating and having sex, he's having me from the back now, my head pressed against the bed giving him the perfect arch and unlimited excess to my vagina, he's pumping the shit out of my my sore coochie. I can't even scream anymore I've lost my voice from all the screaming I've been doing all day, I feel another orgasm building, and start moaning and grabbing the sheets tightly, oh gawd I'm going to faint, it's too strong and it drains the little energy I have left, he releases his own load a few seconds after my orgasm ends. "If you fuck me one more time I'm going to dump you." I threaten after catching my breath and this idiot just laughs at me.

It's Saturday morning and true to his word Thabiso makes it up to me for ignoring my birthday by taking me shopping. Now this is a man after my own heart

I should husband him sometime in the future I think to myself laughing internally. Where to start, okay breakfast at wimpy first I need to charge my energy because I'm about to buy the whole mall, benefits of having a rich boyfriend. By the time I'm

done he's exhausted and so grumpy he's not talking to me, shame my poor baby. He's packing all my shopping bags in the trunk of his car when I spot Teboho walking straight to us, shit! "Hello sexy, is something wrong with your phone I have been trying to call you countless times but it doesn't go through, I wanted to take you on a date and maybe have a repeat of the other night." He says winking at me, I blocked his number by the way.

I turn around and find Thabiso standing behind me fuming, I see red. "Hee baba, uthini? Take who's woman on a date?" He asks all up in Teboho's face, hands in his pocket I think he's fighting the urge to attack Teboho. Eish! " she didn't look taken 3 weeks ago." Teboho says, he shouldn't have said that. He may be older and all that but Thabiso will moer him black blue and purple, he must not try him. "Voetsek!" My bully of a man says, Teboho hesitates and looks at me, I can't help you broer, I think to myself and avoid looking at him. "Ngithe voetsek, are you deaf?" Thabiso says and Teboho finally walks away. This is bad!

He doesn't say a word to me the whole drive back to Roma, and I don't know what to say to him either, I'm tongue tied. He drives to his place and locks the door, okay I'm officially panicking now. He has never hit me before and I never thought

of him as one of those abusive types but you never know with men. "So you're a whore now, hmmm?" He asks. "You open your thighs to every tom dick and Jerry intown now huh? You give out free pussy to random men now? Uvule icharity between your thighs?" He asks roaring. First of all it once and he didn't even last 30 seconds I say in my head. "We were not together Thabiso." I mumble. He laughs loudly, a condensing laugh, okay maybe I shouldn't have said that. "Wow. So you decided, why not paint the town red with your vagina? Must be nice." He says shaking his head. "I'm sorry" I say. Wait why am I apologising? I'm being controlled and abused here.

"On your knees, hands behind your back now!" He instructs me. Wait what? Why? I'm confused but I adhere anyway.

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"On your knees, hands behind your back now!"

He instructs me. Wait what? Why? I'm confused but I adhere anyway.

What is he going to do? Punish me like I'm some primary student? He takes all his clothes off while I watch still on my knees, my hands behind my back as instructed by my dear boyfriend here. He ties my hands firmly behind my back using his belt, oook. What in the 50 shades of grey is going on here? Surprisingly I'm calm and too quiet for my liking. His dick is in my face now, veins popping and fully erect and ready to be sucked. I roll my eyes, internally, there was absolutely no need for him to tie my hands for a blowjob you know, he loves drama this one. "Open your mouth widely for me." He instructs and like a good little girl I am, I comply. He stuffs his whole shaft in my mouth, balls deep and I start gagging. He's not waiting for me to catch my breath or blow him, he just fucks my mouth roughly holding the back of my head tightly. Tears are streaming down my cheeks, no I'm not crying it's from all the gagging and my jaws begin to hurt. He doesn't stop, he keeps stuffing my throat with his cock until he cums.

He unites my hands and orders me to undress and lie on the bed before feasting on my pussy, it feels so damn good and find myself jerking my hips trying to get more of that magic tongue. I feel my orgasm approaching and I start grabbing the sheets. No! No! Why is he stopping? "No!" I object in frustration. He ignores me, puts his clothes on leaves. Wow! Just wow!

To say I'm hurt is an understatement, I cry my horny ass to sleep. How dare he deny me an orgasm? ! He's here when I wake up the next morning, I roughly shake him ,I have things to say to him. "Wake up Thabiso

we need to talk"

"At 5 in the morning? Can't it wait?"

"No it can't! Listen, that was the first and last time you crucify me for things that happened when we were not together. I'm pretty sure you didn't spend the past 12 months abstaining,I'm pretty sure you fucking random hoes, do you see me throwing tantrums like a spoilt child about it? Exactly!" He's quite, good. Sometimes boundaries need to be set, randomly!

I having a peaceful tuesday aafternoon going through my books until Seithati interrupts me. She doesn't even knock,what is it with people walking into my room without knocking like they

pay the rent? Nxa! Wait she's crying, she never cries something must be terribly wrong. "What's wrong friend?" I ask.

"I'm pregnant. " she says in between sobs.

"With Pheello's child? Friend he's married with children. Have you told him yet? What did he say?"

"He traight up told me to have an abortion, told me that I'm a bitch trying to trap him with a child that's not even his. I think he blocked me.I thought we were inlove friend! He even refused to give me money for abortion."

I don't know what to say, I'm bad at comforting people , I never know what to say so I let her cry it all out and just keep rubbing her back.

"So are you keeping it?"I ask after calming her down.

"No. I'm terminating. But I'm broke friend, I don't have a cent." She says sadly. "I'll pay for it don't worry about it friend. As long as you're sure it's what you want." I assure her. "I'm sure friend and thank you. You are really the best I should have listened to you when you warned me about married men. Look at me now, it has truly ended in tears." She says loughing. Trust her to make a joke out of a serious situation."Do you think terminating is a good idea though? Am I making a good choice?" She asks with a converned voice. "I don't know hey, I have never been pregnant before. Again do what's best for you

my love because only you know your situation and what having an unplanned baby with a married man can mess up your life."

Three days later I'm holding her hands as she suffers through the abortion process, It's really painful to watch. Which reminds me, I don't remember taking morning after my last sex encounter with Thabiso, shit! I make a silent prayer to God to come through for me, I'll be a better human being and abstain amen.

December is my favourite time of the year because I get to spend time with my favourite people, my family especially my father who's rarely home because of work. My brother and his beautiful family also come through and I cannot wait to kiss my nephew and nieces and baby them until they start complaining, I live for those three. "Look who dediced to finally bless us with her presence." Says my dramatic mother as soon as I walk through the door. "Hello to you too mama." I say. "Where is everyone? The house is too quiet." I comment. "Your father only arrives in 4 days time, but your brother and his family will arrive tomorrow. I missed you so much the house is really lonely. I can't wait for you to graduate and come back home." She says handing me a glass of water. Eerrr! First of all as soon as I graduate I'm moving out, I love my mother to death but I can't live with her, she's so judgemental this one. She's a deputy Jesus if you know what I mean.

" I hope you're still behaving Roma mono and you're not letting any boys between your thighs." See? Deputy Jesus mode activated. My poor mother, if only she knew how fast I put it back in when it accidentally slips out during the deed, she'd have a heart attack. I'm saved from this torturous conversation

by my childhood friend Limpho walking in and attacking me with a hug. I missed her crazy ass so much. I haven't seen her in 5 months because she studies at the university of Johannesburg, we have so much catching up to do and I can't wait to hear about her whore and party shenanigans, she's free spirited and wild like that, it's like her adrenaline never runs out.

"So, where's Thabiso? " she asks as we make our way to the spazza shop to get snacks. "That one, he went home in Westcliff for the holidays, I miss him already. He wanted me to come with but knowing my parents especially my mom, she'd never allow me to visit my boyfriend's home especially all the way in Jo'burg."

"Yazi I always knew that you guys would get back together. That man loves you my friend, I'd kill to have a man dote on me like that. You know I have badluck when it comes to men." She says laughing her signature ratchet laughter and continue to fill me in on what she has been up to for the past six months. By the time she's done I've gone from shocked to traumatized. Shame my friend is living her best life she should be studying drama instead of law because she's such a character.

I get home just in time to help my mother with the cooking before she complains about how lazy I am. I really missed her, cooking while listening to the sounds of maam Mary Makeba and Yvonne chakachaka. She takes over 10 minutes praying for the food, god is probably bored and dozing off wherever he is by the time she says amen. " so who bought you that necklace you're wearing? It looks expensive. " she asks referring to the R6000 diamond necklace Thabiso surprised me with a few days ago, eish. "I hope you're not dating sugar daddy's. " she's in my business now. Who still calls blessers sugar daddies these days? "No mama, I bought with the money daddy and abuti Mpho gave me for my birthday. " lie right through my teeth. "I told your that there's absolutely no reason for him to give you such ridiculous amount of money when we can use it for more important things, they are spoiling you and I don't like it, not one bit."

That's the accountant in her talking, she's always like that with money. I think part of why I chose to study Bcom was because of her, she indirectly influenced my choice. I call it a night and retire to my bedroom and call Thabiso before falling asleep.

By the time I wake up the next morning my brother and his rascals are already here, yes I'm only waking up at 10am in summer, I'm not an early riser and my family has made peace with that. Don't give me that early bird and eating worms bullshit, I don't like worms anyways! I shower my babies with wet kisses all over their faces before attacking my brother with a hug, I missed this man. "You know one day you'll wake up at this time to an empty house and find out we have moved to another country." he says teasing. "You love me too much, you'd never leave me behind." I reply.

Wait where's the wife I search for her and find her helping my mother with breakfast, I guess her makoti mode just got activated. "Hello my favourite sister inlaw." "Haibo you have other sister inlaws I know nothing of? Or do I have sister wives?" She asks laughing. Breakfast is a joyous affair, I can't help but notice some tension between my brother and his wife though, let me tool and mind my business.

10

I wake up in the middle of the night with a parched throat, I check the clock, it's 1am. I sigh and make my way to the kitchen, my throat has no timing shame, you know I don't play with my sleep, I don't have weird problems like amnesia and shit like that. I stop in tracks as I pass my brother's bedroom, they are having a heated argument. I can't make out exactly what they are saying but I could swear I heard my brother calling her a bitch before she starts crying. Ok that's my cue to continue with my journey to hydration, marriage couple problems are non of my business anyways. I attend to my thirst and just as I turn to make my way to my room, my sister in law walks into the kitchen still crying, she freezes for a moment when she spots me but resumes her journey, she's here for a glass of water too. I'm still rooted in one spot not knowing what to do. I hate awkward situations like this plus I did mention that I'm bad at comforting people. A small part of me wants to offer her a shoulder to cry on but a big part wants to let them sort their own problems without any third person meddling, I choose the latter and walk back to my bedroom leaving her on her own.

I struggle to get any sleep after my encounter with my sister inlaw, my curiosity is eating me up, maybe I should have listened to their conversation a bit longer. It's 7am already so I decide to get out of bed, there's really no point tossing and turning asking myself questions I have no answers to, about things that don't even concern me in the first place.

I refresh and make my way to the loud chaos in the kitchen and as soon so I walk in they start clapping and cheering for me for waking up before 8am, even the rascals are in on it, little traitors! My sister is acting like everything is roses and sunshine preparing breakfast with my mother who's oblivious or maybe she's just ignoring those bags under ausi Marethabile's eyes. Our eyes meet and she gives me a weak smile, don't worry mababy I won't blow your cover, I think to myself while returning her smile and making my way to the living room to join my brother and the rascals.

Grocery shopping in December is the pits, we have been standing in this line for over 20 minutes now and I'm just glad we're only 5 people away from paying and leaving this godforsaken place. To make matters worse this guy behind me is so close I can literally feel his breath on my neck and he's pressing his crotch on my ass

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I turn around in irritation and give me the evil eye ,he backs up a little, nxa! Some people don't understand the concept of personal space I tell you. Just as we make our way out of the store, there's this guy, tall, chubby with beards, he freezes a little when he spots my sister in law and my brother but composes himself quickly and walks into the store. I see my brothers face change and he becomes tense as he exchanges looks with ausi Marethabile who looks guilty and looks away. Ok, something is going on here! My mother is still oblivious to the situation, I have concluded that she's just ignorant because seriously no one can miss the tension as we drive back home, it's so thick you can literally cut it with a knife. I busy myself with my phone texting Thabiso because haike haike I can't deal!

As soon as we get home my brother can't hide his anger anymore, he slams the door leaving us all shocked! Okay time to get my babies away from this toxic environment, I walk the rascals to my aunt's which is 5 minutes away from my home, she's always happy and eager to babysit. She's thay successful rich aunty that never got married and has no kids, the difference is just that unlike your usual rich aunties, she doesn't touch alcohol. I drop the kids and run back home because I

don't want to miss the juice, yeyiii! Don't look at me like that, I spent a sleepless night because of their drama, I deserve to know what its all about.

"Mpho! I said tell me what is going on between the two of you! Or take this disgusting behavior of yours back to your house and leave my grandchildren behind while your sort out your shit!" My mom says angrily, wait a minute did Jesus's aunt just swear? I'm sure the heavens paused for a second. "Why don't you ask your hoe of a daughter in inlaw?" Replies my brother and I exclaim in shock. Wrong move because now my mother's attention is shifted to me. " wena Bophelo what are you doing here? This is an adult conversation. Leave." I walk away slowly to my room, I leave the door widely open and prepare to eavesdrop, if my mother thinks I won't listen in on this juicy grownups problems she clearly doesn't know the kind of daughter she pushed out of her vagina!

11

"Let me enlighten you mama, my beautiful wife here decided to open her thighs for another man, on our matrimonial bed, in the same house my children live in. Are they even my children or I'm being made a fool of as usual? I wonder. 8 years of marriage and this is what she does to me? I should have listened to people when they warned me against marrying too young, i went ahead with it anyway because I loved and trusted my woman, never in my life did I ever imagine her betraying me like this. My wife is a whore mama. I paid mahali and promised to spend the rest of my life loving a whore. I am the world's biggest clown!!" Eish my brother is really hurt shame, men are really weak! I think to myself while standing by my bedroom door eavesdropping.

" That is not how you talk to the mother of your children Mpho, oa nkutloa? Not in my house and never again. I taught you to respect women , and I taught you the importance of using respectful words to get your point across no matter how angry you are. I will not tolerate my son spitting insults out of his mouth like he was raised by wolves. You know better. Your father would be so disappointed!" My mother says to my brother. " And wena why are you crying? Did anybody send you

to cheat on your husband? Honole monate akere when you were allowing another man to jump ontop of you on my son's bed, forgetting that actions have consequences? Wipe those crocodile tears and face the music. Buwa! What do you have to say for yourself?" Haibo haibo! Woman of god is spitting fire!!

" I am so sorry Mpho for betraying you in the worst possible way. I am so sorry I let my loneliness and need for attention take me to this route of betrayal. I should have communicated my feelings of loneliness to you instead of finding comfort in another man's arms. I promise you it was just one night of drunken weakness, one that I will live to regret for the rest of my life. You work for long hours and when you're home you are too tired or simply too occupied with the kids and I feel neglected, unloved and lonely most of the time. I guess that's what it means to be married to a doctor. I promise to be a better, faithful and more understanding wife if you'll let me. I love you, even more now when I'm at the verge of losing you. I understand if you decide to divorce me, after all I made my bed. But for what is worth I am really sorry." Says the family whore. No don't get me wrong I'm not picking sides, I don't love my sister inlaw any less because of all this, might look at her differently though. I'm going to give her a low five for winning

for our team, men get too comfortable and start slacking the moment they realise how much you love them, every now and then they have to be reminded that you're a bad bitch with options. My thoughts are interrupted by Thabiso call me, " hey handsome. "

"Hey babe, I miss you too much, cold showers don't do the trick anymore. "

"Ncooh my poor babe, what can I do to help?" I ask.

"I was thinking maybe wear that red sexy number for me, video call me and touch yourself for daddy." He whispers, a sexy whisper.

" give me 5 minutes." I say before dropping the call and locking the door.

Five minutes later

I've placed my phone securely on my selfie stick, my red lace number is on and I'm ready to call my man. He looks so yummy with his bare chest and briefs. "Don't you want to take off your bra for daddy? Daddy wants to feast his eyes on those beautiful pecky tits."

"Yes." I say but my voice comes out as a whisper. " I didn't hear you." He says.

"Yes daddy." I respond and start taking of my bra off, my nipples are hard and erect from my arousal.

"Fuck!" He cusses under his breath. "Twist those nipples for me. Eyes on me babe." He says and I adhere.

" touch your pussy for me baby, spread those cheeks... Fingers in your mouth,suck them for me... Yes, just like that... Good girl! Remember eyes on me... Now take them out and start rubbing that clit... Slowly,,, yes just like that... Legs apart,,, insert that finger in and show daddy how wet you are for him! Fuck babe you're so wet!" He keeps instructing and I follow all his instructions. I'm so horny it's driving me insane watching him wank his fully erect, veins popping dick for me.

"Now 2 fingers in,,,thumb on your clit... Start rubbing and fucking that pussy for me... Faster,,, yes babe,,, come for daddy! " I feel my orgasm rising, I squeeze my thighs together as the tension builds and come so hard I can barely open my eyes. I let a soft moan out and watch him cum all over his hand.

I watch him clean himself and put his briefs on. I'm still in the same spot, stark naked when his bedroom door opens and I see his mother walk in and freeze when she sees me on his laptop screen. By the time my senses come back, and I drop the call it's already too late.

Fuck Thabiso! Why was his bedroom door unlocked in the first place. Congratulate me, I am dating a dumbass!

12

My father is home, he got here 20 minutes ago and my mom has been blushing like a teenager the whole time. There has been peace in this house for the past 2 days and I guess my brother has decided to forgive and forget. I'm still not talking to Thabiso for the other day, he has been blowing up my phone like a lunatic. I leave the oldies to catch up and sneak into the kitchen to steal my mother's wines, yep, Jesus's aunt drinks wines, her brother once turned water into it afterall so it must be a family thing.

"Hello Thabiso, what do you want?"

"Comeone chubby cheeks don't be like that, I'm sorry about the other day please at least talk to me, shout at me, just don't ignore me Sthandwa sami you know that drives me crazy."

"Okay fine. What did your mother say about me?" I ask.

"Nothing really, she just apologized for not knocking and never brought the incident up again." He says.

"That's a relief, I deserve a gift for the trauma you caused me, plus a Christmas gift, and another one for leaving me all alone in this country during festive season." I say.

" ahhhh baby! This is daylight robbery but for you, I'd do anything you know that. "He replies good boy.

In other news I haven't seen my periods, I'm trying to ignore it and focus on enjoying festive season, but it's really weighing on me. It's Christmas day today and as usual in this family we wake up at 5am and prepare lunch before heading to church, yep 5am! Me included, you can imagine how grumpy I am. The church service is brief so we are home by 11am, waiting on the grandparents to show up like they do every year for lunch, my rich aunt too. "Haibo babygirl, you are glowing, if I didn't know any better I'd say there's a bun in the oven." Says my annoying grandmother, she must mind her business. Good thing nobody heard her comment because I would be in deep shit. I haven't even told Thabiso about my suspicions, I don't even want to think about this means for me, for my future. I'm not ready for a child but I guess I should have thought that when I was spreading my legs letting a guy bounce rhythmically into me.

I decided to end my sorrows and buy the pregnancy test this morning. I'm now waiting nervously on the results, probably the longest 2 minutes of my life! I grab the stick and the two lines are staring right at me, like they are mocking me. Tears are streaming down my cheeks, so this is my fate, I'm really pregnant!

They say children are gifts from God, that I understand. What I don't understand was why He saw me fit to for such a big responsibility when I barely have my shit together. Schools are reopening tomorrow and I got here yesterday, I'm anxiously waiting for my baby daddy to arrive today so I can break the news to him. The past two weeks have been so crazy, I have been a depressed nervous wreck, I had to make up lies about being ill every time my mother asked me questions about not going out and enjoying December like other kids, I literally spent new years eve in bed binge watching a series, life is not fair guys.

My phone rings, it's Seithati I miss her crazy ass but I'm not ready to socialize until I tell my baby daddy about our current dilemma and find a way forward, so I ignore her call, she'll have to forgive me. Thabiso arrives just as I'm about to take a nap and forget my problems for a while, he doesn't knock as usual some things never change. He attacks me with a tight hug and I just melt in his arms, I missed him so much, all of him. I start crying, I don't know why. Must be the hormones or the fear of what his reaction might be about this pregnancy, I've heard

scary stories about men changing completely as soon as they find out about the pregnancy.

"Ncooh, look at you being a baby and all. You missed me that much Sthandwa sami?" He asks and my soft cries turn into sobs, okay I'm being dramatic now but its whatever. You don't know how it feels being faced with a life changing situation and having no one to share it with for weeks

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I was drowning in stress so allow me to cry it all out.

"We need to talk." I say after composing myself.

"You're scaring me babe, what is wrong are you ill?" He asks panicking.

"I'm pregnant!" I just blurt it out.

"With a child?" Asks this idiot I call a boyfriend. Why me Lord? Of all the men in the world I had to fall inlove with this one!

" no! With a piglet! What the hell Thabiso of course with a child." I say annoyed and making my way to get some water but half way to my destination he grabs me by the waist and hugs me tightly.

"Thank you chubby cheeks for making me a father." He says
and I sigh in relief.

He rubs my flat belly and recites his clan praises "

Buthelezi,

Shenge,

Sokwalisa,

Mnyamana kaNgqengelele,

Phungashe,

Sondiya,

Mnandingamondi,

Wena owadliwa zindlovukazi

zamlobolela,

Nina zinyawo ezimahhele,

Enaganisa izintombi nanganye

nangambili! Ngiyabonga"

He's weird but I let him be and smile, it feels so good to have
him in my corner, I can breathe now, my black king, my

everything nice! Truly the heavens favored me when they brought him my way.

"So what now?" I ask.

"Now we go to the clinic, then I have to tell my father so they can write your family a letter and start preparing to pay for damages." Gosh I forget how traditional he can be.

"Write a letter Thabiso? From jo'burg to maseru? Come on be realistic. Also I don't understand this damages bullshit, I'm not damaged just pregnant. " I say rolling my eyes.

"Okay maybe my father will just call your father and we'll take it from there. Don't take the damages thing so literally, it's just tradition Sthandwa sami." He says laughing. Whatever! My life is about to get really complicated!

14

I'm six weeks pregnant with a baby, a whole human being with a strong heart beat. We had our first scan yesterday and for the first time I saw my man become emotional and shed a tear. It's Saturday today and my man decided to take me out for lunch at the mall, I deserve it, he must not think I've forgotten about my 3 Christmas presents, I still want them. Come to think of it he must add one more for being an asshole and getting me pregnant! So far the pregnancy is so nice to me, no morning sickness, no weird cravings or physical changes, but I guess it's still the early days.

Remember when I said Thabiso and I broke up because he decided to be a prostitute and stick his penis in some whore's vagina?

A year ago, we were having a lot of relationship problems because he wanted to control me and I refused to be controlled so we used to fight a lot about that. It became so bad that we couldn't have a conversation that ended peacefully without a fight and I could feel him slip away from me. It was horrible, you know that feeling of someone you love slipping away from you and being helpless about it. I remember we had a horrible fight, he said things and I said things but regretted them later

on. It was a Sunday and I had just had enough with all the fighting, all I wanted was peace and most importantly I wanted my babe back so I went to his house to apologize. I remember knocking but getting no response so I used my key to unlock the door, thinking I'll wait for him to come back so we could fix things. Nothing in this world could prepare me for the pain I felt when I found Thabiso and the girl fiddling to put their clothes back on, a used condom on the floor, and messy shits. I didn't cry, scream or say a word. I just turned around, closed the door and left. I guess I was paralyzed with pain and shock, but as soon as I got to my place the water works began and I cried so hard I lost my voice.

Anyway

about that whore? She's making her way to our table right now. Thabiso hasn't seen her yet because his back is against her. "Hey Mzi, long time." She says with a smirk on her face and only then does Thabiso acknowledge her presence. I see his face change from excitement to rage. Why is he angry, he's the one who gave her permission to disrespect our relationship the minute he started entertaining her and fucking her.

"Hi. I told you to never talk to me again, or was I not clear enough?" He asks sternly.

The whole time my eyes are on my phone, I don't want to get involved in their entanglement problems.

"Hao Mzi! Why so rude? Don't worry I won't bite, or are you afraid to anger the madam?" She says looking right at me. I am being tested ladies and gentlemen! I give Thabiso the "put your bitch in her place eye" and continue to ignore this girl. She's so hungry for a reaction from me but I won't give her one, not today satan!

"Katileho! I'm not interested in whatever it is you're selling right now so please go back to whatever hole you crawled out of. This desperate act of yours is unappealing really. And next time if you ever dare try to include my woman in one of your little stunts, you'll live to regret it." He says with so much authority. She leaves our table with her tale between her legs.

Oh! Her name is Katileho? I didn't need to know that, I was better off referring to her as 'that whore' because that meant I didn't have to acknowledge her existence as a living human being, but nooo! Thabiso had to ruin that for me, nxa!

"I'm so sorry for that babe. It won't happen again." Thabiso says with pleading eyes.

"Will your sorry bring back my appetite? And you're right, it won't happen again because next time I'll wipe that stupid grin off her face with a knife, I hate to be tested Thabiso. Or should I call you Mzi?" I say leaving him speechless. Good!

We are back at his place and he's busy massaging my feet, don't ask me why, I don't know either because my feet are perfectly fine but I let him be. My phone rings, shit it's my mother.

"Thabiso did you tell your father about the pregnancy yet?" I ask panicking.

"Yes yesterday, he told me he would call your father today but he hasn't gotten back to me." Shit!

"Hello mama." I answer innocently.

"Hi babygirl. Is there something you want to tell me? Something important daughters should share with their mothers first instead of strangers?" She asks mocking me, eish.

"I'm sorry mama I didn't know how tell you ." I say.

I want you in this house first thing tomorrow morning, oa nkutloa?" She says firmly.

"Eea mme." I reply defeated. I am not ready for all of this!

I got home around 9am, my mother did say first thing in the morning so I did as instructed because I don't want to annoy her anymore than I have already done by falling pregnant out of wedlock. I found the house empty and concluded that they must have left for church so I change into more comfortable clothes and fix myself a sandwich, I'll need all the energy in the world to face my parents. Never in a million years had I ever imagined myself having to have such a conversation with them, I mean I had my life all planned out in my head, graduate, get a job, get married and have kids later on, I wasn't even sure I even wanted kids in the first place, I'm not that maternal.

I'm in my room trying going through my social media to pass time, Thabiso just uploaded a picture on facebook, he rarely does that, ncooh he's so hot in this one I blush zooming it in, tell me why that Katleho bitch just commented " pictures agree with you BUT you look better in person." Wow this bitch! It's her audacity for me, why are they still friends in the first place? You know what let me mind my damn business, I'm not about to be one of those pathetic girlfriends, yes those crazy ones, I'm not about that life fam Thabiso is free to be friends with whoever he wants. I hear voices in the living room, shit! My

parents are back, I hope the Lord spoke to them and softened their hearts amen.

I slowly make way to the living room to face them, it's now or never there's no running away from this.

"Lumelang!" I say with that voice, that fake humble voice reserved only for greeting elders.

"Hello baby" they reply in unison.

"I'm sorry I didn't say anything about the pregnancy, I was just too scared of disappointing you, I am really sorry." I say, getting straight to the point.

"I don't know how to feel about this situation of yours. I had hope that you would wait to get married before having children because raising a child is not a walk in the park my baby, it's a lot of responsibility and hardwork. But I guess mistakes happen and what's done is done baby." Says my father.

"I'm so disappointed in you baby, not for falling pregnant, but for hiding it from me your own mother and choosing to tell strangers instead of us, your own family. When have I ever judged or crucify you for making mistakes? Haven't I also left the door open for you to be free to confide in me? I'm really

hurt but hey this is not about me." My mother says defeated and I feel so bad.

"I talked to your uncles and we decided to have the negotiations this coming Saturday, I want it done as soon as possible so you and that zulu boy can continue with school without any drama. You can go back to school today but you have to be back here by thursday afternoon. What is that boy studying? How old is he? What is his name?" My fathers asks.

"He's 24 papa, he's a law student

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his name is Thabiso Buthelezi." I reply.

"Okay,I am just glad he's man enough to take responsibility for his actions. " my father says.

I'm in the kitchen preparing lunch with my mother, she's asking me about symptoms and surprisingly excited about this pregnancy after all, to say I'm relieved is an understatement!

By 4pm I'm ready to go back to school and waiting for Thabiso to pick me up as promised. I'm also impatient because he promised to give me presents today, all of them. My phone rings and it's him, I leave the house, my parents went to see my

grandmother so Thabiso is free to park by my gate, instead of two block from my home as usual.

"Mme wa bighead" he says laughing.

"You're not funny,I'm so tired." I say reclining the seat and closing my eyes, I need to take a nap. He wakes me up when we get to his place with a huge grin on his face, what is wrong with this one? Why is he so happy? It's annoying really because I'm in a grumpy mood. He opens the door and I step on rose petals, what??? I look at him with a grin on my face, he really did this? A romantic set up for me? Candles, rose petals, champagne, the whole romantic thing. I start crying and giving him a tight hug, I needed this kind of assurance.

Dinner is served in silence, no he didn't cook, he can't even boil an egg this one. He knows I love my silence when I'm eating and he respects that, always.

"Sthandwa sami, I love you. I know I'm not a perfect man, I have hurt you in the past but you gave me a second chance and I appreciate that. I never want to hurt you in that manner ever again, I want to be your best friend, your partner in crime and the love of your life. I can never imagine doing this life thing without you, however crazy and impulsive you can be at times,

I'm all for that. So here goes your first Christmas present, one down two more to go." He says giving me a wrapped box and I'm a crying mess as I unwrap it. No fucking way!!! A phone upgrade, I'm marrying this guy one day.

"Thank you babe. You spoil me too much. I love you." I say emotionally.

"Moving on to present number two." He says handing me a smaller box this time. Okay here goes nothing. It's a paris love charm bracelet this time, I love it.

"Thank you. You're the best." I say smiling at him.

" Last one. Like I said before, I am confident that you are the girl for me. I want to do this life thing with you. I never want my children to be born out of wedlock, I want us to do things the right way." He says going down on one knee. Noo! "Marry me my chubby cheeks. Let's take our relationship to the next level. Please. " he says looking me straight in the eye!

16

"Thabiso stand up I say." I see confusion, hurt and disappointment in his eyes.

" I love you babe. And yes I want to spend all my life with you but we have just gotten back together. I have moved past your betrayal but that doesn't mean I trust you fully yet, one day at a time my love. Also I'm trying to get used to this pregnancy and it's overwhelming enough as it is, please let's revisit this conversation again after I give birth." I say desperately.

He doesn't say anything, he just takes his car keys and leave, this is bad.

Spent the whole night tossing and turning, I feel bad but again I had to be honest with him and with myself.

By the time I wake up to prepare for my first class, he's still not here. I just hope he's safe wherever he is, sigh.

My classes are over and Thabiso still hasn't reached out to me, I make my way to his place crossing my fingers to find him there. His car is not parked outside and I just know he's not back.

What if he's shagging some bitch somewhere? Let me not think like that

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he did promise to stay faithful this time around, let me have in him. You know what let me go back to my own place, I won't stick around his house depressed waiting on him, no sir!

I get to my place and immediately call Seithati, I need to vent.

"Look who finally decided to return my calls."

"He can you come to my place right now? I really need somebody to talk to." I beg.

"Of course babe, I'll be there in ten minutes."

"Thank you." I whisper emotionally.

True to her word she gets here and gives me a tight hug, I hug her back tightly and start crying. I'm such a cry babe lately it sucks.

"It's all a mess babe. Everything, I don't know what to do anymore." I say in between sobs.

I compose myself and start filling her in on my dilemma!

"Wait your pregnant? Oh my god this is overwhelming. Eish Thabiso le ena he must slow down a bit? What's the rush? What is he running away from? Don't worry he'll come around, things will fall into place you'll see." She assures me.

"Thank you friend I feel better already." I say.

We spend the whole day stuffing our faces with junk and watching funny movies, she even sleepa over and I couldn't be more grateful.

There's still nothing from Thabiso the nect day and I decided to stop stressing about him, he can choke on his own vomit for all I care.

It's been a hectic 3 days, assignments and tests left right and center. I had to tell my dad that I won't be able to make it home today because I had an assignment to type, I'll go home tomorrow afternoon for the whole damages thing. To make matters worse the morning sickness has began and everything smells like shit. Thabiso still hasn't reached out to me but it's whatever, I have more important things to worry about, like what I'm going to eat for supper because I can't seem to keep anything down. It's around 9pm and I've just taken a bath and changed into pajamas, I'm making a cheese sandwich when someone knocks, who could it be at this time? I'm thinking it's Seithati but then again that one never knocks. I open the door to find thabiso standing at my door step, mxm.

I go back to my sandwich and he let's himself in.

"What are you doing here Thabiso?" I ask.

"I'm sorry I disappeared on you like that. I was so hurt when you rejected my proposal and I needed time to lick my wounds and accept your decision. " he explains, his head bowed down.

"And you think you're ready for marriage? You? Marriage requires patience, compromise, and selflessness.

You lack all these 3 things, you are selfish and entitled Thabiso. You want things to go your way or the highway, everything is always about you and if things don't go your way you act up.

I am the one carrying a human being inside me, I'm the one who had to face my parents disappointed faces on Sunday

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but I didn't even hear you ask me how it went or if I'm fine.

Instead you want to shove a ring down my throat and expect me to jump in excitement because who wouldn't want to marry the great Thabiso Buthelezi, right?

Instead of sitting me down and make me understand that you're hurting and disappointed you decide to leave me on my own to deal with morning sickness and worry about the Saturday negotiations all on my own." I say getting emotional now. I catch my breath and continue.

"If you're going to be with me Thabiso you have to do better, be a better person and stop being so childish and entitled. I won't be compromising my happiness and wellbeing for you and if you're not going to be supportive throughout this pregnancy, walk away now so I know that I'm alone. I don't need this shit, seriously! " I say calmly and feel so much better.

"I'm so sorry babe, I'll do better I promise, I don't want to lose you." He says desperately.

"Actions Thabiso, actions. " I say getting between between the shits, I need to get some sleep.

He locks the door, takes his clothes off and spoons me.

"I love you." He whispers.

"I love you too." I say before dosing off.

It's Saturday morning, I got home yesterday and my mother has been fussing over me and ensuring that everything is ready and all set for the guests. I don't know what's the big deal is, it's not like these are lobola negotiations. I'm cooped in my bedroom alone going through my phone while people are discussing me like I'm some object. My sister inlaw walks into my bedroom laughing, she has been eavesdropping on the whole thing for me.

"Your uncle wants 10 cows for your virginity. He also wants them to pay your mahali and just marry you." She says laughing.

" why am I not surprised. And who said I was a virgin?" I ask rolling my eyes.

"Surprisingly Thabiso's family is so calm about this. They are willing to pay any amount. They look so rich!" She says excited. Whatever!

A few hours later everything is all done and I get introduced to our guests. Thabiso's big brother looks so much like him gawd! His name is Vusi by the way.

I go to bed feeling lighter and peaceful, my baby also behaved and gave me a break today.

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I'm officially 6 months pregnant now, I have gained so much weight I look and walk like a whale, my nose is swollen, my feet are swollen this baby is just heavy. I'm done with school and my man has been the best for the past months, he has been supportive, present and loving. I blame him for all this weight, he feeds me too much.

I can't help but feel like something is off with him though, for the past few days he has been overprotective and fussing over me like he's scared about something. Maybe my pregnancy brain is seeing things, I don't but I'm telling you something is offish with him.

He's driving me to town today, we're buying baby clothes, he wanted to know the gender but I said no, I want it to be a surprise. I'm low-key hoping and praying for a boy I feel like boys are easier to raise, he wants a girl though, a daddy's princess so he can spoil her rotten.

He hasn't said a single word throughout the trip, his phone rings and I see him contemplate whether or not to answer it in my presence, okay! He finally decides to answer it and it connects to be car Bluetooth thingy, it's his brother, Vusi.

" Bafo." He says.

" You are running out of time Mzi

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you need to tell her so we can do things right before something goes terribly wrong." Vusi says. Okay I'm confused now, tell who? What?

"I'll do it today." Thabiso says and sighs heavily.

Okay now I'm officially freaked out!

He looks at me and I'm giving him the 'spit it out already' face, he better start talking before I stress my way to early labor.

"I'll explain everything when we're done with the shopping, I promise." He says.

Well first of all I'm not in the mood for shopping anymore. What the hell dude? But I let him and we continue with our shopping mission, by the time we're done I'm enjoying myself baby clothes can do that to you.

We're back at his place and my feet are killing me. By the way since we're all done with school and just waiting for our results, he rented a house about 30 minutes from my home

because he didn't want to be too far away from me and the baby, how considerate is that? My parents know about this and they have made peace with it, I never sleep over though because you know my mum is my mum, that's all I'll say.

" Just after writing my matric, I stole my father's car and took my friends out for a spin to celebrate. We ended up going to a club and having one too many drinks. Later that afternoon as I drove back home, I was driving recklessly because of the alcohol and at some point I passed out behind the wheel and drove straight into another vehicle.

I woke 3 days later a few broken bones and head injuries but it was nothing major. Unfortunately the driver of the other car was a woman, a pregnant woman and she lost the baby because of me. But my father being a judge and all made the case disappear and send me off to study in Lesotho to let the dust settle that side." He says.

Okay I need a glass of water now.

"Anyway my family inyanga told my father a couple of weeks ago that I have to go to that family, apologies to their family

and do a ceremony to apologies to their ancestor or else you will lose the baby, and possibly your life too."

Woah woah! Hold on! What the fuck bazalwane!!

"Now the problem is, they family wants nothing to do with us. So my family wants you to go back home with me, so that you can be close and ready for the ceremony too becauase you have to be part of it, while tje figure out how to plead to the Molise family and make things right. I am so sorry sthandwa saam. So sorry I have to put you through this, I'm so scared of the possibility of losing our baby and you." He say breaking down in tears.

Dear God! Why did I have to fall inlove with a zulu man and complicate my life?

I am a Christian, well I was raised as one, I went to Sunday school and accepted Jesus at the age of 11, I know bible verses mostly because my mum reads them every chance she gets to emphasise her points, because she's who she is, Jesus's aunt and all.

But I'm also African and as one I understand that ancestors and traditional doctors who communicate with them exist. I don't know how it happens or how they do it, it's not my business to know anyway but I do believe they exist. I've been sitting in the same spot, on Thabiso's leather couch trying to digest what he just told me, he's still sobbing but I can't comfort him, not when I'm like this, not when he just told me that I could possibly die together with my unborn baby because he was a fool and angered some spiteful ancestors. I don't want to die, I haven't even lived yet.

"I'll come with you, I'll explain to my parents, pack my bags and leave for Jo'burg before the end of this week because I'm not going to lose my child over this. Make sure your family gets through to those people Thabiso, better yet you need to go there, get on your knees and apologies to those people after all you started this, now face the consequences and end it! I'm not

dying over your stupidity, and so is my child" I say leaving him there, still sobbing, I'm not to comfort him.

I've packed my bags and I'm ready to leave for jo'burg today. The plane tickets are booked, my parents are onboard with the idea, my mother spent the last two days praying and fasting for my safety and life, she has been an emotional wreck since Thabiso sat them down that day and explained things to them. Me

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for now I don't feel anything, I'm just looking forward to having that ceremony and protecting my child from death. As for Thabiso, I hope he's a better person now, a much better person than he was all those years ago when he killed a child and ran away from taking the responsibility, I just hope so. I blame his father for thinking connections and money give him the right to mess with people's lives and get away with it!

The plane takes off and I'm holding Thabiso's hand for dear life, this is my first time flying and I'm a nervous wreck, he gives me a reassuring smile and I relax a little. We haven't discussed the

whole dilemma in details, I'm not ready to talk about it yet, not when my life is still in danger and he knows better than to push me into talking about it, not when I'm like this. Plus the pregnancy hormones make me crazier so he has been tiptoeing around me, good.

We landed a couple of minutes ago, there's a driver waiting to take us home, I'm hungry and edgy at the moment, I'm nervous about meeting the rest of Thabiso's family, especially the mother ever since that day when she caught me naked on his laptop screen, hectic.

We're driving into the suburbs now, I'm so fascinated by all these beautiful houses, this is some really wealthy people shit I swear, I feel so poor right now, this is beyond my wildest expectations, I'm amazed. We drive through a beautiful gate and the driver parks, opens the door for me and stays behind to get our backs, Thabiso holds my hand as we walk through the front door of this gigantic house. Okay let me brace myself, here goes nothing!

"Oh my baby! I missed you so much." Says Thabiso's mother engulfing him into a big hug, I roll my eyes.

Slow down woman, he's my man now not a baby, he's a fully grown adult with a veiny erection that made me pregnant! We haven't even greeted yet.

She finally let's go of Thabiso and turns her attention to me, I'm shaking internally from fear but outside, I'm calm and resolute.

"Hello makoti, you look beautiful, welcome to my home." She says giving me a tight hug too. Okay that was a lie, the whole 'looking beautiful' statement, I look horrible with my swollen nose, my skin has been breaking out too. I give her my best smile and and thank her either way, she's a beautiful sophisticated woman, she screams money and status and looks way younger than her age.

"Come let me show you your room, you must be tired." She says leading me upstairs to a beautiful room, I feel like I've just checked into a hotel.

"Refresh and come down for something to eat, you must be hungry. Unless you'd like to stay up here, I'll tell our helper to bring your food up here in that case." That sounds like a plan but I was raised better.

" I'll come downstairs,thank you." I say giving her a nervous smile.

Thabiso walks in after his mother left, he just sits on the bed and watch me take off my clothes. They gave me a seperate room from him, I don't know what's with the drama because we're evidently already having sex, I have a pregnancy bump to attest to that. But we're unmarried so I get the whole respecting his parent's house bullshit. Just then the baby kicks

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he has been doing a lot of kicking lately, I smile and brush my tummy to calm him down and Thabiso joins in, I swear he lives for this kicks, look at that wide smile on his face.

His family has started arriving and I've been introduced, vusi is married with twins,his wife's name is Sbahle, There's also Manqoba the second born he's a bachelor, Mzwakhe the third born, and Thandeka the last born, she's still in high school and looks snobbish but hey let me not judge other kids. We're having a family dinner right now and all these people are having animated conversations in Zulu, I keep getting lost because as

much as I understand the language, they speak to quickly for me to make out what they are saying so I gave up. I'm just focussing on my food and zoning them out , and after a while I excuse myself and go to bed early, I really need to rest. I guess we'll discuss the elephant in the room tomorrow.

After breakfast, Mr Buthelezi sits us down to discuss a way forward.

"We have decided that today me and your uncle together with Thabiso, will visit the Molise family once again to plead our case and hope this time they'll be willing to accept us and our apology. Mzi, you have to be as sincere as possible and show those people just how sorry you are for causing them that much pain son, we're all counting on you." He says looking at Thabiso with sadness.

"Makoti, you and mamakhe will stay behind, we will only need your presence when the ceremony is given a go ahead. I am so sorry you had to visit my family for the first time in such sad circumstances and I hope this doesn't change your feelings for my son in any way." He addresses me.

Well I don't like this 'makoti' business, they haven't paid mahali for me yet they must stop giving me titles. I just nod in agreement and say nothing, I'm still trying to figure out how I feel about Thabiso.

They have been gone for over 6 hours and I'm getting impatient, surprisingly my 'mother inlaw' and I have been having a flowing conversation, she was born and raised in Lesotho by the way, came to SA to study and met Mr Buthelezi and got married to him as soon as she graduated.

"You're really good for Thabiso. Growing up he was a very rebellious child,he got worse when he got to high school,he started hanging around the wrong crowd, discovering girls and alcohol. Coming from a wealthy family made him worse because now he realised that he could get away with a lot of things, everybody wanted to hangout with him because he made things happen, the teachers turned a blind eye to his bad behaviour because they didn't want to risk losing the money babakhe donated to the school every year. It made him feel entitled and invinsible, so he got worse and worse. The accident was his wake up call, it made him realise for the first time just how much his decisions affected everybody, how his father had to put his job and reputation in line to save him, and the pain Mrs Molise felt when she lost her child, it made him come back to reality.

When he left for Lesotho I was so worried about him,I was scared he'd think we are getting rid of him and get more detached from humanity, but he came back home happier,

more human and responsible. He offered to work and learn about the family business during the holidays, he was more polite, more caring and started wearing his heart on his sleeve. I remember walking in on him and his brother talking about this girl he had fallen in love with in Lesotho, he said you made him want to be a better person and a better man." She says giving me a hearty smile. I'm blushing like a retard and happy to know he's working towards being a better man. Just then they walk in looking depressed and defeated and I know it means their visit didn't go well.

"Mamakhe we tried, we really tried but those people are fed up with us, they made it clear that forgiveness is not something we will ever receive from them. I don't know what to do anymore." Says Mr Buthelezi hanging his head in disappointment, Thabiso looks like death, his eyes are bloodshot red and I know he has been crying, shame my poor babe.

"I want to go there today, now. I want to meet with those people, I want them to see me especially Mrs Molise, I want to talk to her woman to woman." I say calmly. I won't lose my child without a fight.

Everybody looks at me shocked.

"I'm sorry makoti but I don't think that's a good idea. That woman threatened to pour boiling water at us if we didn't leave her house, we can't put the baby and you at risk like that." Mr Buthelezi says.

" with all due respect baba it's not your decision to make, I'm not afraid of those people and my life is already in danger as we speak. I'm going to that house, if that woman attacks me then so be it." I say still calm.

"Let her go baba, trust me you can't change her mind when it's made up,She's stubborn like that." Thabiso says and his father adheres.

We arrive at the moliss house, it's a renovated RDP house in protea glen soweto.

"I thought I made myself clear that I want nothing to do with you or any member of your family Buthelezi" screams a tall light skinned woman as soon as we walk through the gate, the cars are parked outside the gate.

"I'm the one who'd like to have a conversation with you, sorry to come to your house unannounced and inconvenience you. I'm not a Buthelezi, I'm a Mosebo, I'm just a mother desperately trying to protect my child's life and mine. Please give me 10 minutes of your time." I plead with her.

She looks at me, then at my pregnancy bump and hesitates a little before allowing us to enter her house. There are two men sitting in the living room and I assume one of them must be her husband.

"I am very sorry for the loss of your child Mrs Molise, I'm an expecting mother and I wouldn't imagine how devastated I would feel if something happened to my baby. I have felt him kick, felt his movements inside me and I'm already in love with him and eager to finally meet him. I am so sorry you were denied the chance to meet your own child, see them smile and watch them grow. I am so sorry you were denied the chance to at least get justice for their unfortunate passing. I am more sorry that I feel in love with the man that caused you so much grief and made a child with him. I, like you, am innocent in all this, my baby just like yours is innocent in all this and doesn't deserve to lose his life over it. I'm not asking you to break bread with these people and befriend them, all I'm asking

is for you to find it in your heart to forgive them. For my baby's sake, for my parent's sake so that they don't also lose a child over something they know nothing about. I'm pleading with you to accept our apology and end this circle of rivalry, anger and hatred, so that more innocent people don't lose their lives." I plead. She's crying and her husband is calming her down.

I'm trying my best not to break down in tears too and Thabiso keeps squeezing my hand in reassurance, I have to be strong for my child.

" I'll accept their apology and do my part for the ceremony. I'm not doing it for them but for you and your child, because you don't deserve any of this and I wouldn't want your death to be on my hands, because then I'll be just as guilty and cruel as them. Let's do it tomorrow, I want it to be done as soon as possible so that we can part ways." She says before leaving the room.

I can breathe now, I didn't even realise I was holding my breath.

We're having dinner and everybody is in a better mood now. Everything is set for tomorrow's ceremony, the 2 goats to be slaughtered and appease the ancestors are already bought and the inyanga promised to be here first thing tomorrow morning.

"makoti thank you. What you did out there is commendable. Mzi, this one is for keeps my son don't let go of her." Says Mr Buthelezi with so much pride. By the way everyone calls Thabiso Mzi this side.

"I know baba, and I have no intentions of letting her go, ever." Says Thabiso with so much passion I can't help but blush.

I retire to bed early again.

I must have dozed off, I'm woken by Thabiso getting in my bed and squeezing my boobs. Wait why is this one not in his own room?

His hand rubs my baby bump softly before making its way down to my panties, I know what he wants.

"Are you crazy Thabiso? This is your parents house, we can't do this. " I say panicking.

"Shhhh...just relax baby. I'll be quick I promise." He says in my ear and my clit gets excited,we haven't done it in two weeks.

He takes my panties off and starts rubbing my folds slowly and gently, just the way I like it. He keeps doing it for a while and stops,he spreads my legs apart and starts using his tongue, I'm in heaven. My moans and groans turn into screams as his tongue works my clit, my legs are shaking and I'm holding his head tightly riding his mouth when the orgasm wave hits me.

I'm still dizzy and shaking when he rubs his erection between my cheeks and pauses looking me straight in the eye before penetrating me slowly. It feels so good I moan grabbing his butt, he doesn't move for a few seconds.

"Fuck! you are so wet and tight baby I want to cum right this second." He whispers still looking me straight in the eye.

He starts moving, slowly giving me long strokes, sex with him always feel like a dream, I could never get used to this wonderful sensation.

" boy boy, close you eyes and block your ears, daddy and mommy are about to get wild and loud." He says rubbing my bump

this idiot.

"Babe are are sure the baby doesn't see it coming in, I don't want to traumatize my child." What the hell Thabiso, you're cramping my style and killing my mood with all this stupidity.

" Are you going to fuck me or should I do it myself?" I ask in annoyance. He laughs a litle before pumping the shit out of my vagina.

I'm screaming at the top of my lungs and holding the shits tightly as he pumps me from behind. My second orgasm of the day is so intense I cry in pleasure, literal tears.

He doesn't stop but pumps me even harder, spanking and grabbing my ass tightly before releasing his seed inside me with a loud groan.

That was mind blowing.

The next morning I wake up early, yes me. I have been waking up early in this house because I don't want to show them my true colours yet, I'm still trying to impress. Thabiso walks out of the bathroom smelling of soap and my shower gel, he looks so hot with his wet bare chest and towel around his waist. Last night he did things to me ladies and gentlemen, things that have me blushing right now, he had me two more times in the

middle of the night and another round during the morning hours.

"Good morning chubby cheeks, I've already ran a bath for you and I was about to wake you up, we should be quick my love, we don't want to be late for the ceremony." He says giving me a wet kiss, ignoring my morning breath.

As soon as we walk into the dining room for breakfast, everybody starts laughing. The parents, Vusi and his wife and Manqoba. What is going on?

"Yes Thabiso!right there! oh my gawd I'm so close baby!" That's Manqoba mimicking my voice.

Shit! Was I that loud? I bury my head behind Thabiso in embarrassment and they laugh even harder, gawd I want to die! I'm the family pornstar, officially so!

"Manqoba, stop teasing my children." Says the Mr Buthelezi trying so hard to suppress his own laughter.

"These one's remind me of us at their age babakhe, we couldn't keep our hands off each other." Says Mrs Buthelezi giving her husband the sweetest smile. What is wrong with people of this family?

"mama noo! Come on we don't want to think of you and baba like that,ewww!" Says Thabiso pulling a chair for me, and I sit down.

"And you think we wanted to listen to your screams and grunts last night?" She asks. Okay she wins this round,now can we move on from this conversation, I'm uncomfortable.

I'm saved by Thandeka walking into the room, isn't she late for school by the way and why is she not wearing her school uniform.

"Aren't you going to school today?" I ask surprised, I'm also trying to change the topic.

"On a Saturday sisi?" She asks, looking at me like I've lost my mind. Ooops I lost track time!

The uncles are here and the traditional doctor, he looks creepy and intimidating. Mrs Buthelezi gave me a scarf for my

shoulders and a headwrap, everything is in order and we are all ready to go. I'm nervous for some reason, I'm hoping and praying that everything goes in order so we can put the whole dilemma behind us and move on, I want my life back. Thabiso has been holding my hand tightly the whole time, I think he's just as nervous as I am.

Things go smoothly, the goats get slaughtered, clan names are chanted and the inyanga smears something on my forehead, rubs my tummy and chants some more and we're done. Both Mr and Mrs Molise were part of the ceremony, they were told to give their dead baby a name

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chant their clan names and tell her to rest in peace.

" It's done. Things will go back to normal now." Says the creepy traditional doctor and I sigh in relieve.

We make our way back home soon after that, Mrs Molise did say she didn't want anything to do with us, and we respected her wishes and left her house as soon as what we came for was done.

I call my mother as soon as we get to the house, I know how worried she has been the whole time.

"Mama, it's done. We had the ceremony today and everything went well." I say and she sobs in relieve,my poor mother!

" Thank God! I have been so worried I was even starting to lose weight,I'll tell your father the good news. When are you coming home?"

"I want to come back on monday, I miss home and I miss you way too much." I say and we talk about random things and end the call ten minutes later.

Everyone is in the living room having loud conversations waiting for lunch to be ready, I'm starving.

I join Makhumalo the helper and Thandi in the kitchen, they're busy preparing lunch and the aroma is mouth watering. I'm too hungry to wait for the food to be ready so I fix myself a sandwich with lots of mayonnaise on the side, I've been eating mayonnaise with every meal, that's one of my weird cravings apart from hot wings.

They're looking at me like I've lost my mind,they must mind their business really, I pull out a chair and enjoy my snack in peace, ignoring their stares.

" oh there you are. I knew I'd find you somewhere stuffing yourself with food." Thabiso says. What the hell? What's that supposed to mean?

" Are you calling me greedy and fat?" I ask giving him the 'fuck you' look.

"No my love. Never! I'm just saying that I know the baby loves food. Not you, just the baby." He says. Oh! He's mocking me now?

" You should have thought about that when you were humping ontop of me filling me with your sperms." Nxa! how dare he mock me. He wants to say something but Makhumalo shakes her head, I guess warning him not to dare say anything more,good!

We're having a family dinner, it's a full house and everybody is here, even Vusi's rascals, I guess we're celebrating life and forgiveness. I have been feeling nauseous the whole afternoon, my usually big appetite is gone and all I want to do is lie down.

"So makoti when are you leaving. We love having you around, I was thinking maybe you could stick around until the baby is born." Asks Mr Buthelezi.

"I was thinking of leaving on Monday baba. I like it here too, but my parents wouldn't allow me to stick around for that long, my mother is too worried about the pregnancy she wants me to be around her all the time. My father on the other hand doesn't approve of me visiting my boyfriend's home at all, not when mahali hasn't been paid yet." I reply.

"I understand my child, we will make things right." He says and I just nod. I'm really not feeling well.

"Before you go, I want to show you around, probably go shopping tomorrow, I also want to show you my house, you'll love it." Says Vusi's wife, Sbahle excitedly, she's always excited and energetic.

"Sounds like a plan, but for now I need to lie down, I'm not feeling too well." As soon as I finish my sentence I'm so nauseous I have to run to the bathroom and throw up.

I empty my whole dinner in the toilet and it's painful, Mrs Buthelezi is rubbing my back and holding my hair the whole time.

This is weird, I haven't had morning sickness in 2 months now? I mean I'm on my last trimester why is this happening, maybe it's something I ate but what exactly?

"What is wrong? Are you still experiencing morning sickness even at 26 weeks?" She asks as I rinse my mouth.

"No, it must be something I ate that upset my stomach. The morning sickness stopped 2 months ago." I say.

"Okay babe, you should probably call it a night, you'll wake up feeling better tomorrow." She assures me and I smile weakly making my way to my designated room, I'm not even going to shower.

I wake up in the middle of the night still feeling nauseous, Thabiso is in my bed spooning me and have to roughly untangle myself from him to and race to the bathroom, he's following behind me and stands by the door,

watching me throw up until there's no food left inside me. He rinse my mouth and turn around to find him looking at me with concern.

"Babe maybe we should take you to the doctor and find out what is going on, I'm really starting to get worried." He says.

"It's nothing serious babe, just a stomach bug, I'll be fine by morning. Let's go back to sleep, I'm tired and dizzy from all the running I've been doing." I say.

He follows me hesitantly and spoons me again as soon as we get in bed, he's so clingy.

I wake up the next morning feeling much better Thabiso is up already, I look at the clock and it's 10am, shit my true colours are revealing themselves, although in my defence I'll say it's because of all the throwing up I have been doing. I wake up and make the bed, I'm a little dizzy though, it must be because I haven't had anything to eat yet. The bedroom door opens and Thabiso walks in carrying a tray of food, my man is so considerate you guys.

" You're finally up. I was prepared to wake you up. Everyone is worried about you, how are you feeling?"

He asks.

" I'm okay babe. Just dizzy but okay. Thank you for breakfast. I need to take a quick shower though,I skipped it last night. " I assure him.

He's still seated at the edge of the bed going through his phone when I come out of the bathroom, he watches me moisturize and change my clothes silently. I eat my Breakfast with him still watching me intensely, I don't have an appetite but I force the food down my throat, I need to eat for the baby's sake.

Sbahle is already here,she's dolled up and ready to leave for our date. I don't feel up to it but I made a promise.

"Are you sure you're up for today? We could always reschedule if you're still feeling under the weather, you scared us last night." She says giving me a hug.

"I'm okay, I promise." I assure her.

" Are you sure my baby?" Asks the mother of the house.

"Eya mama. Plus I think fresh air will do me some good." I say.

Sbahle is telling me all kinds of stories the whole drive to the mall. I'm laughing so hard I'm in literal tears, she reminds me of Lympho, ever so dramatic and full of life. I can feel the nausea but I'm trying so hard to suppress it and distract myself.

We get to the mall and I'm dragging my body,willing it to catch up with Sbahle and ignore the dizziness,we start by baby

clothes, this one is buying the whole baby store, I want to say something but bite my tongue and let her buy everything.

"We should buy lingerie now, I want to surprise the husband tonight and get naughty. You should buy something sexy too, pregnancy shouldn't stop you from being sexy for your man." She says winking and already making her way to the lingerie store, I follow behind. These are some really nice pieces, the lace is so soft Thabiso would love this, I look at the price tag and almost choke. What? This much for a piece of lace?

"Honey. You're soon to be Buthelezi wife, we don't look at price tags, get used to it." Sbahle says. I told you, she's crazy.

By the time we make it out of the lingerie store I can't ignore the nausea anymore, I rush to the bathrooms and start emptying my stomach contents again. At this point my ribs are painful, my throat is dry and the dizziness is intense. Sbahle is already on the phone calling Thabiso and the parents, I try to stand up but stagger, I feel my body hitting the cold bathroom tiles, Sbahle screaming before it's lights out.

I Know I'm in a hospital as soon as I open my eyes, it's the beeping sound of machines and the strong disinfectant smell. My first instinct is to feel my baby bump, thank God it's still here. I have the mother of all headaches, there's a piercing pain on the side of my forehead, I touch the area and feel a bump, must have fell on my head when I passed out. My throat is dry, and everything just hurts.

I look around, I'm in a private room, there's even a couch in here, Thabiso is sleeping awkwardly on it, shame he's too tall.

There's something connected to the back of my hand, it's uncomfortable and weird. I sit on my butt, preparing to go to the bathroom and relieve myself and get a glass of water, just then a nurse walks in, thank God.

"Mrs Buthelezi hi you're up." She says, she's a beautiful woman, dark skinned, short and thick. Since when did I become Mrs Buthelezi? Wait how long have I been out? Maybe I got married, wait what if I lost my memory?

Thabiso is woken up by her voice and he quickly rushes to my side giving me a tight hug, Slow down cowboy.

"You almost gave me a heart attack, don't ever do that to me again." He says emotionally, he has been crying I can tell by his shaky voice and red eyes. I must have really scared him, he lets go of me after a while letting the nurse check me and give me water.

" I'll go and get a doctor." She says before walking out, I don't like the way she's looking at my man.

"Your stress levels are very high Mrs Buthelezi, you have developed what we call gestational hypertension, it's basically high blood pressure developed during pregnancy. We are going to have to keep you for a couple of days and monitor you closely, and make sure the baby gets all the nutrients it needs."

says the doctor and continues to preach to me about the dangers of stress during pregnancy, well first of all who wouldn't be stressed after being told that some dead people want to kill them and their child?

I just nod, that nurse is still here looking at my man like he's her favourite dessert or something, I'm going to lose it with her I swear.

Okay I really need to pee, I tell Thabiso and he carries me to the bathroom bridal style

I weigh over 80kg now by the way but this man doesn't care.

"Did we get married?" I ask with a frown on my face.

"Not that I know of, why?" He asks confused and amused by my question.

"Then why is everyone calling me Mrs Buthelezi?"

"Because they can tell that we're made for each other although your stubborn self rejected my proposal." He says laughing, mxm idiot.

"Where's my phone? I need to call my parents." I ask, my mother must be worried, I never go a day without calling her.

"It's with Sbahle, but they're already on their way here, baba already called your parents and booked plane tickets for your mother." He says. He's snuggling with me on this tiny bed being clingy and needy as usual, sometimes I feel like he's my first born child.

The whole family arrives later and Sbahle is the first one to hug me and swear at me for giving her a scare. Mrs Buthelezi is fussing and adjusting my pillows and checking my temperature with her hand, imagine! I'm in a hospital for crying out loud.

"What if Mzi gave it to you too hard that night and scared the baby? Bafo you see what you have done? Traumatizing the baby like that?" Says Manqoba, yes trust him to say something stupid like that, and these fools laugh at his sick joke.

"What night? What happened bafo tell me, nami I want to laugh at the joke?" Asks Mzwakhe confused, he was out partying that day.

"Stop harassing my children. Koti we're all happy that you're okay and the baby, please try to relax and take it easy, everything is okay now we put the Molise family behind us, let it go my child." Says the father inlaw, I might as well give him the title since he has concluded that I'm his makoti.

"Visiting hours are over, please let my patient rest." Says that nurse who wants my man.

"Oh my gawd! Manqoba, can I get a selfie with you?" She asks in excitement, Manqoba is a big celebrity by the way, he's a famous soccer star and a playboy.

I'm soon left alone, must be the medication because as soon I finish eating the stateless food and taking my medication I doze off.

I wake up the next morning to find Thabiso already here, clean and sexy smelling all kinds of fresh I want to lick him, he looks more relaxed today.

"Hello chubby cheeks, I brought flowers." He says handing me red roses and giving me that smile.

"Thank you babe." I reply giving him a deep kiss, I haven't brushed my teeth yet but he doesn't mind.

The nurse walks in and starts making small talk with my man, why is he smiling at her like that? Nxa. She walks out after checking on me.

I'm mad now, maybe I'm a little insecure because she's pretty and sexy while I look like a pig with all this weight gain and my swollen nose.

Thabiso tries to hold my hand but fold my arms and look the opposite direction, I'm being childish I know.

"And then? What's wrong babe?" He asks.

"Why don't you ask your nurse girlfriend? Since you have the guts to flirt with her like that in my presence." I say. I'm being dramatic about the whole flirting part.

"What? Come on chubby cheeks I was just being polite. You know I only got eyes for you. I love my women light skinned and dramatic." He says laughing.

"If you flirt or even look at another woman. I'm going to leave you with this child after giving birth, find myself a blesser and move to Dubai." I say folding my arms, this idiot just laughs at me and give me kisses all over my face. I love him.

I just got discharged today. I was so glad to leave that god forsaken place, I missed my soft bed and junk food. I've been craving hot wings so much I called Thabiso last night telling him that his child is crying for hot wings, Yes the baby is not born yet but I'm his mother and he is inside me so I can tell when he's crying. Like right now he keeps kicking, he doesn't even calm down when I brush my tummy, see? I told you we have our secret language and he's just as excited as I am to be going home. My mother will be arriving today, she had to postpone by a couple of days because her leave was not granted.

"Your child is abusive Thabiso. First he made me fat and ugly, then he made me throw up non stop, he even landed me in hospital, and last night he was nagging me wanting hot wings and right now he keeps kicking me. Discipline your child, I'm not his punching bag." I say annoyed.

I have had enough with his brat really, he's not even born yet but he's already taking over my life.

"Baby girl, be nice to mummy okay, because when you make mummy grumpy she takes it out on daddy." He says rubbing my tummy and kissing it. He's adamant that the baby is a girl but I know it's a boy, I just know.

The driver keeps stealing glances at us like we're crazy, well he must mind his business and focus on the road, this is a family matter no outside intrusion needed.

He opens the door for me as soon as we get home, it's so cold outside my hands and feet are numb. But then again it's June and Jo'burg is a cold place it reminds me of Roma. As soon as I get inside the mother in law is making hot cocoa for me and fixing my bed so I can lie down. I've done enough lying down for the past 5 days to last me a lifetime, but I'm cold and agitated so I adhere. Thabiso gets in bed with me and we're waiting on my hot wings to be delivered, my cravings are so extra I feel like a junkie waiting for his fix. I'm horny too and Thabiso is not helping the situation by spooning me like this, Mrs Buthelezi interrupts my dirty thoughts with a takeaway, my food is here and I want to cry.

Thabiso is watching in awe as I dig in and eat like my life depends on it, I'm not even savoring my food as usual, I'm devouring them with my eyes half closed. This is heaven in my mouth, I think I just had a foodgasm.

"Are you going to eat the whole thing? Next thing you'll be complaining about heartburn." He says, who asked for his opinion again?

"Mind your business. Am I eating for your stomach? " I reply annoyed.

"I'm just saying. " he says amused, I'm a joke to him aren't I?

"Tswaha ho nna Thabiso tuu!" I say. I'm getting emotional now, a week ago he did the same thing, indirectly called me greedy and fat, he's doing it again. He's so ungrateful, it's his fault I'm like this for making me his sperm dish,nxa.

I didn't even realise that I'm crying until he starts apologising and wiping my tears. Okay,it's not even about the food, it's that feeling between my legs that won't go away

I keep pressing my thighs together but it makes things worse for me. I want him inside me and I want him now at 1pm with his parents downstairs, I don't care.

My hand finds it's way inside his boxers and I grab his dick. He tenses in shock and gives me a confused look.

" lock the door." I instruct him.

"Babe we can't, my parents are just downstairs and it's the middle of the day."

Well what's his problem? Since when do we only have sex in the dark like some old boring couple.

"Please babe, I just want the tip, I promise we'll only take 10 seconds, I won't be long." I ask desperately and he gives me a smug before rolling out of bed to lock the door.

I take off my clothes quickly and spread my legs, no need for foreplay, I'm wet and ready for action and he's fully erect.

He kisses me softly and play with my sore nipples. I'm not in the mood for foreplay and romantic stuff, I want him to fuck me like a prostitute.

"Fuck me. Hard and fast. Please." I say.

I'm not afraid to make demands in bed.

He follows my orders, penetrates me roughly and start moving immediately. He's giving me hard quick thrusts, I'm covering my mouth with my hands trying to muffle my screams of pleasure. He's doing me so good, exactly how I want it and as promised I don't take long before Coming undone, he follows shortly after me, grunting and cussing, best quicky of my life.

"My favourite thing about this pregnancy is your sex drive." He comments after catching his breath.

I don't reply, I want to take a nap so I close my eyes and drift off to sleep.

I wake up just in time for dinner, I take a quick shower and make up my way downstairs, My mother is here.

I give her a tight hug and refuse to let go until she starts complaining about being suffocated.

"Ao ngoanaka. I hope you give birth soon, look how ugly you look, I can barely recognize you." She says amused.

Mxm, so much for missing her, she must go back to her country if she's just here to abuse me.

"How long are you staying?" I ask.

" haibo! You already want to get rid of me?"

"I'll be staying for 7 days only, wish I could take you back home with me but I hear the doctor said it's not safe for you to travel." She responds.

I miss home too, I miss her cooking and her judgemental self, I wouldn't trade this woman for anything in the world.

Dinner is served soon afterwards and everyone diggs in, everyone except me and my mother.

"Can we hold hands and say grace. " my mother says and they all look at her with embarrassment. It's great to watch really, I laugh internally.

They are not a religious bunch, I've known Thabiso for over four years and he has never mentioned ever going to church, not even as a child, heck they don't even have Christian names.

They follow my mothers orders regardless, hold hands, bow their heads and let her do her thing, trust her to boss people around in their own home.sigh!

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My mother left a month ago, she didn't want to leave me behind but a job is a job, she had to go back to work. I'm 30 weeks pregnant now and officially tired.

The baby is heavy, my back hurts all the time, my feet are forever swollen, the heartburn is too much and all I do is sleep and stuff myself with food.

The results came out 2 weeks ago and I'm proud to announce that me and my man are graduating, talk about couple goals. He has been working with his father at the law firm for the past weeks, I must admit he looks so hot wearing expensive suits and being professional and all, he's my personal eye candy.

Me on the other hand I spend my days going to spa and lunch dates with Mrs Buthelezi or going shopping with Sbahle.

I'm officially a house girlfriend, a spoilt one at that and I love it.

Right now, I have a movie date with Thandeka, we have those every week. It's her way of getting me out of the house to tell me all about her crushes, she hasn't had a boyfriend so far at 17, because her brothers are overprotective and chase away every boy who dares show interest in her. This one time we were out with her and Thabiso and this tall guy from her school

came to greet her, you won't believe Thabiso dragged the poor boy out of the restaurant by his collar, because he claims he was hugging Thandeka way too tightly for his liking. That time I'm also somebody's little sister but that didn't stop him from impregnating me, talk about double standards.

"So, Mpande asked me on a date, I was hoping you'd cover for me on Friday to the parents." She asks with pleading eyes.

Ok back-up who's Mpande again? Who names their child Mpande by the way?

" who?" I ask confused.

"Duh! That tall cute guy we met 2 weeks ago. The one your precious boyfriend bullied." She says rolling her eyes. Oh that one! He's a brave one I see.

" I thought you liked the light skinned one, what's his name again? Tshepo? What happened? You're confusing me I can't catch up." I ask.

"Arrgh! I lost interest, he posted his girlfriend on Instagram yesterday so I'm not about to be anybody's second option." She says with attitude. Yes girrl that's the spirit.

"Okay I'll cover for you. But remember no sex, or doing anything you're not ready for, don't let him charm his way into seducing you." I say taking on my big sister role, deputy parent mood activated by full force.

"Don't worry mum! I'll behave." She says.

Mocking me aren't we? I love her regardless she's a smart strong willed girl!

Thabiso picks us up at 6pm, he doesn't like us using uber ,when he's not available he sends the family driver.

" so baby there's a farewell party for one of the coworkers,I was wondering if I should go. I won't take too long,just 3 hours tops to show face then come back home." He asks.

Ncooh how sweet is that

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asking for a visa and all.

" it's okay love,you can go and take as much time as you want. You haven't been out since we got here, you deserve to hang out with your friends and have fun,you're only 24 babe,not 42."
I reply.

"Thank you sthandwa sami."

As soon as we get home, I greet the parents and go straight to my room, I need to rest my back and legs and take a nap.

I'm woken up by Thabiso with a tray of food, he has showered and changed to casual clothes, I guess he's ready to leave for the party.

"I have to go now sthandwa sami, don't miss too much." He says giving me a peck on the lips before leaving.

I've been turning and tossing in bed for hours now, I check the clock it's midnight already and the baby is keeping me up with his unnecessary kicks. Just then a call comes through, it's Thabiso, why is he calling me at this ungodly hour?

"Hello chubby cheeks wame. Are you asleep yet." He asks, he's drunk. That explains the midnight call.

"Yes I was asleep. What the hell baby? It's midnight, normal people are sleeping." I say annoyed, there's so much noise in the background, I guess the party is LIT.

"I'm sorry sthandwa sami. I'm calling to tell you that I love you, you are the best thing that's ever happened to me. Don't miss me too much, good night." He says. I'm blushing now, this man is

everything. He doesn't end the call immediately and I stay on the line too in silence.

"Come on babe, don't be so uptight,I'll show you a good time,just like the good old days ." It's a female voice.

Oh hell no! What the hell?

"Shit! Babe listen it's not what you think. Fuck!" Thabiso says,I guess he remembered that I'm still on the line, I end the call.

I'm being tested ladies and gentlemen, so he's out there entertaining his exes,is that what he does to me? He keeps calling and flooding my phone with texts but I don't respond or pick his calls, I end up switching my phone off.

I don't know what I'm feeling right now,I'm somewhere between feeling numb and pissed the fuck off!

I must have drifted off to sleep because I'm woken up by the urgency to pee. That's the one thing I hate about pregnancy, having to pee every 10 minutes. I check the time and it's only 6am, great! I might as well just forget about going back to bed, I won't get any more sleep plus I'm hungry now.

Thabiso is sitting on the high chair drinking ice cold water when I walk into the kitchen, I guess he's nursing a hangover. I pause a little before resuming my journey to get a snack, I didn't expect to find him in here, I'm not ready to talk to him yet.

"Hi." I greet dryly and focus on reheating my pies and fixing myself a glass of orange juice.

"You were asleep when I got here, I didn't want to disturb you so I slept in my room." He says desperately. I'm not here for that, I'm here for food.

"Okay." I reply. I don't have the energy for him, it's too early and I'm grumpy, he knows I'm not a morning person so why is he annoying me?

"Is that all you're going to say? Seriously? You're seriously mad about something that didn't even happen? You think I'd cheat on you Bophelo when I love you this much and you're carrying my child?" He asks getting worked up now. Why is he mad and shouting? Who said I was angry at him in the first place.

" I don't have time for this." I say taking my food and making my way back to my bedroom.

He's following behind me, entlek what does this one want from me? Grand grand what is his problem? Nxa!

"You don't have time for what Bophelo? For me ? For having a grown up conversation with me? Stop being childish." He say. I'm childish now? Okay.

"Tswaha ho nna hle motho wa molimo,ako tswe ho nna." I say calmly.

"You know what, I have a terrible headache and I have to get ready for work, So I really don't have the energy to do this with you either." He says turning around to leave.

" Do you broer! do you." I reply and focus on my food.

I'm not even mad about last night, it's not about that,it's about him always keeping his ex's in his life. You remember that one who's all over his facebook and Instagram leaving flirty comments? It's also about him always entertaining women in the name of ' being polite' , but losing it if I ever have a

conversation with any guy for whatever reason. It's the double standards, him feeling entitled to freedom of doing whatever he pleases, but I'm supposed to do the opposite in the name of respecting our relationship. I'm tired of that, he needs to start respecting me and this relationship.

I'm having lunch with Limpho today, she has been nagging me about being in Joburg and not meeting up with her. I need a distraction anyway so we're on, I miss her, I have been neglecting my friends. I should stop making Thabiso my whole life and have a life outside of him, I really need to go out more and make new friends.

Manqoba is here, I hear his loud laughter all the way from my bedroom, he's always in a good mood this one, it's contagious really. He hasn't been home in over 2 weeks and I missed him so much. He's my second favourite Buthelezi by the way, it's his ability to lighten up my mood no matter what.

" Hello makoti, are you sure you're not having twins? What are feeding this baby for it to be this big." He bombards me with questions as soon as he spots me making my way into the living room.

"Hello Shenge!

Blame it on your brother, he feeds me like a pig. Anyway where have you been hiding and when are you bringing us a makoti? You're not getting any younger you know that?" I ask teasing him intentionally.

"You're right makoti

this one must grow up, he's turning 30 very soon. I want a daughter inlaw and grandchildren from him." Says Mrs Buthelezi.

"Okay that's my que to leave, I have somewhere to be in about an hour from now." He says, I know he's running away from this marriage issue.

"Can you give me a lift,I'm meeting up with a friend at the mall?" I ask.

We bid the mother goodbye and take our leave,he's such a typical football player, he drives a sports car and changes women like socks and it doesn't help that he's tall dark and handsome.

" I tried talking to your man earlier but he bit my head off? He's never that agitated unless it has to do with you. Are you guys fighting or are you denying him sex?" He says laughing.

" It's nothing we can't fix." I say, I never involve people in our problems, it's like inviting them to stick their noses in your

business and disrespect your relationship. He understands this so he just keeps quite and let's it go, see why I love him?

" Let me escort you to your friend. I want to make sure your not cheating on my brother making me an accomplice."

Wow! This idiot,who'd date an ugly fat pregnant woman in the first place?

We find Limpho already seated in the restaurant scrolling through her phone. She gives me a wide smile when she sees me but freezes in shock when she spots Manqoba, weird.

I give her a tight hug and kisses, Manqoba is standing awkwardly behind me the whole time.

" friend this is Manqoba, Thabiso's big brother..."

" I know who he is, he also happens to be a man whore who sleeps with women, run away from them the next morning and never calls." Says Limpho looking Manqoba straight in the eye.

"I'm sorry nkosazana, I have been meaning to call you but..."
Manqoba says but she cuts him off before he finishes his sentence.

" Don't lie Manqoba. It doesn't matter anyways, you weren't that great and I have moved on."

Somebody please balance me, what is going on here? Manqoba turns around and leaves, I guess his ego is bruised.

"Bitch, start talking! "I demand.

"We met last week at a club, he's a catch and a celebrity so I made my move on him, he was quite taken with me too so we spent the whole night flirting and he took me to a hotel, we had mind blowing sex. I woke up the next morning to find him gone, no note nothing." She says sadly.

" I didn't know he's your future brother inlaw, he keeps his family and personal life private and separate from his career. Anyway I don't want to talk about him , I want to talk about you. How have you been?" She asks.

We catch up, gossip and become ratchet, I missed this.

Thabiso calls as we make our way to the cinema.

"Where are you, who are you with and why didn't you tell me about it?" Wow! he's the boss of me now?

"At the mall with a friend, I mentioned it days ago but as usual my life and plans are never that important for you to remember. " I reply and end the call,he's really trying to piss me off!

I'm on my way back home, Thabiso is driving in silence and I'm scrolling through my phone in silence too.

I had a very refreshing day and I'm not letting Mr grumpy here ruin it for me.

" sit down we need to talk." Says Thabiso as soon as we enter my room.

"I'm not in the mood." I reply.

"Bophelo I said sit your ass down and listen to me, I don't have time for your childish games, trust me you don't want to test me, not today!" Okay fine, I adhere.

" We are only going to have this conversation once. Do you know what your problem is? Your problem is that, you hold grudges, you don't talk to me about things that don't sit well with you, you keep them to yourself and hold a grudge against me. Right now I know you aren't just angry because of last night's incident, you're mad about a whole lot of other things and you're expecting me to figure it out like I'm a goddamn sangoma. Do I look like a sangoma to you Bophelo? How do you expect me to make things right when I don't fucking know what exactly is it that I did wrong? You're going sit down and tell me what's eating you up and you're going to do it now!" He says screaming at me and I start crying. I can be a baby sometimes

and these hormones make things worse, but also I'm crying because I know I handled the whole thing badly so I'm trying to soften him up.

" Tears? Really Bophelo. That won't work on me, not today ."
He says firmly, Fine!

"I don't like how you always keep your ex's in your life and entertain them. They are all over your social media, flirting openly with you and you do nothing about it. It makes me feel like you don't value me or respect our relationship.

You also have this habit of entertaining random women and claim you're just being polite but get pissed off when I talk to men, it's like I'm the only one who has to make compromises in this relationship while you live your life freely like a single man, no sacrifices nothing from your side. I didn't want to bring it up because I believe you're old enough to know what's disrespectful, I shouldn't have to school you about treating me right, it should come naturally to you if you love me the way you claim to. I also don't want to find myself being referred to as a nagging girlfriend." I tell him.

" I'm sorry I made you feel that way, I promise I'll block them. I understand where you're coming from I just never realized how

I was indirectly hurting you sthandwa sami. But you need to learn to tell me when I'm doing things that hurt you, communication is important babe,very important. I'll do better you'll see,I hate fighting with you. Especially about things that could have been avoided had we just communicated properly. Promise me that you'll change this habit of yours of keeping things to yourself and holding grudges against me,I don't like at all." He says holding my hands.

"I promise babe. I'm sorry I gave you a hard time but don't shout at me, it makes me feel like a child." I say smiling and he chuckles.

" Okay chubby cheeks wami, now give me sugar." He says tickling me.

"No! Stop it Thabiso I'm going to wet myself. Stop it." I say in between laughter.

" I won't stop until you kiss me." He says continuing to tickle me,I'm practically in tears now so I have no choice but to kiss him for the sake of my freedom. He's so annoying but I love him to death, all of him, imperfections and all.

"I love you." I say

" I love you too. More than you'll ever know" he replies. Okay he's making me emotional now.

It's Saturday today, everyone has been out all morning, Thabiso included, I tried to talk to Thandeka earlier on to ask her how her date went yesterday with that Mpande guy, but she dismissed me and hurried off. I feel like everyone is ignoring me for some reason, even Thabiso has been edgy and off for the past 2 days, he has even been having private phone calls and shit like that

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he better not be cheating on me. And this morning, when I entered the dining room for breakfast, they suddenly cut the conversation they were having before, I don't know maybe I'm just being paranoid. My thoughts are interrupted by my ringing phone, it's Sbahle.

"Hello my love. Get ready neh? I'm taking you to see my house remember you fainted on me the last time, so you owe me a visit and I won't take no for an answer." She says.

"It's fine, it's not like I have anything better to do, I'm all alone in this house and my man has been distant." I say emotionally.

" Get ready then, I'm driving there to get you right now." She says.

I change out of my sweatpants and wear something presentable. I can't wait for spring, I'm so done with this cold it's not even funny.

The drive to her house is fun, we're jamming on Taylor Swift and singing along. She lives about 20 minutes away in another fancy neighbourhood, must be nice.

We part outside another mansion, Tuscan style and the landscape outside is just so beautiful I'm in awe.

"Your house is beautiful. Wow!" That's all I manage to say.

"Thank you my love, let's go inside, it's cold out here." She says and leads the way to the front door.

"Surpriseeee!" Holy shit I almost fainted. It's my mother-in-law, Limpho, Thandeka, and 3 other women I don't know. Oh my gawd it's a surprise baby shower, the decorations, the balloons, everything is in yellow and white, they are all wearing the same colours too.

Now this explains why they were all weird around me. Don't cry Bophelo! Don't cry! I say to myself but fail to contain myself, this is so sweet, I wish my mother was here.

"Don't cry, you'll upset the baby." Says Mrs Buthelezi giving me a hug and rubbing my back.

" Thank you so much." I say after composing myself.

"Okay time to change into a better dress, we're to have fun not cry." Sbahle says pulling me upstairs to her room.

An hour later I'm in a white dress, with a crown on my head and sitting on princess chair in the living room playing games and opening presents. My mother video called me, she was in on the plan too, how blessed am I?

" Sthandwa sami. I hope you've forgiven me for being distant, I didn't want to ruin tbe surprise ." Thabiso says on the phone.

" it's okay my love, thank you for doing this for me. Where are you?" I ask.

" we're at Manqoba's house with my cousins and his friend. We're also having a baby shower, male edition. This fools put a tiara on my head even." He says chuckling.

" That must be priceless, I want pictures. I can't imagine how hot you look with a tiara on your head." I say mocking him.

I end the call and enjoy my party, these women are drinking adult beverages and all I'm having is juice, I'm so jealous. See what you get for letting men between your legs?

Seriously, I don't get what's the fascination with baby kicks, well at least not my child. This one is abusive, there's nothing cute about his kicks, right now he's pressing his big head against my bladder, it feels like my bladder is about to burst. Ontop of that he's heavy and uncomfortable and I just want him out of me, I'm due in 2 weeks and I can't wait.

" ouch!" I scream.

"What's wrong?" Asks Thabiso panicking!

"It's this child of yours? Attacking my bladder as usual, I seriously need him out of me asap. I can't with him, he's terrorising my life." I whine.

"That's my girl! She's defending me, giving you a hard time for denying daddy sex." he says brushing my thighs.

" Are you for real? Don't annoy me, please." I say annoyed making my way to the bathroom to relieve myself.

"Come on babe, just the tip." He begs, seriously? Does this one think I have time for his sexual needs?

"You have hands for a reason Thabiso, use them. I don't want that thing anywhere near me, or take a cold shower I don't care really." I say annoyed.

"Okay fine, but it's been weeks and will be more weeks and months after giving birth. This is torture." He whines some more.

" I'm not your wife Thabiso,leave me alone.." I say and leave the room,I need something to eat.

Manqoba is here, seriously this one can't stay away from home,why does he have his own house to begin with if he practically lives here.

"Mr Sandton,what brings you here?" I ask.

" I'm running away from some crazy girl,she keeps showing up at my place unannounced and begging me to give our relationship a try. I was never in a relationship with her in the first place,she was supposed to be a one night stand." He says.

"I think I like her already, I never thought you were afraid of anything, let alone a woman." I say laughing, this one will never grow up. He thinks marriage and relationships are a trap.

" You look exhausted!" He says leading, I make myself something to eat.

"Trust me,I feel worse that I look. I just want this to end,it feels like I've been pregnant for years." I say.

" women go through the most." He says. A lot bruh! A lot!

"So you still won't give me Limphe's number?" He asks with a smirk.

"No she won't, stop harassing my girlfriend bafo." Thabiso saves me. He's freshly showerd and smells nice.

I make my way to the pool to find Thandeka, she's like a mermaid this one, as soon as she gets home from school she gets home from school.

I have been having sharp brief pains on my abdomen since since morning,hence my moodiness but I dismissed them,you know with pregnancy everything hurts and it could be nothing.

"So mrs Mpande Zulu,how is mjolo life treating you, you have been avoiding my questions about him, give me something mahn I have shareholders in this relationship." I ask and she rolls her eyes dramatically,this one has attitude for days I swear.

" we're fine he gives me the best kisses and we'll be going to gold reef city next weekend, be prepared to cover for me my partner in crime." She says blushing. Young love, she looks so cute and crazy inlove,wait until he starts showing her his true colours and breaks her little heart, I let her enjoy herself though, I won't ruin it for her with my negativity.

"Alright,as long as you don't make unplanned babies and all." I say, I'm practicing parenthood on her.

" Trust me,I have no intentions of looking like you,this pregnancy showed you flames, andizi!" Great now we're mocking me.

" whatever, you think I planned to....what?!" Why is my dress wet? Did I just pee? Holly shit my water just broke.

Thandeka is ahead of me, she is already running inside to tell her brothers, I'm rooted in one position, It's shock! I blame it on all those scary birth videos I've been watching, seriously why do people record that? It's messy and traumatizing to see a vagina expand like that. Oh my gawd my vagina is about to expand like that, holly shit I'm going to push a human being out of my vagina!

Thabiso is leading me to the car, the baby bag on his arm.

"Don't panic baby, it will be over before you know it. Just do the breathing exercise like we practiced." He assures me. Easy for him to say.

By the time we get to the hospital I'm not feeling any pain yet,maybe these people exaggerated about labour pains , why do they keep making more children if it hurts like they say?

"You're still looking this composed?" Says the midwife after checking me. "You're not going to give birth anytime soon,

brace yourself we might be here until tomorrow, same time."
He says smiling and shaking his head? He better be joking.

It's bad guys, the pain is worse than anything I have ever felt in my entire life, I thought the pain I felt when I lost my virginity was too much, but this? No! This is something else, I have been in labour for over 10 hours now and at this point all I want is for them to take this thing out. Thabiso has been here the whole time, encouraging me to breathe through the pain and holding my hand tightly through it all.

It's time to do the pushing now and I'm worried I don't have enough energy in me to do it, it hurts.

"Come on baby, she's ready to come out, you can do this push."
He says.

I'm trying but it's too much, it's too painful and my energy is running out. I take my words back, they were not exaggerating about these pains.

"I can see the head, one last push, give it your all." The midwife says and I brace myself to give it my all, I scream and push with all the energy I have left in me.

A piercing cry follows shortly, he's screaming his little lungs out.

" It's a boy." The midwife says and I smile through my tears, I knew it, I always knew.

Thabiso hasn't put the baby down since the nurse brought him back. He's really in love with our little person, didn't he say he wants a girl?

" we need to give him a name." I say.

"Let's wait for my father, he is the one who names our children." He replies without looking at me. Which reminds me, I have to call my parents.

" Hello baby girl, is everything okay?" My father asks.

" yes everything is fine. I gave birth earlier today, it's a boy." I say with a smile on my face.

I hear him telling my mother and her loud ululating voice follows.

"Leseli. That's his name." Says my father before passing the phone to my mother.

"My baby has a baby now! I'm so happy! Leseli has perfect timing, I'll be packing my bags tonight and flying there first thing tomorrow, my leave ends in 3 weeks so I'll be able to help you with him for that long." She says excitedly, I'm so blessed to share this moment with both my parents.

" Thank you mama. I love you." I say before ending the call. I need to sleep I'm exhausted.

I'm woken up by a nurse, my baby is crying his lungs out I guess he needs my milk again. No one prepares you for these things, the excruciating pain you feel when you breastfeed for the first time, but looking in his brown bright eyes makes it all worth it, he's my new obsession.

It's time for my bath and I limp my way to the bathroom, it's a painful mess down there, the midwife under estimated Leseli's big head and concluded he'd be able to pass through my vagina without having to cut me. But no he was wrong, this one damaged and tore his way out of my vagina.

The whole Buthelezi clan is here right now, they are taking turns admiring the new member of their family, my boy is a charmer guys he already has everybody under his spell.

"His name is Amile." Says Mr Buthelezi proudly, Amile Leseli Buthelezi I love it.

"When are you getting discharged makoti?" Asks Mrs Buthelezi.

"The doctor said tomorrow morning, I can't wait, I miss Makhumalo's cooking." I really do

hospital food are crap.

"This one is going to be a player just like his uncle, I'll be teaching him everything I know about women." That's Manqoba with a smirk on his face, this one is not normal.

"Don't even dare curse my son like that, make your own children." Thabiso replies, he's already protective of his little curb I see.

"Visiting hours are over now sisters, I hope this one gives you enough time to rest tonight, you need it." Says Sbahle, she's right all I want is to close my eyes and go to sleep.

I haven't had decent sleep for over a week now, my child is an angel during the day and a monster at night, he screams all night and wants to be held and nursed. I thank God for my mother and Mrs Buthelezi for taking turns with me in taking care of him.

He's peacefully sleeping right now and I'm having lunch with the mothers, it's so peaceful.

" I have been meaning to talk to you and your husband but Leseli has been keeping us busy.

I want to take Bophelo and Leseli with me back home next week when I leave, by then I'm sure she'll be completely healed." My mother drops the bomb.

" what why? They belong here, this is Amile's home and he has to grow up here, we paid damages for him and introduced him to the ancestors." Mrs Buthelezi says getting worked up now. Okay they must calm down, I'm too tired for drama.

"But you haven't paid lobola for Bophelo yet so she doesn't belong here,you can't separate a child from his mother. You have disrespected our house enough by keeping her this long and allowing her to play house with your son but I let it slide because of circumstances beyond our control, but right now there's no reason for keeping her here. She's going home with me." My mother says raising her voice now.

Okay calm down adults,I thought these one's were getting along fine, what is this?

"I won't allow my grandchild to be raised in a foreign county,he's a Buthelezi not a Mosebo. He's going nowhere." Say Mrs Buthelezi raising her voice too.

" well you should have thought about that before shipping your son off to another county to impregnate my daughter. You think I'm happy with my only daughter living in a foreign county? Trust me I'm not but I've learnt to deal with it,so will you." My mother ends the argument and leaves the room,hectic!

Thabiso just got home and as usual all his focus is on Leseli, I'm not complaining.

" My mother wants to take me and Leseli home with her next week, your mother is not happy about it though, they had an argument earlier on." I tell him filling him in on everything that happened.

"I'm sad that this has to happen, more sad that I wanted to do things the right way and make you my wife but got rejected, now your parents think I'm just taking advantage of you with no intentions to wife you." He says still not looking at me, okay now this is all my fault? I thought he understood my reasons?

"So you're saying this is all my fault? Wow!" I say my head buried in my hands, these people are getting on my nerves, all of them! This is the time to celebrate Leseli and focus on having tight knit family for his sake, then what is all this?

"If the shoe fits, wear it." He says sarcastically.

"You're picking a fight? You choose now to pick a fight? Are you serious?" I ask pissed and Thandeka interrupts us.

"Baba wants to see both of you in the living room, right now." She announces taking Leseli from Thabiso, I guess she decided to be babysitter while we attend the meeting.

My mother is already seated as we walk in, so is Mrs Buthelezi and the tension is so thick you can cut it with a knife. Trust my mother to give people attitude in their own home, sigh!

"My wife already filled me in about what happened. Mrs Mosebo I get where you're coming from, and you're right, things need to be done the right way. We are sorry for disrespecting you and your husband in this manner but I promise you we will right our wrongs. I will talk to my brothers and we'll come to Lesotho to pay for lobola as soon as possible." He says.

" Please forgive my wife, she means no harm, just like you she's just a mother trying to do right by his son and have all her family in one place. I would hate it if your view of her changed because of this incident, after all we are alm going to be one family, let's not enemies out of each other please." He continues looking at both my mother and his wife. They both just nod in agreement.

"Son, Bophelo

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before we all get carried away and start planning your lives without consulting with you, is this what the both of you want? Marriage?" He asks now directing the question to Thabiso and I.

" I would like to dicuss this privately with Bophelo and get back to all of you. we don't want her to feel pressured to do something she's not comfortable with." He says , is that bitterness hear through his tone? He must not try me!

I make my way to my room as soon as we get dismissed, I need to get away from Thabiso before I slap the bitterness out of him,nxa.

"I hope you understand where I'm coming from, I'm not trying to separate your from the father of your child, I'm just trying to make sure you're respected. You have a son now and I know you'd do the same for him." My mother says, we have been sitting silently in this room since morning, I guess she thought I was angry with her but no, it's Thabiso's statements from last night I can't get out of my head. Me and him haven't talked since then, when he walks in the room to see his son, I walk out. I have nothing nice to say to him!

" Of course mama, you'd never hurt me intentionally and I'm glad you stood up for me like this. Thank you." I say giving her

my best smile and just then Thabiso walks in, he didn't go to work today and I wonder why.

"Let me give you love birds space." My mother says before leaving the room, I never thought I'd live to see the day when she of all people leaves me alone in a room with a man.

"You can't keep running away from me Bophelo. We need to discuss this, do you want to be my wife or not?" Wow, why does this feel like an ultimatum?

" Not when you make it sound like I'm obliged to. Not when you're using that tone on me, it feels like you're doing me a favour when you say it like that. I have a sore vagina, painful breasts and I'm tired as shit, I don't have time to be nursing your bruised ego too. I apologised for rejecting your proposal the last time, I'm not about to apologies for it again. When you're done being full of yourself, you know where to find me. "

I say making my way to the cot, Leseli needs a nappy change.

I'm looking at my creation, yes me, I did that. I made a human being, carried him for 8 months, endured 10 hours of labour and pushed him out of my coochie. I literally did that, I'm breastfeeding him right now and he's staring into my eyes, he has my eyes, everything else is Thabiso except the eyes. I feel cheated by the way, after all the hard time he gave me? Why did he come out looking like his father?

Speaking of that one, we are still not on speaking terms for the past two days. I am hurt honestly, I put up a strong face but deep down I'm hurting. We were in a good space and all of a sudden he changes on me over something that happened 8 months ago, how did we get from wanting to be around each other every minute to here? Shouldn't this be the happiest time of our lives as new parents? I don't get it. I love Thabiso to the death of me but what I'm not going to have is being taken for granted, I deserve better than that.

I feel his presence and his cologne first before turning around to meet his eyes. He looks as shitty as I feel, defeated and exhausted.

"Hey, if you're here for this one your timing is wrong, he's asleep and I was just about to put him down." I say.

" Great, that will give us time to talk." He says before sitting on the bed watching me lay Leseli down, I hope he's not here to pick another fight because I don't have enough strength in me for one, I'm one word close to a full on emotional breakdown.

"Sthandwa sami, you are the most important person in my life, you and Amile are my home. I love you more than anything in this world and would never survive without you in my life. I'm not perfect and sometimes my dumb ass says dumb things that I regret later on and most times my ego does all the talking and thinking for me. I am so sorry about the way our conversation ended the last time, I was a complete jerk and I apologise for it. Forgive me sthandwa sami." He says genuinely.

" Yes you were a complete jerk but I forgive you because I don't have the energy to hold a grudge against you, and because I love you and I need your support now more than ever. You don't understand how scared I am knowing that I'll be in a different country from you raising a child on my own until you and your family decides to come and pay mahali. I'm also insecure because I'm fat and crusty and unattractive right now, we haven't been intimate for weeks and I'm scared you'll find someone more attractive to replace me with. I'm not even sure my body will recover and be what it used to be, will I lose

the baby fat? Will my breasts be firm again and will all these stretch marks go away? I'm not sure if my vagina will go back to its original size or if my sexual drive will improve. I'm an emotional insecure mess and you turning your back on me like you did messed me up even more, you really hurt me Thabiso." I'm trying so hard to stop the tears.

"My feelings for you have not changed, I love you now more than I did before. You are the mother of my first child now and still the love of my life. If I mess this up by cheating or whatever I'll be losing not just you but my son too and I'd never risk that.

I don't care about stretch marks and saggy breasts, I love you as you are and with any changes that you come with

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don't ever doubt that." He says making me smile through my tears, I needed validation, his validation. It's crazy I know, I have never needed validation from anyone in my life before now, insecurities will mess you up.

He gives me a tight hug and I break into a sob. I'm crying for all the stress I've been under, for my fears and desperation to see our parents get along. I'm scared that if my mom and Mrs Buthelezi don't patch things up it will make life difficult for me, what if she resents me because of my mother and end up coming between me and Thabiso? Oh gawd its a mess!

"Look at me chubby cheeks. We're going to be okay, this will pass you'll see. Don't cry you know I hate seeing you sad sthandwa sami." He keeps rubbing my back until I calm down eventually.

"I came here to ask you properly to be my wife, to walk this journey of parenthood and marriage together. You are the only woman for me and I'm sure beyond reasonable doubt that I want to spend the rest of my life with you. To hold your hand in tough times and laugh with you during the good times, you're the one person I want to share my good and bad news first with. My go-to person, the one I want to have ten more children with. Marry me sthandwa same." He asks with pleading eyes and yes he's on both knees now. He has a ring in his hand, a different one, this one is has a bigger diamond.

"Of course I'll marry you. But I'm not having ten more children, give me zero sir andizi." I say laughing and he attacks me with a deep kiss that stirs things inside me. Foreign feelings I haven't had in a while and yearning between my thighs that forces me to end the kiss, I'm not fully recovered yet so I'm avoiding temptations by all means necessary.

"You have no idea how happy you just made me. I was so nervous thinking you'd reject me after all you're

unpredictable." He says with a smirk, I miss that smile. My FIANCE is hot ladies and gentlemen, I love the sound of that, my FIANCE.

Thabiso went to see his father in the study, I guess to share the news on our engagement and to tell him to inform the uncles that the wedding is on. I just told my mother too and she can't stop admiring my ring and ululating, I can tell she's at peace knowing I will be in good hands with Thabiso.

" Mama, you have to patch things up with Mabuthelezi, I don't want drama around my wedding and I want Leseli's grandmothers to get along for all our sakes. You are a good fearing woman apologising is what you preach all the time. Practice it!" I say to her.

" Helang basali! Bathong wena Bophelo are you calling me a drama queen now? Haibo just because you have a baby now doesn't make us agemates, mehlolo! There's also no need to involve God in this mess, I'll talk to her and apologise for my outburst, not because you say so but because it's the right thing to do." She's rolling her eyes dramatically, and she denies being a drama queen? Mxm!

I am happy things are falling into place, there's light at the end of the tunnel after all and God hasn't turned His back on me, I should go to church soon and visit him to thank him personally.

It's thursday today,my birthday. I never thought I'd be a mother at 22 but here I am,a mother of a 2 weeks old baby boy and I wouldn't have it any other way. As usual my father was the first one to wish me a happy birthday, even from so many kilometres away he still beats my mother to it. I feel like even Leseli can tell that today is mummy's birthday he was so peaceful last night not wanting to annoy me,what a good boy.

"Breakfast in bed for the birthday girl." My mother announces with a tray of a full English breakfast, I feel so special.

I thank her and dig in, this is good, really good.

"So any plans for today? I know your stubborn father and brother have been depositing money into your account every month despite you living in another country and not even needing it. It's good investment, you should start something with it and earn your own money while waiting to be employed, I never want you to depend on a man." She says firmly.

"I'll think about it mama, I'm not the stay at home type you know that. I just need time to figure out what to do." I reply.

I spent the rest of my morning replying to birthday wishes and video calls from Seithati and Limpho, my bitches.

My fiance walks in carrying the biggest bouquet of red roses, ncooh how sweet is this?

" Happy birthday Mrs me, I'm rushing off to work sthandwa sami yezwa? But I spoke to Sbahle,she'll go to the spa with you for a full body massage,get your hair and nails done and shop for a perfect outfit for tonight,I'm taking you out for a romantic date. To celebrate your birthday and our engagement . Don't worry about Amile,the grandmothers agreed to babysit all you have to do is pump enough milk for the day. " he announces with a smirk on his face, he's proud of himself. I can't stop blushing and I feel bad for only buying him cufflinks for his birthday,it was payback for ignoring my birthday last year,I hold grudges.

"Looks like you have everything planned. Thank you my love." I say giving him a wet kiss. I love this man.

"So I was thinking we should start by buying a sexy piece of lingerie,before looking for a dress and shoes." Sbahle says excitedly,she has been over the moon since we got here plus

she was drinking champagne throughout our spa date, the effects are starting to show.

Why the hell would I need expensive lingerie? I'm not having sex with Thabiso anytime soon

I'm not fully healed and tradition says after 3 months.

"I have enough underwears at home,I'm not even getting laid tonight there's absolutely no need to go overboard?" She rolls her eyes at me, this bitch.

" Girl sexy lingerie is not always about the man,it's about you too. A sexy number makes you feel good, you're holding a black card for godsake, go crazy." She says shoving a skimpy red lace number in my hands,I have no energy to argue with this her.

We find a perfect dress and pair of heels later on, I'm about to drop Thabiso's jaws on the floor.

"You look like a billion dollars future Mrs Buthelezi. " He says grabbing my ass and giving me a tight hug before leading me to the car. He's wearing a black tuxedo looking sexy as hell,my clit is jumping in excitement,the little whore.

"So where are you taking me Shenge?" I ask.

"You'll find out soon beautiful." We're seated in the backseat,my hand in his. His cologne is intoxicating,making me imagine things I shouldn't be thinking about, I even forget

about my heavy painful breasts for a while,I'm lost in this moment.

We get to a fancy restaurant,it's empty.

"Don't tell me you booked the whole restaurant Thabiso." He smirks.

" Well this is Vusi's restaurant, I just asked for a special favour and he came through for us." Okay must be nice having connections to rich people.

Rose petals, soft music, champagne, scented candles, this is sweet.

" Don't worry the champagne is non-alcoholic." He says,I wouldn't mind getting drunk by the way, in fact I'm craving adult beverages a lot.

" I don't believe you're going back to Lesotho in the next two days,I've gotten used to seeing you every day, I'm going to miss you so much."

"Good,that will motivate you to pay mahali and marry me officially. I don't want to be apart from you too." I say. It's funny how a year ago at this time we weren't on speaking terms and I was giving out free pussy to the likes of Teboho. who would have thought that I'd be engaged a year later to the love of my life? Life is unpredictable.

I have been home for two full weeks today. It took Leseli a few days to settle in his new environment, he cried all night for the first three days, I love my son with all my heart but during those three days I didn't like him as a person. My mother has gone back to work so I'm on my own in this motherhood thing but as overwhelming as it is some days, I'm starting to love it. The Buthelezi's are coming this weekend for the lobola negotiations as they call it. I'm more excited to see Thabiso than I am about my worth being discussed, we call and text every day but it's not the same, I miss his cologne, his hugs and his kisses, I miss my man.

Seithati was here yesterday, she's glowing and beautiful than ever and apparently there's a new man in her life, this one is not married and from what I hear he's treating my friend really well. It was evident in the way she blushed the few times he called her while she was here, and most importantly he spoils her rotten unlike Tsietsi, than gawd.

My thoughts are interrupted by a knock at the door, where's my father and why is he not answering the door, seriously? Talking about my father he resigned from his job because he's tired of being too far away from his wife especially now that I'll

be getting married and moving to South Africa. He's so taken with his grandson that I get jealous some days, you know I'm a big daddy's girl so yes I want his attention all to myself, Leseli will have to get all his love from his own father, I can share a lot of things but not my father.

The knock is persistent, geez! Maybe it's my paternal grandmother she's supposed to arrive today, she offered to help me out with the baby since my mother went back to work, not that I need help but I won't say no to it.

"Hello, you must be Bophelo you're so grown, the last time I saw you you were in diapers. Are your parents home?" Asks this strange woman standing on my door step. She's yellow, beautiful eyes and a beautiful smile, she looks so much like me you'd swear we're related.

"My mother is at work, she'll be arriving any minute now, I don't know maybe my father went to fetch her, he drives her to and from work, you can come inside and wait for them if you don't mind." I say giving her a reserved smile.

She just nods her head and follows me to the living room.

"Would you like anything to drink?" I ask.

" water will be fine, thanks." She replies, scanning the living room with her eyes.

Just after I hand her the glass of water,my parents walk in, finally! It was going to be so awkward sitting in here with this strange woman, not knowing what to say to her.

" Hello baby, is Leseli asleep? I had such a long day at work and I know he's the only one who can help me relax, boy boy oa nkhono bathong." My bother says, she hasn't seen our guest yet, when she does her face changes from happiness to rage in an instant.

" what are you doing in my house?" She asks the woman sternly. Okay I have never seen my mother like this, ever!

"Lumela Mampho. I came here to talk to you and your husband about my daughter." Replies this woman with attitude, okay I don't like the way she's speaking to my mother

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nobody talks to my mother like that! I have concluded that I don't like her.

"Your daughter? Your fucking daughter? Heeeh! Wonders will never end!" My mother says clapping her hands dramatically, African women style.

"Papa, take your trash out of my house before I do something to her I might regret. I'm being tested." She continues looking at my father who has been standing silently watching the drama unfold. Okay somebody balance me here, who is this woman and why is my mother referring to her as my father's trash?

"Bophelo go to your room." My father instructs me, why? I'm not a child anymore I'm a fully grown woman with a child and a fiancée, I deserve to be included in adult matters. I make my way to my bedroom slowly, of course I'm going to eavesdrop.

"Limakatso what are you doing in my house disrespecting my wife like this. Are you out of your mind?" My father is fuming.

"I'm not here for your precious wife. I'm here for my daughter, it's about time she met her mother." She replies arrogantly, okay who's this woman and why is she looking for her daughter in my mother's house with so much disrespect?

"You thought I wouldn't find out about the negotiations? You want to marry off my daughter without my knowledge?" She continues. NO! It can't be me, maybe there's another member of my family getting married too. They cannot be talking about me!

" Helang basali! Ho tella ho hokana kana! She's your daughter now? She wasn't your daughter when you dropped her on my doorstep when she was barely a month old? I raised that child, saw her off to school, gave her love and held her hand during her happy and sad days,I'm her only mother. First you have an affair with my husband, throw it in my face, drop your child at my doorstep and disappear for decades. Now you come back with your stinking attitude and demand her like we owe you? Get the fuck out of my house now and never come back here again or I swear I'll kill you with my bare hands!" They are talking about me, oh my gawd!

I make my way to the living room, I need answers and I need them now.

" Papa, mama. What is she talking about?" I ask with a shaky voice,be strong Bophelo!

My mother breakdowns into a painful sob, she made my mother cry! No one makes my mother cry! I hate her even more.

"You shouldn't have heard that baby. I never wanted you to find out this way." My father says defeated.

"Find out about what? Papa what is going on?" I ask,I'm indenial.

"I'm your mother, I carried you for nine months but because of circumstances, I was not able to raise you so I gave you up to your father to raise you instead." That woman says, why is she talking to me? Why is she involving herself and interrupting my conversation with my father.

"I'm not talking to you! I'm talking to my parents, not you!" I say looking her straight in the eye, nxa!

" Don't ever come to my home again making demands. You are not my mother, never have been and never will be!" I say and storm out, I need to breathe and I won't let this woman see me break down, she doesn't deserve my tears.

I'm sobbing silently, careful not to wake Leseli up. My whole life has been a lie, I'm heartbroken. I'm more angry at my father for cheating on my mother, she doesn't deserve that, I'm so disappointed in him. My poor mother, I cannot imagine what she went through having to raise the product of his husband's infidelity, worst part I look exactly like that woman, I cannot bring myself to say her name she doesn't exist as far as I'm concerned. My mother walks in, her eyes are puffy and the sadness in her eyes breaks my heart, she silently sits besides me and gives me a hug and I sob loudly in her arms, I'm so sorry this is happening to her!

Leseli was distressed all night last night, I guess he could tell that my mood was off. This was supposed to be the happiest week of my life, but no! someone had to crawl out of whatever hole she came from and complicate my life. I tried to understand her logic but I can't, so she has an affair with a married man, then drops the results of that affair at his door, turn around and leave for decades then come back making demands?who the hell does she think she is? What does she want? A share of the lobola money as payment for being my egg donor? I don't like her, I don't need her in my life, She must go back to where she came from , my life is prefect the way it is. I have a loving father and a crazy overprotective mother who loves me to death, that's enough for me.

My mother and I didn't get to talk last night, she just let me cry my pain out on her chest without saying a single word, then left later on. My grandmother never arrived yesterday but called me to let me know she'd be coming later today, wrong timing but who knows she might help us get through this.

"Rise and shine. It's 10am Bophelo get out of bed, you're going to be a wife soon, that means waking up early to make your husband breakfast and help him get ready for work." My

mother says, walking in with a tray of breakfast, she skipped work.

"Thabiso knows I'm lazy mama, she loves me as I am. He's not expecting me to change. Thank you for breakfast, you're the best." I say making my way to the bathroom to brush my teeth and freshen up.

"Hehe! This one is clueless, marriages changes men. All of a sudden their hands can't work and they become so comfortable and turn you into a maid. Trust me I know these things."

Well not my Thabiso, he better not change on me and expect me to be his maid, he must not dare!

"I met your father 36 years ago in high school, we were just friends at first but in our last year of high school he started showing romantic interest in me. I turned him down because I was not ready for a relationship, all I wanted was to finish high school, pass with flying colours and be an accountant. We both passed in flying colours and he went overseas to study medicine while I stayed and studied accounting. Before he left he told me he'd come back to marry me but I didn't take him seriously, he was a charmer back then, a real ladies man and I had no interests sharing my man." She says with a huge smile on her face.

"He came back 6 years later, I had already graduated and was working already work was not hard to find in those days. Being the religious woman that I am, I had kept my virginity at 23 and was waiting to get married first before giving it up. The relationships that I had never lasted because of that reason.

True to his promises, he came back and asked me out again and this time I gave him a chance and we got married the same year, the happiest year of my life.

I got pregnant the following year to your brother and your father was the happiest I had ever seen. There were complications during his birth and my womb had to be taken out. At first I was just happy that at least God gave me a chance to be a mother, I was heartbroken but grateful at the same time. Life went on, I was happy in my marriage and my husband loved me like I was the only woman in earth." She takes a deep breath before continuing her story

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I guess the next part of it involves my surrogate or egg donor, whichever you prefer.

"Things started changing when your brother turned 5 and I longed for him to have a sibling, the realisation of me never

being able to carry a child again dawned on me and it hit me hard. I felt like my choice had been taken away from me, and the one thing that made me a woman taken away from me too. I went into depression, shut your father out when he tried to help me and just got lost in my misery. Things got worse when he got a job offer to go and work in Bloemfontein, it meant only coming home on the fourth week of every month and that put more pressure on our already strained relationship. That's where he met your mother, a beautiful available nurse who made him forget about the misery that was our marriage back then.

When he came home happier and more relaxed my instincts told me there was another woman but I loved and trusted your father so much I couldn't imagine him betraying me like that ever, so I dismissed my suspicions, dealt with my depression and became the woman he fell in love with again.

Their affair was very brief and your father ended things quickly but your mother was in love with him.

She was also already pregnant, so she came here, to my house one Saturday and told me about the affair and the pregnancy, she had demands. She wanted your father to make her his second wife but your father was not in love with her so he turned her down." She's crying now, silent tears.

"The pain and betrayal I felt at that moment cannot be explained. I was broken, your father broke me and I was ready to leave this marriage. The elders calmed me down and my love for him wouldn't let me leave, I love that man.

Long story short we worked things out and he earned my trust back. Your mother gave birth and dropped you on my doorstep a month later, I heard she resigned from work after that and disappeared. At first I didn't want you, couldn't look you in the eye and was determined to ship you off to your grandmothers, there was no way I was going to raise my husband's daughter with another woman, no way! But you gave me that toothless smile, looked straight into my eyes with those beautiful daring eyes of yours and all my anger dissolved. I knew I'd love you and protect you with everything I had forever, you were the answer to all my prayers and longing for a beautiful baby girl. I named you Bophelo because you were a beginning to a beautiful life, for me, for my husband and your brother. You brought life and happiness to a broken home and have been our ray of sunshine ever since. I love you." By the time she's done I'm a crying mess, she's my hero.

"I don't want her mama, I don't need her. I don't want to talk to her." I say in between sobs, she knows who I'm talking about, I won't say her name, she doesn't deserve to be a human being in my mind.

" You should talk to her, hear her out. It's for your own good my love, so that you don't live your life with resentment and hatred, you shouldn't begin your marriage life without resolving this or else it will come back to haunt you. Talk to her, forgive her and free your heart my baby." She says while rubbing my back.

I don't know, I really don't know if I have the energy to face that woman!

"Your mother is right babe. Talk to her, hear her out and free yourself from resentment. I'm sorry this is happening to you, but I know you'll get through it, you are stronger than you think." Thabiso says, I don't know hey.

"I will think about it babe. I miss you, I can't wait to officially be Mrs Buthelezi." I say trying to change the topic.

"I miss you too babe, both of you. Even Thandeka is anxiously waiting for you to come back. Don't change the topic though, and don't take too long to make a decision." This one knows me too well, and Thandeka I know she wants me to cover for her while she goes on dates with that tall Mpande boy.

I'm sitting here anxiously waiting for that woman to show up for our meeting, I decided we should meet in a restaurant because I don't want going to my mother's house and disrespecting her.

"Hi sorry I'm late, I got caught up somewhere I'm really sorry. Thank you for agreeing to see me." This one thinks I have time for her excuses.

"you wanted to meet me, I'm here." I say dryily.

" I know to you I might seem like a heartless woman who abandoned her child and ran off to start a new life, but it's not like that. I love you, I wanted you, I wanted to raise you myself but I was so messed up emotionally back then. I really loved your father, I know it sounds crazy because he's a married man and I'm the crazy third person trying to ruin his marriage, but it wasn't like that at all. I was young and naive and thought he'd fall inlove with me and leave his wife. When he had sex with me and dropped me, I was bitter and vengeful, I wanted him to feel the same I felt that's when I went to see his wife to tell her about our affair, I was wrong, I know that now but back then I didn't know better, I wanted things to go my way or no way at all. After I gave birth to you, I was bitter, miserable and alone, I was in no position to raise child, a child that I believed ruined my life and was the source of my misery. When I dropped you off at Mampho's , I knew she'd give you the life and love that I wouldn't be able to, she's naturally maternal and perfect. I knew she'd raise you well and that you would have a stable home, a family, something I would never be able to give you." She pauses for a minute to catch her breath and stop her tears, I'm not moved.

" I kept tabs on you, I was always there in the background cheering for and proud of the woman you were growing up to be, principled and happy, that's all I ever wanted for you.

I'm not coming back to turn you against your parents, I just want to get to know you better, to have some kind of relationship with you.

That's all I'm asking for, a chance." She says looking at me with pleading eyes.

"I don't think you've changed much, I didn't like the way you talked to my mother the last time, not one bit. You were disrespectful and showed no remorse for what you did to her. You almost ruined her marriage, dropped a child at her door and expected her to mother it while you lived your life freely without any baggage wherever you were.

If you've changed like you say, you'll have to start by apologising to my mother for your behaviour and for the pain you brought into her life, and mean it. Then and maybe then we'll talk about having a relationship." I say.

" I have to go now, I can't bear being away from my son for this long. I forgive you by the way

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you did what you had to do. Your actions led me to having great parents and a family, you did me a big favour by

abandoning me, thank you.bye." I say, I need to get out of here, I feel suffocated.

My grandmother is here, it's funny how she was the very first person to know about my pregnancy, even before I took a pregnancy test she could tell.

" Your child is spoilt, he wants to be carried all the time and that's not good." Okay, criticizing my parenting skills already? We're going to have a problem.

"Your father tells me that Limakatso was here. I know she gave birth to you your but I don't like her, I don't trust her motives and I hope you don't fall into her trap. I know your mother will encourage you to have a relationship with her because she's a good forgiving woman but don't do it. A leopard doesn't change it's spot, she'll leave you broken and feeling unwanted, don't say I didn't warn you." She says firmly.

" Trust me, I have no interest in having a relationship with her, I've forgiven her though, for the sake of my emotional well being. I don't even feel like an abandoned child, I was raised with so much love that there's no void in my heart left for her to fill, I'm perfectly fine and perfectly happy with my life the way it is." I say with a smile on my face, and I mean every word.

The day of the negotiations is finally here, I've been cooped in my bedroom all morning wearing a seshoeshoe and a doek on my head like a perfect makoti. My sister inlaw has been eavesdropping on my behalf, so far it's hectic, besides the language barrier which makes things hard, my uncles are demanding an impossible amount claiming that I was a virgin and they impregnated me so they need to pay extra. Ignoring the fact that these people already paid damages for me, are these people trying to stand in the way of me getting married?

" You won't believe this, your brother wants them to pay a fine for keeping you in their house all those months without paying mahali for you first." She says clapping her hands. This is a movie to her neh? My life is a soapie to her!

" How much does he want? Your husband doesn't want me to be happy I swear, why is he making things difficult for me?" I'm annoyed, these people are determined to frustrate my life.

"Let's just say it's a lot of money, that's all I'll say." She responds proud of herself for keeping my worth a secret from me.

Thabiso is calling, I know he's as frustrated as I am, he's parked somewhere outside the gate.

" Your uncles are determined to make my life difficult sthandwa sami. They are prepared to milk us dry, but it's okay you're worth it." I can tell he's smiling to himself, I was mistaken he's not as frustrated as I am he's chilled about all this.

" I want it all to end, it's been hours babe I'm getting irritated." I say in irritation.

" patience my love, patience. By the end of this day you'll be a Mrs Buthelezi traditionally, I can't wait." Mxm, whatever.

A couple of hours later the women are ululating, it's done. I'm introduced to our guests, I mean really? I already know all these people, but I bow my head regardless and act my part as the perfect makoti. Thabiso is allowed to enter my home as an official son in law, he's sharing a drink with my brother and having conversations with my father, he has made it in life.

Food is served and Thabiso gets a chance to see his son, you should see the smile on his face, he's complete, I'm complete.

"Are you sure you don't want a graduation party?" My mother asks for the 100th time and my answer is still NO.

"No mama, I don't want one. I'm 100% sure." I say bored.

"You're boring shame. Who doesn't want a graduation party? Why are you acting like a magogo ole monyane hakana?" She asks, hands on her waist looking at me like I've lost my mind or something.

"Mama hle. I have a lot of things to worry about, I'm literally moving to another country in 2 weeks. I have to plan a wedding and be somebody's wife so forgive me if graduation parties are the least of my worries." I say sounding more rude than I intended. I have too much on my plate, leaving your family behind and starting a new life is not easy, it's scary as shit. What happens when my in-laws gang up on me and I have no one to run to? Who will be on my corner and have my back when the only people I know that side are all related to Thabiso in one way or another? It's scary. On the other hand Limakatso, yes that one who pushed me out of her vagina, is suffocating me with messages and calls trying to make up for lost time. Yes she came here and apologised to my mother sincerely, so now I have to hold my end of the deal and build a "relationship" with her, it's suffocating.

"No need to bite my head off! Why are you so grumpy this morning? Are you fighting with your husband?" My mom asks concerned. " well in normal circumstances I would advice you to just give him sex to soften his heart. Jwale you're not supposed to be doing that. That's what I do when your father and I are fighting and I'm on the wrong, I shut him up with sex. You should try the cinnamon and milk/ lemon combo, it works wonders the last time I had the combo your father wouldn't let me out of the bedroom all day, he..."

" Mamaaaa! I don't want to know! Ewww." I cut her off. What the hell? The image of my parents getting it on is disturbing, yeer! My mother has been openly talking about sex and stuff since my lobola negotiations, I guess in her head she has made peace with me being a grown woman, a sexually active one at that, so she decided to torture me with this sexual conversation, it's traumatizing.

" yeyii! Don't act fresh with me, Mabuthelezi told be about your pornstar escapades. You think it is nice to subject her whole house with your amateur porn screams? "

Wow so they discuss me with my mother inlaw? I get it they are besty besty lately but why are they making me and my sex life the subject of their ratchet conversations, and who taught my

mother the word " porn"? Oh my gawd does she watch porn?
Sies!

" okay that's my queue to leave, I have a date with Thabiso." I give her puppy dog eyes, I'm about to ask her to babysit for me and I know she's going to give me a hard time, she enjoys tormenting me.

" I'll babysit, just don't come back pregnant again, Leseli is only 2 months old." Wow mum! Just wow. I liked her better when she was still a deputy Jesus, Mabuthelezi is corrupting my mother.

I'm at Thabiso's place, the one he rented while I was still pregnant, he pays rent for it every month and has someone cleaning it every week. He cooked us lunch, it smells great and I'm hoping it tastes good too, phela last I checked this one can't cook to save his life. He better not give me food poisoning my son is too young to lose a mother and I'm not ready to die yet.

" So sthandwa sami have you chosen the date for our wedding yet? I hope it's soon, I want to get it over and done with and take you to a honeymoon so I can have you for breakfast and dinner." He says licking his lips seductively, mxm that's all he cares about, sex!

" I was thinking maybe on the last week of January,I want a top billing worthy wedding babe, you know I'm crazy about white weddings. Be ready, I'm going milk your pockets dry." I say, I mean it, I want perfection.

" Let's have it in December instead, January is too far and I want you to be legally Mrs Buthelezi by Christmas

two months should be more than enough time for you to find a perfect wedding planner for our big day. Please ." He says giving me puppy dog eyes and handing me a glass of juice, he's impatient, naturally!

" Fine, second week of Decrmbler it is then."

I'm rewarded with an intense kiss, fuck my panties are soaking wet and I need him between my legs as in yesterday.

He ends the kiss, giving me an intense horny look.

" Lunch is ready babe. " His voice comes out strained.

" I don't want food I want you." I reply breathlessly.

"Babe the parents said we have to wait for three months."

" Well I don't see them in this room. I won't tell them if you dont." My hand is already in his pants fishing for his dick, good

thing he's wearing sweatpants, it makes it easier for me. I start slowly jacking him off, while going for another kiss, he won't say now, not when I have his dick in my hand.

I help him take his vest off, then the rest of our clothes follow. He's admiring my full breasts now, running his thumb around the stretch marks on my tummy.

"Beautiful, so beautiful." He says and before I can stop him his lips are sucking my boobs, big mistake.

" Sies mahn! " He exclaims spitting out the baby milk. What was he thinking? I'm still breastfeeding duh!

" You're wasting my baby's food Thabiso." I say in between laughter.

"It tastes and smells horrible, is it legal for children to be eating that, that's abuse moss." The idiot in him responds.

We take it to the bedroom, I'm lying on my back and he's hovering over me, tracing kisses from my abdomen down to my wet mould. He starts licking and sucking like a starved animal, it feels good.

"more babe, I need more." I say breathlessly. He licks two fingers before inserting them inside my tight hole while licking my clit. This is heaven, I jerk my hips involuntarily and brush his bald head with my right hand. I can feel my orgasm building, it's going to be an intense one, my eyes are already rolled to the

back of my head and the screaming begin, I'm close. He licks and sucks faster, his fingers hitting that same spot inside of me and I cum, my whole body is vibrating uncontrollably as that heavenly feeling washes over me.

Before I can even catch my breath, he roughly penetrates me and starts moving. He's not having mercy on my pussy, he's rough and fast, just the way I like it, he's grunting and swearing under his breath, it's so sexy to watch.

" Yes babe. Just like that." I say, another orgasm is approaching and I start matching his rhythm, fucking him back with the same energy, it's so good. My second orgasm hits me unexpectedly and I squirt my juices all over his sheets. He ups his pace, giving me longer and rougher strokes, I know he's close and I start tightening my pussy muscles, making him lose his mind. He roars and moans louder before releasing his seeds inside me, damn that was good! I missed that.

I arrived in westcliff three days ago, Thandeka was so happy to see me apparently she hasn't gone to a single date with Mpande since I left. I'm meeting my half siblings today, Limakatso has other children with her husband, a 19 year old girl and 17 year old boy. She got married to another doctor and lives in Pretoria, the daughter on the other hand is studying theatre and drama at UJ her name is Luthando, while the son is still in high school and lives with them in Pretoria, his name is Ndlalifa.

She told me all this at my graduation party, my mother went ahead and threw me one, I'm glad she did I had so much fun being celebrated by my family and friends.

I don't know how I feel about Limakatso, let's just say I have accepted that whether I like it or not, whether I try to ignore it, she will always be part of me, she after all carried me in her womb for 9 months and gave me a chance to live. She could have terminated me but she's chose otherwise and for that I'm grateful, my mother made me realise that I mostly resented Limakatso for hurting her and trying to break my parent's marriage more than I hate her for abandoning me.

"My baby don't fight my battles for me, I'm a grown up woman who can take care of herself. Give her a chance, get to know her and build some sort of relationship with, don't feel bad or think I will feel betrayed by it, I will always be your mother and I know for sure that nobody can ever take my place in your heart, there's no competition here." Those were my mother's exact words, see why I love her this much?

I've also found a wedding planner, or rather let me say Sbahle found her for me, she's the best in Gauteng apparently and I almost had a heart attack when I saw how much she charges, but the Buthelezi's assured me that they can afford her so who am I to stop these wealthy people from spending their money?

I'm also thinking of joining a gym soon, I'm only 22 years old and there's no way I'm letting myself go just because I have a child and a husband, no ways! These are the best years of my life.

I'm seated at the coffee shop, nervously waiting for my sister to show up. I feel a little overdressed with my six inch heels and the off the shoulders bodycon dress I'm wearing, I'm trying to make a good impression.

From what I've seen from her Instagram pictures she's a little slayqueen, always dressed to impress with her perfect skin, she's gorgeous.

She looks a lot like me and Limakatso, but lighter and prettier.

There she is, she's wearing a the shortest pair of sexy pants I have ever seen, with a crop top and oversized blazer, she looks perfect as usual. She's wearing a long straight weave today instead of her afro, red lipstick and minimal makeup but she still looks like she just stepped out of a magazine cover, life is unfair.

"Hey, I hope I didn't keep you waiting for long I got caught up somewhere." She says.

"It's okay, you look great by the way." I compliment her.

"Thank you. You look good too

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so much like my mother her genes are very strong hey. Ndlalifa said to tell you that he's a little busy at school, with his rugby practice and writing matric it's hectic but he promises to be there at your wedding.

He's so excited about having an older sister and mostly leaving home for varsity next year, phela that house is toxic I tell you.

Some days I envy you, you know you got the better end of the deal and got a chance to be raised in a happy healthy environment.

My parents are a mess, my father is always too busy at the hospital and gallivanting with all his mistresses to have time to be a parent, my mother on the other hand is too busy shopping and spending his money to care about us. I was literally raised by nannies and then shipped off to boarding school until I wrote my matric, so count your blessings, you haven't missed out on anything." She says, that's hectic hey! She follows her long speech with a weak smile but I can see that even though she tries to dismiss it, she's hurt by Limakatso's parenting skills, I really did dodge a bullet hey!

"Well you have me now and I intend to be the best big sister in the whole world, you can count on that." I assure her and get rewarded with the biggest smile ever.

"Enough about depressing topics, when am I seeing my nephew? I don't believe I'm an aunt, a whole me?shame I plan to spoil him rotten, he's so cute with his chubby cheeks." She says looking exited.

Mzwakhe just walked in, he's with a tall beautiful girl, I didn't know he has a girlfriend. He's a shady character this one, I get it he has his own place but he's never home, when he is he never talks to me, I have concluded that he's a quiet one of all the Buthelezi's. He's also not a model C like Thabiso and Manqoba, he's rural, he's a typical uptight zulu man, he never speaks English and his Zulu is very deep.

The only thing that's modern about him is his style, oh! and he listens to maskandi.

" Makoti, fancy seeing you here." He says, his eyes are on my sister the whole time, he's giving her an intense look, almost like he's fascinated or taken by her.

" hi. This is my sister,Luthando Bhengu. Luthando this is my brother inlaw Mzwakhe Buthelezi." I introduce them.

"Aww. Sawubona Mangwane." He says extending his hand for a greeting. Wait a minute did he just kiss my sisters hand? He must not even think of it, my sister is still a teenager and he's a grown 27 years old man!

The girlfriend clears her throat and only then does her creepy boyfriend let go of my sister's hand and they walk to their table. What the hell just happened?

I had a great time with my sister, we're going to get along fine I can tell.

Mzwakhe was already here when I got home, he rarely visits, what's the occasion?

"Haibo! I thought you'd bring your sister back with you." He says.

"Why would you think that." I ask curiously.

" I would have loved to get to know her better." He says with a smirk.

"Mzwakhe don't even think about it, she's a child." I say sternly.

" she looks like a grown woman to me, but don't worry, I'm a patient man, I'll wait if she's uncomfortable." He says smiling and leaving the room, is this one okay upstairs?

"Seriously babe you have to tell your brother to stay away from my sister, she's practically a child." I say to Thabiso, he has the sleeping Leseli in his arms.

" I'm not getting involved babe, neither should you. Plus I was already tapping that ass when you were 19,she's old enough." He says with a smug on his face, he thinks he's funny, he thinks he's the shit doesn't he?

"Look how it ended, with me having a child at 22 and graduating with two degrees, Leseli being one of them. I want different for Luthando." I say, okay maybe that came out wrong, I didn't mean it in a bad way.

"Oh? So you regret ending up with me? I ruined your life Bophelo? Are you marrying me because you feel obligated to?" - Thabiso. His tone is harsh and his face is suddenly serious and tense.

"I don't regret dating you, I don't regret Leseli and I'm marrying you because I love you, because even if it was ten years from now, I'd still marry you.

All I'm saying is, I wish we got married at later stage, as more mature adults, I wish we enjoyed our marriage first before having children, but the universe had different plans." I say, I see hurt in his eyes but it's the truth, I didn't picture myself

here at this age. I wanted to find a job first, enjoy my salary without obligations and responsibility and buy my first car without having to discuss it with someone. I haven't lived for myself, haven't enjoyed the freedom of being a young adult and haven't acted my age.

" I hear you loud and clear. I'm sorry for ruining your life Bophelo. Just so you know, I wouldn't have it any other way, I love my life exactly the way it turned out." He says before laying Leseli on the bed and walking out. This one has drama I tell you!

I'm having a meeting with my wedding planner today, I wasn't looking forward to it but Sbahle nagged and nagged until I gave in. I hate being away from my son for too long, but I know how uncomfortable Thabiso is about him leaving the house, he thinks he's still too young and too fragile to be exposed to the outside world. I don't know what the plan is, wait for him to turn 10 before exposing him to the outside world? I thought he was overprotective over me and annoying, but when it comes to Leseli he's straight up obsessed, he panics every time he cries, if it were up to him Leseli wouldn't shed a single tear, not one! But he's a baby and babies cry to communicate so daddy will have to deal! He's still mad at me and I'm letting him cool

down, if he's still the same by the end of the day then I'll have to apologise and show him just how much I don't regret being with him by riding his dick, good thing I'm on birth control, we wouldn't want to give Leseli a sibling just yet.

"Bophelo how far are you? I'm already here." Says Sbahle, she thinks this is her wedding. I roll my eyes, this one has way too much time on her hands, she should get a job or a hobby soon.

" I'm ten minutes away Sbahle, Leseli gave me a hard time, he kept crying so I had to calm him down before leaving." I say, I'm over explaining I know but I'm like this, I hate making people wait on me, it makes me feel bad.

They're already going through pictures when I walk in, sbahle is already picking out flowers, I told you she thinks it's her wedding!

This woman,She's beautiful, the kind of beautiful that makes you feel insecure. She looks like a model

with her perfect legs, her flat tummy and flawless skin damn!

"Hi my name is Carol, nice to meet you Mrs Buthelezi." I already know her name but I shake her hand either way.

"So let's get straight to it, the most important thing your wedding gown, do you have anything in mind yet?" - Carol.

Two hours later I'm ready to go, Thabiso is picking me up, despite being mad at me he's still overprotective. He walks in and I see Carol blushing, okay maybe I'm seeing things.

"Mzi! hi long time." - Carol says with so much enthusiasm, like a love struck teenager.

"Sawubona." He replies puzzled.

"You don't remember me? Carol? We were in the same class in matric." - Carol still blushing.

"Time to go sthandwa sami." He says, ignoring her and kissing my forehead, okay.

As soon as we're alone he's back to being mad at me, driving silently.

"Babe, I'm sorry about the other day. I never meant to hurt you or offend you. I love you, I love us and I don't regret being with you, you and Leseli are everything to me." I say.

" It's okay. I'm still hurt by your statement but I'll get over it." Okay, hectic! This is deeper than I thought, it's beyond me, he needs to loosen up!

I unzip his pants and fish for his dick, he's shocked by all this but I continue with my mission, he needs to loosen up and release the tension.

I lick the tip and massage the balls, he cusses under his breath, I hope he doesn't lose control of the car. I'm gagging and depthroating, not ignoring the balls, I jerk him off and lick the balls.

" fuck....fuck!" He keeps saying and grabbing my head, I know his release is close, I suck harder and faster until he empties his his seeds in my mouth, I swallow all of it and sit up straight and that's when i realise that we're parked at the side of the road.

His legs are still shaking and his breath is uneven.

" That was amazing. I should get mad at you more often." The idiot has returned!

I have to call Seithati and remind her to send her measurements to the tailor for her bridesmaid dress, she's my maid of honour and Limpho, Luthando, Sbahle and Thandeka are the bridesmaids.

Carol has worked her magic and found us a perfect venue too.

I'm meeting her again today to discuss decor, she's coming to the house and Sbahle and Luthando are already here, these ones are more excited than I am.

We're sipping on champagne seated at the pool area, don't worry mine is none alcoholic.

" so you and Thabiso, were close in high school." I blurt it out, I've been curious since the other day.

"Not really! I doubt he still remembers me, he was the coolest guy in school and every girl wanted his attention, I had a crush on him. We once kissed and had a quicky in the bathrooms because I was throwing myself at him,he totally ignored me the following day but I don't regret it, not one bit." She says smiling to herself, we're all staring at her in shock. There's a moment of silence, but I bust into laughter and everyone relaxes.

" Well he's taken now, hands off and get over the little crush you have on him, I can be very dangerous when it comes to my man, trust me!" I say, I'm not threatening her just marking my territory, Thabiso is mine and mine alone. I like this Carol girl, I'm glad she was honest with me that means I can trust her.

Wait so she was already having sex in high school? I'm not judging buuuuut...

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Today is my wedding day, I'm about to walk down the aisle in a few hours and stand before God and my family, make vows to love this man and stick by his side for the rest of our lives.

My bridal shower was last weekend, I had never had so much fun or got that drunk before, there were male strippers too, I grabbed some manly butts and ran my hands on their crotches and abs. It was all fun and games until Mzwakhe showed up and found Luthando getting a lap dance, you should have seen the look on his face, priceless! I don't understand his obsession with my sister, and Luthando is oblivious, she thinks he's overprotective because he sees her as a "little sister". Anyway our fun was cut short by him getting rid of our strippers and ordering all of us to retire to bed, who the hell does he think he is? I don't know but there's something commanding about his presence, you can't say no to him.

My family got here on Monday, all of them. My grandparents, my parents, my aunts and my brother, his wife and my little minions. That means I haven't spent quality time with Leseli and Thabiso in five days, my poor baby has been the centre of attention and being passed on from one person to the next.

He's in my arms now, suckling on my breasts like it's the best thing that's ever happened to him, this one needs to learn that there's more to life than my boobs, seriously.

I don't believe he's four months old already, my very own creation, he looks more and more like his father with every passing day.

"The makeup guy is here baby, time is not on our side you need to get ready." Says my mother walking into my room followed by her besty Mrs Buthelezi, these two make a mean team of bullies.

"Sshhh! I'm trying to put Leseli to sleep." I respond still focused on my sleepy child.

"Are you no nervous? It's okay to be nervous, marriage is a big step. Remember everything we taught you last night and you'll be fine." She says with a reassuring smile on her face.

Last night, my mother, Mrs Buthelezi, my aunts and Thabiso's aunts sat me down and "educated " me about marriage.

I got the " don't deny your man sex ever."

"Be his peace all the time, never raise your voice at him no matter how angry you are."

"Respect him above everything else and never nag him about his whereabouts." It was a long list of dos and donts. A long list that made marriage sound like a warzone, a place where men live like kings and women as their obedient servants, imagine.

My wedding gown fits perfectly, my makeup is done amicably and I'm about to be driven to church in a limousine, yes you heard right, the Buthelezi's are extra like that . I'll tell you the story of how we found this church one day, right now I'm a nervous mess but my father is holding my hand tightly in reassurance. I haven't seen Thabiso in 3 days and I wonder if he's just as nervous as I am, plus we're 20 minutes late he must be getting anxious. We're here finally, everyone is already here and seated waiting on me.

Here goes nothing, my father is walking me down the isle, I'm wearing a veil and looking down, it feels like I'm floating and I've zoned everyone out. We make a stop in front of Thabiso and the pastor, I take a glance at him, he looks sharp in his black suit, his hair is freshly cut and he looks yummy, I blush.

I look at the crowd for the first time, my mother is seated in the front row beside my father with Leseli in his arms, my baby looks so cute in his tiny tuxedo, yep they did that, put my four months old baby in a tuxedo and it's the cutest thing I've ever seen.

" Ok let's begin

dearly beloved we're gathered here to join these two in holy matrimony." Says the pastor, he's white by the way, thought I should put it out there. We are asked if we have our own vows and we both nod, Thabiso goes first.

" sthandwa sami, chubby cheeks wami omuhle, the mother of my child and the love of my life. I love you, more than life itself, I love you so much it scares me some times. Today in front of God, our family and friends. I promise to respect you, to be your bestfriend, your partner and support structure. To be by your side loving you even during the days when I don't like you much because you can be stubborn and annoying. I promise never to raise a hand at you, never to be your source of pain and to be faithful and true to you all the days of your life. To be your provider sthandwa sami, to stick by you in sickness and in health, to celebrate and support your dreams. To cry with you in the bad times and to laugh with you during the good times, you my love, are my life and I cannot wait to grow our little family and give you ten more children." He says with tears in his eyes and a smile on his face, the whole room laughs at his last sentence. " All in all my love, I'm in this for life, I'm all in. I love you." He says before slipping the diamond ring on my finger.

It's my turn now, what's left to say when he just said it all.

" shenge! Buthelezi. My love. I loved you the first time I saw you, I loved you when you stalked me and followed me around

with your annoying conversations. I promise to keep loving you, to keep supporting your dreams and being your truest friend. I promise to be true and faithful to you, to respect you even when you piss me off and to take good care of you. Not even poverty or sickness can stand between you and my love for you. I promise to give you one more child to complete our family, as for ten children andizi baba mark me absent." I say laughing in slipping a ring on his finger, he's all mine now, my territory is marked.

We're declared husband and wife and it's time to kiss him. I've been treading this moment, I'm not ready to kiss a man in front of my parents. The Buthelezi's, I don't mind, they've heard me have sex, this is nothing.

Thabiso is way ahead of me, before I know it his lips are brushing softly against mine and I respond, he's my husband!

We drive back to the venue for pictures and the reception. The taking of pictures take hours and hours and by the time we wrap it up I've run out of poses and I'm exhausted, irritated and hungry. Most importantly I miss my son.

We're seated, food is being served and we dig in, this is good, Carol planned everything perfectly I give her that. The decor is classy and posh, my cake is perfect, the food are mouth watering and my dress is out of this world. Thabiso keeps

stealing kisses and brushing my thigh with his hands under the table, I know what he's thinking about, sex!he's forever horny.

The long speeches follow, the well wishes and handing of gifts too.

By 10 pm I'm so exhausted I feel my eyes closing, Thabiso pulls my hand and we escape the reception and he leads me to his car.

He's driving in a different direction from home, what's going on?

"Where are we going?" I ask.

" To our honeymoon, it's a surprise. " he responds with a grin on his face , he's clearly proud of himself.

"For how long? What about Leseli baby? And I didn't pack anything!" I ask.

"For 2 weeks. Amile will have to deal, that will be motivation for him to find a hobby besides your boobs. As for clothes, Luthando and Sbahle packed everything, the rest we'll buy when we get there." He responds. I'm shocked and impressed at the same time!

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It's been a little over 3 years since my wedding. The best three years of my life, of course there have been problems here and there.

I remember just after Leseli turned 8 months old and I stopped breastfeeding and I wanted to start working, you should have seen the look on his face, like I was insulting him.

"Why would you need to work Bophelo? We have enough money to live a comfortable life? Do you want to leave my child alone with a stranger everyday? Buthelezi women don't work, see Sbahle and my mother?" I remember his saying.

It took a lot of begging and persuasion to have him on board. He wanted me to work at the family business but I refused, I love him very much but seeing him everyday at work and home would be a little too much, couples need space and their own personal time so Manqoba stepped in and found me a good job.

He didn't allow me to use my salary for the first few months so I encouraged Sbahle to partner with me and start an events company, since she's always at parties every weekend and she knows a lot of people who throw parties, she might as well attend them and make money at the same time.

Manqoba and Mzwakhe are still not married, at 32 and 30. There's something going on between Mzwakhe and Luthando, has been going on for a while but they are hiding it from me, they think I'm a fool. I can tell by the way she always blushes at the mention of his name, and the stolen looks they give each other at family get togethers, I'll let them enjoy and play dumb for a little while, see how long they plan on keeping it a secret.

Manqoba is a constant guest at my house, he's like the fourth member of my little family, like our first born son, except he's older than the both of us. We have a very good relationship him and I, he understands me and we have a lot of in common, we like the same sports, watch the same types of movies and listen to the same music.

I remember when we started house hunting he wanted us to find a house in Sandton next to his but I said no, I love Westcliff, it's quiet and perfect for raising a family so he moved here, not too far away from our house a year ago.

Leseli and I visit my parents at least twice a year and they are still obsessed with him like they are with my brother's rascals.

They are so happy, traveling the world and living their best lives, like they were just waiting to marry me off so they can start their retirement honeymoon, my mother quit her job two years ago to focus on her man, they are absolute goals.

Limakatso is still alive, I visit her and meet up with her every now and then, we've built some sort of relationship and it helps that she's a good grandmother to my son.

I'm driving home right now, I'm so glad Leseli is visiting my parents inlaw for the weekend, it will give me enough time to rest and be peaceful, I love my son but he's exhausting, he's the meanest toddler I have ever come across, a little terrorist.

There's a woman and a child standing outside of my gate, okay this is odd.

Why isn't the security doing anything about it? This is the type of neighbourhood where you don't just stand outside somebody's gate like a lunatic. I step out of the car and make my way to them.

She's a thick woman, yellow, good looking. The child, he's approximately 10 years old and looks exactly like Thabiso and my son

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this should be interesting.

"Hi. How can I help you?" I ask politely.

"I'm looking for Mzi, he lives here from what I've gathered, I need to talk to him about a personal matter!" She replies rudely. Personal matter huh? With my husband? This one is trying to test my patience.

"Well MY HUSBAND won't be home until 8pm, so you can stand there with that attitude for 3 more hours or tell me what exactly you want from him so I can inform him. Maybe he'll decide it's important enough to drop work and attend to it." I say.

"Well tell him Cebile is here and I'm here with his son! His first born." She replies arrogantly. I won't lie and say it doesn't hurt, I'm numb, confused and hurt but I won't give this woman the satisfaction.

"Well you can come in and wait for him inside." I say opening the gate and driving in, they follow behind.

I leave them in the living room and make my way upstairs to our bedroom.

"Sthandwa sam? Miss me that much?" That's what he says when he picks my call, I can picture him smiling, I'd be blushing on any other day, but today is just not the day.

"There's a Cebile here to see you, he's with a little boy, he says it's your son. Come home." I say and end the call before he can respond. Tears are already running down my face, it's a mixture of so much emotions I feel like I'm going to burst, thank gawd my son is not here to see me like this.

Why is she in my house? Why didn't she take the claims to Thabiso's parents? Why now?

I need a shower and something strong to calm me down, some white wine. I shower and go back downstairs to attend to my guests, the little boy is seated timidly at the corner of the couch leaving space between him and his mother, he looks scared. Of course he understands what's going on, he's old enough.

Thabiso walks in a few minutes later, I don't like the way he's looking at her, and it doesn't help that she's wearing the shortest dress ever.

"Cebile!" He says.

"Mzi! Long time. You look just as handsome as I remember you." She says. Okay I don't want to be part of this conversation, I feel like a third wheel in this family reunion show going on.

Thabiso hasn't even looked at me, his eyes keep looking at the boy and his mother.

" You said it wasn't my child, you told me it was that old man's and dumped me. You told me you were too pretty to be tied down to a school boy like me, I loved you but you spat on my love and made me feel like an inadequate worthless boy. You left with my son and kept him away from me for 9 years! Now you come back in my house dressed like a prostitute and demanding to talk to me! When it suits you Cebile? I'm not your toy!" He's screaming. He loved her, that stings! It hurts.

I pull the little boy by his hand in we walk to my car, I don't know where I'm taking him but I know that I need to take him away from that toxic environment. He's me, the abandoned child!

"So what is your name?" I ask him, I'm driving to my inlaws house hopefully they are at both at home.

"My name is Siyabonga." He says timidly, I've concluded that he's shy.

" Haibo makoti I didn't know you were coming over?" Says Mrs Buthelezi with Leseli on his hip and Sbahle's twins behind her, she's on grandmother mode. Well I'm about to add to her load.

"Cebile came to my house. He came with a boy, Thabiso's child.

" I say. I can see from the look on her face that she knows Cebile, she knows the story. I'm too overwhelmed, betrayal, anger, hurt! I turn around and leave, I'm driving to Luthando's flat, I need to talk to someone who isn't in on the lies and betrayal, someone from my own side of the family.

I left my husband with a half naked woman alone in my house, not just any other woman but his first love!

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"Come on sisi you're scaring me now. You've been crying for over 30 minutes, what happened? Is Leseli okay? Is your husband ok? The parents? What is going on?" asks Luthando.

I don't know where to start, It's not him having a child that hurts me, no! It's him and his family's secrets, they do that, they hide things and keep secrets until they come out to bite them. Like the time I was pregnant with Leseli, I almost lost my life and my son because of their stupid secrets. I don't understand what is so hard about him being honest about his past like I am with mine.

The worst part, the scary part is that she's not some random girl like Carol my wedding planner, she's someone who had his heart, his first love, the one who broke his heart. She has power over him, she's a danger to my marriage.

So what was I to him all these years? A rebound? Someone to help him forget about the love of his life?

"My husband has another child, a son, he's 9. That's not all he was in love with the mother but she chose someone over him.

Now she's in my house alone with my husband." I drop the bomb on her and grab my car keys, I need to go back and get

my son, I need to go back to my own house. There's no way in hell I'm letting a woman push me out of my own home.

Mr and Mrs Buthelezi together with all his sons except my husband are all here, I guess they are here to discuss Cebile, must be nice being her, being the centre of everyone's attention.

"Good thing you're back makoti. You should sit with us, we are trying to find a way forward about this Cebile issue." Says Mr Buthelezi.

"With all due respect baba I just came here to get my son and go home. I don't think the Cebile issue involves me, it's between you, her family and Thabiso. I don't want to intrude." I say and walk upstairs to find Leseli, it's 9pm already he must be asleep.

Siyabonga is seated at the edge of the bed, staring in space, shame the poor baby must be traumatised and confused.

"Everything is going to be okay, you should go to sleep, you'll see everything will be much better in the morning." I say and he just nods and does as told, he's such a good boy.

When I walk into my house,cebile is still seated in the living room and Thabiso is nowhere in sight. I carry my sleeping child to his bedroom and find Thabiso in our bedroom drowning his sorrows on alcohol.

"I want her out of my house Thabiso, tonight!" I say changing into my pajamas and getting between the sheets it's been a long day.

"What the hell Bophelo? Where should she go at this time of the night? Where's my son? Where did you take him to?" he asks, accusation in his tone.

"I don't care where she goes as long as she's out of my house, you'll make a plan. And your son is with your parents, I'd never hurt a child thank you very much for having faith in me." I reply sarcastically, this one is trying me!

"Well she's going nowhere until tomorrow morning when we go to my parents to get Siyabonga, I need to go to her home, pay for damages and bring my son home and introduce him to my ancestors. I also want to change his surname and be a part of his life." Nice, they already bonded and made plans I see.

"Do what you want, as long as that woman is out of my house I'm cool. I mean it, I want her out and if you have a problem with that you can follow behind her and go play happy families somewhere else." I reply. He knows I'm not joking.

" I didn't know you were the insecure type. I see you couldn't wait to get rid of my son." - Thabiso.

Why is he testing me?

"Really? Sorry I'm such a horrible person I wanted to get a child away from a toxic environment where his parents were screaming at each other in front of him. I'm sorry I didn't want to traumatize him any further than he already was!" I say and leave him tongue tied, I'll be sleeping in the guest room tonight.

Thabiso and I have been co-existing in the same house for the past 3 days, he tried to make conversation with me but I'm having none of it, I can't get over him calling me insecure and accusing me of trying to get rid of his son and possibly hurting him. I've been with him for 8 years and that's what he takes me for? He doesn't respect me.

He has been going to his home constantly to check on his son I guess, sbahle told me that they'll be going to Cebile's home next weekend. I've refused over and over again to be part of it, it's none of my concern.

I took a day off from work today because I haven't feeling well, I've been throwing up and getting dizzy spells, it must be the stress and all the crying I've done every night.

"Mama! Palesa doesn't want to give me ice cream! I don't want food I want ice cream!" Says Leseli giving me puppy dog eyes. This one is a piece of work, who eats ice cream for breakfast, Palesa is our babysitter by the way.

"If you finish all of your food like a big boy, I'll tell Palesa to give you ice cream during the day. How about that?" Yeah, that's part of being a mother, negotiating! He nods his head runs downstairs.

"No running Leseli!" I scream behind him before rushing to the bathroom to empty my stomach contents. Okay this is serious I need to see a doctor.

"When was the last time you had your periods?" Asks the doctor after I'm done explaining my symptoms. Shit! I can't be pregnant, not now. I forgot to renew my injection last month, this isn't the right time.

"Come to think of it, my periods are 3 weeks late." I reply.

I pee in the container and it's confirmed, I'm pregnant, again.

When it rains it really pours, my marriage is already strained as is, bringing another child to the mess is stressful, the universe is really having fun making my life miserable.

I'm not even talking to Thabiso as is, if I tell him about pregnancy it's going to appear as if I want to take the spotlight.

Thabiso's car is parked on the driveway when I get home, he's home early today.

I walk inside to find him watching tv with his sons, they look so cute. On any other day I'd be overjoyed to find him home early and share my exciting pregnancy news with him, how did we get here?

"You're home early from work today, I was waiting for you to get home, we need to talk." He says.

I order the kids to go to the pool area with Palesa and sit beside him.

"We are going to Cebile's home this weekend to pay for the damages. I found her a temporary place to stay in the meantime but I brought Siyabonga here with me because I want to bond with him and make up for lost time." He announces.

"I'm happy that you're reunited with your long lost son, I really am, but I don't feel comfortable living with him as yet, not after I have been accused of wanting to get rid of him and possibly harming him, it doesn't feel right. I also understand why he can't stay with his mother in the meantime it's not like you're around all day, you go to work at 8am and come back at 7pm, what happens to him during that time?" I ask.

"I don't believe you asked me that, now you're showing your true colours Bophelo. You don't want my son in this house it's clear now, well I got news for you, this is his home and he stays, whether you like it or not." He's screaming at me now, I don't know him, I don't know this person in front of me at this moment.

"It's okay, I don't have the energy to fight with you over this and I'm not asking you to choose between me and your son. I don't hate him just so you know, he's just a child, I'd never hate an innocent child.

I'll pack some of my stuff and find a place to live, I'm sure that will give you enough time to bond with Siyabonga without interruptions and without being afraid of me harming him while you're at work.

I would like to take Leseli with me if you don't mind, unless you feel like he's not safe with me too then I'll leave him behind."

I say, I'm really not in the mood.

"Do what you see fit Bophelo, I don't believe I was so blinded by love to marry someone who's clearly so self centered." - Thabiso.

Well that hurts, it stings.

I pack some of my stuff and Leseli's and wheel the luggage to my car, it was Thabiso's gift to me on my birthday.

"buba say goodbye to daddy and your brother, you're leaving with mummy." I say to Leseli. Oblivious of what is going on, he waves them goodbye and holds my hand.

Palesa follows us outside with confusion on her face, I guess she's wondering if she should report to work tomorrow.

"Maam, so what happens with me." I know she overheard our argument.

"You come to work tomorrow. Siyabonga needs a baby sitter." I reply before driving off.

"Hello baby." That's how Limakatso answers her phone.

"Hey. Please send me the address of that house of yours in Westcliff, I want to stay there for a while. Please don't ask me why, I'm not ready to talk about it yet." I say crossing my fingers, I really don't want to have to live in a hotel.

"Okay babe. I'll call the maintainer the wait for you with the keys. I'm here if you want to talk." She says, concern in her voice.

"Thank you so much, I appreciate it." I say before ending the call.

When I get there there's a middle aged man outside of the gate. I greet him and thank him for the keys.

"I'm your neighbour by the way and I do the garden every tuesday and thursday." He announces, I just nod and drive in. It's a beautiful house and the garden is breathtaking

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it's clean inside thank God.

I pick a bedroom and lay Leseli gently on the bed, this one falls asleep the moment he shuts his mouth, I can't believe that in less than 9 months I'll be holding another one in my arms, sex is real!

Manqoba is here the first thing the next morning, I had to give him my address because he was pestering me with calls and begging.

"What's for breakfast ?" He asks as soon as he walks through the door, Leseli is already in his arms.

"Shouldn't you be the one bringing us breakfast Manqoba? There's no groceries in this house yet, we had to order food last

night, give me money I want to go to the grocery store, you're a rich soccer player after all." I say jockingly.

"Are you okay? Really ok? My brother is an asshole I'll give him that." He says clenching his fists in frustration.

"I'll be fine, I'm a big girl. Just don't tell anyone where I live, I want them to concentrate on Siyabonga for now, they have to do right by him and bring him home." I say assuring.

He ends up taking us out for breakfast.

I reply to everyone's concerned messages and assure them that I'm fine and not dying of heartbreak, I have too much to live for and another blessing on the way, life isn't all bad.

The weekend comes and goes and it's been just me and Leseli, food and tears. I had to ask Pelesa to refer me to a good babysitter nearby because I have to report to work tomorrow, my little leave is over. She's already here and I have to trust her because I trust Palesa.

I'm meeting with Sbahle after work apparently she has news for me, I wonder what it's all about.

I haven't seen anybody except Manqoba for the past 6 days but we have been communicating on the phone, they have all been checking up on me, all of them except Thabiso.

By the time I knockoff,I'm tired as hell but glad to be back, working takes my mind off things.

We're meeting in a restuarant and Sbahle is already waiting for me, she's dressed to kill as usual and on her phone typing something.

"Hello Mrs Buthelezi, you're glowing." I say.

"Hey babe. You look like hell!" She responds, trust her to tell it like this..I'm not even wearing makeup today, I didn't even have the energy to hide those eyebags,I'm physically and emotionally tired.

"Anyways sooo! On saturday negotiations were held at Cebile's home, apparently mogirl dumped the baby on her parents 8 years ago and only came back a few weeks ago to pick him and take off to your house. Her parents were shocked that she went there and surprised at her sudden return and decision to be a present parent now after all those years. That's not all girl, apparently she has been living a lavish life as a mistress of a

very famous politician, but the wife found out recently and threatened her life that's why she went back home." - Sbahle.

To say I'm shocked would be an understatement, explains why Siyabonga was sitting so far from her that first time they arrived at my house. What the hell does she want? What games is she playing?

"That's not all! On Sunday, she took all the money paid for Siyabonga's damages and left, her parents reported the incident to the Buthelezi's last night! That girl is scandalous I'm telling you." - Sbahle.

No wonder I never liked her, she's trouble.

I feel for Siyabonga the most in all this, I know how painful it is to be abandoned. Worse, for that person to resurface, ship you off to a stranger's place and then abandon you again, that's just messed up. Poor baby I hope they're taking good care of him and not making him feel left out or neglected.

This pregnancy is hard on me, the morning sickness is extreme and lasts throughout the day. It's Friday today and I'm meeting with a client, he's a single father who wants to throw a party for his five year old, Sbahle can't make it so I'm forced to drag my exhausted nauseous self there.

He's already seated and waiting for me, I'm on time that means he arrived early, he's a fairly handsome man, dark skinned, chiseled jaws, beautiful smile, he's also muscular, a total daddy and I find myself staring.

"Hello Mr Mkhize, nice to finally meet you in person." I say after taking a seat and I'm rewarded with breathtaking smile. Calm down Bophelo, you're still a married woman.

Apart from being handsome he's funny and easy to talk to, I find myself laughing throughout our meeting.

"Sbahle failed to mention just how beautiful you are. It's a pity you're already taken." He says pointing at my ring and I just nod and give him a weak smile.

I can't help but imagine how my life would have turned out had I not met Thabiso so early in my life, would I have dated different types of amazing men and got my heart broken countless times, lost hope in love and all the other normal things other people go through? How does it feel to have sex

with other men besides him? The different sizes and all? I won't find out will I?

My thoughts are interrupted by Thabiso walking into the restaurant with one of his colleagues, he has spotted me and my male companion and he's walking furiously towards our table. He better not cause trouble and embarrass me in front of my client.

"Who's this Bophelo? Are you cheating on me now? Is that why you moved out of house? So you can see him freely in peace?" - Thabiso.

Yeah, of all the men in the world I chose him, this idiot making a fool of himself in a restaurant full of people, I chose him.

"Mrs Buthelezi, I'll take my leave now, I'll finalize the rest of the details with Sbahle don't worry about it. Have a great day." - Mkhize says and leaves. I'm left with Thabiso who has now taken the seat in front of me.

"Thabiso what do you want from me?"

"I want my wife back that's what I want. I want you to come back home sthandwa sami." - Thabiso.

"Really ? Why? Because the love of your life disappeared on you again now your forced to come back to me? Your second best? Your rebound?

I thought I wasn't good enough for you anymore what changed? You now want to be with this selfish woman who wants to get rid of your son? You're not concerned about his safety anymore? Don't make me laugh, please." I say, and he hangs his head in embarrassment, this one thinks the world revolves around him.

"I'm so sorry for everything I put you through. I love you trust me, only you and you're my first choice.

I was just so freaked out and all I needed was support, sorry I was horrible towards. It was the frustration and fear of not doing right by either you Siyabonga that got the better of me. Please give me another chance." - Thabiso.

"You haven't even called to check up on me, not even once. You're only saying all this because you saw me with another man and it freaks you out, knowing you could lose me to someone else. I don't think I can forgive you, at least not yet. You showed me just how disposable I can be and that hurt, more than you'll ever know. I thought you hurt me when you cheated on me that time

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but no, nothing can compare to this." I reply.

"I was embarrassed and ashamed to reach out, I still am. But I'm going through hell and beating myself up for treating you like that, believe me." He pleads with his eyes.

I just shake my head and leave, I'm getting emotional and I don't want to find myself crying in public.

I break into a sob as soon as I get into the car. I didn't realize I was this hurt, it's like I have been strong for the past couple of days and I can't keep it together anymore, it hurts and I need to let it out. Right now the only person I can think of is my mother, I want to cry in her arms and for her to tell me that everything will be alright.

"Hello babygirl." -mum

"My marriage is falling apart, my life is a mess. It hurts mum, it's just too much." I say and starting sobbing even louder.

She let's me calm down and I narrate the whole thing to her after a while.

"I'm coming over there first thing tomorrow morning. That boy will know me. No child of mine is treated like trash while I'm still alive, he's testing my patience. " she's furious and nothing I

say will stop her from coming here. Things are about to get worse. I drive back home with a heavy heart, knowing I'm going to a quiet house, Leseli is at Sbahle's house for the weekend, him and Siyabonga.

Manqoba's maserati is parked in the driveway, he's standing by the door, hands in his pockets.

"You need to get a hobby or a girlfriend very soon, you're starting to suffocate me, I'm not your wife Manqoba." I say rolling my eyes. He just laughs it off.

"Really? And here I am being considerate bringing you your black forest cake and frozen yoghurt. Should I leave with my things?" - Manqoba.

He knows I'd never say no to those, he's got me right where he wants me.

We're having a movie night with this idiot, I'm indulging on my yoghurt and he's drinking Heineken, he's like that.

I feel a sharp pain in my abdominal area and screams. There's another one and the cramps follow, at this point Manqoba is panicking and carrying me to his car and driving off to the hospital silently. I'm already bleeding down there, there's a lot of blood and I just know that I've lost my child, the pain in my

heart is greater the physical one. Everything that could possibly go wrong in my life is going wrong, why has God abandoned me?

The hospital confirms my suspicion, I really just lost my child.

I don't get it, why did God allow me to get pregnant, let me get used to the idea and then take the child away from me. Now? When I'm this excited about it?

"You had an Ectopic Pregnancy Mrs Buthelezi. The fetus was implanted on neck of the uterus and the pregnancy was not viable, the body was bound to abort it sooner or later. I'm so sorry for your loss." Says the doctor. I have been silently crying, this is a reoccurring nightmare! My life has turned into an endless, painful nightmare.

"If you don't eat your lunch I swear Bophelo I'm going to shove it in your mouth and down your throat forcefully. I'm not going to watch my own daughter die in front of my eyes from starvation." Says my mother in frustration.

I have been skipping most of my meals and drowning in my sorrows for six days. It's not that I'm not trying to get better, I'm trying but the pain is too much. I'm overwhelmed in sorrow, I'm finding it hard to accept my loss and let my baby go, in my head I have concluded that she was a girl, a mini me and I was so ready to hold her in my arms and protect her from the world. To have that dream taken away from me so suddenly is a low blow, what a betrayal from God.

Thabiso, I saw him briefly at the hospital that day, he cried louder than me and tried to hug me but I rejected him, seeing his face triggers emotions of betrayal and rejection and I was just not ready to deal with that and our loss at the same time, I can't stand him.

We had a naming ceremony for the baby, the family inyanga insisted on it.

They allowed me to give her a name and set her spirit free, I named her Naleli. She's my shining star, shining brightly on me from the sky.

My mother and Limakatso have been on my side everyday since that day, forcing me to eat, to take bath and walks and to stay human and sane, I'd never trade their support for anything in the world, I'm blessed.

I didn't think my mom would be comfortable living in Limakatso's house, under the same roof as her even, but they shocked me, they put their feelings aside for me.

I'm cuddled up on the couch watching animated movies with Leseli, my sunshine, he's making me laugh for the first time in six days, his reaction is priceless to most of the scenes, I think he has a crush on Moana.

Manqoba interrupts our cozy date, he looks different, not his usual cheerful self, something is wrong. I follow him to the dining room, leaving Leseli engrossed on the screen.

"You need to talk to Thabiso. He's going through hell." That's his opening line.

He never brings my relationship with his brother up, this must be serious.

"He has been drinking everyday since that day, I think he's depressed, he blames himself for the muscarriage. He blames himself for a lot of things makoti, he feels useless and like he's failure, it's really bad. Today, I found him with a gun in his hand ready to end his life, I don't know what could have happened had I not gone to your house to check on him." He says the last part with tears in his eyes. I think my heart stopped beating for a second

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what the hell Thabiso! He wants to leave me behind, to deal with this pain alone? He wants to take the easy way out?

I'm speeding to my house right now, I left Manqoba behind and told him not to follow me, my mothers too.

This house doesn't feel like a home any more, I think to myself as I drive through the gate.

He's seated on the carpet, his head burried in his hands, it's a painful scene.

He raises his head and looks at me, his eyes are red and puffy, his beard is unkept and he's lost some weight. He stands up, and we are standing in the middle of the room just staring at each other in silence.

"Get your shit together! You have to get your shit together!" I say, my voice comes out calm, but inside I'm fuming.

"You are not going to die and escape do you hear me Thabiso? You are going to live, for me, for Leseli and for Siyabonga! You are going to deal with the pain, accept it and get over it. You are going to fix the mess you created of our marriage, you are going to be present and take all the anger and rejection I throw at you do you hear me Thabiso?" I'm screaming at him and he's just nodding his head silently, tears running down his cheeks.

My tears are blinding me too, I'm angry at him. I start hitting his chest with my fists, he just stands there and takes it.

"I hate you, for breaking our family. I hate you for breaking my trust! I Hate you for making me feel like a second best. I hate you for accusing me of being selfish. I HATE YOU!" I keep screaming at him repeatedly and hitting him, he lets me do this for a while before engulfing me into a tight hug.

I break into a sob in his arms, I'm crying hysterically in his arms and he hugs me tightly, still crying too.

We're just two parents mourning our loss at the moment.

"I'm sorry, from the bottom of my heart sthandwa sami I'm so sorry. Forgive me for not being there for you when you found

out about the pregnancy, for not being there when you lost it. For everything I've put you through this past month. I hate myself for it, I'm not worthy of your love and forgiveness but I still want it, I still crave it. I'm selfish for wanting you to take me back and come back home, but I can't help it. I've learnt that I'm nothing without you, trust me. I want to wake up next to you and get cuddled up next to you every night, I want my wife back. My chubby cheeks, I need you back, I want our life and our marriage back and I'm willing to fight for it." He says still holding me tightly.

I want to come back home, to fix my marriage and get my house in order. For better or for worse is what I promised, in front of God and my family.

I'm going to give this one hell though, but I'm deciding now to let go of my misery and dare to live again, the devil doesn't get to win this round.

I'm picking Siyabonga and Leseli from Limakatso's house.

Thabiso and I have been lazing around indoors for the past three days, just trying to reconnect and rekindle our relationship. Phones off, no visitors just the two of us and it worked, I'm more hopeful now about the future of our marriage.

Among other things, we discussed his relationship with Cebile in details.

"She was first real girlfriend, the prettiest girl in school so being the player I was back then I went after her. Unlike all the other girls who jumped to the chance of being with me, she was not interested. That intrigued me so I started chasing and persuading until she gave in and our relationship began.

She was the first girl to give me a hard time and make me work hard to keep her, that made me fall hard for her, I thought she was the best thing that's ever happened to me.

My friends didn't like her much, my family didn't like her either especially Manqoba, he hated her.

She had this way of manipulating me and making me do things outside of my comfort zone just for her, she toyed with my emotions and knew which buttons to press to get me to do things her way.

When the rumour that she was dating older men started circulating, I refused to believe it, there was no way my girlfriend would do that to me.

It only dawned on me that there might be some truth in it when Manqoba told me about her attempts to seduce him, how she told him that I was just a boy, a school boy and she wanted a real man.

I confronted her and that's when she announced her pregnancy and told me that I was not the father, blatantly told me that I was just a boy with nothing but rich parents and she was too pretty to be wasting her time on me when she could get any man she wanted.

To say I was heartbroken is an understatement, but I picked back the pieces of my life and became a worse fuckboy than I was before.

My perspective on love changed when I met you, you were selfless and kind. Never manipulated me to get your way and taught me what real and true love is, I'm forever thankful that I got to meet you sthandwa sami." He told me.

It will take time to get where we were before, he also has to earn back my trust but we're moving in a good direction.

"You look alive again, thank God. I was prepared to drive to your house if you didn't show up today." That's my dramatic mother giving me the tightest hugs and kissing me all over my face like I'm an infant. The rascals are laughing at the scene, and Leseli throws himself at me, I missed him so much.

I have become that parent who can't go a day without seeing her children, he's annoying, loud and a terrosist but I love him to bits. Siyabonga is standing in the middle of the room, not knowing what to do so I walk to him and give him a hug, we have to establish a relationship at some point so I might as well start now.

He's seated quietly on the passengers seat the whole drive to the park, I decided to have a picnic date with my babies.

Picnic blanket check

good check.

"Are you going to sent me off to Cebile?"

Please don't send me there, I love it here. I like my brother and my new cousins and I have many grandparents now who spoil me and my uncles are cool." Says Siyabonda with desperation in his voice.

Now I know what's been occupying his mind the whole drive.

"Nobody is sending you away baby.

Your father is going to find you a good school here and you'll be living with us from now on and see your brother everyday, we're family." I assure him and get rewarded with a big smile, he's such a good boy, different from his mother.

Manqoba is drinking my husbands Heineken, watching tv when I get home? Who the hell let him in? Does he have spare keys to my house now?

The rascals all over him before I can even ask, I get why they love him this much, he's the coolest Buthelezi in the whole family, I have the same soft spot for him, he's like a big brother I never had.

"So there's someone I want you to meet, I think I love her." Wait a damn minute! Manqoba is inlove with a woman? This is a great day indeed.

"We've been going out for a few months, I wanted to introduce her to the family a while back but the Cebile came and messed up our lives so I had to postpone it." He says. Now I feel bad, he always checks up on me but I never really care to ask him about his personal life, I'm such a bad friend and sister.

"So when am I meeting my future sister inlaw, this is exciting I can't wait." I say in excitement.

"Woah, hold on. I never said anything about marriage, don't put pressure on me, I'm not about that marriage life." he says.

He's saying that now but we'll see, I have a good feeling about this one.

"I wonder when Mzwakhe and Luthando will finally make their relationship public. For some reason they think we can't see right through them." He says laughing.

"Bruh? Have you seen how she blushes when he gets into the room? And the stolen looks they always share when they think nobody is watching? How stupid do they think we are?" I ask laughing too. Those one's are a special case.

"I don't believe my own brother is dating a girl 8 years younger than him and keeping it away from me? But that's so like him, he's too intense and shady for a woman his own age. He's the old fashioned type who needs a woman to be submissive and treat him like a god, sometimes it's hard to believe we were raised by the same parents under the same roof." He says and we burst into more laughter, he's my person this one.

"Bafo? Sometimes I think you have a crush on my wife. Are you trying to get in her pants." Thabiso says, he just got home. He walks to me and give me a forehead kiss.

"Nah! She's not my type." Manqoba responds, he's an idiot, I'm not offended.

"Are you saying my wife is not good enough for you Bafo?" Thabiso asks in amusement, he's enjoying this way too much.

"I'm saying that I have my own woman." Manqoba responds with a smirk on his face.

"What??You have a girlfriend? When? And I'm the last to know this why?" -Thabiso.

Manqoba stands up and walks out with a smirk on his face,Thabiso follows behind asking him hundred questions.

I smile to myself, I belong here with these people, my people, this is home.

I wake up to Thabiso between my legs, he's rubbing his erect member against my clit and it's making me dripping wet.

"Mmmh..." I moan and grind my hips against him faster in response.

He sucks my left boob and twist my left one between his fingers, it feels so good, it also helps that I'm half asleep the whole time.

"Uuhhhh..." I let out a loud cry when he penetrates me slowly, the feeling is out of this world, I'm dizzy with need and yearning for more. He doesn't move, just stares into my eyes for a minute, I hold his stare, it's intense but I want more.

"Babe...please...more." I can't make out a full sentence.

He starts moving slowly, giving me long deep strokes, I'm in heaven. I wrap my legs around his waist as he digs inside of me harder and faster now, his face is veiny and his eyes are red with lust.

"Fuck babe you feel so good." His voice is strained.

He keeps hitting my gspot again and again, I'm on cloud nine.

"Yes...right there...fuck it I'm going to come...uhhh...it's too strong" I say before the wave washes over me, my eyes are

rolled to the back of my head and I'm grabbing the sheets tightly with both hands, he doesn't stop but fucks me harder.

He flips me around so that I'm on my knees, my upper body pinned on the bed, I'm giving him a perfect arch.

He feels deeper in this position and the pleasure is intense, I'm screaming and panting and grinding my teeth, this is too good. Another orgasm is coming, Thabiso is also close, I can feel by his fast and disoriented strokes, he's also cussing and groaning, it's so damn sexy and before I know it my second orgasm washes over me, it lasts longer than the first one and Thabiso follows behind, his hips jerk uncontrollably and he empties his seeds deep inside me.

Damn, he's always amazing, my man fucks the best.

I'm driving like a maniac late for work because of Thabiso, we had another round in the shower. He's like a horny teenager lately, he can't keep his hands off me, we have quickies every chance we get.

Ntokozo the IT guy parks besides me, he's also late. Sometimes he gives me the creeps, I always catch him staring at me undressing me with his eyes most days but, I don't know hey, maybe I'm just being paranoid, maybe the poor guy just has a

crush on me, nothing hectic. He looks harmless with his chinos and wrinkled shirts

how much does an iron cost again? I'm just asking.

He gives me his usual nervous smile and I just nod my head and rush inside, I don't want to get a warning for being late, I love my job way too much.

Numbers, numbers and before I know it it's lunch time, I don't even have friends at work, I'm reserved and always buried in work to have time to socialize with any of my colleagues and quiet frankly I prefer it this way. I'm a little behind with work because of all the leave absence I've been taking in the past weeks so I decided to skip lunch today.

There's a knock at the door.

"Come in." I say and a delivery man carrying a big bouquet of flowers and takeaway walks in, I'm blushing like an idiot, my husband is amazing guys, he's so thoughtful.

I give him a call as soon as the delivery guy leaves, there's a card too:

"Thought I should buy you lunch and flowers to apologize for making you late for work this morning.

I love you."

I'm smiling and getting flashbacks from this morning the whole day, my clit keeps jumping in excitement and anticipation for what he has in store for me tonight. Last night we tried anal, I thought I was going to die from the pain and discomfort but when he started playing with my clit and fingering me simultaneously, my body relaxed and it started to feel good, so good that when my orgasm came, it was much more intense than usual, breathtaking.

I get this feeling of being watched, the hair at the back of my neck is standing.

You're just being silly Bophelo, you're just being paranoid, I tell myself. It doesn't help that it's after 8pm, I stayed behind at work because I wanted to catch up.

Okay this car has been following me, taking every turn I take, it looks familiar too. I try speeding just to create a distance between us but they speed and cover it. I'm officially panicking, my heart is beating painful against my chest and I'm paralyzed in fear, fuck! My phone is inside my bag in the back seat, I'm fucked.

"Heavenly father, I know I haven't been acknowledging you lately but I'm still your child, please protect me. My children are still too young to lose a mother and I'm not ready to die, not yet." I say with tears already burning my eyes.

I can already imagine being trafficked to a foreign country to be a sex slave, I would never survive that.

Before I know it, it over takes me and suddenly stops in front of me, by impulse I hit the brakes.

I reach for my bag and fish for my phone in panic, Thabiso's number is my emergency contact.

"Please pick up, please pick up baby." A masked man emerges the car and walks towards mine, he has a gun in his hand and points directly at me from the windscreen.

"Hello babe how far are you?" Thabiso answers his phone at the same moment.

"There's a man pointing a gun at me Thabiso, help me!" I say half screaming.

"What where are you Bophelo?" Before I can respond, I'm being dragged out of my car, something hits me at the back of my head and it's lights out!

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I wake up in a dark room, where am? Where's my phone? What time is it?

It takes a while for my mind to remember yesterday's events, and panick sets in.

I've heard and read disturbing stories about human trafficking, people's organs being harvested and a whole lot of rape stories. Never in a million years did I imagine myself being in this position, tied to a chair in somebody's basement waiting for my fate, I think of Leseli my poor baby about to lose his mother at such a young age, that's all he gets, just a lousy 3 years with me? He won't even remember how I looked like or any of the memories we shared, how cruel can life be?

I have a terrible headache,I'm thirsty and uncomfortable, they must have injected me with something.

A door opens and I hear footsteps descending down the stairs, the light is turned on and I can see clearly now. I'm definitely in a basement, there's no furniture just this chair I'm tied to and a single bed, a toilet and bathtub at the far end of the room, thats all.

I raise my head to look at the figure standing infront of me;

"Ntokozo..." my voice comes out as a whisper,I'm shocked!

He looks different, he's wearing faded jeans, a white shirt and sneakers, he's wearing expensive cologne too.

"Hello my love, I'm not Ntokozo my name is Sandile." He says giving me his weird creepy smile.

"What do you want with me?" I ask. He doesn't respond but brushes my cheeks with his fingers.

My body stiffens, I've been here before, all those years ago when a man tried to force himself on me on the side of the road, It's a sickening feeling, His touch makes me feel dirty. Tears are already running down my cheeks, I hate feeling this helpless and vulnerable, this time around there's no Thabiso to rescue me, I'm doomed.

"Don't cry my love. I'd never hurt you or have you without your consent, I love you too much." He says wiping off my tears.

Did he just say he loves me, call me his love?

"If you love me like you say, please let me go home to my children, my husband must be w..." I don't end my sentence, He slaps me so hard I hear bells ringing in my head. The look on his face just went from a creepy smile to complete rage.

"Don't ever mention him in my presence! You belong to me do you understand? You belong to me!" He screams and I nod my head frantically, I'm not about to risk getting another slap.

He smiles again and gives me a kiss on the forehead, I'm holding my breath the whole time my eyes shut! "Please don't kiss me on the lips!" I keep saying in my head and to my relieve he doesn't. He just unties me and steps back, I massage my wrists and stretch my legs still seated, I don't know what to do.

"Don't even think about trying to run or attacking me, you won't get far! The punishment will be very severe, do you understand? Don't make me hurt you babe." He says and I nod my head in agreement.

He hands me a glass of water and paper bag, there's good inside. I'm too hungry and thirsty to think about whether they're poisoned or drugged.

"We belong together babe, you'll see. I plan to spend the rest of my life with you and make you happy." He says before walking out.

He plans to keep me here forever?? No ways!

I spend hours in this room alone, going up and down trying to find a way to escape to no avail, I'm seated on the bed right now trying to fight the drowsiness but I'm failing, I feel myself sinking into a peaceful sleep. I wonder how Thabiso is feeling, he must be very worried. My poor parents and Leseli asking for me, why does my life have to be a constant battle?

I must have drifted off to sleep because I'm woken up by the door opening and footsteps rushing down the stairs, I quickly stand on my feet, it's Ntokozo this time, I can tell by the wrinkled shirt and the chinos, he's wearing the same sneakers "Sandile" was wearing earlier though.

"Hey. I won't hurt you relax." He says waking towards me.

"Please Ntokozo just let me go home to my family, I promise I won't say anything or have you arrested, I swear on my kids life. Just let me go please." I plead with him desperately. He just sighs in defeat rubs his forehead continuously, he's nervous.

"I I I...I'm sorry I can't. Sandile would kill me, he'd have me for dinner. Just cooperate and everything will be fine. He loves you. He...he really does." He says.

Is this some kind of a joke? There's no fucking "Sandile"! It's the same person

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him, Ntokozo! I mean the shoes, the same cologne?

"He doesn't have to know that you helped me, please. Just help me escape he won't know.

"I don't love him! I love my husband." I say and he shushes me.

"Shhhhh! Keep your voice down, if he hears you say that you're as good as dead, trust me!" He says in panic, there's so much fear in his eyes and that freaks me out. I sit down and bury my head in my hands in defeat.

"He sent me here, to give you food and cosmetics so that you can take a bath and refresh, there's clothes in here too. He'll see you soon." He says and walks away. I don't have the energy to object or ask questions.

I just do as I'm told, eat and take the quickest bath in the history of baths, I don't want him walking back in here to find me naked.

I pick one dress, a maxi dress, it's ugly but fits perfectly, it's in my size.

The worst thing a person can do is leave you alone in an empty room, no distraction whatsoever just you and your brain.

I'm getting more and more anxious my the minute,my mind is imagining the worst case scenarios.

Before I know it he's back again, black ripped jears this time, a black shirt and the same sneakers, must be "Sandile" this time around.

He has a red rose in his hand and he's smiling, that creepy smile again.

"A beautiful flower for a beautiful lady." He says handing me the flower. I'm on my feet.

He tries to kiss my lips but I move my head, wrong move.

The punches follow, he's hitting me everywhere except my face,it happens so quickly that I'm too shocked to even let out a single scream, he pins me by the wall, his gigantic hand on my neck and he starts squeezing, I tried to fight him off but that makes him squeeze harder, I'm suffocating, it's a horrible feeling.

This is it, this is the end,I can feel my body go limp and my soul leaving my body, I'm dying. But he lets go and I cough and grasp for air.

"See what you just made me do? Why are you making me hurt you? Why my love?" He says wiping the sweat off his face furiously. I'm massaging my neck crying in silence, There's pain

in every part of my body, especially my ribs,I think he broke something, it hurts so bad.

He walks out and I'm free to let out a painful sob, this is hell. I'm in hell!

I crawl to the bed and lie down, the adrenaline is gone and all I'm left with is pain. I take off the dress slowly and inspect my body, there's no mirror in here but I can see red marks all over my tummy, my knees are bleeding. I run my hands over my ribs and scream in pain, something is really broken. I soak my body inside the tub to get rid of the blood and hoping it will make me feel better, it doesn't.

I think it's been about 2 days since "Sandile" came. Ntokozo has been coming, cleaning my wounds, feeding me and giving me painkillers. I've never been this defeated and depressed in my life.

I'm seated on the bed as usual,lost in my thoughts when he walks in, I can tell by the clothes when it's the devil side of him.

He sits besides me and starts caressing my thighs, I shift away from him but he pulls me roughly by my braids and pins me on the bed, and forcefully spreads my legs, I kick him in the abdomen and get rewarded with a punch on my in my stomach and another one in my face, third one directly in my eye, I scream in agony.

I'm using all my energy to block him from getting between my thighs,but he's stronger than me and I'm in too much pain to concentrate on that one thing. He finally overpowers me and spreads my legs, I close my eyes and say a brief prayer.

"Please God! Don't let this happen to me! Please." That's all I say, it's all I have.

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"Please God! Don't let this happen to me! Please." That's all I say, it's all I have.

My eyes are still shut, if I'm going to get violated I'd rather not see his face the whole time.

He suddenly stops and that's when I hear sirens and commotion outside. He runs upstairs leaving me still spread out in bed, my left eye is incompletely swollen from the impact of his fists, I can't see anything.

I hear gunshots and screaming, and the door opens, rapid footsteps down the stairs.

It's Thabiso, followed by Manqoba and Mzwakhe. I break into loud cry from relief, he hugs me tightly and allows me to calm down, he's here, my husband just saved me again. How? How did they find me?

I don't get the chance to ask, I'm scooped into his arms and he carries me outside.

There are pictures of me plastered everywhere in his hallway, pictures of me from months ago. Pictures of me having lunch, at the park with my kids and mostly at work, in my own office!

There's three police cars and a body lying facedown outside, I know the clothes, it's Sandile or whatever the fuck he calls himself.

Mzwakhe stays behind with the police while we drive to the hospital. I don't believe this son of a bitch kept me so close to my house, hid me right under my husband's nose.

"There's no permanent damage, just a broken rib and bruises. We'll have to hold her for a few days, but she'll be fine Mr Buthelezi." The doctor explains to Thabiso who has been holding my hand the whole time, he doesn't want to let me go and I doubt he'll go home and leave me behind. We still haven't said a word to each other, Manqoba is still here too.

"Did he...did he, violate her?" He asks, his voice comes out strained and there's fear in his eyes.

"No Sir, there are no signs of rape." Says the doctor and Thabiso sighs in relieve, Manqoba too, they were holding their breaths the whole time.

"Bafo let me go and update everyone back at home, they must be anxious.

Makoti, I'm happy you're back." -Manqoba. I just nod.

I must have slept for house, I haven't slept this peaceful for days, the medication helped a lot, I didn't even have nightmares.

I'm waiting for the police officer to walk through the door to take my statement.

He's an elderly man, around 50 years I think.

"Mrs Buthelezi I want you to tell me everything that happened during the last 4 days in that basement." He says.

It's only been 4 days? I Swear it felt longer.

I narrate the whole story to him and he's nodding and taking notes.

"Ntokozo had Dissociative Personality Disorder.

A mental disorder where a person has 2 or more different personalities, he was previously put into a mental institute but was released and put on medication to keep it under control.I have been told that he went through some emotional trauma

as a child, I won't go into details but he was abused really badly. He must have stopped taking his medication in the previous months and I'm sorry you had to be a victim in all this.

Thank you for your cooperation." He says.

"Is he...dead?" I ask

"Unfortunately yes. He fired shots at us and we had to retaliate." The police officer says before excusing himself, I'm left with a lot of mixed emotions, how do I stay angry at someone who didn't have control over his actions? I wonder what could have happened to him as a child that was so bad he ended turning out this way. He's dead, he's gone, I'm safe.

Thabiso walks in with a bouquet of roses and fruit basket. He's fresh and looks better than yesterday.

He hands me the flowers and gives me a brief kiss.

"The basket is courtesy of your mother

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he wanted to come and see you so badly but the doctor advised against any visitors besides me, he doesn't want you to feel overwhelmed." He says, I hold his hand and look him in the

eye, he's avoiding my gaze. He feels guilty and responsible for the whole thing I can tell.

"Babe, look at me." I say and he adheres.

"I'm fine. I'm okay. I'm here now. I'm safe. None of what happened was your fault and thank you for rescuing me just in time, before anything worse happened. You're my hero." I say and he breaks down in tears, my poor husband.

"He put his hands on you, that son of a bitch hurt you." He says in rage.

I don't know what to say anymore, he'll calm down in his own time at his own pace.

"How did you find me?" I ask. I've been curious.

"Mzwakhe and his shady friends found you, for the first time his illegal dealings and contacts came in handy. Your colleagues also gave us information about that bastard's obsession and little crush on you. The fact that he stopped coming to work at the same time that you disappeared proved beyond reasonable doubt that he was behind your disappearance.

Mzwakhe tracked his car and found your location and involved the police.

You have no idea how freaked out I was that night, when we found your car abandoned in the middle of the road with your

phone and everything inside, I thought I'd never find you. It was horrible." He says.

Shame he was going through hell, I can't wait to get discharged and see children, I miss them so much.

I got discharged today, it was long over due because I'm completely healed, just a few bruises and marks but I'm fine. A had a few therapy sessions while still in hospital, they wanted to make sure that I was emotionally healed too. I still have nightmares some nights but it's nothing hectic, I will not let Ntokozo take over my life, I refuse to be his victim. I am a survivor. I intend to live my life and be as happy as I can with my family, life is short.

My yard is fully parked with cars as we drive in, everyone is here. I can tell by the noise and commotion inside.

"Surpriseeeee." They scream as I walk in, there's a "welcome come" poster and balloons all over the house, sbahle must have come through with the decorations.

My mom is the first to attack me with a hug and I melt in her arms.

"I swear Bophelo I'm taking you back home with me. You're going to kill me with stress. " she says and everybody laughs.

"Papa!" I run to his arms, my father is here. This is the highlight of my day.

"Oh wow! What a betrayal!" My mother comments.

Leseli and Siyabonga are not here, Manqoba too.

"Where are my children?" I ask Sbahle.

"They are on their way here with Manqoba." she replies.

I walk to Mzwakhe and attack him with a hug, he doesn't hug me back, typical him, he's a weirdo.

"Thank you for finding me I say. You just earned my blessings to date my sister. I know you too have been fucking for years, everybody knows, we're not that stupid you know." I say and walk away, leaving him tongue tied. My children walk in with Manqoba and a beautiful woman around my age, it must be the girlfriend he wanted me to meet.

"Mamaaa!" Leseli and Siyabonga scream in unison.

I shower them with kisses all over their faces until Siyabonga blush in embarrassment.

"Makoti. This is the special person I wanted you to meet. Her name is Sizakele, I love her." He says. Siza blushes.

"Nice to meet you Siza, I'm Bophelo, your future sister inlaw" I say and give her a hug, I already like her. She seems down to earth and shy, she has a perfect smile too.

Manqoba introduces her to the rest of the family and everyone is shocked, he has never brought a girl home before.

I look around at all these people, people who love me, I'm surrounded with so much love I can't help but feel blessed.

"On a serious note babe you need to see someone about the nightmares. 2 weeks of therapy won't kill you, you need it." Says Thabiso for the hundredth time.

I have been having nightmares every night since I came home, sometimes it's about the time Ntokozo tried to force himself on me and most days I'm running away from him inside a maze, they are horrible and I always wake up freaked out and sweating.

"They'll go away love, it's only been three months. I'll get over it in time. Just don't put pressure on me, please." I say and he walks out frustrated. He'll be strong shame.

"Mama! Bonga doesn't want to change the channel, I want to watch peppa pig." Says Leseli as soon as I walk into the living room.

"He's been watching cartoons all morning mama it's my time to watch real movies now, cartoons are for little kids." -Siyabonga retaliates. It's always something with these two and I'm not getting involved, they need to learn to resolve their issues amongst themselves.

"Tell that to your father, mama is going out." I say.

Thabiso must deal with his children, I'm not in the mood, not today sir.

It's Saturday and I'm driving my parents to the airport and meeting Manqoba for lunch, I haven't seen him in over seven days, the new Mrs is keeping him busy I see. I must admit I miss his annoying ass very much, I feel his absences a lot.

My parents have been visiting for two weeks, they have been living at Limakatso's house, shocking I know but we're family and we have to learn to live with each other and tolerate one another. My mom didn't want to leave, she's worried that something bad might happen to me again, despite reminding her over and over that Ntokozo is dead, gone, six feet under she's still overprotective and anxious. She wakes me up every day at midnight for a prayer through the phone, I've gotten used to it.

Another big development has been me quitting my job, the memories of Ntokozo are all over that place plus my events company has grown so much, we're scoring big clients and making serious money. We have added weddings to the mix and Manqoba's famous friends have helped in promoting the business so I want to focus on that this year.

Luthando and Mzwakhe are also dating openly now, they announced their relationship to the whole family but we

already knew so it didn't come out of a shock, they seem very serious too.

"Stay safe my baby, remember to pray hard for yourself and for your family." Says my mother giving me a goodbye hug, I'm going to miss her, I could never live without this woman.

"Bye moketa wa papa. I love you very much, never forget that." He says giving a hug too. I'll always be a daddy's girl, no matter how old I grow or how many kids I have.

It's always a sad moment saying goodbye to them but I'll be seeing them during December holidays which is in just five months.

"I'm at the mall where are you?" I ask Manqoba.

"I'm here too, stay there I can see you, I'm coming." He says and ends the call.

I spot him and meet him halfway, he's always dressed to kill him and Thabiso have that in common.

"My favourite makoti." He says.

"Really? Is that why you haven't seen me in over a week? Somebody has taken my place I see." I say.

"Are you jealous? Don't worry she'll never steal your place." He says laughing loudly, he's so full of himself this one.

The annoying thing about going anywhere with Manqoba is that there's always a fan spotting him and asking for pictures and now you end up turning into a designated photographer, it's very annoying at times. Most of them don't understand the concept of personal space and privacy. After taking a few pictures of him and his fans he leads me to a jewellery store, no ways! Is that what I'm thinking? Is he finally going to pop the big question?

"I wanted you to help me pick an engagement ring, I trust your judgement." He says casually, and I scream in excitement, this is big!

"Oh my God! Oh My God! When are you doing it? How are you going to do it?" I ask loudly, calling attention to us.

"Okay okay! Calm down. I was thinking of doing it today afternoon, go to her place and just ask her." - Manqoba.

Jesus Christ! Is he for real?

"Nooo! Dude are you serious? You have to cook for her, invite her over for dinner and have a romantic setup. Rose petals, soft music, scented candles and then go down on one knee and ask her. Tell her how much she means to you and your future plans with her then ask." - I say.

He's looking at me like I'm speaking Spanish or something, some times I forget that this is his first real relationship, he's clueless.

"You know what nevermind. Let's just pick the ring and go, I'll do the set up and cook, wena invite her over and prepare a speech." I say and he nods in agreement.

We find a ring

and do some shopping for everything I'll need for the setup and we're done.

We're about to exit the mall when a familiar scent floods my nostrils, and I stop in my tracks. I'm shaking from head to toe rooted in one place, I want to move or say something but it's impossible, I'm trapped inside my own body.

"We belong together babe, you'll see." The voices are loud in my head.

"You see what you just made me do? You made me hurt you."

"Don't ever mention his name in my presence!"

"If you try to run I'll find you and the punishment will be very severe!" Over and over again the voices are loud in my head.

Manqoba is panicking, trying to shake me, asking me what's wrong but I can't find my voice and the tears are flowing freely down my cheeks.

I finally snap out of it and find my voice.

"His cologne....Ntokozo's cologne." I say softly and he gets it,he understands.

"Let me call Thabiso, I'm taking you home." He announces sadly.

"No don't! I'll be fine. I'll go for therapy soon, I need it. But today is your special day and I'm not letting Ntokozo take that away from you.

"I'll cook and set up just as I promised" I say drying my tears and he nods and sigh in relief.

I notify Thabiso that I'll be in Sandton helping Manqoba and he's cool with it, he's too busy having a daddy son day with his children anyways, he does that once a week, take them out and spends a full day with them, he's such a great father.

I'm done by 6pm and ready to leave, Manqoba is nervous, understandable. Marriage is a big step, a lifetime commitment and should never be taken lightly. It's my 4 year marriage anniversary in December, feels like yesterday when Thabiso and I were just university students fighting over the pettiest of things and clueless about real life, look at us now, we're doing this adulting and marriage thing so well aren't we?

I should cook him a special dinner tonight and wear a little sexy something to show him just how much I appreciate him, I'd choose him over any man again and again.

I'm standing in front of the mirror plaiting my afro into cornrows, nobody warned me about all the work I had to do every night when I joined the natural hair movement. Thabiso and I had our special dinner and I told him just how important

he is to me, he's showering now and I'm waiting for him to step out and see the sexy number I'm wearing tonight.

He's walking towards me, stark naked, with his half erect member and stands behind me. Our eyes meet in the mirror, and he runs his hand from my boobs down to my pussy.

"Fuck, you look so sexy. " he says softly before rubbing my nub tenderly through my soaked lace panties. That and his hot breath on my neck are slowly leading me to an orgasm, no, today is all about him.

I turn around and go on my knees, his veiny erection is in my face now and I start massaging it slowly from the tip down to his balls.

My hand massage his balls and my tongue is licking his head slowly, in circular movements, I hear him grunt as I take his whole meat inside my mouth, careful not hurt him with my teeth. I'm sucking and massaging, gagging and deepthroating until he releases in my mouth with a loud cuss, I swallow everything.

He carries me to the bed, the sound of my torn panties bring me back to life.

"What the hell Thabiso, do you know how much those cost?" I ask in frustration but he doesn't care. He lies down on his back.

"Ride my face babe." He orders me and I don't wait to be told twice, I'm prepared to rid him to suffocation, his face is my chair tonight if he dies he dies, it will be for a good cause.

His tongue is doing wonders down there and the effect of his hot breath is making me see stars, I ride slowly giving him a chance to catch his breath in between, my orgasm is close and he knows. His thumb is in my ass and he sucks faster until I come undone, suffocating him in the process.

He doesn't give me a chance to breathe before pinning me on the bed and fucking me roughly, missionary style.

We're cuddling in bed now, a huge smile plastered on his face when my phone rings, it's Manqoba.

"She said yes. I'm getting married to the love of my life. Thank you for helping me set up and pick the ring, she loves it." He says in both relief and excitement.

"Heh baba! I'm trying to have a third round of sex with my wife, you're disturbing us." Thabiso says after snatching my phone, he's so jealous it's cute to watch.

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"Are you ready?" Asks my father. He's wearing a black tuxedo, his grey hair combed neatly.

I take a deep breath and look at my reflection for the last time in the mirror.

My make up is still intact and perfect, my white mermaid dress still fitting perfectly and the bouquet of flowers in my hand lights me up.

I'm about to walk down the aisle and renew my vows, promise to love this man for the rest of my life again, declare to the world that he's still the love of my life, my everything nice. Ten years of marriage and I wouldn't have it any other way.

A lot has changed during the past 6 years.

Manqoba is a married man now, a happily married man. A father to two daughters the oldest is 5 years old and the youngest is 2, yes they didn't waste time starting a family.

He's a completely changed man, gone are his fuckboy days, he's a family man now, a loyal one.

Sizakele almost burned the house down with him inside when she caught him cheating with one of his groupies just 3 years

into their marriage. He has been walking on a straight line since then, he knows what he stands to lose if he tries his cheating games again, it took her almost 6 months to take him back that time, a lot of begging from him and me, he'd never be that stupid again. He's a retired soccer star and a business man now, one thing will never change though, he's still my person.

Mzwake and Luthando also got married 3 years ago. She's currently pregnant with her first child, it's crazy, my sister is also my sister inlaw. We're closer now that she lives 15minutes away from my house, even Mzwakhe is now a constant visitor at my house, he's still shady and old fashioned but I've grown used to it, my children love him to death, he's surprisingly the favourite uncle.

He still does his illegal dealings but my sister chose him knowingly so who am I to judge?

I once walked in on them having sex on the kitchen counter in their house? Who invites someone to their house? Leave the door open and have a quicky in the kitchen? It took me a while to get the image out of my head and eat their food, one thing I'll say though is he's hung like a horse, those big pornstar dicks you see on pornhub? He's that big.

Sbahle is still married to Vusi and still my business partner. She's still loud and carefree and has had another set of twins, girls this time, they are turning four next month. I'm their favourite aunt if I may say so myself, I have a very strong connection to them, maybe it's because I helped her deliver them all those years ago.

We were on vacation, a girls retreat, me, sbahle, Sizakele, Luthando and Thandeka. She was only 8 months pregnant, the other girls went clubbing and I stayed behind with her when her water broke, fortunately enough for us one of the guests in the hotel was midwife and knew that she wouldn't make it to the hospital, the babies were eager to come out, so I had to help deliver them and ours was love at first sight.

Up to this day, Manqoba still refers to them as the "Hawaiian duo" because they were born in Hawaii, okay maybe I lied he hasn't grown up in the head, he's still as loud and stupid as ever.

Thandeka. That one is my first born, she's a grown woman now engaged to a white man. I'm not surprised, it was bound to happen, pursuing her masters degree in the states led her to meeting the love of her life, Michael. He's a fairly handsome man, a very wealthy young man at that. Their wedding will be held in the States in June next year, I can't wait. I still remember the drama and chaos when he came to pay for lobola a few months ago, the brothers made the experience hard for him, especially Mzwakhe, he was so mean.

They demanded a ridiculous amount of money but he never complained, he paid every single cent, anything for Thandeka he'd say, she is worth way more than money to him. It's hard to believe that she was once inlove with a tall zulu boy called Mpande, and I helped cover for her.

My brother is still married to his beautiful wife,there were no more cheating scandals, I guess she retired early from being the family whore. They never had anymore children and my little rascals are not so little anymore, one is in university now and the other is in high school. Time really flies.

My parent's are still alive and in good health talk about being blessed, even Limakatso.

She divorced her husband and is happier now, we got closer through the years, sometimes I forget that she once abandoned me, I'm over that and grateful for our second chance.

My half brother Ndlalifa is a big rugby star now, me and him aren't close but I love him regardless and am very proud of him.

My inlaws, we lost both of them in a car accident last year and life will never be the same. I almost lost my husband to depression, losing both parents is a pain I'll never wish on anyone, it gets better with time but nobody ever heals from it. They were parents to me as well, perfect grandparents to my kids so their death hit me really hard. I had to be strong though for my husband, his siblings and my children and with love, a lot of prayer and tears we survived, may their souls rest in peace.

Me. It took months of therapy for me to completely get over what Ntokozo put me through. I'm over it now, it's a distant memory, one that doesn't haunt me anymore. The experience made me realise just how strong and resolute I can be, and all the challenges that followed after that didn't shake me.

Thabiso and I have had our fair share of problems, but our love kept winning and I hope it stays this way until we're old and wrinkled.

I'm standing in front of my family yet again, in the same church about to to make promises yet again.

My parents are sitting in the front row, my baby girl kamohelo Enhle Buthelezi is sitting on my father's lap, she's 5 years old. She's obsessed with my father and a big daddy's girl too like me, she has even turned Thabiso and Mzwakhe into softies, she has them all wrapped around her tiny sassy finger and I wouldn't have it any other way. I have another one, another girl, she's only a year old, I gave birth to her the same month we laid my parents inlaw to rest, she's our little blessing, she helped dry our tears, we named her Tlhonolofatso Busisiwe Buthelezi, she's the sweetest thing on earth, a total opposite of her older sister. She's seated peacefully on Seithati's lap sucking on her thumb, a habit I want to end but Thabiso won't let me put peri peri on her daughters finger, he thinks I'm evil but I'm

just being a mother and one of these days I'm going to do it, he'll come back from home to find her crying her eyes out.

Leseli is ten years old now and still a mamas boy, he's an emotional child, I raised him that way, to wear his heart on the sleeves and confide in me about anything. Thabiso thinks he's a sissy but I'm okay with that, I'm confident that I'm raising a good man who won't end up being a woman beater because he fails to express himself. Siyabonga is in high school, a smart boy and always top of his class, he wants to study medicine and I know he'll make it, he's surprisingly closer to me than his father, nobody has heard anything from Cebile and we'd like it to stay that way, I don't want her coming here and confusing my child in the process.

"Sthamdwa sami. Chubby cheeks wami omdala. We're here again, ten years later. A lot has happened, temptations came and challenges but we survived it all and fought for this marriage, for this amazing love we share. I love you, that's not even a question. I promise to continue loving you more, I promise to protect you, to respect you, to stay loyal and faithful to you and to give you more children." He pauses and everyone laughs. No ways! No more children for me , the baby making factory is closed.

"For better or for worse sthandwa sami, until death do us apart. Let's continue this beautiful journey of love together sthandwa sami." -Thabiso.

"Babe waka. The father of my children, the man of my dreams. Ten years later and you're still my perfect choice, my bestfriend and my hero. We have seen it all, we have been through the worst and made it out stronger. Let this beautiful love story continue, I want to grow old with you, hold your hand during the storms of life and conquer any challenge that life throws at us. I love you and that will never change, I will honour you and stay faithul to you all the days of my life. You're more to me than you'll never know, my everything nice, my soulmate. No more children for us though, not happening sir." I conclude and everyone break into loud cheers.

I watch everyone dance and have a good time, I'm holding Busisiwe in my arms, Enhle is dancing with my father amongst the crowd. Naledi would have been 6 years old this year had I not miscarried, I hold her dearly in my heart, she's my shinning star shinning down on me, watching over me.

I realise now how blessed I have been in life, how God has favoured me.

My mum snatches the baby out of my arms and joins the dance floor.

"How about we sneak out of here, I want to show you just how much you mean to me, worship your body from head to toe and listen to you scream my name in pure ecstasy." He whispers in my ear, his hand on my thigh and my panties are soaked, just like that, he has that much effect on me, he owns this body.

We walk out holding hands leaving the party still on, he's crazy and I wouldn't have it any other way.

.....**THE END**.....

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