



Introduction

(I'm pushing my shopping trolley with my phone as my calculator. On the other hand I have my pen and a piece of paper with my grocery list. I take two packets of rotis and punch the price on my calculator. My eyes widen)

Me : Wuuuu! Uh-huh this is too much

(I put back the rotis because the price just went from R620 and straight to R700 and that is too much. It could never be me shame. I'm not paying R80 for a few slices of rotis not after I left R5000 worth of groceries back home in KwaMashu plus I had to pay school fees for my twins. What on earth was Nkazimulo Dlomo thinking when he chose to die and leave me with twins yes he chose to die because he took his own life a year after the twins were born. Now I'm all the twins have their mother and father. My boys Nkazimulo's mother named them Zanokuhle and Enzelwe Enzelwe is Enzelwe Amadlomo. They are 7 years old both in grade 2. They stay with my parents back home in KwaMashu (KZN Durban) oh and their school is R1000 each but my mother thinks R1000 is nothing I mean what is R1000 to someone who has a code 14 and drives trucks delivering brand new cars all over the provinces? Yes when they see me they see money. My father brags every time I come home "Ah Sthabile my daughter the only woman who has ever driven a big truck in the whole Ngcobo family. Yes we raised you Sthabile and we took you to good schools. Kumele usondle you are rich". his words not mine. I always want to vomit every time he says that. That man has no idea that I'm only earning peanuts and that I have debts I'm drowning in. I just bought a brand new car and sometimes I look at it and say "wena I should take you back where I bought you one of these days". Enough with part one my sad life back to part two. I take out one packet of mixed veggies from my trolley and I leave it on top of some eggs on the shelves and I minus the price. I take the tray of mince and put it next to the mixed veggies. I move with my trolley while scratching everything I left behind from my grocery list piece of paper now I'll only pay R560 for my groceries

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yey! That's great. I head to the counter the queue is long but I'll endure. A few minutes later I'm done paying and I'm on my way to the parking lot pushing my trolley. There are four trolleys behind my car. Frustration takes over)

Me : Bloody asshole! Who leaves trolleys like this? Probably some drunkard. Bloody shit!

(One thing about me I will ask myself questions and answer them myself. I curse as I remove them one by one. I open my boot and put in my shopping bags. I get inside my car and sigh. Damn! It has been a long day)

Me : I'm not cooking today but what am I going to eat? Oh yes Macdonald will do.

(I drive to Macdonald. I check the time and it's still early for me to go in. I get out of the car and walk in. It's empty and a guy is serving. I don't know what he is looking at down there but his head is down. Probably busy with his phone you know everyone is always glued to their phones if not busy with anything else)

Me : Hi

Guy : Hi

(He responds without even looking at me. He is wearing their uniform a red shirt and a black cap and because of that cap I couldn't see his ugly ass face since he is facing down)

Me : I'll have a chicken foldover meal please. Take away

(He lifts his face and smile)

Guy : Oh hi there

(Now he remembers that he is on duty. Great!. He pushes his cap backwards I'm not sure if he wants me to get a clear view of his face and his single ugly dimple or what)

Me : I greeted you

Guy : Oh

(Is he trying to pout? because he is doing something with his lips and his dimple becomes more visible. I roll my eyes)

Me : Gosh

(I say underneath my breath. Finally he takes my order. I quickly put in my pin done I take my card and walk away. He tries to stop me for God knows what and I totally ignore him. I'm so proud of myself. I sit down in a corner and wait for my food)

(I cross my legs and uncross them. The time is moving and 30 minutes later I'm still waiting for my order. People who came before me are leaving me numbers are being called right left and center. I look

around the people who are still waiting for their food like me and all of them are carrying a piece of paper except me. It hit me that I didn't take my order number)

Me : Dammit

(I murmured. I stand up and head to the counter. The guy who was helping me is no longer there but there is someone else now. A lady)

Me : Hi

Lady : Hello

Me : Eh sisi I bought my food here and I forgot to take my order number.

(She is looking at me like I'm sounding weird. Yes I know I do but she doesn't have to make it obvious

now)

Lady : Who was taking your order?

Me : Some dark guy not dark dark with big eyes and a dimple on his left cheek.

Lady : Who is that?

Me : Oh and he had some cuts like tribal marks on his cheeks like ugcabile kancane so and one on his forehead.

(Wait so I was paying so much attention on that guy that I even observed everything on his face?)

Lady : Tribal marks? Ok please wait here. Wee Nompilo please come here.

(She call out for some lady to come and she did)

Lady : Wee Mpilo who is the guy with dimples here? Ogcabile

Nompilo : That could only be the cute Thuke. Who wants to know?

(Did she just say the cute?)

Lady : Oh u Zondi. Yeah u sisi la. Zondi was helping her with her order but Zondi didn't give her the order number

Nompilo : Oh

(I don't know if it's me but Nompilo is giving me attitude)

Lady : Please help her oe

Nompilo : I can't. The person who was helping her has left. His shift finished over 30 minutes ago

Lady : Oh really? Let me call the manager to come and assist you. We really do apologize for the inconvenience

Me : You know what my sister? Please don't trouble yourself doing that but please tell that Thuke of yours to take that chicken foldover and shove it where the sun does not shine!

(I walk out fuming. I start my car and I notice that something was wrong with my car so I get out and check)

Me : Dammit! Flat tire. Can this day get any worse?

(I kneel down and check the tire)

Me : Shembe! This is bad

(I try to stand but I stop when I see a piece of paper next to my flat tire. There is a note)

Note : A BAD ATTITUDE IS LIKE A FLAT TIRE IF YOU DON'T CHANGE IT YOU WILL NEVER GO ANYWHERE.

Me : Hhaibo!

(I stand up and look around.)

"Fix yourself!!"

(Someone call out and when I look where they are shouting from I see a Red golf 7 gti. Inside is "the cute Thuke" he pop out his tongue and drive off.)

Me : Son of a bitch!

Me : It was him I saw him!

Manager : I don't understand why he always wants to jeopardize his job he is such a wonderful employee.

Me : I don't care! He damaged my car!

Manager : Mam can I please ask you to calm down? I will get to the bottom of this.

(I sigh)

Me : I'm sorry I know this whole thing is not your fault. That boy's behavior is not your fault but I'm just angry.

Manager : You have every right to be angry.

(I look at the time in my watch)

Me : I still need to get to Phoenix and it's late now. I don't have a spare wheel can I please leave my car here?

Manager : Of course

Me : Thank you so much. I'll ask my mechanic to come and fix it tomorrow morning.

Manager : No problem at all. Let me request Uber for you to take you home

(He pulls out his phone so I'll sit down in the meantime. Men keep stealing glances at me shame I'm not interested. I lost interest in men a long time ago. My feelings for that gender were buried with Nkazimulo 6 years ago)

Manager : Your Uber has arrived Ms Ngcobo

(He handed me a brown paper bag)

Manager : Something to eat on the house of course.

(I raise my brows. I'll never say no to free food)

Me : Oh thank you

Manager : It's a pleasure Ms Ngcobo and again I do apologize for all the inconvenience.

Me : It's okay

(I say as I receive my free food)

Manager : Enjoy the rest of your evening.

Me : I'll call for a follow up

Manager : Please do

(I smile and walk out. The Uber driver helps move my groceries from my car to the Uber. I check if there

is anything I'll need in my car I take some files from work and we are ready to go. A year after I signed my contract with Auto Movers I bought myself a house in Phoenix and that is where I am staying alone. Moving a car hauler trailer with 10 cars or more is one hell of a job and every day when I come back from work I don't want to talk I want to sleep and that's why I chose to leave my children with my mother)

Uber driver : I can help you with the plastics

Me : Thank you so much I'll appreciate that.

(He helps me with my groceries. I watched him heading back to his car he is cute but I'm done with men. I close my door and look around my house. There were dishes in the sink I left them on Thursday. They are smelling now)

Me : Wuuh! Uh-huh

(I put them in the bin and wash my sink. I pack my groceries. I switch on my TV I don't even get time to watch it. I scroll down through some series.)

Me : Walking dead? This should be interesting

(I watch while I eat my free food. I don't remember closing my eyes but when I open them

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I don't even get time to watch it. I scroll down through some series.)

Me : Walking dead? This should be interesting

(I watch while I eat my free food. I don't remember closing my eyes but when I open them my feet were wet)

Me : Dammit!

(I slept with a glass of juice in my hand and it fell on my feet. I switch off the lights and walk to my bedroom with my eyes half closed. I take off my clothes and throw myself on the bed. Lights out)

(My alarm starts ringing at 04h00am and I keep switching it off every 5 minutes until 04h30am. I wake up and make my bed. I run to the shower and 6 minutes later I'm done and getting dressed in my work overalls. While I'm fixing my work boots laces it strikes me that I don't have a car to go to work)

Me : No no no. No!!!!

(I yell. I thought I was done with taxis but that son of a bitch said not a chance. I open my wallet and check how much I have)

Me : Enough for a taxi.

(The clock screams "Sthabile you are late for work" I grab my backpack and run out of my house. I quickly

lock the door but when I turn around there is my baby.)

Me : My car!

(I jump in excitement)

Me : Wait but how? Who brought you here?

(I don't remember myself calling the mechanic or anyone else to go and fetch it. I'm no longer excited now but scared. I slowly walk towards it. All the tires seem fine now and the whole car looks clean very clean. I open the door wow it smells so fresh. I frown when I see cherry brandy roses on my driver's seat and Mcdonald's paper bag)

Me : Ok what's going on?

(I pick up the roses and a small card falls on my feet. I pick up the card and read it)

Me : YOU WERE NUMBER 203. HERE IS YOUR ORDER MISS BAD ATTITUDE

(The card reads. Oh fuck! All these are from "The cute Thuke")

Me : Mxm!

(I throw the roses at my back seat and keep the paper bag on the seat next to mine. I start my car and drive to work. This Thuke guy keeps crossing my mind on my way to work)

Me : How did he know where I'm staying? Ok maybe his manager told him....but how did he know my address?

(I switch off my radio and try to think carefully. Thuke was starting to make me nervous. Firstly it was my

tire and now that? I don't even know the guy and I doubt he knows me. Maybe I should report him to the police. I arrive at work and park my car. I check myself out using my side mirror. I brush my straight back)

Me : We need to change our hairstyle. You are getting old now

(I say while brushing it and get out of the car. I fix my backpack straps while locking my car)

"Ukhuluma wedwa vele?"

(I freeze. Who the hell is that? I slowly turn around to the car parked near mine. There is a guy wearing a blue hood leaning against the boot of his car it's a red golf gti. Fuck! I move my eyes around looking for something to hit him with just in case he tries to do something to me)

Me : Thuke what are you doing here?

(He is doing something on his phone but as soon as I say his name he slowly lower his hand and look at me)

Me : Yes I know your name and if you try to do something I'm going to shoot you

(He laugh and shake his head)

Thuke : Ntokazi emhlophe how are you?

Me : How did you find me? No no what do you want from me?

Thuke : I followed you

(He is getting closer he is getting closer to me. I can smell his cheap perfume. He gives me his hand. Hell no I tighten my hands on backpack straps. He is too close now I can feel his breath on my face. He kisses

my cheek and I quickly wipe off my cheek. He let out a soft laugh)

Thuke : I see you haven't fixed it Miss bad bad attitude

Me : Do you want me to tell you my name?

(He shakes his head)

Thuke : No

(I raise my brow)

Me : What do you want? I'm late for work

Thuke : I'm glad you still have a job I lost mine

Me : You did?

Thuke : Yes

Me : Great!

(He chuckles)

Thuke : Let me walk you in

Me : No!!

(I walk away but I stop when I realize that I no longer have my car keys in my hand. I turn around and he has them. How did he do that?)

Me : Give me my keys!

Thuke : Let me walk you in

Me : I said no!

Thuke : Then go.

(I sigh. If I want my keys back I might as well just allow this guy to walk me in)

Me : Come

(There is a stupid grin on his face and I want to wipe it out with a big slap across his face. He takes my backpack and walks with me all the way in. We reach the reception)

Me : You can go now.

Thuke : Yeah

(He hands me my backpack)

Me : My keys

(I give out my hand. He places the key in my hand and tightens his hand on mine. He kissed the back of my hand and let go of it. He walks and stops before the door opens for him. He turns around)

Thuke : Nyathuko Zondi is my name

Me : I didn't ask.

(He smiles and walks out the door. I watch him until he disappears. I hear a loud bang behind me and I quickly turn around. It's our receptionist Vineshree banging the table)

Me : Vee you scared me!

Vee : Stop staring at him?

Me : Was I?

(I look back where Nyathuko walked out)

Vee : He is gone darling

(What the fuck am I doing? I cover my eyes with my free hand)

Me : He is just a guy who works at Mcdonalds... Oh who used to work at Mcdonalds.

Vee : He is handsome

Me : No he is not

(Vee laugh out loud)

Vee : If he wasn't then you wouldn't be staring at him.

Me : No I wasn't.

Vee : You were checking him out

Me : No. You know what? Let me go

(I walk into my office and quickly sit down. I let out a long sigh that I didn't even know I was holding)

Me : Oh Nyathuko Zondi. Don't do this to me

(I say with my eyes staring up at the roof)

Chapter 02

(Nothing is more exciting than receiving an email with "No outside deliveries" from the scarecrow. I only have one delivery for today from Pinetown to Umhlanga. And boy am I not happy? I'll be doing office work from morning till 14h00. I grab my desk phone and dial Musa's office number)

Musa : Usemsakazweni sawubona - You are live on radio Hello-

(I laugh)

Me : And you wonder why you are still single? Musa you are crazy

Musa : But you love me nonetheless

Me : Do I have a choice? Your parents are rich.

(We laugh)

Me : I'm in for lunch come to my office.

Musa : You lie

Me : Come

(I put down the phone. Musa is what most people call "coconut" but he is actually not. He is my friend and we both stay in Phoenix it's an Indian community and sometimes I get bored but not when Musa is around. Deep down I know that he is different. Some days I'm sure that he is gay but he always proves me wrong. He grew up in a white community he was adopted by a white couple a month after he was born and 25 years later he moved out from his parents' house. His house is just a few hours away from my house. I told him to apply for this job because he had a CDL.)

(He walks in and screams. One would swear that he hadn't seen me in a long time but the truth is he saw me on Friday. He is just being a dramatic Musa himself)

Musa : Helloooooo bitch

Me : Sam Sam

(He likes it when I call him Sam Sam)

Musa : Bitch is that Mcdonalds?

Me : Uh!

(His eyes widens)

Musa : But how? We got paid 2 days ago and you still have money to buy McDonald's? Scarecrow gave you a raise Am I right or Am I riiiiight?

(He says dramatically)

Me : She would never that one

(You may be wondering who is a scarecrow right? Well she is our boss. A very old thin lady who refuses to retire because she loves bossing people around but more than anything she loves money and she spends all her money on makeup. She loves long eyelashes and long nails. She ensures that she goes extra on her makeup and that makeup makes her look scary. Her name is Benadryl De Klerk but Musa named her the scarecrow. I know very well that the day she finds out about that nickname Musa and I will be jobless)

Musa : Out with it

Me : Rather not

Musa : Ouch! You know I get sick when there is nothing to gossip about.

(I laugh)

Me : Some guy bought it for me but you know what? I rather not talk about it or him.

Musa : Did you say a guy?

Me : I did

Musa : Is it the end of the world?

Me : Not yet.

Musa : Hheee eh! wena. Tell me more. What happened to my holy holy Sthabile?

Me : I'm still holy holy friend but I'll never say no to free food.

Musa : Not just any food but food bought by a man. Ay siya shawna - We are dying -

(I laugh)

Me : He is... He is nothing.

(I smile while swinging with my chair)

Musa : Nothing? Definitely something. Tell me

(His phone rings. Thanks heavens)

Musa : Heey bitch

(Definitely his mom. He only calls me and his mom by "bitch")

Musa : I was about to call you now. Yes I'm coming for tomorrow's dinner and I'm coming with my friend

(I raise my brow)

Musa : For the millionth time I'm single mom. Girls say I'm loud and they can't handle me. Bye Mom Love you mom.

(He drops the call and sigh)

Musa : Phew! I don't need parents anymore. I'm done

Me : Uh-huh Musa wena!

Musa : Kidding. Don't cook tomorrow we are going for dinner.

Me : And Why are you only telling me now?

Musa : Because I knew you would never say no to food and it's not like you have plans because you are single. Bye!

(He dances as he walks out of my office. I laugh.)

(Musa came to say his goodbye. I'm also ready to go home now. My last delivery took longer than I thought it would. I'm tired and hungry. I can't wait to take off these boots as soon as I get inside my car. I drag my feet walking to the parking lot. Damn! There is a red car. Why is Nyathuko always following me around now? This is rather uncomfortable but I like it at the same time. He is nowhere in the parking lot and his windows are tinted so I can't see inside his car. Who knows? Maybe this is not even his car. I walk towards my car and place my backpack at the back. I'm in the driver's seat now so I'm about to start the engine of my car but I freeze when I see someone sitting in front of my car leaning against it. I quickly get out and head to the front. It's Nyathuko Zondi. I cover my mouth with my hands. I don't know if this is a picnic or what but he is sitting on a blanket. His resting his arm on a picnic basket. His eyes are closed. Oh my God

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he is sleeping and he looks so cute under these lights. I can't stop smiling. Sthabile what the fuck are you doing staring at a man? You are done with men. Ok I stop and clear my throat)

Me : Nyathuko?

(He slowly opens his eyes and look around before he looks at me)

Nyathuko : Hi

Me : What are you doing here?

(He is wearing different clothes from those he was wearing in the morning so he went home and changed. He still looks so clean in his white t-shirt but I wonder what time he got here)

Nyathuko : I was waiting for you.

(He look at the watch in his wrist)

Nyathuko : Sit down

Me : Here?

(He looks around like he is going to ask me where else?)

Nyathuko : Yes

(He stretches his hand to me. Should I take it? Oh well why not? He takes my hand his hand is so warm and soft. He pulls me closer to the floor next to him. I look around as soon as I sit down. This is strange. This is a parking lot for heaven's sake)

Nyathuko : I knew you would refuse to let me inside your house and let me eat with you so I brought food here

Me : I see

(I actually don't know what to say. I'm shocked. My mouth is dry)

Nyathuko : Take off those big boots

(He says while opening the picnic basket)

Me : No it's okay.

(He shakes his head. Ok he is taking out flowers from the basket. He hands them to me)

Nyathuko : For you Ntokazi emhlophe

Me : Thank you. Beautiful (I muttered)

(They are beautiful I love them and I'm blushing)

Nyathuko : Nothing is more beautiful than you are.

(God he heard me. No What is he doing now? He is reaching for my work boots. He is fuckin taking them off. He takes one and places it aside. He looks away and rubs his nose. Oops! The smell is that bad I guess but I told him that I didn't want to take them off. He takes off the last one and puts it next to the other one. I'm zero ashamed)

Nyathuko : I bought your favorite meal

Me : You don't know my favorite meal

(He takes out McDonald's paper bags.)

Nyathuko : I bought burgers this time

Me : Wuuuu Uh-huh at least

Nyathuko : I could have cooked but I wasn't sure if I would still find you here.

Me : What time did you get here?

Nyathuko : 16h00. I was just trying my luck

(I look at the time and it's almost 19h00 now)

Me : So people saw you sitting here?

Nyathuko : By people you mean your colleagues?

Me : Yeah

Nyathuko : They did but who cares?

Me : I guess no one

Nyathuko : Exactly

(I love his voice and I could listen to it the whole day but I see that he is a man who speaks less. We are eating in silence. This is awkward)

Me : You didn't bring wine?

(I'm trying to break the silence here. Yooh it's deafening. He stops eating and looks at me. The creases on his forehead are screaming "bitch what are you saying now")

Nyathuko : I didn't know you drink

Me : Nyathuko you don't know me

Nyathuko : Of course. No I didn't bring wine. There is juice.

Me : And what more?

(He pushes the basket in my direction. I shove the rest of the burger inside my mouth. He let out a soft laugh. I shrugged)

Me : What?

(I ask with my mouth full of burger)

Nyathuko : You are beautiful

Me : Oh that. I know

(I dig inside the basket and I laugh. There are marshmallows grapes juice and Simba chips)

Nyathuko : All yours

(I smile)

Me : Thank you

(I drink the juice while pressing my phone. I check the time. It's getting late)

Nyathuko : You want to go home?

Me : Mhmm-mhmm

Nyathuko : Ok

(He stands up and helps me up. He takes my work boots and walks away with them.)

Me : Hey where are you going with those?

(He opens the bin and throw them in)

Nyathuko : I'll buy you new ones if I have to.

(He says while walking back.)

Me : You didn't have to do that

Nyathuko : It was a must.

(He opens the boot of his car and comes back with flip flops.)

Nyathuko : Wear these. They are clean

Me : I see that but I can't work with these flip flops.

Nyathuko : I'll bring you new ones tomorrow morning

Me : You don't have to. I have more work boots at my house

(He mumbles something)

Me : I didn't get that

Nyathuko : Nothing

(I wear his oversized flip flop while he packs everything. He folds the blanket)

Nyathuko : Please keep these.

Me : Put them at the back of my car

(I burp. Jeeez! I'm full. He shakes his head and walk to the back of my car)

Nyathuko : Here is your phone

Me : When did you take it?

Nyathuko : It was on the floor

Me : Oh yeah

(I take my phone and get inside my car)

Me : Thanks for the food friend

(He shakes his head and gets inside his car. He lowers the window)

Nyathuko : I'm not your friend

(The window went up and closes)

Me : Mxm

(I drove off leaving him at the parking lot.)

(I arrive at my house and flashbacks of the day keep crossing my mind. How the fuck did I sit down and eat with a stranger at my work parking lot with no one I know around at bloody 07h00pm? A whole male? What is wrong with me? I walk into the bathroom and take a shower. I call my mother before I sleep most days and speak to my children. I finish the call and switch off the lights)

(I wake up to my phone ringing under my pillow. No one calls me after midnight so what the fuck? I don't know this number and I don't know if I should answer but what if it's my family and something happened to my children. I quickly answer)

Me : Hello

"Sthah I'm outside please come and see me"

(Not Nyathuko Zondi coming to my house after midnight. He knows my name now? Where did he get my number?)

Me : Nyathuko are you crazy? Where did you get my number?

Nyathuko : I couldn't sleep without seeing your beautiful face. Please come out

Me : But I....

Nyathuko : I don't have your new work boots but at least I brought your wine.

(He cut me off. I don't know but I want to laugh)

Chapter 03

(He walks in and looks around while shaking his head. His lower lip protrude in a silky pout and he raises his brow. Why do I like this reaction on his face now? You know what? Scratch what I said earlier Nyathuko Zondi was a beautiful man with his tribal marks.)

Me : Did you see the time?

Nyathuko : It's late

(So he knows that it's late?)

Me : Yes it is Thukeh and I need to go to work in the next 5...6 hours.

Nyathuko : Thukeh? Please don't be one of those Sthah. Call me Nyathuko

Me : Then you better call me Sthabile

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sounds better. Don't you think?

(His eye balls are moving quickly and his big eyes are closing as he carefully continues to look at me. The way he is looking at me makes my level of breathing go fast so I keep swallowing. "Sthabile you are from Natal you can handle this guy he is nothing" The voice in my head says. He is getting closer and I feel goosebumps. No I can't handle this one he is everything.)

Me : Sthah Sthah sounds better.

(I finally say and look away. He walks past me and sit down)

Nyathuko : Sit here

(He taps on the couch. There is no way I'm sitting next to him)

Me : No I'll sit here

Nyathuko : Ok may I please have some water?

(He asks while handing me a bottle of white wine. I see he wasn't lying about the wine)

Me : Thanks for the wine

Nyathuko : I didn't know which one you like between red and white.

Me : This one is perfect

(I look at the bottle of wine and I frowned. No this one isn't perfect)

Me : Nyathuko did you see this? It has zero alcohol

Nyathuko : Yes I know.

(He says with his relaxed husky voice.)

Me : Just so you know I love my alcohol as much as I love my food so next time you decide to bring me some alcohol please bring real alcohol with 12% of volume or more.

(He is just looking at me. His gaze move to my fridge)

Me : Wuuuh Uh-huh my thickness has nothing to do with alcohol or food

(He shakes his head)

Nyathuko : Water please

Me : Oh that

(Nyathuko suddenly looks so different from the Nyathuko who stabbed my tire. This Nyathuko looks so calm. I open the fridge and take out a bottle of water)

Me : Here

(He looks at the bottle of water in my hand his eyes move all the way up to my face. I can't look into his eyes I just can't)

Me : Wooooo!!

(I scream as I find myself sitting on his lap out of the blue. The bottle of water is spinning in the air he quickly catches it with one hand before it falls on the floor. His other hand was wrapped around me. What the fuck just happened? When and how did Nyathuko pulled me onto his lap so fast)

Nyathuko : Are you scared of me?

(He asks while looking straight into my eyes. My knees are still shaking I still can't get over what just happened how Nyathuko was too quick to spin me around and pull me onto his lap. I don't remember when I let go of the water bottle. I'm such a big girl with meat everywhere but Nyathuko spinned me around like I was nothing)

Me : No no I'm not scared of you.

(I try to sound brave)

Nyathuko : Are you sure?

(His lips are so close to my face. He is a smoker I can feel the smell of nicotine mixed with mint)

Me : I'm sure

(He looks at my shaking knees. I press my feet on the floor trying to stop them from shaking. He looks back at my face and let out a soft laugh Fuck!. He gently pushes me to stand up and and I don't want to move away from him. I'm so comfortable sitting on his lap plus he smell so nice. I thinks he sees that I don't want to move away so he pulls me closer to him. Maybe I'm too heavy for the poor guy but no I'm not moving I'm going to sit here on top of him)

Nyathuko : Better?

(I let out a sigh)

Me : Perfect

Nyathuko : Do you know why I'm here?

Me : To bring my wine

Nyathuko : No to ask you out for proper dinner

Me : Dinner?

Nyathuko : Yes I want to get to know you.

Me : Why did you damage my tire?

Nyathuko : To get your attention. Sthah you are not an easy woman to approach I'm saying this because I have seen you coming to McDonalds a couple of times but whenever I had to come to you I ran away.

Me : Am I that scary?

Nyathuko : Intimidating

Me : But here you are today

Nyathuko : I know. Would you believe me if I told you that the day you found me at McDonald's counter I was G oogling your work company and I couldn't believe it when I lifted my eyes and saw you.

Me : I don't believe you

(He pulls out his phone)

Nyathuko : Go to recent searches and most searched

(I go through his Google search)

Me : But you were searching for Audio Movers

Nyathuko : I know. One day you came to McDonalds and when you walked out I saw a name written on your overalls. I thought I saw Audio Movers but it was actually Auto Movers. I've been searching for a wrong company for a while now.

(I laugh out loud and cover my face in his neck. What the fuck am I doing now? I'm busy giggling with a stranger in my house at 01h20am the same stranger that stabbed my tyre. I jump away from him and he looks at me with confusion written all over his face)

Nyathuko : Is everything okay? Did I do something wrong

Me : No but I think you should go. I need to get to work in the next 5...6 hours

(He stands and put his hands in his pockets)

Nyathuko : I understand

Me : I don't think you should come here anymore and I won't be going out with you. I have dinner later today with a friend and I'll be working till late for the rest of the week

Nyathuko : Friend does she have a name?

Me : He does. His name is Musa

(He sigh and his head fall back)

Nyathuko : I see. I'm sorry I woke you up.

(He is heading out with his head down and I want to cry)

Me : Nyathuko wait!

(He stops walking)

Me : Musa is not my boyfriend if that's what you think. He is just a friend.

Nyathuko : Ok

(He proceeds walking)

Me : Thukeh listen I want to go out with you but I need to know you first

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I want to go out with you but I need to know you first I need to know who you are before I go out with you.

(He stops and turn around with a frown on his face)

Nyathuko : Do you really mean that?

Me : I do

(I walk towards him)

Me : But first I need to know the guy who left a note next to my flat tyre

(He chuckles)

Nyathuko : I'm sorry about that. I only wanted your attention

(He holds my hands and my body shivers.)

Nyathuko : I knew the first time I saw you.

Me : You knew what?

Nyathuko : Can I ask you to do one thing for me?

Me : Of course

Nyathuko : Please don't go to that dinner with your friend

Me : What?

Nyathuko : Sthah I'm begging you.

(He is too close now and I can't breathe)

Me : Ok

(I whisper. He smiles and the warmth of his hands disappears from my hands)

Nyathuko : Get some rest

Me : You too....I mean go well

(He walks out and I quickly close my door and lean against it. I sigh what the hell have I done? I just told this guy that I won't go for dinner with Musa. I hear his car driving out and I open the curtain. His car drives out the gate. My phone flashes with a message)

Message : You are beautiful. I'm waiting for you to close the gate. Come

(It's a message from Nyathuko)

Me : What the....

(I quickly open the door and head to the gate. His car is out there indeed. I close the gate and run back to the house)

(I thought I was going to be feeling sleepy all day at work but to my surprise I'm not. My shift is almost over and I haven't seen Musa. It was a busy day and we moved from one location to another so we hardly saw each other. The scarecrow knocks on my door)

Me : Oh De Klerk

De Klerk : Sethabhile you are still here?

Me : Yes but I'm wrapping up now

De Klerk : Good. It was a long day

Me : A very long day. I'm exhausted

De Klerk : Moosa is on his way from Richard's Bay and I won't be here when he arrives. I sent you all the emails about tomorrow's lunch with BMW

Me : Lunch?

De Klerk : Tomorrow it's the 29th remember? Our monthly get together?

Me : Oh yes. It's late this month

De Klerk : I know. There were some delays

Me : So it's half day tomorrow?

De Klerk : Precisely. I need times and I've been checking my emails but there is none from you and Moosa.

Me : Uhhh! Ok. I'll do the 11h00am to 04h00pm

De Klerk : Cool. Tell Moosa I'm waiting for his reply

Me : Will do

De Klerk : Goodnight

(She walk out with her high heels. Bloody old woman why can't she give me a whole day off?)

(Musa finally comes back and he is bubbly as always)

Musa : You should have brought your clothes we were going to sleep at rents house

Me : About that. Friend I'm sorry but I won't make it to dinner something came up

(I was expecting that look of disappointment from him)

Musa : Bitch don't say

Me : I'm sorry. Rain check?

Musa : Is everything okay?

Me : Everything is perfect it just been a long day and I want to have an early night.

Musa : It was so I get it. Some other time then

Me : I promise to make it up to you

Musa : This weekend we are going out for drinks and it's all on you.

(I giggle)

Me : You got me. Fine

(I hug him and kiss his cheek)

Me : Mom is picking you up?

Musa : Dad

Me : Ok Have a good one Love you.

Musa : Love you too

(I walk straight to my car. I can't wait to get to my house and I finally arrive. I drag myself out of my car and open my door with my eyes close. I kick something as I walk inside my house. I switch on the lights to see flowers on the floor. I smile and pick them up. I place my keys on the counter and open the card)

"Anything to keep myself on your mind. I hope you had a great day"

(The card reads. I smile and inhale the flowers)

Me : Ah Nyathuko. You are going to be the death of me

(I finish eating and head to the bathroom. I keep thinking if I should contact Nyathuko or not. I finish showering and go to bed. I was hoping that I'll find his missed call but there was nothing. I dial his number and cancel again and again.)

Me : Why am I entertaining this guy?

(I toss my phone under the pillow but it rings. Nyathuko is calling. I ignore his call and as soon as the phone stops ringing I switch it off. I close my eyes and fall deep into my beautiful sleep. At 06h00am I was bloody starving so I woke up and go to the kitchen for a quick sandwich. I open my fridge and I can't shake off the feeling that there is something going on outside my house. I walk to the living room and open the curtain. There is a red car parking at the gate)

Me : Oh my Goodness

(I open the door and guess what? Nyathuko is sitting at my doorstep.)

Me : Nyathuko?

(He turns his face back at me. He looks like hell his eyes are red.)

Me : How did you.... What are you doing here?

(He stands up)

Nyathuko : Why are you driving me crazy?

Me : What?

Nyathuko : You are late for work

Me : I'm not. I'm starting at 11h00.... Nyathuko how did you get inside my gate?

Nyathuko : I jumped over your gate the same way I jumped over it when I came to leave you those flowers.

(He gently pushes me out of the way and get inside my house. Who told him he can go in? How did I meet that crazy man again?... He climbed over my gate? Who does that?)

Me : Nyathuko I don't know if I....

(I turn around but he is not behind me. I panick)

Me : Nyathuko where are you?

Nyathuko : Who is here?

(He asks while walking out of my bedroom. What the hell?)

Me : What?

Nyathuko : It's your so called friend right? That's why you were not picking up my calls

Me : What? No no one is here except me. Nyathuko how dare you walk into my private bedroom without my permission?

Nyathuko : So he is not here?

Me : Of course not!

(He sigh and sit down on my steps. He rubs his face)

Nyathuko : Sthah I'm sorry I shouted at you. I shouldn't have came here I just got so scared and thought of the worst.

Me : I'm fine Nyathuko. Please leave

Nyathuko : Please forgive me

Me : I forgive you now leave!

(He stands up and walk towards the door. I run to the door first and close it)

Me : Ok don't go. Stay for breakfast

Nyathuko : Are you....

Me : I'm sure. Sit

Nyathuko : Ok

Me : Cereal?

(He shakes his head)

Nyathuko : Still early

Me : Suit yourself

(I'm shaking as I prepare my cereal. I still can't digest the whole thing)

Me : I'll eat in my bedroom

Nyathuko : Ok

Me : Eer it's still early so you can sleep in my boy's bedroom. There it is left door

Nyathuko : Boys?

Me : I have children Nyathuko

(No reaction at all from him)

Nyathuko : No I'll sleep on this couch

Me : Ok you want to bring in your car?

Nyathuko : No

Me : Okay then.. See you

(I walk into my bedroom and lock my door. Phew! I start eating. I try to sleep but I can't not with a stranger in my house. My alarm rings at 09h00am. Dammit! When did I fall asleep? I jump out of my bed and unlock the door. I walk to the living room and it looks spotless. When I look at the kitchen there is Nyathuko he is topless. He is cleaning my fridge. Remember the dishes I threw in my bin because they were smelling? Yes those here they are now on top of the table. CLEAN!. I'm speechless)

Chapter 04

Me : Wow

(He quickly takes his t-shirt and wears it)

Nyathuko : I'm sorry it was a bit hot here.

(I clear my throat)

Me : It's okay....This house looks clean thank you.

Nyathuko : It's nothing. I need to go now

Me : Let's have breakfast together

Nyathuko : Aren't you late for work?

(I look at the time. Yes I am so I shrug)

Nyathuko : Next time

Me : Were you serious about losing your job?

Nyathuko : Yes but I'm a man so I'll make a plan. Like I always do

Me : Nyathuko I'm sorry I know it's my fault that you lost your job

Nyathuko : No it was my fault.

(Why does he always want to get closer to me? He is coming closer now and I haven't even brushed my teeth. He smiles)

Nyathuko : My hands are cold

Me : What?

(I suddenly feel his cold soft hands on my cheeks. He pressed his lips on my forehead. I'm shaking and he is not letting go)

Nyathuko : Have a good day

(He finally let go. I can't speak I just watch him walking away. That has been the wildest moment of my life in a very long time.)

(It was just a forehead kiss why can't I just get over it? Ok that wasn't just a simple forehead kiss it was more deep than that. I get inside my car already rushing to work and I get out again when I notice how clean my car is. So Nyathuko not only cleaned my house but my car too? I'm really defeated. Anyway I have a scarecrow and a big truck waiting for me so I drive to work. I rush inside the reception. There is Vee)

Me : Hi Vee bye Vee

Vee : Wait wait!

Me : Whaaaat!

(I stop walking)

Vee : This was delivered for you?

Me : What?

(I turn around)

Vee : It's breakfast from Mc.....

Me : McDonalds I know. I swear Nyathuko loves McDonalds more than he loves me

Vee : What?

Me : What? What did I just say? Oh my goodness!

Vee : You are so in love darling

Me : No I'm not. Give me my food

(I take my food and walk away. I can't believe Nyathuko ordered food for me to be delivered at my workplace. He is just too good to be true. My phone vibrates as soon as I get inside my office. It's a message from Nyathuko)

Message : Anything to keep myself in your mind. I hope you got your food sorry they said it was too early for real alcohol.

(I laugh as I finish reading the message. Musa is doing the late shift. Scarecrow and a few others are out to that stupid get together. My day is moving as quickly as possible and before I know it the clock hits 07h00pm mind you I was supposed to finish at 04h00pm. I worked 3 hours extra what the fuck? I say my goodbye to our security guard. Oh shit it's raining. I run into my car and rub my hands together. I drive home. There is a strange smell in my car the car move back and forth and totally stop moving)

Me : What the fuck?

(I start the engine and it gives me a weird sound and turn itself off)

Me : No! No!

(I say while banging my steering wheel. I know nothing about cars. I get out of the car the rain is heavy now. I open the car bonnet and cough. There is smoke I quickly close it. I get back inside but what if I burn inside this car? I look around there is a tree. I grab my phone and run to stand under the tree. I called my mechanic and he is not picking up. I have no else in mind except.....I dial his number)

Me : Nyathuko it's me

Nyathuko : I know it's you. What's wrong?

(I want to cry)

Me : My car

Nyathuko : What's wrong with your car?

Me : It broke down in the middle of nowhere

Nyathuko : What? Where are you?

Me : Thuke I'm scared it's dark here and it's raining.

Nyathuko : Send me your location now!

(I hear the panic in his voice. I hang up and send him my location. What if something happens to this car? I don't have insurance. I'm so stupid sometimes. I don't even see a single car passing by. I waited and waited and now I'm sure that Nyathuko is not coming . There is a single light coming. I run to the middle

of the road and wave. I don't care if it's a serial killer or not I'm going to die anyway. The roaring sound gets closer and passes by. It's a bike)

Me : Dammit!

(It stops far away and I see it coming back. Why am I scared now. I hide behind my car. The engine stops)

"Sthah? Sthah where are you?"

(Oh my God it's Nyathuko. I run to him and hug him. He is just as wet as I am)

Nyathuko : Hey hey It's okay. I'm here now

Me : I thought....Nyathuko I was so scared.

(I break down in tears and he holds me tightly)

Nyathuko : I'm sorry I took long

(I pull away.)

Me : What do we do now?

Nyathuko : We are going home. Don't worry about your car

(Right now I'm definitely not worried about my car. He hands me a helmet and I try to put it on. He helps me put it on and we both climb on his bike)

Nyathuko : Wait do you need anything from your car?

Me : No

Nyathuko : Ok. Hold me

Me : Huh?

Nyathuko : Hold onto me tightly.

Me : Oh....Ok

(I hold him. He is not wearing a helmet but I do. He starts the engine and we move with the rain and the wind. Ok we are definitely not heading to Phoenix. I don't know where we are going and I don't care. I hide my face using his back as the bike moves faster. We go on and on. When I lift my head it's quiet)

Nyathuko : We have arrived

Me : What?

Nyathuko : We are home. You can climb out now

Me : Oh okay

(I climb off the bike and take out the helmet. Phew! The rain is much better this side)

Me : Where are we?

(I ask while looking around. There is a two room house here. The lights are shining brighter and the yard is so clean with those trees that are nicely designed)

Nyathuko : We are not in the suburbs. Here is the other side of Inanda. Do you know Inanda?
Emachobeni?

(He asks while wrapping his arm around my neck)

Me : Emachobeni?

Nyathuko : Uh! Ever heard of it?

(Never)

Me : No

(We begin walking into the two room house. He takes out the key and opens the door. I walk in. I hear a banging sound and I look back. It's Nyathuko clearing dirt from his boots and I just walked in with my dirty shoes. He takes off his boots and I look around the house. Everything is white here from the fluffy carpet I'm standing on by the doorstep to everything else. This guy is too clean for my liking. I know it's too late but I try to take off my shoes and I feel his hands on my arms)

Nyathuko : Don't.

Me : Oh okay

(I walk in freely with my dirty shoes. Ok I'm wet and it's clean here. Where am I going to sit? The couch is covered with a fluffy white cover. Where I'm standing there is a bed one two seater couch a glass coffee table and a flat screen TV on the wall. I look at the other room and it looks like a kitchen. The walls are beautifully designed. Shwele! Where is the bathroom? Where am I going to take a bath?)

Nyathuko : Please sit down

Me : But I'm wet.

Nyathuko : Sit

Me : Okay

(I sit on the bed)

Me : What's gonna happen with my car?

Nyathuko : My friend will fix it.

Me : For how much?

Nyathuko : That's for me to worry about.

(Oops! Okay but you are unemployed. I wanted to say)

Me : Your house is beautiful

Nyathuko : Thank you

(He takes off his biker jacket and carefully hangs it behind the door. He is topless now. He pulls out some coins from his jeans and a single blue balls falls on the floor.)

Me : I'll take that

(I laugh. He smiles and picks it up. He throws it at me and I catch it. I open it and chew it like a bubblegum

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yoo! I'm hungry. He disappears into his kitchen and I grab the TV remote from his TV stand and switch on the TV)

Me : So you have a bike?

Nyathuko : It's my father's bike. I went to visit him today so I left my car and took his bike

Me : Where are your parents staying?

Nyathuko : UMhlanga

(I'm shocked. The remote falls on the floor)

Me : What?

(I almost asked and you stay in a two room house?)

Nyathuko : Yeah

Me : Any brothers and sisters?

Nyathuko : Yes 2 sisters. Both married

Me : Okay how old?

Nyathuko : I forgot but I'm the eldest

(I laugh)

Me : You forgot how old your sisters are? Nyathuko come on. How old are you?

Nyathuko : 30 but turning 31 in a couple of months.

(He is 2 years older than me)

Me : Children?

Nyathuko : Nine

Me : Nine?

Nyathuko : You want to give me Nine?

Me : No You said nine

Nyathuko : I said none not nine

Me : Oh I thought you said nine

Nyathuko : No

(He finally comes back with a big plastic enamel basin)

Nyathuko : Bath

Me : In that basin?

Nya : We are not in the suburbs here Sthah

(Ouch. Okay. He opens his white wardrobe and takes out a white towel. He reach out to the top of the wardrobe and takes a small container)

Nyathuko : Here is the soap

(It's a green sunlight bar soap with a small orange empty sack next to it. I want to cry now. I swallow)

Me : Thank you - I mumble -

Nyathuko : I'll be in the kitchen

Me : That's better. I don't want you here while I bath

(He laughs and walks away. I let out a sigh. How did I get here? I slowly take off my work overalls and bath. I dry myself and wrapped myself up with the same towel)

Me : When are you taking me to Phoenix?

Nyathuko : As soon as the rain stops

Me : Okay

(Whatever he is doing in that kitchen smells nice. I want to eat now. There are shoes neatly packed in a shoe rack against the wall. I take his flip flops and wear them. I walk to the kitchen)

Me : What are you doing here?

(He didn't freeze or anything. It's like he was expecting me to walk in)

Nyathuko : Preparing what you love the most

Me : Oh food.

(We both laugh. He pulls me closer I'm now standing in front of him and his arms are wrapped around me. I can feel his breath in my ear. He grabs the knife and continues slicing the cucumber)

Me : Can you see? Am I not blocking you?

Nyathuko : I'm taller than you Sthah

Me : Oh yah

(This roasted chicken looks delicious. Ok we are going to have pap gravy roasted chicken and salad for dinner. I love it everything looks clean. He moves with me as he moves around the table)

Nyathuko : There we go. Done let's go and eat

(I take the plates and he follows me with juice and 2 glasses)

Nyathuko : Yey! Yey!

(He shouts and I quickly turn around. I sigh he is shouting at a beautiful black cat. It was trying to climb on top of the table)

Me : Is it yours?

Nyathuko : Yeah

Me : The only black thing in this house but it's beautiful

(He laughs. I sit on the bed and he sits on the couch. We eat and boy it's hard eating with that beautiful face in front of me but I'm hungry and food is delicious. We finished eating.)

Nyathuko : Get some sleep.

(He fixes the bed for me and I get inside the covers. His bed smells like heaven I feel like I'm in an expensive hotel right now. I'm so comfortable and warm. He went back to the kitchen. He is washing the dishes. I can hear him)

Me : So your parents stay alone in UMhlanga

Nyathuko : My father stays with my step mother

Me : Where is your biological mother?

Nyathuko : Dead

(That sounds cold)

Me : I'm so sorry to hear that. What happened?

Nyathuko : She was sick. Sthah please sleep I'll wake you up when it's time to go

(OK he doesn't want to talk about his mother)

Me : I don't want to sleep. So you stay alone here?

Nyathuko : With my cat

(I laugh. He comes back and I hear the sound of water. Wee! He is bathing I quickly cover my head. He laugh)

Nyathuko : You are not going to do that forever

Me : Yes I will

Nyathuko : Why would you do that? I'm your.... (He pause)

Me : You are what?

Nyathuko : How was work?

Me : Tiring

(I'm so comfortable here and I'm falling asleep. Nyathuko was busy telling me something but I couldn't hear him anymore. I was out)

Nyathuko : Sthah?

(I'm awake but I'm not going to open my eyes because I'm still trying to process where I am. He kisses me all over my face and I jump)

Me : Oh my God

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Wake up it's 04h00am.

Me : I slept here?

Nyathuko : You did

Me : Did we....

(I touch myself down there and I feel fine)

Nyathuko : No we didn't have sex. I slept on the couch

(I swallow)

Me : I'm sorry I shouldn't have asked that

Nyathuko : It's okay. Here is breakfast

Me : It's 04h00am

(He raises his brow)

Me : But that smells good so I'll eat

(It's toasted bread with Viennas and cheese)

Nyathuko : Coffee?

Me : Please

(He stands up and puts his hands in his pants pockets but it looks big down there. Holy shit! This is not what I think it is. He also looks down and clears his throat. He walks away and I want to laugh at him)

Nyathuko : Your car is at my friend's house but he will get it fixed today.

Me : Ookay so how am I gonna go to work?

Nyathuko : We have taxis here

Me : No please don't.

Nyathuko : But baby my car is not here

(Did he just call me "baby" I'm just going to pretend that I didn't hear that part)

Me : Taxis to LA Lucia?

Nyathuko : Yes and you will get to work on time

Me : Okay

(He comes back and looks at me. He sigh and kiss my cheek)

Nyathuko : I'll be back

Me : Where are you going?

(He takes his jacket and wears it. He opens the door. It is still dark outside. He walks out and closes the door)

Me : Where is he going? And where is my coffee?

(I get out of bed and head to the kitchen to make myself coffee. I realize that I'm naked and run back to the bedroom. I open his wardrobe his clothes are neatly packed. I take one of his t-shirts and wear it. I go

back to make my coffee. I don't care if I'm going to be late or not. Nyathuko finally comes. On his shoulder it's my work overalls)

Me : Where? Where did you get those?

Nyathuko : Magic

Me : Nyathuko no don't play with me

Nyathuko : I washed them and hung them in the garage next door.

Me : Oh my God. Are they dry?

Nyathuko : Uh! I'll iron them for you. Look what else I got... Car keys. I'll take you to work.

(I was so excited)

Me : Thank you so very much but where did you get the car?

Nyathuko : I know a few people around here.....Eish your coffee I forgot.

Me : I made it myself

Nyathuko : I'm sorry

Me : No need

(He takes the ironing board and iron my overalls in the kitchen while I bathe. Yoh! I don't have clean underwear I didn't even wash the one I had yesterday. Fuck I'm going to work without underwear. Few minutes later here we are inside a Suzuki. Nyathuko is driving me to work)

(We arrived at work at exactly 06h20. I'm 20 minutes late but who cares? He gets out of the car and opens for me.)

Nyathuko : Your food will be delivered.

(He says while looking straight into my eyes. I look away)

Me : I forgot some work files in my car

Nyathuko : I'll bring them during lunch

Me : No no no don't worry. I won't need them

Nyathuko : Are you sure?

Me : Yes

(He kiss my hand and get back inside the car)

Nyathuko : See you later

Me : Bye

Nyathuko : Go

Me : No you go

Nyathuko : Please Sthah I just want to make sure that you are safe

Me : Safe?

(I laugh)

Nyathuko : Yes

(He is not going so I'll go. I go all the way from the parking lot to the office. I dial his number as soon as I get in)

Me : I'm safe

Nyathuko : Thank you.

(I hang up. I receive a message from him after that call)

Message : Please come back to my house later.

Me : Yoh no ways

(I don't have clean clothes not even underwear so I need to go back to Phoenix. I reply)

Me : Ok he is not texting me back anymore

(I walk to the scarecrow's office)

Me : Morning DE Klerk

De Klerk : Morning Sethabhile how are you?

Me : Not feeling well

(Her face drops)

De Klerk : Oh my goodness.

Me : My car broke down last night and I think I caught a lot of rain so I'm coming down with flu

(She stands up)

De Klerk : Goodness I'm so sorry. Is your car fine?

Me : Yes Yes.

De Klerk : Good. You want to make an appointment with a doctor?

Me : I did and I need to leave at 11h00am

De Klerk : No problem no problem at all.

Me : Thank you for understanding

De Klerk : Take all the time out you need

Me : Will do. Thanks

(I walk out. I lied so what? I went back to my office. I'm not going out today. Vee walks in with my food. Great! Nyathuko ordered for me.)

Vee : Yours

Me : Thank you Vee

Vee : Have you seen De Klerk?

Me : Yebo

Vee : Is she in a good mood? I need a day off next week

(I laugh)

Me : I think so

Vee : Let me go and speak to her before her mood hits zero

(We both laugh. She leaves my food and walks out. So no one sees that I didn't sleep at my house? Good that means I look good. I look at my food and I feel bad. Nyathuko is unemployed and I am but he is the one who buys me food all the time. With what money?. My phone interrupts my thinking. It a message from Nyathuko)

Message : Ngizoliwasha iphenti Sthah please come here after work.

(I laugh out loud. Not Nyathuko saying he will wash my underwear. I can't stop laughing while I repeat reading his message. I laugh hard when I realize that I left it in his house and it was dirty so he saw it? Jesus! I'm a mess)

(I went to see the doctor and she gave me 3 days to stay home because I'm SICK. I'm on my way home now and all thanks to Musa for requesting Uber for me. We arrive at my house and I get inside. The house feels so empty but thank goodness it's clean and all thanks to Nyathuko. I miss him I miss so much and it makes me emotional. I take a shower hoping that I'll feel better but I'm still feeling miserable. I lie on my bed and go through my whatsapp. Nyathuko's last seen is yesterday 18h04)

Me : I wonder where you are.

(I click on his display photo. It's his picture and this man is gorgeous so clean. Musa's whatsapp message disturbs me)

" Dadewethu I'll call you now"

(Huh? Dadewethu? Ay the man in him is awake today. I reply with okay and he calls immediately)

Me : In work?

Musa : Yeah till lunch. Tell me about your boyfriend

Me : Boyfriend? What boyfriend?

Musa : Sthabile I know that besides me there is definitely another man in your life now and he is new so tell me who he is and I'll tell you if he is perfect for you.

(Musa sounds serious right now. More like my big brother)

Me : Well he smashed my tire the first time I saw him.

Musa : Accident?

Me : Intentionally

Musa : That's a big minus

Me : Minus what?

Musa : You may proceed

Me : He bought me flowers a couple of times.

(I'm smiling now)

Musa : Minus again. He is trying to soften your lonely heart and find a way between your thighs

Me : Musa!

Musa : I'm your brother remember? I know these things.

Me : He buys me food all the time

Musa : Nothing new there Baba uMdlalose used to buy you lunch all the time but he still left you and married his rural wife.

(Baba u Mdlalose was our security guard way back)

Me : Baba u Mdlalose was old and he never said he loved me?

Musa : And I guess this one has told you that he loves you isn't it soon?

(No it isn't and I'm worried now because Nyathuko hasn't spoken anything about love but it's not like I want a relationship with him anyway so it's okay)

Musa : That was a minus. Sthabile your Mr food food is only left with 20% now out of 100 I had to minus 50% for smashing your tire.

Me : But Sam Sam....

Musa : Nothing he is not perfect for you but don't worry you will find somebody else. You are one hell of

a beautiful thick madam so don't worry

Me : I'm not worried.... Anyway I slept at his house last night and he didn't even try to have sex with me

Musa : You lie

(I know Musa he is impressed right now but he is not going to say he is but instead he might say something nasty)

Me : I'm serious

Musa : He is gay. Wooh! Let me take that remaining 20%

(I did say)

Me : You know you don't mean that

(He sigh)

Musa : No I don't. You know what scratch everything that boy did when you two first met because all I know now is that the boy is gold and the boy is perfect for you

(I smile. Not that I needed your approval Musa)

Me : He stays in some township somewhere in Inanda.....but his parents stay in UMhlanga can you believe that?

Musa : UMhlanga Rocks?

Me : The one and only

Musa : Now I want to meet this guy

Me : It's too soon Sam Sam. We are trying to get to know each other even though I'm not sure if we will ever get to know each other. He hasn't asked anything about myself and when I try to know more about him the atmosphere just changes

Musa : Now that's strange

Me : Tell me about it. Bruh he is so clean

Musa : That's it I'm giving him a hundred. I like him already

Me : Even if...

Musa : Here comes the boss... Later

(I laugh as the call ends. I miss Musa but I miss Nyathuko even more. Why is he not calling me? The last message I received from him was one about washing my underwear and I said no. I want to call him but my pride says don't do it)

Me : Ay let me send him a text.

(Sleepover at my house tonight? I sent the message and quickly put my phone under my pillow. I'm scared of his reply. More than anything I'm scared that he might not even reply. I head to the kitchen for a snack and I come back. I check my phone with one eye closed and one open. There is a new message)

Message : I don't do sleepovers at women's houses. Sorry

(Did he just say sorry? Why am I hating so much on this sorry? I'm about to type when I receive another message from him)

Message : I don't care what time you will get home tonight but I'm coming to pick you up.

Me : What the fuck?

(I laugh while reading his second message. "I'm actually home right now I left work early" . I reply to his message)

(Ok no more messages from him so I take a nap. When I wake up I always take my time to open my eyes. Strange because there is a smell of BRUT cologne all over my room. I know it's BRUT because my late brother used to love BRUT so much. Maybe I'm still sleeping and he is visiting me in my dreams but when I stretch my legs I feel something blocking them. I quickly open my eyes and my room is dark. I slept longer than I thought. I quickly jump out of bed and switch on the light. I freeze when I see who is sleeping on my bed. I'm excited and I want to jump and sleep on top of him. How and when did he get inside my room? I immediately remember that I left my gate open and my main door unlocked. I watch him sleeping and he is more cute when he is sleeping no wonder that girl called him "Cute Thukeh". I swear to God if he wasn't snoring right now I'd think he is faking his sleep because how can one be so beautiful while sleeping? He is sleeping with his hands at the back of his head his feet are on the floor and he is only wearing one sneaker and his foot is on top of the other one. I wonder what stopped him from taking off the other one? Why did he sleep on my bed? But I'm not complaining because I love what I see. My body is heating up right now I'm craving for him At this very moment I'm sexually attracted to

him. There is something about Nyathuko's appeal his body makes one imagine him fucking you before anything else and if all women see what I see in this man then I'm in trouble. I quickly snap back to the real world when his phone rings in his pocket. He moves his hand to his pocket his eyes are still closed. He taps his pocket and opens his big eyes. His eyeballs move fast. I smile)

Me : Hi

(He sits up and ignore his phone)

Nyathuko : Hey I'm sorry I didn't mean to sleep on your bed. I was waiting for you to wake up but I also fell asleep.

Me : I don't mind. What time did you get here?

Nyathuko : I drove straight here after your last text.

Me : Oh my God. I guess we slept that long

(He shakes his head with a smirk on his face)

Nyathuko : We did. I'm here to pick you up

(I swallow. I love hanging around with him but I'm scared that he might break my heart and I'll never be able to handle a broken heart anymore.)

Me : Nyathuko what's going on between you and I?

(He raises his brow. Yey his eyebrows are so black and thick so beautiful)

Nyathuko : What do you mean?

Me : Are we in a relationship? Because if that's what it is then I'm not ready. I don't need a boyfriend or any commitments

Nyathuko : Oh

Me : Yes after the death of my children's father I made a promise to myself that I would never date again.

Nyathuko : He died?

Me : Yes he committed suicide.

Nyathuko : I'm sorry... No I respect your decision and I'm not going to push you to do something that you don't want.

Me : Thank you... But I like you as a friend

Nyathuko : Friend?... Right. Friend it is

(He is not happy right now but he will get over it)

Nyathuko : Your car is outside. Fixed

Me : Really? Thank you so much

Nyathuko : It's nothing

(He wears his other shoe and fixes the other one. He is tense right now and I hate seeing him like this)

Nyathuko : I thought we were going to go out and just chill.

Me : I'm up for that

(He lifts his head)

Nyathuko : Really?

Me : Yes I'm not working tomorrow so why not?

Nyathuko : Excellent. Please wear something comfortable

Me : Oookay

(I finish getting ready and we head to his car he is driving a black Cooper today. My car is here and it looks fine. I'm grateful)

Me : Which one is this one now?

Nyathuko : My late mother's car. It has been in the garage for a while now so I thought it would be a good thing for me to use it.

Me : It was at your father's house?

Nyathuko : Yes

Me : Nyathuko what happened to your mother?

Nyathuko : She was sick and she died.

Me : I'm really sorry

Nyathuko : She died 3 years ago in my arms.

Me : What?

Nyathuko : Yes. She died back home in Umzinyathi. I was taking her to the toilet that was built outside of the house because she couldn't walk on her own anymore. We were almost at the toilet when she stopped walking and asked to sit down. That was it

(His muscles are twitching from his arms as he tightens his hands on the steering wheel. My throat is closing up. I wasn't ready for this conversation. I can't speak I want to cry. He looks at me and switches on the radio. We are silent now. He looks around in the parking lot and parks his car. He takes my hand and presses his lips to it)

Nyathuko : It's okay. I'm fine

(I let out a sigh. I needed to hear that)

Nyathuko : Let's go and eat

(He gets out of the car and opens for me)

Nyathuko : Eish my wallet please wait.

(He gets back in the car and comes back quickly. He wraps his arm around my waist. We walked into this beautiful restaurant in UMhlanga. He pull out a chair for me and I sit)

Me : Thank you

(He sits down opposite me)

Me : You should have told me to dress up instead of "comfortable"

(He lets out a soft laugh)

Nyathuko : You look beautiful.

Me : Oh please

(I'm wearing my leggings and oversized sweater with my comfy winter boots. The waitress takes our orders and later we eat. He pays and I don't even feel bad. I'm broke)

Nyathuko : Let's go

(I take my milkshake that I asked him to buy for me before we go. He takes my hand and we walk out of the restaurant. We walk and walk while holding hands until we reach the beach. It's peaceful here the ocean is so calm. He sits down on the sand and pulls me down to sit between his legs. This is definitely not what friends do this is cozy. His arms are wrapped around my fat stomach and we are watching the ocean)

Nyathuko : Thank you for coming here with me

(His mouth is so close to my ear. I feel goosebumps)

Me : It's okay. Is this your usual spot?

Nyathuko : Something like that. Are you feeling cold?

Me : No

Nyathuko : Tell me about your children

Me : Oh Zanokuhle and Enzelwe?

Nyathuko : Their names are beautiful. Who named them?

Me : Their grandmother Nkazimulo's mother.

Nyathuko : Nkazimulo was the name of their father?

Me : Yes....They are twins they are 7 years old.

Nyathuko : So they are twins?

Me : Yes. They stay with my parents KwaMashu

Nyathuko : Ok. Any brothers or sisters?

Me : I had one brother but he died last year. He was younger than me. He had stroke and he died

(He squeezes me in his arms)

Nyathuko : Life goes on

Me : I know.

Nyathuko : How often do you go home?

Me : I visit them every end of the month

Nyathuko : And the twins? Do they visit you?

Me : During school holidays

Nyathuko : That's good. I'd love to have my own kids one day

Me : You'll make a beautiful bunch of I children.

(He laugh)

Nyathuko : Are you saying I'm beautiful?

Me : I'm sure you know that.

Nyathuko : I'm just a guy Sthah

Me : Do your sisters have any children?

Nyathuko : They do. Sthenjisiwe has 2 girls and Ntokozo has 1

(I guess those are his sisters names)

Me : All girls?

Nyathuko : Yes

Me : And you don't?

Nyathuko : At least I have a cat Sthah

(We both laugh. He sigh)

Nyathuko : I raised 2 children thinking they were mine but when the DNA results came back....

(I turn my face to him. He kisses my forehead)

Me : They were not?

Nyathuko : No. Imagine because I found out after 4 years when my father forced me to do the DNA test.

Me : But your father came through for you hey

Nyathuko : He did.

(This is sad)

Me : I'm sorry

Nyathuko : That's nothing.

(It starts raining and I jump)

Me : Oh no the rain

(He stands up)

Nyathuko : Come

(There is a shelter not far from the ocean so we head there.)

Me : Oh my God I'm so wet

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Stop lying

Me : You think I'm lying? Feel me

(I grab his hand and run it around my body)

Me : Do you feel that?

Nyathuko : I do

(He stops laughing. He runs his hand under my sweater. My heart is pounding fast. His hand reaches my breast and he squeezes it. I move closer to him I want to kiss him. Our lips meet and our tongues collide. We are passionately kissing but I can feel his hand moving to my back. He undoes my bra with one hand and his other hand is on my side of my neck and his thumb is gently brushing my cheek as we continue kissing. No no no I can feel his hand rubbing my nipple now. Things are getting out of hand. My clit is throbbing and I keep squeezing my pussy. I moan in his mouth. What the hell? His hand is now in my flat butts and he moves the hand to the front and gently rubs my clit. He breaks the kiss and presses his forehead against mine my head falls back a bit. I'm moaning a bit louder now. He stops rubbing my clit)

Nyathuko : Sthah?

Me : Mhmmmm

(I open my eyes to his big eyes staring at me)

Nyathuko : Let's do this

Me : No not here.

Nyathuko : I'm not talking about sex we are going to have sex right here but right now I'm talking about us.

(I'm speechless. He pulls down my leggings and bends down. He looks up at me)

Nyathuko : Lift up your foot

Me : Nyathuko I'm scared

(I say while lifting up my foot and the other. My leggings are out and the next thing my underwear is out. I look around I'm nervous but I want Nyathuko)

Me : But we don't have a condom. No we can't.

Nyathuko : I do.

(He pulls out a box of condoms at the back of his jeans.)

Me : Oh so you planned this?

Nyathuko : I didn't but do you want to do this?

Me : Yes

(I whisper. He crashes his lips on mine. I don't know when he took off his jeans but my leg is over his arm now. His other hand is at the back of my head. I'm scared that I'm going to fall and I want to lean on something at least. He stops kissing me)

Nyathuko : Sthah I got you. Now relax

(He sucks my lower lip and I feel it slowly coming in. He groans and pulls out. He slides in again. My body reacts my pussy is shocked. When was the last time I had sex? Six years ago. It hurts a little but Nyathuko is very gentle with me. He pulls my other leg. Wooo! Does Nyathuko see how big I am? My legs are now wrapped around his waist. He is moving with me while fucking me and in a blink of an eye I'm down and he quickly spins me around. Our hands are now wrapped around the shelter pole. How did he do that so fast? Nyathuko is something else. I scream as he enters me from behind he is rough now. I swear the way this pole is moving it's definitely going to fall. His breathing on my neck and that causes pressure on my knees. My knees are shaking I'm going to pee right now. The rain is hitting our faces and Nyathuko is fucking me from behind)

Me : Nyathuko!

(I scream as I cum. He turns me around and kisses my lips.)

Nyathuko : You are an amazing woman

(He says in my lips and continues kissing me. Who the fuck was I kidding? I love Nyathuko Zondi and right now I love him even more)

(After our little trip I slept in Emachobeni. Let's just say I couldn't get enough. It's 07h00am now and Nyathuko is fast asleep next to me. I'm watching him now I know that I'm in love with this guy and I want to know more about him. I go back to all the things we spoke about. I want to know about the children he raised I want him to tell me about his childhood actually I want him to tell me everything. I'm in love now. His phone rings and I want to know who is calling him so early in the morning. It's an 087 number I'm not going to answer that one. His phone doesn't have a password and I find myself going through his messages and everything looks clean but this guy next to me is drowning in debts. There are messages reminding him about payments some are warning him about short payments he made and some of his accounts have been handed over. I get worried as always. One thing about me I worry about people in my life more than I worry about myself. Nkazimulo took his own life because he was drowning in debts and he couldn't take care of the twins and I so he got depressed and hung himself. I don't want the same thing to happen to Nyathuko. His phone rings again this time it is Nondaba calling. This is definitely his father. I wake him up)

Me : Nyathuko wake up your phone is ringing.

Nyathuko : It's the call center people leave it.

Me : No it's Nondaba.

Nyathuko : Leave him

(He wraps his arm around me. Oh okay)

Me : I need a bathroom

(He removes his arm from me and rubs his face. He kisses my cheek and sits up)

Nyathuko : Let me show you the toilet

Me : No tell me where it is and I'll go

Nyathuko : Come Sthah

(He wears his flip flops and puts his arms around me and picks me up. I giggle. He carries me all the way to the kitchen and puts me down)

Nyathuko : Where are my.... Oh there

(I take the keys from the table and hand them to him. There are two doors in this kitchen. He opens one)

Nyathuko : There is the toilet

(The toilet is just outside his house)

Me : There are two doors there so which is which?

Nyathuko : Right door

Me : See? That was easy you didn't have to come all the way here with me

(I place my hand on his shoulder)

Me : Give me those

(He takes off his flip flops and I wear them. I walk out and he is watching me)

Me : Go back to bed Thukeh I'll be fine.

Nyathuko : Are you sure?

Me : Yes lo... Yes Nyathuko

(I almost called him love. Jesus! He walks away. Great! He didn't catch that love part. I open the left door first I want to see what is here. There are plastic bathing basins and towels. This is where he bathes it's clean as I expected. I open the right door and there is the toilet. I sit on the toilet seat. There a bucket turned upside down and on top there is toilet paper. His toilet smells fresh with some scent of lavender. I pee and wipe myself. We don't flash here so I walk out. I see the tap of water and I head there to wash my hands. Now that it's not dark I can see his yard much more clearly. At the gate I notice something on the ground it's written Nondaba with grass.)

Me : Wow this is beautiful

(The grass is so green. I look under the tree and there are two garden chairs. There are some trees that are trimmed nicely with designs. There are beautiful stones from the gate to his house. Why didn't I see them the first time that I came here? All this is so beautiful and so clean. Oh there is the neighbor's house with a garage where he hung my work overalls there is a woman hanging clothes outside. Our eyes meet and she smiles at me. I lift my hand and wave at her with a smile on my face. Ok it's time to go back inside. I walk inside the house and Nyathuko is talking to someone)

Nyathuko : Ntokozo I had to steal his bike and go fetch my girlfriend because your father took my car!

(He is talking to his sister over the phone)

Nyathuko : I didn't quit I was fired... He couldn't talk to me and he ran to you to tell you all the wrong things.

(Silence)

Nyathuko : No I'm fine. I'm just tired of that man and his bloody wife. I need to fix my ID and they are refusing with it

(Nyathuko sounds angry)

Nyathuko : No I'm using mom's car. He wasn't home when I took it but I'm sure his wife will tell him that I took it and hell will break.

(I walk into the bedroom and he walks to me. He wrap his arm around my neck and kiss my lips)

Nyathuko : I need to go.

(He disconnect the call)

Nyathuko : Are you good?

Me : Yes who was that?

(I point at his phone)

Nyathuko : Ntokozo my sister.

Me : Is everything okay?

(He pulls out a smile)

Nyathuko : Of course. Everything is fine

Me : Oohkay

Nyathuko : I need to go and buy bread

Me : Okay I'll bathe while you...

Nyathuko : You are not coming with me? The shop is down the road.

Me : But I need to bathe first.

Nyathuko : No let's go.

(He gives me my dress and I dress up. I look at myself in the mirror on the wall)

Me : My hair looks bad. I need to take these out

Nyathuko : You are beautiful

(I laugh. He wear his tracksuits and take his wallet)

Me : I'm not giving back your flip flops

Sponsored

let's go.

(He gives me my dress and I dress up. I look at myself in the mirror on the wall)

Me : My hair looks bad. I need to take these out

Nyathuko : You are beautiful

(I laugh. He wear his tracksuits and take his wallet)

Me : I'm not giving back your flip flops they are big but I'll wear them anyway.

(He laughs. He picks up two pairs of All Stars. Black and white. He looks at both of them and takes the black ones. He wears his All Star and we walk out. I stand next to his car while he closes the door. He turns around)

Nyathuko : Let's go

(He stretches his hand)

Me : Aren't we going to use your car?

Nyathuko : No we will walk. I want to show off

Me : What?

Nyathuko : Come baby

(I shake my head. I hate walking. He wrap his arm around my neck)

Nyathuko : I promise you it's not far from here.

(He kisses my cheek)

Me : I believe you

(We begin walking)

Nyathuko : You know sometimes I still can't believe that I'm actually here with you

(As he talks he looks where we are heading and back down at me. The smile on his face is priceless)

Me : Why didn't you approach me sooner?

(I laugh and he stops walking and looks at me. His faces is blank and his eyes are searching all over my face)

Me : What?

(I shrugged my shoulders while giggling. He shakes his head and sigh)

Nyathuko : Nothing

(He kisses my lips and I close my eyes. A taxi passes by and I quickly break the kiss. The driver hoots Nyathuko laugh with the driver)

Driver : Nondaba omkhulu

Nyathuko : TK

Driver : Nkosazana

(He is referring to me. I swallow and pull out a smile. I'm embarrassed and nervous. What if this taxi driver becomes rude to me? All taxi drivers are rude)

Me : Hi

TK : Nondaba let me take you wherever you are going

Nyathuko : No we are fine.

(TK hoots his taxi again and drives away. I let out a sigh. We start walking again. People are looking at us in a rather weird way. Are they not used to a couple walking together? Nyathuko seems to be enjoying this. We arrive at the small tuckshop. I sit on a big stone while Nyathuko buys. He comes back with six eggs and brown bread. I carry the bread and he carries the eggs)

Me : I can't believe you washed my underwear

(I look up at him and he looks confused)

Nyathuko : What's wrong with that?

Me : Well all Zulu men think it's wrong... Except you

Nyathuko : There is nothing wrong with it. What if you get sick one day like my mother did? I'll have to take care of you Right?

Me : Your mother was that sick?

(He sigh)

Nyathuko : She was. She couldn't do anything. I fed her and washed her clothes. Sthenjisiwe and Ntokozo used to bathe her when my grandmother was not around

Me : Is your grandmother still around?

(He smiles)

Nyathuko : Yes she is still alive. And the way you are so lazy ngeke ulunge ekhaya wena Sthah (The way you are so lazy you will never survive at home)

(I stop walking and laugh)

Me : I'm not lazy

Nyathuko : We shall see.

Me : I'm sure your mother's death hit your father

Nyathuko : I don't think so. The moment my mother fell sick he brought her back home and his girlfriend moved in with him

Me : You are lying... Is it the same girlfriend he is staying with in Mhlanga?

Nyathuko : Yes but they are married now. She and my mother were best friends. They were working together at the same law firm

Me : Hhaibo! Your father had an affair with your mom's best friend?

Nyathuko : Yes. My mother started complaining about something that was burning up in her chest. We

took her to every hospital every doctor and to every traditional doctor we were referred to. It's funny because her best friend was with us all the way and all the time she was always there and she brought Amahewu every time she came to see my mother. My mother got worse every night after drinking Amahewu and I ended up telling her to stop drinking it. She got better for a couple of days and that's when I went to confront her best friend

Me : About what?

Nyathuko : There was something in Amahewu and I told her just that. She got angry and told my father that I was accusing her of witchcraft. My father stopped paying my varsity fees and I had to drop out. One day I went to UMhlanga and I found my father having sex with my mother's best friend inside his car. I smashed the car with a golf stick

(He laughs but I hear the pain in his laughter)

Me : Nyathuko I'm sorry

Nyathuko : I didn't tell anyone about what I saw. I didn't want to hurt my mother. A few months passed and my mother got really sick. She was really sick and my father was busy preparing for his wedding with my mother's best friend.

Me : Oh my God

Nyathuko : I remember very well that on the wedding day I was at the hospital with my mother. Sthenjisiwe and Ntokozo attended his wedding. I looked at my mother laying in the hospital bed and I was like "You'd die if you knew that your husband was getting married today"

(I feel tears burning in my eyes. This is too much)

Nyathuko : She stayed in hospital for 6 months... Oh my father and his wife went to Paris for their honeymoon and I found out about that when I called him to tell him that my mother's condition was getting worse but I couldn't get hold of him. Ntokozo told me that they were on their honeymoon. Sthenjisiwe was busy preparing for her wedding that was in the following year. Ntokozo was busy with school so I had to take care of my mother. I slept at the hospital every day because I was scared she would die. When she woke up I couldn't believe it. I remember her saying "I couldn't die before I saw my daughter get married." We laughed about it.

Me : You really loved your mother.

Nyathuko : She was my everything.

(He takes out the house key and unlock the door)

Nyathuko : She was so angry when she found out that I dropped out from varsity and that's when we had to tell her about her best friend and my father. She seemed fine about the whole thing but I saw pain in her eyes. She tried to gather some money for me to go back to school but she was bankrupt all her money was wasted on medical bills. A year later she fell sick again and she refused to go to the hospital.

Me : So she died that year?

Nyathuko : Yes

Me : This is sad

(We are making breakfast now while chatting)

Nyathuko : That man told me to get a job because he wasn't taking me back to school.

Me : Your father?

(He nods)

Nyathuko : His wife took my ID and destroyed it with ink. When I go to home affairs they tell me to bring that same ID and his stupid tells me they don't know where it is. I can't do anything now my life is on pause.

Me : But why is she refusing? It's your ID

Nyathuko : She is just trying to punish me. Why would she force me to love her when I don't? She tried everything to make me love her she went as far as feeding me her pubic hair.

(The knife drops on the floor. I'm shocked. He laughs and picks up the knife. He put it on the table and hugs me)

Me : What?

(I pull away)

Nyathuko : That woman is crazy. I don't know how she put them in my food but she almost won me over because I truly turned into her lapdog. My grandmother realized that there was something wrong with me and she took me to a traditional doctor. I was instructed to drink some green water that was filled up in a 10lt bucket. I vomited until those hairs came out. The traditional healer told me it was her pubic hair and I wanted to kill her.

(I'm crying now. I can't take it anymore. My man suffered so much? I don't believe in such things as witchcraft. I come from a family of God worshippers we pray about everything. My family don't believe

in ancestors we don't believe in traditional healers or anything to do with them but right now I believe Nyathuko and I believe that his mother was killed by her best friend because she wanted her husband)

Nyathuko : I'm sorry I'm so sorry I should haven't told you all that.

Me : No Nyathuko I am sorry I'm sorry you went through all that and I wasn't there for you.

(He swallows so hard his throat moves. He brushes my cheeks with both his hands and kisses me. This kiss is different it's deep it speaks volumes. It speaks deep love language)

Chapter 07

3 WEEKS LATER

(It's the end of the month and the end of the month means I'm going to see my family and my twins. Nyathuko insisted on taking me home. We head to Checkers for a small grocery shopping. I'll buy full groceries tomorrow for my family. Nyathuko and I are pushing a trolley but he is behind me. He keeps kissing my neck and squeezing my butts)

Me : People are watching us

Nyathuko : That's the aim right?

(I laugh)

Me : No

Nyathuko : They need to know that you are mine

Me : Oh please Nyathuko nobody will take your girlfriend who is a size 40. She is yours only

(I giggle)

Nyathuko : Do you know how much I love you kodwa Sthah?

Me : Uhmhm Nope.

(He pinches my arm and I laugh while hitting his hand)

Me : Ouch! Thukeh

Nyathuko : You know?

Me : Ouch yes yes I know baby. I do

(He stops)

Nyathuko : Did it hurt?

Me : Uh!

(He stops the trolley and turns me around)

Nyathuko : Let me see

Me : See? I'm bruised

(He laugh and kiss my arm)

Nyathuko : Stop lying woman

(He moves the kiss from my arm to my lips. His hand is at the back of my head and the other one is on my butts. We are kissing like nobody's business. I quickly remember that we are at Checkers and there are people here. I break the kiss and look around. People are watching and they are smiling at us. This is awkward. I want to get out of here now)

Me : We need to get out of here

(We laugh and continue pushing our trolley. We are buying only goodies for Enzelwe and Zano. We walk past the bicycles and I remember how much Zano and Enzelwe have been nagging me about buying them bicycles. I look at the price. R800 each mind you they are on sale)

Me : Wuuuh Uh-huh. Never

Nyathuko : You want to buy them for the boys?

Me : Maybe next time

Nyathuko : Oh

(We take other things)

Nyathuko : Can you wait here? I think I just saw somebody I know

Me : Who?

Nyathuko : It's a guy Sthah.

(We laugh)

Me : Whatever

(He walks away and I continue with the shopping. I include some dog food my father would die if I forgot

to buy it. Nyathuko has been gone for too long now I'm getting worried. I take out my phone and dial his number)

Me : Where are you?

Nyathuko : Turn around

(I turn around with my confused face. There he is coming. He smiles)

Nyathuko : You are so beautiful

Me : Just come. There are girls watching you behind you.

(He laughs but I'm serious some girls are looking at him. I end the call and walk quickly towards my man. I kiss his cheek and darts my gaze to those girls. Nyathuko wraps his arm around my waist. I'm so

confident right now this is my man and they are not going to get him)

(I finish paying for the groceries and when I look behind me Nyathuko is standing next to a trolley with two bicycles.)

Me : Let's go

(He pushes the trolley with bicycles. I stop walking)

Me : What's going on?

Nyathuko : Huh?

Me : Those bicycles wh....

Nyathuko : I bought them for Enzelwe and Zano

(I freeze. No he didn't)

Me : Nyathuko no no.

Nyathuko : I knew you would say that so that's why I left you there when I went to take them.

Me : Nyathuko this is too much

Nyathuko : No it isn't. Let's go baby

(We walk out and in my mind I'm asking myself a lot of things. Why is Nyathuko doing this? He is unemployed for heaven's sake. Ok I understand that he comes from a rich family but still this is wrong. I have so much in my mind that I didn't even see that we had arrived at the parking lot. I only realized it when I hit Nyathuko with the trolley and he just watches me)

Me : Oh my God baby I'm so sorry

(I walked towards him as fast as possible. I try to bend down to see if he wasn't injured and he quickly grab my arm and pull me back)

Nyathuko : Talk tell me exactly what I did wrong.

(He is not looking at me. His face is not friendly)

Me : You bought the bicycles for the boys

(He chuckles)

Nyathuko : And how is that wrong?

Me : Nyathuko I.... It's...

(I don't know what to say. I stutter)

Nyathuko : Sthah just because I'm not working it doesn't mean I can't take care of you or my boys!

(I swallow hard)

Me : Your boys?

(He sigh)

Nyathuko : Get in the car Sthabile.

(He is angry but I can't get over what he just said. He called my children his boys.)

Me : Ok

(I get inside the car and sit at the back. I fix the rear view mirror and watch him put the shopping bags inside the boot. He is so cute when he is angry. Why is he even angry? He puts one bicycle in the boot and closes it. He opens the back door and raises his brow when he finds me sitting there)

Nyathuko : And now?

Me : I thought this is what you wanted.

Nyathuko : What?

Me : For me to sit here

Nyathuko : Baby please don't do this. Ngiyakucela

Me : But....

Nyathuko : Come my love

(He places down the bicycle and gives me his hand. I take his hand and walk out of the car. He opens the front for me and hugs me.)

Nyathuko : I'm sorry if I hurt you

(I can't talk. Right now I don't want to go home. I want to stay in my man's arms. He kisses my forehead and lets go of me. I get inside the car. Oh we are using Nondaba's car today black Mercedes. Nyathuko gets in the driver's seat)

Nyathuko : You good?

Me : Always

(He starts the car and drives out)

Me : Nyathuko thank you thank you for loving me.

(He looks at me and blows me a kiss. He looks back where is driving. How did I get so lucky?)

Nyathuko : You are coming back on Sunday right?

Me : Yes my love

Nyathuko : I'm going to die of not seeing you

(I laugh)

Me : I'll video call you every night

Nyathuko : Do you promise?

Me : Yes baby

(Welcome to my hood. Yes we are here now Kwamashu esinqawu nqawini)

Me : You shouldn't have driven me all the way here really.

Nyathuko : I wanted to.

(He receives a bank notification)

Nyathuko : He needs to stop because this is useless.

(I don't know what he is talking about)

Me : Huh?

Nyathuko : My father. He sends me money every week. I don't need his money

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really.

Nyathuko : I wanted to.

(He receives a bank notification)

Nyathuko : He needs to stop because this is useless.

(I don't know what he is talking about)

Me : Huh?

Nyathuko : My father. He sends me money every week. I don't need his money I need my Id.

Me : And a job

(He let out a soft laugh)

Nyathuko : And a job...not that I need a job but if it makes you happy to see me waking up every morning then I'll look for a job.

Me : How come you are never broke? How much do you get every week from your father?

Nyathuko : R2 000

Me : Not bad

Nyathuko : I guess... My love things are coming together and soon you won't have to worry about anything. Just give me a few weeks.

Me : What are you talking about?

Nyathuko : I like to get my things done before I talk about them.

Me : If you say so....look look there is Enzelwe and Zanokuhle.

(I smile seeing my boys. I missed them so much. The look on Nyathuko's face? Money can't buy that shit)

Nyathuko : I want to see them a bit closer

Me : Are you sure?

Nyathuko : Yeah yeah I'm sure.

Me : Drive

(We drive and park not far from Zano and Enzelwe. They are feeding each other something. Enzelwe is carrying bread they are coming from shops. They don't see us)

Nyathuko : When are they coming to Phoenix?

Me : Soon

(Enzelwe leaves the bread on the ground and runs away. Zano is calling him to come and pick up the bread. Enzelwe seems to protest. My boys are just like that one minute they get along and the next they fight.)

Me : If they dare leave that bread I'll beat them up

Nyathuko : No you won't

Me : You won't be here

Nyathuko : But I'll know.

(We laugh and continue to watch them. Zano also walk past the bread and head to his brother)

Me : Oh no they didn't

(Nyathuko is laughing so hard next to me)

Me : Thukeh this is not funny they are playing with food.

Nyathuko : I know baby. They are just kids

(Enzelwe wraps his arm around Zano's neck and they both come back to pick up the bread)

Nyathuko : That is....

(I look at Nyathuko and he blinks rapidly. He rubs his face and pulls me into a tight hug. I'm puzzled why is he hugging me now)

Nyathuko : You see right there? You are raising men Sthah. Thank you

(He is talking about Zano and Enzelwe)

Me : I try but that is all my mom and dad's parenting skills. I hardly spend time with them

Nyathuko : They love hard just like you.

(I smile)

Me : I love you Nyathuko Zondi

(He takes my hands and continuously kiss both of them)

Nyathuko : No I love you Sthabile Ngcobo.

(I pull him closer and kiss him. The kiss takes longer. He pulls away and looks down at his pants. He clear his throat and I laugh out loud)

Nyathuko : Sthah you do know that I can fuck you right inside this car if I want to?

Me : I know my love but you won't

Nyathuko : Ha ha ha Ok I won't. I'm going to get out of this car now.

Me : Yeah sure. Wait for me next to that red container. I won't take long

Nyathuko : Ok

(We wait for Zano and Enzelwe to disappear and Nyathuko gets out of the car. I move to the driver's seat and drive home. Zano and Enzelwe open the gate for me)

Zano : Enzelwe! It's mamah!

(They jumped up and down. I lower the window)

Me : Bafana baka Mah

Zano & Enzelwe : Mommy! Mommy!

(I stop the car and turn off the engine. My mother walks out of the house)

Me : Ah MaKheswa

MaKheswa : My daughter it's you. Whose car is that?

(This mother is my father in law's car)

Me : Musa's car

MaKheswa : Oh

(They don't like Musa. The last time Musa came here he called my father "Dude")

Me : Relax he is not here

(I get out of the car and hug my children. I kiss them all over their faces and then I went to my mother and hug her)

Me : Where is Dad?

MaKheswa : Sleeping. He was at church last night

Me : As long as he is not sick

MaKheswa : He is just tired.

Me : Yiza ke ntombi ungisize ngempahla (Come and help me with the groceries)

MaKheswa : You bought groceries?

Me : Not much. We will go tomorrow... With Ngcobo's car because this one is leaving

MaKheswa : Leaving?

Me : It's a long story Mah... Boys come and see what I got for you two.

(They laugh and roll on the ground. They do that a lot when they are too excited. Nyathuko is the reason behind all this excitement I see now. I feel emotional. My mother can't stop thanking me and I can't tell them that I didn't buy these bicycles)

Me : Just be careful on the street. Don't get knocked off by cars

Zano & Enzelwe : Ok mommy

(They go away with their bicycles. They don't care about all this junk I bought today they only care about those bicycles)

Me : Mama I'll be back now

MaKheswa : Okay

(I take the car back to Nyathuko.)

Me : Take care of yourself baby

Nyathuko : See you on Sunday

Me : Yeah. Call me

Nyathuko : I will my love

(He sees that I want to cry and he squeezes me in his arms.)

Nyathuko : I saw my boys with their bicycles

(I laugh)

Me : You did?

Nyathuko : Yeah they passed around here riding them. Enzelwe was struggling and I laughed

(We both laughed)

Me : Please tell me he didn't see you laughing at him

Nyathuko : He didn't they didn't see me but I saw them..... I don't want them to get hurt by those bicycles

Me : I promise they won't.

(I don't want to leave his arms)

Nyathuko : I love you

Me : I love you too

(I kiss his lips)

Me : Now go

(He smiles)

Nyathuko : Ok

(He gets inside)

Nyathuko : Go I'll wait.

(I thought as much. I walk away and he whistles)

Nyathuko : Mhmmmm Into yami madoda

(I stop walking and laugh out loud)

Me : Nyathuko stop!

Nyathuko : Ok go

(I walk away and I hear him driving away. I turn around He is gone)

Me : Bye baby

(I say to myself)

(I walk back home and I find my mom and dad singing some gospel song in the kitchen)

Ngcobo : Don't be too loud MaKheswa ishaye kahle nje

MaKheswa : Ayke ngeke you found me singing here and now you want to control how I sing?

Ngcobo : Oh hhe

(They love singing together but they always end up fighting)

Me : Bab'wami

Ngcobo : My daughter!

(He embraced me)

Me : Mama said you were sleeping

Ngcobo : Yes we were doing the lord's work all night.

Me : Amen

Ngcobo : Where is your car?

(I look away)

Me : I left it and a friend brought me home

Ngcobo : Friend?

MaKheswa : Musa

Ngcobo : That boy who called me Dube?

(I laugh)

Me : He called you DUDE

Ngcobo : I don't want him in my house ever again

Me : He knows

MaKheswa : Are you sure that you two are not dating?

Me : Mah! No!

Ngcobo : Sthabile knows that her husband is at church.

Me : That's not true baba

MaKheswa : It is. There is a very handsome boy at church and he wants to marry you. It's time for you to move on now Sthah

Me : Wuuuh Uh-huh I'm not getting married to any of those men from church and their shiny suits.

Ngcobo : Shiny suits? Sthabile....

Me : Cha Mapholoba.

(I cut him off and went straight to my bedroom. What the hell? I just got here and they are already messing up with my mood)

Chapter 08

(Nyathuko and I are chatting on whatsapp. He woke me up at 06h00am saying he misses me.)

"I don't know but we will be in Gateway around 11am" Me

"Are you going to take Uber?" him

"No baby I'll use my father's car" Me

(Zanokuhle and Enzelwe are jumping on my bed)

Me : Stop that.

(They stop)

Zano : Gogo said we are going to Gateway today

Me : Yes we are.

Zana : Mommy is going to buy me a gun and I'm going to shoot you Enzelwe

(Enzelwe wants to cry. He is the soft one. It's easy to tell them apart and people always think I'm lying when I tell them that Zanokuhle and Enzelwe are twins. Zanokuhle looks more like Nkazimulo.)

Enzelwe : Mah Zano says he is going to shoot me

(He says while sleeping on my chest)

Me : I'm going to kill Zanokuhle

(I kiss his forehead. He puts his hand under my top pajama and plays with my breast. He always plays with my breast until he falls asleep ever since he was young and when I'm not here he plays with my mom's breast. We tried almost everything to make him stop this habit from biting his hand whenever he starts to scare him about chopping his hand but my boy never stopped)

"You are going with your mother right?" him

"And the boys" Me

"That's a relief" him

(I laugh)

Me : Wee Zano nivala nini esikoleni?

Zano : I don't know but Mrs Ramnarain always tells us when it's time to stop going to school.

Me : Are you done with exams?

Zano : Uh-huh

Me : And Enzelwe?

Zano : I don't know I'll ask his teacher on Monday.

Me : Please boy boy

Zano : Okay mommy

"I love you" him

Me : Ahh baby

Zano : Mah?

Me : No I'm talking to... (pause)... Please go and brush your teeth both of you.

(I need them out of here before they start asking me questions. They jump out of my bed and run out of my bedroom. They bump into my mother)

Enzelwe : Gogo we slept in mommy's bed

MaKheswa : Wow that's good. I hope you didn't give her a hard time because mommy works really hard and she needs to rest

Zano : No we didn't

MaKheswa : Good boys now go and wash your faces

(They walk away and my mother walks in with a bowl of cereal. After what her and her boyfriend said to me I didn't even join them for dinner last night)

MaKheswa : Fuze

Me : Mawami

(I reply to Nyathuko and put my phone away)

MaKheswa : You didn't eat last night

Me : I wasn't hungry..... I had ice-cream with Enzelwe.

(She shakes her head)

MaKheswa : Here

(She hands me a bowl of cereal and I sit up and take it)

Me : Thank you

MaKheswa : Your father and I didn't mean a single thing we said yesterday Sthabile we can never choose a man for you or who to fall in love with.

Me : I know. I'm sorry I lashed out yesterday I just got angry.

MaKheswa : I saw that and from the bottom of our hearts we apologize.

Me : Mama you don't have to apologize.

MaKheswa : Children deserve respect as much as us elders do.

Me : Thank you mom

MaKheswa : Are you seeing someone because I can't help thinking that the car you came with yesterday was.....

Me : Mah please I don't want to have this conversation with you. Gosh

(I giggle and cover my eyes. She laughs and hit my shoulder)

MaKheswa : I know someone is in your life now.

(She stops laughing and sigh)

MaKheswa : Kodwa mntanami I'm only asking you to make us proud you know where you come from and you know how you were raised and I hope that whoever you are in love with will meet our standards.

Me : Usho ukholo? Mama I don't know if he goes to church but all I know is that he loves me and he makes me happy futhi uthanda nabantwana baka Nkazimulo. He bought those bicycles for Zanokuhle and Enzelwe

(Her eyes widens)

MaKheswa : He did?

Me : Yes Mama

(Her beautiful smile reaches her ears. My mother is a beautiful woman with her chubby cheeks and her dimples. I look like her but I'm light skinned like my father and she is dark skinned. I inherited all this thickness from her)

MaKheswa : I just want you to be happy my baby you've been through a lot.... Losing your brother was difficult for you and I'm happy to see you smiling again.

Me : Thank you mommy

(She kisses my cheek)

Me : We need to get ready and go. I want us to come back early

MaKheswa : You know how slow you are so you better wake up and get ready mina I'm fast.

(I laugh and she walks out. I finish eating and make my bed. MaKheswa is now playing her gospel songs in the dining room and her boyfriend is washing his car outside with my children. I wash the dishes and clean the kitchen while my mother cleans the dining room. I take a shower and bathe Zano and Enzelwe. We say our goodbye to Dad and we are out)

(We get to Gateway and park the car. While I get the children out of the car someone scream my name behind us)

Me : Hey

(I try to remember who he is. Oh my God it's Delani we used to go to the same High school. He is a grown man now)

Delani : Aw MaNgcobo I knew this was you

Me : Delani how are you

(He hug me and kiss my cheek)

Delani : Wow you are still so beautiful Sthabile.

Me : Oh please you are not bad yourself... Hey this is my mother and these are my boys. Mom this is Delani

Delani : Ninjani Mah?

MaKheswa : We are doing well son

(They shake hands)

Delani : Wow Sthabile I heard that you were carrying Nkazimulo's child I didn't know that you two actually have two children already.

Me : They are twins

Delani : Don't lie

(He kneel down and greet Zano and Enzelwe)

Delani : They are big guys now how is their father?

Me : He is no longer around

Delani : Oh? That's unlike Nkazimulo he seemed like a genuine guy

Me : No he didn't walk out on us

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he died Delani.

(He covers his mouth with his hand)

Delani : I'm so sorry Sthabile I really had no idea.

Me : No it's okay. Look we need to go my boys are hungry.

(We laugh and go away)

Delani : See you around.

(We walk away and when I turn around Delani is still watching me with his hand on his head. Jeez!)

(We head to Checkers and buy groceries. We finish and go to Clicks for some cosmetics and medication for Enzelwe and Zanokuhle just in case they catch the flu. We go to eat and I take them to play some games. Before we go home we buy some Nandos that we will take home. Enzelwe and Zano are sleeping

in the car and it's just me and mom at Nandos waiting for our order.)

Delani : Here we meet again

(I roll my eyes and turn around wearing a fake smile on my face)

Me : We did

Delani : Please give me your number

Me : Yeah sure. Why not?

(He smiles)

(I give him my phone and he gives me his. Someone clears their throat behind us. I move away thinking that maybe I'm standing in their way but the figure is still behind me. I turn around and freeze. It's the one and only Nyathuko Zondi. He is wearing a black suit and a white shirt he looks so sexy and clean. The first 3 buttons of his shirt are unbuttoned. His hand is inside his pocket)

Nyathuko : Hi

Me : Hey

(He looks calm but he is not smiling. My mother is here thank God she is on her phone and she is not paying attention to us. He looks at Delani)

Nyathuko : Someone is calling you outside and they said I must pass the message.

(Delani looks confused)

Delani : Me?

(Nyathuko looks around)

Nyathuko : Who else is Delani here?

Delani : Just me

Nyathuko : Then go

(Nyathuko points outside using his head. Delani gives me my phone and takes his)

Delani : Sthabile I'll call you later

Me : Su... Sure.

(Delani walks out. Nyathuko grabs the piece of paper in my hand and heads to the counter. The lady from Nandos is smiling non stop. He comes back with my order and gives it to me)

Nyathuko : Go home Sthabile

Me : What are you....

(He shakes his head and walks out. I take a deep breath. What the fuck just happened?)

Me : Mah let's go

(My mother stands up and puts her phone in her handbag. MaKheswa didn't see a thing)

MaKheswa : You know this whatsapp group from church is wasting my data. MaDunywa likes making long voice notes

Me : Mhmmmm

(Mah you are worried about some whatsapp group and that's nothing compared to what just happened. We head back into the car and I keep looking on my shoulders I can't stop thinking that Nyathuko is somewhere around watching us. I drove out of Gateway. We are almost at Bridge City and my father's car starts acting up.)

MaKheswa : Iyafa yini?

Me : Kunjalo

MaKheswa : I told Ngcobo to take this car to the scrap yard because it's old. See now we are going to be stranded with the kids.

Me : Let me check it out

(I open the bonnet and everything seems fine. I start the engine again but the car just looks at me. God!)

Me : Ay let's request Uber

MaKheswa : I'll call your father and let him know

Me : Please give me my phone

MaKheswa : Here it is and it's ringing

Me : Thanks

(I take my phone. Nyathuko is calling)

Me : Nyathuko?

(I take a few steps away from the car. I don't want my mother to hear me)

Nyathuko : Where are you Sthah?

Me : I'm stuck at Bridge City my father's car broke down and I'm trying to request an Uber for us.

Nyathuko : What? It broke down?

Me : Yes

Nyathuko : Are you angry?

Me : No

(He sigh)

Nyathuko : I'm on my way leave that Uber.

Me : You can't come here

Nyathuko : I can

(The call disconnects.)

Me : Uyahlanya wena

(I mumble to myself)

MaKheswa : Who was that?

Me : Oh no that... That was Delani

MaKheswa : Mxm okay

(Okay MaKheswa doesn't like Delani. I click on my Uber app and I'm about to request my drive when I hear a car roaring in our direction. I use my hand to get away of the dust)

MaKheswa : Yini leyo? Uyahlanya yini lo? Where is he rushing to?

(The car reverses. Its Nyathuko. I swallow hard. He gets out of the car)

Nyathuko : Sanibona

MaKheswa : Sawubona khehla

Nyathuko : I saw your car on the side of the road and I thought... I should check out what's going on.

(Oh he is going to act like a stranger now? Right!)

Me : The car broke down

(He puts his hands in his pockets and does that thing with his lips while looking under my father's car.
Why is he torturing me now? I already love the guy so he doesn't have to do anything now to charm me)

Nyathuko : Okay

(He goes back to his car. I see his father gave back his car)

MaKheswa : Wamuhle lomntwana

Me : I know... He is really really handsome.

MaKheswa : Sthabile!!

(What? Oh my God I'm looking at Nyathuko and I'm biting my lower lip in front of my mother! No you see now I don't just need a normal prayer I need Jesus himself to come down and pray for me)

Me : Mah?

MaKheswa : Stop staring at him

Me : I'm not

(Nyathuko comes back. He is wearing only his white shirt now on top. He is busy pulling up his shirt sleeves)

Nyathuko : I'll check if there is anything I can do

Me : Thanks

Nyathuko : You can sit in my car while I.....

(He clears his throat)

Me : Okay... Thanks

(My mother takes Zano and I take Enzelwe. We go and sit inside Nyathuko's car. I can't stop looking at my man. He opens the bonnet and goes through some things. He comes and opens his boot. He takes something and goes back to my father's car. No no no he is going under it. The clock is slowly moving and when I look next to me MaKheswa is now sleeping. My poor mommy! I also rest my eyes and I wake up to the sound of my father's car. I put Enzelwe down)

MaKheswa : Oh he is done?

Me : I think so. I'll go and check

(I get out of the car. Nyathuko is inside my father's car. He turns off the engine and gets out of the car. I laugh)

Nyathuko : What?

Me : You have black grease on your face

(His face his shirt and his hands have black grease but he still looks hot as hell. I want to kiss him but I know my mother is watching us.)

Nyathuko : I'll sort it out

(He scratches his cheek with his dirty thumb)

Nyathuko : The car is fine now.... Eish mah is watching us

Me : I know but I still want to know what you are doing here

Nyathuko : Not now Sthah

(He kneel down and pack his toolbox)

Me : Why didn't you tell me that you were coming to Gateway?

Nyathuko : Why did you want to know?

Me : Nyathuko I....

(I pause and look back in his car to check out my mother)

Me : I deserve to know

(He takes his toolbox and goes to his car. He opens the boot and place the toolbox inside)

Nyathuko : Mah the car is fine

(My phone rings in my hand. I answer without looking who it is my eyes are glued to Nyathuko who is talking to my mother)

Me : Hello

"Hey it's Delani"

Me : Oh hi Delani

Delani : I see you didn't save my number

Me : I did.. I'm just busy here

Delani : I was just checking ukuthi nihambe kanjani

Me : Good. We are home now

(Nyathuko keeps stealing glances at me as he speaks to my mother)

Delani : That's good. I'm still in Gateway something happened with my car

Me : What do you mean?

Delani : Somebody smashed my windscreen and my tires

Me : Are you serious?

Delani : Like a heart attack. I was waiting to see the footage but they are taking their own time and I want to go.

Me : I see

(My blood boils I know exactly who did that to Delani's car and I'm watching him right now.)

Me : Delani I'm sorry about your car.

Delani : It's okay. Look Sthabile I want us to.....

Me : I can't talk now

(I disconnect the call. I head to Nyathuko's car)

Me : Mom let's go. Please come with Zano

(I grab Enzelwe from the seat and put him in the back seat of my father's car. He opens his eyes)

Me : Sssh sleep boy boy

(He closes his eyes again. My mother comes holding Zanokuhle. She looks at me with a frown on her face.)

Me : Please get inside the car mama

(She sighs and gets in. I walk towards Nyathuko he is leaning against his car. I'm fuming)

Me : Nyathuko how dare you?

(He looks behind at my father's car and walks closer to me. He holds my arm)

Nyathuko : Sthah delete his number.

(He kisses my cheek and gets inside his car. He revved the engine twice and drive away)

Me : Wow

Chapter 09

(I couldn't wait to get to bed last night my mother was interrogating me one way. I've been avoiding Nyathuko since yesterday I'm not replying to his messages and I'm not taking his calls. I'm going back to Phoenix today and I'm going to take taxis.)

MaKheswa : Isiyobonana month end ke futhi

Me : Yes Mah. The schools will be closing soon for September holidays and I'll come to pick up Zano and Enzelwe

MaKheswa : No problem mntanami

Me : Wozanike babah sengiyahamba

(My boys run to me. I hug them and kiss them)

Me : I'll come back soon to fetch you

Zano : Okay mommy

MaKheswa : Go to the house and wear jackets

Me : Bye boys

Zano & Enzelwe : Bye mommy

Me : Mama I need to go now

MaKheswa : Uhambe kahle mntanami niphephe emgaqweni

(She hugs me and kiss my cheek)

MaKheswa : I hope that the next time you come here you'll be ready to tell me about that Zondi boy

(I break the hug. Not this conversation again)

Me : I don't know him mom he was just helping us.

MaKheswa : I'm your mother Sthabile

Me : It's not what it looked like.

MaKheswa : Mhmmmm I see.

(I laugh and kiss her cheek)

Me : I'll call you when I get to my house.

MaKheswa : Okay

(I walk away. We catch taxis 5 minutes away from my house. There is a car following me)

"Baby"

(I stop walking I know that voice. I look at my right)

Me : Nyathuko

Nyathuko : Please get in the car

(I sigh and get inside the car before people see me. He tries to kiss me and I stop him)

Nyathuko : Sthah ngiyaxolisa

Me : What if you get arrested?

Nyathuko : I'll get out

(I widen my eyes)

Me : Just like that? Nyathuko you damaged someone's car do you understand that what you did is against the law and you could go to jail for a long time?

Nyathuko : Don't worry about it. I took care of it

Me : What do you mean "took care of it" ?

Nyathuko : I'm not going to jail if that's what you are worried about

Me : What were you doing in Gateway in the first place? And when did you get there?

Nyathuko : I had a meeting with someone about some small business that I want to start. Sthah did you see how he was looking at you in that parking lot? No one looks at my woman like that

(I want to smile but I won't)

Me : So you saw everything?

Nyathuko : I did.

(I shake my head)

Me : I hate what you did

Nyathuko : It won't happen again as long as he stays away from you.

Me : I'll make sure he does

Nyathuko : Good

(He pulls me closer and kisses my lips)

Nyathuko : I missed you so much

Me : I missed you too baby... When did you get here?

Nyathuko : Around 12h00 I didn't know what time you were going to leave home because you were not taking my calls.

Me : I'm sorry

(He drives to UMhlanga Rocks)

Me : Where are we going?

Nyathuko : I need something from my father

Me : No no I don't want to see your father

Nyathuko : You don't have to. You can stay here and I'll go in and out

Me : That's better

(We arrived at his father's house. It's one of those Mhlanga mansions with a big swimming pool. There is a tall muscular man standing by the swimming pool he is on the phone. He is holding a helmet)

Nyathuko : And there is Nondaba.

Me : You don't mean to tell me that the hunk over there is your father.

Nyathuko : Hunk?

Me : Never mind baby

(I don't mean to sound cold but now I understand why Nyathuko mom's best friend fell in love with that man. He is a man amongst men he is tall like Nyathuko)

Nyathuko : Are you sure you don't want to come out?

Me : No no I'm fine here.

Nyathuko : I'll be back

Me : Okay baby

(He kisses my cheek and gets out of the car)

Nyathuko : Nondaba

Nondaba : Ey Thukeh

(He put his phone in his pocket)

Nyathuko : Are you going out?

(I turn off the radio. I want to hear them clearly)

Nondaba : No I just got here now. We had a race

Nyathuko : I see you want to go back to the hospital due to another bike accident

Nondaba : Never (He laughs)

(Their voices are exactly the same. Nyathuko takes the helmet from him and looks at it)

Nondaba : What brings you here so late?

Nyathuko : What we spoke about.

Nondaba : I told you that you must talk to your mother about it first

Nyathuko : You are my father. Baba when are you going to stop forcing me to run everything through your wife first?

Nondaba : Are you here to fight with me?

Nyathuko : Of course not ukuthi nje ngikhathele ukuthi njalo mengicela into kuwena you tell me about your wife. I'm your son

Nondaba : You are asking for a lot of money. I understand that you are going to pay it back but it's still a lot of money

Nyathuko : Can we go and talk inside?

Nondaba : Come... Who did you come with?

(Nondaba looks at Nyathuko's car. I know he won't be able to see me because these windows are heavily tinted so I can see him but he can't see me. I relax)

Nyathuko : No one

(Nondaba wraps his arm around Nyathuko's neck and they walk inside. Now I wait for Nyathuko to get back. It's after a few minutes and I see him walking out with his father. They stand under a bright light and I get to see his father much more clearly. He looks like his son he is top less now and I can see a big tattoo on his big chest. He has a long beard but he is definitely an old version of Nyathuko. He keeps touching his beard and my man next to him has his hands in his pockets and he keeps rocking his knees back and forth. I swear if Nyathuko is going to age like his father then I'm blessed. Nyathuko kicks something on the ground and shakes his head. He throws his hand in the air and makes his way back. It seems like that didn't go well. His father goes back inside his mansion and Nyathuko gets in. He smiles)

Nyathuko : I hope I didn't take long

Me : You did

Nyathuko : I'm sorry sthandwa sami

Me : Your father's house is beautiful

Nyathuko : Yeah... We are going to Machobeni

(That doesn't sound like a request it's more of an order)

Me : I see

(We drove away. On our way he keeps asking me about Zano and Enzelwe about when they are coming to Phoenix? All those things. We arrived at his house. I take off my shoes and walk in. I throw myself on the bed. I'm tired. Nyathuko climbs on top of me and puts his arms on either side of me. I'm in the middle of his arms now. He plants kisses all over my face and looks at me. He is looking deep into my eyes)

Me : Why are you looking at me like that?

Nyathuko : Because you are my world and my whole life revolves around you.

Me : I....

(He kisses my lips before I can say anything. He kisses me down to my neck. He pulls up my dress until it's out. We always had sex in the dark and today the light are on I don't know how to feel about my body. He undoes my bra and moves away from me. He goes down on his knees and pulls down my underwear. He kisses my feet up to my legs. He is kissing me between my thighs now. I'm thinking about the dark

marks between my thighs and I see his head disappearing down my pussy)

Me : Mhmmmm

(I moan. He is sucking my clit his tongue twirls around causing shivers all around my body. He sucks me between my thighs. He stands up and undoes his jeans revealing his white Calvin Klein trunk. He pulls it down and his dick is exposed. He separates my legs and goes in. He rocks me twice and pulls out)

Nyathuko : Sthabile?

(I open my eyes and look at him)

Me : Yes?

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda yezwa?

(He finishes saying that and slides back in. He removes my hands from my breast. Damn! This man wants a clear view. He fucks me like never before. He turns me onto my stomach and fuck me from behind. Things are very hot in this room. He climbs on the bed and sleeps on his back. He pulls me to come on top. No way! I'm not going on top)

Nyathuko : Come

Me : Nyathuko no

(I'm uncomfortable doing this. I feel like the size of my body doesn't allow me)

Nyathuko : Sthah do it!

(His voice is firm. His face is blank)

Me : I can't

Nyathuko : You can. Ride this dick!

(I swallow hard. He pulls me on top and spank my ass.)

Nyathuko : Do it

(He groans as it sinks in. I try to sleep on his chest and he blocks me with his hands)

Nyathuko : Don't do that

(He pushes me and places my hands on his stomach. I remove my hands and cover my breasts with them. I move on top of him and he stops me.)

Nyathuko : Stop riding me like you are riding your paralyzed donkey. Don't move your upper body. Move only this

(He spans my ass)

Nyathuko : Got it baby?

Me : Mhmm-mhmm

(I move and when I try to move my upper body he places his hand on my shoulder and painfully presses it for me to stop moving my upper body and that's when I know that I'm doing it wrong. I'm starting to enjoy this and I think I've got the hang of it because now I'm only moving my waist baby. He removes my hands from my breasts and I don't bother trying to hide them anymore. He groans)

Nyathuko : Fuck baby

(Now I'm confident I got this shit. He is calling my name non stop. He tightens his hand on my breast and groans a bit louder. I scream as we both cum at the same time. I throw myself next to him my waist is burning we are both sweating. The room is only filled with the sound of our heavy breathing. He grabs my arm and pulls me onto his chest. He kisses my forehead)

Nyathuko : I love you so much

Me : I love you more baby

(He squeezed me in his arms)

Chapter 10

(The alarm rings and it's not mine so I continue sleeping. I'm tired I'm burning up down there I swear Nyathuko ripped it apart last night. He moves me from his chest to the pillow he kisses my nose and I mumble some useless thing I'm half asleep. He laughs and gets out of bed.)

Nyathuko : Baby?

(No no no why is he waking me up? My alarm hasn't rang.)

Me : No (I mumbled)

Nyathuko : No?

(He laughs and I hear him climbing on the bed. Something smells delicious. He moves me around and places me somewhere I can't see because my eyes are closed but I think my head is on his lap.)

Nyathuko : Sthah wake up

Me : No

(He kisses my lips and I move away sleeping on the side of my face. He laughs and lift it up)

Nyathuko : Ok I guess we are going to do it this way. Open your mouth

(I shake my head)

Nyathuko : Sthah come on

(I open my mouth and he feeds me something. It's oats and it's delicious. I swallow)

Nyathuko : Again

(I laugh and open my eyes)

Nyathuko : It's okay Sthah I'll feed you and wash your underwear ngibe isthithithi sakho

(I laugh out loud)

Me : I never asked you to wash my underwear

(I lift my eyes to his gorgeous face)

Nyathuko : You did

Me : No I did not

(We laugh while he continues to feed me.)

Me : This is delicious

Nyathuko : It is?

Me : Mhmm-mhmm

Nyathuko : It's almost 04h30am you need to get ready for work. Finish up baby

Me : Put more

(He laughs while staffing me with the oats. I finish eating and sit up he pulls me closer and kisses my lips. I love the smell of nicotine mixed with mint in his mouth. I break the kiss before things move into a different pace)

Me : Let me bathe

Nyathuko : I think your water is cold now

(I laugh)

Me : Nice try

(I feel the water in the basin and it's still hot.)

Me : Water is fine

Nyathuko : Ok fine angithi you will come back here after work?

Me : I'll see

(I say with a smirk on my face. He hits me with a pillow and I laugh while catching it. His phone rings he looks at me and back at his phone screen)

Me : Who is calling you so early in the morning?

Nyathuko : No one

(His face changes as he abandons the call. Now that's strange. I put the pillow back to the bed and his phone rings again. The number is not registered on his phone but true caller ID says Manjomane)

Me : Oh wow

Nyathuko : Yini?

Me : Don't say what? Nangu u Manjomane efona

Nyathuko : Then let her call

(He seems angry now. Hello! I should be angry right now not him!)

Me : Oh so it's "her"

Nyathuko : Sthah you don't want us to do this right now

Me : Fine!

(He leaves his phone on the bed he clicks his tongue and walks away. I hear the kitchen door opening and then there is silence. He went outside I guess. My hands are shaking I want to cry. I'm fixing my work boots and he walks back in. He has a towel wrapped around his waist and his chest is wet. He dry himself up and opens his wardrobe)

Me : Is she your girlfriend?

Nyathuko : No

Me : Who is she Nyathuko?

Nyathuko : My ex

(I chuckle)

Me : And why is she calling you?

Nyathuko : I don't know Sthabile

(He takes out his clothes and gets dressed. I take my backpack and my phone. The engine of his car is running I get inside and sit at the back. He steps outside and fixes his cap before he locks the door. He is coming he opens the door and gets in. He looks at his rear view mirror)

Nyathuko : Please come and sit on your place

Me : Cha

Nyathuko : I'll hear from you as soon as you are ready to go

(He turns off the engine and threatens to get out of the car. I don't want to be late for work so yeah. I get out and open the front door. He looks at me and shakes his head before driving away. We were silent all the way to my work place. We get to the parking lot oh here is Musa. I take my backpack from the back and get out)

Me : Hey Sam Sam

Musa : Aw Dadewethu you are early.

(He hugs me and kisses my cheek. The door slams next to me Nyathuko Nyathuko I don't need drama here. Musa breaks the hug and looks at Nyathuko)

Musa : Hi

(Nyathuko wraps his arm around my waist. Musa clears his throat)

Me : Oh Musa this is Nyathuko.

Musa : Nya.....

Nyathuko : Her boyfriend

(Wow)

Musa : Oh I'm happy to finally meet you. I'm Musa her friend brother.

(Musa stretches his hand for a handshake but Nyathuko just looks at his hand all the way to his face)

Musa : Sorry

(Musa put his hands in his pocket. I'm so embarrassed right now)

Me : We need to go thanks for bringing me to work. I'll call you

Nyathuko : I'll walk you in

Me : Oh

(He darts his gaze to Musa and back at me. He moves to stand in front of me he lifts up my chin slowly and crashes his lips on mine. He is passionately kissing me. No not in front of my best friend. I pull away and clear my throat Musa is staring at me)

Me : Let's go

(That came out in a whisper)

Musa : I need to... I need to grab some files in my car... I'll see you inside

Me : Sure

(Nyathuko takes my backpack and holds my hand. We walk into the building)

Me : What was that about?

Nyathuko : I don't like him

(I stop walking)

Me : What?

Nyathuko : I don't

(He pulls me by my arm)

Me : Wow

(We get inside the reception. I try to grab my backpack from him and he puts it behind his back)

Nyathuko : Kiss me

Me : No

Nyathuko : Come on Sthah kiss me.

(The smile on his face is contagious but I can prevent it)

Me : Cha

Nyathuko : Come baby

(Ok this bastard will win. I walk closer to him and look up at him)

Me : Come

(He laughs and lifts up my chin. We kiss I quickly break the kiss and take my backpack. I walk away and go past Vee)

Me : Hi Vee.

Vee : He is still watching you

Me : Don't mind him he is crazy

(I walk straight into my office and sit down. My phone vibrates I know it's Nyathuko. I unlock my phone and open the message)

Message : Don't play with fire if you are not willing to get burnt. This is a friendly warning stay away from Nyathuko Zondi

(I stand up quickly and push back my chair. This message is not from Nyathuko I don't know this number. I try to call it but it says the number does not exist. I panic)

Musa : I drama kwindoda yakho

(Musa says while walking in.)

Me : Oh my God

Musa : Keep God out of this you weren't thinking about God when you almost dropped your underwear in the parking lot for that hottie of yours. Is he a Zuma?

Me : Oh no

(I sit down)

Musa : Oh I thought only the Zuma people have tribal marks on their faces.... Yo! Yo! that man can suck lips you know I've seen people kissing before but what I saw today was a total turn on.

(He giggles. My hair is itching I'm sweating and most of all I'm nervous. I've never been threatened by a woman before this is my first time and it makes me nervous)

Musa : Hey are you okay?

Me : No

Musa : Sthabile what happened?

(I'm definitely not going to tell him about the message I just received. I am one person who hates discussing her relationship problems with other people. I don't care if you are my friend or family but my relationship problems are mine and my man's ONLY.

Me : My father is sick my mom just told me now

Musa : My dude is sick? I never thought he'd ever get sick

(Everything is a joke to Musa. I don't laugh)

Musa : Jeez Sthah this is more serious than I think. Go and speak to De Klerk

Me : I can't...I have taken more than enough off days so....

(I break down in tears Musa looks so broken now he hugs me and lifts up my desk phone with his other hand. He dials)

Musa : Boss can you please come to Ngcobo's office for a second please

De Klerk : Sethabhile's office?

Musa : Yes

De Klerk : Is everything alright?

Musa : I'm afraid not

De Klerk : I'm coming I'm coming.

(Oh no this was not supposed to move this direction. De Klerk walks in Musa catches her at the door. I have my hands burying my face I'm crying but I feel that they are looking at me)

De Klerk : Oh my goodness

(I hear my door closing they are outside my office now. I can hear De Klerk saying countless Yah's and then my door opens)

De Klerk : Sethabhile

(I lift up my head you see if this was like any other normal day I'd be laughing at De Klerk's make up

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she looks like a clown right now.)

Me : De Klerk

De Klerk : How are you holding up? Musa tells me that you left your father sick back home

Me : Yes I just received a message from my mom telling me that his condition is getting worse

De Klerk : My goodness

(She hands me tissues)

Me : Thanks

De Klerk : Is he in Phoenix?

Me : No in KwaMashu

De Klerk : Alright Alright. Sethabhile you know that your job is risky you drive a trailer full of cars and that requires your full attention so I'm going to ask you to take some time off for at least two weeks but if you need more time then you will let me know.

(Yes! I can't wait to get out of here)

Me : De Klerk thank you so much for your continuous support

De Klerk : Oh darling you are welcome. Please take your things and go home

(I wasn't expecting her to let me go so soon)

Me : I thought I was going to deliver at least....

(She shakes her head

De Klerk : Go home and get some reststop worrying about work and worry about your father.

(She hugs me and I inhale her expensive perfume)

Me : Thank you

De Klerk : Jason will take you home

Me : No not Jason I'll take Uber.

(Jason has been asking me out ever since I joined Auto Movers and today I'm in no mood for his nonsense)

De Klerk : Are you sure?

Me : Yes

De Klerk : Alright please take care of yourself and if there is anything I can do please reach out.

Me : Will do

(She catwalks out in her high heels that are longer than my arm. I take my phone and request a ride
Musa walks in)

Me : Musa thank you so much bro I owe you big time

Musa : To be honest I didn't do much.

Me : You spoke to De Klerk you know I wasn't going to do that.

Musa : Come here

(He hugs me and I manage to pull out a smile)

Me : My ride is almost here I need to go

Musa : Yeah I'll hear from you okay?

Me : Yeah sure

Musa : I love you take care of yourself

(I blow him a kiss while walking away. Vee is not at the reception thank God. I quickly walk out I find my Uber waiting for me in the parking lot. I get inside and greet the driver while going through my phone. I'm busy forwarding the friendly warning to Nyathuko. I wait for his reply but nothing I log into whatsapp and he is online)

"Did you get the message I forwarded to you?" Me

(I sigh and sit comfortably. He is typing)

"Baby I'm in a meeting but I'm leaving now can we talk about it face to face?" Him

"No" Me

"Sthah I can explain" Him

"Don't bother" Me

(I get out of whatsapp and close my data. He calls I abandon his call. He calls again and again and I simply ignore him)

Message : I just left an important meeting because I'm not coping anymore I need to talk to you sthandwa sami please answer your phone

(That's what his message was meant to read but there are too many errors it's easy to see that the person who was typing here was panicking and in a rush to finish. Good I'm also not coping. I switch off my phone and fold my arms. The driver drops me off at my house I get in. Damn! My house is so cold and empty even the fridge is empty I need to do my groceries soon. I'm trying by all means not to break down but I fail I head to my bedroom and cry. I must have cried myself to sleep because I just woke up now and the time is 02h30 in the morning. I look next to me Nyathuko is not here I run to the living room and open the curtain his car is not outside I cry even more. Nyathuko didn't bother to come and check on me after his girlfriend threatened me? Okay. For the first time I'm not hungry I'm angry. I drink my coconut water and go back to my bedroom it's dark and it's better this way. I try to sleep but I keep waking up until I see the sun coming through my window. I switch on my phone there is only one voice message from Nyathuko)

Voice message : Sthah I had to go to Ndwedwe there is a ceremony coming soon so they needed a few things (Sigh) Sthah we need to talk..... I need to talk to you kodwa engifuna ukwazi ukuthi akekho omunye umuntu it's just you and I sthandwa sami. Ngithandana nawe kuphela Sthabile (Sigh) Please call me Ngiyakuthanda.)

(Nyathuko sounds so drained and broken I almost feel sorry for him but no. I notice that he changed his whatsapp display photo I click on it my mouth shut open. It's a picture of Enzelwe and Zano riding their bicycles. The picture is so beautiful and clear it's almost like they were doing a professional photo shoot. It surely looks like a stolen picture because Zano and Enzelwe are not looking at the camera Zano is laughing looking back at Enzelwe who has a very sad face. I know Nyathuko took that picture without them knowing because if they knew then they'd be looking at the camera that's how much they love it. I smile and steal the picture)

Chapter 11

Me : Oh what am I going to do with myself now?

(I look around my room maybe I should go back home 2 weeks is a long time when I'll spend it alone in this house. My phone rings it's Nyathuko)

Me : Hi

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami

Me : Why didn't you tell me about your ex?

Nyathuko : Because there was nothing to tell you about Sthah

Me : You could have told me that she is some crazy ex who threatens every woman who falls in love with you.

Nyathuko : You have nothing to worry about.

Me : Do you really mean that?

(I stand up and open my closet Nkazimulo's picture falls on my feet this is the only picture I have of him. I pick it up and sit on my bed)

Nyathuko : I do

Me : Do you remember what I said to you? Nyathuko I told you that I wasn't ready to be in a relationship and that was the truth. I know what love is because before you Nkazimulo showed me what love is.

Nyathuko : Sthah I....

Me : Yes we had problems but our problems never involved another woman or cheating. The only time we fought was only when I was pregnant he blamed me for falling pregnant knowing very well that he had lost his job but eventually he made peace with it. He said Sthabile I don't know how we are going to raise this child but God will make a way. We fought again when he found out that I was carrying twins he said ngifuna ukumubukanisa nabantu (I chuckle) like I chose to have twins.

Nyathuko : Sthabile I'm not cheating on you

Me : When I was nine months pregnant he thanked me every chance he got for making him a father. I would wake up in the middle of the night and he would be staring at me with a smile on his face. He would say thank you Sthabile.... He would stop eating in the middle of dinner just to say thank you. I gave

birth and he was so happy until one day... I remember very well it was raining that night he knocked on my window and I opened the curtain and he said I'm here to see my boys I told him he can't because it's raining. He didn't argue with me he stood in the rain and he said Sthabile I tried to fight the voices in my head but they just won't stop.

(I look closely at Nkazimulo's picture)

Me : He said these voices are telling me things they are telling me that if I do this thing I won't have to worry about not having a job I won't have to worry about not being able to take care of you and our boys. I asked what they were telling him to do and he told me that I was going to find out the next morning. I did I found out the next morning his mother called me and she said Nkazimulo is dead he hung himself.

(I swallow)

Me : I never thought Nkazimulo would take his life but he did and when he died he died with a piece of me. I was so broken and I made a promise to myself that I'll never love again because I knew I was never going to find another Nkazimulo who never cheated on me who never laid his hand on me and a Nkazimulo who was very loyal to me. I tried to protect my heart but you came around and loved me like I'm the only girl in the world I trusted you Nyathuko but look where I am now right where I fought so hard to never find myself in.

Nyathuko : I'm sorry

Me : No I'm sorry for loving you.

(I end the call and throw my phone next to me. I kiss Nkazimulo's picture and put it back I finish making my bed and take a shower. I drove to Phoenix mall for my groceries and when I came back I found Nyathuko's car at my gate. I open my gate and drive in he follows. He gets out of the car)

Nyathuko : I called your company and they told me that you were not there

(I ignore him. I take out my groceries and he helps me. I'm busy packing my groceries Nyathuko goes to my bedroom)

Me : I wonder what you want here

(I whisper to myself. I finish and head to my bedroom he is packing my suitcase)

Me : What are you doing?

Nyathuko : I'm taking you home

Me : What?

Nyathuko : Yes

(He walks out carrying my suitcase. Is he crazy? I'm not going to Machobeni I sit on my bed He comes back and look at me)

Nyathuko : Let's go Sthah

Me : No

Nyathuko : Ngiyacela

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He comes back and look at me)

Nyathuko : Let's go Sthah

Me : No

Nyathuko : Ngiyacela ngenhliziyo yami yonke.

Me : I was told to stay away from you

(He sigh and walk closer to me he wraps my arm around his neck)

Me : No no no Nyathuko don't.....

(He picks me up and carries me into his car)

Me : I said no Nyathuko!

(He locks me in his car and heads back into my house. I see the curtains closing he walks out and locks my door. He gets inside and drives away with me. This is not the way to Machobeni I want to ask him where we are going but I choose not to.)

(It seems like there is still a long way to go so I close my eyes.)

Nyathuko : Baby?

(He shakes me. I open my eyes it's dark outside.)

Nyathuko : Please eat

(He bought me food Good)

Me : Where are we?

Nyathuko : Verulam

Me : Where are we going?

Nyathuko : Home

(He starts the car. I look at all the places we passed by we drive past Nomanini tavern what kind of name is that? I guess people can come anytime to drink and get drunk. We drive pass Ezindlovini primary school Nyathuko is not stopping)

Me : Where are we now?

Nyathuko : Mahlabathini sthandwa sami

Me : Okay

(We reach Sisebenzile High School and Nyathuko takes left oh no it's a gravel road.)

Me : Yoh kanti where are we going?

Nyathuko : We are almost there

(The gravel road is pretty bad. I'm thirsty now I need water I need to pee. I spotted another board written Maqondo primary school we drive past.)

Me : Nyathuko I need to pee

(He stops the car)

Nyathuko : There are no toilets here

Me : Ay ay it's okay I'll pee under that tree.

(I take the tissue and get out of the car. I look around and pee under the tree. Nyathuko laugh when I get back)

Me : It's not funny

Nyathuko : I'm sorry baby

(He takes left not far from Maqondo. There is a dark passage here)

Me : Do people actually walk here?

Nyathuko : We do

Me : It could never be me I didn't know you had another house so far away

(Silence)

Me : When are we coming back?

Nyathuko : Soon

(We drive through a big yard with 2 rondavels 2 big houses and a two room house. There are people moving up and down here there are cars too. I look at Nyathuko)

Me : What the hell is going on?

Nyathuko : Lana ke sthandwa sami ikubo kwendoda yakho kwa Zondi

(My man's home? Nyathuko didn't!!!)

Me : Nyathuko no no!!

(He gets out of the car. There is a group of men sitting outside near the fire Nyathuko greets them and opens the door for me I'm scared of getting out.)

Nyathuko : Come baby

(He takes my hand and I get out. Thank heavens it's dark and these people won't see me. We walk into that two room house Nyathuko switches on the light at least they have electricity)

Nyathuko : I'll go and fetch your suitcase

Me : Please do and explain why I'm here.

(He laughs and walks out I sit on the bed. Nyathuko comes back with my suitcase)

Nyathuko : There is a family ceremony on Saturday so I decided to bring you along

Me : And work?

(He raises his brow)

Nyathuko : We have 2 weeks

Me : Who told you?

Nyathuko : The receptionist

Me : Eish Vee

(He sits down next to me and takes my hand he presses his lips to it)

Nyathuko : I'm sorry Sthah I'm sorry about everything.

Me : I'm hurt Nyathuko

Nyathuko : I know sthandwa sami but I promise you that you have nothing to worry about

Me : Are you sure?

Nyathuko : Hundred

(I smile he is looking at me)

Me : What now?

Nyathuko : What you said earlier over the phone....

Me : I know what I said and I meant it but phezu kwakho konke I know that you love me

(He smiles and kisses my lips)

Me : I love you

Nyathuko : I love you more

Chapter 12

(I couldn't sleep knowing that I was actually at Nyathuko's home. It's starting to hit me what if I'm expected to do hard work? I know nothing about hard work I grew up like a princess and I hardly washed dishes in my childhood. I grew up in KwaMashu for crying out loud so I know nothing about rural life.)

Me : Thukeh?

Nyathuko : It's still early baby

Me : I know that. Am I going to act like a makoti?

Nyathuko : Yes love

(I sit up)

Me : What?

(I expected him to say no)

Nyathuko : What? I'll help you

Me : But how?

Nyathuko : You'll see sleep now

(He wraps his arm around me I bite my nails I'm fucked! No not by Nyathuko but by falling in love with a Zulu man from rural areas)

(04h00am someone knocks at the door. Nyathuko wakes up to open the door)

Nyathuko : Malumekazi

(Oh no)

Malumekazi : Thukeh how are you?

Nyathuko : I'm fine

Malumekazi : Good Maka Njabulo made porridge.

Nyathuko : Maka Njabulo?

(Malumekazi laughs)

Nyathuko : No no Maka Njabulo can't cook anything.

Malumekazi : I know

(They both laugh Malumekazi clears her throat)

Malumekazi : Bheki said you brought a woman yesterday.

Nyathuko : I did

Malumekazi : Oh and she is still sleeping?

(Whoooo! Who the hell is she asking if I'm still sleeping?)

Nyathuko : No

Malumekazi : That's good izinkomo zako Zondi ziyasetshenzelwa.

(I hate her yeah I hate her already)

Nyathuko : Yeah..... She knows

(Not you too Nyathuko this guy didn't bring me here for all the wrong intentions I hope. The door closes)

Me : What was that about?

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Wake up baby

Me : I am awake

Nyathuko : Ok

(He wears his t-shirt and walks out. I go back to sleep he comes back and wakes me up)

Nyathuko : Your water to bath

Me : It's still early

Nyathuko : Please baby

(I hit the bed in frustration and got up. He leaves me and walks out I bathe. I hear a tiny knock on the door I open.)

Me : Hello

(It's a boy around 9...10 years old. Why is he up so early? I guess children don't sleep here)

Boy : Igama lami ngu Wandile

Me : Wandile? Nice

Wandile : I'll show you where we fetch the water

(I frown)

Me : Huh?

Wandile : Uh! Gogo said I must show you come I'll show you the river

Me : What?

(That came out a bit loud I sigh)

Me : You said river?

Wandile : Uh

Me : Now?

Wandile : Yes

Me : He! he! ...

(I laugh sarcastically. He is looking up at me I notice that he looks like Nyathuko but he doesn't have tribal marks like)

Me : Where is Nyathuko?

Wandile : Baba u Thuke is..... I don't know

(He shrugs)

Me : I see

(I step inside and take my doek I wrap it around my head while wearing my sandals. I follow Wandile he gives me a 20lt bucket Not bad!. We head to the river I see Wandile is not like those kids who speaks a

lot because he is very quiet on our way he keeps hitting the grass with a stick the way to the river is small and full of grass the grass is wet Wandile says it becomes wet every morning with or without a rain it's sad because the wetness of it is messing up my dress and my feet...anyway I should have worn my jacket because it's get cold as we get closer to the river luckily it's not that dark because summer season has already started. Wandile is now humming some song he looks warm in his comfy tracksuit and his rain boots. We get to the river it's a small flowing clean river)

Me : And how am I going to fill up this bucket?

Wandile : There is a jug inside the bucket

Me : Oh

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it's a small flowing clean river)

Me : And how am I going to fill up this bucket?

Wandile : There is a jug inside the bucket

Me : Oh I didn't know

(I open the bucket and take out a jug for water I bend down on my knees and fill up the bucket with water)

Wandile : Baba u Thuke's cat drowned here

(I can't help myself but laugh I didn't expect that)

Me : But how?

Wandile : Baba drowned it

Me : Who is your father?

Wandile : His name?

Me : Yeah

Wandile : Njabulo

Me : Oh okay and your mother where is she?

Wandile : She is at Gogo's house

Me : Ok

(Silence)

Wandile : U Mah ubiza ubaba ngomgodoyi

(I choke on my saliva)

Me : She calls him a dog.. But why?

Wandile : Because baba left her

(He shrug his shoulder after every sentence he finishes)

Me : Oh I see.

(That is one thing I prayed to never do insulting my children's father in front of my children because kids are just kids and they are too honest they say what they want to say to whomever they want to say it and they see nothing wrong with that. I sigh)

Me : I'm sure mama didn't mean that boy boy

Wandile : She did my mother is always angry

(I swallow)

Me : I think we should go now

(I hand him the jug. How am I supposed to put this bucket on top my head?)

Me : How am I going to do this?

Wandile : You don't know how to put it on your head?

Me : Uh-huh

Wandile : Don't worry I also don't know

(That's not what I want to hear. Gosh! kids)

Me : Let me.... Oh

(There is a big stone I lift up my bucket and head towards the stone I almost slip because of the mud. I lift the bucket onto my lap from my lap to my head. Done! No no no my head hurts immediately it feels like I'm carrying the bucket with my neck instead of my head I've never done this before and I hate it. I walk a short distance and I feel tears burning in my eyes. My sandals are wet and that makes this thing even more difficult because I can't walk properly.)

Wandile : Baba!

(Baba?)

Me : What?

(I can smell the nicotine I want to turn my head around but this shit on my head is too heavy. Someone

takes the bucket from my head and my head feels lighter again. I turn around it's Nyathuko)

Me : Love it's you

Nyathuko : Wah go home and don't tell anyone that you saw me here

Wandile : I won't

(Wandile sprints to his way home. I try to kiss Nyathuko but he takes a step back)

Nyathuko : Kade ngibhema sthandwa sami

Me : I know you smoke come.

(He laughs we kiss)

Me : What are you doing here?

Nyathuko : I'm here to help you buka nje ubusufuna ukutetema ngoba usindwa ibhakede.

Me : I'm not crying

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : But you were.

(I hit his shoulder)

Nyathuko : Ok I'm joking... Are you feeling cold?

(He asks while taking off his jacket he puts it over my shoulders I wear it. It smells so good)

Me : Look at my sandals

(I pull out a sad face)

Nyathuko : Why are they so dirty ungene odakeni?

Me : I think so ayashibilika baby

(He put his arm around my neck and take off his All star)

Nyathuko : Take mine

Me : No no no it's okay

Nyathuko : Come on Sthah

(I'm not going to win this one. I take off my sandals and wear his All star with my dirty feet. He kneels down and tightens the laces for me because his feet are bigger than mine. He stands up takes the bucket and walks barefooted in front of me now I'm only carrying my sandals he is carrying the bucket. We walk back home and Nyathuko stops before we reach to the gate)

Me : What now? Are you tired?

Nyathuko : No you need to put this bucket back into your head.

Me : But we are almost there now

(He holds my hands and kisses them)

Nyathuko : That's the point I don't want them to see that I went to the river to help you

Me : Why?

Nyathuko : They will disrespect you sthandwa sami and think you are weak

Me : Am I?

Nyathuko : I wouldn't love you if you weren't weak.

(So I am weak)

Me : Ngithwesa ibhakede Nyathuko

(He tickles me)

Nyathuko : Are you angry?

(I laugh)

Me : No!

(He kisses my neck then lifts the bucket to my head.)

Nyathuko : I'll take this way now go and show them that you are a true makoti who can walk with a bucket on top of her head all the way from the river.

(We both laugh. Indeed I walk through the gate like a true makoti. I know that Nyathuko helped me but I'm so proud of myself right now. Malumekazi directs me to leave the bucket outside the rondavel she has a wide smile on her face she is impressed I tell you.)

Malumekazi : I made breakfast for you it's in your bedroom.

Me : Thank you Mah

Malumekazi : I'll see you later sthandwa sikhulume kahle.

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Chapter 13

(It was around noon when Nyathuko's grandmother and all the aunties came to greet me and then and hhe! bathong and then they asked me to cook. Did I not wish to die? Ok I finish bathing and pace around the room Nyathuko walks in and laughs)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami u right?

(I quickly shake my head disproving)

Me : No

(His face changes immediately)

Nyathuko : Bakwenzeni Sthah?

(He asks with his big eyes moving all over my face)

Me : No no they didn't do anything wrong.

Nyathuko : So what happened?

Me : I can't cook

(His brow raises and he laughs. Why is this mnyamana laughing? this is not funny)

Nyathuko : Is that the only reason why you are crying?

Me : I'm not crying Thukeh hawu

Nyathuko : But you do want to cry.

Me : No!

(He laughs while wrapping his arm around my neck.)

Nyathuko : Do you know how much I love you?

(Fuck I know and I love you more)

Me : But you are laughing at me

Nyathuko : Babe I know you can't cook Sthah you can't even mix together simple greens.

(I laugh out loud and he smiles looking at me)

Nyathuko : You are so beautiful

(He walks closer to me and kisses my lips slowly while sucking them each at a time)

Nyathuko : You are not alone here okay?

(He is looking into my eyes)

Me : Okay

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(Luckily I wasn't Nyathuko's wife officially so I wasn't allowed to enter the kitchen and face all those people so I cooked outside at the back of the rondavel not that I cooked no I didn't Nyathuko did and all I did was to stir the pot and blow the fire. Well his family didn't know that they were complimenting my

cooking and how my cooking was almost as good as Nyathuko's. Nyathuko kept looking between his fingers while I received all the credits.)

(Today is the ceremony day. Nyathuko told me to stay in the room for no particular reason. I hardly see him today he is busy somewhere I hear someone laughing like him outside and I peep through the curtain. It's his father he has arrived he is laughing with three other men who look like him it's probably his brothers that Nyathuko told me about. Nyathuko's father is a true gym rat judging by his body. I sit down quickly when I see people passing through the window they knock on my door)

Voice : Sthabile open the door vula makoti wakithi.

(What? They know my name? I stand up and open they rush in one by one. I'm still shocked by how fast they walked in when Nyathuko pushes the door open but one of the ladies who just walked in closes it while laughing)

Nyathuko : WeNtokozo soxabana open this door!

Ntokozo : No go away

(Nyathuko overpowers her and manages to open the door)

Nyathuko : Baby u Ntokozo wants to....

Ntokozo : Don't listen to him Sthabile

(Ntokozo pulls me by my arm Nyathuko pulls the other one I almost fall onto the cooler box they walked in with. Ntokozo giggle)

Nyathuko : My girlfriend does not drink alcohol Ntokozo come on sis.

Ntokozo : You don't?

(I shake my head while winking at Ntokozo)

Me : No no I don't. I hate alcohol

(She smiles)

Ntokozo : Oh okay.

Nyathuko : See? I told you

Sthenjisiwe : Ok hambake bhuti

(Nyathuko hugs me and kisses my neck)

Nyathuko : Call me when you need me I'll be outside

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I'll be outside okay?

(He whispers in my neck)

Me : I will my love

(He pulls away)

Nyathuko : Ngizonishaya nina

(We all Laugh Nyathuko walks out)

Sthenjisiwe : Ncami lock that door

(Ncami locks the door. Sthenjisiwe and Ntokozo both hug me at the same time my heart melt)

Ntokozo : Mapholoba siyabonga

(They know my surname too)

Sthenjisiwe : Honestly we never thought we would ever see Thukeh happy again after Mom's death.

Ncami : Until you came along

(I smile)

Me : I don't want to cry

Ntokozo : Then let's start drinking

(We laugh)

Sthenjisiwe : These are our cousins Ncami Thobeka and Slindile

Me : I'm glad to meet you all

(They all sit down on the floor and open the cooler box I take one cider I'm going to hold on to it until they get out of here because I don't want to get drunk. They drink and we talk about almost everything)

Ntokozo : Thenji did you see your mother? Usefikile

Sthenjisiwe : I saw that bitch your father went all crazy the moment she arrived. He was asking her what she would like to eat if her feet were okay Yoooh!

(We laugh)

Thobeka : Umalume udlisiwe guys ngeke

Ntokozo : Exactly he is under her spell kodwa washo u Thukeh

Sthenjisiwe : Lalela ke she called me early in the morning the other day wathi Ay Sthenji I don't know what to say to Nyathuko anymore he just came here and took Maxwell's motorbike without his permission.

(Sthenjisiwe claps her hands like she is crazy and hits her thighs with her eyes closed)

Sthenjisiwe : Ngathi ghaaa! Washa sfebe

(She pointed out with her index finger. We all laugh out loud Sthenjisiwe is drunk now and she is so funny.)

Ntokozo : Umuzwa kahle every time Max this Max that Aibo wenja indoda kamawethu leyo!

(I laugh out loud my stomach hurts now from laughing. The funny part is that they say all these things with a straight face. I love them all of them)

Ncami : So she called the night when Thukeh stole uncle's bike to go and fetch Sthabile because her car was broken down?

Ntokozo : Sthabile's car didn't break down Thukeh damaged her engine.

(She says that and drink her Heineken like she didn't just drop a bomb)

Me : Nyathuko did what?

Sthenjisiwe : You didn't know?

Me : Know what?

Ntokozo : Sweetheart your car didn't break down but it broke down because your man didn't want you to go to work but ke you managed to go to work

Me : And it broke down on my way back from work oh God I remember that day very well. Nyathuko came to my house early in the morning he cleaned my house and washed my car

Sthenjisiwe : Yes you remember very well

(I cover my mouth with my hands in disbelief. They laugh looking at me)

Ntokozo : Do you remember the day when he found you with a man at Nandos and he lied to that man he said someone was calling him?

(I laugh out loud)

Me : Delani! So Nyathuko was lying?

Ntokozo : Yep he was trying to get him away from you

Me : And he broke his windscreen and smashed his tires

(We all laugh. They couldn't stop laughing when I told them about how Nyathuko and I met)

Sthenjisiwe : He really loves you Sthabile like he genuinely loves you.

Slindile : Futhi I've never seen him in love like this before.

(Fuck I know Nyathuko loves me but I know they will say anything to make believe that Nyathuko loves

me I know sister in laws.)

Chapter 14

(4 days at Ndwedwe was a long time but I enjoyed being there. We arrive at Machobeni it's Sunday evening and luckily I'm not working tomorrow all I need to do is go and fetch my children on Tuesday. On our way back we passed through the mall to buy groceries for Nyathuko. When we walked in Nyathuko complained about a terrible smell in his house)

Nyathuko : Awuyizwa lento enukayo namanje?

Me : No it smells like what? Mhlampe ilesosphandla osigqoke esandleni

(He laughs. He had Isiphandla in his wrist that's what the ceremony was about.)

Nyathuko : It's not. I don't know baby... it smells like a dirty toilet or something

Me : A dirty toilet?

Nyathuko : Yeah

Me : That's crazy

Nyathuko : It's bad hey

(He looks all around the house and check inside the cardboards but there is nothing he gives up)

Me : Where did you get this picture?

(I show him the picture of Enzelwe and Zano he laughs)

Nyathuko : I took it last week when I dropped you off KwaMashu I told you that I saw them in their bicycles

Me : And you took a picture?

Nyathuko : Yes people love that picture they are asking me who they are and I tell them that those are my children.

(I smile)

Me : They are.

Nyathuko : I know

(He kisses my cheek and hands me my food)

Me : Thank you for taking me home with you I had a wonderful time with your sisters

Nyathuko : And you drank.

(I giggle)

Me : No I didn't

Nyathuko : You did... the way you were riding me last night.... Ha ha ha

(I hide myself with a pillow)

Me : Shut up Nyathuko

Nyathuko : I love you Sthabile

Me : I love you Nyathuko Zondi

(He kisses my cheek)

Nyathuko : My father and his wife want to see you

Me : Huh?

Nyathuko : Phela bazwile ukuthi ubukhona so they told me that they want to see you

Me : I don't know if I'm ready

Nyathuko : You are.

Me : When?

Nyathuko : I don't know before you go back to work?

Me : I need to fetch the boys on Tuesday

Nyathuko : That's good we will all go on Wednesday then

Me : Along with Zano and Enzelwe?

Nyathuko : They are our children so yeah

(I shake my head)

Me : Nyathuko I don't know if that's a good idea

Nyathuko : Trust me it is.

(I sigh)

Me : Fine

Nyathuko : I love you

(I giggle)

Nyathuko : Do you want me to feed you?

Me : Uh!

(I hand him my plate he moves and sits next to me. He pulls me to his chest and feeds me. I eat while going through my Facebook account there is a new place that's trending

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there is a new place that's trending everyone is talking about how beautiful it is)

Me : Everyone is talking about this place is it a tavern?

Nyathuko : Something like that but it's more than a tavern... Open your mouth

(I open my mouth and he feeds me)

Me : It's a beautiful place do you know where it is ?

Nyathuko : Mzinyathi do you want to go there?

(I look up at him with a frown on my face)

Me : It's not like you would take me there

Nyathuko : Try me

(I giggle)

Me : Can we?

Nyathuko : Anything for you sthandwa sami

Me : How about Friday night? I'll ask Musa to stay with the kids

(He clears his throat)

Me : Uh-huh Nyathuko. Musa is like a brother to me

Nyathuko : I trust you baby

Me : Good so we are going?

Nyathuko : Yes

(I dance with my shoulders)

Me : I love you

Nyathuko : No you love alcohol and food

(We laugh.)

(The next morning I woke up early to do our laundry. Nyathuko is still sleeping so I take the washing basket and walk out. I open the door and walk out the sun is already out perfect!. I kick something on my way out it's a small black plastic it looks like there is something tied up with it. I kick it and continue walking. I suddenly feel cramps in my legs)

Me : Ouch! Ouch!

(I quickly put the washing basket down. I look at my feet my feet look swollen out of the blue maybe I'm just imagining things. I take the washing basket and take a few steps I stop it's like my feet are burning.)

Me : Aaaaa!

Introduction

(I'm pushing my shopping trolley with my phone as my calculator. On the other hand I have my pen and a piece of paper with my grocery list. I take two packets of rotis and punch the price on my calculator. My eyes widen)

Me : Wuuuu! Uh-huh this is too much

(I put back the rotis because the price just went from R620 and straight to R700 and that is too much. It could never be me shame. I'm not paying R80 for a few slices of rotis not after I left R5000 worth of groceries back home in KwaMashu plus I had to pay school fees for my twins. What on earth was Nkazimulo Dlomo thinking when he chose to die and leave me with twins yes he chose to die because he took his own life a year after the twins were born. Now I'm all the twins have their mother and father. My boys Nkazimulo's mother named them Zanokuhle and Enzelwe Enzelwe is Enzelwe Amadlomo. They are 7 years old both in grade 2. They stay with my parents back home in KwaMashu (KZN Durban) oh and their school is R1000 each but my mother thinks R1000 is nothing I mean what is R1000 to someone who has a code 14 and drives trucks delivering brand new cars all over the provinces? Yes when they see me they see money. My father brags every time I come home "Ah Sthabile my daughter the only woman who has ever driven a big truck in the whole Ngcobo family. Yes we raised you Sthabile and we took you to good schools. Kumele usondle you are rich". his words not mine. I always want to vomit every time he says that. That man has no idea that I'm only earning peanuts and that I have debts I'm drowning in. I just bought a brand new car and sometimes I look at it and say "wena I should take you back where I bought you one of these days". Enough with part one my sad life back to part two. I take out one packet of mixed veggies from my trolley and I leave it on top of some eggs on the shelves and I minus the price. I take the tray of mince and put it next to the mixed veggies. I move with my trolley while scratching everything I left behind from my grocery list piece of paper now I'll only pay R560 for my groceries

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yey! That's great. I head to the counter the queue is long but I'll endure. A few minutes later I'm done paying and I'm on my way to the parking lot pushing my trolley. There are four trolleys behind my car. Frustration takes over)

Me : Bloody asshole! Who leaves trolleys like this? Probably some drunkard. Bloody shit!

(One thing about me I will ask myself questions and answer them myself. I curse as I remove them one by one. I open my boot and put in my shopping bags. I get inside my car and sigh. Damn! It has been a long day)

Me : I'm not cooking today but what am I going to eat? Oh yes Macdonald will do.

(I drive to Macdonald. I check the time and it's still early for me to go in. I get out of the car and walk in. It's empty and a guy is serving. I don't know what he is looking at down there but his head is down. Probably busy with his phone you know everyone is always glued to their phones if not busy with anything else)

Me : Hi

Guy : Hi

(He responds without even looking at me. He is wearing their uniform a red shirt and a black cap and because of that cap I couldn't see his ugly ass face since he is facing down)

Me : I'll have a chicken foldover meal please. Take away

(He lifts his face and smile)

Guy : Oh hi there

(Now he remembers that he is on duty. Great!. He pushes his cap backwards I'm not sure if he wants me to get a clear view of his face and his single ugly dimple or what)

Me : I greeted you

Guy : Oh

(Is he trying to pout? because he is doing something with his lips and his dimple becomes more visible. I roll my eyes)

Me : Gosh

(I say underneath my breath. Finally he takes my order. I quickly put in my pin done I take my card and walk away. He tries to stop me for God knows what and I totally ignore him. I'm so proud of myself. I sit down in a corner and wait for my food)

(I cross my legs and uncross them. The time is moving and 30 minutes later I'm still waiting for my order. People who came before me are leaving me numbers are being called right left and center. I look

around the people who are still waiting for their food like me and all of them are carrying a piece of paper except me. It hit me that I didn't take my order number)

Me : Dammit

(I murmured. I stand up and head to the counter. The guy who was helping me is no longer there but there is someone else now. A lady)

Me : Hi

Lady : Hello

Me : Eh sisi I bought my food here and I forgot to take my order number.

(She is looking at me like I'm sounding weird. Yes I know I do but she doesn't have to make it obvious

now)

Lady : Who was taking your order?

Me : Some dark guy not dark dark with big eyes and a dimple on his left cheek.

Lady : Who is that?

Me : Oh and he had some cuts like tribal marks on his cheeks like ugcabile kancane so and one on his forehead.

(Wait so I was paying so much attention on that guy that I even observed everything on his face?)

Lady : Tribal marks? Ok please wait here. Wee Nompilo please come here.

(She call out for some lady to come and she did)

Lady : Wee Mpilo who is the guy with dimples here? Ogcabile

Nompilo : That could only be the cute Thuke. Who wants to know?

(Did she just say the cute?)

Lady : Oh u Zondi. Yeah u sisi la. Zondi was helping her with her order but Zondi didn't give her the order number

Nompilo : Oh

(I don't know if it's me but Nompilo is giving me attitude)

Lady : Please help her oe

Nompilo : I can't. The person who was helping her has left. His shift finished over 30 minutes ago

Lady : Oh really? Let me call the manager to come and assist you. We really do apologize for the inconvenience

Me : You know what my sister? Please don't trouble yourself doing that but please tell that Thuke of yours to take that chicken foldover and shove it where the sun does not shine!

(I walk out fuming. I start my car and I notice that something was wrong with my car so I get out and check)

Me : Dammit! Flat tire. Can this day get any worse?

(I kneel down and check the tire)

Me : Shembe! This is bad

(I try to stand but I stop when I see a piece of paper next to my flat tire. There is a note)

Note : A BAD ATTITUDE IS LIKE A FLAT TIRE IF YOU DON'T CHANGE IT YOU WILL NEVER GO ANYWHERE.

Me : Hhaibo!

(I stand up and look around.)

"Fix yourself!!"

(Someone call out and when I look where they are shouting from I see a Red golf 7 gti. Inside is "the cute Thuke" he pop out his tongue and drive off.)

Me : Son of a bitch!