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Introduction

(Finally he is here. I go and open the door it's not Nyathuko I don't know this man.)

Me : Hi

Him : Mrs Zondi I'm detective Zondo.

Me : Detective?



Zondo : Mam your husband's car was found abandoned under the Millennium Bridge but he wasn't there.

Me : Wait wait where is Nyathuko?

(He shrugs and let out a sigh)

Zondo : We only found blood on his steering wheel and there was no sign of him.

(A sharp pain shoots in my lower abdomen. My stomach goes ice cold I feel my tongue growing large inside my mouth and my saliva goes sour)

Me : Where is my husband?

Zondo : I'm really sorry

Me : You are sorry? Are you saying sorry?

Zondo : Mrs Zo....

Me : Get out of my house

Zondo : But....



Me : I said out!!!!

**(I slam the door on his face and place my hands on my shaking knees.
I take a deep breath as the pain shoots again)**

Mommy

**(I lift up my head. It's Zano with his throw wrapped around his head
and his body)**



Me : Please go get my phone in the bedroom

Zanokuhle : Are you sick?

Me : Please go

(He begins walking)

Me : Zanokuhle remove that blanket from your head. Angazi noma ufelwe umfazi yini!

(He quickly removes it and throws it on the couch. I start pacing around. Nyathuko is not dead he can't be dead.)

Me : No no no. No!!!!



(I scream. Zanokuhle comes back with my phone I snatch it immediately and dial Ntokozo's number)

Ntokozo : Sthabile what's wrong?

Me : Detective Zondo was here.

Ntokozo : De... What?

Me : Nyathuko's car was found near Gateway with blood on his steering wheel.

Ntokozo : Where is he? Uphi yena?

(I hear a shuffling sound. Her voice changes she suddenly sounds apprehensive)

Me : I don't know Ntokozo I don't know where your brother is. What if... Do you think he....



Ntokozo : No no Sthah don't say that. I'm coming stay right there.

(Call ended. I dial my mother's number)

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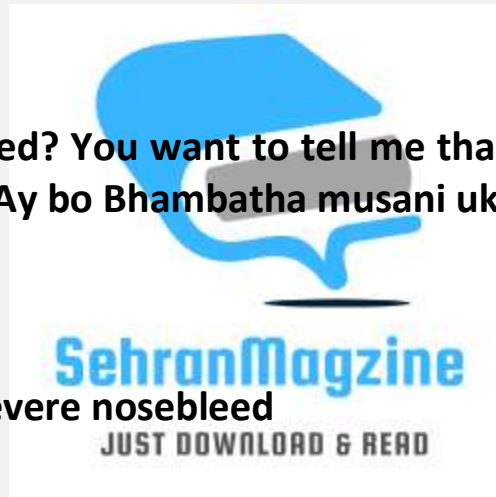
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(While I was speaking to my mother I heard that there was an incoming call. It was Maxwell letting me know that Nyathuko was in UMhlanga Hospital. We didn't waste anymore time we went to the hospital. He was in the ICU)

Maxwell : He left his car and tried to walk all the way to my house.

Ntokozo : A nosebleed? You want to tell me that a nosebleed can put someone in the ICU Ay bo Bhambatha musani ukudlala ngami.



Maxwell : It was a severe nosebleed

Me : What if he dies?

(I keep whispering to myself. Sthenjisiwe keeps brushing my back. My parents walk in and I stand up quickly. I hug my mother and break down)

MaKheswa : It's okay my baby it's okay.

Me : What if he dies

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mama?

Ngcobo : No no don't say that ndodakazi yami

Me : I'm scared Mapholoba



(My father squeezes my hand to comfort me. Mkhuleko barges in he looks at all of us)

Mkhuleko : Uphi ubafo?

(That's who he calls Nyathuko now his brother and from what I see Mkhuleko sees Nyathuko as Nkazimulo to be honest.)

Maxwell : In the ICU

(Mkhuleko rubs his forehead and sits down)

Mkhuleko : What? How? What happened?

Maxwell : This whole thing just doesn't make sense. Do you want to go and see him?



Mkhuleko : Please

(Mkhuleko stands up. We all go back to see Nyathuko again. I wanted this opportunity to be alone with him and I finally have it. Nyathuko looks like someone who will never wake up ever again. How can a nosebleed put someone in the ICU?)

Me : Nana please wake up. I want you to come back to me I want you to come back home. Nyathuko I'm not going to raise this baby alone Nondaba awuzobalekela nje ukuba ubaba you are going to fight here uyangizwa?

(I kiss his lips with tears streaming down my face)

5 DAYS LATER



(Nyathuko was still in hospital. Ntokozo has been staying with me ever since Nyathuko has been admitted to the hospital. Today I woke up with my whole body swollen especially my face and my feet. I finally manage to get out of bed and boom! my water breaks)

Me : Ntoko!!!

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Doctor Mnganga : Mr Zondi you can't be here

Maxwell : Ey! Don't you dare! This my son's wife my son who is lying in this very same hospital. She is carrying my grandchild so for fuck sakes I have every right to be here. Do your damn job!

Dr Mnganga : Her BP is still high though it has gone down to 130/80. It needs to remain within target levels or else she can't have a natural vaginal birth.

Me : I want a.... Ahhh!!!



(I scream as I feel yet another contraction)

Maxwell : Do something DOCTOR!!!

Dr Morris : If she gives birth naturally we might lose the baby. Don't push Mrs Zondi please don't push.

(Okay I don't need Maxwell here anymore. He is not helping with anything except yelling at these doctors and these nurses. Something

big is going on here these doctors see some danger and I have news for them)

Me : Baba kaNyathuko please excuse us Nondaba

Maxwell : No I...

Me : Ngiyacela Baba

(He scratches his head and looks at me with eyes that are screaming fear and sorrow)



Maxwell : I want you and Ndlelenhle both alive

(He walks away. I see the doctors whispering and I call one of them)

Me : I know something is wrong I know there are complications but no matter what happens my baby lives. If you have to choose between me and my baby choose my baby he needs to live.

(I see curtains closing. They change their gloves to new ones. It took me twelve hours to give birth. I was fainting in the middle of pushing but finally the baby was out. I had a natural vaginal birth)

Dr Morris : He is not breathing

Dr Mnganga : What?



(I try to sit up but I don't have the strength. They are moving up and down. More doctors are coming in and out of nowhere I hear him crying. I close my eyes and tears spill over the sides of my eyes. I made it)

Me : Thank you heavenly father.

(The next morning I went to see Nyathuko in his ward. He was still unconscious)

Me : Nyathuko our baby is here. Please come back to us sthandwa sami ngiyakucela.

(I sniff)

Me : It's a boy I told you I was carrying a boy. Your father named him Ndlelenhle

(I smile)



Me : It's boy you lost the bet. You owe me nana don't die with my money.

(I giggle and wipe my nose. Tears start raining down my face all over again)

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Chapter 01

3 MONTHS LATER

(My beautiful husband was back from the hospital. He was healthy I was healthy and our big boy was healthy and he ate a lot to a point that his doctor advised me to start giving him solid food as soon he reaches 4 months. Marriage life was amazing Nyathuko was still spoiling me like the only girl in the world. Ndlelenhle is taking my place yes but that's something I was expecting. Today we are going to Ndwedwe because there is some ceremony that needs to be done for Ndlelenhle)

Me : No nana he needs to get used to ~~Sis Moltah~~ you can't keep taking him to work with you.



(Ndlelenhle looks at me like he hates what I'm saying. He is very chubby and this 3 months doesn't suit him at all. He looks older with those big eyes like his father. He keeps moving his head like he is going to jump he is a bit hyper. I'm making the bed and his father is holding him)

Me : I don't care boy boy look at me all you want but your father is not taking you to work with him it stops today.... Baby please pass me the pillows.

Nyathuko : Askies my boy

Me : Unani?

Nyathuko : Hiccups



(He says while handing me the pillows one by one)

Me : Get him a piece of paper and put it on his forehead

(Nyathuko laughs)

Nyathuko : My grandmother taught you that

Me : No my father.

Nyathuko : Unamanga Sthah

(We laugh.)

Me : De Klerk called me yesterday she wants me to come back to Auto Movers.



(He ignores me and continues playing with his baby like he didn't even hear what I said. He still hates it so much to see me going to work but at least he allowed me to go and work at Ndaba Media & Advertising. Yesterday was my first day)

Me : Did you hear what I said?

Nyathuko : Ufuna ngithini mina Sthabile?

Me : I don't know... say something. Anyway I told her that I can't because I'm the CEO of Ndaba Media & Advertising now and she was so jealous umona wakhe ngiwuzwe udabula izindlebe zami.

Nyathuko : Oh yah

(I roll my eyes. Is that all he can say?)

Me : What time are you going to leave work?

Nyathuko : 11h00 angifuni ukuhamba nengane yami ebusuku.

Me : Are all the wives are going to be there?

Nyathuko : I think so yinindaba?

Me : Mhmm-mhmm nothing I'm just asking. Mina ngizofika ntambama



Nyathuko : Nakhoke Ay let's go Ndlela.

Me : Nakhoke ini Sthandwa sami? Angithi we spoke about this and I told you that today I have back to back meetings. The last one is at 15h00

Nyathuko : You are going to drive alone at night lento owazi kahle ukuthi iyanginyanyisa

Me : I'm going to be fine. I promise



SehranMagzine

The logo features a stylized blue speech bubble containing a white book icon. Below the speech bubble, the text 'SehranMagzine' is written in a blue, sans-serif font.

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Nyathuko : Just call me if it gets late and I'll pick you up

(I smile)

Me : I will baby. Come here

(I kiss him. Ndlelenhle stares at us with his hiccups that attack him every 2 hours. Nyathuko kisses his cheek.)

Me : Zanokuhle is going to miss him. He said we must come back early on Sunday

Nyathuko : He called me and made me swear like I was under oath.

(We laugh)



Me : But he refused to come with us wathi he is scared of goats like we don't have goats KwaMashu.

Nyathuko : You know he is dramatic. I'm going to make breakfast for us

Me : No no I'll make it nana

Nyathuko : Ngizoyenza. Get ready for work

Me : Nawe ke don't be late for work.

Nyathuko : I won't.

(He takes Ndlelenhle face cloth and heads out. He stops by the door and looks at me. I shrug)

Me : What?



Nyathuko : I love you

Me : I love you too baby

(He walks away with our son. I smile and shake my head. I still ask myself what did I ever do to God for him to bless me with a man like Thukeh.)

LATER THAT DAY

(I stop my car before I drive through the gate. I wrap the doek around my head and wear a big scarf over my jeans to hide them. I'm married here so yeah. I drive in and the yard is already full of people. One thing about the Zondi family when there is a ceremony they will show up all of them. I see my son being moved from one person to another. Nyathuko comes and opens the door for me)

Nyathuko : Nana

Me : Baby nifike nini?



Nyathuko : A couple of hours ago.

(He gives me his hands to help me out of the car)

Me : People are watching us so don't kiss me

(He laughs and kisses my forehead)

Nyathuko : Where is your bag?

Me : There

(He looks around my car)

Nyathuko : Where sthandwa sami?



Me : At the back

Nyathuko : I'll get it for you.

(I walk into our room. Nyathuko follows me with my bag)

Me : My breasts are killing me mmmm. Usefikile u Ntokozo no Sthenji?

(Nyathuko touches my breasts)

Nyathuko : They are hard

Me : Yeah and they sore

(He flinches)



Nyathuko : Let me see

(He takes off my bra and kisses them)

Me : Abuhlungu Thukeh look how big they are

Nyathuko : But they will get better

Me : No baby bring him.

Nyathuko : Hawu wena futhi? You want to breastfeed him again?

Me : I know I said I'll stop but ngeke angikhoni mfo. Please go and fetch him

Nyathuko : Are you sure sthandwa sami?



Me : Yeah hamba umlande

Nyathuko : No but ubisi lwebele makes him gain more weight you heard his doctor.

Me : Ayngeke Thukeh

Nyathuko : No sthandwa sami don't breastfeed him.

(I roll my eyes)

Me : Fine

Nyathuko : I missed you

(He kisses my lips)



Nyathuko : You are beautiful

(He says while sucking my lower lip. He removes my scarf. I know what he wants so I stop him)

Me : No Nyathuko. Please go and fetch my son I miss him

Nyathuko : Come on nana look at me.

Me : Phela wena uhlale uqhanyelwe

(He laughs)

Me : Please go and fetch him

Nyathuko : But they are still playing with him...futhi mina I can't go out ngiqhanyelwe kanje.



(I laugh)

Me : Ngiyaxolisa myeni wami

Thukeh... Nyathuko!

(Someone calls him outside. I can hear Ndlelenhle crying with his big voice)

Me : He is crying Thukeh

Nyathuko : Weeh weeh uNdlela ufuna ukungibukanisa nabantu ke manje.

(I laugh)



Me : Gono one will notice.

Thukeh aibo woza kuyena phela he is crying bakithi

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useyoze eshelwe yizwi umfana ka Gogo

(Someone says outside)

Nyathuko : Eish! Eish!.... I'm coming Malumekazi

(He walks out. I sit down I've been feeling dizzy almost for the whole day and I don't know why. Nyathuko comes back with Ndlelenhle)

Me : Fana amah. Come here



(I take him from Nyathuko)

Nyathuko : Unuka intuthu

Me : I can smell it. Why is he wearing this Romper?

Nyathuko : What's wrong with it?

Me : It's too bright for this place buka nje isingcole kanjani bemubamba ngezandla ezingcolile

Nyathuko : Kahle Sthah... Do you need some water?

Me : Yes for my feet please nana.

Nyathuko : Are you hungry?

Me : Who cooked? Ntombenhle?



Nyathuko : No Baba uMjay's wife.

Me : Wuuuh Uh-huh thanks but no thanks

Nyathuko : So manje uzolala ungadlile?

Me : I'll eat Ndlela's food

Nyathuko : Umsangano ke loyo

Me : Serious Thukeh I don't need any drama. Angifune zinkulumo nje you know how talkative your aunts are.

(I say while bouncing Ndlela on my thighs)



Nyathuko : Let's go and buy something for you to eat then

Me : Ay I'm tired

Nyathuko : Angikuzwa mina Sthah

Me : Ngikhathele mina Thukeh don't worry about food.

Nyathuko : Ngizoya mina. What would you like to eat?

Me : Anything ebabayo

(He smiles and kisses my cheek)

Nyathuko : I love you

(I smile)



Me : I love you too nana

Nyathuko : Let me go and get water for your feet

(Nyathuko helped me wash my feet before he left to buy me something to eat. Ndlelenhle is sleeping for now so I'll go and make his bottle before he wakes up. There is smoke coming out of the rondavel. Obaba omncane are sitting inside the tent. The rondavel

door is open but they use a small corrugated roof sheet to prevent the dogs from entering the house. I'm about to remove the roof sheet and go in when I hear a conversation that catches my attention being held inside the rondavel)

Bheki's wife : Ahh! Ballito is here mntakwethu didn't you see unyonyovu lwemoto emnyango? We are now waiting for UMhlanga and Sandton to arrive

Mjay's wife : Hhaibo weMaka Njabulo did you see the Ballito husband? He went to buy food for the wife because apparently she is better than our food



Shlangu's wife : Ay u Kethuh ka Bhuti uvelelwe shame kuloyamfazi

Bheki's wife : Heh! Uthi u Kethuh umaka Sphephelo. Is that how we are going to call him now?

Shlangu's wife : Igama lomuntu aliphathwa dadewethu

(They all laugh out loud. Oh my God "Kethu" is Thukeh they are saying his name backwards. These women! Jesus! I'm fuming. I go in already singing Malusi Mbokazi's song.)

Me : Noma abantu bengijikela zivuk'izimpi endleleni yami. Ngisize Nkosi ungiphe amandla okunqoba

(I sing while gently hitting the baby formula container. Silence everyone went mute)

Bheki's wife : Maka Ndlela



(She finally says)

Me : Yebo

(I respond with so much attitude)

Ntombenhle : You want water for incense kaNdlela?

(Ntombenhle is the only one who wasn't gossiping)

Me : Yes sisi please.

Ntombenhle : Sya is water boiling? Awuthelele uMaka Ndlela bandla awebhodlela lengane

Siyabonga : Ey amanzi kaNjabulo lawa and he is coming now to get the kettle



(Oh wow. This one always gives me attitude as well)

Ntombenhle : But...

Me : It's okay sisi. I'll wait

(Nyathuko walks in but he quickly steps out again)

Nyathuko : Is that Ndlela crying?

Wandile : I'll go and check Baba

Nyathuko : Uphi umawakhe?

(I'm not even going to respond to that because I'm bloody pissed off. I continue rinsing Ndlela's bottle)



Ntombenhle : Here she is bafo

Nyathuko : Oh

(I feel his hands touching my waist)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami are you okay?

Me : Mhmm.

(He kisses my shoulder)

Nyathuko : Mhmmm?

Me : I'm fine



Nyathuko : Wenzani la entuthwini?

Me : I'm preparing Ndlela's bottle

(Now everyone is silent. They are listening to our conversation for something new to gossip about.)

Nyathuko : I'll do it. Go and get some rest

Me : It's okay Baba kaNdlelenhle I'll do it. Please go and check on Ndlela

Nyathuko : Okay

(Did he go? The answer is no. He is still standing behind me holding my waist.)



Me : Seluyaphela uyabona?

(I whisper to him while giggling)

Nyathuko : Ini?

Me : His formula is running out

Nyathuko : Oh baby formula? No don't worry about it. Baba will bring it he is on his way.

(Nyathuko moves away from me. He grabs the kettle from the fire)

Siyabonga : Amanzi kaNjabulo lawa bafo

Nyathuko : So what now? My son shouldn't eat because we are saving water for Njabulo?



Bheki's wife : Siyabonga give water to Nyathuko

(I can't wait to get out of here. I finish mixing the bottle and leave the rondavel. Nyathuko follows me 10 minutes late. He has my food and baby formula)

Me : Nondaba is here?

Nyathuko : Yeah ufika manje.

(He says while taking off his sneakers)

Nyathuko : Nalu ubisi. Is he sleeping?

(Nyathuko places my food and baby formula on the table. I smile)

Me : Ah siyabonga umkhulu usithengele upisi papa.



(I kiss my son all over his face)

Nyathuko : Don't kiss him elele uzoba namanga

(Oh the Zondis and their crazy beliefs)

Me : Oh please. Ndlela is growing haa I can't believe he'll be 4 months old in a few days

Nyathuko : I miss him now wake him up.

Me : No

(I take my food and open it. I want to vomit so I quickly close it)

Me : Ew!



Nyathuko : What?

Me : This food smells b....

(I stand up immediately and vomit in the basin that I used to wash my feet. Nyathuko stands up)

Nyathuko : Yini manje?

Me : Yoo! Iphunga lalokudla. Please give me water

(He gives me water and I drink)

Me : I don't know what's wrong with me

Nyathuko : Come here



(He pulls me onto his lap)

Nyathuko : Ikuqale nini lento?

Me : Today even at work I was feeling dizzy.

(Silence)

Me : Are you okay?

(He shakes his head)

Nyathuko : No I'm just thinking. Get some sleep nana

Me : Please get me some cold water. I want to take these pills

Nyathuko : Pills? No you can't

Me : What? Why?

Nyathuko : Iyeke manje lento yokulala ngamaphilisi

Me : Why?



Nyathuko : Please Nana

Me : Why are you acting weird now?

Nyathuko : I'm not. Where is Ndlela's flask?

Me : In my car



(He kisses Ndlelenhle's forehead and laughs while shaking his head)

Nyathuko : Ubaba ukwenzani mfan'wam kodwa?

Me : What are you talking about?

Nyathuko : Nothing sthandwa sami

Me : Pho uhlekani?

Nyathuko : No nana woza la

(He kisses my lips)

Me : Please go get the flask

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda yezwa?



Me : I know baby

Nyathuko : And I want you to know ukuthi ngiyohlale ngikhona and that I will never fail my children. I will never fail as a father ngisho kungathiwa izingane zami zibaningi kangakanani

(I raise my brows)

Me : Are you dying?

(He laughs and stands up)

Nyathuko : Not anytime soon

Me : Good. Now go ubuye silale and please take this food away from me



Nyathuko : Aren't you going to eat?

Me : No

Nyathuko : Uzodlani?

Me : I'm fine

(He wears his flip flop and heads out)

Me : Usheshe ubuye

Nyathuko : I'll tell Ntombenhle to dish up for you

Me : No angithandi ukudla



Nyathuko : Why? What happened?

Me : Please go Thukeh

Nyathuko : What happened ekhishini?

(I'm not going to tell you that your mothers were gossiping about us)

Me : Nothing

(I stand up to close the door and I feel the room spinning. What the hell is wrong with me?)

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Chapter 02



(I'm walking on an empty field nothing is planted here. What confuses me the most is the navy baby strap carrier that I have around my neck. My phone rings and I open my eyes. Oh it was just one of those weird dreams. I switch off my alarm. Nyathuko has his arm wrapped around me Ndlelenhle is no longer sleeping between us. Nyathuko moves him away every night as soon as he falls asleep and sleeps in Ndlela's place. He opens his eyes)

Me : Morning Nana

(I kiss his lips and get out of bed)

Nyathuko : Where are you going?

Me : To the kitchen. It's Ndlela's ceremony today remember?

Nyathuko : Yah

(He turns to his son and pulls him onto his chest)



Me : Let me change his diaper

(He touches Ndlela's bums with his eyes closed)

Nyathuko : He is dry

Me : Okay

(I wear my dress and wrap the scarf around my head. I head to the kitchen. There's noise already coming from there. It's only 4h30 am for heaven's sake but the Zondi wives are already on top of their voices. These women don't sleep. Mabuyi Kwanele's wife is busy brushing teeth outside her house. I wonder if she knows that she and her husband are called Sandton. I wave at her. She smiles and waves back. I get inside the rondavel there's smoke as usual. I don't understand why they still use fire when they have electricity.)

Me : Sanibona



Maka Ndlela

(They say in unison with fake smiles all over their faces. Njabulo's baby mama is here no not Wandile's mom the other one. Qiniso's wife is also here and some I don't even know. They are all busy. There are two big tables some wives are busy making sandwiches and some are slicing beetroots and butternuts. There is a big pot with boiling water next to the fire)

Me : Can I use some of the water?

Bheki's wife : Of course sisi

Me : Thank you

(I put water in Nyathuko's bathing basin)

Mjay's wife : How is mfana ka Gogo?



Me : He is fine he is still sleeping with his father.

Bheki's wife : Yuu! Akasdudla umfana ka Nyathuko. I'm sure you buy him clothes every month

(I giggle)

Me : Not every month but yeah.

Shlangu's wife : Akamuhle kanje. He is beautiful like his father
uwuThukeh nje ngisho ishiya

(Okay that's my queue. I take the basin and walk out. Nyathuko and
Ndlela are still sleeping. I bathe)

Nyathuko : Sthah is Nondaba outside?

Me : I thought you were sleeping. ~~Yes he is~~ he is in the kraal with your
uncles



Nyathuko : He wants me to go with him to buy chickens

Me : So?

Nyathuko : I'm tired

Me : Nyathuko this is your son's ceremony. I don't understand why you are so lazy

Nyathuko : I'm just tired sthandwa sami. Ngifuna ukuvuka ngiyophalaza futhi

Me : Are you sick?

Nyathuko : I think nginenyongo



Me : Futhi?

(Silence. I roll my eyes)

Me : Please wake up. I want to bathe Ndlela because if I don't bath him now I won't get another chance.

Nyathuko : No no it's still early ngizomugeza mina.

Me : Are you sure?

Nyathuko : Yes baby

Me : Yazi I had this... Ay never mind

Nyathuko : Nakhoke never mind yani manje?



(I wanted to tell him about the dream I had but Nyathuko overthink everything even simple dreams. I continue putting the doek over my shoulder and pull it all the way across my breasts. I'm wearing it over iphinifa and my long sleeve. This is how the Zondi wives dress here)

Me : It's really nothing Thukeh

Nyathuko : Okay

Me : Vuka bandla

Nyathuko : Give me 10 minutes.

Me : I'm going to the kitchen now uzo ayina?

(Silence I guess he is sleeping again)

Me : Bye Nyathuko



(Few minutes later I'm serving ogogo some tea and bread. Gog'Maphalala is not here. I think she doesn't get along with the Zondis.)

Makoti

(That's Maxwell's mother. Nyathuko calls her Khulu and so do I)

Me : Khulu

Khulu : Nilale kahle mntanami?

(She asks while dunking her bread inside the mug of her tea before she eats it. Wuuu! Uh-huh)

Me : Yes we slept well Khulu



Khulu : Awuzwe ke

Is this Nyathuko's wife?

(One of the other gogos asks. I heard she is the cousin of Nyathuko's great grandfather or great great grandfather I don't remember but she is from KwaNyuswa)

Khulu : Yes

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I don't remember but she is from KwaNyuswa)

Khulu : Yes isn't she beautiful?

Gogo : She is very beautiful.



(I smile. My knees are starting to burn I've been on them for too long serving these grandmothers who are sitting on a grass mat)

Me : Thank you.

Gogo : Please bring umfana ka Gogo here mase evukile

Me : I will Khulu

(I finally get up and walk out)

(I've been on my feet for 4 hours now. We are slicing chopping and grating. I see Nyathuko and our son looking all clean in their white t-shirts though I don't understand why they are wearing white in this place.)

Me : Thukeh

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami



(He comes closer with Ndlela)

Nyathuko : Why are you angry?

Me : Hawu bakithi I'm not angry

Nyathuko : Sisayothenga izinkukhu no baba

Me : Are you going with Ndlela?

Nyathuko : Yeah

Me : Wachicha nje pho manje

(Nyathuko laughs)



Nyathuko : It's Vaseline

Me : Ay Thukeh mugcobe kahle hau

(I kiss Ndlela's cheek.)

Me : Uyachicha Ndlela

Maxwell : Sthabile

Me : Nondaba

Maxwell : Are you okay?

Me : Yebo baba



Maxwell : Good. Thukeh give me my grandson

(He takes Ndlela from Nyathuko)

Maxwell : You are driving

Nyathuko : Okay

(Maxwell gets inside the car with Ndlela.)

Nyathuko : Come with us

Me : Come on Nyathuko

Nyathuko : Come baby let's go.



Me : No

(Mabuyi calls me)

Me : I'll see you later

Nyathuko : Okay

(He kisses my cheek and gets inside the car. Qiniso and Kwanele are also going with them. I get in and Mabusi quickly closes the door. She is only wearing her bra and underwear)

Mabuyi : Awusabuyeli kuloya round

(I laugh)

Me : Why?



Mabuyi : Sthabile You've been on your feet since 04h30 am. Uzodlala abafazi bakwaZondi wena. Sit down and eat

(She is already drinking her wine. There is a small kitchen in this house)

Me : You cook alone when you're here?

Mabuyi : Yes you didn't know?

Me : No why?

(Her phone rings)

Mabuyi : I'll tell you now.... Ntokozo nikephi?

(She is talking to Ntokozo)



Mabuyi : Anisheshe hawu

(She laughed and hung up)

Mabuyi : Ontokozo badlula Esisebenzile

Me : Oh that's better

Mabuyi : There is breakfast please eat

Me : Thank you but I'm really not hungry

Mabuyi : Sthabile

(She gives me a death stare. I laugh)



Me : Okay I'll eat one slice

Mabuyi : Uphi umfazi ka Bheki nokunuka ingquza?

(I almost choke on my food. That I didn't expect. I don't know what to say)

Me : I don't know about her smelling vagina but she is in the kitchen

Mabuyi : Nalelixoki lakhe eliwu Siyabonga elinuka amakhwapha

(I burst. Is she drunk?)

Me : Sis Mabuyi please.

Mabuyi : I hate them.

(I'm sure she does)

Me : Why?

(She finishes her wine and pours more)



Mabuyi : By the time I get out of this I'll be drunk. Dare they start with their nonsense bazongibona. I've had it with them

Me : Kanti what's wrong?

Mabuyi : Sthabile you haven't seen anything. Omunye umuzi lo but all I can tell you is that be careful of those women

Me : You are scaring me Sis Mabuyi

Mabuyi : Be-ca-re-ful



Me : Okay

(I whisper. I'm worried)

Mabuyi : Let me call my son. I know sebengihlebe bangihleba kuleliyakhishi labo eligcwele intuthu

(She dials on her phone. I wonder what happened between her and those wives because clearly she hates them)

Mabuyi : Ntuthuko ukuphi?

(She throws her phone on her bed and opens the wardrobe)

Mabuyi : Ini?



(Call on loudspeaker)

Ntuthuko : I'm in Verulam but baba is not here

Mabuyi : Ufunani e Verulam?

(She looks at her phone)

Ntuthuko : Hawu Mah

Mabuyi : I'm asking

Ntuthuko : But you said....

Mabuyi : I said ubogibela I taxi wehle eMahlabathini

Ntuthuko : There are no taxis here



Mabuyi : There are no taxis... There are no taxis amasimba? Didn't I tell you to come yesterday?

Ntuthuko : I'm sorry

(She takes a roll of toilet tissue and unrolls the tissue. She puts the tissue in her underwear. I don't know why she is doing that)

Mabuyi : Call your father and tell him you are in Verulam

Ntuthuko : I don't have airtime

Mabuyi : Arghaa... Sthabile awuvale leyongane engidakelwayo

(I take her phone)



Me : Ntuthuko wait there your father is coming okay?

Ntuthuko : Yebo

(I end the call)

Me : How old is he?

Mabuyi : He is 15 years old ubhema nensangu. Yazi I told Kwanele that this boarding school thing was a bad idea

Me : But boarding schools are the best

Mabuyi : Not for Ntuthuko Zondi. Angigqoki kwaphinifa SORRY!

(I laugh. I didn't know Mabuyi was this crazy. She wears her leggings under her long dress)



Mabuyi : You don't want coffee?

Me : No thanks I'm done here.

Mabuyi : Okay let's go.

(I stand up. She wears her jacket and we walk out.)

Mabuyi : Awubuke lezinja I'm sure they are gossiping about us.

(I laugh Bheki's wife and Shlangu's wife are standing outside looking at us. We walk towards them.)

Bheki's wife : Hawu maMkhize is finally awake

Mabuyi : Yes. Nakithi koGcwabe I've never woke up at 03 am so ngeke ke ngiqale la kwaZondi



(Bheki's wife laughs sarcastically)

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Chapter 03

(Ntokozo and Sthenjisiwe arrived. Nyathuko is in the kraal with others slaughtering a cow. I'm in the kitchen with other wives. I'm washing the dishes with Ntombenhle. Nyathuko walks in he is now wearing blue overalls tied around his waist. On top he is wearing a white t-shirt it has blood stains now)

Shlangu's wife : Seniqedile Thukeh?

Nyathuko : No but we are almost done. Ubaba uShlangu ucela indishi

(He is now standing behind me. He kisses my cheek)



Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami are you okay?

Me : Yes. What happened to your t-shirt?

Nyathuko : Singcole lapha esibayeni. Ongikhumula sona sthandwa sami. My hands are dirty

(I wipe my hands and turn around)

Nyathuko : Lubanzi take that basin and give it to your father esibayeni

Me : Lift up your arms

Nyathuko : Did you eat?

Me : Yes



(He lifts up his arms and I help him take off his t-shirt)

Nyathuko : You are lying nana

Me : Ngiqinisile. Where is Ndlela?

Nyathuko : He is with Ntokozo. Ngizogqokani?

(All eyes are on us now. Why? I don't know. These women act like they've never seen me before)

Me : Khona esinye isikibha phezu kombhede

Nyathuko : Let's go and get it

(He smiles)



Me : But it's there

Nyathuko : Come on baby. Let's go

(Ntombenhle giggles)

Ntombenhle : Maka Ndlela go with him bakithi

Me : Ay your brother

(I shake my head. Nyathuko wraps his arm around my neck. We walk out. As soon as we walked out I heard a big laughter you know that laughter that ends with Wuuuuh!! That one)

Me : What's wrong with your mothers?



Nyathuko : What do you mean?

Me : You don't see anything wrong?

(He presses his lips together and frowns. The way Ndlelenhle likes playing with his lips I'm sure he Inherited that habit from his father)

Nyathuko : No

Me : Okay. Nasi ishibha

Nyathuko : Ha

Me : What's wrong?

(He looks all around his t-shirt)



Nyathuko : Sishwabe leskibha Sthah

Me : Nyathuko awuyindawo nje nkosiyami

Nyathuko : Ayngeke baby asikho esinye?

Me : Jesus. Let me iron it for you

Nyathuko : No leave it I'll wear a jacket

(I reach for the ironing board and he quickly spins me around and kisses me)

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda

(I smile)

Me : I love you too



(He takes his jacket and walks out)

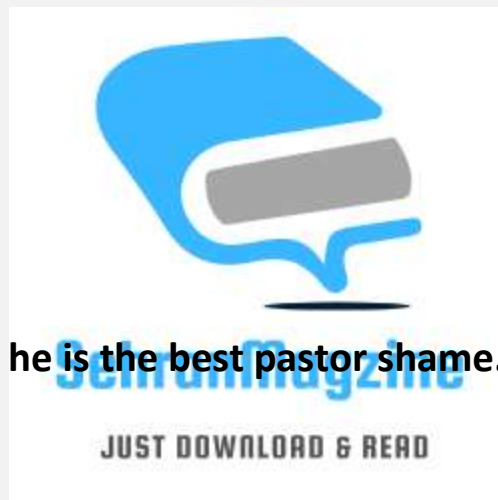
(Few hours later Shlangu who was the eldest son burnt the incense for Ndlelenhle. When all was done we ate. We are now sitting in Kwanele's house... Mabuyi's house.)

Mabuyi : I was telling Sthabile to be careful when it comes to those women.

Sthenjisiwe : Bawushevu

Mabuyi : Kwanele thinks I'm making all these things up but he is the one who told me that....

(Kwanele walks in.)



Mabuyi : Weeh ayke he is the best pastor shame. I enjoyed his service

(She quickly changed the subject. I want to laugh)

Kwanele : Maka Ntuthuko nahlala manje mama when others are busy outside?

Mabuyi : What are we supposed to do because when we try to help they tell us to stop?

Kwanele : Ay mama bazonihleba niqede nithi bayanisukela

Ntokozo : Ngeke baba omncane layikhaya they find anything to gossip about whether you do good or bad. Abasiyeke siphuze bakithi

Kwanele : No Ntoko you need to help each other. Maka Ntukuthuko where is the cold room key?

Mabuyi : I don't know.



Kwanele : Ah ayke. I wanted to bring you more alcohol

Mabuyi : I really have no idea Baba ka Ntuthuko. I saw Baba omdala u Shlangu giving the key to his wife

Kwanele : Wee kanti

Sthenjisiwe : Don't worry we bought our own booze. Angithi besazi ukuthi siza kaZondi

(They laugh)

Kwanele : Kodwa ngiyanicela

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we bought our own booze. Angithi besazi ukuthi siza kaZondi

(They laugh)

Kwanele : Kodwa ngiyanicela please go and help in the kitchen

Me : It's okay I'll go and help.

Kwanele : Thank you Maka Ndlela

(Nyathuko walks in and stands by the door)

Ntokozo : Yah Thuthu udlile?

Nyathuko : I did



Sthenjisiwe : When are we eating the insides?

Nyathuko : As soon as we are done esibayeni

(I smile at him. He looks so good in those blue overalls his black All star and his grey beanie. I have the most beautiful husband in the whole world. Nyathuko is effortlessly beautiful. A man who would rock a sack and still turns heads.)

Sthenjisiwe : Okay uphi u Ndlela?

Nyathuko : Sleeping

Mabuyi : Woza uphuze

(Nyathuko laughs)

Mabuyi : Thukeh how on earth are you the only Zondi man who doesn't touch alcohol? I really don't get it. Yazi kuphuza ngisho uLubanzi



(Nyathuko shrugs)

Kwanele : Akaphuzi umfan'wami

(Kwanele smiles)

Ntokozo : Kodwa ugwayi uwukhipha ngokhakhayi

(We all laugh)

Nyathuko : Sthah kancane

Me : Okay

(I stand up and we step outside. He tries to kiss me and I pull away immediately. He narrows his eyes)



Nyathuko : Are you drinking nana?

Me : What? Of course not

Nyathuko : I'm just asking

(I sigh)

Me : Why did you call me? Ufuna ukugeza?

Nyathuko : Not now sisabusy esibayeni

Me : Angikujwayeli ungcile kanje yazi

(He laughs)



Nyathuko : I miss you sthandwa sami namhlanje awungnaki nje

Me : Come on nana I've been busy. Namanje I need to go and wash dishes

Nyathuko : Again?

Me : Yes again

Nyathuko : Ayikho ke leyonto. Come let's go I want to show you something

Me : What?

Nyathuko : You'll see

Me : Maka Njabulo is watching me Nyathuko



Nyathuko : Who cares?

(I roll my eyes and follow him. We take the way to the river but we take a left before we get to the river. He has his arm wrapped around my neck)

Me : Why are you taking me to the bushes?

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Because I miss being alone with you.

(I giggle)

Me : Oh so you.... Oh my! Guavas



(I drool seeing a tree full of guavas)

Nyathuko : Since when do you like guava?

Me : Uhhh... Since forever?

(He laughs and kisses my cheek)

Me : Please get me some nana

Nyathuko : Zano called me

Me : He sent me a message telling me he misses her brother.... Please don't fall nana

(Nyathuko steps on a stone and gets guavas from a tree)

Me : Give me one baby



Nyathuko : And where are you going to wash it?

Me : But you picked it from a tree it's clean

(He shakes his head and throws me one guava)

Me : Okay ke let's go to the river

(We went to the river to wash guavas and go back but guess what? I'm now sitting between my man's legs. I'm eating guavas while watching the river flowing.)

Me : We need to go back now. Your son will wake up and scream engakuboni



Nyathuko : Ntokozo Sthenjisiwe and Nondaba are there he knows them.

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Me : He knows me too but he loves you more than he loves me.

(I giggle)

Nyathuko : Sohamba manje.

(He kisses my neck and I get goosebumps. Yes I still get them)

Nyathuko : You should be thanking me for bringing you here. I saved you from washing that pile of dishes

(We both laugh)

Me : Oh my God Nyathuko is that why you brought me here?

(He laughs)



Me : But we need to go now. I miss our son

(He stands up and helps me up. He lifts me up and spins around with me in his arms. I laugh while hitting his chest)

Me : Baby you are making me dizzy

(He stops)

Nyathuko : I'm sorry sthandwa sami

(He stares into my eyes and smiles. This man is beautiful)

Me : I love you too

(He laughs out loud)



Nyathuko : I was going to say you are beautiful

Me : Kiss me

(He sucks my lower lip and kisses me deeply. He carried me all the way back and I asked him to put me down when we were about to

enter the gate. He complained about iphika oh and he said I'm fat and he will never carry me again)

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Chapter 04

(It's almost dark men are singing in the kraal. The Zondi wives are sitting and gossiping in the rondavel. I'm sitting with Ntokozo Sthenjisiwe Mabuyi Ndlelenhle and Ntombenhle in Nyathuko's room. They are still drinking Mabuyi is even smoking Nyathuko's cigarettes now. They say she is a smoker well she is smoking right inside this house with my almost 4 months old baby in here and from what I see sisi doesn't care but I still love her nonetheless. Ntuthuko walks in and asks me to give him Ndlelenhle. Ntuthuko had a twin but his twin died.)

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Mabuyi : Ntuthuko don't fall with the baby

Ntuthuko : Hawu Mah I won't.

(He walks out with the baby. I continue chatting to Musa. A minute after Ntuthuko walked out with Ndlelenhle we had a sudden scream.)

Ntokozo : Hhaibo what's that?

Sthenjisiwe : I think it's Maka Njabulo

Mabuyi : Ngiyazisa jesu mhlampe u Ntuthuko uwise ingane kaNyathuko

(More people are screaming)



Ntokozo : Ay Ay awugudluke Sthenji

(We all stand up and go outside. Wait is Nyathuko fighting with Njabulo? Nyathuko is wet he has umqombathi all over his overalls. What's going on?)

Nyathuko : Do you see what you have done Njabulo?

Bheki's wife : Nyathuko ngiyamuxolisela please let it go.

Nyathuko : No! Udakwa kabi lo

(Nyathuko gets inside the rondavel. I get the shock of my life when I see Nyathuko dragging Njabulo on the ground out of the rondavel. We all scream. Nyathuko starts punching Njabulo and kicks him. Nyathuko grabs the knobkerrie from an old man standing next to him)

No!!!



(We all scream. His father stops him)

Maxwell : Nyathuko that's enough!

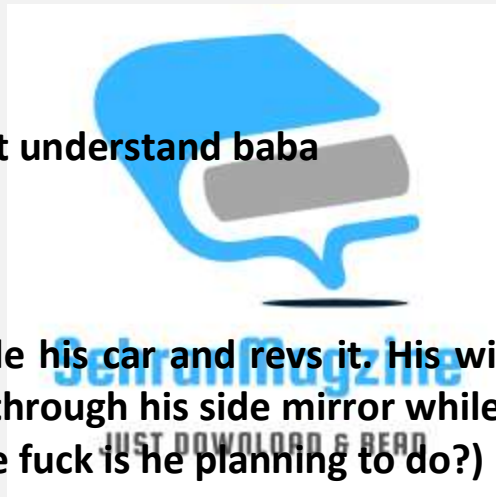
Nyathuko : Did you hear what he said? He disrespected my wife. Usuka lapho uzothela mina ngotshwala?

(There is absolutely no word to describe Nyathuko right now)

Maxwell : I understand mfan'wam but please calm down. Look at him

(Njabulo is lying on the ground. There is blood in his mouth he can hardly move)

Nyathuko : You don't understand baba



(Nyathuko gets inside his car and revs it. His window rolls down and he looks at Njabulo through his side mirror while he continues revving the engine. What the fuck is he planning to do?)

Kwanele : Nyathuko don't do that!!

Ntokozo : Oh no he is going to run him over. Baba stop him!!

(Ntokozo screams)

Me : What?

(I run towards the car)

Me : Nyathuko stop that!

Nyathuko : Move baba! Move!



(Maxwell was standing next to Njabulo trying to protect him)

Nyathuko : Suka baba!!

(He says while banging his car in frustration. Now this is the violent Nyathuko that Zama once told me about. He is not listening to anyone it's like his ears are blocked. There is dust all over but finally his father manages to get him out of the car)

Maxwell : Yini Thukeh? Awusangilaleli manje wena? You want to run your brother over by your car? You want to kill him?

Nyathuko : Did you hear what he said?

Shlangu : He is drunk. Awuboni?

(Bheki comes out of nowhere)



Bheki : Yey! Yey! Yey wena!

(He says while pushing Nyathuko's shoulder roughly. How dare he push my man like this? Right now I'm feeling emotional. Nyathuko takes a few steps back as he continues pushing him)

Bheki : You want to kill my son? Udakiwe? Huh?

(He throws a hard slap across Nyathuko's face. I close my eyes)

Me : Hawemah

(I whisper. Ntokozo

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it's like his ears are blocked. There is dust all over but finally his father manages to get him out of the car)



Maxwell : Yini Thukeh? Awusangilaleli manje wena? You want to run your brother over by your car? You want to kill him?

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(He says while pushing Nyathuko's shoulder roughly. How dare he push my man like this? Right now I'm feeling emotional. Nyathuko takes a few steps back as he continues pushing him)

Bheki : You want to kill my son? Udakiwe? Huh?

(He throws a hard slap across Nyathuko's face. I close my eyes)



Me : Hawemah

(I whisper. Ntokozo Sthenjisiwe and Mabuyi are losing it.)

Maxwell : What do you think you are doing?

(Maxwell is sweating he is angry. I'm crying)

Bheki : I want him out of this house!!

Ntokozo : Nyathuko is not going anywhere

Mabuyi : Ehambe eyephi? Ungazoxhapha la. Piece of rubbish!

(She says while walking away. She is swearing non stop. I swear she has been waiting for this day for too long)



Bheki : He needs to leave now! He thinks he is better than everyone else ufuze wena Ndabenhle!! In fact you all think you are better than the rest of us!

Maxwell : That's bullshit!!

Mabuyi : Heh washo umsunu! Vele kade nasiqala

(There is noise but I can still hear Mabuyi dishing vulgar words. I feel like I'm losing my mind)

Ntokozo : Thukeh is not going anywhere! Kukubo la!

Bheki : Hamba la wena!

(He pushes Nyathuko again)



Sthenjisiwe : Leave my brother alone!!

(Sthenjisiwe yells and breaks down in tears)

Nyathuko : It's okay I'll go

(He kisses Sthenjisiwe on top of her head.)

Sthenjisiwe : Don't go please don't go

Kwanele : Nyathuko you are not going anywhere.

Nyathuko : It's okay baba omncane I'll go.

Khulu : Kwenzekani la?



(She is finally here with her walking stick)

Nyathuko : Sthabile where is my son? Let's go

Me : Okay

(I search for Ntuthuko)

Khulu : Nyathuko you can't go. Ingane kade ishiselwa impepho uyakhumbula?

Nyathuko : No Khulu I'm leaving. Sthabile let's go!!

(He shouts. Why is he scaring me so much?)

Ntokozo : Sthabile is not going anywhere nawe unje!

(Sthenjisiwe pushes me inside the house and Ntokozo blocks the door)



Nyathuko : Ntokozo get out of my way

Mabuyi : No if you want to go go alone!

Nyathuko : No I'm taking my wife with me!

(Nyathuko pushes Ntokozo out of the way and gets in. Sthenjisiwe holds my hand)

Nyathuko : Let's go Sthabile

(He is so angry it's scary. I shake my head with tears running down my face)

Me : No



Nyathuko : No?

(Silence. He presses his lips together and sighs)

Nyathuko : Okay

(He walks out. My heart bleeds)

Nyathuko : Ntuthuko give me my son!

(I hear him shouting outside. Hell no he is not taking our son with him. I run outside)

Me : Ntuthuko don't give him the baby



(The noise starts all over again. We are trying to stop Nyathuko from taking Ndlelenhle)

Nyathuko : Ey fakof nina!!

(He takes Ndlelenhle and puts him in the car seat. He also gets in and starts the car before he blinds us with the lights. We try to stop the car but he almost knocks us off with his car. I see his red car vanishing quicker than lightning and he only leaves us with dust)

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Chapter 05

(Nyathuko is not picking up my calls. I still can't digest the fact that he took my son just like that. I understand he was angry but I hate what he did. Mabuyi Ntokozo and Sthenjisiwe are angry but they are not angry at Nyathuko they are angry at Njabulo's father)

Sthenjisiwe : Ukuthi emshaye kodwa? Ay! I literally lost my mind



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Mabuyi : Njabulo has a big issue with Thukeh ngeke! Waqala nini loyamntwana abusing Nyathuko?

Me : What exactly happened?

Ntokozo : I tried to ask baba but wangihebeza

Sthenjisiwe : He left

Ntokozo : Who? Nondaba?

Sthenjisiwe : Yes his girlfriend booked a hotel. I saw her message on his phone usisi ethi she can't spend another night without him.

Me : Sthenjisiwe you go through your father's phone?

(She laughs)



Sthenjisiwe : Every chance I get.

Mabuyi : Mina unganya kuthiwa uzalwa uKwanele

(I also find it weird. I mean why would she go through her father's phone?. My phone rings in my hand. My crazy husband is calling)

Me : Nyathuko?

(I step outside to get away from the noise)

Nyathuko : Awuzongilandela ngempela?

Me : Is that why you left with my son because you thought I was going to follow you? No I'm not going to follow you Nyathuko

Nyathuko : Why are you angry? I should be angry angithi imina ebengisakazwa ngezimpama lapho



Me : Where are you nengane?

Nyathuko : I'm driving past Nomanini

Me : Uhamba ngempela?

Nyathuko : Sthah you heard baba omncane he kicked me out.

Me : He was just angry

Nyathuko : Can I come and pick you up?

Me : Cha



Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami ngiyakucela

Me : No bring my son back here.

(Silence. He hung up. Great! I try to call him back but he is not answering. I go back in)

Mabuyi : Uthini?

Me : He hung up on me

Mabuyi : Pho alikho yini ikhanda kuNyathuko

(I sigh)

Me : I don't know I actually don't know what to do now.

Mabuyi : Drink alcohol and sleep. You'll deal with Thukeh tomorrow

Me : No no no I.....

(Wandile screams outside)

Mabuyi : Ayngeke lomuzi too much drama.



(She opens her wine. They look so chilled right now like people are not screaming out there. Wandile barges in with his big eyes wide open)

Wandile : Khona inyoka embhedeni?

(He says staring right at me)

Me : A snake? Where?



Wandile : In Baba uThukeh's bed on top of Gqamuza's blanket.

(Gqamuza is Ndlelenhle yeah they call him Gqamuza because of his eyes. There is a snake in our bed? A Snake!)

Ntokozo : Hhaibo how did it get in? Let's go and see

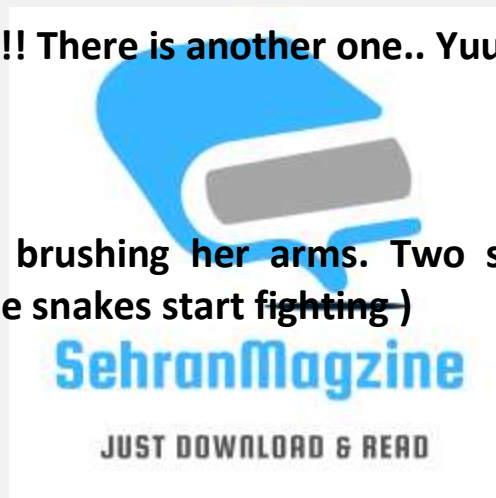
(We run outside. Everyone is standing on my doorstep)

Shlangu : Inyoka yasekhaya it's harmless

Ntombenhle : Ngeke malume we need to get rid of it.

Bheki's wife : Zimbili!! There is another one.. Yuuuuu!!!

**(She screams while brushing her arms. Two snakes in one room?
Never heard of it. The snakes start fighting)**



Bheki : No no Shlangu this is dangerous

(They tried to hit the snakes but they failed and they told me to do the most disturbing thing. They told me that breast milk helps get rid of snakes because snakes hate breast milk so I must splash milk through the window. At first I refused but finally I agreed)

Bheki's wife : Just a little bit Maka Ndlela makubekhona iphunga nje

(Their husband moved away from us and I did what I was told to do and indeed the two snakes went all up the wall and came out through the window. That's it I'm going to my house I'm definitely not sleeping here. I called Nyathuko but Gog'Maphalala answered his phone.)

Gog'Maphalala : Sawubona Mano

Me : Sawubona Gogo



Gog'Maphalala : Thukeh is here with my grandson don't worry.

Me : Bafika nini Gogoh?

Gog'Maphalala : They just arrived now

Me : Thank God can I please speak to Baba ka Ndlelenhle?

Gog'Maphalala : Ok Mano... Thukeh phone. Give him to me

(I hear my baby coughing. Did Nyathuko have to take him though?)

Nyathuko : Sthah

Me : Why give Gogo the phone?



Nyathuko : Because I don't want to be accused of something I don't know tomorrow.

(Really now?)

Me : Nana I want to go to Ballito

Nyathuko : Okay

Me : Thukeh I'm serious. I can't sleep here there were two snakes in our bed

Nyathuko : Unqabile ngikulande

Me : But now I want to go home our home.

Nyathuko : You can't



Me : Nyathuko bathe ngithele ubisi endlini ngoba inyoka ayizwani nobisi lwebele

Nyathuko : What?

Me : Yes baby I can't. I can't be here ngizolalaphi mina because I'm certainly not going to sleep in this bed.

Nyathuko : I told you that I was coming to fetch you and you said no manje usufuna ngitatazele ke ngoba sekufuna wena

Me : No but I....

Nyathuko : Nothing Sthabile. I'm not going to drive all the way from here to Ballito nengane

Me : Ngizolala emotweni shuthi mina?



Nyathuko : I don't know Sthabile you wanted to stay there angithi? So stay there and breastfeed their snakes

(With that said he hung up. Wow)

(I couldn't sleep I was scared for the whole night even though I was sleeping with Ntokozo but still I was scared. It's exactly 02h11 am and I hear his car. There is no way I cannot recognize my husband's car. I sit up and jump out of bed)

Me : Imoto yakwami leyo

(I say while opening the curtain. It's him)

Ntokozo : Who is that?

Me : My husband I'm leaving now.

Ntokozo : What? Nyathuko is here?



Me : Yes

(I take my phone and dial his number)

Nyathuko : I'm waiting for you

Me : I'm coming nana

(I hung up. I wear my clothes quickly and pack our suitcases and Ndlela's bag)

Ntokozo : You are leaving now?

Me : Yes. I'm leaving my car



Ntokozo : Yeah sure I'll bring it on Monday.

Me : Thank you

Ntokozo : Let me help you with the bags

Me : Thank you. Ubhuti wakho udiniwe phela

(We walk out. Nyathuko is parking outside of the gate.)

Ntokozo : Thuthu

Nyathuko : Hey

(No more dirty overalls with umqombothi. He is wearing white Armani tracksuits now. The smell of Brut as usual. I don't see Ndlela anywhere)



Ntokozo : Come here

(She hugs him)

Ntokozo : You how it is but kuzoba right

(He sighs)

Nyathuko : Yeah

Ntokozo : Nondaba left

Nyathuko : He called me

Ntokozo : Okay. Where is Ndlela pho?

(I would also like to know)



Nyathuko : Uno Gogo

Ntokozo : Alright... Sthah I'll see you on Monday

Me : Okay sisi

(Nyathuko opens the door for me. He is not that angry I guess. I got in. He speaks to Ntokozo while they put our bags inside the car. Ntokozo walks away and Nyathuko gets in. He drives off)

Me : I'm sorry for waking you up

(Silence. He is not talking to me but I am going to talk if he won't)

Me : You were so angry and I got scared



(Silence)

Me : Nyathuko you wanted to kill your brother

(He looks at me but still says nothing)

Me : You should have told me about your anger issues

Nyathuko : I have anger issues?

Me : I don't know

Nyathuko : But nakhu nje manje uhleli la eceleni kwami and you are busy telling me that I have anger issues.

Me : If you go around beating up your own brothers lokho kuchaza ukuthi you have anger issues



Nyathuko : When you were acting like John Cena lapha e Gateway ushayana noThandeka in front of everyone who told you that you have anger issues?

(Did he just call me John Cena?)

Me : Ubiza mina manje ngo John Cena?

Nyathuko : No answer my question.

**Me : Are you going to bring that up every time we have an argument?
Uzongitshela nge ex yakho?**

Nyathuko : Nangoke uSthabile trying to shift the blame

(I'm getting really angry)



Me : Ngikubuze umubuzo.

Nyathuko : I'm not going to answer nonsense

Me : Imina inonsense Nyathuko?

Nyathuko : Ey Sthabile

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answer my question.

**Me : Are you going to bring that up every time we have an argument?
Uzongitshela nge ex yakho?**

Nyathuko : Nangoke uSthabile trying to shift the blame

(I'm getting really angry)



Me : Ngikubuze umubuzo.

Nyathuko : I'm not going to answer nonsense

Me : Imina inonsense Nyathuko?

Nyathuko : Ey Sthabile take it whatever you want.

Me : No ngikhathele uwena every time sikhuluma you bring up Thandeka's name. Usakudlisile namanje yini?

Nyathuko : Umsangano loyo

Me : You want to call it madness?



Nyathuko : Kholwa noma yini ofuna ukwikholwa

Me : Fine.

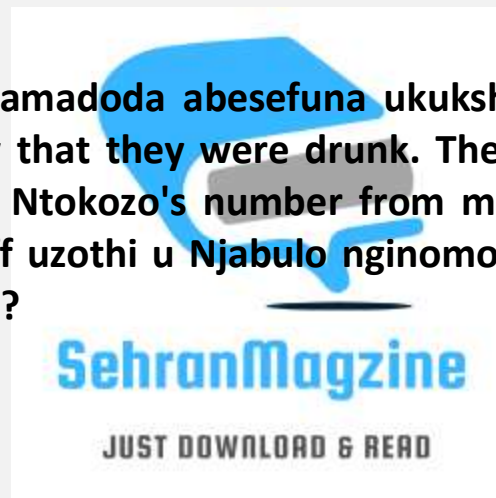
Nyathuko : Uzongivusa ngo 12 ebusuku la kanti ufuna ukungisanganela

Me : Maybe if you didn't beat up your own brother uze ufune ukumshayisa ngemoto I wouldn't have woken you up at 00h00

Nyathuko : You don't even know what happened ukhuluma into ongayazi

Me : What exactly happened?

Nyathuko : Angithi amadoda abesefuna ukukshela lapha and I kept quiet because I saw that they were drunk. The next thing that man asks Njabulo to get Ntokozo's number from me and I'm telling him that my phone is off uzothi u Njabulo nginomona ngosisi bami mina yini ngilala nabo yini?



Me : What?

Nyathuko : Uthi yena he can sleep with you in front of me and I'll do nothing about it bekumele ngenzeni ngoba ubesengidakelwa? Ngisineke?

Me : But he was drunk. You can't take anything eshiwo umuntu edakiwe serious.

Nyathuko : That's your problem you take everything lightly. Sthabile when people are drunk most of them know exactly what they are doing they are very much aware of their actions and the truth is they plan everything mase bethi ngizosho mase ngidakiwe khona ngizophika ngotshwala. Njabulo told me exactly what he wanted to tell me futhi namanje angase umuvuse he will be very much aware of what he said.

Me : But for you to beat him up like that? Uze ufune ukumubulala ngemoto that was low Nyathuko!!



(What Njabulo said was bullshit I know but what Nyathuko did was also wrong)

Nyathuko : Sthabile are you happy with what he said?

Me : Ini?

Nyathuko : No I'm asking ngoba phela manje you are still taking his side even after I've explained to you ukuthi kwenzekeni.

Me : Kuyazwela if I take other people's sides kodwa wena uhlezi uvikela lesfebe sakho esuThandeka!

Nyathuko : You know that is not true

Me : It is true! Lokho ukwazi kahle! Nxi!

(It was an 1 hour drive from Ndwedwe to Mzinyathi. I'm not even going to sleep here)



Me : Please go get my son we are leaving.

Nyathuko : Usuyangisanela ngempela ke manje wena awungene endlini.

Me : No I'm not getting in. I'm going to my house with my son

Nyathuko : What's your problem? Ngenzeni mina?

Me : Nyathuko ingane yami manje!

Nyathuko : Ubangela uGogo umsindo balele layikhaya.

Me : Good I also want to go and sleep emzini wami so ngiyacela.

Nyathuko : Do you know what time it is?



Me : I don't care

(He drags me inside his house and locks the door)

Nyathuko : Ucabanga ukuthi ngupopayi wakho wena. You move me up and down angathi ngiyahlanya la ekhanda

Me : I just want my son give me my son ngihambe

Nyathuko : Ndlelenhle is sleeping if you want to go hamba wedwa

Me : Nyathuko please don't make things difficult. Nginike ingane yini enzima lapho?

(He ignores me and takes off his jacket.)



Me : Awusakwazi ukukhuluma manje but when you were speaking about Thandeka you were able to speak.

Nyathuko : Please sleep

Me : I don't want to sleep!

Nyathuko : Why don't you want to listen? Yini enzima ukuthi ulalele for once like any other woman

(No he didn't)

Me : Like any other woman? You mean Thandeka?

Nyathuko : I didn't say that

Me : You don't even need to say it because I know that's exactly what you mean!



(He takes off his sneakers)

Me : Why didn't you marry her? Ngoba kuyacaca that I'm too much for you ngiyisilingo empilweni yakho

Nyathuko : Sthah what you are saying right now is pure nonsense

Me : No inonsense ukuthi uhlale ubona uThandeka as someone who is better than me!!

(I scream. He stands up)

Nyathuko : Maybe she was!! Thandeka never argued with me! Wena uhlale ufuna Impi engasile and it's bloody irritating

(That's it. I try to take his car keys but he snatches them away. I try to open the door if I have to sleep under the tree then that's what I'll do but I'm not sleeping next to this man. He grabs my arm)

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Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami I'm sorry I didn't mean to say that. Uwena Sthah you are just pushing me to say all the wrong things

Me : Please let me go ngiyakucela.

Nyathuko : No I'm not letting you go. We are going to sit down and talk

Me : I don't want to talk anymore. Sengikuzwile ebengifuna ukukuzwa

Nyathuko : My wife I'm sorry.

Me : No no save it. Now let go of my arm or I'll scream

Nyathuko : Okay where are you going?

Me : That's none of your business



(He takes the key out of the door and climbs on the bed. I clench my teeth and take out my phone. I go through my Whatsapp and just when I think I don't have a plan I see Musa online. I send him crying emojis)

Him : Where are you?

(I send him my location)

Him : On my way

(I put my phone away. Nyathuko is smoking now we are sitting in silence. I want to cry but fuck I won't. Time is slowly moving but finally Musa is here)

Me : Nyathuko please give me my baby I want to go

(He smashes his cigarette in his ashtray and gets out of bed. He opens the door and walks out leaving the door open. I hear him knocking at the main house. I hear Ndlelenhle coughing they are coming. He walks in with him covered in a comfy blanket)

Me : Thank you

(He gives me Ndlelenhle. I take Ndlelenhle's bag and put it on my shoulder. I'm going to drag this suitcase)

Me : Bye

(I walk out with my baby before he replies. Musa opens for us and helps with my suitcase and the bag. He doesn't have a car seat for Ndlelenhle so I'm sitting in the back seat holding him. I see Nyathuko closing the door before Musa drives away)

Musa : Bitch what the hell happened?

Me : I don't even want to talk about it.

Musa : We are going to my house

Me : Thanks

(I start getting angry all over again)



Me : Yazi I can't believe he compared me to that bitch. A woman who wanted to see me dead because of him and today he thinks she is better than me

Musa : Who? Thandeka?

Me : The one and only. Indoda yakhe icabanga ukuthi yenza iphutha ngokushada mina

Musa : Hhee Eh wena! Don't lie



Me : I'm telling you he told me straight to my face.

Musa : That is so unlike Nyathuko

Me : Oh kambe wena you always defend him

Musa : No but...

Me : Drop it Sam Sam

Musa : Iyoo! Ay ininzi Sana ay ifilimu. So he chased you out with his baby?

(Who taught him Isixhosa?)

Me : No he didn't kick us out. I wanted to go



(He drove to Phoenix. I want to sleep but I don't know if I'll be able to.)

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Chapter 06

(It's Sunday evening. I'm back in Ballito but Nyathuko is still not here I'm hoping that he will walk in any minute now. I want to call him and find out where he is but my pride just won't let me. I'm not hungry but I'll eat because I don't want to go to bed alone without Nyathuko so I'll eat just to pass time. Ndlelenhle cries in his nursery)

Me : I'm coming boy boy

(I finish slicing up my steak that I'll eat with my salad. I put my food on the counter and go upstairs to fetch Ndlelenhle.)

Me : Look who is awake. Hello baby



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(I kiss his cheek and pick him up)

Me : Nyathuko is not here Baba is not here nana.

(I tell him while we go downstairs. I give him his bottle but he pushes it with his tongue. He is not hungry)

Me : I want to eat

(I'll eat while standing and holding Ndlelenhle in my arms. His eyes move up and down with my fork. I laugh out loud seeing him chew when he sees me chewing but he has nothing in his mouth)

Me : Oh my God what kind of a baby are you? Huh nana? You want my steak now?



(I finish eating around 20h00 and I go to sit in the living room. I'm sitting on the couch Ndlelenhle is sleeping on his stomach on my thighs sucking my finger. I open my Whatsapp. Nyathuko's last seen is today 10h03. I see he removed my picture and put Ndlelenhle's picture as his display photo.)

Me : Kanti uphi u Thukeh ngempela?

(Ndlelenhle is starting to throw tantrums he can now feel his father's absence. I stand up and walk all around with him in my arms)

Me : Boy boy ufuna uBabah manje wena angithi mkhulu? Huh mfan'wam? You miss daddy? Let's call him

(It's time I swallow my pride and call him. I dial he is not picking up. I try calling him again)

Me : Na....(I pause)

Hi uNyathuko Z lo shiya imessage ngizobuyela kuwena.

(I clench my teeth)



Me : Fuck! It's a voicemail

(I sigh. I'm starting to feel some type of way that I can't really explain)

Me : Ndlelenhle stop crying and sleep!!

(I shout. He is irritating me because I don't understand why he is crying. I bought Ndlelenhle a baby pacifier and Nyathuko wanted to throw it away because he hated it. He mentioned something about hygiene but I don't care. I'm going to give Ndlelenhle that pacifier now to shut his mouth because he is crying non stop. I give it to him and he sucks it until he falls asleep I take him to our bed. I go back downstairs to switch off the lights but I decide to try and call Nyathuko again)

Hi uNyathuko Z lo sh....

Me : Ahhh fuck!!



(I yell while cutting off his irritating voicemail and throw my phone on the couch. Now I'm angry. I close all the curtains and switch off the lights. I head back upstairs.)

(I'm trying to sleep but I can't. I'm tossing and turning. No I don't think that something bad happened to Nyathuko but I can feel it in my bones that Nyathuko is with another woman. To think of it makes me sick. His phone is still on voicemail. I get out of bed and pace around. I wear my gown and go downstairs to watch TV maybe I'll feel better but still I find myself thinking about Nyathuko.)

^

^

^

(It's Monday morning Nyathuko didn't come back home. I'm getting ready for work. Ntokozo came to drop off my car and thank God she was late for work so she didn't come in. It seems like no one knows where Nyathuko is because even Ntokozo thought he was here and I didn't tell her that his brother didn't sleep home)

Me : Ndlelenhle if you keep crying like that I'm going to kill you!!...
Where on earth is Moltah?



(I'm running up and down. Ndlelenhle is crying he doesn't want to be put down and I need to get ready for work. Moltah is still not here)

Me : Uyihlo wakufundisa amasimba wena. awufuni ukubekwa phansi wena? you want to be carried around? Sorry kabi he doesn't want to be put down and I need to get ready for work. Moltah is still not here)

Me : Uyihlo wakufundisa amasimba wena. awufuni ukubekwa phansi wena? you want to be carried around? Sorry kabi uzohlala lapho until

I finish here. Your father who treats you like an egg is not here so stay there ngeke ufe.

(I run into the bathroom and take a quick shower. I finish and pack my files for work. I hear Moltah calling for me downstairs.)

Me : Thank God you are here.... Coming!

(I take Ndlelehle he stops crying. I run downstairs)

Me : Sis Moltah Good morning



Moltah : Morning sisi

Me : Thank God you are here. I'm going crazy here

Moltah : Boyza come here... Was he crying?

Me : Yes

(I give her Ndlelenhle)

Moltah : Oh? Where is Bhuti Nyathuko?

Me : Nyathuko is not here.

Moltah : Hawu is he gone to work ~~already?~~



Me : Moltah Nyathuko is not coming back here! Now do your job!

(I go back to my bedroom. A couple of minutes later I was ready to go to work. I could still hear Ndlelenhle crying all the way from downstairs. I take my bags and my car keys. I head downstairs)

Me : Ndlelenhle Zondi what the fuck is wrong with you?

Moltah : He won't stop crying

(I put down my bags)

Me : Bring him here

(I take him and he slowly stops crying. Moltah smiles and sighs)

Moltah : He only wanted his mother



Me : No Moltah his mother is going to work. I told Nyathuko ukuthi lengane kumele ijwayele abanye abantu eyeke ukuyifukamela njengeqanda! Today he is not here and I have to deal with this nonsense!

(Moltah frowns looking at me. I don't give a shit what she thinks. I try to put Ndlelenhle to sleep. I keep looking at the watch on my wrist. I'm late)

Me : Please give me my phone. Ila kuleskhwama

(I point at the bag that has my phone. Ndlelenhle doesn't look like someone who is going to sleep anytime soon. Moltah gives me my phone. I dial Nyathuko's number and place the phone on my ear)

Hi uNyathuko Z lo shiya imessage ngizobuyela kuwena.

Me : Nyathuko Zondi I wonder ungihlazaphi nalelopipli lakho elingavuki angathi ubanana okhubazekile.



(Moltah's eyes widen)

Me : When you are done bitching around ukhumbule ukuthi unengane nomfazi. Nxa!

(I leave the voice message for him. I didn't mean anything I said about his dick but I said it because right now there is no way to describe how angry I am.)

Me : Take this baby I'm going to work.

(I give Ndlelehle back to Moltah. He starts crying again)

**Me : His medication is in his nursery. Give him something ezomulalisa
If he doesn't stop crying. See you later**

(I take my bags. I walk out)



**(I arrived at Ndaba Media & Advertising and I locked myself in my
office. I didn't want to socialize with anyone. I couldn't get any work
done I was worried about my son. I knocked off at 14h00 and went
straight home)**

Moltah : Boyza is sleeping

Me : Ah good. When did he stop crying?

Moltah : After you left I took him outside to get some air and we stayed with his father's cat wathula.

Me : Just like that?

Moltah : Yes I sent you a message letting you know that we were fine because I knew you were worried about him.

(I sigh)



Me : I was. Yazi bengisaba nokufona ngoba bengazi ukuthi you would tell me that he was still crying kanti ke bengingeke ngenze lutho ngalokho.

(I say while looking upstairs for Nyathuko)

Moltah : YVISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM “ FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELSh. I cooked for you unгахamba nje uyophumula

Me : Nyathuko is still not here?

(Moltah raises her eyebrows)

Moltah : I thought you said he was not coming back.

(I clear my throat)

Me : Right. Thanks.... For everything



Moltah : Are you okay sisi?

(I let out a sigh)

Me : I'll be fine. Please excuse me

(I go to Ndlelenhle's nursery. I take him to my bed and we sleep. I kiss him)

Me : Umama uyaxolisa boy boy. This morning I was just so angry and....

(I swallow)

Me : I'm sorry mfan'wam



(I kiss his forehead. He smells so good. I don't remember when I fell asleep. The time is 18h30. I go downstairs to check if Moltah is still here. Moltah is not but there is someone at the door. I open the door and my heart starts racing. He lifts up his face.)

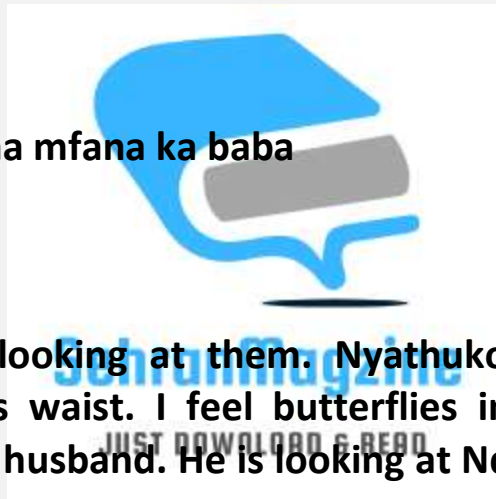
Me : Nyathuko?

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Chapter 07

(I look at him and shake my head. I left him at the doorstep. We haven't spoken ever since he arrived here. He is in the bathroom showering and I'm sitting on the bed finishing some work that I was supposed to finish at work today. Ndlelenhle is sleeping on his stomach he lifts up his head. He is awake. He starts crying. I'm not going to entertain him. I hear the shower closing and the bathroom door opens. He is coming. He comes and picks up his son)

Nyathuko : Sawubona mfana ka baba



(I lift up my eyes looking at them. Nyathuko has a white towel wrapped around his waist. I feel butterflies in my stomach God I missed my beautiful husband. He is looking at Ndlelenhle with a smile on his face)

Nyathuko : I missed you so much

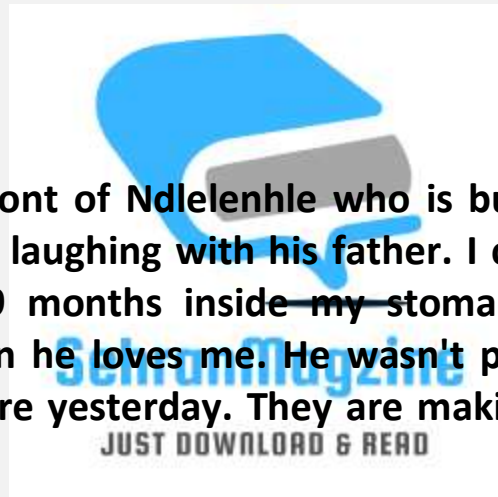
(He presses his lips on Ndlelenhle's forehead. He closes his eyes and keeps his lips on his son's forehead)

Nyathuko : Sit here ubaba egqoke

(He puts Ndlelenhle on the bed and the moment he puts him down Ndlelenhle starts crying.)

Nyathuko : Ndlela I'm here boy. Look I'm here. Ngeke ngikushiye

(He dresses up in front of Ndlelenhle who is busy lifting up his feet and his hands while laughing with his father. I can't believe I carried this hypocrite for 9 months inside my stomach but he still loves Nyathuko more than he loves me. He wasn't playing like this when Nyathuko wasn't here yesterday. They are making noise now. I clear my throat)



Me : I'm trying to work here.

Nyathuko : This is not at Ndaba Media & Advertising Sthabile. If you want to work go to your office. Umsebenzi wenziwa e office ay la.

(Did he really just say that? I shake my head in disbelief while staring at my laptop. He takes his son and walks out.)

Me : Mxm

(I finish what I'm doing and put everything away. 40 minutes later I'm walking down the stairs. I hear him talking to his son)

Nyathuko : No I'm going to throw it away. Umawakho ukunika amadamu la akazi ukuthi wena uwuZondi awunceli lezinto.



(What's wrong with giving Ndelelenhle a pacifier? I don't understand. I reach down)

Me : Nyathuko uzodla?

Nyathuko : Yes thanks.

(I roll my eyes and start setting up the table)

Nyathuko : Sthah

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thanks.

(I roll my eyes and start setting up the table)



Nyathuko : Sthah can we eat this side? Ngiyacela

Me : Fine

(I dish up our food. I put his food on the tray and walk into the living room to serve him)

Nyathuko : Ngiyabonga

(I go back to take my food and Ndlelenhle's bottle. I sit on my own couch alone)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami please come and sit with us.

Me : I'm fine here



(He sighs and stands up. He puts Ndlelenhle in his electric baby rocker swing. He comes and sits next to me with his food. He takes my feet and places them on his thighs. His soft and warm hands touch my feet.)

Me : Aren't you going to eat?

Nyathuko : No ngifuna ukuxolisa kuqala for not coming back home.

Me : Where were you Nyathuko?

Nyathuko : Emachobeni. Bengifuna ukuyofaka iwindi elisha before labantu abazoqasha bengene.

Me : Uzorentisa ngendlu?

Nyathuko : I thought that's what you want.

Me : It is but you were against it.



Nyathuko : Not anymore. As you said it's not like ngiyayidayisa leyandlu

Me : So if you were at Emachobeni you decided to switch off your phone?

(He stretches his arm and takes his food)

Nyathuko : Sobanga ukuthi ifoni iphelelwe i battery manje?

Me : No we are not going to fight. I was just asking

Nyathuko : My phone ran out of battery

(I chuckle)

Me : Ngempela?



(He lets out a soft laugh. His eyes are searching all over my face. I shove a fork with a piece of meat inside my mouth while keeping my eyes fixed on him. He laughs out loud)

Nyathuko : Yinindaba Sthah wangibuka kanje? You don't believe me?

Me : What makes you think I don't....

Nyathuko : No you don't but it's okay

(The last thing I need is for us to have another fight because I know he will leave again. I don't need that)

Me : I trust you nana

(I put my plate on the table and sit on top of him. He wraps his arm around me and kisses me. I take his plate and put it on the couch. He breaks the kiss.)



Nyathuko : Susa ukudla la okuhlala khona abantu

(I roll my eyes)

Me : Eat

(I take his food. He laughs and shakes his head. We feed each other his food. Ndlelenhle is watching the big TV screen on the wall like he understands what's happening on that screen)

Me : Your son thinks he is smart

Nyathuko : He is four months old today he is a big boy.

(Oh my God I forgot about that. I pretend I didn't)

Me : I bought him a cake and we ate it alone



Nyathuko : Aw

Me : You weren't here

Nyathuko : Yah. Othi ngimuncelise

Me : But he is not crying

Nyathuko : Lesihlalo siyاملالisa look at him. Let me feed him before he sleeps

Me : Fine I'll go and wash these dishes.

(He fed Ndlelenhle and put him to bed whilst I washed the dishes. I find him already in bed. He is on his phone but as I walk in he quickly puts it away)



Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami you are done

Me : Yeah angithi ningishiyile....Nana ungakwazi ukuthenga I sunlight yezitsha ksasa? We've ran out.

(I ask him while getting ready for bed. I look at him while applying hand cream. He is busy with his phone again. I let out a sigh. Hold yourself Sthabile. I finish and climb on the bed)

Me : Ngicela ukubona nami

(He immediately locks his phone)

Nyathuko : Kubonwani?

(He laughs)



Me : Whatever it is that you are staring at kulefoni. Awusakhulumi phela ngoba ubusy impela

Nyathuko : I'm not busy sthandwa sami

(He gets on top of me and kisses me. He moves the kiss to my neck. I moan. His hand searches under the pillow and he pulls out something. Is this what I think it is?)

Me : No yini manje leyo?

Nyathuko : Condoms

Me : What? Why?

Nyathuko : Come on sthandwa sami there is nothing wrong with....

(I get him off me)



Me : No! Sesiqale nini Thukh manje ukusebenzisana nama condom?

Nyathuko : We are going to start today

Me : Nyathuko we are married but you want us to go back to using condoms like little kids? I don't get it!

Nyathuko : Sthabile why....

Me : Angiyifuni icondom Nyathuko!

Nyathuko : Asiyeke ke

(He switches off his side lamp. I don't fuckin believe this!)

Me : Angizwanga?



Nyathuko : I said let's leave it.

(I want to cry out loud)

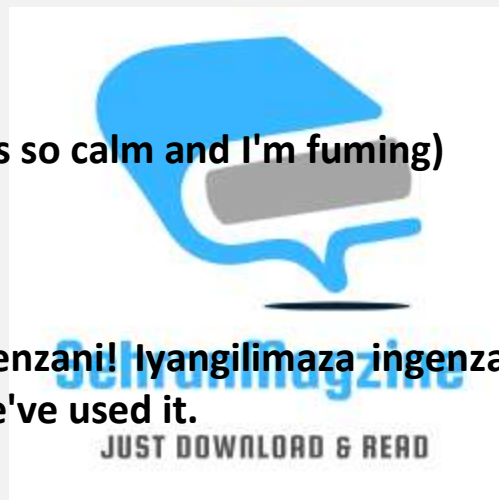
Me : Nyathuko why are you doing this? Is this about the message I left about your dick? Is this your way of punishing me? Bengidlala nkosiyami

Nyathuko : I don't care what you said. Sthabile why would I punish you ngokuthi sisebenzise iprotection?

Me : Why now? That's what I don't understand

Nyathuko : Ikwenzani icondom?

(Jesus this man. He is so calm and I'm fuming)



Me : You know ingenzani! Iyangilimaza ingenza nomoya esiswini... I feel bloated after we've used it.

Nyathuko : Then you need to go and see a doctor about that.

(I clench my teeth)

Me : Why did you come back?

Nyathuko : What?

(I sigh. I get out of bed and wear my slippers. I'm going to the guest room. I'm not sleeping next to this man)

Nyathuko : Where are you going?

(I ignore him and walk out)

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Chapter 08



(I can smell my husband even when I'm fast asleep. I know he is somewhere around in this room but something else is smelling good here. I hear Ndlelenhle with his hiccups. Somebody please help my son with these hiccups because honestly they don't give him a break.)

Nyathuko : Your mother is sleeping

(Now I remember that we fought last night and I slept alone in the guest room. I cover my head with a duvet)

Nyathuko : Baby

(I ignore him. I hear him getting out of bed and they walk out. I hear them getting back in again. After a few minutes I hear the TV switching on. Nyathuko climbs on the bed and gets on top of me. He covers our heads and separates my legs)



Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami

(I ignore him. He reaches for my panties. No no not my underwear that I bought ngesamba sika R120 at Mr Price last week)

Me : Ungalidabuli Thukeh ngiyakucela.

(He laughs. Haibo I'm tired of Nyathuko ripping off my favorite panties during sex. He slowly takes it off and slides in his dick. He has a condom on but I'm not even going to complain because he is doing wonders right now. Even though I don't understand why the fuck are we using a condom. He takes me slowly but goes deeper with each stroke. I moan a bit louder. I hear Ndlelenhle crying. I peel off the duvet. WHAT? I can't believe our son is watching us having sex. Yes we have a duvet covering our bodies but still this is weird. I quickly cover our heads)

Me : Baby Ndle....

Nyathuko : Mhmm Mhmmm



(He groans and sucks my nipple causing my body to heat up. Ndlelenhle cries he really wants us to hear him that he is here and he sees us. Nyathuko removed the duvet quickly)

Nyathuko : Yah mfana ka baba

(He speaks to his son but he continues stroking me while he speaks to him. Ndlelenhle stops crying and makes that crazy sound that he makes all the time when he is playing with his father. Nyathuko

groans and presses his forehead against mine. I dig my nails on his back. I'm not worried about Ndlelenhle who is crying again right now because he wants Nyathuko to look at him. All I care about is this amazing inside me)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami Ndlelenhle is crying

Me : No baby please don't stop please baby. Ngiyakucela Thukeh

(He goes faster and groans louder. My ears are blocked. I curl my toes . I held on tightly to his neck. I've reached my destination but he hasn't. His son screams loud)



Nyathuko : Fuck Ndlela marn

(He gets out of bed and picks up Ndlela)

Nyathuko : Yah yah ufunani?

(He stops crying. Nyathuko is naked holding him. I go to the bathroom and come back)

Me : Ngikukhiphe?

(I point at his dick using my eyes)

Nyathuko : Condom? Yah Pease. Angichamanga futhi mina ngenxa ka lo

(I laugh out loud)



Me : He is your son

(I pull out the condom from the tip of his dick head. He screams and almost drops Ndlelenhle on the floor)

Nyathuko : Ay kanjalo Sthabile! Dammit! Yeka yeka.

(I'm confused. Why is he so angry?)

Me : What did I do wrong?

Nyathuko : Nothing. Bamba ingane and I'll do this myself.

(He shoves me with the baby and goes to the bathroom. I look at Ndlelenhle)



Me : Ngimenzeni ubaba wakho?

(Ndlelenhle is just staring at me with his big eyes. His eyes move to the bathroom where his father disappeared into. I look at the time I don't want to be late for work. I know I'm the CEO but still punctuality is very important. I see Nyathuko made breakfast for me. Those croissants with ham and cheese smell good. I give Ndlelenhle a grape to keep his hands away from my food. Ndlelenhle is not like Zano and Enzelwe when they were four months old. My twins only ate and slept but not Ndlelenhle. Ndlelenhle does things that are bigger than his age. Even his gaze is intense like his father's. I put him on the bed. His whole attention is on that grape now. Nyathuko gets out of the

bathroom and goes to the main bedroom. He comes back wearing his oversized track pants)

Me : Are you okay?

Nyathuko : Yeah.

(I know dicks are sensitive but I didn't know that they were that sensitive phela Nyathuko almost killed me. Something is wrong here)

Me : Did I hurt you?



Nyathuko : I'm fine Sthabile. Ngisawasha imoto emnyango.

Me : Are we going to sit down and talk? I know you are not being honest with me.

Nyathuko : Ufuna ngithini Sthah?

Me : Tell me the truth. Why are we using a condom?

(He sighs and sits down)

Nyathuko : It's just a penis irritation that I'm having. I mistakenly cut myself when I was shaving but I'll be fine

Me : And when did that happen?



Nyathuko : Sthah you are asking me 21 questions ke manje lento ebengibalekela

Me : No I want to know.

Nyathuko : It doesn't matter ukuthi yenzeke nini. Ey nawe manje usungibuza angathi ngingane

Me : So that's why we are using protection?

Nyathuko : Yes because I'm using some cream that might give you an infection.

Me : And you found it hard to tell me about this?

Nyathuko : I was going to tell you this morning.

Me : I see ay ngiyakuzwa. If it gets worse please let me know so that we can take a break from having sex



Nyathuko : Ngisayowasha imoto emnyango

Me : Okay

(He stands up. I feel sorry for him hey)

Nyathuko : Yini manje le ephethwe ingane?

Me : Grape

Nyathuko : Please watch him engalidli

Me : He won't.



(He walks out and I roll my eyes. I continue eating. I'm amazed at how quiet Ndlelenhle is right now and when I look next to me Ndlelenhle has his eyes out his hand is empty. I scream)

Me : Nyathuko!!!

(He almost falls running in)

Nyathuko : What happened?

(I point at Ndlela who is choking on the bed)

Nyathuko : Uyenzeni ingane yami Sthabile!?

(He shouts. He takes Ndlelenhle. I see him inserting his finger on his mouth and I close my eyes)

Me : Ugwinye igrebhisi!!!



(I scream. I hear Ndlelenhle crying and I open my eyes. The big grape is on the bed. Thank God Nyathuko managed to take it out)

Nyathuko : I'm sorry my boy I'm sorry.

(Ndlelenhle is crying his lungs out. The anger in Nyathuko's eyes is unmatched)

Me : Please give him to me

Nyathuko : Ngitheni kuwena? Didn't I tell you to watch him?

Me : Nyathuko I'm sorry. I don't know what happened.

Nyathuko : No!! You did it on purpose angithi?

Me : What? No! Why would I want to hurt my son?



Nyathuko : Because he is not Zankuhle!! That's why! Ngiphuma la for one minute ngithi gada ingane wena ubusy nezinto zakho

Me : Nyathuko what are you saying? Are you saying I tried to kill Ndlelenhle?

Nyathuko : Awifuni vele ingane yami Sthabile!! You hate Ndlelenhle!

(Each word feels like Nyathuko is slicing my heart)

Me : You don't mean that.

Nyathuko : It's true. I see how you look at him. How you watch him crying like you can't even hear him. What I don't understand ukuthi unyanya mina noma ingane yami yini.

Me : Wow



(I go to the main bedroom. I wear my gown while I'm wearing my gown I see his phone ringing. Mimo is calling. Oh he has her number again. I'm about to answer but the phone stops ringing. A message follows)

Message : I'm going to the doctor. I know you are home with your wife but can we talk? I thought we would go together. Plea...

(The message ends there. I need to unlock this phone with his password if I want to continue with this message. I see he changed his password. He walks in)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami ngiyaxolisa

Me : Ubuyelene no Mimo? You are cheating on me.

(His eyes widen.)

Me : Talk Nyathuko!



Nyathuko : Sthabile I can explain.

Me : Is she pregnant?

Nyathuko : Hhaibo ini?

Me : She is going to the doctor. Umithi na uMimo wakho?

Nyathuko : No! Sthah how can you....

Me : I don't want to hear it.

(I take my laptop bag and my car keys)



Nyathuko : Ilento yakho ke. Every time we fight you want to leave!

Me : Oh you want to blame me for your cheating?

Nyathuko : Who said anything about cheating?

Me : I saw everything! I saw all her messages!

(I lie.)

Nyathuko : I'm not cheating on you! Ngiyavuma ngilalile no Ashton but....

Me : You did what? You had sex with her?

(He swallows hard. Oh no. This day was made from hell and the devil had to use my husband to prove that he is powerful too. I shake my head and walk straight into the garage. He runs after me)



Nyathuko : Please don't go

(He holds my hands)

Me : Leave me alone Nyathuko

Nyathuko : Ngiyakucela Sthah

(I pull away and get inside my car. He is standing in my way with his hands inside his pockets)

Me : Nyathuko get out of my way!!!

(He rubs the back of his neck and walks away. I drive off. I don't even know where I'm going. I call Maxwell. We have a meeting at 08h00 and I know I won't make it)

Me : Nondaba



Maxwell : Is everything okay?

Me : Everything is fine kunenkingana nje encane about inhlanganiso yethu

(Nothing is fine but hey)

Maxwell : Eish about that. I was going to contact you to let you know that I'm out of town

Me : Oh okay

Maxwell : Can we reschedule for Friday?

Me : Of course

Maxwell : Excellent. Take it easy



Me : I will

Maxwell : Pass my greetings to my son and my grandson

(Your fuckin son!)

Me : I will

(I hung up. Tomorrow is a public holiday so Musa is probably not working today. I called him to confirm)

Musa : Hey bitch

Me : Hey Musa are you home?

Musa : Going to gym



Me : Oh okay

Musa : Where are you?

Me : On the road. Don't ask me where I'm going because I don't know.

Musa : Trouble in paradise?

Me : I....

(I break down in tears)

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Chapter 09



(I went to Musa's house. I'm feeling drained and sick. What I'm definitely not going to do is to tell Musa that Nyathuko is cheating on me. I'm not going to disclose that one. Nyathuko is already blowing up my phone)

Musa : Aren't you going to answer his calls?

Me : No

(He opens his empty fridge.)

Musa : So he said you hate Gqamuza?

Me : Imagine

Musa : He was angry don't you think? And he blew way out of proportion



Me : No he meant everything he said.

Musa : Bitch why would you give a 4 months old baby a grape? What the hell were you thinking?

Me : I was wrong ngiyavuma but ukuthi ethi ngizonda ingane yami ngifuna nokuyibulala? Hhai Musa

Musa : Just calm down

Me : Uyabona ke indaba yama choice assorted?

Musa : What?

Me : Yazi my parents warned me! Last month it was the Dlomos calling me bengitshela ukuthi I don't care about Zanokuhle anymore. They told me ukuthi ingane angisayinaki ngoba sengishadile...I shouldn't have married Nyathuko!



(I stand up and take out a bottle of wine)

Me : I try to be a good wife and the Dlomos point their fingers at me and today ingane ka Nyathuko decided to act like an adult idla amagrebhisi kwathiwa angiyifuni kwa Zondi ngifuna ukuyibulala because vele I love Zanokuhle. Ngingafi ke Musa? Angife marn. I want to die!

Musa : Wooo! Are you sure this is still about the grape you gave Gqamuza and what your husband said?

(I look at the wine inside my glass)

Musa : And now?

Me : This tastes terrible

Musa : Oh? But this is your favorite wine



Me : Clearly there is something wrong with my favorite wine!

(I stand up and rub my face. I'm losing my mind. Nyathuko slept with another woman?)

Musa : Are you sure you are okay?

Me : Of course I'm not okay. I'm pissed off

Musa : Sthabile are you pregnant?

Me : What?

(Is Musa crazy?)



**Musa : Because that's the only thing that can drive you this crazy....
Sthabile what are you not telling me? I know you are hiding something.**

(No no no. I'm not going to tell him. No way!)

Me : Nothing... Give me the white one this one tastes like umqombothi sies!!

(He takes a sip)

Musa : There is nothing wrong with this wine.... Sthabile what the fuck is wrong with you?

(I want to cry now)

Me : I want to sleep. Please give me your sleeping pills...I want to sleep now...

(I cry out loud)



Musa : No babe come here.

(He hugs me tightly. I cry even more)

Me : He doesn't love me Musa

Musa : No no Nyathuko loves you sweetheart.

Me : No he doesn't!! You don't know what he did! You don't know!!!

(I scream)

Musa : Okay okay fine. Take a deep breath. Breathe my love breathe okay? I'll get you some pills that will calm you down.

(I threw myself on the couch. Musa came back and he gave me some pills. I stretched my legs and slept. When I woke up Brut hit my nostrils. I try to get up but he holds me tightly. I'm sleeping between his legs and my head is on his chest but we are sleeping on Musa's couch. When did this happen? When did he get here?)

Me : Nyathuko please I want to get up. Let me go

Nyathuko : I'll let you if you promise to go home with me.

Me : No

Nyathuko : Yes

Me : After everything you did?

(Tears fill up my eyes immediately)

Nyathuko : Angithi ngifuna sikhulume Mam'Zondi. Can we go and talk in private?



Me : I don't want to go with you Nyathuko! I don't! Let me go and please leave Musa's house.

(I feel his arms loosening up and I pull away and stand up quickly. I wipe the tears)

Me : Leave Nyathuko. Go back to your...

(He jumps and wraps his arms around me)

Nyathuko : Musa is here. You don't want him to hear our problems sthandwa sami

Me : No no your cheating is not our problem!

(His jaws tighten)



Nyathuko : Can we go and talk? Ngiyakucela Sthabile

Me : Fine

(I leave him inside Musa's house. I get inside my car. He comes and stands by my window? I lower the window)

Me : And now? Aren't you going to get in and explain ubufebe bakho?

Nyathuko : Ngifuna sihambe nje kancane la

Me : Then go I'll follow you.

Nyathuko : I didn't bring my car.

Me : Heh! So what are you going to do? Because I'm not letting you anywhere near my car



Nyathuko : I'll borrow Musa's

Me : Kokusiza lokho

(He presses his lips together and rubs the back of his neck. He walks away.)

Me : Nxi! Lenja le!

(He took Musa's car and I followed him not knowing where we were going. We arrived at the beach. His father's bakkie was parked there. The set up at the back of the bakkie was beautiful but for any other night not tonight. There is a white duvet and some red rose petals. There's a picnic basket and of course McDonalds is here. We sit at the back of the bakkie and watch the ocean. This reminds me of the first day we had sex. Our lives together began on that night but tonight is a different night)

Me : How is sitting here and watching the ocean going to solve ubufebe bakho Nyathuko?



(Silence)

Me : Do you remember the promises you made on the night of our wedding?

Nyathuko : Ngenze iphutha Sthabile.

Me : No akulona iphutha Nyathuko! It's not a mistake! You know what is a mistake? Me giving Ndlelenhle a grape that was a mistake! But no you thought I wanted to kill him. Nyathuko lento oyishilo ihlukephi nalento eyayishiwo abantu bakwa Dlomo kade kushone uEnzelwe?

Nyathuko : I didn't mean what I said. You know I didn't

Me : I don't know you anymore. You are cheating on me... Why Nyathuko? Why? Is it me? Angisakwanelisi?

Nyathuko : No sthandwa sami it's not you. Ngenze iphutha. After you and Ndlelenhle left me eNdwedwe I was so stressed out and angry. I don't know what happened after that but I called Ashton

Me : When you are stressed and angry udayisa ngepipi Nyathuko? Is that what you do?

Nyathuko : No

Me : Where did you have sex with her? In my house? On our bed? In our car? In our bathroom? In our garage? Or emzini wami eMachobe.....

Nyathuko : Baby please don't that. No of course not. Ngangingeke ngiyenze leyonto Sthah

(Tears are already streaming down my face)

Me : Then where did you do it?



Nyathuko : She came to my office e sneaker shop

(I swallowed hard)

Me : Wow

Nyathuko : Sthabile ngiyaxolisa sthandwa sami. I hate what I did. Bengisaba nokubuya ekhaya because I couldn't face you

Me : Did you use a condom with her?

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sa....

Me : I asked you a question!

Nyathuko : No



(I feel the back of my neck burning and a sudden fatigue hit me)

Me : Is she pregnant?

Nyathuko : No

Me : Pho why bekumele niye ka Dokotela?

Nyathuko : Can we not talk about that one?

Me : Why did you bring me here?

Nyathuko : Because I want us to fix our problems. I want us to learn to talk to each other ngaphandle kokuthi kube khona othatha imithwalo yakhe ehambe njalo masiba nezinkinga. We are going to talk about problems that are facing our marriage Sthabile because I want you to be happy...I want to be happy and I want our children to grow up in a happy home so if it means us having a meeting once a week just to talk about izinto ezingalungile emshadweni wethu we will do that. We will have a meeting every week to check if we are both happy uma kukhona la kuvuza khona emshadweni wethu sivale. I made promises I know but umshado uhlale unezinkinga nezithembiso ziyaphuka kodwa okubalulekile ukuthi sizilungisa kanjani izinkinga esibhekana nazo. This thing of you always running away whenever we have problems stops today.

Me : Are you done?

Nyathuko : Yes

Me : Are you going to tell me now ukuthi kungani u Ashton ebefuna niye kudokotela?... And Nyathuko please be honest with me.

(All I hear is gulps. I swear to God Ashton is carrying Nyathuko's baby)

Me : Is she pregnant?

Nyathuko : She thinks she is sick.

Me : What do you mean she thinks she is sick?



Nyathuko : Her friend gave something to put in her vagina before she had sex with me and her friend advised her that if she puts that muti in her vagina and have sex with me I'll never let her go. I'll leave you and choose her

Me : Oh yena ubekufakela idliso langaphansi?

(Silence)

Me : Hhaibandla! So?

Nyathuko : After I slept with her my dick was itching and red.

Me : What?

Nyathuko : I told her about it waphika wathi uwena.



Me : Ini? Mina?

Nyathuko : But eventually wakhuluma iqiniso wathi umngani wakhe omnike umuthi

(Oh my goodness)

Me : You lied to me? Nyathuko you lied to me about mistakenly cutting yourself whilst you were shaving. Uguliswa isfebe!

Nyathuko : Sthah please...

Me : No! Angisathakathwa ke manje izifebe zakho kodwa uwena manje osuhambe ungibuthela izifo Nyathuko!

Nyathuko : That's why I asked that we use protection because I wanted to protect you kulento



(I stand on my knees. My blood is boiling right now)

Me : Protect me? You wanted to protect me!?

(I shout)

Nyathuko : Please calm down. I went to the doctor wangitshela ukuthi this is just a minor infection. Ngisokile Sthah remember? Lento izophela in a few days

(Listen to this idiot)

Me : Oh just because you are circumcised ubona ukuthi uzohamba ubhebha zonke izifebe? This is not JUST a minor infection udokotela wakho ubedakiwe!

Nyathuko : No! Please don't go.



(He grabs my arm)

Me : Ey! Ungangithinti! Leave me alone!

Nyathuko : Sthabile...

(I grab a glass of wine and splash the wine all over his face. He let go of my arm. From there I went to my car and drove off leaving him with his stupid picnic)

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Chapter 10

(I arrived in Ballito and went straight to our bedroom to pack my clothes. Moltah is not here with Ndlelenhle. Nyathuko better tell me where the hell my son is because I'm taking him home with me. I finish packing our clothes and drag the suitcases out. What the hell? When I get downstairs the door opens and Maxwell walks in holding Ndlelenhle followed by Zanokuhle with his backpack. The devil is the last one to walk in with his hands tucked in his pockets. So he decided to go to KwaMashu and pick up my son without telling me? Great!)

Zanokuhle : Mommy! Mommy!

(He runs and hugs me. I bend down and kiss him.)

Me : How are you my boy?.... Nondaba

Maxwell : Sthabile

(He moves his gaze to the devil. The devil stares up at the roof)

Maxwell : Are you going somewhere?

Me : Yes Ngiya ekhaya KwaMashu



Maxwell : Nyathuko start talking

(I see his devil's apple sinking down his throat)

Nyathuko : Kubekhona inkinga encane

(Maxwell smiles at Zanokuhle)

Maxwell : My boy why don't you go and draw Mkhulu another bear that's big like him? Huh?

(Zanokuhle smiles)

Zanokuhle : Okay grandpa

(He says and runs upstairs)



Nyathuko : Don't fall mfan'wam

Zanokuhle : I won't daddy

(Why the fuck did Nyathuko bring his father and my son here for?)

Maxwell : Sthabile is leaving so what are you going to do about that?

Nyathuko : Baba u Sthah akafuni ukungilalela

(Wow)

Maxwell : I don't care. Engikwaziyo ukuthi you are going to make sure that Sthabile doesn't leave this house. Windoda angithi Thukeh?

(He asks while giving the baby to Nyathuko. He kisses Ndlela's hand before he heads out. He stops and turns around. Oh I love his new tattoo. He has "Ndlelenhle" written on his right arm. I heard he has names of all his grandchildren on his skin. You know even to say Maxwell has grandchildren sounds ridiculous. I mean look at this man)

Maxwell : Thukeh?

Nyathuko : Baba?

(I can't describe how much I hate Nyathuko right now)

Maxwell : I'm not going to allow you to repeat the same mistakes I made. Is that clear?

(Apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Your son is just like you and I don't think this marriage is going to work. Nyathuko nods)

Maxwell : Fix this mess



(He says and walks out)

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(Nyathuko begged me not to leave. He asked that we pretend to be fine for Zanokuhle's sake. Now I know why he brought him here. It's hard to play along. I prefer being alone so I'm sitting in the guest room. The door opens and he walks in with a tray. He looks at me yes I'm going to sleep here if he is wondering.)

Me : I'm not hungry

Nyathuko : Sthabile ngiyakucela sthandwa sami

Me : Don't push it Nyathuko

(He sighs and puts down the tray)



Me : Please leave. I want to sleep

Nyathuko : Are you going to sleep here?

Me : Yes I'm going to sleep here. Now leave

Nyathuko : What am I going to tell our boy?

Me : Tell him I'm not feeling well. Bye Nyathuko

(He presses his lips together exposing his dimples.)

Nyathuko : Okay

(He walks out. I struggled to sleep and at 2am I heard Ndlelenhle crying in the main bedroom. I wonder where his father is. I get up and check Zanokuhle in his bedroom first he is sleeping peacefully. I go to the main bedroom where Ndlelenhle is crying. I find him alone on the bed. I hear Nyathuko groaning loud in the bathroom and banging the wall. I pick up Ndlelenhle and give him his bottle. I walk towards the bathroom with Ndlela in my arms)

Me : Your father is dying Ndlela

Nyathuko : Fuuuuck!!!

(He is peeing in the toilet and from what I hear he is really going through hell trying to pee)

Me : Mudle kudla kwakhe. Yazi Nyathuko I wish your dick rots libole usale ungenalutho khona uzofunda isfundo

(I tell him. I'm standing outside the bathroom door)

Me : Why don't you call your girlfriend and tell her that you can't sleep kubuhlugu ipipi? I hate you Nyathuko Zondi yezwa? I hate you!!

(What I hate even more is that he is not saying anything he is not fighting back. I leave him there and continue feeding Ndlelenhle. Nyathuko walks out of the bathroom. I glare at him. He takes some pills. It seems like he's been taking them all night because there is a bottle of water next to the bed)

Me : Did you do an HIV test?

Nyathuko : Yah

Me : But you can't be sure ukuthi you are clean. Nyathuko wena ngikubona ngikubuka nje ukuthi ziningi izifo ozithathe kulo Mimo wakho ukuthi nje zisacashile.

(I'm angry at Nyathuko and I'm angry at Ashton too. Do women actually understand how dangerous it could be putting all that rubbish into their vaginas? Look at Nyathuko he is in pain because of Ashton. These things have consequences.. Fuck! Why on earth would you pay your money to a sangoma just because you want to keep a man? It could never be me sorry. I love my money so much to waste it on umuthi trying to keep a man that's not even mine. Imagine having a relationship that depends on umuthi. Every day week or month you have to pay a sangoma to give you stuff to balance the relationship for the rest of your life because that is how it is. You want to keep that man for the rest of your life with umuthi? then it means using muthi on him for the rest of your life and his life which means you will pay money for that muthi for the rest of your life. What a waste!)

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Me : So you are going to keep quiet?

(He is going to keep quiet. I take Ndlelenhle's face cloth and go back to the guest room with him. When I got to bed I cried until my chest went dry. At 7am Nyathuko knocked on the door. I open for him and sit on the bed)

Nyathuko : Here is breakfast.

Me : I'm not hungry

(I say and look away)

Nyathuko : You need to ea...Sthah look at me.

(He tries to touch me but I push away his hand. My eyes are a mess and I don't want him to see that I was crying because of him. I won't give him that satisfaction)



Nyathuko : Baby come here... Hawu kodwa Sthah

(He pulls me up and hugs me.)

Nyathuko : Baby ngiyaxolisa

(I cry all over again. He squeezes me in his arms)

Nyathuko : I'm sorry sthandwa sami. I'm sorry for hurting you

Me : I want my mother Nyathuko

(I do. I need my mother more than ever. What I've realized is that I will always need my mother no matter how old I get)

Nyathuko : Please don't say that



(I push him and sit down)

**Nyathuko : Sthabile I'm sorry. I'm not proud of myself for what I did.
Ngiyaxolisa**

Me : Get out

(He clenches his teeth)

Nyathuko : Fine let me take Ndlelenhle

Me : Mthathe

(He takes Ndlelenhle. I hate that it's a public holiday and we are both not going to work so I have to face this devil the whole day. 3 hours later I woke up and took a shower. I cleaned the house. Nyathuko was happy to see me moving around the house. The only reason I'm doing this is because I don't want Zanokuhle to tell my mother that Nyathuko and I were fighting. They are at the balcony playing a ball Ndlelenhle is watching them in his seat. Nyathuko left his phone here. I don't know for what reason or if he wanted me to see that he removed a password.)

(I finish preparing lunch and call them)

Me : Nyathuko sekuright ukudla

(I tell him and go back to the table. He walks in with his sons. Zanokuhle asks to go to the bathroom. I bring water for Nyathuko to wash his hands)

Me : How are you going to wash your hands noNdlelenhle?

Nyathuko : No he is fine here

(He puts him on his lap and in the blink of an eye Ndlelenhle has his hand full of rice that he grabbed from Nyathuko's plate. That was fast. Nyathuko and I both laugh)



Me : Zano come and look at your little brother

(Zano comes running and laughs)

Nyathuko : Your brother is stealing my food Zano

(We laugh. The joke is over now back to reality. We sit down and begin eating. We are eating in awkward silence)

Nyathuko : Gogo asked us to visit her with Zano

Me : Mhmmm

(I say chewing my food. I honestly don't have time for small talks)

Nyathuko : She really misses him



(He says while wiping his mouth with a napkin. When he eats he wipes his mouth after every single spoon he puts in his mouth until he finishes his food)

Me : Mhmmmm

Nyathuko : I told her that we...

Me : Please excuse me

(I cut him off quickly)

Zanokuhle : Where are you going mommy?

Me : To the couch boy boy. I want to watch the TV

(Zanokuhle frowns)



Zanokuhle : Are you sick mommy?

(I cried a lot my nose is blocked plus my eyes are swollen. He thinks I'm sick. Nyathuko clears his throat)

Nyathuko : U Mah uzobangcono mfan'wam

Zanokuhle : Okay daddy

(I roll my eyes and go to the living room.)

(Nyathuko washed the dishes and after that we all bathed and watched movies together until 20h00)

Me : Oh my God I'm craving for Steers ribs Zano



(Nyathuko looks at me with his big eyes. Why is this mangqumu looking at me? I'm not talking to him)

Zanokuhle : You want barbecue ribs mommy?

Me : Yes boy boy. Let's order them

(I take my phone)

Nyathuko : It's raining they don't deliver.

(He is right but who asked him?)

Me : Dammit (I mutter)

Nyathuko : We can go and buy them



Me : No it's fine.

Zanokuhle : Come on mommy let's go

(I sigh)

Me : Okay but you and Ndlela will leave those robes

(Ntokozo bought Ndlelenhle a robe and he looks so old when he is wearing it but I love him more when he is wearing it)

Nyathuko : No bengawakhumuli kuyabanda

(I don't know why Nyathuko chose Gateway but we went there with his car. The rain isn't bad in Gateway but it's cold)

Me : Yoh! It's cold here



(I brush my arms. I'm wearing my floral sleeveless dress because I was warm in my house. Nyathuko is wearing Adidas tracksuits and a grey t-shirt underneath. He takes off his jacket and places it over my shoulders. I wear it and he zips it up)

Me : Thanks

(He takes Ndlelenhle. I hold Zanokuhle's hand and we walk inside the mall. Everyone looks at us as we walk in. They are smiling. Why? I

don't know. People are weird like that sometimes. We join the long queue. Nyathuko starts with his touching. His hand is all over my ass now. I feel sorry for those standing behind us. He pulls me to his shoulder and kisses my forehead. I go with the flow. I'm not going to disappoint my husband in front of all these people)

Nyathuko : Are you still feeling cold?

Me : Mhmm-mhmm

(He kisses my forehead again)



Next

(We are next)

Me : Go. Mulethe la uNdlela

Nyathuko : Ngizomuphatha. You don't want to sit down?

(He is looking into my eyes and he is not happy with what he sees)

Me : I'll stand. Go Thukeh balindile abantu

Nyathuko : I don't care

(He smiles and kisses my nose. I gently push him)



Me : Please go

Nyathuko : Let's go my boy

(He takes Zano's hand and they go to the counter. I see Steers workers calling each other and touching Ndlelenhle. Is that even allowed? I don't think those women like Ndlelenhle they just want his father but he doesn't see it. He is busy smiling nxi. He orders and they come back)

Nyathuko : Nana do you want anything else?

Me : No!

(He raises his thick brows)

Nyathuko : Sengenike manje? Huh sthandwa sami? Woza la

(He pulls me by my waist and lifts up my chin. He sucks my lower lip. Ndlelenhle is staring at us and I'm sure everyone else is. I push Nyathuko's chest)

Me : Your friends are watching you

Nyathuko : My friends

Me : Ehhe laba obuhleka nabo. Usuzolala nabo angithi futhi nabo?



(He looks around and clears his throat)

Nyathuko : Sthabile please don't start sthandwa sami

Me : Sorry?

(He lets out a heavy sigh and shakes his head. I don't give a shit)



Me : Give me my baby. Uzosifica emotweni

(Tears are already filling up my eyes)

Nyathuko : Baby come on

(He looks down at Zanokuhle and pulls me closer. I bury myself in his chest and let my tears fall. Ndlelenhle is touching my ear with his soft and wet hand)

Ey Zondi

(Oh fuck who is that now?)

Nyathuko : Ey Nqabayethu



(He is not letting go of me. I'm still on his chest with his arm around me)

Nqabayethu : Sho... uSthah lo?

(I'm not going to let Nyathuko's friend see me looking like this)

Nyathuko : Yeah yeah but she is not feeling well.

(Good)

Nqabayethu : Zulayini. Ey Zano ugrand ntwana yami? Ngena hier

(I hear Zano laughing. I guess they know each other)

Nyathuko : Nkosazana uyaphila?

Yes I'm good



(A woman replies.)

Nqabayethu : Ntanga are you done ordering?

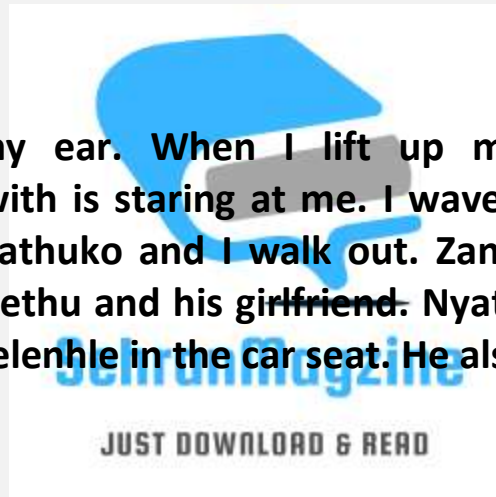
Nyathuko : Yeah ongcheckela boy

Nqabayethu : Izinto. You can go to your car ngizolizwakalisa igawulo.

(I think Nqabayethu understands what's going on here. He can read the room. I like him for that)

Nyathuko : Ngiyabonga mfanakithi....Let's go baby

(He whispers in my ear. When I lift up my eyes the woman Nqabayethu came with is staring at me. I wave my hand at her and she waves back. Nyathuko and I walk out. Zanokuhle asked to stay behind with Nqabayethu and his girlfriend. Nyathuko opens the door for me and puts Ndlelenhle in the car seat. He also gets in and rubs his face)



Nyathuko : Sthah yini ekufanele ngiyenze to show you that I'm sorry and that I regret what I did?

Me : I want to go home to my parents.

(He releases a long sigh and presses his forehead on his steering wheel)

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Chapter 11

KWA MASHU



(We arrived late last night. Nyathuko brought us home and we had to pretend like everything was fine and this is just a normal visit. I'm busy changing Ndlelehle's diaper and he is crying)

Hhayi Sthabile! Why is he crying?

(My mother asks from the living room. I ignore her)

Zanokuhle : Drink Ndlela drink

(He gives Ndlelenhle his bottle. Zanokuhle can't stand seeing his little brother crying. He feeds him while kissing his cheek)

Zanokuhle : You miss daddy? Huh Ndlela?

(I glare at him but he is not looking at me)

Zanokuhle : Don't cry. Daddy will fetch us later

Me : Zanokuhle awuhambe uyoxubha



Zanokuhle : But mommy....

Me : Now!!!

(He crawls out of bed and the bottle falls out of Ndlelenhle's mouth. Ndlelenhle screams and I just watch him. You know every time I have

problems with Nyathuko even his son annoys me and I don't like that at all. Ndlelenhle is my baby and he has nothing to do with my problems with his father)

Me : I'm done baby. Come here

(I sit on the bed and hold him. My mother walks in)

MaKheswa : Haibo Sthabile can't you hear the baby crying?

Me : I was changing him mama



MaKheswa : Isiyoze ishelwe yizwi ingane ukhona. No bring him here.

(I give Ndlelenhle to her. She sits down next to me)

MaKheswa : Yini mamfuza wagogo? Sthabile is hitting you?... Give me his bottle

(I give her and she feeds him)

MaKheswa : I didn't know you were coming.

Me : Yah.

(She looks at me out of the corners of her eyes)



MaKheswa : You came home at midnight nengane. Do you know how dangerous that is? Ngoba ngithi umkhwenyana uyasazi nje isiZulu so how come he let you come here with his baby kwamabili?

Me : It was 23h00 Mah

(She sighs)

MaKheswa : Is everything okay?

(I take a pillow and play with it to avoid looking at my mother. I fake a smile)

Me : Yes mama everything is fine. Nyathuko and I are fine if that's what you are asking.

MaKheswa : I see.

Me : Yes



MaKheswa : Angithi uyamazi uyihlo? He will see right through you not that I can't but I don't want to push it kodwa uNgcobo yena uzolifuna la iqiniso.

Me : Am I not allowed to come home and visit my parents anymore?

MaKheswa : You are a married woman so you don't just get up and decide to visit your parents in the middle of the night. You are not Zondi's girlfriend anymore you are his wife and umfazi onomuzi uyazihlonipha Sthabile ay lento oyenzayo.

Me : Mah uNyathuko ubezosiletha vele izolo it's not that us coming here wasn't planned. We planned everything but we had to go somewhere yesterday and we came back late ingakho sifike ebusuku.

MaKheswa : And why didn't you come today when you realized that it was late? Ngoba phela ubonile ukuthi sekuhlwile so I don't understand what was chasing you out of your house for you to come here at midnight nezingane.



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Me : Besengizitshelile ukuthi ngizolala ekhaya and I didn't see anything wrong with coming home late.

MaKheswa : Aybandla....fix your bed uze uzodla.

(I stand up but she remains seated on my bed with Ndlelenhle in her arms. I giggle)

Me : Suka phela nomzukulu wakho

MaKheswa : Sthabile awungibuke

Me : Mah

(She presses my breasts)

Me : Ouch! mah



MaKheswa : Why are your breasts this big?

Me : I stopped breastfeeding Ndlelenhle

(Why is she looking at me like this?)

Me : Yinindaba?

MaKheswa : Heh! Ay ngiyezwa.

(She shakes her head and walks out. MaKheswa is just like her boyfriend full of drama. I continue making my bed. I'm not going to take a bath now and I'll clean my bedroom later. The house is clean now one thing about MaKheswa she will clean her house. She is a good wife indeed.)

(I'm sleeping on the couch watching TV. I'm still wearing my robe. Ndlelenhle is sleeping in my parent's bedroom. Zano walks in coming from his friends.)



Me : Boy boy please take this bowl to the sink mase ungilethela ingubo yokumbatha.

Zanokuhle : Okay mommy.

(He takes the bowl to the kitchen and comes back with my blanket.)

Zanokuhle : Please give me R2

**Me : Nakhoke Zanokuhle every 2 minutes you want money ay suka.
UR2 wani?**

Zanokuhle : Ngifuna ukuthenga inyoka

Me : No you are coughing. You can't eat sweets.

Zanokuhle : Please mommy



**Me : Go and take it from my purse. I know how much is there so I'll
see if you took more than R2**

(He smiles)

Zanokuhle : Thank you

(He runs to my bedroom. He bumps into my mother)

MaKheswa : I told you to stop running in the house Zano

Zanokuhle : Sorry Gogo

MaKheswa : Sthabile?

Me : Mah?



MaKheswa : What is this?

(I lift up my head)

Me : Oh it's Ndlela's diaper. I was going to throw it outside.

MaKheswa : Is this what you do kwa Zondi? You leave used diapers on Zondi's bed.

Me : Of course not.

MaKheswa : Isandla siyajwayela phela and this shows me that you are used to doing this.



Me : No that's not true. I forgot

MaKheswa : WeSthabile let me tell you something. Ayikho into efaka isichitho othandweni njengobunuku. You will think uloyiwe mntanami kanti cha ubunuku. I know how clean your husband is and uma wena wenza izinto ezikanje you will drive him away because no man wants to stay with an untidy woman endlini enukayo enobuku. Zithande Sthabile I'm begging you.

Me : I don't keep Ndlela's used diapers Mah ngenze iphutha

MaKheswa : Lungisa amaphutha akho ke sthandwa sami because if you don't then Zondi will leave you and go to women who are neat just like him. Angazi kumele ngikukhumbuze kangaki ukuthi usushadile manje so you need to carry yourself differently.

Me : I understand.

MaKheswa : And please wake up ugeze. You've been sleeping on this sofa since this morning. Hhayi Sthabile intombazane ayiziphathi kanjena musa ukungihlaza.



(She walks away and I roll my eyes)

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(Ngcobo has arrived from work. I'm busy making coleslaw in the kitchen. I'm really craving it today. I'm busy mixing cabbage with mayonnaise and I can hear my parents arguing in the living room. I stop stirring and listen to them)

Ngcobo : Ka Kheswa do you really believe her?

(My mother is not a loud person. She is soft-spoken so I can't hear her.)

Ngcobo : Sthabile? Sthabile!!

Me : Baba?



Ngcobo : Sondela ngapha

(Oh no. I'm not ready for this)

Me : I'm coming

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Mapholoba

(I wipe my hands and go to the living room where they are sitting.)

Ngcobo : What are they feeding you? Udlani sdudla sika Mkhulu? No no don't touch my beard

(He is playing with Ndlelenhle. He stops and looks at me as soon as I sit down)



Ngcobo : Yah

Me : Mapholoba

Ngcobo : Ndodakazi uyaphila?

Me : I'm fine baba

Ngcobo : Yah nibekwa yini la?

(I laugh and look at my mother)

Me : Hawu ubaba... This is my home Mapholoba.

Ngcobo : No your home is at the Zondis. Nginamanga Ka Kheswa?

MaKheswa : What your father is trying to say is you can't just come here as you please ngoba usushadile.

Me : I don't understand

Ngcobo : When was the last time you saw your mother visiting her family at the Kheswas?



Me : Sekuneminyaka

Ngcobo : Why?

Me : I don't know

Ngcobo : Because she knows ukuthi akaseyena owakaKheswa she is a Ngcobo and she belongs here. Kuthiwa wesafuna ukuhlala kubo ebangqongqozele ngothwalofu wengeke evume sishade



Me : I apologize for coming late last night

Ngcobo : This is not about you coming here late but it's about you forgetting your place as umfazi wakwaZondi. Umfazi ovusa indoda ebusuku ethi imugodukise what do you call that Sthabile?

(They are really getting on my nerves)

Me : I didn't ask Nyathuko to bring us here uye obezithandela.

Ngcobo : You want me to believe that? Sthabile ngizokutshela ukuthi ngicabangani mina ngiwu Ngcobo. I think you are controlling your husband. Uwena ogqoka ibhulukwe kuloyamuzi

Me : Mapholoba you don't know what you are talking about

Ngcobo : What do you want in my house?

Me : Nyathuko said I tried to kill his son

Ini?

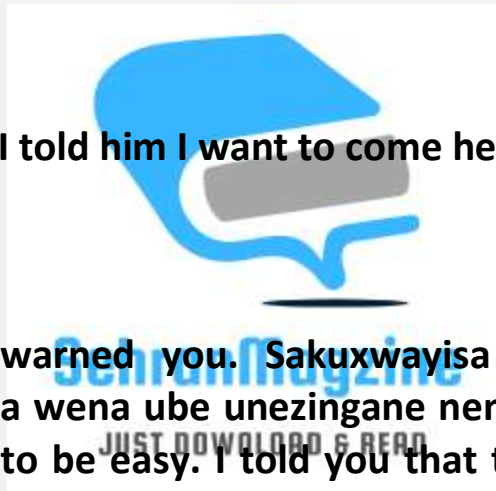
(They ask in unison)



Me : Ndlelenhle swallowed a grape nginganakile and his father assumed that I wanted to kill him. He went as far as to say that I hate Ndlelenhle. He said I only love Zanokuhle

MaKheswa : That is so unlike Zondi

Ngcobo : That boy is rude nkosikazi loyamfana udelela ebheke phansi.



Me : I got angry and I told him I want to come here

Ngcobo : But we warned you. Sakuxwayisa ngokushada indoda engenabo abantwana wena ube unezingane nenye indoda. I told you that it wasn't going to be easy. I told you that the Zondis will watch how you treat their baby while the Dlomos are also watching how you treat Zanokuhle ngoba usushadile nje. Ngakutshela nokuthi ukulindele ukuthi u Zanokuhle no Ndlelenhle might not see eye to eye as soon as they grow up ngoba abaphumi esendeni elilodwa.

MaKheswa : Hhayi Mapholoba I don't think the children will fight when they grow up. Nyathuko is a good father to Zanokuhle and Ndlelenhle. Into edala uqhekeko ezinganeni ukukhula ekhaya elingenalo uthando

Ngcobo : Uyalibona uthando wena Ka Kheswa emzini ka Sthabile no Nyathuko? Njengoba u Sthabile eshiye umuzi wakhe nje kwamabili? There is no love in that house. These children will grow up seeing their parents fighting every day and they will do the same thing when they grow up they will fight!. Ndlelenhle will be defending his father while Zanokuhle defends his mother awukuboni lokho?

MaKheswa : Hhayi ngeke baba kahle ngamatshe. Sesingacabangela izingane ezincane kangaka ukuthi how their lives will be when they grow up? No Mapholoba



Ngcobo : Ugotshwa usemanzi Ka Kheswa. But if you think I'm wrong then fine. Mina ngiyobe sengifile senginibuka nginisinga Ka Kheswa sengisho ukuthi ngasho!

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MaKheswa : Sthabile you need to fix your marriage mntanami. Bazonihleka abantu you've been married like what? 6 months? Kodwa seniyalwa? Cha Fuze angivumi fight for your marriage. Fight lelidimoni elifuna ukungena emshadweni wenu. Don't let it win.

Me : Yebo mama

(I wish I can tell them what's really going on but as my mother has said we've only been married for a couple of months so telling them that Nyathuko is already cheating on me is a pure disgrace)

Ngcobo : When are you going back to your house?

Me : On Monday

Ngcobo : Good! Akuyona indawo yakho yokucasha le. You will go back and fix your marriage ngeke mina ngivume ukuhlazwa uwena ebandleni.



(Church church. That's all my father cares about)

Me : Yebo Mapholoba

Ngcobo : You may go back and do whatever you were doing.

Me : Ngiyabonga

(I stand up. Ndlelenhle cries for me)

Me : Awuyeke ukutetema wena

MaKhwesa : Ay he can cry shame futhi use worse. Sthabile you are not pregnant are you?

Me : What?



MaKhwesa : Phela kwesinye isikhathi ingane itetema ngoba izolanywa

Me : No mah! I'm not pregnant

Ngcobo : I swear I'd kill Nyathuko naye uSthabile lo.

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Chapter 12

(It's Sunday morning. I woke up and washed Ndlelenhle's clothes. It's 5 am. I'm hanging them on the clothesline. I hear the gate opening. It must be Mapholoba coming from somewhere. I continue hanging the clothes)

Uwena uThabile?



(Ohhe who is that now? I turn around. It's maNut. He is a crazy man who always wanders on the streets. He is carrying a packet of Simba chips and on his back he is carrying a big dirty sack as always. I'm surprised that he doesn't remember me)

Me : Yah MaNut what do you want? My father is not here. Nezinja azikho

(He normally comes here to play with my father's dogs)

MaNut : Uwena uThabile?

(And he can't speak properly. He speaks like a kid that's still learning to speak)

Me : No

MaNut : Namanga uwena



Me : What do you want? I'll call my father to beat you up. Ungene kanjani?

MaNut : Gqekezanga

Me : Oh you broke in? I'll definitely tell my father

MaNut : Gqekezanga. Yabiza umfana

Me : Suka lapho! Uzongcolisa izingubo zengane yami ngikusakaze ngempama enkulu ufe MaNut I'm warning you.

(He is standing next to the clothesline now and his sack is almost touching Ndlelenhle's clothes)

MaNut : Yabiza umfana



Me : Umfana wani? Ey awuhambe la

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MaNut : Yabiza ngempela

Me : Who is calling me?

MaNut : Umfana phezulu container yaluka

Me : Ey! Ey! Leave

MaNut : moto bomvu

(He looks around and picks up a Coca-Cola can.)

Me : You are here to collect cans?



MaNut : moto bomvu inje. Khala ngoma

Me : I don't care

(I actually don't know what he is talking about or what he is saying.)

MaNut : Cela ngempela

(I ignore him and continue hanging clothes. He grabs my arm with his dirty hands. He seems angry now)

Me : Wooo! MaNut! MaNut ngiyakukhuza

(He drags me)

Me : I'll call my father uyezwa? Ngizomemeza.

(He is not hearing anything I say. He is dragging me all the way to the gate and all the way up the road)



Me : You are crazy for real wena! Nxi. Let me go

MaNut : Yabiza nje. Yabo umfana?

(I lift up my eyes and my heart almost stops when I see a red VW golf GTI.)

Me : Dammit!

(It's Nyathuko Zondi. The boot of his car is open a. He is leaning against his car.)

Me : MaNut? Ngidedela

MaNut : Zobaleka



Me : No I won't run away. Please let go of my hand

MaNut : Baleka?

Me : I said I won't!

(He slowly let go. I put my hands inside my gown pockets. We are getting closer to him now. He stands up straight and fixes his beanie

hat. My husband is beautiful even at 5am. If Nyathuko knew how much I love him he wouldn't be hurting me like this.)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami

Me : Nyathuko

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what are you doing here?

(He looks at MaNut)



Nyathuko : Ngiyabonga bafo

MaNut : Bhabhayi. Yabonga amasnaks nogwayi

(Nyathuko lets out a soft laugh)

Nyathuko : Sho

(MaNut walks away)

Nyathuko : Waze wamuhle Mam'Zondi

(He is coming closer. I take a step back. I wonder how am I beautiful in this ugly gown? Plus I haven't even washed my face)



Me : What are you doing here?

Nyathuko : To have breakfast with you?

(He points behind him using his head)

Me : What? Oh no

(There is breakfast neatly set up in the boot. It looks really good)

Nyathuko : I can't do it anymore. Ngizwa angathi ngilahliwe ngaphandle kwakho Sthah. I can't even eat

Me : So you came all the way here to have breakfast with me?

Nyathuko : Angikaze ngilale Sthabile.



(He doesn't look like someone who slept.)

Me : Uzacile futhi

(He wraps his arms around me and squeezes me. The smell of Brut is so amazing. This is where I belong. In the arms of this man but I won't let him off the hook so easily. I pull away)

Nyathuko : Sthah please don't do that.

Me : I can't stand here. I'm busy at home

Nyathuko : Please eat with me

(His warm hands cupped my face. He looks into my eyes.)



Nyathuko : Ngiyakucela

(I remove his hands before I find myself smiling. I can't allow him to make me this weak. Not today)

**Me : Fine I'll have breakfast with you kodwa mesiqeda uyahamba
Nyathuko and uhamba wedwa**

Nyathuko : Ngiyabonga

(He sits on the boot of the car and pulls me to stand between his legs)

Me : When did you make all this?

Nyathuko : Ekseni. Futhi sekuyabanda

Me : No it's still hot. Idla ke nawe ungaze uzace ufe

(He laughs)



Nyathuko : Ngiyakukhumbula sthandwa sami

Me : Your bacon has a lot of fats. You didn't bring the prego sauce?

(He lifts up my chin and his eyeballs move all over my face)

Nyathuko : Baby I miss you. You and our sons

Me : I heard you. Nyathuko let's get a few things straight. I may have agreed to come here and eat with you but that doesn't mean I forgive you for what you did. It doesn't change anything. It doesn't change the fact that you cheated on me

Nyathuko : I didn't cheat



Me : You slept with another woman. Uyazi ukuthi Impilo yami uyibeke engcupheni engakanani?

Nyathuko : That's why I asked that we use protection sthandwa sami because I didn't want you to get sick ngenxa yamaphutha ami.

Me : Oh so that makes it okay? Ngalokhoke sekumele ngime entabeni enkulu ngibonge u Nkulunkulu for giving me a perfect husband? Umyeni wami ongifebelayo ebuye ethi sisebenzise i condom to protect me?

(His jaws tighten)

Me : I thought as much.

Nyathuko : Ashton drugged me Sthabile. Yebo ngiyavuma sthandwa sami ngamubiza ukuthi eze ka Bhambatha and she did but I wasn't planning to have sex with her. I don't even remember ukuthi waya kanjani nami ehotela. I told Nqabayethu that I don't want to drink but they forced me especially Ashton and after I drank I don't remember what happened. I don't remember most things



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Me : They forced you to dr...Nyathuko how old are you?

Nyathuko : Awufuni vele wena ukungilalela

Me : Vele angifuni. You want me to listen to your lies? Hawu umuntu uzongibukanisa nabantu la ungikhulumisa izindaba zobufebe bakhe emgaqweni

Nyathuko : I'm sorry. I just want you to come back home

Me : Ngiyabuya ksasa but ukubuya kwami doesn't mean I forgive you

Nyathuko : I know

Me : Please leave before kuvuke abazali bami.

**(Immediately after I said that my phone rings inside my gown pocket.
I take it out. It's my mother)**



Me : Mah ngiyeza

MaKheswa : Iyakhala ingane

Me : I'm coming.

(I hung up)

Me : I need to go Ndlelenhle is crying.

Nyathuko : How is he doing?

Me : He is fine

(He rubs his face and sighs)



Nyathuko : Okay. Are you going to church?

Me : Bengithi ngizoya koluka but the problem is I don't have money so I think I'll just go to church.

Nyathuko : Kanti imalini ukuluka?

Me : Braids are expensive in town. They probably charge R500 manje because the last time I went there they were 290 and mina I didn't budget imali yokuluka.

(He takes out his wallet)

Nyathuko : Kanti they don't do hair in this container? I thought it was a Salon

Me : It is but they don't do braids



Nyathuko : Nali ikhadi

(He gives me his bank card)

Me : Ay yeka Thukeh. I won't be able to withdraw money in town

Nyathuko : Anginawo mina u cash. I only have this R800. Angazi noma uzokunela yini

Me : R800 is fine

(He takes it out and gives it to me. I take it)

Me : Ngiyabonga

Nyathuko : Shuthi ngiyishiye imoto.

Me : No don't. I'll take a taxi



Nyathuko : Sthah you can't ta...

Me : I'll be fine. I'm going with Nuh

(I cut him off)

Nyathuko : Okay

Me : I'll call you. Bye Thukeh

(I take the fruit juice he came with)

Me : Thanks for Breakfast



Nyathuko : Uhambe kahle

(The sadness on his face is unmatched. He wasn't hoping that I'd go back with him was he?. I walk away. I know he is watching me. My phone rings in my hand. It's Nyathuko. I turn around. He is looking at me with his phone in his ear. Why is he calling me? I answer anyway)

Me : Why are you wasting your airtime?

Nyathuko : Uhlale wazi ukuthi ngiyakuthanda. Ungakukhohlwa lokho

(He lowers his hand from his ear while staring at me. He closes the boot of his car. I end the call and walk home. I hear his car driving off by the time I reach the gate)

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Chapter 13



(Zanokuhle and Ndlelenhle went to church with my parents. Nuh and I are in town. Nuh is walking inside every Chinese clothing store)

Me : Nuh it's almost 2pm we need to go. Ngisayoluka njalo

Nuh : Don't worry mngani. They are very fast bazokuqeda manje.

(I'm feeling sick now. I'm dizzy and I want to vomit. How I wish I allowed Nyathuko to leave his car)

Nuh : Are you okay?

Me : Kuthi angiphalaze

Nuh : I told you to eat

Me : I'm not hungry. Please let's go

(I feel my body heating up)



Me : I'm going to faint

Nuh : Hhaibo ungayisho leyonto. Ncika la

(I lean against the wall and rest my head on her shoulder)

Nuh : You don't want water?

Me : No. I'm feeling better now

Nuh : Are you sure?

Me : Yes let's go.



(We went to our favorite Salon. Before I met Nyathuko this is where I normally did my braids. Nuh is busy telling these ladies how I almost fainted)

Nuh : What if you are pregnant?

Me : Hell no

Nuh : Please tell her that it's possible ladies. She thinks because her baby is four months old she can't fall pregnant

Me : Vele nje I can't.

It's possible sisi

(The lady doing my hair says)

Me : No way!



Nuh : Sthabile I'll go and buy you a pregnancy test with my own money just to prove to you that I'm right.

Me : Go ahead sweetie. As long as you won't be crying for your money back

Nuh : Okay Ngiyabuya.

(I laugh seeing her walking out. Nuh is definitely crazy. Nyathuko is calling me)

Me : Hey Thukeh

Nyathuko : Usuqedile?

Me : No mhlampe ngizoqeda ngo 18h00



Nyathuko : Did you see the time?

Me : Yes.

Nyathuko : Kanti wena uhambe nini mawqala manje ukuluka?

Me : Ay Thukeh it doesn't matter. Ngilambile futhi mina

Nyathuko : Are you in that Salon I know?

Me : Yes

Nyathuko : Th.....

(Call ended. Shit! My battery has died. 30 minutes later Nuh came back)



Me : Wena uyahlanya

Nuh : You'll thank me later

(We all laugh and then there is silence. All eyes move toward the door where he is walking in. When my husband walks in his presence is felt and heads will turn. That I know. Who wouldn't be proud to have a good looking man like that? I know uyafeba but he is beautiful)

Nyathuko : Makhosazana

(I hear countless replies Hi Hey Hello and some "Mhmmm mhmmm". I see I'll have to kill a few women here. Anyway he has McDonalds and a box of Steers ribs. Just what I needed. His eyes search around and he smiles as soon as our eyes lock. He comes closer)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami

Me : You are really bored today



(We both laugh)

Nyathuko : Nakhu ukudla

Me : Siyabonga Nana

(He lifts up my chin and his lips crashes onto mine. I wonder what the lady doing my hair is thinking. I pull away everyone is watching us now)

Me : Thukeh ngiyaluka

(He looks around)

Nyathuko : Where are you going to eat here?... Ey Nuh

Nuh : Baba kaNdlela unjani?



Nyathuko : Ay no siyaphusha

Nuh : That's good

Me : Sodla etaxini angithi Nuh?

(I laugh looking at Nyathuko. I know how much he hates someone who eats in the taxi)

Me : Ngiyadlala Nana we'll eat at home. Sengiyaqeda yabo?

Nyathuko : No usekude... Ngibekephi?

Me : Nuh please take these from Thukeh

(Nuh takes the food from him)



Me : Usuyahamba?

Nyathuko : Yah baby. I need to deliver some sneakers to Thalente

(I don't want him to go)

Me : Uhamba manje pho?

Nyathuko : Yeah sthandwa sami yinindaba?

Me : No nothing. Hamba

(He chuckles)

Nyathuko : Hawu yini manje?



Me : Nothing

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nothing. Hamba

(He chuckles)

Nyathuko : Hawu yini manje?

Me : Nothing go. My battery is flat ngeke ngikufonele

(I hope he sees that I don't want him to go. He bends on his knees and kisses my hands)



Nyathuko : Ngiyishiye imoto? I'll request Uber to Thalente's flat

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Me : No don't worry. Sogibela itaxi. Go angithi ujahile

Nyathuko : Baby angithi uThal...

Me : Go Nyathuko

Nyathuko : Are you sure?

Me : Mhmm-mhmm

(I feel tears filling my eyes. Maybe it's because of the pain in my head)

Nyathuko : Kubuhlungu?

Me : Yeah. I want to go

(I whisper to him)



Nyathuko : Ungaqedile?

(Ayke I'm not going to answer that.)

Nyathuko : Okay let's go.

(He kisses my hand and stands up)

Nyathuko : Ay dadewethu usisi la uthi she is leaving now

(Aw Nyathuko)

But we are not done.



(A lady doing my braids says. Nyathuko lets out a soft laugh)

Nyathuko : No it's okay. Uzoluka ngelinye ilanga.

(He pulls out his wallet and takes out R500. She gives it to the lady who is doing my hair. He has to pay her even though she didn't finish her job but it's not her fault)

Nyathuko : For your time dadewethu. Siyabonga

Nuh : Hhaibo uzohamba Ungaqedile?

Me : Kubuhlungu

(Nuh's eyes widen)

But you are halfway through



(Another lady says)

Nyathuko : No it's okay.

(He helps me stand up. I'm so embarrassed but I'm going with my man shame)

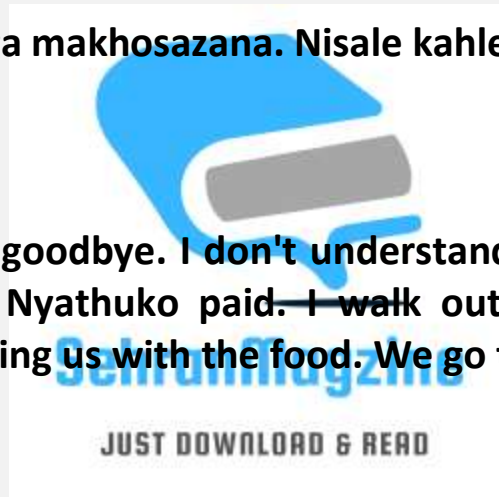
Nyathuko : Awugodoli Nana?

Me : Mhmm-mhmm

(He wraps his arm around me)

Nyathuko : Siyabonga makhosazana. Nisale kahle

(They say their cold goodbye. I don't understand why they are acting this weird because Nyathuko paid. I walk out with my unfinished braids. Nuh is following us with the food. We go to Nyathuko's car)



Me : I'll sit with Nuh at the back khona sizodla

Nyathuko : Okay

(He opens the door for us. He also gets in the driver's seat and drives off. Nuh keeps looking at me and shaking her head. I laugh)

Me : Yini hawu?

Nuh : Ay wena Ay ay

Me : What?

Nuh : I can't believe you left just like that



(We arrived in KwaMashu. Nuh promised that she would wait for me at home. Nyathuko jumps into the back seat where I am sitting. He kisses me)

Nyathuko : We need to go to Machobeni yabo? And ask Zama to finish your hair or uzoqaqa

Me : I'll see what I'll do.

Nyathuko : Asigoduke phela

Me : No I'm coming tomorrow

(He sighs)

Nyathuko : Okay. Nginilande ngaskhathi sini?

Me : Pick us up around 12h00. Ngifuna ukufike ngi ayine

Nyathuko : I'll pick you up at 10h00

Me : No you won't

(We laugh)

Me : Call me when you get home



Nyathuko : I will sthandwa sami

Me : Othi ngihambe

Nyathuko : Let me walk you home

Me : Okay

(He walks me home)



Me : You don't want to go in and see your son?

Nyathuko : No uzokhala mase ngihamba

Me : Pho uyatetema yini

(We laugh. We kissed. I walked home and he went back to his car. I find my family watching TV. Ndlela is fighting with my father as usual. He wants to touch his beard and my father knows that never ends well)

MaKheswa : Hhaibo awuqedile ukuluka?

Me : Yes mama something came up. Uphi uNuh?

Zanokuhle : She left. She gave me your bag and I placed it on your bed



Me : Akakhalanga u Ndlela esontweni?

Mapholoba : No usekhulile manje uGqamuza kamkhulu

MaKheswa : Zano go and take my handbag. Le ebengiphethe esontweni

Zanokuhle : Okay. Mommy! They gave Ndle....

MaKheswa : Awuzweke lempempe ka Nkazimulo. Go and take my bag uyeke izindaba phoshozwayo

Zanokuhle : Shuuuuu!

(We laugh. He says that every time when he feels disappointed)



Me : Mah uphoxa ingane yami. Sorry wena boy boy

MaKheswa : Zano is my friend angithi wena petezi ka Gogo?

Zanokuhle : No

(He says running into my mother's bedroom. We laugh. He comes back with the handbag)

Me : What's in there?

Mapholoba : uGqamuza useyi billionaire

Me : What?

(MaKheswa laughs)



MaKheswa : Udlala ngawe ubaba wakho. But they gave him money at church

Me : Money? Ngempela? Malini Mah?

(She takes out an envelope)

MaKheswa : Ngifake la. Angithi bebeqala ukumubona bamukhunga ke

Me : Wow that's amazing

Mapholoba : Pastor Dladla gave him R200

Me : Aw bakithi uMgabadeli. Ngiyamubongela bakithi u mfan'wam

(I count the money)



Me : Oh my God it's R720. Baby they gave you money

(I kiss Ndlela)

Me : Aw usuzoya njalo mntanami

(We all laugh)

Mapholoba : Hheyi awithandi imali kanje Sthabile

(I laugh)

Me : Yes I love my money Mapholoba... Zano hamba uthenge idrink

MaKheswa : You are using Ndlela's money already?

Me : Ngome kabi



Mapholoba : Aw uNyathuko won't get even a cent from this money. Uzukwa nje lo omnyama

(I laugh. Later we had dinner and we all went to bed. I struggled to sleep. I'm feeling sick but I don't feel any pain. I decide to call Nyathuko)

Me : Hey Nana did I wake you?

(It's 2am of course I did)

Nyathuko : Mhmm-mhmm yinindaba?

(He clears his throat. His voice becomes a little bit more husky in the morning)

Nyathuko : Yinindaba you can't sleep?



Me : Yeah it's hot.

Nyathuko : Yeah nalana. Ngilahle I remote ye aircon futhi

Me : It's winter. It's supposed to be cold

Nyathuko : Iphi kanti le remote?

Me : You lost it?

(I hear him banging something)

Nyathuko : No eye TV ngifuna ukubuka ibhola

Me : At this time? Yini pho lo oyishayo



(He laughs. His voice is making my vagina beat fast and my clit vibrate. I hate that he had sex with Mimo or else I'd be home with him as we speak and he'd be fucking me)

Nyathuko : I remote. Ama battery ayamover

Me : Please don't break it. Angathi sofika lapho usubulale yonke into nje

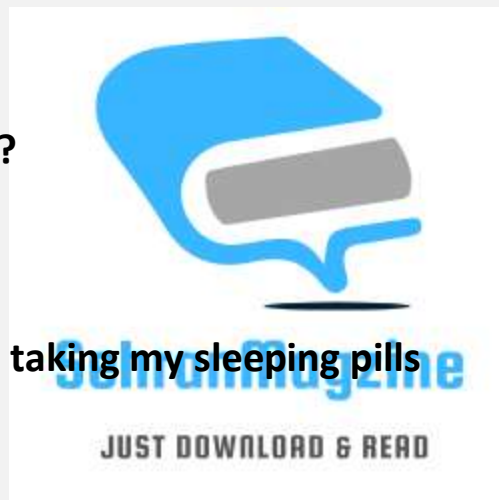
(He laughs)

Nyathuko : I won't

(I take my handbag and search for my sleeping pills. I found 2 pregnancy tests that Nuh bought me earlier. I laugh)

Nyathuko : Uhlekani?

Me : No nothing. I'm taking my sleeping pills



Nyathuko : I threw them away

(I go to the bathroom. I want to take all two of them and send the pictures to Nuh. She will be so disappointed when she finds out that I'm not pregnant.)

Me : Uzowakhokha Thukeh

Nyathuko : No

Me : Do you know how expensive they are?

(I pee on both test kits and put them on the floor)

Nyathuko : Where is my son?



Me : He is sleeping. Use rich phela

Nyathuko : Rich?

(Can somebody tell me that I'm dreaming. I sweat immediately and my eyes become blurry. I take both pregnancy kits and look at them closely. The lines are visibly red and they are both positive)

Nyathuko : Sthah?

Me : Sengiyalala

Nyathuko : Hawu kanjalo nje?

(I can't tell him. I know he is going to lose it. Our baby is only 4 months old for heaven's sake)

Me : Please Thukeh



Nyathuko : Ey wena Sthabile leliconsi lakho

Me : No I just want to sleep

Nyathuko : Yini sengenzi?

Me : Nothing Nyathuko! Bye

(I hung up. I need somebody to come and shoot me now!!)

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Chapter 14



(I couldn't get out of my room. I felt like everyone was going to see that I'm pregnant. I hate that I came home maybe I wouldn't have found out about this mess. How am I going to tell Nyathuko about this? He is going to blame me. I'm the one to hold responsible for this. I am a woman and I should have known better. I look at my son laying next to me. He is kicking and lifting up his hands while speaking a foreign language with the roof. How could I do this to him? He is still a baby.)

Me : I'm so sorry baby mama is so sorry my boy. I know I've let you down

(I kiss his fat cheeks. Tears are running down my face. There is a knock on the door. I know it's Zanokuhle he was sleeping with my parents last night because my mother felt bad about the way she spoke to him when he wanted to tell me about Ndlela's money so she asked him to sleep with them)

Mommy it's me. Uvukile?

(It's him. I wipe the tears)

Me : Yes boy boy. Wait I'm coming



(I take a deep breath and get out of bed. I open for him wearing a fake smile on my face)

Me : Hello

(He smiles)

Zanokuhle : Morning

Me : Morning boy boy.

Zanokuhle : I've washed my face and brushed my teeth

(I laugh. He wants me to kiss him)

Me : Kiss kiss



(I bend down and kiss him)

Zanokuhle : Is my little brother awake?

(He asks already squeezing himself inside my room)

Zanokuhle : Ndlela!!!

(He screams in excitement and jumps into my bed. I leave them and go into the kitchen to make something to eat before my mother wakes up but boom! I found her already in the kitchen. She is staring at the wall with a coffee mug in her hands. She seems deep into her thoughts)

Me : Mama

(She turns her face in my direction)



MaKheswa : Mapholoba are you okay?

(I smile)

Me : Yes mama I'm okay.

MaKheswa : Nilale kahle?

Me : Yes

(I open the fridge and take out the milk. I can't even look at her)

MaKheswa : Ngiyabona

Me : Lisekhona iphalishi lika baba?



MaKheswa : Bheka kuleliyakhabethe

Me : Thanks

MaKheswa : Uyaphila ubaba kaNdlela?

Me : Nyathuko is fine Mah

MaKheswa : Okay

(She is so heavy on my shoulders. I want to get the hell out of here)

MaKheswa : Bengithi nizohamba ekuseni.

Me : No I'm not working today since it was a holiday on Friday sike sinike abasebenzi ikhefu lango msombuluko

MaKheswa : I see



(I roll my eyes)

MaKheswa : I was making coffee awulithandi?

Me : No thanks.

MaKheswa : Awungibuke

(Jeez! Why do I have to look at her now?)

Me : I'm fine Mah

MaKheswa : Don't think too much you will kill that baby.

(My heart stops)



Me : Mah?

MaKheswa : Sthabile you are married akukho okumele uzikhathaze ngakho. Wawushadela ukuyovusa umuzi wakwaZondi from the very beginning so stop beating yourself up. Ndlelenhle will be just fine naleyongane izokhula nje kahle angithi niyasebenza nobabili nomkhwenyana?

(I swallow)

Me : Yes

MaKheswa : You have nothing to worry about then. Ngeke inihlule leyongane

Me : uNdlelenhle useyingane Mah

MaKheswa : I agree but uzokhula nje manje. Izingane sezikhula ngokushesha kabi and by the time you give birth u Ndlelenhle sobe simubamba Enhlungwane egijima namabhayisekili.



(I let out a soft laugh. I know my mother is trying to make me feel better but it's not working)

MaKheswa : Don't stress yourself Fuze ngiyakucela.

Me : How did you find out?

MaKheswa : Angithi phela wena konke la uhamba khona uyashiya so I found the pregnancy tests in the bathroom

Me : Oh my God.

MaKheswa : It's okay it's okay mntanami. Come here

(She puts the mug on top of the microwave and opens her arms. She hugs me)



MaKheswa : You have nothing to worry about nothing Mapholoba. Izokhula nje ingane yenu ibange intshebe ka Mapholoba no Ndlela.

(Oh there is my father. How can I forget my father?)

Me : Please don't tell him about this Mama uMapholoba uzongibulala.

(She sighs)

MaKheswa : He won't in fact he will be so happy but if you don't want me to tell him then fine ngizosihlonipha isicelo sakho.

Me : Thank you mama

MaKheswa : Usumtshelile umkhwenyana?

(I pour milk in my porridge)



Me : Cha but I'll tell him when I'm ready.

MaKheswa : Hhayi Sthabile Akuwona umuthwalo wakho wedwa lo. Nyathuko is your husband and he deserves to know that you are pregnant

Me : I will tell him mama okwamanje I need some time to process this whole thing.

MaKheswa : Awukho wedwa angithi uyakwazi lokho?

(I pull out a smile)

Me : I know

(She smiles)



MaKheswa : Good. Eat and go get some rest

(Zanokuhle runs in with my cell phone)

Zanokuhle : Your phone mommy it's ringing.

Me : Oh thank you. Ubani?

Zanokuhle : It's daddy

Me : Oh uNyathuko... Hello Thukeh

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami kanti ngenzeni?

Me : No nothing. I was about to call you



(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Unamanga

Me : I'm serious. Usuvukile?

Nyathuko : I'm on my way manje. Ngiza lapho senilungile?

Me : No no. Kanti isikhathi sini?

Nyathuko : it's 09 am. Nana ngishilo nje ukuthi ngizoza ngo 10h00

Me : I know but I thought you were kidding. Asigezile thina

Nyathuko : Nizogeza endlini



(I sigh)

Me : Okay

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no. Kanti isikhathi sini?

Nyathuko : it's 09 am. Nana ngishilo nje ukuthi ngizoza ngo 10h00

Me : I know but I thought you were kidding. Asigezile thina

Nyathuko : Nizogeza endlini

(I sigh)

Me : Okay ngisadla ke kodwa.



Nyathuko : Okay I'll call you when I get there.

Me : Alright

Nyathuko : Nana?

Me : Yes

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda

(I look at my mother)

Me : Nami futhi

(He laughs)



Nyathuko : Khona uMchumane lapho?

Me : Yes and she is staring at me

(We laugh. My mother hits my shoulder)

Nyathuko : Okay iyakuthanda ke indoda.

Me : I know... See you now.

Nyathuko : Bye sthandwa sami.

(I hung up. My mother smiles)

MaKheswa : I don't know how i'll ever thank God for what he did for you mntanami. Yazi kuyiphupho lawo wonke umzali ukubona izingane zakhe zijabulile



(I smile)

Me : I am happy yize ke noma usathane ebuye engivivinye nje ngomshado wami Mah

MaKheswa : Umendo awukho lula mntanami kodwa umshado uwumshado ngazo izinkinga but what's more important is how you fix those problems.

Me : I understand.

^

^

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(Later I was in my house. I was doing my best to make sure that I avoid Nyathuko. I'm busy in our bedroom. I'm going through some work)



Knock knock

(He says and the door opens. He walks in holding Ndlelenhle)

Nyathuko : Asidli namhlanje?

Me : I'm coming now Nana. I'm almost done here

Nyathuko : No Sthah you work too hard. Awubeke lezinto

(He comes and closes my laptop)

Me : Thukeh

Nyathuko : No baby. Sengikukhumbule mina

(I laugh)

Me : But I'm here.

Nyathuko : No you are not.



(I stand up and he pulls me by my waist. He kisses me and his hand drops down to my stomach. I pull away)

Nyathuko : What's wrong?

Me : Nothing baby. I'm hungry let's go.

(We went downstairs to have dinner)

Me : Zanokuhle can't wait to move in with us kodwa uMah ngiyabona ukuthi akayizwa kahle leyonto



Nyathuko : Kodwa phela uMchumane akakwazi ukunqaba nendodana yethu

Me : It's only she and baba KwaMashu they are lonely Thukeh so ukuhlala kukaZanokuhle la kuzokwenza izinto worse

Nyathuko : I understand but they will get used to it.

Me : That is so cold

Nyathuko : But it's true

(I roll my eyes)

Me : It's okay ngizomuzalela umawami ingane azohlala nayo



(He ignores me and continues playing with his son. Oh no this pregnancy is a real disaster)

Me : Nana?

Nyathuko : Khuluma nami sthandwa sami

Me : Ungathini angase ngimithe?

Nyathuko : Ngingajabula

(He says coldly.)

Me : Oh? Ungajabula kanjalo nje?

Nyathuko : Hhaibo weSthah cisho ngakhohlwa. Endwedwe they want to perform a ritual for uNdlelenhle



Me : A ritual?

Nyathuko : Yes I told my father ukuthi ukhala into engapheli and bacabanga ukuthi usekhalela usiko

(I put the plates together and stand up)

Me : Usiko?

Nyathuko : Yeah in our culture siyagcaba angithi.

(Hell no! I can't believe the Zondis want some type of incisions made on Ndlelenhle's face. He is only 4 months old for crying out loud. Why do they want to cut his face already? I hate this culture!)

Me : Isn't he too young to have those tribal marks? Phela ingane uNdlela bakithi



Nyathuko : Izingane zigcatshwa zizalwa ekhaya

Me : Ayke not eyami ingane

Nyathuko : Usho ukuthini manje?

Me : Ngeke ngivume ingane igcabe ingaka Thukeh ngingaboshwa nokuboshwa

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami it's culture.

Me : Baby let's not fight about this ngoba vele it's not going to happen. I love you bye

(I walk into the kitchen. He shakes his head looking at me.)

Me : Do you want Ice cream?



(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Sthah ucabanga ukuthi nguNdlela we..... Eish! Ndlela!!!

(He stands up quickly)

Me : What? Wenzeni?

Nyathuko : Wangiphalazela

(I laugh out loud)

Me : Sorry. Go and change

Nyathuko : Ah mfan'wam ngikubhodisile nje



Me : Are you sure you burped him?

Nyathuko : I did baby.

Me : Angikuthembi wena unqena kanje.

**Nyathuko : Ngempela. Sthandwa sami come and take him
ngiyoshintsha leskibha**

Me : Put him in his chair

Nyathuko : He will cry

Me : No he won't.



(He puts down Ndlelenhle and takes off his t-shirt while walking up the stairs. There's someone at the door. At this time? Who could it be?)

Me : Thukeh?

(I call out for him but I know he is probably showering now because of some little baby vomit. He is not responding. He is showering)

Me : Dammit! Who is that?

(I ask myself and walk to the door. I open)

Me : Oh sanibona

(It's Nyathuko's friend Nqabayethu and his girlfriend. What the fuck are they doing here?)

Nqabayethu : Ey Sthah ukhona uThukeh?



Me : Yes he is home. Please come in

(They both walk in)

Nqabayethu : The gate was open so we...

Me : Oh okay. No it's fine

(I smile at his girlfriend. They don't look happy.)

Me : Unjani sisi?

Ngiyaphila

(She responds. Her eyes look swollen and red like she was crying.)



Me : I... I'll go and call Nyathuko.

Nqabayethu : Thanks

(I take Ndlelenhle upstairs with me. I find Nyathuko getting dressed.)

Me : Khona umngani wakho ezansi

(He looks confused)

Me : U Nqabayethu

Nyathuko : Nqaba? What is he doing here?

Me : I don't know

Nyathuko : Hhaibo othi ngiye khona



Me : He came with his girlfriend

Nyathuko : What are they doing here ngaleskhathi ngempela?

(He walks out. I put Ndlela on the bed and continue taking out my braids. Nyathuko came back 15 minutes later. I quickly walk towards him and pull him in by his hand. I close the door.)

Me : Bathini?

Nyathuko : Cops are looking for Nqabayethu but it's nothing serious. I promise

Me : What? So he is going to hide here?

Nyathuko : They will leave tomorrow morning.. Awuhambe ubaphakele Sthah



(The crazy thing is that we are both whispering like Nqabayethu and his girlfriend are going to hear us all the way downstairs)

Me : Ha! Mina? I'm not going to dish up for them. No no Thukeh hamba ubaphakele wena

Nyathuko : Hawu sthandwa sami ngiyakucela

Me : No What if those cops come here?

Nyathuko : They won't. Hamba phela

Me : I hate your friends yezwa Thukeh?

(I hit him with the pillow in frustration. He laughs and spins me around. He kisses me)



Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda yezwa?

(I giggle)

Me : Hhayi you don't. Uyazincengela

(We laugh)

Me : I want them gone first thing tomorrow morning Nyathuko

Nyathuko : I promise you sthandwa sami

Me : Were they fighting?

Nyathuko : I don't know... Ey awuhambe baby

(He opens the door. I laugh)



Me : Wait sisahleba nje.

Nyathuko : No we are done gossiping

(He laughs and pushes me out)

Me : Why bengadlanga kubo?

(I whisper and he pinches my arm. I hit his hand and laughed while rubbing my arm)

Nyathuko : Bazokuzwa wena

(We laugh. Jesus! I hate visitors especially such visitors who are here for all the wrong reasons)



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Chapter 15

(Nqabayethu and his girlfriend left this morning. Nyathuko is sitting on the bed with a bowl of oats and I'm busy getting dressed for work in front of him. He is feeding me while I get dressed)

Nyathuko : Khamisa baby I also want to get ready for work.

(I open my mouth while pulling up my underwear. Even this underwear feels a bit tight now)

Me : Put more

Nyathuko : Sis Moltah is not answering her phone

(He throws his phone next to him and feeds me)



Me : She is coming... Faka futhi

(I laugh looking at him. He is a bit grumpy this morning because I didn't want to have sex with him last night. I'm still not ready. He said his dick has healed but I'm still uncomfortable. I just can't imagine my husband with another woman)

Nyathuko : Ay sengifuna ukufaka kwenye indawo manje

(I laugh and wear my bra. He keeps stealing glances at my stomach. I know I'm not showing as yet so he is probably looking at the stretch marks that are on my stomach. I'm not his model girlfriend Mimo who has a small stomach and no stretch marks. I try to cover my stomach with my hands. He lifts up his eyes and looks at me.)

Me : Yini hawu?

Nyathuko : Wenzani?

Me : I'm not doing anything



(He shakes his head)

Nyathuko : Turn around let me fix your bra.

Me : Thanks

(I turn around. I know I look like an elephant right now. I wonder what he is thinking he is probably laughing while fastening those back clasps of my bra.)

Me : Are you done?

(He spins me around quickly and plants wet kisses all over my stomach. He stops and looks at me)

Nyathuko : Breathe nana



Me : No Thukeh stop.

(I push his head. He puts the oats aside and pulls me onto his lap. He kisses my shoulder)

Me : I don't want to be late for work

Nyathuko : Sibuyele kanjani manje la?

(I keep quiet)

Nyathuko : Huh sthandwa sami?

Me : I don't know what you are talking about?

Nyathuko : I'm talking about this



(He touches my arms that I'm using to hide my stomach)

Me : Ay Thukeh leave it

Nyathuko : No usuyayenza futhi lento yakho.

Me : Yiphi? Ay nkosiyami

Nyathuko : Le Sthah yokuzinyeza ngomzimba wakho. You are hiding your body from me and it's sickening

Me : I'm not

(I try to stand up but he holds me close)



Nyathuko : You are and iyangidina ngempela leyonto Sthah. You are beautiful sthandwa sami futhi uyakwazi nawe lokho

Me : I know nana but uwena osibuyisele la

Nyathuko : Ngenzeni baby?

Me : Thukeh you don't understand. You don't understand how seeing your ex girlfriends hurts me and tarnishes my confidence. They have

fresh bodies no fats no stretch marks. Uyamubona u Mimo nawe she is beautiful and I don't even want to talk about her body or her breasts. Bengiwubani ke mina Nyathuko? Uwena osibuyisele la sthandwa sami when you slept with Mimo you dragged us back here and now sengibuyele emuva ekungazithembeni kwami ngomzimba wami. I'm asking myself if my body is the reason you cheated on me I'm asking myself ukuthi yini engangisiza nginciphe or get rid of these stretch marks because I feel like sengikwi competition nama ex akho Thukeh and mengiwabheka wonke I don't stand a chance with any of them.

(His face clouds with a mixture of disapproval and disappointment and his eyes bleed with pain)



Nyathuko : Is this how much I hurt you?

Me : Yes

Nyathuko : Sthabile ngiyaxolisa yazi sthandwa I wish I could turn back the clock and go back to that night ngiyolungisa wonke amaphutha ami. I'm not proud of myself Sthah ngiyihlazo kubantu besilisa abashadile ngisho nakuNkulunkulu uqobo engenza isthembiso phambi kwakhe before anyone else because before you and anyone else I made a promise to God that I will love you protect you futhi ngithembeke kuwena but I broke that promise. I did ngiyavuma but

I'm begging you sthandwa sami ungalinge nelilodwa ilanga ucabange ukuthi there is a woman out there who is better than you ngoba akekho noyedwa. Sthabile ngabona igolide kuwena ngiqala nje ukukubona. Uwukuphila kwami Maka Zanokuhle and everyday I pray to God to keep you forever because I don't ever want to lose you.

(Words strangled in my throat)

Nyathuko : Ngiyaxolisa Nondaba. Ngiyaxolisa kakhulu sthandwa sami.

Me : I need to go to work



(He lets out a sigh. He kisses my stomach. I wonder what he will say if he finds out that another fat kid is growing inside my stomach. I kiss his forehead and stand up)

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(I'm in the office. Maxwell is here for our weekly meeting)

Me : A Criminal giving back to the community. Imagine that article it's big.

(He uncrosses his legs and grabs a bottle of water)

Maxwell : It's a big story it will get people talking and our numbers growing but I can't betray my son like that. Sthah he told you because he trusts you and now you want to run a story about it?

Me : It's business nothing personal. Nondaba you said it yourself that if I want to make it this in media world I should put my personal feelings aside

Maxwell : This could backfire badly

Me : I will cross that bridge when I get there

Maxwell : Nqabayethu is a dangerous boy and ukuneka izindaba zakhe emaphepheni kungalimaza izinto eziningi

Me : Akukona engihlose ukukwenza lokho. People praise him already they call him the Ghetto King.

(Maxwell laughs)

Maxwell : Ay unamanga



Me : I'm telling you Nondaba. Apparently he only steals from the whites nalabo abasebenzisana nohulumeni and whatever he steals he brings it back to his community. Uvule umtapo wolwazi Enanda with all the materials awantshontshe kwenye yama library yabamhlophe e Mount Edgecombe.

Maxwell : Mhmmm interesting. Kodwa ke lokho akumenzi umsamariya olungileyo. He is still a criminal a dangerous criminal.

(I sigh. This man is difficult)

Me : Okay fine I won't run the story behind his back. I'll call him for an interview and see if he is keen

Maxwell : Ngeke evume.

(He stands up and fastens up the button of his suit)

Maxwell : Nginesiqiniseko sokuthi kuningi akufihlile angafuni kuvele and running this story will only draw him attention that he doesn't need.



Me : We will call him anonymous

Maxwell : That will kill the story. Akekho umuntu ofuna ukuhlala egqolozelane nephepha elikhuma ngomlisa mumbé ongaziwa. Our people want to read real stories about real people not stories about some unnamed faceless people because that doesn't make the story sound real kanti iNdaba Media & Advertising is all about real stories and lokho ikona okusikhuphule safinyelela kulelizinga.

Me : What do I do now?

Maxwell : You have my go ahead but only if we get his consent

Me : Which is highly impossible

(I lean back on my chair and sigh. He smiles)



Maxwell : Ndodakazi ngiyayithanda—indlela ozinikele ngayo emsebenzini wakho. Futhi ngingasho ngokungananazi ukuthi umsebenzi wakho uyancomeka. I'm proud of you

Me : Isandla sidlula ikhanda Nondaba

Maxwell : I want you to take it easy though. I don't want your job to put a strain on your marriage. Angifuni nje indodana yami ibuye ekhaya elinomfazi ongajabulile

(We both laugh. I stop laughing and bite my nails)

Maxwell : Did I say anything wrong?

Me : No no of course not.

(I sigh and stand up)

Me : Nondaba kunenkinga la



Maxwell : Usenzi uThukh?

Me : Usengimithisile uThukh futhi baba

(He laughs while stroking his beard)

Maxwell : Is that all?

Me : Nondaba uNdlelendle usemncane

Maxwell : No my grandson is a big boy now.... Sthabile iyona nkinga okhuluma ngayo le? You are calling my unborn grandchild a problem?

Me : Eish...

Maxwell : No you have nothing to worry about. Useyazi u Thukeh?

Me : Not yet but I'm planning to tell him tonight

Maxwell : That's good.

Me : What if uyadinwa baba?

Maxwell : You know that's impossible right?



Me : I.....

(My phone rings. It's my mother. Oh no! I don't like this call one bit. I answer quickly)

Me : Mah?

MaKheswa : Your father knows.



(Shit!)

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Chapter 16

Me : I need to go home

Maxwell : Everything okay?

Me : Yes. My parents know about the pregnancy and my father wants to speak to me.

Maxwell : Okay. Are you going now?

Me : Yes I want to come back today.



Maxwell : No problem I can take you to KwaMashu.

(I smile)

Me : Ungazikhathazi Nondaba. You are a busy man and besides I can drive myself there.

Maxwell : But Nyathuko doesn't want you to drive yourself.....Sthabile it's okay ngizokuyisa KwaMashu.

Me : Cha cha Nondaba. I will ask Musa

Maxwell : Do you promise?

Me : Ngiyathembisa



Maxwell : u Thukeh engangibulala ~~uma~~ engezwa ukuthi ngikuvumele wazishayelesa all the way to KwaMashu.

Me : No ngizocela uMusa.

Maxwell : Please tell Nyathuko ukuthi uya ekhaya.

Me : I'll call him now

(He takes his laptop)

Maxwell : You will keep me updated mayelana no Nqabayethu.

Me : I will. Uhambe kahle Baba

Maxwell : Usale kahle Ndodakazi

(He leaves my office. I pack my things. I'll call Nyathuko on my way home. I know he will be angry but he will be fine. I drove home. I arrived home around 13h00)

Me : He didn't go to work?

MaKheswa : No

Me : Is he angry?



MaKheswa : He has no right to be angry. Ushadile wena

Me : He is angry. Uma engayanga emsebenzini lokho kuchaza ukuthi uMapholoba udiniwe

MaKheswa : Sthabile calm down

Me : Yazi into yokugcina engiyidingayo ukuthethiswa ubaba angathi ngiyingane encane Mah.



MaKheswa : He won't shout at you

Me : He will. Uphi yena?

MaKheswa : He is feeding Danger and Manyathela

Me : Sengifisa ngisho ukuba ilezo zinja

MaKheswa : Hhayi! Sthabile

Me : I'm serious. Ngibe noma yini nje u Mapholoba angeke ayithethise.

MaKheswa : Mntanami please stop stressing yourself out.

Me : Kodwa umtsheleleni Mah?



MaKheswa : I had to tell him. Angikwazi ukuba nezinto engizifihlela umyeni wami

Me : You love your boyfriend too much. Nangezindaba za....

(My phone rings)

Me : Oh thixo wami u Thukeh. I forgot to tell him that I'm coming here

MaKheswa : Hhaibo!

Me : Myeni wami omuhle

(I answer)

Nyathuko : Where are you?



(Eish)

Me : Nana?

Nyathuko : Ngithi ukephi Sthah? I'm at Ndaba Media bringing you lunch but kuthiwa awukho.

Me : Ngisekhaya KwaMashu baby.

Nyathuko : What?

Me : Khona ama documents ebengiwadinga and I had to come and fetch them

(My mother glares at me and walks out)

Nyathuko : Why pho ungangitshelanga?



Me : I was going to call you. Ngiyabuya kodwa

Nyathuko : Okay

(He sounds disappointed)

Me : I'm sorry sthandwa sami

Nyathuko : It's okay. I'll call you later

Me : Ngiyakuthanda

Nyathuko : Nami ngiyakuthanda. Uzobuya ngaskhathisini pho?

Me : I don't know but I'll sleep over mekuhlwa.

Nyathuko : Please do that. Angifuni ushayele ebusuku

Me : Okay nana

Nyathuko : I'll call you

Me : Bye baby



(AN HOUR LATER)

Ngcobo : Ngeke ngivume ukuthi abantu bakwa Zondi bephendule indodakazi yami inja ehlale ihlale njalo izale. Never!!

MaKheswa : Sthabile is married kodwa Mapholoba

Ngcobo : So what? Huh ka Kheswa? Does that mean kumele elokhu ezalile nje? Eguge umntanami egugiswa—ukuzala uhide lwezingane zikaNyathuko ezilamana eduze? Times have changed ka Kheswa abafazi ababeshadela ukuzala abakudala. Kulesikhathi samanje umshado does not mean you have to fall pregnant every year ngoba ufuna ukukhulisa umuzi. Ababambisane u Sthabile no Nyathuko bakhe umcebo oyosala nalezingane abanazo mhlazane bona bengasekho! Hayi indaba kamamithisana!

(I knew my father was going to be a problem)

MaKheswa : But that's what Nyathuko is doing. He owns two businesses he is building a legacy. Izingane zakhe azisoze zadla imbuya ngothi

Ngcobo : Oh eqhubeke yena evule ama business kodwa u Sthabile akafuni esebenze? Ka Kheswa that boy doesn't want Sthabile to do anything akafuni indodakazi yethu izimele. Ufuna ukumgxisha izingane nje uSthabile ehlele ekhaya ke u Sthabile eshushuzele. Eguge ephele umntanami and then Nyathuko leaves her to look for fresh women who are working and independent. Ka Kheswa open your eyes asisadli ngoludala manje. Imishado yalezingane ayisasebenzi so ask yourself what will happen kweyethu indodakazi the day this marriage of theirs comes to an end? Ngoba phela both Sthabile and Nyathuko are still young so kusengenzeka noma yini. Ubani umuntu weslisa oyothatha uSthabile nezingane ezu hundred zenye indoda?

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MaKheswa : Hhai Mapholoba don't say that. Yini kodwa udlinzele izingane kabi kangaka ngomshado wazo? Sthabile and Nyathuko love each other

Ngcobo : The same Sthabile who came in this house at midnight exabene naye loyo Nyathuko emuva kwezinyangana nje beshadile?

Me : I'm still here

(Why are they talking about me like I'm not here?)

Ngcobo : Why ungazivikelanga ke wena?

Me : Mapholoba this is our second baby. Asingenzi angathi uNyathuko usengimithise okweshumi



Ngcobo : He will trust me uzokumithisa futhi. If we sit here and cross our arms uzokumithisa futhi. By the time you reach 40 you will be holding 60 babies in your arms all in the name of ukuvusa umuzi wakwa Zondi. Ube uwiswe uwena yini Sthabile lowo muzi wakwa Zondi uzoze uwuvuse ngeziningane ezilamana eduze angathi imidlwane? Sthabile you are still my daughter! I took you to school kanzima ngoba ngifuna ufunde ukwazi ukuzimela ube isibonelo la emphakathini. Yes I'm happy that you got married but if that marriage is going to destroy what I worked so hard to build then awufokofe loyo mshado! uyangizwa? Ngithi awufokofe! Ngangingakukhuliseli mina lothuvi osuwenziwa umfana wakwaZondi and I didn't take you to school for this nonsense. Ey shidi mahn!!

(He stands up and walks out. He is fuming.)

Me : Ngikutshelile Mah. I told you he would be angry

MaKheswa : He will calm down

Me : No he won't mama.

MaKheswa : Sthabile your father doesn't know when to stop. I understand that he is still your father but ushadile wena manje and he is no longer entitled to the decisions you make about your life



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Me : He will never understand that. Ku Mapholoba ngiyohlale ngiyintombazanyana ekufanele ilandele izifiso zakhe

MaKheswa : You need....

(She pauses when Mapholoba walks back in)

Ngcobo : Utheni yena uNyathuko ngalamasimba awenzile?

Me : He doesn't know baba

Ngcobo : Oh uyamithisa nje yena engazi

(He says while taking out his cell phone.)

Ngcobo : Search for Zondi here



Me : Are you going to call him?

Ngcobo : Yes

Me : Oh no ooh yini Mapholoba ngiyakucela ungamfoneli baba. Let me talk to him first

(I beg him)

Ngcobo : Search his number Sthabile

Me : Oh nkosi yami ay wena baba.

Ngcobo : Ay wena baba yani?

(I searched for Nyathuko's number)



Me : Nansi

Ngcobo : Ciphiza uYes umfake esipikheni. Lamangqumuza ngamehlo acabanga ukuthi waqhuma etsheni wena? Huh? He thinks he owns you now just because he paid izigidi zemali yelobola? He! He!

Me : Please ungamthethisi Mapholoba

(He glares at me. I look at my mother. She squeezes my hand)

Nyathuko : Baba Mapholoba omkhulu.

Ngcobo : Ay Zondi

Sponsored



Mapholoba omkhulu.

Ngcobo : Ay Zondi akusasebenzi konke lokho manje. Not after what you did

Nyathuko : Angiqondi ukuthi uBaba ukhuluma ngani

Ngcobo : Do you know that Sthabile is pregnant AGAIN!?

(Silence. I close my eyes)

Nyathuko : Yebo Mashiya amahle ngiyazi

(My eyes shut open)

Me : What?

Ngcobo : Oh you do?



Nyathuko : Yebo baba.

(What? Nyathuko knows that I'm pregnant and he said nothing about it?)

Ngcobo : Are you trying to destroy my daughter's life?

Nyathuko : Cha Mapholoba

Ngcobo : Then what do you call this? USthabile usewumdlezane kodwa wena usumfuhlela ngenye ingane! Soon she will have to take another leave from work ehlale engasebenzi ekhulisa ingane yakho wena ube uqhubeke neyakho Impilo?

Nyathuko : Mapholoba.....

Ngcobo : I don't ever want to see you again la emzini wami ey Zondi ngiwabone nje lawomehlo akho amakhulu ebuka noma ikephi la KwaMashu. Ey ngiyakutshela ngiyokufaka- iwisa mfan'wam. I thought you are a man Nyathuko kodwa manje sengiyabona ukuthi uyaganga. Ungiphoxile mfan'wam



Nyathuko : Ngiyaxolisa Mapholoba ngiyaxolisa kakhulu baba.

Ngcobo : Wenze iphutha elikhulu Nyathuko

Nyathuko : Noma ngingeke ngabiza ingane yami ngephutha Mapholoba kodwa.....

Ngcobo : So you are proud of what you did? Uyaziqhenya ngalamanyala?

(Silence)

Ngcobo : Usekhona?

Nyathuko : Yebo Mapholoba



(My father ends the call out of nowhere)

Ngcobo : This boy is rude! Uyamubona angithi ka Kweswa? He is proud of impregnating our daughter ngemuva kwezinsukwana nje ezalile uSthabile. Yey Sthabile niyayenza imukhuba kuleziyazindlu zenu eziwubukhazikhazi! Ngigeze izandla ngawe!!

(There is pain in his voice. His heart is broken. I've hurt my father.)

Me : Mapholoba ngi.....

Ngcobo : I don't want to hear it. Kodwa wena uzosisola ngibafunge oFuze nasi.

(He crosses his fingers . Tears rain down my face.)



MaKheswa : Hhawu kodwa baba ka Sthabile wase uqalekisa ingane manje? Ay Ay u wrong baba. Akwenziwa nje. come here my baby.

(My mother hugs me and Mapholoba walks out. That night I couldn't sleep. I finished talking to Nyathuko at 11h00pm. It's 11h00pm now and I have a headache. I go to my parents bedroom to knock)

Me : Mah awunayo I grandpa?

Ngcobo : Yini uphethwe ikhanda?

(I was asking my mother not you.)

Me : Yebo

MaKheswa : No baby I don't have it. Baba awusenawo amaphilisi?

(She asks my father. But I can't hear his response.)

MaKheswa : Sthabile uthi akanawo.



Me : Okay fine. I'll drink water.

MaKheswa : Sorry my baby

(I roll my eyes and walk away. Why did they not open the door for me? I don't even want to imagine what they are doing in that bed. I

cover Zanokuhle with a blanket and call my husband. I know we just spoke a few minutes ago but I'm calling him again)

Nyathuko : Baby?

Me : Nana I can't sleep. Ngiphethwe ikhanda. Usulele?

Nyathuko : No kade ngisanika uSis Moltah ithawula lika Ndlela. Akalali uNdlela uyadla nje one way

(I laugh)



Me : Thank God Moltah agreed to sleep over. Ubuzovelelwa

Nyathuko : Yeah. Is the headache that bad?

Me : Yes nana. Lingigwaza emehlweni and I don't have any painkillers

Nyathuko : Amaphilisi emaningi kanje la

Me : Yeah. I wish angabe ngilapho

Nyathuko : What time is it now?

Me : Awukakashayi no 12 cabanga. Ngisazofa nje mina kosa nini? But I'll be fine. Ngizophuza amanzi

Nyathuko : Okay



Me : Call me mase uvuka ekuseni

Nyathuko : I will.

Me : Ngiyakuthanda ke goodnight

Nyathuko : I love you too. Ube right sthandwa sami

Me : I'll be fine nana.

Nyathuko : Okay

(I hung up and tried to sleep. It was probably 2 hours later when I received a call from Nyathuko)

Me : Usuvukile?



Nyathuko : Usunjani?

Me : Still sick but ngizoba right Thukeh lala baby.

Nyathuko : Phuma ke ngila ngaphandle

(I sit up quickly and get out of bed)

Me : What? You are outside?

Nyathuko : Yeah ngikulethele amaphilisi sthandwa sami.

Me : Aw nana you didn't have to.

Nyathuko : It's okay sthandwa sami. Woza baby engaze ephume engishaye u Ngcobo la.



(I laugh)

Me : He wouldn't dare. I'm coming sthandwa sami. Upake phezulu?

Nyathuko : No la ngakwi gate.

(I open the curtain and there is his car. I smile)

Me : Ngiyakubona. I'm coming Nana

Nyathuko : Sharp

(I hung up and opened the door.)

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Chapter 17



(Today I'm out with Musa. He asked that we go out alone without Sthenjisiwe and Ntokozo.)

Musa : Bitch I know they are your sister in laws but they are always following you when we go out.

(I giggle)

Me : Well today it's just the two of us yize ke noma ngikhathele ngiyimvithi

Musa : Ooooh Yes you were home.

Me : And I came back this morning ngaya emsebenzini.

Musa : Dude is angry?



Me : Dude is losing it. Yazi Musa indlela uMapholoba enza ngayo ungafunga ukuthi ngiyintombazanyana yeskole ekhulelwe isafunda yaphoxa abazali.

(He laughs)

Me : This is not funny Sam Sam. Uthi indoda yami ingaphinde ibeke umcondo wayo KwaMashu

Musa : Dude is so dramatic

Me : Uyazi namhlanje ekuseni Nyathuko couldn't even stay that long because he was scared of him. He gave me the painkillers and he left.

Musa : Nyathuko was in KwaMashu?

Me : He only came this morning to bring me painkillers because I had a headache and I couldn't sleep. Ufike sekusa kodwa around 2am



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Musa : Bitch hold up let me get this clear. You are saying Nyathuko drove from Ballito to KwaMashu at dawn just because you couldn't sleep?

Me : No because I was sick.

Musa : No different. Wow. Yho! I don't even know what to say

Me : Do you think he is going to love this lingerie?

Musa : Yeah sure.

Me : And his t-shirt is beautiful and expensive

Musa : The t-shirt was R2000 and you actually bought it using his money INCLUDING that lingerie so duh! Please



Me : Wuuuh Uh-huh his money is my money. Kodwa something is just not right Musa

Musa : What?

Me : This t-shirt is not enough. Nyathuko deserves the world not a simple t-shirt udinga okungaphezulu kwalokhu

Musa : But it's not his birthday or your anniversary. You are just doing it for.....

Me : To make him happy I know but I wish it was more.

Musa : Give him pussy later a lot of pussy. Sometimes that's all we need

Me : Musa you are gay

(He laughs out loud)



Musa : Fuck you!

(We both laugh)

Musa : More wine?

Me : Please

(I give him my glass)

Musa : Please just don't kill my baby

Me : Never

(We laugh)



Me : So I'm sitting here thinking ukuthi kungabanjani ungiboleke leyo coat yakho ngihambe ngiye e bathroom and change to my new lingerie mase ngigqoka leyo coat ngaphezulu. What do you think?

(He smiles)

Musa : Mhmmmm I think it's a sexy idea

(We high five)

Me : Oh friend thank you so much for bringing me here. I really needed to unwind after yonke lento eshiwo ubaba kimi izolo.

Musa : Bitch I know. I also needed a break from the scarecrow

Me : That bad huh?



Musa : Yesterday there was some delivery mix up and we fought. After she left my office I was like God I don't want to see De Klerk tomorrow in this building so please take her life in her sleep.

(We burst into laughter)

Me : You are so evil Musa. Wuuh Uh-huh thank God I left Auto Movers

Musa : My parents want me to resign but I told them I'll think about it

Me : Are you considering it?

Musa : The only thing that is still keeping us in this beautiful country is my job otherwise we would have moved to England long ago.

Me : Oh shit that.



Musa : Exactly! My mom's parents are getting old so she doesn't want them to stay alone anymore.

Me : Yeah that.

Musa : Exactly! My mom's parents are getting old so she doesn't want them to stay alone anymore.

Me : Yeah yeah.

Musa : The problem is that they are not willing to go back and leave me behind

Me : Yoh! You have a hard decision to make

Musa : But there's no pressure

Me : That's good.



^

^

^

(One bottle of wine turned into two and two to three and the next thing I couldn't stand up)

Me : I can walk on my own

Musa : No you can't

Me : Sssh! Keep quiet

Musa : Okay

Me : Good where is my husband's t-shirt?

Musa : Here it is



Me : Tick and my lingerie? I want to go and wear it now

Musa : Are you sure you still want to do that?

Me : Of course. I haven't had sex with my husband for days so I want tonight to be special

Musa : Ookay

Me : Where are the bathrooms? Ask that white lady I'm sure she works as a cleaner around here.

Musa : Sthabile!

Me : No ask her if she works here? Nabo bahlale besibuza mos

Musa : Look at her Sthabile of course she doesn't work here.



Me : Let me ask her... sorry?

(Musa tries to stop me but I pull away)

Me : Sorry do you work here?

(She looks at me with her hand on her chest like she is shocked)

Her : Of course not

Me : Oh I thought maybe you were a cleaner. Do you know where I can find a bathroom here?

(Musa clears his throat)



Musa : The bathroom is on that side my friend come.

(He holds my arm)

Musa : No more alcohol for you

Me : I don't care

(2 hours later Musa dropped me at my house. I'm waiting for the door to open but it doesn't. It looks dark inside the house and it's quiet. I slide the door open and I almost fall walking inside. Damn! I'm so drunk. The house smells like a cigarette factory. Nyathuko is sitting on the steps and the house is dark. He is smoking. I switch on the light)

Me : Nana

Nyathuko : You are back

(I smile)



Me : Yes baby why are you sitting there? come.

Nyathuko : Where is your phone?

(Jeez! I don't even remember when was the last time I checked my phone)

Me : Somewhere in my bag but I think it's off now... Nana why are you smoking inside the house?

(He stands up)

Nyathuko : Ngiyaxolisa... Uphumaphi Sthabile?

(No no he is not happy. He is not happy at all. I've never seen him like this.)



Me : Bengino Musa Thukh

Nyathuko : Are you drunk?

Me : Sphuze kancane

Nyathuko : And you switched off your phone?

Me : I didn't switch off my phone

Nyathuko : Wakhetha ukubuya ngaleskhathi udakiwe? Ngahlala mina nengane ngingazi ukuthi ukephi?

Me : Thukeh....

Nyathuko : Okay



(He shakes his head with his lips pressed together)

Me : I have something to make you feel better

(I put the carry bag with his t-shirt on the couch and untied Musa's coat revealing my sexy lingerie. The coat falls on the floor. He swallowed. That's it. I have him. I wrap my arms around his neck but he pulls away and picks up Musa's coat from the floor. He places it on my shoulders and helps me wear it. Hhaibo!)

Me : Hawu Thukeh

Nyathuko : Please go and sleep

Me : But....

Nyathuko : Ngiyakucela Sthah.



Me : Nyathuko ngithe ngiyaxolisa

Nyathuko : Sthabile! I said go

(I feel alcohol draining out of my system)

Me : Udinwe yini Nyathuko? Okay ngiyaxolisa angifonanga. I was with Musa

Nyathuko : Then fine. Qhubeka wenze izinto ngendlela yakho. Do you want to go back to Musa?

Me : No!!

Nyathuko : Sthabile I said go and sleep!

Me : No I want us to talk



Nyathuko : Ngikhulumeni nawe udakwe utswala Sthah? Uphuza wazi kahle that ukhulekwe ingane yami? Uhamba ugqoke lama net manje wena ebusuku?

Me : Ngishintshe ebathroom sthandwa sami sengiza la ngiyakuthembisa. Please trust me.

(I try to walk towards him but I almost fall again. His jaws tighten and he rubs his face)

Nyathuko : Maka Zanokuhle please hamba uyolala ngingaze ngenze into engizosisola ngayo ngiyakucela.

Me : But I'm so...

(I didn't finish. He walks past me and walks all the way out of the door)

Me : Yoh! Amadoda



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Chapter 18

Me : Yho! Yooooh!!

(The more I open my eyes the more the headache kicks in. I open them and look around. I'm sleeping in my bedroom. There's breakfast and flowers next to the bed. Oh and painkillers also. I jump for painkillers before anything else. I drink them while reading the card. This is Nyathuko's ugly handwriting)

Note : Ndlelenhle is at work with me. I ironed your clothes IF you decide to go to work.

(That's all he wrote he is still angry for no reason. My clothes are hanging outside our wardrobe. I throw the card next to me and get out of bed. I'm wearing the lingerie that I bought yesterday. I remember how Nyathuko behaved like an asshole last night.)



Me : Nxi!

(I go to the bathroom. I need a long hot shower. When I get out I find my alarm ringing. He must have set it on for me because he knew I'm just a drunkard wife who was going to struggle waking up. Let me call him. I'm about to call him when I see a whatsapp message popping up from an unregistered number. I open my whatsapp. It's pictures. The body is bruised. It's a woman because I see breasts. She cropped her head so these pictures are only showing her body.)

Me : Jesus!

(I zoom in the pictures. This is bad)

Me : Who is this?

(Her skin is so white. These images are so disturbing that I didn't even notice the whatsapp message below the pictures.)



Whatsapp message : I know you are the reason he did this to me. I really hope you are worth all this Sthabile.

Me : What? What the hell is she talking about?

(This person has my number and she knows my name. I check her display photo and she has some useless picture as her display photo. You know those sad quotes)

Who are you?

(I sent her a reply. The ticks are still grey but she is online. I continue getting dressed for work while staring at my phone. Her "online" disappears together with her display photo. I scream)

Me : VISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM “ FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELS!! No no no. Dammit! She blocked me. Who the hell are you?

(I go through the pictures she sent me one more time and I stop. Fuck!)



Me : It's Mimo. This is Nyathuko's ex- girlfriend. Yoooh! Jesu wami uze ungisize. What the hell does she want from me? ebe elinyazwe yini vele yena kanga.....Oh no!! Nyathuko! Nyathuko what have you done?

(I'm about to call him when a call from my mother interrupts me)

Me : Mama

MaKheswa : Sthabile nilale kahle?

Me : Yes Mah. I'm kind of busy here

MaKheswa : Ngeke ngithathe isikhathi eside. Zano come and tell your mother what happened.

(Oh this is going to be a long call)



MaKheswa : Ayke uyasaba. Uthi uzomuthethisa

Me : Why? What happened?

MaKheswa : Angithi uMkhulu ubalande late esikoleni izolo?

(Mkhulu is the man who takes Zanokuhle and other kids to school with his taxi)

MaKheswa : Angithi oZano bebeqeda ngo 13h00 ke so Zano went to wait for uMkhulu under the tree ngoba o Akhoh no Mpatho bebengakaphumi bephuma u 14h00

Me : Yah Mah kwenzekani ke?

(You know my mother will drag and drag the story instead of getting straight into the point)



MaKheswa : Hhayike uthe esamile uZano kwaqhamuka imoto. Enjani kambe Zano?

(I hear Zanokuhle saying WHITE in the background)

MaKheswa : Ehhe! emhlophe. Uthi Aw Gogo ifike ime lemoto phandle kocingo eduze kwami and inside there were two men and one woman.

Me : And then? Bayenzani ingane yami Mah?

MaKheswa : No no calm down. Abamenzanga lutho. They called him and asked him if he was Nyathuko's son

Me : What?

MaKheswa : Impela. Uthi uZano bamubizile bathi akeze ezogibela bathunywe u Nyathuko but Zano refused to go with them. Luckily uZanokuhle ubengaphakathi esikoleni ngoba asazi ukuthi bebezomenzani inkosi mpela.



Me : Was it not Thalente?

MaKheswa : Angithi ke thina mntanami asimazi uThalente. Nami ngithi angikwazise nje

Me : No I think it was one of Nyathuko's friends. Thanks for letting me know Mah. U Zanokuhle eqaphele nkosiyami eyeke ukuma phansi

kwezihlahla yedwa. Ngamtshela ukuthi mephuma u 13h00 akohlala eclassin elinde khona o Akhoh no Mpatho

MaKheswa : Uzohamba no Mapholoba namhlanje and he will pick him up later since he is not working today

Me : Ungibongele Mah ku Baba

MaKheswa : No problem my baby. Wena awusebenzi yini?

Me : I'm actually getting ready for work



MaKheswa : Oh baphi oGqamuza kaGogo no baba wakhe

(Here I'll lie)

Me : uGqamuza no Bab'wakhe basekhishini

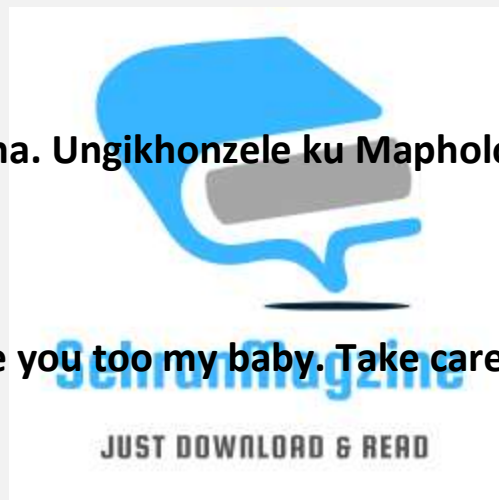
MaKheswa : Ungiqabuzele kumfana ka Gogo

Me : I will mama

MaKheswa : Usebenze kahle ke sthandwa sami

Me : Thank you mama. Ungikhonzele ku Mapholoba. Ngiyanithanda

MaKheswa : We love you too my baby. Take care of yourself



(I smiled and hung up. I have Nyathuko to deal with. I kept trying to call him all the way to work but he wasn't picking up my calls. I'm so frustrated right now)

Me : Brumilda please come to my office now!

**(I put down the phone and let out a sigh. I need to control myself.
Brumilda walks in. She is one of our journalists)**

Brumilda : Mrs Zondi

Me : Please take a seat

Brumilda : Thanks. Is everything okay?

Me : Everything is fine. Look I have a story that I need you to run. I want it to be the first thing I see tomorrow morning when I open my eyes.



(She smiles)

Me : I know your job is top tier so I trust you with this one. I want this story to double... Triple our numbers by tomorrow 10am sharp. Is that clear?

(She takes out her notepad and her pen)

Brumilda : What do you have for me my CEO?

Me : Nqabayethu Zungu

(I stand up)

Me : Most people know him as the Ghetto King



(She puts her pen down and closes her notepad. She shakes her head)

Me : And now?

Brumilda : People who tried to chase after that story disappeared and those who came back they came back with a bullet in their head and they are six feet under as we speak.

Me : That makes the story even more interesting

Brumilda : Mrs Zondi you don't get it do you?

Me : I don't have to get anything. Listen Brumilda we don't have to chase after the story. I have everything we need and all you have to do is... Nothing. You just have to do what you always do best which is putting the story together just the way our readers love it.

(She is not happy about this it's all written on her face. I sigh and sit down)



Me : Brumilda listen this could be my breakthrough. No one recognizes me as a CEO. I'm tired of Maxwell holding my hand every time we have these big meetings with other companies because all of them don't see me. Even journalists think I don't know my job just because I send them out every time they come to me with their..... silly stories. But that doesn't mean I don't know my job. I want this media company to run big stories and if you the journalists can't give me that then I will do it myself and set an example.

Brumilda : Sthabile you are playing with fire

Me : If I'm playing with fire then I'm willing to get burnt

(She chuckles)

Brumilda : But you do know that when you do get burnt you are not going to burn alone but you are going to burn with all of us here

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Brumilda : Sthabile you are playing with fire

Me : If I'm playing with fire then I'm willing to get burnt

(She chuckles)

Brumilda : But you do know that when you do get burnt you are not going to burn alone but you are going to burn with all of us here INCLUDING this whole building?

Me : Nah.. No no if I do get burnt I will make sure that I burn alone. You have my word.



(She sighs)

Brumilda : Okay let's get to it.

(I smile and lean back on my chair)

Me : That's my girl.

(I told Brumilda everything that Nyathuko told me regarding Nqabayethu. Our story was ready to meet the world the next morning)

Brumilda : This is actually interesting.

Me : I told you it was interesting. Empeleni the Ghetto King won't have anything to be angry about except that we ran the story behind his back and ngalokho uzongixolela.



Brumilda : He hates it when people mind his private businesses

(I laugh and shake my head)

Me : Brummy let me tell you something. If you do something in public for everyone to see then trust me that thing is no longer private or your business but it's also OUR business.

Brumilda : You invited us and that's how it became our business.

Me : That's correct.

(She stands up and heads out to the door)

Brumilda : Let me go and get the paper rolling.

Me : Make it juicy.



(She laughs and opens the door. Her smile widened. She is looking down)

Brumilda : Look who is here.

(I stand up when I see our receptionist walking in pushing Ndlelenhle's stroller)

Me : My baby!

Receptionist : Say hi to mommy

(I pick up my baby from the stroller)

Me : Hello baby. Uvakashele u Mah wena mfan'wam?

Receptionist : I left Mr Zondi downstairs but he is coming.



Me : I hope he doesn't.

(Brumilda and the receptionist look at each other. What? Did I say that out loud?)

Brumilda : This baby is the cutest

Me : Say thank you aunty Brumilda. Say it boy boy

(I kiss Ndlela)

Brumilda : Can I take him to Mark? Oh my God he loves babies

Me : Sure why not? I just hope he won't cry

Brumilda : I'll bring him back now. Come baby



(Brumilda took Ndlelenhle and they all left my office. I sat down and continued doing my work. When I lift up my eyes Nyathuko is standing at my doorstep. He is hiding his face behind beautiful flowers more beautiful than those he left next to my bed this morning. I want to laugh but I won't. I continue doing my work and he remains standing there like a statue with those flowers and McDonalds.)

Nyathuko : Sthah nginake phela sthandwa sami.

(He finally says. He lowers the flowers from his face)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami ngiyaxolisa. I know you tried to call me wangangithola and that's why I'm here ukuzozixolisela ngokwami. I know what you are probably thinking and akunjalo Sthandwa sami. Into eyenzekile ukuthi kuqhume amapayipi amanzi futhi e Bhambatha's Lounge so I had to rush there. I only realized when I got there that I left my phone eSneaker Shop.



(I look at him explaining. He looks so fucking good in those pants and that short sleeve shirt. But I hate that shirt because it reveals every muscle of his body. How did I score myself such a beautiful man? I almost smile looking at him)

Nyathuko : Sthah khuluma nami phela sthandwa sami. Mase uvele ungibuka nje baby. Mhmmm?

(I close my laptop)

Me : Ngoba ugqoke iblukwe eliveza amaqakala nje.

(He laughs walking closer to me. He puts the flowers and the food on my desk. He lifts up my chin and sucks my lower lip. He stops and his eyes search all over my face before he kisses me again. I pull away)

Me : What did you do to Ashton?

(He looks away and his jaws tighten)

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Chapter 19

(From the office we went out to have dinner. If Nyathuko thinks we are going to ignore Ashton's issue then he has another thing coming. He opens the door for me and he follows me holding his screaming son)

Nyathuko : Ndlelenhle kanti what's wrong?

Me : Ingane meyilanyaniswa eduze phela iyatetema ibe isinyemfu.

(I tell him while taking off my shoes. I know those words will irritate him)

Nyathuko : Ukhalela usiko njethat's all.

Me : Usiko my foot!



Nyathuko : Ngiyabona usufuna kuliwe njalo ebusuku. Yesterday you came home drunk and today ulwa nayo yonke into ephambi kwamehlo akho.... Sit here my boy ubaba ekwenzele ukudla.

(He puts Ndlelenhle down and switches on the TV for him)

Me : Do you blame me Thukeh? I'm pregnant for Christ sake and you want me to deal with your crazy girlfriend AGAIN!!. Ngikhulelwe

**uNdlelenhle I had to deal with Thandeka manje sekuwu Ashton.
Ngizophumula nini mina Thukeh?**

(He is busy making Avocado puree for Ndlelenhle and I'm busy following him around all over the kitchen)

Nyathuko : uAshton akayona inkinga.

Me : Oh? Really? Why? Because you beat her up enough to keep in the hospital until I give birth?



(He ignores me)

Me : Why did you beat her? Did she want to break up with you wadinwa wamshaya?

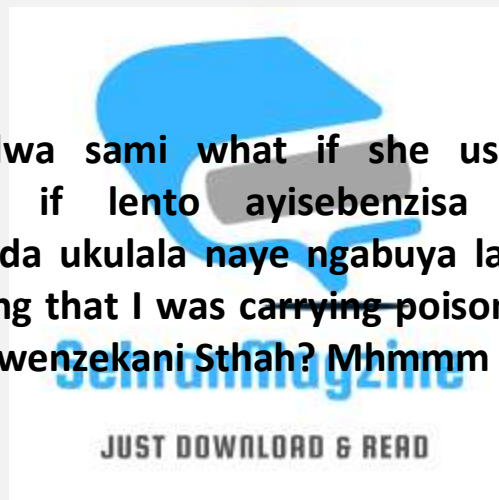
Nyathuko : Ungangisanganeli mina

Me : Nyathuko umshaya kanjani umuntu wesifazane eze elale esibhedlela?

Nyathuko : I was angry!! uAshton ucishe wangimoshela umshado wami umshado wethu! She almost killed me Maka Zanokuhle

(He comes closer and holds my hands)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami what if she used something more dangerous? Wathi if lento ayisebenzisa yayinobungozi and ngangayibona ngiqeda ukulala naye ngabuya layikhaya and had sex with you not knowing that I was carrying poison? Because that thing is poison. Kwakuyokwenzekani Sthah? Mhmmm Sthandwa sami?



(He has a point but that's still not an excuse)

Nyathuko : I don't regret what I did to Ashton ngoba mhlampe angabe ngafa ngashiya wena namadodana ami.

Me : Ngiyakuzwa Thukeh but what I want to know ukuthi yenzeke nini yonke lento? Did you go to her house?

Nyathuko : Angilalanga naye if that's what you are asking?

Me : But I didn't say.....

Nyathuko : Kodwa ilokho kuphela ohlale ungcabangela kona.

(I sigh)



Nyathuko : I went to see her after you decided to leave me ngo 12h00 ebusuku uye KwaMashu nezingane zami. That's when I went to see Ashton

Me : Do you still love her?

(His eyes close and he covers his face with his hand. He slightly shakes his head)

Nyathuko : Are you seriously asking me that?

Me : I just want to be sure

(He does that thing with his lips and walks closer to me. He is too close)

**Nyathuko : I'm not going to have this conversation with you. And
Maka Zanokuhle ngiyacela ungaphinde ungibuze lodoti ongibuze
wona**



**(He says and takes Ndlelenhle's food. He walks straight to him and
picks him up)**

Nyathuko : Let's go mfana kababa. Stop eating your finger uzophalaza

**(He laughs with his son while walking up the steps with him leaving
me behind. I sigh)**

Me : Wheee!! Right!

(I take out pears and slice them up. I finish and mix them with prego sauce. This is what I want to eat. I went to the living room and watched TV hoping that Nyathuko would come down but he didn't. I call him)

Me : Nana?

Nyathuko : Yah Sthah



Me : Nyathuko do you remember when you used to love me uze....

Nyathuko : Sthabile ungaqali uchuku

Me : Baby I'm sorry. Ngikukhumbule Thukenah

Nyathuko : Woza slalise uNdlela. He doesn't want to sleep

(I giggle)

Me : No woza ungilande.

Nyathuko : I'm tired sthandwa sami.

Me : I'm tired too nana



Nyathuko : Ngiyeza

(I smile seeing him walking down. He stops)

Nyathuko : Woza phela

(I shake my head)

Me : Uh-huh woza wena

(He laughs and shakes his head. He is coming)

Me : Hah! Usufike wageza phezu?

Nyathuko : Yeah

Me : Ay mina ngeke nana. I'm clean



Nyathuko : Okay... Kade udlani? Yini le?

Me : Pears mixed with prego sauce

Nyathuko : And you ate that and finished it?

(I laugh. I'm now standing on top of the couch)

Me : Yes me and your baby.

(He smiles and kisses my stomach)

Nyathuko : Manje kumiweleni kusofa?

Me : Hawu baby I thought.....



(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Ayngeke Sthah haa! Zihambele

Me : Okay ke

(I put one foot down and he laughs)

Nyathuko : Ngiyadlala! I'm joking sthandwa sami. Woza beletha

(I jump to his back and kiss his neck. He carried me on his back to our bedroom. We found Ndlelenhle sleeping in our bed)

Nyathuko : Ah Bhambatha usuvele wazizumekela mfan'wam.

(He kisses Ndlelenhle's hand)



Me : Is he sleeping with us?

Nyathuko : Uzovuka baby mengimuhambisa embhedeni wakhe manje

Me : But nana we are going to have sex here

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Sthah ipipi ulithanda ngisho selikumithise enye ingane fast kanje sthandwa sami?

(I laugh out loud)

Me : Bhuti are you judging me?

(He pulls me by my waist)



Nyathuko : Cha sthandwa I'm not judging you.

(He smiles staring at me)

Me : Yinindaba? Why are you looking at me like that?

Nyathuko : Yingoba ngiyakuthanda. Noma ungisanganisa nje kwesinye isikhathi kodwa sengingamane ngisanganelwe uwenamzuzu nomzuzu ukunokuba ngiphile ngaphandle kwakho.

(I smile)

Me : I love you too baby. I love you so much futhi ngiyazi ukuthi I'm not the perfect wife kodwa.....



Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda and thanks for the t-shirt. I love it

(He cuts me off. I laugh and bury my face in his chest. He kisses the top of my head and lifts up my face. He kisses me slowly and gently. Our clothes drop on the floor. I'm only in my panties now. He turns me around to face our dressing table and he balances my hand on the dressing table. I look at him through the mirror. He has a smile on his face. This is going to be a rough ride. He opens a drawer and pulls out a box of condoms. I try to pull away from him but he holds me tightly and kisses my neck while massaging my breasts. I moan and he stops)

Nyathuko : Ngiyaxolisa sthandwa sami kodwa ngicela siqhubeke nayo iCondom for a few days.... Until I get my final results.

(Fuck Ashton! I sigh)

Me : Kulungile Thuk.... Mhmmmm

(He is already stroking my wet vagina with his finger. I don't know how I didn't feel his hand getting under my panties. Nyathuko is sneaky. He takes out his hand. He is coming for my panties)

Me : Nyathuko please don't.....



Nyathuko : Ssshhh!!

(He says and I hear him ripping my panties apart. Why can't Nyathuko take off my panties like a normal person?)

Me : Ay wena Thukeh

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : I'll buy you a new one

(He says while pushing in his dick. I release a long soft moan. He bends me down a little. He lifts up my leg and takes all of me. I close my eyes and when I open them I see our reflections in the mirror. The reaction on his face damn! I think this where I want us to have sex going forward because what I see now is something that I would like to see every day. He tightens his grip on my bouncing breasts and groans a bit louder. Why is he so quick to cum today? He kisses my shoulder while pulling out slowly. He lets out soft laughter)

The logo for SehranMagzine features a stylized blue speech bubble with a white outline, containing a grey silhouette of a person's head and shoulders. Below the speech bubble, the text "SehranMagzine" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the phrase "JUST DOWNLOAD & READ" is written in a smaller, grey, all-caps, sans-serif font.

SehranMagzine

JUST DOWNLOAD & READ

Nyathuko : Ngiyaxolisa

Me : It's okay baby

(I turn around and face him)

Me : It's okay you have all night to make it up to me.

(He laughs and kisses my lips)

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Chapter 20

(The next morning I woke up and went to work. Today everyone is talking about The Ghetto King. I'm not surprised at all. I look at the big article in front of me. "WHEN THE PRESIDENT FORGET HIS PEOPLE I WILL REMEMBER THEM" THE GHETTO KING FINALLY SPEAKS OUT.)



Me : I love this

(I smile. My phone rings. Maxwell. I was expecting his call)

Me : Baba

Maxwell : I'm reading today's news.

Me : Interesting huh?

Maxwell : Dangerous.... Does he even know about this?

Me : I'm sure he knows by now

Maxwell : Ndodakazi uyabuqonda ubungozi bayo yonke lento?



Me : I don't know Nondaba kodwa engikwaziyo ukuthi everyone is talking about us today.

(He sighs)

Maxwell : Uthini yena uThukeh?

Me : Thukeh doesn't read newspapers Nondaba.

Maxwell : Sthabile njengamanje ususigubhele umgodi omkhulu esingangena kuwona sicwile singaphinde siphume.

Me : I'm not scared of Nqabayethu Zungu baba. Uma engidinga uyazi lapho ezongithola khona. I'm waiting for him

Maxwell : Have they arrived?



Me : Obani?

(I ask that and immediately my PA Cindy walks in with 2 muscular men. I stand up)

Maxwell : Your bodyguards. They should be there by now

Me : Lamadoda amabili athunyelwe nguwe?

Cindy : Mrs Zondi I.....

(I signal her to stop)

Maxwell : Yes. And they are not going anywhere until I know that you are safe

Me : Sekuyihaba konke lokhu Nondaba



Maxwell : Sthabile please uzolalela imiyalelo yalawomadoda until I tell you not to.

Me : Kodwa baba....

Maxwell : I must go now. This conversation is not over

Me : Nondaba

(I hung up and threw my phone on my desk)

Me : Cindy please show them out. They are lost

But we are at the correct address.

(Says one of the bodyguards)



Me : Angiyena lomuntu enimudingayo. Get out

Cindy : But....

Me : Now Cindy!!.... And close the door on your way out.

(She walks out with the bodyguards. I don't need those men anywhere near me)

(Later I was home. Nyathuko's car is here this means he is home. I open the door and walk in.)

Me : Baby?

(I put my bags on the couch and take off my shoes)

Me : Nana sengibuyile.  **SehranMagzine**
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(They are probably sleeping upstairs. I go to the kitchen and open the pots. Thank God Moltah cooked. I head upstairs. The smell of Impepho suffocates me. Why is Nyathuko burning Impepho now? Our bedroom door is open and the smoke is coming from there. I walk in quietly. He is on his knees in front of a burning incense with Ndlelenhle in his arms)

Nyathuko : Ngiyakwazi ekufanele ngikwenze boBhambatha ngiyalwazi usiko and I promise that I will take your grandson home kwenziwe

okufanele kwenziwe. Please be patient with me ningehliseli ulaka lwenu kwindodana yami. Ngiyabonga

(Him and Ndlelenhle are staring at each other. Nyathuko laughs)

Nyathuko : Ngeke usakhala angithi?

Me : I thought we agreed that we are not going to do this here

(He stands up)



Nyathuko : This is my house Sthabile

Me : It's my house too and lezinto ozenzayo angihambelani nazo

Nyathuko : Kade ushada nami wawungazi ukuthi mina angisindisiwe?

Me : Angizwanga?

Nyathuko : Yini ongayizwa?

Me : Wow... Awungitshela is this about Nqabayethu?

Nyathuko : I don't want to talk about it. Sthabile ngicela ungangibangisi umsindo engizama ukuwugwema

Me : So you are not going to talk to me ngoba udiniwe?



SehranMagzine

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Nyathuko : Do you know what you did?

(Silence)

Nyathuko : You don't? Do you know who Nqabayethu Zungu is? Lendoda obhale ngayo wayibiza nge Gangster President uyayazi Sthah?

Me : I'm not scared of Nqabayethu

Nyathuko : Okay

(Ndlelenhle sneezes)

Nyathuko : Sorry mfan'wam.

(He smiles)



Nyathuko : Are you feeling better now? Huh mfana kababa?

Me : There is nothing wrong with Ndlelenhle. Udlala ubunyemfu nje bokuthi usheshe walanywa. This what happens ke Nyathuko uma umithisa into engapheli.

Nyathuko : Let's go boy boy

Me : Aysuka hambani hawu! Ninginukisela indlu yami ngempepho la

(He takes Ndlelenhle and he walks out)

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(Later we ate dinner and went to bed. I woke up to go and pee. Ndlelenhle is sleeping peacefully. I guess that mpepho thing worked. I wish Nyathuko can speak to me now. I miss him. I wrap my arm around him. He pulls me closer to him. I place my head on his chest and put my leg on top of him. I keep rubbing around his dick with my leg but he is not moving)

Me : Thukeh?

Nyathuko : Uh-huh Sthah

Me : Ulele baby?

Nyathuko : Mhmm-mhmm.

Me : Vuka phela

Nyathuko : Ngikhathele sthandwa sami

(He says with his eyes closed.)



Me : Okay nana

(I kiss his cheek and close my eyes. There is noise outside. I sit up quickly.)

Me : Thukeh?

(I hear gunshots and I scream)

Me : Nyathuko vuka!!

(I expect him to get up quickly but he opens his eyes and moves them all around the roof)

Me : Isibhamu leso Thukeh. Kunabantu emnyango!!!

Nyathuko : Stay here and do not move



Me : Okay okay.

(He gets out of bed. He wears his t-shirt and takes his knobkerrie. What the hell? Who faces criminals that have guns with a knobkerrie? Nyathuko thinks this is a Shaka Zulu show. I thought he was going to take some gun that I don't know of but no he is walking out with a knobkerrie. My heart is pounding. I'm sweating. I hear someone shouting his name downstairs. Oh my God they are in. We are going to die today. I get out of bed. Ndlelenhle? Where am I going to hide

my baby? He can't die with us. I open the wardrobe. There is an empty space. I take two blankets and squash them in that space. I take Ndlelenhle and put them there. I close the wardrobe but I don't lock it. I ran out of my room. I stand upstairs and look downstairs. Oh no it's Nqabayethu and a bunch of men. They all have guns)

Me : Nyathuko stop!!

(Nyathuko is walking straight to them with his knobkerrie. I run down the steps following him)



Nyathuko : Nqabayethu ungangizeli namasimba la emzini wami. Kade ngishisa imepho wena uzongingenela la nomsindo? Huh? Ufuna ngikusakaze ngalesagila?

(All guns are pointing at Nyathuko and they all move to me. Nqabayethu lowers his gun and tucks it under his jacket. He claps his hand)

Nqabayethu : VISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM “ FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELSh! UNdlunkulu omkhulu wakoZondi usefikile.

(I'm going to pee myself)

Nqabayethu : What the fuck did you do Sthabile?

Me : Nqabayethu I can explain.

Nyathuko : Angishongo ukuthi ungangilandeli Sthabile? Go back upstairs!!



Me : No no no.

Nqabayethu : Ucabanga ukuthi uzokwenza imali ngami Sthabile? You run a story about me behind my back? I'm going to kill you!!

(Tears roll down my cheeks)

Nyathuko : Uzoqala ngami

**Nqabayethu : Thukeh stay out of this ihlehlele bra wami.
Ngiyakukhuza**

Nyathuko : No

(Nyathuko throws the knobkerrie on the floor and Nqabayethu pulls out his gun. I scream)

Nyathuko : Ishaye la Nqabayethu Ishaye la manje!!!

(Nyathuko bangs his chest.)



Nqabayethu : Don't push me Nyathuko!!

Nyathuko : Kill me!!! Angithi wena nalemidlwembe yakho nizobulala la? Qalani ngamike!

(Nyathuko grabs Nqabayethu by his jacket and pins him against the sliding door)

Nyathuko : You come here la emzini wami udubula umuzi wami kukhona ingane yami no mfazi wami? Usuka lapho uzokhomba umfazi wami ngesbhamu.

Nqabayethu : Do you know what she did?

Nyathuko : I don't care what she did! Nqabayethu if you mess with my family my wife!! You mess with me. I'm going to squash you!!



Nqabayethu : Zet?

G?

(One of his guys replied)

Nqabayethu : Kill her

(Zet cocks his gun. He is looking me in the eye. I see the house becoming smaller. I feel like I'm dying already)

Nyathuko : You want my wife's blood in your hands? Is that what you want? Nqabayethu listen to me. Uma nje lembungulu yakho yamthinta umfazi wami I will make sure that you go to jail and stay there for the rest of your life. Uzolukhumbula lolusuku and uzolukhumbula nosuku owabulala ngalo udadewenu

(Nyathuko lets go of Nqabayethu and takes a step back. Nqabayethu looks frozen)



Nyathuko : Now take these dogs and get out of my house ngingaze ngingisakaze ngesagila manje.

(Nqabayethu fixes his jacket. He swallowed so hard his throat moved)

Nqabayethu : Nyathuko you.....

Nyathuko : Get out!

(Nqabayethu shakes his head. Nqabayethu's eyes are now misty)

Nqabayethu : Mzet asivaye

(All the guns lowered. Nqabayethu walks out first and his men follow. Nyathuko closes the door and presses his forehead against the door. He turns around and sighs)



Nyathuko : Sthabile what have you done?

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Chapter 21

(What have I done? I don't know. I had no idea things were going to turn out this bad.)

Me : Nyathuko I'm sorry

(I'm shaking. My whole body is shaking)

Nyathuko : I warned you about Nqa....

(I jump when I hear a knock on the door)

Me : Ungavuli Thukeh



**(Those words fall into deaf ears. He turns around and opens the door.
2 security guards walk in)**

Guard : Mr Zondi is everything okay? We heard gunshots

Me : There was....

Nyathuko : Everything is okay

(He cuts me off)

Guard : But we saw cars leaving here at 309 and your door shows that.....



Nyathuko : I'm not a security guard. It is your job to watch everyone who gets in and out of here. Uma kukhulu lokho shuthi umsebenzi wokuba unogada akuwona owakho. I'm not going to stand here and answer your stupid questions. Uma kungasekho okunye....

(He points at the door)

Guard : Mrs Zondi did.....

Nyathuko : And keep my wife out of this.

Me : Nyathuko please tell....

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami please go and check on our baby.

(I sigh. I head upstairs and I remember that I left Ndlelenhle inside the wardrobe and I run. I push the door quickly and open the wardrobe. He is sleeping. I quickly take him out before Nyathuko walks in because I know that if he finds his son here I'll be dead. I put Ndlelenhle on the bed and take out the blankets.)

What are you doing with those blankets?



(I freeze. I wipe the tears and turn around. He is leaning against the door with his knobkerrie)

Me : Nothing. Are they gone?

Nyathuko : Sthah uzofunda nini ukuvala umlomo wakho sthandwa sami?

(He walks in and closes the door)

Nyathuko : Huh?

Me : Ngiyaxolisa

Nyathuko : No baby ukuxolisa akusasizi manje. The damage is done and I don't know what Nqabayethu is going to do next.



Me : I didn't know he was that bad

Nyathuko : You don't know him Sthah. I told you that you don't know Nqabayethu. Uyazi ukuthi bekufanele ngivule isaka lezibonkolo uNqabayethu akade azivalale ukuze ngikwazi ukuthi ngibakhiphe layindlini? I had to touch on a very sensitive subject ukuze ngikwazi ukuvikela wena nengane yami le elele lapha kanye nale oyikhulelwe

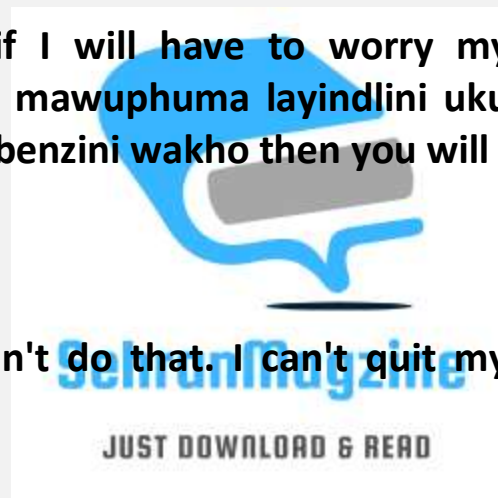
Me : Ngiyaxolisa ngempela Thukeh

**Nyathuko : Is this what you do everyday lapha e Ndaba Media?
Ukubeka Impilo yakho engcupheni ngezindaba zabantu**

(I keep quiet)

**Nyathuko : Sthah if I will have to worry myself about your job
ngikhathazake njalo mawuphuma layindlini ukuthi angabe uyobhala
ngobani lapha emsebenzini wakho then you will have to quit your job.**

**Me : Nyathuko I can't do that. I can't quit my job because of one
mistake**



Nyathuko : Iphutha ebelingathatha umphefumulo wakho.

**(I'm not going to quit my job. He takes off his t-shirt and gets to bed. I
don't think I'll be able to sleep in this house. I keep pacing around. I'm
thinking about Nqabayethu. What if they come back? And I'm
thinking about that slidind door that they broke. It will be so easy for
them to get in)**

Me : Thukeh?

Nyathuko : Please sleep

Me : Thukeh ngiyasaba

Nyathuko : Scared of what?



Me : What if they come back?

Nyathuko : Awushongo ukuthi awumusabi u Nqabayethu?

Me : Nyathuko please don't do that.

Nyathuko : They won't come back

Me : You don't know that. Please asiye kaGogo eMzinyathi

Nyathuko : It's almost 03h00am

Me : I know baby kodwa ngeke kuse manje. The door is broken Thukeh I can't sleep here. I can't ngiyakucela.

Nyathuko : Sthabile asilale ngiyakucela. Nothing is going to happen. Sekusile manje



Me : No Thukeh. Lala mina ngeke ngilale ngizoma kuze kuse

(I start crying all over again. He sighs and gets out of bed. He takes out his phone from the charger and sits on the bed. I stand in front of him. He pulls me onto his lap while going through his phone. I hold on to him tightly. I don't know who he is calling. He keeps kissing my cheek)

Nyathuko : Yah baba ukhona lapho?

(I look at him)

Nyathuko : Ay sigrand bengibuza nje.

(Silence)

Nyathuko : Yah he is crying. Bengicabanga ukuza



(Silence)

Nyathuko : Okay... No relax. Siyeza

(He hung up)

Me : Uthini?

Nyathuko : Huh?

(He is staring at his phone)

Me : Uthini u Nondaba?

Nyathuko : Pack Ndlela's things. Ngisayokhipha imoto egarage

Me : Okay



(I stand up quickly)

Me : Wena awudingi lutho?

Nyathuko : No uphi ukhiye walapha egarage?

Me : In the kitchen lapha ngakoshukela namakhofi. Aren't you scared of going alone?

(He chuckles and shakes his head.)

Nyathuko : Uyigwala unjalo nje.

(He walks out. I quickly pack Ndlela's things. I don't even want to be in this room alone. I take the bag and Ndlelenhle. We go and wait for Nyathuko in the living room. He gets in)



Me : Let's go

Nyathuko : Ngisayogqoka phela

(I know he hates me right now but he won't say it. It takes him forever to come down but he eventually does. He is wearing his tracksuits now. I'm wearing my gown and I don't even care. We finally leave the house)

Me : Sothini?

Nyathuko : Nothing. He thinks the reason we are coming there is because Ndlelenhle is crying and kuzophelela lapho Sthabile.

(Good. I don't want him to know that Nqabayethu came to attack us because he warns me about him. We arrived in UMhlanga. I feel safe now)

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(I open my eyes and Nyathuko is wearing his jacket)

Me : I'm not going to work Thukeh

Nyathuko : I know

(He is still angry)

Me : Pho uyaphi?

Nyathuko : I'm going to work. Ngizoqala endlini ngiyogeza. Kuza nalabantu abazofaka isicabha

(No no I don't want him to leave. I sit up)



Me : Nana please don't leave us here. Ngiyakucela sthandwa sami

Nyathuko : I'll come back emini

(I crawl out of bed)

Me : Please baby angifuni uhambe.

Nyathuko : Maxwell is going to work uma kukuthi usaba yena

Me : No

Sponsored

angifuni uhambe.



Nyathuko : Maxwell is going to work uma kukuthi usaba yena

Me : No I'm not scared of your father. Angifuni uhambe baba kaNdlelenhle. Ngifuna ukuhlala nawe mina baby

(He lets out a sigh. He unzips his jacket and takes it off . I smile)

Me : I love you

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Woza la wena

(He spans my ass and I giggle. He pulls me by my waist and kisses me.)

(I'm wearing my mother in law's dress. By mother in law I mean Nyathuko's mother. It's amazing that Nyathuko's father still has some of his late wife's clothes here. Somehow I believe that he loved her but it's just that he was under Nomcebo's spell. Mkhuleko is here Sthenjisiwe and Ntokozo are here. Maxwell whom Nyathuko said was going to work is also here. We are busy cooking for lunch. Nyathuko is in Ballito because some people are coming there to install a new door. We are busy in the kitchen. Ntokozo is carrying Ndlelenhle on her back)

Sthenjisiwe : Usufana noMah nje weSthabile kulengubo

(I giggle)

Me : Really?

Ntokozo : She is right. Wuuuh that was her favorite dress. Ahh! Shame intombi ka Maphalala isinyathela la. Kambe what was the nickname she gave baba Thenji?

Sthenjisiwe : Umgcogcoma

(We all laugh)



Me : Why? Because he is tall?

Ntokozo : No because he is womanizer ethi ugcogcoma emaflatini ononkroyi

Sthenjisiwe : Etho ey yabo Ndabenhle I hope you get sick one day lezifebe zakho zikugulise and I will push you with a wheelbarrow UMhlanga wonke amahewu akho ngiwafake la emabeleni ngihambe ngithi mubukeni la esenjalo

(We laugh. It seems like Nyathuko's mom was a crazy woman who didn't take shit)

Sthenjisiwe : Ey uMah. But she was a sweetheart

Ntokozo : But a dragon sometimes. Do you remember when she found 3 love letters in Thukeh's school bag?

(They both burst into laughter)



Sthenjisiwe : She went straight to Thukeh's school eyocela umhlangano ne principal nomama balawo mantombazane

(I laugh out loud)

Me : What? Nyathuko had 3 girlfriends?

Ntokozo : Maybe more. They all used to buy us lunch in school zithenga uthando luka bhuti wethu phela.

(We laugh)

Ntokozo : Ey weSthah cabanga because Thukeh was doing Grade 10. Wabona ngo Mah esetheleka eskoleni

Me : Oh no



Sthenjisiwe : The moment he saw her car parking in the school yard he asked to go to the toilet and he never came back

(We laugh)

Me : Ah man. I wish I met her yazi

Ntokozo : She was going to love you plus you are crazy just like her

Me : Me? Crazy? Come on

(We laugh. Nondaba walks in)

Sthenjisiwe : Where is Bhuti Mkhuleko?

Nondaba : On the patio. Give me salt. I want to rub it under his feet

(We laugh)

Me : Why?

Nondaba : He is drunk. Angithi uphuze engadlanga. He is drunk now ngifuna kuphele utshwala



(My stomach hurts now from laughing)

Ntokozo : Does that salt thing still works?

Nondaba : I don't know. We'll find out.

Sthenjisiwe : Hhaibo baba. Let him sleep uzoba right

Nondaba : Ay suka... Sthabile uyaphila ndodakazi yami?



Me : Yebo baba

Nondaba : That's good. I was speaking to Nyathuko this morning and I told him that Friday siyehla sonke siya eNdwedwe for Ndlelenhle's ritual. Usekhalela usiko manje umfana

(Not that bullshit again)

Me : Yebo baba

Ntokozo : Ay shame mina I'll come on Saturday morning ngibuye futhi same day

Sthenjisiwe : Me too. After what they did to Thukeh the last we were there angibacabangi

Maxwell : We are all going on Friday.



Sthenjisiwe : Kodwa Babana....

Maxwell : Uh-huh Sthenjisiwe lezinto ezinje azidingi umsindo

Sthenjisiwe : Okay

Maxwell : Ntoko give me my grandson

Ntokozo : Akalele?

Me : Uh-huh nangu ebhanyaze amehlo

(We laugh)

Maxwell : Thukeh is back qedani phela manje ukupheka

(Oh my man is back. I missed him)



Me : We are almost done baba

(He walks out with Ndlelenhle)

Ntokozo : Thanks to Ndlelenhle for crying non stop. Ngagcina nini nje ukudla nomndeni wami

(I laugh)

Me : Aw Ntokozo. We were at your house last month

Ntokozo : Last month! Unyaka loyo

(We laugh. Nyathuko walks in. I smile)

Me : Nana?



Nyathuko : Yah baby waze wamuhle

(He comes closer and hugs me tightly. He is not letting go)

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda

(He whispers in my ear)

Me : I love you too baby

Sthenjisiwe : HhVISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM “ FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELS! Get a room habe!

(We all laugh. Nyathuko breaks the hug. He blinks a couple of times. Is he crying? What happened?)



Me : Are you okay?

Nyathuko : Yeah

(He goes and opens the fridge. He takes out a bottle of water. No something is wrong with him. I look at Ntokozo and she shakes her head.)

Ntokozo : Err Thuthuh kaMah sesiyaqeda ukupheka. There are samosas there mawulambe kakhulu

Nyathuko : No it's okay. I'll wait for food

Ntokozo : Okay

(I shrug looking at Ntokozo. She points at the dress I'm wearing. Oh shit! The dress. Oh man maybe I shouldn't have worn it. Now look at my man. I also feel emotional right now. I feel him wrapping his arms around me and he kisses my neck)



Nyathuko : Kwavele kwathi angikushade futhi

(I smile)

Me : Do it

Nyathuko : I'm serious Sthah

(I laugh)

Me : I'm joking nana. You can't do that

Nyathuko : I can sthandwa sami

Me : Thukeh no



Nyathuko : Sokhuluma ngalento endlini

(Hhaibo he is serious. He can't marry me twice in one year now can he? He squeezed my breast and I hit his hand. He laughs and kisses my stomach)

Nyathuko : Is Vee coming?

Sthenjisiwe : I don't know let me ask her.

Me : Basifakile iscabha?

Nyathuko : Yes baby.

(He kisses my cheek)

**Nyathuko : Ey ubhut'Mkhuleko usebanjwe ezikafaro lapha emnyango.
I want to put him to bed**



(We laugh)

Ntokozo : Ushilo ubaba

Nyathuko : Sthah ngiphakele phela sthandwa sami

(He says walking out of the kitchen)

Me : Okay nana

Ntokozo : Ahh man umfana kaMah guys. He just saw Sthah in that dress wakhumbula uMah

Sthenjisiwe : Oh my God did you see him? Uvele wacweba izinyembezi same time

Ntokozo : Bro!!



Me : And I'm like what have I done now? Because I see that....

(My phone vibrates next to my apron on the counter. It's a text message. I open it. I don't know this number)

Message : THANK YOU FOR LAST NIGHT MY DARLING WIFE . I HAD A GREAT NIGHT. I LOVE YOU SO MUCH STHABILE

(What the fuck? I don't know this number)

Ntokozo : I felt so bad but I'm glad uSthabile ugqoke lengubo

Me : Ye... Yeah



(Is this Nyathuko? But Thukeh only ~~has one~~ number)

Sthenjisiwe : Sthah are you okay?

Me : Yeah yeah. I'm good. I'm good. Where is Thukeh?.... Ngiyeza

(I go outside. Nyathuko is busy laughing with Mkhuleko)

Nyathuko : Baba woza simubambe

Me : Nana where's your phone?

Nyathuko : Isemotweni yinindaba?

Me : No I was just asking khona into ebengifuna ukuyenza

Nyathuko : Okay sthandwa sami. Let me get it for you

Me : No no it's okay. Ayikho i message ongisendele yona?

Nyathuko : Message?

Me : Mhmm-mhmm

Nyathuko : No baby. Kwenzenjani?



(He clearly doesn't know what I'm talking about. I try to pull out a smile)

Me : No it's fine. I wanted to check something.... Food is almost ready.

(I head back in)

Nyathuko : Ima buka phela.



(I turn around and look at him. He is whispering that he loves me. I laugh)

Me : What? Angikuzwa.

Nyathuko : You heard me.

(I laugh and go inside the house. Hhaibo! Hhaibo! Who sent me this message? Thanks for last night my darling wife? What the hell?)

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Chapter 22

(Later we went back to our house)



Nyathuko : uBhut'Mkhuleko uyahlanya yazi

(He laughs and shakes his head. Nyathuko really considers Nkazimulo's brother as his older brother now. To be honest sometimes I feel like Nyathuko is a gift from Nkazimulo.)

Nyathuko : He wanted to drive to Mpumalanga

Me : Edakwe kanjeya? Ubehlanya.

Nyathuko : He blocked his wife. Uthe ey bafo usefona kakhulu lo manje

(He laughs)

Me : Mhmmmm

Nyathuko : Kumele ngimbone ksasa before he goes back to Mpumalanga.



Me : Okay

Nyathuko : Are you okay?

Me : Huh?

Nyathuko : URight?

(I am okay but I can't stop thinking about that message. Maybe it was just a coincidence. Same names but a message sent to a wrong number)

Me : Yes nana I'm fine. I'm just tired nje nalesisu sesiqala ukungicoba

Nyathuko : Okay



(He fixes the rear view mirror and looks at Ndlelenhle who is in the back seat in his seat. He smiles)

Nyathuko : Yah mfan'wam. Wenzani lapho?... Ndlelenhle? Ndlela?

(You know there is something here I don't know if it's me and my hormones messing around with me or Nyathuko is really not happy with this pregnancy because I remember when I was pregnant with Ndlelenhle. He couldn't keep his hands off my stomach. He played with my stomach non stop and I remember how he asked me every minute if his baby was okay but this time around he just doesn't care.)

Nyathuko : Stop eating your fingers my boy.... Ubaba ubesefuna simshiye. Ethi vele akasanceli ibele

Me : Yes he told me

Nyathuko : Yah. He told me about the bodyguards.

Me : Ayke...wakutshela ngohambo lwase Ndwedwe?



Nyathuko : Yes he did

Me : So you agree with him?

Nyathuko : I know what's good for my son

Me : I see.

(The gate opens and he drives in. We get out of the car)

Nyathuko : Woza sdudla sika baba.

(He takes Ndlelenhle from his seat)

Me : And now? What is that?



(The door is covered with tapes)

Nyathuko : Yiphi?

Me : The door Thukeh. Awushongo ukuthi abantu bafikile bafaka iscabha?

Nyathuko : Hold Ndlelenhle ngifake imoto egarage

Me : Ngisakhuluma nawe kodwa.

Nyathuko : We will talk inside. Bamba ingane

(I take Ndlelenhle from him)

Me : Angazi usibuyiseleni la knowing very well that the door is still broken



(He opens the door and I get in with Ndlelenhle. This house still makes my blood freeze)

Nyathuko : Sthah ifoni yakho iyakhala la

(He says while walking in with the bag)

Me : Who is it?

Nyathuko : I don't know ikhiphe la.

(I take out my phone from the bag.)

Me : Ay uMusa nama video call Ave enesdina

(I put Ndlelenhle down and take his call)



Me : Hey Sam..... Wooh! You look different. Why did you cut your hair?

(He looks so different without hair)

Musa : It was time. I was starting to look like Vuyo Mokoena

(He laughs. Why does he look like someone else I know? I'm trying so hard to remember who exactly but I can't remember)

Me : You don't even know Vuyo Mokoena wena

Musa : I do but I didn't call you to speak about Mr Mokoena or my hair. Biiiitch everyone is talking about you

Me : I'm sure they do.



Musa : Are you okay? You don't seem happy for someone who is trending for all the right reasons

Me : Yooo! I don't even want to talk about it.

Musa : I understand. I've been trying to call you all day

Me : Kade ngisemzini phela

(He laughs.)

Musa : Umhmmm.. Friend there is something I actually want to talk to you about.

Me : Yah

Musa : About The Ghetto King



**Me : Oh hhayi kanti ngithini mengithi I don't want to talk about it?
Aysuka**

(I hung up)

Nyathuko : Is everything okay?

Me : No Thukeh. Usume eMhlanga wathi uzogada abantu abazofaka iscabha kodwa ngisabona iscabha esibhandishiwe. Kanti where were you all day?

Nyathuko : I went to fix your mess Sthabile

Me : Excuse me?

Nyathuko : I went to see Nqabayethu but he refused to talk to me. Ubengafuni nokungibona



Me : How about we offer him money ukuze ekhohlwe iyo yonke lento?

Nyathuko : Imali oyithathaphi?

Me : I will make a plan Nyathuko

(He shakes his head)

Nyathuko : No Nqabayethu doesn't need money.

(I sigh)

Me : Sengiyazisola ngayo yonke lento

(He nods)



Nyathuko : But I know what he needs

Me : You do? Udingani?

Nyathuko : Musa

Me : Musa? Which Musa?

Nyathuko : The princess

(He calls Musa a "princess")

Me : How is Musa.... Nyathuko wait wait.

(It was Nqabayethu. Musa looked like Nqabayethu in that haircut)

Me : Nooooo



Nyathuko : Yes. Musa is Nqabayethu's younger brother.

Me : Hhaibo kanjani? How?

Nyathuko : Uyakhumbula siqala ukuthandana?

Me : Yeah

Nyathuko : Yeah. Ngiqala ukubona uMusa we were in the parking lot angithi?

Me : Yeah and wamubuka kabi

Nyathuko : And you thought angimufuni?

Me : But I was right. Wawungamufuni



Nyathuko : You thought I didn't like him but empeleni I didn't trust him. Ngiqala nje ukumubona I knew that he was Nqabayethu's brother. Babefana nse and sahlanguana ngesikhathi esi wrong where Nqabayethu and I didn't see eye to eye so I thought Nqabayethu had something to do ngobungani benu ukuze ezokwazi ukuthola indlela yokuziphindiselela kumina. But what I didn't understand was how they were brothers because I knew that Nqaba had no family so I asked around ngathola ukuthi they are related but abazani. Nqabayethu doesn't know about Musa and Musa was adopted eseyingane angithi?

Me : Yes

Nyathuko : I did my own research ngathola ukuthi bahlobene. uMusa uzalwa kwa Zungu uzalwa uyena ubaba ka Nqaba but komunye umama

Me : Yho! Yho! Thukeh wena!. I can't believe this



Nyathuko : When Nqabayethu finds out that he has a brother kukhulu okuzoshintsha kuyena. Musa is everything that Nqabayethu ever wanted in his life. Ufana nekhambi elingalapha uNqaba even though he behaves like a princess sometimes kodwa lokho akusho lutho. Okubalulekile ukuthi unegazi lika Nqaba

Me : But you don't look happy about it. You think Musa will have a problem having a brother like Nqabayethu?

Nyathuko : Akukona engikhathazeke ngakho lokho.

Me : Pho yini Thukeh?

Nyathuko : Do you remember that I told you ukuthi Nqabayethu was abused by his stepmother when he was young?

Me : Yes

Nyathuko : Ilokho ke okungikhathazayo because that stepmother is Musa's mother.

Me : Oh noooo! Is she still alive?



Nyathuko : Yes she is alive. Umama omdala nje odayisa ngomzimba

Me : Eish.... Thukeh kade uthuleleni nento enkulu kangaka?

Nyathuko : Because it wasn't important to me. UNqabayethu no Musa bebeziphilela izimpilo zabo so I didn't want to complicate things izinto engingahlani nazo

... (sigh) but things are different now. Sekufanele ngenze noma yini to protect you from Nqabayethu. Uma ngimutshela that he has a brother uzofuna ukungilalela and ilokho kuphela engikudingayo ukuze ngikwazi ukukuvikela

(I've always known that my husband loves me but now I'm sure that he would die for me and that he would do anything to protect me. I hug him with tears in my eyes)

Me : Ngiyabonga myeni wami. I don't know ukuthi ngingaba yini ngaphandle kwakho

(He kisses my cheek)



Nyathuko : Everything is going to be fine sthandwa sami. Ngicela nje ungenzele into eyodwa

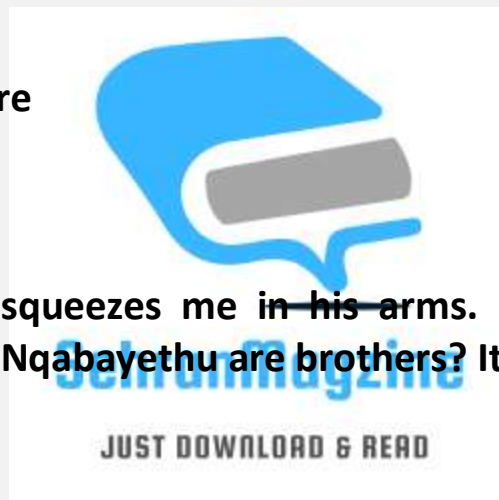
Me : Anything

Nyathuko : Don't tell anyone about this not even Musa. Ngoba kuningi ekusafanele kulungiswe

Me : I promise I won't. Akuyona indawo yami ukuthi ngimutshele

(He smiles)

Nyathuko : Come here



(He kisses me and squeezes me in his arms. Life is indeed full of surprises. Musa and Nqabayethu are brothers? It's like a weird dream)

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(I had a peaceful night especially after Nyathuko told me that Nqabayethu agreed to see him. I'm not ready to go to work though so I'll take a few days off. There are people installing a new door outside.)

Me : Ay lomsindo walabantu. Can they finish already?

Nyathuko : They are almost done.

Me : Good. Vula phela Thukeh ngibone

(He opens the fridge)

Me : Ay there is nothing layikhaya



Nyathuko : I told you. Hamba nami baby

Me : Noooo. Ngikhathele Thukeh

Nyathuko : Okay especially after Nyathuko told me that Nqabayethu agreed to see him. I'm not ready to go to work though so I'll take a few days off. There are people installing a new door outside.)

Me : Ay lomsindo walabantu. Can they finish already?

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(He opens the fridge)

Me : Ay there is nothing layikhaya



Nyathuko : I told you. Hamba nami baby

Me : Noooo. Ngikhathele Thukeh

Nyathuko : Okay I'll take Ndlelenhle with me.

Me : Are you sure? Uzothenga kanjani naye?

Nyathuko : No we are going to be fine. Ngifuna ulala uphumele nje engekho

(I smile)

Me : Awww nana. Thank you baby wami



Nyathuko : Ngiyazi kodwa ngeke ulale. Sohamba la usale usebenze

Me : I won't baby. I need a break from Ndaba Media. Nizothi nihamba ngilale Do you still have shaving cream angithi?

Nyathuko : Yeah

Me : Okay I won't add it on the list then. Umhmmm what else? Oh oh iMop uthenge ne Mop Thukeh angisayifuni ngisho ngiyibone le Mop yalayindlini

Nyathuko : Aybo wabala nama Mop manje? Ayngeke baby ungabhali izinto eziningi lapho.....let me see.

(I laugh and hide the shopping list)

Me : It's short

Nyathuko : No let me see it



Me : Incane baby uyabo? Buka

(I show him and he laughs out loud)

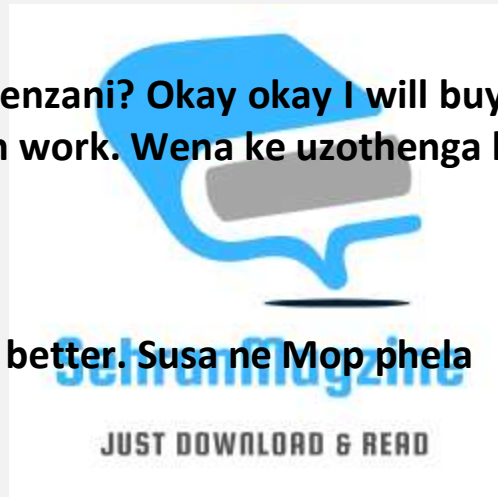
Nyathuko : Weee uyahlanya mfana izinto ezingaka Sthah ngihamba ngedwa? Ay

Me : This list is short ukuthi wena ubona angathi yinde ngoba I included Ndlelenhle's things. Ibuke kahle Thukeh

Nyathuko : Ayngeke Sthah lethu la leliphepha

(I laugh)

Me : No! Ufuna ukulenzani? Okay okay I will buy all these on Monday when I get back from work. Wena ke uzothenga lokhu



Nyathuko : Ay that's better. Susa ne Mop phela

Me : Uyahlanya ke. I Mop eyakho

Nyathuko : Baby mina ngihamba nengane kodwa

Me : Wuuuh Uh-huh stop using Ndlelenhle as an excuse.

Nyathuko : Usile wena sishwapha

(I laugh out loud)

Me : Nawe namangqumu amehlo. Futhi uzothenga zonke lezinto

Nyathuko : Khohlwa baby

Me : Fine I'll buy the rest on Monday. I think we are done here what are you eating?



Nyathuko : Wena uzodlani?

Me : Isinkwa esine peanut butter

Nyathuko : Yah. Nami

Me : Okay

Nyathuko : Ngisayogeza

(He kisses me. I touch his dick and he pulls away)

Nyathuko : Usuyabheda kanti

(We both laugh)



Me : I don't want your dick

Nyathuko : Uyalifuna unamanga... uNdlela mengavuki ngiyamshiya

Me : I'll wake him up

(We laugh. He goes upstairs to bathe and I stay behind to make our sandwiches)

(After Nyathuko and Ndlelenhle left I waited for the guys who were installing the door to finish and I slept. I slept for only 2 hours and now I'm up. I open the fridge and take the only thing inside the fridge coconut water. My phone rings it's my husband.)

Me : Nana

Nyathuko : Yah baby usuvukile?

Me : Yes



Nyathuko : Okay sesiyabuya. I miss you

Me : I miss you too sthandwa sami.

(I notice someone standing at the gate. I open the door and walk out. He waves his hand. It's a delivery guy. The gate is closed. I always make sure that I close it now after Nqabayethu almost killed us. I still don't know how they managed to get in. I head to the gate)

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda

Me : I love you too baby. Sheshani phela

(He laughs)



Nyathuko : Siyangena manje lapho

Me : Okay nana. I have to go

Nyathuko : Okay

(I hung up)

Me : Hi

(I'm not letting him in. Sorry)

Delivery guy : Hi ma'am

Me : Can I help you?



Delivery guy : Please. Is this house number 309?

Me : Yes

Delivery guy : Okay. This is for you

(It's red and white roses)

Me : Oh thanks.

(I sign and take them. The guy walks away. I smile. I know they are from Thukeh. I open the card and read it)

Card message : These reminded me of our honeymoon. I know you will love them as much as I do. Work is hectic I can't wait to come home to you. Xoxo



Me : Hhaibo

(I've never been this confused in my entire life. These are definitely not from Nyathuko. First of all Thukeh and I didn't go for our honeymoon and Thukeh is definitely not at work so this is madness. I'm still confused when I receive a whatsapp message from an unknown number. It's pictures. First picture is of a woman sitting in the bathtub full of red and white rose petals. Okay the face is mine but the body is definitely not mine. This is photoshopped. There is a message below)

Message : You were so beautiful. I wish we could go back

(I scroll to the next picture. This one is my wedding picture. I remember it. Nyathuko was carrying me in his arms next to the ocean. But there is something off about it. This one has obviously been photoshopped as well Nyathuko's head has been removed and replaced with....who is this?)

Me : What? Delani?

(Delani. Why would Delani do this? Is he crazy? Is this some kind of a joke? How did he even get hold of my wedding picture? I understand there were journalists at our wedding but.....)



Me : Oh my Instagram.

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Chapter 23

(You know I can't be stressing over my husband who is meeting up with a dangerous man like Nqabayethu today to fix the mess that I created and then stress about Delani. I just can't. Last night I decided to check my Instagram messages after a long time and I found a few messages from Delani and one was from his sister Zola. She sent me that message a week ago asking me to contact her as soon as I can. I sensed some sort of urgency in her message so today I'm meeting up with her in Tongaat. I'm running a bit late. I find her already waiting for me at KFC. The last time I saw her we were doing matric and after matric their family moved to Mandeni. She hasn't changed that much)

Me : Zola



Zola : Hawu sisi ninjani kodwa?

(She asks with so much calmness and respect. She was always a down to earth person and because of her sweetness and kindness we took advantage of her back in high school)

Me : I'm okay I'm okay. You look beautiful

Zola : Okudlula bani kodwa?

(We laugh. I pull out a chair and sit down. I'm not a fan of KFC but I love their hot wings so I ordered them. We sat down and ate)

Me : Ayisazani. How is life?

(She lets out a heavy sigh)

Zola : Ey siyaphila nje Mathabi into engatheni

(Oh my God I can't believe she still calls me that. Everyone used to call me Mathabi back in high school.)

Me : What's going on ngempela?

Zola : Uthi ukusendele nini izimbali?



Me : Yesterday. White and Red roses bekufanele ngizilahle before kubuye uThukeh because what was I going to say to him? Zola what is wrong with Delani?

(She lets out yet another heavy sigh)

Zola : Where do I even start? uDelani uyagula Mathabi

Me : Sick? As in sick in the head?



Zola : Something like that. Ubona izinto ezingabonwa abanye abantu. He believes that you and him are married

(My eyes widen)

Me : What?

Zola : Ngiqinisile. It's getting worse everyday. Ukhuluma nobala ethi ukhuluma nawe. He holds these long conversation with himself one

would swear ukuthi ukhuluma nomuntu kanti cha. Whenever he comes home from work he gets in and greets everyone and then kisses the chair ethi uwena. He would stare at the chair and call it by your name. Abuze how was your day and tells it about his day at work

Me : Noo! Zola don't say that

Zola : Every morning when he gets to work he tells his friends how good sex was with you.

(I swear my brain switched off for a moment)



Me : Noo

Zola : I'm telling you. Mathabi I don't know. uDelani useyahlanya. Yazi lento iqale after your wedding and we thought no isikhwele nje ngoba phela nakhu vele sisakhula wayekuthanda but ay wenza okukhulu uDelani. He called his girlfriend wathi they need to break up ngoba umfazi wakhe usemubambile that he is cheating so they need to break up because he can't lose his wife futhi akakwazi ukulahlekelwa umshado wakhe.

Me : Nokuzola unamanga!!

Zola : I'm telling you. His girlfriend called me yathi hau sisi Zola nithuli nje anisho ukuthi Dalani is married. Hhaibo ngakuza umhlola and then she explained to me what happened ngathi no iyona intombazane ehlanyayo. I didn't believe her. Hhayi ke kudlule izinsukwana efike uDelani coming back from work and he went to the bathroom. Hhayi sisi uthe ebuya washo ukusiqeda. He shouted at everyone endlini and he broke things ethi he couldn't see his wedding ring. He kept saying u Sthabile uzodinwa if I don't find this wedding ring. Where is my wedding ring? He shouted and broke things wena zitsha wena mawindi hheyi! Ngiyakutshela

(What the hell am I hearing bazalwane? Is there anything like that? What is Delani suffering from? Has he gone crazy? Is it witchcraft?)

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Me : weZola yenziwa njani into enje?

Zola : Angazi sisi. This whole thing is putting strain on everyone. OMah basangene nje into ongayazi. We took him to a traditional in Embo komunye nje ubaba but ay kwahlangazimuka nomoya. Ngithe sengibona I number yakho ku whatsapp wakhe ay ngabona ukuthi kuyonakala ngempela and that's why I decided to call you here. Ngoba I know ukuthi nawe ibizokusanganisa yonke lento

Me : Hhaibo mina ngithi uDelani uyadlala.....Yes I know that he had feelings for me sisakhula but kwakungeyona into eserious so I thought uyadlala because he always loved joking around ngisho naseskoleni wengumuntu wamahlaya but when I saw my wedding picture esekhiphe ikhanda lika Baba kaNdlelenhle wafaka elakhe I said no something is wrong here.

Zola : I'm scared your husband will find out about this. Ngisabela Impilo yakhe Mathabi



Me : No no sisi it won't get that far

Zola : And what if it does? Uyazi uDelani went through something like this esakhula but we thought udlala ubungane nje

Me : Usho ukuthi ayiqali yonke lento?

Zola : Cha. The way it started it seemed all innocent. He pointed at those cartoon characters on TV ethi uyena. He would say nangu mina ngu Spiderman. You know? Like all kidz do.

Me : Yah yah yah

Zola : Hhayi washintsha ke manje uDelani. He started seeing himself on action movies ekhombe abantu abangekho ethi siyamubona yini yena and when we said No. He would get so angry elwe nezinto uDelani kubenjeya. It got worse and worse esegqolozelana nama TV acishiwe ethi he is watching a movie and he is starring in that movie. Yoooh Mathabi

(She can't take it anymore. This thing is eating her up slowly. I mean this is more serious than I thought and it's scary since I'm involved now)

Me : Mhlampe usedinga odokotela bengqondo

Zola : Bayabiza Mathabi plus Delani is stubborn. He sees nothing wrong with his behavior. Lento yakhe ibuye ithi ukuphela umzuzwana kepha lapho ibuya khona ibuya ngamandla.

(Her eyes shine with tears)

Zola : I'm scared.....I'm scared he might hurt you.... mase.... mase eyaboshwa Mathabi

(She stutters and immediately throws her face on the table. She breaks down in tears. Oh heavenly Father what have I done to deserve this in my life? I mean I'm still dealing with Nqabayethu for Christ's sake and now I have to deal with this?)



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(After meeting up with Zola I felt drained. My head feels heavy. I'm not sure if this pregnancy is also messing with my mood but I'm feeling depressed. The world feels so empty and quiet. Fuck! Nothing feels right. Anyway I'm outside the gate inside my car. I'm waiting for Moltah to open the gate for me but Instead I see my husband coming to open for me. My mood suddenly improves. I smile. I thought he was still at work. I giggle when I see him wearing my socks. He is wearing my socks with his flip flops and sweatpants. He is top less. I wonder why. I lower my window)

Me : Yah baby wami

(He smiles and opens the gate)

Nyathuko : Sawubona Mam'Zondi. Ngicela ulift

(I laugh)



Me : Woza

(I unlock the door and he gets inside my car)

Nyathuko : Ngiyabonga

(I laugh)

Me : You couldn't walk from here back to the house?

Nyathuko : No bengifuna ulift

(We both laugh)

Nyathuko : Kade ngikukhumbula.



(He kisses me. I break the kiss from his lips and go for his chest.)

Nyathuko : Ingane yakho iyakhala lapha

(I stop and laugh. I drive in)

Me : He is awake?

Nyathuko : Yeah ngimshiye yedwa ngoba ungiphalazelile.

(I giggle)

Me : Oh that's why ungagqokile ngenhla. Sorry nana kodwa nawe awumubhodlisi

Nyathuko : I always do baby. Uphumaphi ke?

(Oh no)



Me : Junction. Kade ngiyobheka those shoes I showed you.

(I lie)

Me : I thought your meeting with Nqabayethu was today.

Nyathuko : It is. Kodwa akekho okwamanje sohlangana late

Me : Nyathuko what if this is a trap?

Nyathuko : No no Sthah don't do that to yourself. Nqaba is like a brother to me. I've known him all my life and I know how he operates. Uma efuna ukungibulala ngeke ekufihle lokho uyokwenza emini ka bha

Me : What if....



Nyathuko : No Nana come asambe siyendlini

(He helps me out of the car and carries me into the house. This takes me back to those days eMachobeni when I was sick and couldn't walk. He used to carry me all the time. We find Ndlelenhle lying on the carpet. He seems to be enjoying playing on the floor. He is busy playing with his hands)

Me : Hello boy boy waMah

(He laughs while kicking and lifting up his arms. I pick him up and kiss him all over his face)

Nyathuko : Where are the shoes pho?

Me : What shoes?.... Oh shoes. No baby I didn't get them. They were out of stock



Nyathuko : Sorry sthandwa sami. Ngizokubhekela zona e Gateway mase ngiyohlangana noNqaba

(Jesus Christ! I don't even need those shoes)

Me : No don't bother yourself. I'll buy them next time

(He places his hands on my waist and kisses my neck)

Nyathuko : It's okay. I'll buy them for you

Me : Thank you nana. What time are you leaving?

Nyathuko : Now. I want to go to Bhambatha Logistics before ngiyobona uNqaba. I need to speak to Nondaba about lomsebenzi kaNdlela

(I'm still against that ritual. It actually pisses me off)



Me : Okay

Nyathuko : Please don't tell me ukuthi awukakasiqondi namanje isizathu sayo yonke lento

Me : Vele I don't. Nyathuko look at him. He is just a baby. Akadingi ukugcatshwa

Nyathuko : Akazogcaba ebusweni. It's going to be a few cuts la ngasemadlebeni and the back of his head

(I sigh in relief)

Me : Why didn't you say so?

Nyathuko : Ingoba awufuni ukungilalela

(I laugh. He kisses my cheek)



(We went to our bedroom. I'm sitting on the bed. Nyathuko is getting dressed)

Me : Uh-huh nana. Iphi le enye eBlack?

Nyathuko : You want me to wear all black? Shuthi ufuna uNqabayethu engibulale

(He laughs and I don't)

Nyathuko : Hawu ngiyadlala sthandwa sami

Me : It's not funny. Ngizovele ngitshele uNondaba mina Thukeh

Nyathuko : Ungayenzi leyonto



Me : Nawe ke stop saying izinto ezingithusayo

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Uyigwala for someone othanda izindaba zabantu

Me : Imina othanda izindaba Thukeh?

Nyathuko : No baby it's not you it's your job

(We laugh)

Me : Nana can I ask you something?

Nyathuko : Yeah



(He pops the collar of his coat. I smile. He is looking at me through the mirror. He turns around)

Nyathuko : Yinindaba?

Me : Umuhle baby

(He laughs and shakes his head)

Nyathuko : All thanks to you

Me : Mina? Why?

Nyathuko : Ngoba okwenza indoda ibe yinhle ukuphuma ekhaya elinomfazi okwazi ukunakekela indoda

(He is mocking me. Nyathuko had always been beautiful

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can I ask you something?

Nyathuko : Yeah

(He pops the collar of his coat. I smile. He is looking at me through the mirror. He turns around)

Nyathuko : Yinindaba?

Me : Umuhle baby

(He laughs and shakes his head)

Nyathuko : All thanks to you

Me : Mina? Why?



Nyathuko : Ngoba okwenza indoda ibe yinhle ukuphuma ekhaya elinomfazi okwazi ukunakekela indoda

(He is mocking me. Nyathuko had always been beautiful stylish and clean ever since I met him. The only thing that changed after I met him was him becoming more fit but he is Maxwell's son after all)

Me : Oh please

(He comes closer)

Nyathuko : Woza ngiqabule

Me : No

(I cover my mouth with my hands. He laughs)



Nyathuko : Why?

Me : Because you will refuse to have sex with me

Nyathuko : Aw Sthah

Me : What? Are you worried about losing control over your ejaculation again?

Nyathuko : Aibo Sthah awakahle. Is that what you wanted to ask me?

Me : No Thukena but nalokho ngifuna sikhulume ngakho because after last night I'm concerned. I don't understand where this low libido is coming from esithubeni nje so ngifuna ukwazi. Usabani usaba lento yokuchama early or awusaluthandi nje ucansi nhlobo?

(He sighs)



Nyathuko : Ngiyaxolisa sthandwa sami. I should have told you ukuthi le medication engithathayo is affecting my sex drive... Angazi Sthah ngicabanga ukuthi iyona i medication kodwa ke ngiyayiqeda ksasa and Monday mase ngiyolanda ama results I will ask Dr Ferreira

Me : Okay nana. Sengiya understanda

Nyathuko : I'll be fine okay?

(I smile)

Me : I know baby.

Nyathuko : Ngiyaxolisa sthandwa sami uyezwa? I know this is not easy for you.



Me : It's okay baby I understand really.

Nyathuko : Yah neh.... (Heavy sigh)

(Yah neh ubufebe is very bad Thukeh.)

Nyathuko : Yini le obufuna ukungibuza yona?

(I swallow)

Me : No I wanted to ask you ngalezifo zengqondo.

Nyathuko : Izifo zengqondo?

Me : Yeah. Namhlanje ke when I was in Ballito Junction I overheard these women talking about a friend of theirs onenkinga. He is.... He is confused. Ubona izinto ezingekho ezwe izinto ezingekho. Bathi bona their friend is single neh? But yena ukholwa ukuthi unentombi. He speaks to this girlfriend that doesn't exist eyithengele izipho. Thukeh kuthiwa uze ezizwe elala nayo leyontombazane benze ucansi but the girl doesn't exist

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(He laughs out loud)

Me : Huh- huh Thukeh don't laugh ngoba nawe unezakho Izifo

(We both burst into laughter)

Nyathuko : Anginendaba. Ezami Izifo zingcono kabi ukunokuhlanya

Me : Baby this is serious

(He continues laughing)

Nyathuko : Sthah uthini ngempela?

Me : Ay yekela Thukeh



Nyathuko : Okay tell me baby. I promise I won't laugh. Kuthiwa wenzani lomuntu? Unentombi kodwa futhi akanayo wenza isex nobala?

(He laughs again)

Nyathuko : Ayngeke Sthah

Me : Please go

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : No

Me : Angithi uyahleka



Nyathuko : Okay okay. I... Uhmmm

Me : Weeeh! buka namanje ufuna ukuhleka

(He laughs and throws himself on the bed next to Ndlelenhle)

Nyathuko : Uwena nje odala ukuthi ngihleke. Yazini? Let me go. We will talk about this later

(He gets up and fixes his coat)

Me : Ufone ke nana

Nyathuko : I will. I'll tell Ntokozo to come and stay with you and Ndlelenhle until I get back

Me : No I'll ask Musa.



Nyathuko : Kodwa nje.....

Me : Relax I won't mention Nqabayethu.

(I cut him off)

Nyathuko : Okay woza ngiqabule kancane phela sthandwa sami

(I stand up. He kisses me and he moves to kiss Ndlelenhle. He takes his car keys. Is he not going to kiss my stomach? This is so unlike Nyathuko. I don't want to push him to love this baby but I'm getting worried.)

Me : Are you done?

Nyathuko : Yeah. Ngiyahamba manje

Me : Are you not going to kiss the unborn?



(I point at my stomach. He laughs)

Nyathuko : When I come back. Bye nana... Wish me luck

(He says walking out. I follow him quickly. He is walking down the steps)

Me : Thukeh what do you mean I should wish you luck? Huh Thukeh?

(He stops and laughs. He turns around and looks up the stairs where I'm standing)

Nyathuko : Bengidlala

Me : Let me call Nondaba



Nyathuko : Bengidlala ngempela baby. Don't call him. Hamba ulale

Me : If you don't call ngiyamufonela

Nyathuko : I'll call you nana don't worry.

(He says while fixing his shoe laces)

Nyathuko : Bhabhayi Ngiyakuthanda ke uyezwa?

Me : Bye nana. I love you too.... Be careful Nyathuko

Nyathuko : I will. Bye

(He walks away. I watch him until he disappears. What if he doesn't come back? What if Nqabayethu kills him? I walk inside our bedroom and kneel down.)



Me : Emagameni amathathu elikayise nendodana no Moya ocwebileyo.

(I begin praying)

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Chapter 24

(Telling Musa to leave was a bad idea. I can't sleep. I'm pacing around with my cellphone in my hand. Maybe I should call Maxwell. Fuck! Something bad is going on. Why is Nyathuko not answering his phone?)

Me : Let me call.....

(I pause when I see the lights of the car flashing on my window. Why did I not close the gate? I hide behind the couch. I don't know that car. Nqabayethu is here to kill me. He has killed Nyathuko and now he is here to finish the job. I hear doors opening and closing. I hear him laughing outside the door and I run to open the door. Oh it's Ntokozo's car)

Wena Zano ucabanga ukuthi ngumkhulu wak...

Me : Thukeh

(I throw myself in his arms and cry)

Me : I thought you were dead. Why ungayibambi ifoni kodwa Thukeh?

(He squeezes me in his arms)

Nyathuko : Ngiyaxolisa sthandwa sami. Ngiphuma KwaMashu baby I'm sorry. Ngafelwa imoto futhi and I asked Ntoko to give me her car.

(I pull away and sniff. Zanokuhle is staring at us with a sad face. My boy doesn't understand what's going on. I wipe the tears from my cheeks and pick him up)



Me : Sawubona boy boy

Zanokuhle : Hello mommy

Me : How are you?

Zanokuhle : Where is my little brother?

(I laugh)

Nyathuko : Kade ngigijinyiswa endleleni kujahwe uNdlela

**Me : Oh man. He is sleeping boy boy please don't wake him up.
Usatetema weZano**



Zanokuhle : I won't wake him up mommy

Me : Okay mkhulu. Take your bag to your room

(He is a bit sad that Ndlelenhle is sleeping. He goes upstairs. Nyathuko throws himself on the couch. I sit on top of him and wrap my arms around him.)

Me : I missed you so much

(He kisses my forehead)

Nyathuko : I missed you too baby

(I lift up my face and look at him)

Me : Uthini Thukeh? How did it go?



(He smiles)

Me : Utheni baby?

Nyathuko : Ey ngakhetha la madoda. Umuhle sthandwa sami

(He sucks my lower lip and squeezes my ass while pressing me on his dick. I laugh)

Me : Thukeh stop it

**Nyathuko : Come on baby uZanokuhle uzokwehla sesiqedile...
Phakama kancane baby. You don't have to do anything just continue
sitting like that.**

(He tries to undo his pants. I laugh while holding his hand)

Me : No Nana stop. Tell me about Nqabayethu



(He sighs)

**Me : Sex can wait Thukeh. I need to know about the meeting with
Nqabayethu**

**Nyathuko : Nothing much happened. Uyahlanya loya udubule
amawindi.**

(My eyes widen)

Me : What? Really? Awulimalanga pho?

Nyathuko : No... Eish ngeke Sthah ungilamaza ipipi suka.

(I laugh. I move from him to the couch)



Me : Ay Nana what's that? Are you taking penis enlargement pills yini kanti?

(He laughs out loud while standing up)

Nyathuko : No... Ngilambile Sthah

(He goes to the kitchen)

Me : Nakhuluma kodwa noNqaba?

Nyathuko : Yeah. He wants to meet up with Musa.... Uphekile?

Me : Wow okay. But do you think he will let this whole thing go?

Nyathuko : Yah ungabe usakhathazeka ngoNqaba... did you cook?



Me : Musa made creamy chicken pasta

Nyathuko : What? Yini manje leyo?

(I roll my eyes. Nyathuko clearly doesn't want to tell me how their meeting went but I think it went well judging by his face. He opens the bread bin and takes out brown bread. My husband doesn't know what creamy chicken pasta is and he is definitely not going to eat it.)

Me : Are you going to eat bread?

Nyathuko : Amasi

(He is going to eat his favorite Amasi with brown bread.)

Me : Oh no... Letha ngikwenzele

Nyathuko : No it's okay baby. Ngizozenzela



Me : Why did you marry me?

(We both laugh)

Nyathuko : Because I love you and I want to spend the rest of my life with you not because I can't do things myself.

Me : Unamanga wawusaba uMkhuleko

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Can you hear Ndlela crying?

Me : Hell no.... Zanokuhle!!!

(He comes down running)



Zanokuhle : I didn't wake him up uvukile yena.

Me : Uvukile ye.... Zano uzomulalisa wena

Nyathuko : Don't mind her my boy.

(Zanokuhle laughed and went back to his brother)

Me : I didn't know he was coming

(He is busy adding sugar in Amasi. He lifts up his big eyes)

Nyathuko : Ndlelenhle is his brother. He needs to come with us for the ritual

Me : Fine



Nyathuko : Khamisa

Me : No baby. I don't want Amasi.

(I sigh)

Nyathuko : Yini are you still worried about Nqabayethu?

Me : Yes

Nyathuko : Don't worry about him. Uphume futhi nasezindabeni zakhe Sthah

Me : Ngiphumile vele. Musa was asking me a lot of questions about him.

Nyathuko : And?



Me : Igazi liyakhuluma phela Thukeh but I didn't tell him anything. I think he likes him

Nyathuko : Who? Nqaba?

Me : Yes

Nyathuko : That's good. Kuzokwenza izinto zibelula. I just hope Nqabayethu will like him too. uNqaba ubuye ehlanye phela

Me : Mengamuthandi okwakhe phela lokho. Musa doesn't need him uyena odinga uMusa ngoba Impilo yakhe iwumsangano nje

(He shakes his head)

Me : I'm joking.



Nyathuko : Nondaba said we are leaving at 18h00 ksasa. Isangoma is coming at 20h00 because she has to start somewhere else angazi uyoqinisa umuzi kephi.

Me : I'm so not looking forward to that trip. Futhi ngimumbi nasekhanda. Are you going to work tomorrow?

Nyathuko : Mhmm-mhmm

Me : Uya Kwa Bhambatha?

Nyathuko : No eMhlanga. Why?

Me : I was hoping you would drop me off Emtshebheni ngiluke khona

Nyathuko : But you look fine

Me : No I don't. I look like....



(My phone vibrates. It's a message from that psycho

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angazi uyoqinisa umuzi kephi.

Me : I'm so not looking forward to that trip. Futhi ngimumbi nasekhanda. Are you going to work tomorrow?

Nyathuko : Mhmm-mhmm

Me : Uya Kwa Bhambatha?

Nyathuko : No eMhlanga. Why?

Me : I was hoping you would drop me off Emtshebheni ngiluke khona



Nyathuko : But you look fine

Me : No I don't. I look like....

(My phone vibrates. It's a message from that psycho Delani)

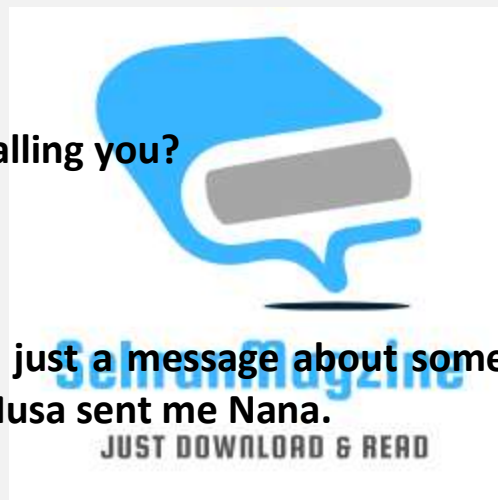
Message : I know you are hurt. I'm sorry for coming home late. I love you so much Sthabile

Me : Mxm

(I deleted his message. This guy is getting on my nerves. When I lift up my eyes Nyathuko is staring at me)

Nyathuko : Who is calling you?

Me : No one. It was just a message about some insurance.... Look at these weaves that Musa sent me Nana.



Nyathuko : Yah

Me : Buka phela Thukeh. They are beautiful uyabo?

Nyathuko : Yah kuhle

Me : Mahle Nana. If I had money I was going to buy one tomorrow nami ngifike ngihlukile nje eNdwedwe. I know everyone will be looking great ngaphandle kwami

Nyathuko : Umuhle sthandwa sami

Me : But the Zondi wives will be more beautiful. You know them

Nyathuko : Ayikho leyonto



Me : Ikhona Nyathuko. Mina ngizohamba nginje?

Nyathuko : There is nothing wrong with your hair

Me : Zimbi

Nyathuko : Uzoluka before uhambe. I'll ask Zama to come here

Me : Ay! I'm tired of braids. Njalo mengiya eNdwedwe ngifika ngiluke oPelePele ay

(He remains silent and continues eating)

Me : Ongithengela baby

Nyathuko : Ziyabiza sthandwa sami



Me : They are only R6500 nana... I'll pay you back when I have money at the month end

Nyathuko : You never have money sthandwa sami

(I sigh)

Me : Yeka. I'll do braids AGAIN.

Nyathuko : There is nothing wrong with braids

Me : No yeka Nyathuko. Ngizoya eNdwedwe ngibumbi vele abantu bazobuka wena ay mina. Usuqedile la?

(I ask and take the bowl before he responds. I wash it. He is not saying anything and that pisses me off even more. I want to cry)



Me : That's why I don't want to go Thukeh usuyabona ke?

Nyathuko : Asiyi emshadweni Sthah

Me : Yonke into bayenza angathi umshado kini nawe uyakwazi lokho. Kulungile ke kodwa

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Manje usudiniwe?

Me : No I'm not angry. I'm going to bed

(I walk away)

Nyathuko : Sthah wait buya sikhulume baby.

Me : No I'm good.



(I left him and went to our bedroom. Zanokuhle is busy playing with Ndlelenhle)

Me : Zano khumula ugqoke ama pajama

Zanokuhle : Mkhulu bought me new ones. Akubhakha

(I smile)

Me : Aw bakithi ubaba. Go and wear them ngiwabone

(He kisses his brother and runs to his bedroom. My phone rings. My mother is calling)

Me : Yah Mah



MaKheswa : Yah bahambe kahle ozano?

Me : Oh yes. I was going to call you now and let you know

MaKheswa : I tried to call Zanokuhle but ucingo lwakhe lwakhala layindlini

Me : Yes he left it.

MaKheswa : Yaah unobani?

(MaKheswa wants to gossip now. I laugh)

Me : Relax Nyathuko is not here.

(She laughs)



MaKheswa : Ay phela ngikuxoxele. His uncle called. He said his name is Shlangu. Ayke bafonela uMapholoba and they asked about your lobola ukuthi senzenjani. Babuza nokuthi if damages were paid for Ndlelenhle

Me : What?

MaKheswa : I'm telling you. Ay uNgcobo esho ke ukuthi thina we don't believe in such things. They asked a lot of questions ukuthi

wena wamitha selikhokhiwe yini ilobolo and they asked ukuthi yashiswa yini impepho when you went to give birth to Ndlelenhle.

Me : Hhaibo nihlanganaphi nina Mah naleyonto why didn't he ask Nondaba noma yena uNyathuko?

MaKheswa : Ngazelaphi? Ey weSthabile we were so confused. Uyamazi ke ubaba wakho. He got angry and he dropped the call

Me : Wenze kahle uBaba



MaKheswa : Ngithi angikufonele ke ngizwe if they called you as well.

Me : Lutho. I don't think noNyathuko bamufonelile. Ey mina Mah uma nje bangisanganela ksasa ave ngizobaxhaphisa

MaKheswa : Ay Sthabile! No no Mntanami ungayenzi leyonto. Bayahlonishwa abantu basemzini ngisho ikati lakhona imbala. Whatever they say tomorrow please keep your head down uthule

angathi udutshuliwe because if you become rude ngeke besabuka wena kodwa bazobuka uZondi ngoba you are his wife.

(I let out a sigh)

Me : Ngiyezwa Mah

MaKheswa : Ayke lalani kahle

Me : Goodnight mama



(She hung up. There is a message on my phone. It's a bank notification. Someone transferred R7000 in my account. The payment reference is "Wigi". I laugh out loud. I dial his number)

Nyathuko : Ongiyeka Sthah

(I laugh)

Me : Thank you Nana. Ngithe yeka nje kodwa baby

Nyathuko : Ay ubudiniwe nje

Me : I wasn't angrybaby. I'll pay you back

Nyathuko : Lingawa licoshwe izinkukhu

(I laugh.)



Nyathuko : Usulele?

Me : No woza phela. Are you still watching TV?

Nyathuko : No I'm eating

Me : Again?

Nyathuko : It's not like I ate.

Me : You didn't eat wena sthandwa sami nami ngufakazi.

(We laugh)

Nyathuko : Don't sleep. I'm coming



Me : Okay nana

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda Sthah

Me : I love you too Nondaba

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Chapter 25

(Now I look like Nyathuko's wife. I smile looking at myself in the mirror)

Me : Mhmmmm now this is quality



(I say running my fingers through my brand new expensive weave that I bought with R6500 cash yes.)

Me : Zano how do I look boy boy?

Zanokuhle : You look different

(I frown)

Me : How different?

Zanokuhle : Where are your braids?

(Aibo lengane. I roll my eyes)

Me : How do I look Ndlela waMama?



(My cute teddy bear laughs)

Me : Yes boy boy muhle umah angithi mfan'wam? Thank you baby

(I kiss Ndlelenhle)

Zanokuhle : But mommy I didn't say you were ugly

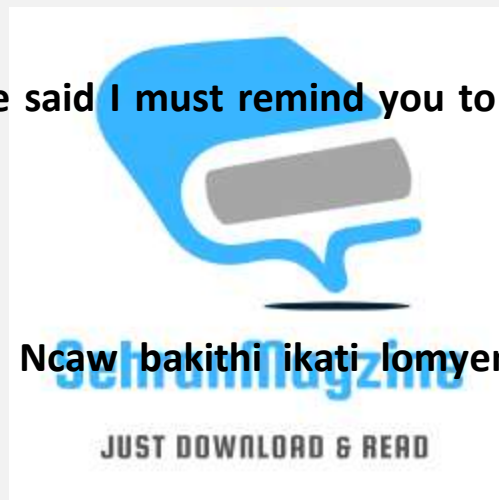
Me : You said I look different

Zanokuhle : And that's not ugly mommy

Me : Yah yah yah.... Is Aunt Moltah gone already?

Zanokuhle : Yes. She said I must remind you to tell daddy about the cat's food.

Me : Owww yes! Ncaw bakithi ikati lomyeni wami lafa indlala. Where is my phone?



(I take my phone)

Me : No let me video call him and show him the weave

(I start the Whatsapp video call)

Me : Zano take that thing from Ndlelenhle before he eats it. Ingulube phela ubhuti wakho

Mam'Zondi

(Nyathuko answers)

Me : Hello nana.... Yoo! You seem busy



(He has a lot of files in front of him)

**Nyathuko : YVISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM “ FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELS
Sh ngi busy kanca.... HVISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM “ FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELS!**

(I laugh)

Me : What?

Nyathuko : Ayngeke baby umuhle kanje kanti

(I laugh out loud. The reaction on his face... Priceless)

Nyathuko : Hhaibo baby

(I continue laughing)



Me : Thank you Nana uyabonake ukuthi awilahlanga eskhotheni imali yakho?

Nyathuko : Umuhle sthandwa sami. Ubuye nini?

Me : An hour ago. Ngsheshile

(He closes his laptop and stands up)

Me : Where are you going?

Nyathuko : Ngiza lapho

(I laugh)

Me : Hhaibo Thukena it's 13h00. Uthe uqeda ngo 16h00 nje



(He is already walking out of his office)

Nyathuko : I'll see you now baby

Me : Wait nana.

Nyathuko : Yah baby

(He lifts up his eyes)

Nyathuko : Yeah I'm leaving

(He is speaking to someone else. He laughs)

Nyathuko : No not for lunch. I'm going home to my wife and my sons



(He laughs)

Nyathuko : One minute

(He looks back at his screen)

Nyathuko : Yah baby sorry about that.

Me : No problem nana. Ikati lakho alinakho ukudla

Nyathuko : No baby kukhona egarage

Me : Are you sure?

Nyathuko : Yeah sthandwa sami. Ngiyeza kodwa vele manje

Me : Okay nana



(I blow him a kiss. He smiles and his face disappears. I haven't ended the video call but he is not aware)

Nyathuko : Buka uPhilani ubanjwe insangu

(Someone else laughs)

Thukeh what do you mean you are leaving now?

Nyathuko : Uyazi ukuthi umfazi wami muhle kanjani ukuthi ngingahlala la mina..... Ey Philani? That one is broken use the other one.

(What is broken now?)



Nyathuko : Eish! Awumtshale Menzi awukhulume naye. Ngisahamba

(I laugh and end the call. He wasn't lying about coming home.)

(1 hour and a couple of minutes later he arrived. He found me feeding his cat in the garage. He picks me up and spins me around)

Me : Baby you are making me dizzy.

(He laughs and kisses my forehead before he puts me down)

Nyathuko : Iphi iwigi pho?

(I laugh)

Me : I took it off

Nyathuko : Waze wamuhle Sthah wami.

(I giggle)



Me : Ngiyabonga Thukeh wami

(He kisses me)

Me : I can't believe you came back

(He bends on his knees and brushes his cat)

Nyathuko : Ufonile uNtokozo?

Me : Mhmm-mhmm why?

Nyathuko : No she called me wathi singamshiyi ntambama.....ubuye ngani?



Me : With Uber

Nyathuko : HVISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM ” FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELS! Wathini udriver ka Uber baby?

(I laugh out loud)

Me : He asked for my number and I gave him yours

(He laughs and hugs me)

Nyathuko : Ingakho nje ngakushada sthandwa sami

(We laugh. We walk inside the house. Zanokuhle is playing with Ndlelenhle. He jumps as soon as he sees Nyathuko.)

Zanokuhle : Daddy!!



(Nyathuko picks him up and tickles him. Zanokuhle laughs. Ndlelenhle wants to die on that couch. Ndlelenhle loses it when he sees his father. He kicks and laughs and lifts up his arms like he wants to fly. What irritates him now is that Nyathuko is not giving him attention because he is busy with Zanokuhle. He cries)

Me : Thukeh uyayibona ke le ngane yakho ukuthi inomona?

(Nyathuko laughs. He puts down Zanokuhle and picks up Ndlelenhle. I wonder what was going to happen if Enzelwe was still alive. This house was going to look like a creche plus with the baby that I'm carrying. I wrap my hand around Nyathuko's arm)

Me : Imagine because soon you'll be dealing with 3 children

(I tell him while looking at Zanokuhle who is rolling on the floor. He has no idea that soon he will be playing with a new baby sister or brother)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami I told you ~~ukuthi~~ mina angisoza ngahlulwa izingane zami.



(He says while bouncing Ndlela on his chest)

Me : If you say so

Nyathuko : When is your next doctor's appointment?

Me : I'll check but it's towards month end

Nyathuko : Okay

Me : Are you hungry?

Nyathuko : No I'm fine Nana thanks.

Me : Okay. I'm going to pack our clothes. I don't even know what to pack phela eNdwedwe kuyabanda kuyashisa



(He puts Ndlelenhle down and follows me to our bedroom. We get inside and he locks the door. He pressed me against the door and kissed me. We undress each other and this time my panties are safe. He tries to break the kiss but I won't let him)

Nyathuko : iCondom baby

(He mumbles in my mouth. Oh hell no! Not that again. I sigh)

Me : When are you collecting your results again?

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Monday. Woza la



(He lifts me up and I wrap my legs around his waist. He goes and opens the drawer. He takes out one condom and unwraps it. His dick keeps touching my ass. He rolls the condom on his dick. Why is he so slow?)

Me : Sheshisa phela

(I whisper in his ear. He laughs. He lifts up my ass and just like that he is in. He squeezes my ass while moving it up and down. He puts me down and bends me over on our bed. He enters from behind. Different sounds fill up the room. Moans and groans. That clapping sound of our skins hitting each other and that sound during a dogstyle where it sounds like you are farting when you are not. I hate that one

so much. I know they say it has something to do with gas doing what - what but wuuh! uh-uh that shit is embarrassing)

Mommy?

(Can somebody tell me this is not happening. What is Zano doing outside our door?)

Zanokuhle : Baba?



(My crazy husband continues fucking me slowly. I grab a pillow and bury my face in it)

Nyathuko : Yes my boy

Zanokuhle : uNdlela uphalazile. Please give me his towel

(Instead of opening for Zanokuhle he goes faster. I tighten my grip on the duvet cover. I clench my teeth as I reach my destination. After some time I open my eyes and turn my face to Nyathuko.)

Me : Vula isicabha

(He pulls out and spank my ass. Why did that feel good? He slides back in. He keeps doing the same thing. Gently pulling out and spank my ass before he slides back in. He laughs while doing all that)

Me : Nana stop. Give me my clothes



(I take a pillow and hit him with it. He laughs while he bends down and kisses my ass. He plays around with his teeth around my ass and my clit. His warm breath around my vagina causes pressure on my nipples. Nyathuko will be the death of me. The things this man does to me trust me the day I die I'll die on top of his dick. I rub my nipples while moaning. He spanks my ass and heads to the door. Why did he stop just like that? I know Zano is waiting but I didn't want him to stop. Well he just left me lying there on the bed like a horny hoe)

Nyathuko : Zano?

(Silence. He looks at me and I shrug. He slowly opens the door and steps out naked)

Me : Hhaibo Nyathuko!

(He laughs and comes back in.)

Nyathuko : Uhambile



Me : Udubile

(He goes to the bathroom and comes back with a wet towel. He spreads my legs and cleans me. He finished and kissed my vagina. I laugh and close my legs)

Nyathuko : Baby get up. Soba late yazi

(He says while cleaning himself)

Me : Uwena nje

(I get up and wrap myself with a towel. He wears his jeans and takes his box of cigarettes)

Me : Usayobhema sthandwa sami kodwa sibe si late

Nyathuko : Mina ngiyasheshisa.



(He heads out)

Nyathuko : Hhaibo ngicela unginika ithawula lika Ndlela

Me : No leave it. I'm sure he took the other one that was in his room

Nyathuko : Okay

(He opens the door)

Me : Nana?

Nyathuko : Yah baby

Me : Ngiyakuthanda

(He smiles)



Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda nami sthandwa sami

^

^

^

AT NDWEDWE

(On our way here Nyathuko said he was hungry and we all went to a restaurant and ate. When I say we I mean Me Maxwell Ntokozo Sthenjisiwe Nyathuko and our sons. So because of that we arrived an hour later and when we arrived the sangoma was already here. Zanokuhle is already familiar with the place and he is playing with other kids in the tent)

Ntokozo : Zinhle izinwele zakho yho!

(I smile)



Me : Thank you. Angithi phela mina ngazitholela indoda emadodeni

(We laugh. Mabuyi is here as well)

Sthenjisiwe : Did you guys see how they looked at us when we arrived?

Me : Ngiswele umgodu wokucasha

Mabuyi : Did you guys see how many goats they bought?

Ntokozo : No

Mabuyi : Twelve

Hhaibo!!!!



(We all say. Twelve goats for Ndeleenne's ritual? That's insane)

Mabuyi : Bathwele kulomuzi kodwa nina aniboni

(I look at Ntokozo and Sthenjisiwe. I think Mabuyi forgets that this is their family she is talking so ill about.)

Ntokozo : Ay vele

(I guess they don't care what Mabuyi says about their family. Even when she accuses them of ukuthwala)

Me : No that's not true.

Mabuyi : It is true. Ey weSthabile bathwele labantu. Why would they buy twelve goats for umsebenzi omncane nje wengane?

(She opens the curtain and checks the coast.)



Mabuyi : I'll tell you ukuthi ubani othwele. Ileyandoda embi emnyama eshaya ngezingcabo ezinde ukubadlula bonke

Me : Which one is that?

(Sthenjisiwe laughs)

Sthenjisiwe : Sthabile doesn't know baba omkhulu Zenzele? Uyamazi?

Ntokozo : No he is always indoors mekunemicimbi. Apparently unabantu abadala and he can't stand the crowd

(She rolls her eyes. We laugh)

Me : Is he here today?



Sthenjisiwe : I think so. Imicimbi enjengale are very important to him. You will see him.

Me : I'm so not looking forward to it

(They laugh)

Mabuyi : Uyabonake loyo wuye lo othwele. Sthabile layikhaya they find every reason to have a ceremony....to split blood. Someone breaks their arm and the Zondi's will slaughter a goat or a cow. Someone loses their job and the Zondi's will slaughter a cow. Kulomuzi bathola isizathu esincane nje mase beyahlaba. Lezozinto kumele zikutshele something Sthabile ngoba azihambi zodwa.

Me : Mabuyi you are scaring me

Mabuyi : I'm just saying



Sthenjisiwe : I don't think khona othwele ukuthi nje usiko lubalulekile layikhaya

Mabuka : Usiko my foot! Nithwele nina

(We laugh. To be honest what Mabuyi just said doesn't sit well with me. Lubanzi and Zanokuhle walk in)

Me : Zanokuhle why are you so dirty?

Mabuyi : Akasangcolile jehova nenhlabathi yalana iyimbi kanje

Me : Awumubuke nje. Ay Zano mahn.

Zanokuhle : I'm sorry mommy

Sthenjisiwe : Gosh he is such a sweetheart. Ngizokugeza yezwa boy boy?



(Zanokuhle smiles)

Zanokuhle : Thank you

Lubanzi : Mkhulu said they are waiting for you

(We look at each other)

Mabuyi : Shuthi sebeyaqaala. Let's go bafethu

Me : Where is Ndlela?

Zanokuhle : With Mkhulu.

Me : Okay Mabuyi please give me one of your scarfs.

Mabuyi : Take that one next to you



Me : Thanks

(I take the scarf and put it over my shoulders. We all walk out)

Me : Kwaze kwabanda

(I rub my arms. I search for my husband amongst those men who are standing next to the rondavel. I spot him in his blue overalls and a beanie hat. I smile. We walk to the rondavel and we walk past them. He grabs my arm stopping me)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami are you okay?

Me : Yes Nana

(We distance ourselves from his uncles)



Nyathuko : Why unganginaki kanti?

(I laugh)

Me : Stop being dramatic

(He kisses my cheek.)

Thukeh?

(Baba omkhulu Shlangu calls him)

Shlangu : Woza mfan'wam

Nyathuko : Yebo baba omdala

Me : Come let's go



(He wraps his arm around my waist. He squeezes my ass as we enter the rondavel. I hit his hand. He laughs behind me. I joined other women and he joined other men on the other side of the rondavel. There are candles burning and the sangoma is busy burning the incense.)

Sangoma : Please give me the baby

(Nyathuko takes Ndlelenhle to the Sangoma)

Sangoma : Hlala khona la phambi kwami umgone

Maxwell : Thukeh isigqoko

Nyathuko : Eish eish. Ngiyaxolisa



(Nyathuko takes off his beanie hat. There are some comments going around but they are inaudible. I know they are judging Nyathuko. I shake my head. The sangoma starts calling the Zondi clan names)

Sangoma : Bo Nondaba oGagashe Mancinza Nhlab'shile Luqa. Ngibiza nina oBhambatha oMancinza intombi yabuyela esokeni. We've heard you bantu abadala. Nangu umntwana namhlanje simubeka izinhlanga. Simukhanyisa emehlweni enu. Protect him

(She smiles)

Sangoma : Woza ku Gogo khehla lami. Hawu isidudla esihle kangaka

(The moment she takes the razor my eyes close. I can't watch that. I'm waiting to hear Ndlelenhle crying but he doesn't. They are done. I see Nyathuko taking Ndlelenhle back with him to where he was sitting)

Sangoma : I see something here

Bheki : Khuluma makhosi

Sangoma : Who is pregnant here?

(Silence. Maxwell clears his throat)

Maxwell : It's my son's wife

Bheki : Ini?



(The atmosphere changes)

Maxwell : Yinto ebengizonitshela yona leyo namhlanje

Bheki : Tell us what Ndabenhle?

(Bheki stands up)

Kwanele : Bafo?



**Bheki : Awthule nje kancane Kwanele. Ndabenhle ngikhuluma nawe!!
Tell us what? Usitshela lamanyala?**

Bheki sit down

(A deep voice says. He is sitting in the dark wearing a white jacket but because the rondavel is a bit dark and full of smoke I can't see his face)

Bheki : Zenzele I...

(Oh it's Zenzele the one who was accused of ukuthwala. Mabuyi pinches my arm. She is letting me know that it's him but wait did Bheki just call me being pregnant "rubbish"?)

Zenzele : I said sit down



(Bheki looks around and sighs before he sits down)

Zenzele : Ndabenhle how did you allow something like this to happen? Ayikhulunywanga lento

(Zenzele's voice is deep very deep)

Maxwell : We spoke about it but Nyathuko and Sthabile are married ngangingeke mina ngifike emzini wabo ngithi Nyathuko ungamithisi umfazi wakho

Bheki : His wife? You call Sthabile his wife? Lomfazi ongakaze ethelwe ngingo ngenyongo yala koZondi is Nyathuko's wife?

(He chuckles)

Bheki : Ey Musa ukusixoxela inganekwane wena



(I look at Nyathuko. His head is bowed down)

Maxwell : But you know that Sthabile's family is different. They are Jehova's witnesses

(Hhayi! did he just call my family Jehova's witnesses?)

Maxwell : They are Christians abazenzi lezinto

Bheki : We do!! So why did Nyathuko marry umfazi ongaluhloniphi usiko? Ongazi lutho ngosiko?

(My blood starts boiling)

Bheki : Lento esizama ukuyenza la is bullshit! Ayikho yonke lento! Ndlelenhle is not crying because udinga usiko. He is crying non stop because our ancestors are angry. Nyathuko usilethele amabhadi! Izinto zethu zimnyama nje kanti uwena uthukuthelise abaphansi! Silokhu sizishaya amakhanda nje asking ourselves where we went wrong kanti wena wazi kahle

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Zenzele : Mntakababa calm down. We can fix this

(Bheki stands up)

Bheki : Fix what!? Nothing can be fixed now. Konakele!! Our ancestors are angry! u Nyathuko uzomithisa umfazi azi kahle ukuthi akayena umfazi layikhaya! Akathelwanga ngenyongo! Our ancestors don't recognize her as one of us. She shouldn't be sitting there nabafazi

balayikhaya. Fanele angabe akawubeki nokuwubeka umcondo wakhe kulendlu esishisa kuyona impepho but we allowed her and then Nyathuko does something like this? Nyathuko knows exactly that what he did is wrong!

Sangoma : Ehlisani umsindo zingane zami

Khulu : Please tell them

Bheki : No Mah! Kambe nina niyamusaba uNdabenhle? Well I am not scared of him. Ngeke mina ngibuke Impilo yami imosheka because of Ndabenhle's son. Never!! Abantu abangalaleli imithetho yala KwaZondi?



Khulu : Zenzele is right. We can still fix....

Bheki : Nothing Mah! Sthabile is not Nyathuko's wife. Uwumama wengane nje la kwa Zondi!

(Tears roll down my cheeks. Nyathuko stands up with Ndlelenhle)

Nyathuko : Sthabile let's go

(I stand up)

Bheki : Go where? Kambe wena awufuni ukutshelwa! You don't listen hence we are sinking in hell. Ngenxa yakho!! Sit down!!

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Chapter 26



Nyathuko : No Baba. Into engingeke ngiyenze ukuhlala la ngilalele wena. I'm not going to sit here and listen to you insulting my wife.

(He is standing by the door with Ndlelenhle sleeping on his shoulder. I don't know if I should go and stand next to them or sit back down)

Bheki : She is not your wife akasoze aba umfazi wakho ngaphambi kokuba ethelwe ngenyongo

Nyathuko : Ngeke yenzeke leyonto

(Gulps)

Bheki : Uthini?



(Bheki asks looking all around the house. I sit back down before he sees me standing)

Bheki : Did you hear him Mah? Ndabenhle did you hear your son?

Maxwell : I heard him.

Nyathuko : Yini bekumele ngimemeze njengawe ukuze ukholwe ukuthi bangizwile? Is that the reason why you are forcing me to sit

here khona uzongihlula ngokukhuluma ngoba phela wena ukhulumela safuthi?

Bheki's wife : Hhaibo!!!

(Bheki hisses while shaking his head looking at Nyathuko from his head down to his toes)

Bheki : Ndabenhle you failed. This boy failed you. This boy is rude! Ingane esahlala eduze komsamu igqoke isigqoko ekhanda! What were we expecting?



Nyathuko : Anginendaba nalokho.

Zenzele : Thukeh stop it

Nyathuko : No Baba omdala. I'm tired of everyone trying to control umshado wami no Sthah. Imina engashela u Sthah imina futhi engamshada ngakho ke I won't allow somebody else to come and tell me ukuthi ngenzeni ngomfazi wami.

Khulu : Thukeh kuzomele nibe nomshado wesintu khehla ukuze umaka mfana efakwe edlozini

Nyathuko : No Khulu. Everyone is busy saying Sthabile knew that ngiphuma ekhaya elinjani so why did she marry me because she is a Christian? But angizwa noyedwa obuzayo ukuthi ngamshadelani mina uSthabile ngazi ukuthi uyikholwa. You are making everything her fault. Why are you all forcing Sthabile to follow and practice our customs when no one ever forced me to become a Christian? Yinindaba inkolo yakubo la asuka khona yona ayibalulekile and okubalulekile ilokhu thina esikholelwa kukho kuphela? Huh baba?



(Gulps)

Nyathuko : Uma kukuthi senijwayele ukuthi abafazi ibona abalendela imithetho yakubo kwendoda kulungile but ay owami umfazi. I will not force my wife to do things that are against her beliefs ngoba naye akakaze nangelizodwa ilanga engiphoqe ukuthi ngivuke ngiye esontweni. If she believes ukuthi inkolo yakhe no Nkulunkulu amukhonzayo akuhambisani nedlozi then I'm not going to change that. Our marriage is not going to change anything u Maka Zanokuhle akhula ekholelwa kuyona for years way before me. I'm not going to allow umshado ukuthi ubhidlize ukholo lwakhe. Ngeke. And that is final.

(He says and heads out)

Bheki : Ey wena! Come back here!!!

(Bheki tries to drag Nyathuko back inside. Maxwell stands up. He looks furious)

Maxwell : Bheki touch my son one more time and I'll remind you who I am uyangizwa?



Zenzele : Let him go Bheki

(He says with his deep scary voice and Bheki let go of Nyathuko. I stand up and pick up Zanokuhle. We follow Nyathuko and Ndlelenhle. The moment we got inside our room Maxwell Ntokozo and Sthenjisiwe followed)

Maxwell : Nyathuko what was that about? Angikufundisanga inhlonipho? How dare you speak to your father like that? He is your father!!!

Ntokozo : Hhai baba why.....

Maxwell : Shut the fuck up Ntokozo

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I'm not talking to you. Why ningihlaza? You want people to say I failed as a father? Ilokho enikufunayo? Thukeh did you hear Bheki? He said I failed.

Nyathuko : I don't care what he said.

Maxwell : I do care! I'm not a failure Nyathuko. Nganikhulisa kangcono kabi ukunalento eniyenzayo. Your mother and I raised y.....

Nyathuko : Keep my mother out of this Nondaba. Ngiyakucela baba

Maxwell : She must be turning in her grave ekubona....

Nyathuko : You didn't raise me baba. Ngakhuliswa kwaMaphalala mina.

(This is getting out of hand)

Maxwell : I raised you! Awukhuliswanga abantu bakwaMaphalala wena?



(Nyathuko laughs while shaking his head. I know this side of him. I know he is not actually laughing)

Nyathuko : Where did my mother die? Wasn't she at the Maphalala household when she died? And Where were you when she died?

Ntokoza : Yes ask him Thukeh.

Maxwell : That is none of your fucking business!

(They are fighting and I want to cry.)

Me : Okay kahleni kahleni. Nondaba ngiyakucela baba. Please calm down. Sesizibukanisa nabantu ke manje bo Bhambatha. This is not us akuwona umndeni wami enguthandayo lo osulwa kanje sihambile. People are listening Nondaba and I don't want them to hear us fighting. Asingajabulisi izitha boBhambatha abahle ngiyanicela.



(Sthenjisiwe brushes my back)

Me : Mhlampe u Thukeh wenze iphutha wakhuluma kanjeya no Baba omdala but us fighting won't change what he said. It won't change anything kodwa kuzonika abantu isthombe esibi ngathi. They will think this is our daily life that we are always fighting and that's when they will see you as a failure Nondaba. Ngiyacela Baba let's not talk about our problems in front of everyone. Abantu basizakala ngobala. Let's talk about this ekhaya sesihambile la.

(I turn my head to Nyathuko)

Me : Thukeh? Nana? Please let's not fight

Nyathuko : Ngiyaxolisa sthandwa sami.

(He pulls me into his arms and kisses my forehead)

Nyathuko : Nondaba ngiyaxolisa baba



Maxwell : Kulungile mfan'wam.

(I smile. Ntokozo hugs me)

Sthenjisiwe : Ayke wavuka uMah emathuneni ngempela

(We laugh. She smiles and kisses my hand. What does she even mean?)

Maxwell : Sthabile come here Ndodakazi yami.

(He hugs me. Ey this man's body is so hard.)

Maxwell : I'm sorry.

Me : It's okay Nondaba



Maxwell : We will fix this I'll speak to them.

Me : Yebo baba

(Nyathuko wraps his arm around my waist)

Maxwell : Wena let's go and slaughter those goats. Uzobuye umgone uSthabile

(We laugh. That's all I want to hear "laughter" I don't want them to fight. I can't stand it.)

Nyathuko : Ngiyabuya sthandwa sami

Me : Okay nana



(He hugs me tightly and whispers in my ear)

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda kakhulu Mam'Zondi uyezwa?

(I smile)

Me : I love you too Nana

(He presses his lips on my neck. He breaks the hug and sighs. He walks out following his father)

Ntokozo : You did well Mapholoba.

(I giggle)

Me : What are you talking about?



Sthenjisiwe : You don't have to know. Okufanele ukwazi ukuthi we are proud of you

(My phone vibrates in my pocket. I take it out and check. It's a whatsapp message)

Me : Hhai!

(I quickly close my eyes. Delani just sent me a picture of him naked.)

Ntokozo : What's wrong?

Me : Nothing important.

(I say and block his contact. I should have done this ages ago. I don't have time for crazy people)

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Chapter 27

Me : Why did Nqabayethu park his car here? Uchuku phela lolu. Sidlulephi ke manje?

Zanokuhle : They went to the river with daddy

Me : Who went to the river with Thukeh?

Zanokuhle : The owner of this car and his friends.

Me : Oh. Please open the door

(We squeeze ourselves in front of a big VW Kombi. Nqabayethu is here they came with this Kombi. I'm just happy he is here. This means I don't have to worry about him coming to my house with guns and his whole army anymore. Today is a busy day it's Ndlela's ritual day. I've been getting looks since this morning. Nothing but looks. No one is talking to me except Ntokozo Ntombenhle Sthenjisiwe and Mabuyi. All the other wives are on mute along with their children. I'm sure a meeting was held last night and they were advised not to say anything to me. Well them not speaking to me doesn't affect my appetite so they can go to hell for all I care. As long as the people I came with are still talking to me then I'm good. They are the only family I recognize. I'm here to put Ndlelenhle in bed and then go back to the kitchen. I put him down and immediately he started crying)

Me : Ndlela come on boy boy. Please sleep. Zano give me his bottle.

(He gives me Ndlela's bottle and I feed him)

Zanokuhle : Can I go back now?

Me : Haa! Awusenendaba noNdlela

Zanokuhle : I do mommy. I just want to go and play

(I laugh)



Me : I'm joking boy boy. I know you care and that you love him. Go and play boy

(He runs out of the house. I'm happy to see him playing with other children. He's been very lonely after his twin's death. I know he has Ndlela but Ndlela is just a baby. A baby that takes forever to sleep. I'm busy moving all around with him in my arms. I hear noise outside and I check through the window. It's Nyathuko and his friends. They are back. Nyathuko is carrying a bag and it seems heavy. I think I love him more in those overalls. Today he is wearing a black one with his beanie hat and black lace up boots but he looks like he is coming from

the heist or something. Every single piece of clothing that Nyathuko wears looks like they were made for him for his body. I bite my lower lip looking at him)

Nyathuko : Always better than one.

Nqabayethu : The problem is my left hand

(Nyathuko puts the bag down and Nqabayethu opens it. My eyes widen when I see him taking out two guns. He holds both of them)



Nqabayethu : Look at my left hand. Yabo lemithambo le

Nyathuko : Yeah

Nqabayethu : Iyona ke Thukeh le evele ingiqede amandla and when I hold a gun for too long sivele siwe. Buka buka ngisho lomunwe awuspani

Nyathuko : Walimala wena

Nqabayethu : I know bro wami kodwa nga hier ay ngiyamasha

(Nyathuko takes the guns from Nqabayethu and spins them around in his hands before he points them at Mzet. They laugh. I didn't know Nyathuko could hold a gun like that.)

Nyathuko : Put them away Nqaba ey uSthah angase engibone ngibambene nezibhamu kanje engangala.



(They laugh. If only he knew that I'm looking at him. Nqabayethu takes the guns and puts them back. He gets inside the Kombi with the bag. Nyathuko held those guns like a professional. Is it possible that his friendship with Nqabayethu involves crime? No my husband is not a criminal. I walk closer to the window. There is another guy that I've never seen before)

Nqabayethu : Hhai Thukeh you haven't lost your touch. Come back in the game

(What?)

Nyathuko : Ey ey iyeke nje Nqaba leyonto ngoba ngeke yenzeke

Nqabayethu : Come on. You don't miss those days noAmerika

(They laugh out loud. What the hell is Nqabayethu talking about?)

Nyathuko : Ey leso sdididi sacisha sangifaka ejeli



Nqabayethu : He was sweating. But I told you Thukeh I told you ukuthi ngeke ewuphushe loyamshikashika

Nyathuko : What is so hard about it?

Nqabayethu : Ay Ay Thukeh inzima leyanto. Yangihlula nje ngayeka usuhambile.

Mzet : No one managed to pull it off

Ini leyo?

(The other guy asks. He has a red beard.)

Nqabayethu : Lento engakutshela ngayo.....

(He lowers his voice now I can't hear him.)



Ha!!!!!! Ay niyangigoqa manje G.

(The guy seems shocked)

Nqabayethu : Tell him Thukeh

(Nyathuko laughs while shaking his head)

U General?

(The guy asks)

Nqabayethu : Ne Mayor. Ngiyakutshela nje. Zet awutshele uNtuzuma ukuthi uThukeh weblind kanjani

Mzet : Nswempu bro wami



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Ntuzuma : Hhai never la! La kumina ngeke elunge ay o General vele bahlale bezizelela ingakho nje ayepusha isimokolo easy

Nqabayethu : Ah! He is old now. He has lost the magic touch

Nyathuko : Usho kanje?

Nqabayethu : Thukeh it has been ages ndoda. You lost it.

Nyathuko : Maybe

(Mzet whistles)

Mzet : Tjooo! Who is she?

Nyathuko : I'll kill you



(They laugh. I put Ndlelenhle on the bed)

Mzet : Ngiyadlala

Nyathuko : Nqaba where is Nomzamo?

(Nqabayethu smiles. They must be talking about his girlfriend. I forgot her name)

Nqabayethu : Ugrand. She wanted to come here but her sister is sick so she couldn't make it.

Nyathuko : That's bad but uzoba right

Nqabayethu : Yah. Asimashe phela Thukeh

Nyathuko : Ey Nqaba kukude lapha



Nqabayethu : Nali ibhasi lenkwezeli somasha ngalo

Nyathuko : Uyahlupha wena. Let me charge my phone kuqala.

Nqabayethu : Where is mine?

(Nqabayethu taps on his pockets)

Nqabayethu : Awifonele Zet

Mzet : Sure

(Mzet also searches for his)

Mzet : Ayikho neyami



(Hai! They can't find their phones all of them.)

Nqabayethu : Even my keys are not here.

Mzet : Maybe lezinto zisale lapha

Nqabayethu : No no. Kade ngikhuluma no Nomzamo sesibuya. My phone and my keys were here kade ngikuphethe manje

Ntuzuma : Nami kade ngiphethe manje ifoni yami nokhiye wasendlini

(Nyathuko laughs. Oh my God he has all their phones and their keys in his hands)

Nqabayethu : Dammn! Fuck you Thukeh

(They all laugh. Nyathuko gives them)



Ntuzuma : How? Hhaibo. How do you do this thing? Ngiyakhumbula emi lana eduze kwami but angizwanga fakol.

Nyathuko : I haven't lost my touch Nqaba

(Now I remember. Now I remember the first time I saw him at Auto Movers parking and how he took my car keys right away from my hands and I didn't see or feel a thing. How does he do that?)

Nyathuko : Ula?

(He is talking to Sthenjisiwe. Oh no he is coming. I quickly sleep on the bed and put Ndlelenhle on my chest. I close my eyes and pretend to be sleeping. I want to fix iphinifa that is exposing my thigh but it's too late. The door opens)



Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami kanti ulana?

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(I keep quiet. I hear his footsteps getting closer. He kisses my lips and kisses Ndlelenhle's cheek. He covers us with a Throw and I feel his hand brushing my thigh. I suddenly feel goosebumps. He stops. There is silence. Why is he so quiet now? He opens the wardrobe. Is he changing the overall? He comes back and climbs on the bed. He kisses my thigh. I shouldn't have slept on my back. He separates my thighs and squeezes himself between them. He kisses my stomach. I smile.)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami?

(He says already moving my panties on the side)

Nyathuko : Baby ngicela ukukuhlupha phela kancane

(He rubs his dick on my clit. I feel butterflies in my stomach. I'm now breathing fast in shallow pants and opening my thighs wide. He pushes in his dick. He moves twice and takes Ndlelenhle from my chest to the bed together with the Throw. He fucks me. I feel like a true phara today. I'm having sex with my full clothes on. One of my hands is pulling my underwear to the side and the other one is at the back of Nyathuko's head. He lifts up my legs and puts them on his shoulders. He takes me on harder. I moan a bit louder)

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Nyathuko?

(Nqabayethu calls his name outside. I hope he didn't hear me. Nyathuko ignores him and kisses me while fucking me. I can't believe I'm here moaning and enjoying sex while other wives are busy in the kitchen. Nyathuko presses his forehead against mine. Aw come on Nyathuko that was less than 2 minutes. I can't wait for him to stop that medication and get back to normal. Yesterday we lasted longer but today? 1 minute.)

Nyathuko : Sorry

Me : It's okay nana

(He lets out a heavy sigh and kisses my nose. His eyes move all over my face. I giggle)

Me : Nqabayethu is calling you



Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda

Me : I love you too baby.

(He sighs and gets off me. He couldn't make me cum of course he is disappointed.)

Thukeh asambe!

(Nqabayethu is now shouting. Nyathuko looks at the door and continues removing the condom. Why is he ignoring him? He takes his towel and cleans his dick. He finishes and kisses me)

Nyathuko : Ngiyabuya

Me : Thukena niyaphi kanti baby?

Nyathuko : Siya la ngaseMashiyamahe esikoleni. Nqabayethu wants this plant ini kambe?



Me : Ini nana?

Nyathuko : It's... iii- iAloe.

Me : Oh Aloe Vera. okay

Nyathuko : Yah uyokha yona

Me : Nishesheke baby khona nizodla

Nyathuko : Okay

(He heads out)

Me : Love you



Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda nami

(He comes back and kisses me again. He walks out and I sigh. I need to go back to that rondavel that is full of smoke and people who gossip. The door opens and Nyathuko walks back in)

Nyathuko : Dammit!

(I sit up)

Me : What's wrong?

Nyathuko : Musa is here

(I quickly get up)

Me : What?



Nyathuko : Sthah why ungangitshelanga ukuthi uyeza?

Me : Because I didn't know he was coming.

Nyathuko : Eish

(I try to follow Nyathuko but I feel wet.)

Me : Thukeh wait. Don't open the door

Nyathuko : Yinindaba?

Me : Ngifuna ukusula



Nyathuko : Use my towel. There it is

(He opens the door and walks out. Musa is coming closer with Ntokozo)

Nyathuko : Aw nayi iPrincess

(Musa laughs out loud)

Musa : Ave ngixokuphoxa Nyathuko Zondi

(They all laugh. I clean myself up and check if the room is clean)

Musa : Anywaysuuurprise! Where is my day one?

(I opened the door already laughing. Musa screams)

Musa : Hey biiiitch



(Oh no I'm sure everyone heard that. He hugs me. Nqabayethu has his eyes glued to him already)

Me : Hey you. Wowthis is a nice surprise.

Musa : Yho wena! I had to stop everywhere and ask for directions

Me : Why didn't you call me?

Musa : And ruin the surprise? Hell no. But heey I'm here looking hot like a hottie that I am.

(We laugh)

Ntokozo : Musa you are so crazy. I hope you bought my booze

Musa : Of course baby



Me : Ntokozo you knew that he was coming?

(Ntokozo laughs. Nqabayethu gets out of his car)

Nqabayethu : So this is Musa?

(Nyathuko rubs his face. Musa turns around and looks at Nqabayethu)

Musa : Yes who wants to know?

(I'm not ready for this. Definitely not ready. Nqabayethu and Musa are real brothers they look exactly the same except that Musa still looks like Nyathuko's princess even without his hair)

Nyathuko : No one. Nqaba let's go



(He pushes Nqabayethu back into the car)

Nyathuko : Mzet give me the car keys

(Mzet throws Nyathuko the keys. Nqabayethu gets back inside. Nyathuko closes the door and walks all around to his door. He gets in and drives off)

And then?

(Musa and Ntokozo ask in unison. Ntokozo doesn't know that Musa is Nqabayethu's brother)

Me : Nothing. Asingene endlini

Musa : Wait

Me : What?



Musa : Wasn't that the Ghetto King? Nqabayethu Zungu?

(Oh no)

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IN BALLITO

(A lot happened in Ndwedwe. The Zondis and their drama plus Musa finding out that Nqabayethu is his brother. It was a lot. Nyathuko is staring at the ceiling. I'm looking at him through the dressing table mirror. He looks tense. I finish lotioning my hands and take off my gown.)

Me : I've never seen Musa crying like that



Nyathuko : Yah

Me : But he was happy. UNqabayethu engingenaso isiqiniseko sakhe. Utheni kuwena?

Nyathuko : He was happy he even asked him ukuthi beye Ohlange but Musa refused.

Me : Shame man. But they will be fine

Nyathuko : Yah

(I get under the duvet and wrap my leg around him. He puts my head on his chest)

Me : Nana?

Nyathuko : Yah baby



Me : What were you doing with those guns?

(Silence. I look at him)

Nyathuko : Nothing

Me : Should I be worried?

Nyathuko : Cha sthandwa sami

Me : Awukaze angithi ube isigebengu?

Nyathuko : No

Me : Okay



(I sigh in relief. He kisses the top of my head)

Me : Are you okay Nana?

Nyathuko : Banomsindo ekhaya Sthah. I had to stand there and fight. Ngilwele into engiyaziyo ukuthi iyiqiniso

Me : What do you mean?

Nyathuko : Sthah Bab'Bheki was right

(I slowly sit up)

Me : Ini?



Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami bengingekengivume ukuthi udelelwe umndeni wami. I had to defend you yize noma bengilazi iqiniso

Me : Wait wait Nyathuko what are you saying? Ufuna ukungitshela ukuthi you didn't mean anything you said lapha kini? You mean to tell me that everything you said was a lie you were only trying to defend me?

Nyathuko : Usuyibeka ngendlela yakho ke manje yonke lento

Me : No no! Vele ngiqinisile. Yazi ngaze ngayislima

Nyathuko : Ubufuna ngenzeni Sthah? You wanted me to take my family's side? Ngibayeke bezidilikela la kuwena? No bengingeke ngiyenze leyonto. Sthah lalela sthandwa sami I meant what I said kodwa nalento ebishiwo uBaba iyiqiniso. Sthah asishadile ngokuphelele sthandwa sami

Me : What do you mean?



Nyathuko : Kwakumele sibe nomshado wesintu uthelwe ngenyongo kuphambaniswe izinanzi but we didn't do that ngoba ngangihlonipha ukholo lwakho kanye nomdeni wakho

Me : So what does this mean? Ukuthi angiyena owakwa Zondi? Does It mean that I'm not your wife?

Nyathuko : No nana no baby.

(He wraps his arms around me and kisses my forehead)

Nyathuko : You are my wife Sthah futhi uyohlale uwumfazi wami. Nothing will ever change that. Traditional wedding or no traditional wedding. You will always be my wife uyezwa Sthah?

Me : But umshado wesintu ubalulekile kuwena nasemndenini wakho. Thukeh if having a traditional wedding is the only thing that will make your family to accept me then asiwenz

Nyathuko : No sthandwa sami nokholo lwakho lubalulekile kuwena. Sthah I may not attend church every Sunday or pray every night but I respect God and I respect people who believe in him kanye nezindlela zakhe zokuphila so I'm not going to force you ukuthi wenze izinto ongakholelwa kuzona.



Me : But if I don't do this umndeni wakho....

Nyathuko : It doesn't matter what they say. Ngiyalihlonipha idlozi futhi ngiyakholelwa kulona kakhulu kodwa futhi I know ukuthi uNkulunkulu is bigger than anything. I'll never be able to live with myself knowing ukuthi ukukushada kwami kukuhlukanise nezindlela ze bible obuphila ngazo wakhuliswa ngazo. Kodwa nawe ngiyakucela Mam'Zondi ungivumele ngikhulise izingane zami izingane zakwa Zondi ngendlela nami engiyaziyo nengikhuliswe ngayo

Me : Okay nana. You know I respect you nendlela okholelwa ngayo emadlozini nosiko

(He sighs)

Nyathuko : It's not going to be easy especially mesiseNdwedwe but I want you to know ukuthi I will always protect you no matter what. Uma kunezinto abangafuni ukusenzela zona kwaZondi bakhona kwaMaphalala and if the Zondi ancestors can't protect me and my family then bakhona Abesuthu baseNkalanjana bakhona abaseMbathamkhonto njengobhedu eMaphalala and they will protect me and my family.

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(I smile. Tears roll down my face)

Me : I love you so much Nyathuko

Nyathuko : Uthandwa imina Maka Zanokuhle.

(I kiss his forehead. May God bless this man)

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Chapter 28

(It's time to go back to work. I've missed everyone at work so I can't wait to see them.)



Me : I'm not hungry baby

Nyathuko : Come on Sthah ulambisa ingane yami ke manje

(I laugh. He is busy following me around with a bowl of cereal)

Me : That is not true

Nyathuko : Idla kancane sthandwa sami. Only 3 spoons ngiyakucela

Me : Only 3?

Nyathuko : 3 baby

(I open my mouth and he feeds me)

Me : Uzomuhambisa uZano?



Nyathuko : Yes. He needs to wake up ngoba uNgcobo uzongibulala if he becomes late for school

Me : I'll wake him up now

Nyathuko : One more

Me : No you said only 3 spoons

Nyathuko : Ngiyakucela Sthah

(I roll my eyes and open my mouth. He feeds me and kisses me. I laugh with my hand covering my mouth)

Daddy why are you feeding her?



(I freeze. When did Zanokuhle get here?)

Zanokuhle : She is old isn't she?

(Nyathuko clears his throat. I laugh)

Nyathuko : She is old but she doesn't want to eat my boy

Zanokuhle : Is my little brother still sleeping?

(Why is Zanokuhle looking all annoyed?)

Me : Good morning Zano

Zanokuhle : Morning mommy

Me : Are you okay?



Zanokuhle : I don't want to go

Me : Come on Zanokuhle. Ngeke ke ngitetemelwe uwena ekuseni kanje. That's why I didn't want you to come here

(Nyathuko glares at me)

Nyathuko : My boy woza la kuBaba

(Zanokuhle lifts up his arms and Nyathuko lifts him up)

Nyathuko : My boy listen. You can't stay because you need to go to school but I promise you that soon you will be moving in with us and you will stay with us forever okay?

Zanokuhle : When is soon?



Nyathuko : Uhhh next year.

(Zanokuhle starts counting using his fingers. I think he is counting months remaining before next year)

Zanokuhle : Okay

(He smiles. Nyathuko kisses his forehead)

Nyathuko : That's my boy. Now let's get ready for school. What do you want for breakfast?

(He walks out with him in his arms)

Me : Gosh



(I roll my eyes. Nyathuko is spoiling him. Few minutes later the morning chaos started. We are busy with the kidz and we are getting ready for work)

Nyathuko : Sthah liphi ivest lika Zano?

Me : Lapho embhedeni

Nyathuko : Alikho

(I finish brushing my teeth)

Me : I did say we were going to be late. Nali ivest ehleli phezu kwalo uZanokuhle. Selishwabene ke

(God! I'm so going to be late. I still need to feed Ndlelenhle. Thank God he is behaving today. He is just lying on the bed playing and talking to his hands)



Me : Nana please feed Zano... I mean Ndlela before he starts crying . Ngizoqhubeka ngigqokise u Zano

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Nyathuko : Is his food ready?

Me : Yes. Ekhishini... Where the hell is Moltah?

Nyathuko : You know she is always late on Mondays

Me : Ngizofuna omunye umuntu mina enye nyi.

(Silence)

Nyathuko : Let's go and eat my boy

(Ndlela grabs his beard.)



Nyathuko : VISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM “ FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELS! Dedela mkhulu

(Ndlela laughs while holding on to his beard and eating his nose. Nyathuko laughs while trying to remove Ndlela's hand)

Me : Thukeh awuyeke ukudlala nengane we are late. Mina ngizohamba shame nginishiye

Nyathuko : Sthah ungibambile nje.....boy dedela.

Me : Bite his arm he will let go

(Nyathuko tickles him but he doesn't let go. He continues laughing with his father)

Me : Ndlelenhle stop!!!!

(I shout and he jumps and starts crying. I scared him)



Me : Good

Nyathuko : Hawu Sthah that was unnecessary

Me : No it was. Buka manje usekuyekile

**Nyathuko : No I always tell you not to shout at my children.
Uzokwenza izingane zami zithithize ngenxa yalento oyenzayo**

Me : Zithithize kanjani?

Nyathuko : You don't know ukuthi uma uthethisa ingane njalo igcina isiphazamiseka umqondo ihlale njalo ithithiza isaba ukudlala because izothethiswa?

(I laugh)



Me : There is no such thing

Nyathuko : Buka uyahleka this is not funny. Ukhalisa ingane yami la

Me : Hhaibo are you angry?

Nyathuko : Nxay! Wena awukwazi ukukhuluma. Woza mfan'wam I'm sorry my boy.

Me : Hhaibo Thukeh unxaphela mina?

Nyathuko : Leave me alone Sthabile

(He takes Ndlelenhle and walks out. Nyathuko is angry? Ay this man can be so dramatic)

Me : Mxm. Faka isicathulo Zano.. Where is your bag?



Zanokuhle : In my room

Me : Put on your shoes and go get it

(He is busy playing a game on my phone)

Me : Zanokuhle please. Ufuna ngize ngithethe nawe mase kuthiwa ngiyanihlukumeza?

Zanokuhle : It's him

Me : Izicath... It's him who did what?

Zanokuhle : This man. He came to my school and told me to get inside his car

Me : Which man?



(I take my phone from him. He is looking at Delani's picture)

Me : What?

(I sit down next to him)

Zanokuhle : It's himmommy.

Me : You mean to tell me that this man came to your school?

Zanokuhle : Yes do you remember when Gogoh called you and told you about a white car that wanted to steal me?

(My eyes widen)

Me : It was this man?



Zanokuhle : Yes he was driving that day. He came with another man and a woman

Me : Hhaibo

Zanokuhle : Is he your friend mommy?

Me : No no. I mean yes... Zano please don't tell daddy about this okay? Don't tell him about the white car that wanted to steal you and don't tell him about this man okay bhabha?

Zanokuhle : Okay mommy

Me : Yeah

(I bite on the corner of my phone. It's time I face Delani once and for all. He is becoming a real danger)



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(I decided to call Delani on my way to work.)

Me : Delani Hi.

Delani : My darling wife.

Me : Please stop it okay?

Delani : I heard that the hospital was busy last night people died and they were brought in. Did they manage to go back? I wanted to come but I'm....

(What the hell is Delani saying?)



Me : Delani stop it man! Just stop! This is not funny

(Silence)

Me : Hello? Are you still there?

Delani : I don't want to hurt you

(I sigh)

Me : Okay I'm sorry. Can we meet? We need to talk Delani

Delani : You are coming to bail me out? Do you really want to see me?

Me : Bail you out?



Delani : I told them you love me. I told them but they didn't believe me

(I park my car in the parking lot and press my head against my steering wheel? How the fuck did I get here?)

Me : Where are you Delani?

Delani : I'm in prison for now but if I....

Me : Prison? What prison?

Give me the phone

(Someone says in the background)

Me : Hello

Mathabi Hi



Me : Zola thank God. What's going on?

Zola : He is getting worse we had to lock him up in this house. Sthabile

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we had to lock him up in this house. Sthabile why are you calling him?

(Hhayi why is she getting all worked up? I'm not the reason for his brother's madness)

Me : Usho ukuthini? WeNokuzola umfowenu uzongimoshela umshado wami ngalemisangano yakhe. He tried to kidnap my son do you know how dangerous that is?



(Silence)

Me : Awusakhulumi ke manje

Zola : I'm sorry

(She sniffs. She is crying. Maybe I shouldn't have said that. I sigh)

Me : I want to see him and maybe I'll be able to speak some sense into his head. Eyeke lomdikheyi anawo ngoba usuqala ukungidina

(There goes my mouth again. I didn't mean to say that)

Me : What I mean is maybe I could help.

Zola : Nami ngicabanga kanjalo

Me : Is he home?



Zola : Siseflatini lika Mzwayi ePhoenix. We wanted him to be away from home for a few days ngoba sithemba ukuthi kuzoba nomehluko but nothing.

Me : Send me your brother's address and I'll be there.

Zola : Today

Me : Yes today Zola before kumosheka umshado wami!

Zola : Kulungile Mathabi

(I sigh)

Me : Ngiyaxolisa sisi. It's just that yonke lento iyacika but I know it's not your fault



Zola : I understand

Me : I'll call you. Ungakhohlwa ukuthumela ikheli likaMzwayi

Zola : Okay sisi

Me : Sho

(I end the call and change my shoes. I get out of the car and head to the office. I greet everyone but they are acting weird.)

Me : Okay what's going on here? Why is everyone giving me a cold shoulder?

(I asked one of the receptionists. She heaves a sigh)

Receptionist : You didn't see Today's article?



Me : What article?

Receptionist : Well Mabaso Media wrote about you

Me : What?

(She gives me the newspaper. NDABA MEDIA & ADVERTISING CEO MRS STHABILE ZONDI CELEBRATES WITH THE DEVIL 4 DAYS AFTER ONE OF THEIR JOURNALISTS MISS BRUMILDA FEBRUARY WAS RELEASED FROM THE ICU. Below the article are pictures of us standing next to Nqabayethu's Kombi)

Me : Oh my God oh my God. No no no. No!!!

(I'm losing it)

Receptionist : Mrs Zon.....



Me : What do they mean Brumilda was released from the ICU?

(She looks around)

Me : Talk!!

Receptionist : Mr Maxwell Zondi said we must keep it a secret

Me : What secret!?

(She swallowed)

Receptionist : Brumilda was shot

Me : What?



Receptionist : 4 times in.....

Me : Wait wait when did all of this happen?

Receptionist : The night the article about the Ghetto King was released.

Me : Oh my God

**Receptionist : But she is recovering well and she will be out soon.
Please don't tell Mr Zondi I told you about this please.**

Me : Nqabayethu shot...

(I pause)

Me : Why didn't anyone tell me about ~~this~~? Huh?



(I shout and everyone turns around and looks at me. I walk closer to them with a newspaper in my hand)

Me : Ngibuze umbuzo!!!

(I throw the newspaper on the floor)

Me : AgVISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM “ FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELS!!

(I take a few steps up the stairs and then I remember the elevators. I take out my phone while waiting for the elevator to open. I dial and place the phone on my ear)

Celwenkosini Mabaso speaking how can I make your day?

(He answers)



Me : Mabaso you are playing with fire!

(He laughs)

Celwenkosini : Oh finally selize lakhiswhwa idayimani emgodini.

Me : What the fuck are you talking about?

(I walk inside the elevator)

Celwenkosini : Angithi phela wena uyinkunzi yedayimani ekuthi kungazamazama umhlaba licashiswe emgodini. Mrs Zondi people almost died because of you. You created a mess and after that wacasha ngaphansi kwephiko likababezala wakho nomyeni wakho and you left your journalists to clean up your mess befele wena!

Me : That is not true



Celwenkosini : It is true!

Me : Mabaso I'm going to sue the hell out of you! You don't know me

Celwenkosini : Oh what? Is this the part where I'm supposed to be scared because wena udla amadinner namaginsa? Because you go around digging dirt on dangerous people and send your poor journalists to run the story ekugcineni kufe bona ay wena? Listen here Mrs Zondi. You can go ahead and sue us kodwa lento oyibona

kulelophelandaba eliphambi kwakho ngeke ishintshe because everything that you see there is true and legit.

Me : You took the pictures of me and my family without my permission! That was unethical Mabaso.

Celwenkosini : Oh cut the crap Mrs Zondi! You know nothing about Ethics. You know nothing! But I'm not surprised vele naleyo position wayithola ngokungekho emthethweni



Me : Sathane onamabibana!!

(He laughs)

Celwenkosini : Have a good day Mrs Zondi

(I hang up. I'm fuming. I don't even remember myself walking out of the elevator but I'm almost at my office now. I need to call Brumilda. I get in put down my bags and hang my coat. I sit down and call Brumilda)

Me : Brummy

Brumilda : Hey

Me : My love how are you?

Brumilda : Strong. I almost died but God is good.

Me : Brumilda I'm so sorry. Nobody told me

Brumilda : You have nothing to be sorry about. I told you something like this was going to happen. I told you that you were playing with fire and you said you were willing to get burnt and you promised me that you were going to burn alone but guess who got burnt?

Me : Brum....



Brumilda : You knew that he is friends with your husband so you knew that you were safe and that's why you were so brave about it.

Me : He came to attack us

Brumilda : Stop playing Mrs Zondi

Me : I'm not. That's why I couldn't come to work for the past few days.



Brumilda : And whilst you were hiding I had to pay the big price.

Me : Please don't say that. Please can I come and see you?

Brumilda : No

Me : Ngiyakucela

Brumilda : No. I'll be sending my resignation letter soon please don't bother me

Me : Resign...

Brumilda : I quit Sthabile

Me : Wow. Just like that?

(Silence)



Me : Hello?

(She hung up. I bang my desk)

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(Being at the office was too much. I wanted to get out so I left and went to Phoenix. The way I'm so angry Delani better not mess with me because I will kill him. I knock and wait for them to open. I decided to switch off my phone. I'm sure Nyathuko saw the News so he'll understand. The door opens)

Me : Zola

Zola : Please come in

Me : Thanks



Zola : Unjani Mathabi?

Me : I'm good. Where is your brother?

Zola : Are you sure you're okay?

(I rub my forehead)

Me : Nokuzola your brother is trying to destroy my marriage so tell me am I supposed to be okay? Wena ungaba okay?

(She closes the door)

Me : Do I look.....



(I pause when I see Delani sitting in the corner with his hands tied up together)

Me : And then?

Zola : He just finished taking his medication.

Me : He is on medication already?

Zola : To help him calm down. But ayimusizi yonke lento uba right nje for imizuzwana iphinde ibuye lento.

(There is a chair in front of him. I sit there.)

Zola : Sorry about the mess I was feeding him.

Me : I didn't think it was this bad



Zola : It's bad.

Me : Delani?

(He lifts up his head and smiles)

Me : What's wrong baba?

Delani : The symbols of love are like stars that fill up the sky and brighten the heart. He said you can push it inside the toilet but all I wanted was to go to the stadium and watch netball. There's a girl that looks...

(I look at Zola. She sighs and sits down)

Me : Zola this is bad

Zola : I know



(I bring my gaze back to Delani. His facial expression hasn't changed. His voice is unchanging in pitch and he is not making eye contact.)

Delani : She is beautiful like her. When the sun shines every morning I....

Me : Kuthiwa yini inkinga weZola?

Zola : Odokotela bathi lento ibizwa nge Schizophrenia. It's a chronic brain disorder. Isifo sengqondo ensingajwayelekile la eNingizimu Afrika

Me : Jesus! And what is the exact cause?

Zola : Unknown

Me : But likhona ikhambi angithi?



Zola : Unfortunately alikho. There is no cure but there are safer treatments.

Me : Inkinga yodwa ke le. So imenza abone izinto ezingekho?

Zola : Yes. Hallucination Paranoia Hearing voices seeing things nokunye nje okuningi Mathabi

Me : Yho! Ungixolele sisi. I didn't know it was this bad

Zola : It's okay sisi. I fully understand

Me : I really hope he gets all the help he needs. Lento ingifakela istress Zola kanti ngikhulelwe and I.....

Delani : Sthabile!



Me : Delani how are you?

Delani : Sthabile ukhulelwe ingane yami. Ukhulelwe sthandwa sami? Is that why you wanted to see me? Hawemah ngaze ngajabula

Me : Hhaibo!

Delani : Free my hands Zola free my hands. My wife is here we need to go home. Free me Nokuzola!!!!

(He screams. I stand up quickly.)

Me : Ay angathi sekusukile lokho

Zola : Delani please calm down. Calm down okay?

Delani : No!!! No!!!



(He is throwing tantrums. He jumps on the chair. My eyes are now wide)

Zola : Delani awukahle mahn

Me : What do we do now?

**Delani : I want to hold my wife. Please Zola I want to hold my wife.
Kanti yini ningamufuni uSthabile lekhaya? Wanenzani?**

Me : Aash!

Zola : Mathabi please let him touch you khona ezothula

Me : What if....

Zola : Please I'm begging you.



(She begs)

Me : Okay but ungamuqaqi please.

Zola : I won't

(I walk closer to Delani. He places his hands that are tied up with a belt on my stomach)

Delani : My baby

(Tears run down his cheeks. I roll my eyes.)

Delani : My baby! I'm going to be a father

Me : Hhayi!!



(This is too much. I push away his hands. I grab my car keys and run to the door)

Zola : Mathabi please wait

Me : No no!!

(I open the door and run to my car. I get in and slam my door. What the fuck?)

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Chapter 29

(From the "Insane - asylum" I drove home. Moltah has gone home so it's just me and my beautiful teddy bear but he is not happy today. I think he is still angry because I shouted at him this morning but babies don't hold grudges right?)



Me : Hello Ndlela waMah. Ungidinelwe boy boy?

(Hiccups are killing him. He laughs. I put a piece of paper on his forehead and kiss him. My phone rings)

Me : I shouldn't have switched it on. I really.... Oh it's your father Ndlela. Hello Nana

Nyathuko : Ukuphi?

(I raise my eyebrows. Nyathuko will amaze you honestly or is he also still angry with me for shouting at his son?)

Me : Endlini

Nyathuko : And I'm at Ndaba Media. Sthandwa sami why ungangitshelanga ukuthi usuya endlini?



Me : I sent you a text baby. Thukeh did you see what Mabaso Media wrote about me? Did you see our pictures?

Nyathuko : Ngiyaxolisa sthandwa sami

Me : They are accusing me of neglecting my stuff. Thukeh bathi ngihlangene no Nqabayethu and.....

(Tears roll down my face)

Nyathuko : Mam'Zondi please calm down sthandwa sami. Khona bani lapho endlini?

(I sniff)

Me : Mina no Ndlela kphela



Nyathuko : Okay nana I'm coming okay?

Me : Okay

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda uyezwa?

(I smile)

Me : I love you too baby

Nyathuko : Ngikuphatheleni?

Me : Ungiphathele wena kuphela nje sthandwa sami

Nyathuko : Hawu bengithi uzothi ngiphathe iwigi sthandwa sami

(I laugh)



Me : Just stop please

Nyathuko : Awifuni iwigi? Kade ngibona enye enemibala yama traffic lights

(I laugh out loud and now I feel better. Damn I love this man)

Me : VISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM “ FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELS! Nana I love you so much Nyathuko Zondi

Nyathuko : Uthandwa imina sthandwa sami.

Me : Woza kuthina baby

Nyathuko : I'm on my way



(I hung up with a smile on my face. I can't believe I was crying just a few minutes ago)

Me : Oh Ndlela my boy you have the best father in the world.

(I lift him up and raise him in the air. He laughs and his saliva comes all the way down to my mouth. I laughed and put him down)

Me : Sies! Boy boy. Mhmm nuku. Nuku Ndlela mahn

(He giggles. My phone rings again. It's my mother this time. I answer)

Me : Sawubona Gogoh

MaKheswa : Amen Mntanami uyaphila kodwa?

(She sounds a bit down)



Me : I'm fine Mah ngingezwa kuwe.

MaKheswa : Ay siyaphila. Nihambe kahle

emzini?

(I sigh)

Me : Ey everything went well weMah kodwa uyazike ukuthi izinto zakwaZondi azifani nakweminye imizi.

MaKheswa : Zano says it was nice. They even gave him money

Me : Yes enikwa ilamaxoki awoBheki.

MaKheswa : And why did you throw away his meat?

(I laugh)



Me : It wasn't me Mah uThukeh.

MaKheswa : Ay Sthabile niwrong. Uthi nje Gogo you know daddy broke my heart. He threw away inyama yami yembuzi

(I laugh even harder)

Me : Oh my baby. I didn't know ukuthi indaba yenyama yembuzi broke his heart

MaKheswa : Why kodwa ngempela Sthabile?

Me : Ey weMah no one was talking to us eNdwedwe. Kwacishe kwabanjwanwa ngezihluthu impela.

MaKheswa : Don't say that



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Me : Ngiyakutshela. Even when they were eating yona leyonyama yembuzi no one called me. Okay vele I wasn't going to eat that meat but kwakuyini nje ukuthi bengibize kube imina ke othi cha?

MaKheswa : Sthabile you want to tell me that they ate inyama yezimbuzi ezu twelve bodwa?

Me : Sisi! Ngiyakutshela nje. I only ate ukudla namakhekhe ayebhakwe uMabuyi. Zanokuhle came to me and told me ukuthi ekhishini kudliwa inyama nedombolo

MaKheswa : Jesus!

Me : Ontozoko nabo abayidlanga but they were called to come and eat bangaya ke because they were drinking.

MaKheswa : Umyeni wakho yena?



SehranMagzine

Me : Akyidli inyama yembuzi vele loyo. Lalela ke what Shlangu's wife said when Ntokozo asked them why wasn't I given meat?. Wathi nje umfazi ka Shlangu phela thina besithi akayidli inyama ngoba usindisiwe

MaKheswa : Sthabile don't lie

Me : I'm telling you. Washo nje kanjalo phambi kwami

MaKheswa : Waze washadela emzini oyinkinga mntanami indoda yakho ibe ilunge kanje

Me : Ay khona I won't lie uyanyisa umendo wakwaZondi wuuu! Uh-huh

MaKheswa : Uthini yena uBaba kaNdlela?

Me : Uzothini Mah? Uyamazi uThukh uyathula. We didn't even talk about it sesifike la endlini sithule angathi nothing happened.



SehranMagzine

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MaKheswa : Hhayi Mntanami khululeka God will give you strength.

Me : Kumele enginike isigaxa futhi samandla because I'll die.

MaKheswa : Please don't say that.

Me : Ay ngiyakuzwa. Let me feed Gqamuza nangu esengibuka

MaKheswa : Usubuyile kanti?

(I sigh)

Me : Yes I came back early.

MaKheswa : That's good that's good.

Me : Are you sure you're okay?



(She heaves a sigh)

**MaKheswa : Ay mntanami kunento engitshelwe uZano
engangiphathanga kahle**

Me : Yeah

MaKheswa : Is Zondi abusing you?

Me : Abusing me?

MaKheswa : Physically. Is he hitting you?

Me : What?



MaKheswa : You know you can talk to me my baby.

Me : Mah no oh my God no. Isukaphi yonke lento?

MaKheswa : Ngosuku enaniya ngalo eNdwedwe uthi he heard Baba kaNdlelenhle hitting you and you were crying.

Me : What? Nyathuko hitting me?

MaKheswa : Yes

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oh my God no. Isukaphi yonke lento?

MaKheswa : Ngosuku enaniya ngalo eNdwedwe uthi he heard Baba kaNdlelenhle hitting you and you were crying.



Me : What? Nyathuko hitting me?

MaKheswa : Yes uthi he came to fetch Ndlela's towel but the door was locked and you were crying inside ezwa nezimpama

(Jesus! I'm so embarrassed right now)

Me : No Mah ayikho leyonto

MaKheswa : Kodwa phela ingane ibingeke iqambe amanga

(The door opens and Nyathuko walks in with flowers and Cadbury P.S milk chocolate. I laugh. When did he get here?)

MaKheswa : Sthabile this is not funny

Me : No mama angihleki wena.



(Nyathuko wraps his arms around my waist and kisses my neck. I decrease the in-call volume. My mother is like that one friend that you can never put on a loudspeaker because you don't know what they are going to say next)

MaKheswa : I just want to know ukuthi uright

Me : I am mama. uThukeh akangishayi

(Nyathuko quickly pulls away. I turn around and look at him. His big eyes are wide open. I want to laugh so hard)

Nyathuko : What?

(He whispers)

MaKheswa : That's good. I'm just glad that Zanokuhle told me because if he told your father *Ay loyomshado wakho ubuzophela nya.*



Me : No mama we are fine.

(I take my P.S and read the "I love you" message on it. I smile and kiss Nyathuko's forehead. He looks so confused)

MaKheswa : Okay niphile ke bantami siyanithanda.

Me : Love you too mama. Bye

(I hung up and let out a sigh.)

Me : Thank you baby. These are beautiful

(I inhale the flowers)

Nyathuko : And then? Ubekhuluma ngani uMchumane?

(I laugh out loud)

Me : uZanokuhle usethutha izindaba

Nyathuko : What do you mean?



Me : Do you remember the day we were going to Ndwedwe?

Nyathuko : Yeah

Me : Zanokuhle knocked while we were having sex remember?

Nyathuko : YVISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM “ FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELSh

(I laugh)



Me : He told my mother that we were fighting. Wena wawungshaya and I was crying

Nyathuko : VISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM “ FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELSh! Dammit

(He says while scratching his head and grinding his teeth. I laugh)

Me : Relax Nana

Nyathuko : No baby. Ay Ay uMchumane uzovele eyibone yonke lento mase ecabanga ukuthi asiyihloniphi ingane

Me : No nana. My mother doesn't get it so relax

(He sighs and presses his head against the counter. I brush his back while laughing.)



Nyathuko : Ngeke ngiphinde ngiye KwaMashu mina Sthah

(I burst)

Nyathuko : I'm serious baby. Ngeke ngiphinde... Yah mfan'wam.

(He picks up Ndlelenhle and kisses him)

Nyathuko : My boy uthini wena? Ubaba engaphinde eye eNdwedwe uyabo?

(I laugh. I sit on the counter and open my chocolate. He puts down Ndlelenhle and comes to stand between my thighs.)

Nyathuko : Usunjani manje sthandwa sami?

Me : I'm okay. I just hope Nqabayethu didn't see that article



Nyathuko : He did but akanendaba

Me : Why didn't you tell me that he shot Brumilda?

(He puts his phone and his keys next to me and wash his hands before he opens the fridge)

Me : Huh Thukeh?

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami uyena okutshelile ukuthi udubule leyantatheli?

Me : No but I know it was him

Nyathuko : Ay mina angazi ke



Me : Wow

Nyathuko : Sthabile phuma kuNqabayethu. Ukuthi wenzani it's none of our business. Uma kukuthi udubule leyantatheli then let the police deal with him

Me : Like they dealt with him when he killed those boys and put their bodies inside a water tank?

(He slightly shakes his head and closes the fridge)

Nyathuko : Ubani ke okutshela leyonto?

Me : No one. Nyathuko you don't care ukuthi iMabaso Media ibhale yathini ngami? Ubonile kodwa ukuthi ngimubi kanjani in that picture?

(He laughs)

Me : Uyahleka?



Nyathuko : Baby come on why do you have to make a big deal out of everything?

Me : You don't think it's a big deal?

Nyathuko : That's not what I'm saying but....

Me : Nothing Thukeh. uCelwenkosi nethimba lakhe babhale yonke leya nonsense ngami and you.....

(His phone rings. Ashton flashes on the screen. I feel bloated immediately. It's on silent so he can't hear it)

Nyathuko : Sengikhohlwe amaphepha ami lapha emotweni. I went to see the doctor today washo ukuthi sengi right

(I'm staring at him. His phone continues ringing)



Nyathuko : Mam'Zondi ungilalele kodwa?

(I jump off the counter and grab his phone)

Me : Mam'Zondi wokunuka? Yini le Nyathuko?

(He turns around)

Nyathuko : Yiphi manje?

Me : Why is Ashton calling you?

Nyathuko : Oh loyo I think ufuna ukubuza about my doctor's appointment.



(He says. He is so fucking relaxed)

Me : Woow usakufonela namanje?

Nyathuko : Answer her umuzwe ukuthi ufunani

Me : No!! I'm not going to answer her. Ufonele wena angithi indoda yakhe? Not mina manje yini kumele ekhulume nami?

(He chuckles)

Nyathuko : Letha la ifoni

(He stretches out his hand)

Me : So uzokhuluma nomakhwapheni wakho phambi kwami?

Nyathuko : Akayena umakhwapheni wami



Me : I don't care what she is to you! Ngibuza ukuthi uzokhuluma naye phambi kwami yini? Nyathuko awusangiboni?

Nyathuko : Ufuna ngenzeni? You don't want to talk to her you want me to talk to her and when I want to talk to her you think I'm disrespecting you. Yini kanti oyifunayo?

Me : I want you to stop breaking my heart! Come on Nyathuko!! Are you honestly going to break my heart every month?

(Tears welled up my eyes)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami that's not true.

Me : It's true it's true. Why are you doing this? Why are you cheating on me?



Nyathuko : I'm not cheating on you! (Sigh) Sthah I'm not cheating on you sthandwa sami. Letha la lefoni. I want to prove to you that I'm not cheating on you

Me : No angisafuni ukuzwa lutho. Here is your phone

(I finish saying that and mine rings next to Ndlelenhle's chair. It's Delani the number is not registered but that's Delani's number. Why am I feeling guilty? I'm not cheating on Nyathuko.)

Nyathuko : Who is calling you?

Me : How am I supposed to know? Mhlampe intombi yakho!

Nyathuko : Can you please stop saying that? uAshton akayona intombi yami

(His phone rings again in my hand but this time it's not Ashton. It's Delani. Where the fuck did he get Nyathuko's number?)



Nyathuko : Is that her again?

Me : Of course it's her!

Nyathuko : Let me speak to her

Me : I said no!

(I switch off his phone)

Nyathuko : Fine

Me : Nana look I don't want us to fight. Ngikhulelwe Thukeh and you don't want me to stress our baby

Nyathuko : I don't want that sthandwa sami.

Me : Then please destroy this SIM card



(His eyes widen)

Nyathuko : What?

Me : It's the only way! Kanti awufuni ukuthi lezifebe zakho ziphume kuwena Thukeh? Ufuna zilokhu zingihlukumeza?

Nyathuko : No baby of course not.

Me : Then get a new SIM card. Change your number khona engeke esaphinde ekuthole wonke lamantombazane

Nyathuko : Sthabile I can't change my number. Le number ngenza izinto eziningi kabi ngayo so I can't just get rid of it kanjalo nje



Me : Okay qhubeka ke. Continue with your girlfriends nifonelane kodwa wazi ukuthi kuphelile ngalomshado

Nyathuko : Ini?

Me : Choose Nyathuko. Ukhetha iSIM card or umshado wethu?

Nyathuko : Sthabile Umsangano wonke lo. This is madness yini lo ongibuza yona ngempela?

Me : Ngizokukhombisa ke umsangano

(I leave his phone on the counter and head upstairs)

Nyathuko : Sthah wait

(I stop. I sigh and turn around. I walk back towards the counter where he is standing. He opens one of the drawers and takes out scissors. He takes out his SIM card and cuts it into pieces. Good I won't allow Delani to destroy my marriage. I will do anything to protect the feelings of this man in front of me anything.)



Nyathuko : Ngikhetha umshado wami

(He says and puts the pieces in the bin. He takes Ndlelenhle and makes his way upstairs. He is not happy but if he knew how obsessed Delani is with me then he would go crazy so it's better this way.)

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Chapter 30

8 MONTHS LATER

(I'm driving home from the doctor. Nyathuko burnt his arm with boiling water 3 weeks ago but that's not the reason why we went to see the doctor.)

Me : I told you that Khambule was lying. I'm not carrying twins umzwile nodokotela ethi ingane iyodwa.

Nyathuko : Khambule doesn't lie. He never lied to me.

(He shakes his head. I don't know why Nyathuko believes everything that comes out of Khambule's mouth. Khambule lied to us. He said I'm carrying twins and we went to three different doctors who confirmed that I'm not carrying twins. Anyway the reason why we went to see

my doctor today it's because I've been having abnormal periods ever since my third trimester.)

Me : Ayke mina I'm just happy. Doctor said I have nothing to worry about wathi our baby is fine and ready to come out. She said she doesn't see any complications. Thukeh kanti akukona lokho okubalulekile?

Nyathuko : Aren't you worried about this bleeding?

Me : Cha Nondaba wami. Nana please stop stressing yazi mawukhathazekile ustressa nami.



Nyathuko : Mhlampe imina iqaba kodwa how can it be normal for a woman to bleed during pregnancy?

Me : I don't know but the doctor said I'm ready to deliver. Ilokho ke mina okubalulekile kumina

(His eyes drop to my stomach. I smile)

Me : Your baby is fine

(He smiles and shakes his head. I fix the rear view mirror.)

Me : Hello Ndlela. Awusemdala papa

(He is almost 13 months old now and he looks exactly like his father. He is Mr cake lover he can finish the whole cake all by himself. Zanokuhle has moved in with us but he is currently in KwaMashu visiting his grandmother Nkazimulo's mother)



Me : Lahla incence boy boy

(He takes the bottle out of his mouth and hands it over to me. I laugh)

Me : I'm joking my baby. Ncela Mkhulu.....Thukena khipha phela Nana

Nyathuko : Ngithe letho ifoni yakho nje

Me : Ay we are going to dream about these Kwaito songs phela tonight. I know this is your car but sekwanele

(We laugh. He is driving a new car now. The old one almost burnt his beautiful face. He was opening his car bonnet and boiling water came out of nowhere and splashed on his face but luckily he managed to protect his face with his arm and that's how his arm got burnt a couple of weeks ago. When his father heard about the accident he bought him a new car the following day. Another red VW Golf GTI)

Nyathuko : Connecta ifoni yakho



Me : Ngifakele Nana

(I give him my phone)

Nyathuko : Unayo i airtime la?

Me : Mhmm-mhmm why? Who do you want to call? Awubuke leslima

Nyathuko : Please don't fight with other drivers

Me : Ngoba bedriver umathanda nje. Who do you want to call?

Nyathuko : uNtokozo kodwa yeka. I'll send her a message. Le SIM card iyebheda I loaded airtime last night and today it's finished? Umbhedo lo. I miss my old SIM card



Me : You mean you miss your whores? You miss us fighting because of your bitches who can't close their legs for married men?

Nyathuko : Cha

(I roll my eyes)

Me : No skip that one.... leave that one leave t....

(Sewakhile by Hlengiwe Mhlaba starts playing. I turn up the volume. Nyathuko covers his ear. I laugh and start singing along)

Me : Ngoba nguye owangimela langilahlwe okwempela.

(Nyathuko looks at me and shakes his head)

Nyathuko : Ungasigingqi!



(I ignore him and continue singing)

Me : Uyathwala yena.... Oh Jesus!

(I start praying in tongues and laugh out loud. Nyathuko's eyes are glued to my phone screen)

Me : Sing with me

(He shakes his head)

Nyathuko : No

Me : Come on baby

(He shakes his head)



Me : What are you doing on my phone?... Ouch! Your baby is kicking me.

(I turn down the volume)

Me : Baby ingane yakho iyangikhahlela

(He gives me an insincere smile)

Nyathuko : Sorry

(He puts away my phone and unwraps his bandage. I flinch)

Me : Thukeh don't. Kuthiwa ungaliqaqi nje

(He ignores me)

Me : Is it itchy?

Nyathuko : No

(I frown)



Me : Are you okay baby?

Nyathuko : Yah. I'm just tired

Me : And stop worrying about the baby and me. We are okay

(I give him my hand and our fingers interlaced. I smile and kiss his hand)

Me : I love you



Nyathuko : Uthandwa imina

(He smiles and his eyes search all over my face. I look back where I'm driving)

Me : Wangibuka ngamehlo ocansi manje

(I laugh)

Nyathuko : Is there anything you want to tell me?

Me : No why?

Nyathuko : Are you sure?

Me : Okay ngicela ungipha imali



Nyathuko : Okay

(He reaches for his phone and I laugh while stopping him)

Me : I'm kidding nana. No akukho engifuna ukukutshela kona

(He sighs)

Nyathuko : Okay

Me : Yep

(I drove home. Goodness

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why?

Nyathuko : Are you sure?

Me : Okay ngicela ungipha imali

Nyathuko : Okay

(He reaches for his phone and I laugh while stopping him)

Me : I'm kidding nana. No akukho engifuna ukukutshela kona

(He sighs)

Nyathuko : Okay

Me : Yep



(I drove home. Goodness I need a toilet. I get out of the car first)

Me : I need to poop. Please come with Ndlela.

Nyathuko : Okay

(I take a few steps and turn around)

Me : Oh please give me my phone

Nyathuko : Why uhamba nefoni mawuya e toilet?

(I laugh)

Me : Because I can't sit there ngitoilete ngaphandle kwayo Nana.



Nyathuko : I see. Here

(I raise my eyebrows and take my phone from him. I run to the bathroom. I start my business while going through my whatsapp. Ever since Nyathuko deleted his Whatsapp I'm no longer a fan of this app. But Delani is the main reason why I hate it. The photoshops he sends me everyday are annoying and he uses different numbers. I see he sent me another one this morning. We are both lying on the bed and he has his hand on my very big stomach. I chuckle)

Me : Delani is definitely getting worse.

(My eyes widen . I don't remember myself opening Delani's message. So if I didn't open it who did? Fuck! I roll the tissues and clean myself. I flush the toilet and run out of the bathroom. Nyathuko is looking out the window)

Me : Oh. Where is Ndlelenhle?

(Silence. I swallow hard)



Me : Nyathuko I.....

(He goes and locks the door. Thank God he didn't see those pictures)

Me : Nana I'm still on my peri.....

(I didn't finish. He pressed me against the cold wall. He is choking me)

Me : Thukeh uyangilimaza

(His grip tightens around my neck. The more I speak it's like the more I'm infuriating him)

Nyathuko : Yini le Sthabile?

(Dammit! I knew it. In front of me is the picture that Delani sent me this morning.)



Me : I can expla....

(He squeezes my neck)

Nyathuko : Explain? Explain what exactly? Uyangifebela?

(I cry and hit his hand. He let go. He narrows his eyes)

Me : Sthandwa sami please listen to me. I'm not cheating on you

Nyathuko : Yini engingayenzanga Sthabile? Huh?

Me : Thukeh....



Nyathuko : I can't believe all this time I was a fool. Yinindaba? Indlela engikuthanda ngayo le eyenza ungithathe kancane and you think I'm weak?

(I shake my head. Tears are streaming down my face)

Me : No

Nyathuko : Isibindi esingaka sokulala la eduze kwami every day and night knowing very well that you are cheating on me usithathephi Sthah?

(He is looking at me straight into my eyes)

Me : Baby I'm not.....

Nyathuko : Shut up. Yazi yini enginyanyisa ukunakho konke? You had the audacity of telling me what to do wangilawula. Sthabile not so long ago you told me to destroy my SIM card i SIM card ebifana nempilo yami and I did. Wangena layindini uvutha bhe uthi I ignored you on Whatsapp wangibuza ukuthi what was the purpose of me having Whatsapp uma ngizoziba wena and you begged me to delete it and I did!!

(He shouts! I don't know this man in front of me. He is enraged)

Me : I'm sorry but I promise I'm not cheating on you.

Nyathuko : Usangenza islima namanje. Are you carrying his baby? Is that why the Zondi ancestors are angry?

Me : What? Of course not! Uyangisanganela ke manje

Nyathuko : Ngempela?

Me : Angithi ngiyakutshela ukuthi I'm not cheating on you! I've never cheated on you. All this time uwena obufeba

Nyathuko : Shuthi imina engihlanyayo. Zonke lezithombe engizibonile ingoba ngiyahlanya?



Me : Thukeh I know what you saw but these pictures are fake they are not real. Look at this

(I move closer to him)

Me : The face is mine yes but this is not my body. These pictures are photoshopped! They are edited.

Nyathuko : Usuqala lezingisi zakho ke khona uzoqamba kahle amanga

Me : What English? Nyathuko please don't tell me ukuthi awuyazi i photoshop

Nyathuko : Stop lying!! Uwena lo



Me : Oh hhayike! Sengizofa mina ngifele ububhinca bakho. Who on earth doesn't know photoshop? Awusawazi umzimba wami manje wena?

(He clenches his teeth and rubs his face)

Nyathuko : Haa! Haa! Haa!

(He keeps saying while moving all around the room)

Me : Thukeh I'm sorry. Ngicela ukuchaza

(He keeps rubbing his face)

Me : Do you remember when I asked you about mental illness?

(Silence)



Me : Ngangibuza because uDelani uyahlanya he thinks he and I are married and he thinks that I'm carrying his baby. Uyahlanya Nyathuko ubona izinto ezingekho. I asked you to destroy your SIM card because he was starting to call you and I was scared th....

(He punches the mirror. My eyes widen)

Nyathuko : Shut up!

(I freeze)

Nyathuko : Awushongo ukuthi wezwa abantu bekhuluma ngomngani wabo ohlanyayo?

Me : I... I

(I stutter)

Nyathuko : You lied?



Me : I didn't Nana. Ngangisaba ukukutshela

Nyathuko : No!!! I'll tell you what happened. You were already cheating on me. Wawuziphindiselela because I slept with Ashton and because you knew that your boyfriend was going to call me wathi angishintshe inamba. Ingakho futhi wathi I must delete my Whatsapp angithi? it's because you wanted to cheat in peace ngoba wawazi ukuthi ngizokubamba!

(His hand is bleeding)

Me : That's not true

Nyathuko : Get out

Me : Nyathu.....

Nyathuko : Phuma Sthabile



Me : No I want us to talk.

Nyathuko : Okay

(He pushes me roughly. I fall on the bed and he walks out)

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Chapter 31

(My pillow is now wet. My nose is blocked and my eyes are swollen. I unlock my phone and check the time. It's 03h48 am. Where did Nyathuko sleep? I get up and go through my contacts. I place the phone on my ear)

Sthabile what's wrong?



Me : No no no nothing is wrong Nondaba. Everything is fine

(He lets out a long sigh)

Maxwell : Cisho wangimisela ngenhliziyo

Me : Ngiyaxolisa Baba. I'm really sorry

Maxwell : Ndodakazi kwenzenjani? Why are you calling me so early?

Me : Uhhmm..

(I clear my throat)

Me : Bengfuna ukubuza uNyathuko Baba. I'm not home ngisekhaya KwaMashu so I wanted to check ukuthi baright yini nengane but I can't get hold of him.



(I hope he buys this one)

Maxwell : When did you go home?

(Dammit!)

Me : Ahh! Last night but I'm coming back today kade ngizolanda isihlambezo lesi uThukeh ayekhulume ngaso.

Maxwell : Oh okay

Me : Ukhona kodwa yena angithi lapho?

Maxwell : No ndodakazi yami Nyathuko is not here. He was supposed to come here last night ezongikhombisa lengalo yakhe ukuthi isinjani but he didn't come and when I tried to call him wangifaka ezihlahleni

(I clench my teeth)



Me : Ngiyakuzwa baba kulungile. Thank you

Maxwell : Maybe he forgot to charge his phone. You know him when he is around Ndlelenhle nothing else matters.

(He laughs. I try to pull out a smile but tears blurry my vision)

Me : I know. Usale kahle Nondaba

Maxwell : Get some rest Sthabile.

Me : Yebo

(I hang up before he hears that I'm crying. I blow my nose and wipe it. My nose is now red and painful from persistent wiping. I don't know who to call next. Maybe Nyathuko is with Nqabayethu but I can't even call Musa and find out because Musa is in England. Eish! Why don't I have Nomzamo's number? Oh Talente! I dial his number. He is not answering)

Me : Hello.... Hello

(I look at my phone screen)

Me : Hello

Thalente : Yebo sawubona

(Geez! That is so cold. He has my number so why is he answering like this?)

Me : Thalente Hi. Ngiyaxolisa ukukuhlupha ekseni bandla

Thalente : Fine what can I do for you?



(Yho!)

Me : Awukho noNqabayethu no Nyathuko?

Thalente : No I'm at my house. u (yawns) u Thukeh ngimgcine izolo ebusuku but usheshe wahamba.

Me : Oh I see. Did he tell you where he was going? Awumubuzanga?

Thalente : Izinto esingabuzani ke zona lezo. Sizishiyela abafazi bethu

(I swallow)

Me : Okay thanks.

Thalente : Sharp

(I hang up.)



Me : Oh nkosiyami ngiyakucela ungangenzi nje. Please Father God. I was just trying to protect my marriage. I was....

(I pause when I hear some noise coming from downstairs. I run outside of my bedroom and run down the stairs. There is loud music coming from outside. I know it's him. I fix my gown and open the

sliding door. The music is deafening. He is playing Nkalakatha by Mandoza. His door is open but he is not getting out of his car. His behavior is telling me that he is drunk. I step outside and cross my arms over my chest. He changes the song and plays Mhlobo wami by Teargas. You know the part of that song that goes "Aw mina angisajabuli ingathi khona ongimoshela umuzi kulamalanga umfazi akafuni nokulala nami ngiyafunga noma bethini mina mangis'emsebenzini kukhona ongena endlini engidlele umfazi wami. Umakhelwane nomkami badlala ama - games" You know that part? Yes right now he keeps repeating that part. I laugh and shake my head. This song is clearly directed to me. I take one step towards his car but the music switches off and he gets out of his car. He locks his car)

Me : Let me put it inside the garage for you Nana



Nyathuko : No

(He walks past me and gets inside the house. I sigh and follow him. I get inside and close the door)

Nyathuko : Ungakhiyi ngisaphuma

(He says and makes his way to the kitchen. I follow him)

Me : What do you mean usaphuma?

Nyathuko : Why are you still here? I thought you'd be gone by now

(My throat goes dry)

Me : Ngihambe ngiyephi Thukeh ngoba ikwami la?



(He washes one hand and wipes it. He opens the fridge and takes out a bottle of water. He opens it and finishes the whole bottle in three chugs. I hate knowing that he normally drinks water like this after we had sex. My blood boils)

Me : Where have you been?

Nyathuko : That's none of your business Sthabile.

(He throws the empty bottle in the bin and leans against the counter with his ankles crossed)

Me : Oh

Nyathuko : Uhamba nini?

(He is no longer angry now. He is the calm and collected Nyathuko I know. I moved my eyes to his hand. He has a clean bandage on. My heart races and my palms start sweating.)



Me : Uphumaphi?

Nyathuko : Uhamba nini?

Me : Nyathuko stop acting crazy! I'm not going anywhere!

Nyathuko : Don't raise your voice

Me : What's your problem?

Nyathuko : My problem is looking at me right now. Uwena inkinga yami

Me : Iyondlela osufuna sphile ngayo le?

Nyathuko : I don't know and I don't care



Me : Nyathuko!!!

Nyathuko : Ey! Ngithe ungangithethisi uma ukhuluma nami

Me : Do you think I want to shout? No I don't but right now

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right now he keeps repeating that part. I laugh and shake my head. This song is clearly directed to me. I take one step towards his car but the music switches off and he gets out of his car. He locks his car)

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Nyathuko : I don't know and I don't care

Me : Nyathuko!!!



Nyathuko : Ey! Ngithe ungangithethisi uma ukhuluma nami

Me : Do you think I want to shout? No I don't but right now you are behaving like a stupid child and it's fucking irritating!!

Nyathuko : Hamba phela

(I walk closer to him)

Me : Uphuma ku Ashton angithi? Ingakho ubhampa kanje

Nyathuko : Uhlanganaphi wena nalokho?

(There is no freaking way to describe how I'm feeling right now. Did he really just ask me that?)

Me : Ulale naye angithi? You left me with your baby wahamba wayofeba!



Nyathuko : So what?

(I throw a hard slap but he blocks it and grabs my arms. He spins me around and presses my face against the fridge)

Nyathuko : Ngizokubulala uyezwa? Ungaphinde mina ungiphakamisele isandla

Me : Thukeh I'm.....

Nyathuko : Do you hear me?

Me : Ye... Yes

(He pushes me to the counter and I hurt my back.)

Nyathuko : Nx! You think you can control me? Into angabe uyayenza angabe uyahamba uya endodeni yakho



(He says and walks away. I follow him crying)

Me : Nyathuko please ngicela sikhulume

Nyathuko : I don't want to talk

(He opens the wardrobe and takes out his clothes.)

Me : Thukeh where are you going? Please don't go sthandwa sami ngiyakucela. I'll do anything you want me to do ukuze ngikubonise ukuthi angijoli noDelani

(He punches the wardrobe a couple of times. I freeze)

Nyathuko : Stop! Stop! I don't want to hear it okay Sthabile? Angifuni ukuzwa lutho ephuma emlonyeni wakho



(My heart is beating fast. He packs his clothes inside his bag. I try to stop him but he glares at me)

Me : Nyathuko ngiyakucela!!!

(I scream. I'm going crazy now.)

Nyathuko : Ayisekho into oyicelayo

(He finishes packing his clothes and starts packing Ndlelenhle's clothes)

Me : No!! No!! You can't take my son!

Nyathuko : Nami uyindodana yami



Me : Nyathuko ungamane ungibulale but my son is not going anywhere. Nawe futhi awuyindawo!

(He laughs and shakes his head)

Nyathuko : Wena ucabanga ukuthi ngiyadlala. Angithi you don't want to leave so ngizokwenzela izinto zibelula I'll leave. Usale wena kwakho

Me : Nyathuko no please don't say that

Nyathuko : Sobona ke

Me : No!!

(I throw myself on the floor and pretend to faint. Silence. I know he is looking at me but why is he not waking me up? Why is he not screaming? I remain on the floor with my eyes closed. I try to stop myself from breathing but that one is not working. I feel something touching me. My plan is working. I hear his footsteps going towards the door. My eyes shut open. He is walking out with his bag)

The logo for SehranMagzine features a stylized blue speech bubble containing a white silhouette of a person's head and shoulders. Below the speech bubble, the text "SehranMagzine" is written in a blue, sans-serif font.

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Me : Ay!!

(I get up immediately)

Me : Nyathuko please don't go

Nyathuko : Awusaqulekile futhi manje? Uyabona ke amanga akho?

Me : Nana please ngiyacela Bhambatha please don't leave me. Please don't leave us. Thukeh lento esixabanisayo ayikho sisengayilungisa yonke lento. Let's go and see Delani umbone ukuthi unjani

(His jaws tighten)

Nyathuko : No



Me : Nyathuko I'm sorry I'm sorry I lied to you. Kwakumele ngikutshele but ngenza ubudomu and decided not to tell you. I was trying to protect umshado wethu

Nyathuko : No you were trying to protect your boyfriend.

Me : He is not my boyfriend!!! (sigh) Nana he is not my boyfriend.

Nyathuko : I don't care

Me : Nyathuko why is it so hard for you to forgive me? Ezintweni ezingaka engikuxolele zona Thukeh but wena ngephutha elilodwa nje engilenzile you can't forgive me? Ufuna ukuphuma ungishiye?

Nyathuko : I never lied to you angikaze ngiqambe amanga mina Sthabile.

Me : That's not true



Nyathuko : I don't have time for this nonsense

Me : Sengiyi nonsense manje? Mina Thukeh look at me. Imina Nyathuko imina umfazi wakho

Nyathuko : No I don't know you anymore. Angisakwazi mina Sthabile

Me : You don't mean that!

(Tears are raining down my face)

Me : Please don't go.

Nyathuko : I am going. Now do yourself a favor and go back to KwaMashu ngoba lo mshado lo? Indaba yawo ayisekho

(He walks out and closes the door. The room is spinning. I close my eyes)



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Chapter 32

(I wake up to Ndlelenhle crying)

Me : Thukeh iyakhala ingane

(Silence)

Me : Baby? Thukeh?

(I call for him with my eyes closed and tap on his pillow. My heart starts pounding when I remember that Nyathuko is gone when I remember that he is probably sleeping with another woman. My heart almost stops when I realize that my marriage is coming to an end. Ndlelenhle is screaming in his bed. I open my eyes they are heavy and itchy)

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Me : Mhmmmm I'm coming Ndlela

(I yawn and get out of bed. I feel so weak. I give Ndlelenhle his bottle and he feeds himself while I change his diaper. I look at him. He is falling asleep)

Me : Hello baby

(He laughs with his eyes closed)

Me : Ndlela?

(He opens his big eyes)

Me : Uphi u Thukeh boy boy?



(He takes the bottle out of his mouth. He closes his eyes. I laugh out loud. He does this every time before he fumbles his father's name)

Ndlelenhle : Un... Unu

Me : Say it baby uThukeh

(He squeezes his eyes)

Ndlelenhle : Unk...unke

(I laugh. This has been my favorite ever since Ndlelenhle has started learning to say our names. The way it's so hard for him to say Thukeh's name it's actually funny.)

Me : Yes baby Unke! Ushiye ingane unke? Ave emubi. Come to mommy



(I lift him up from his bed and take him to our bed. He looks all around my bed and searches under the duvet and under Nyathuko's pillow. I know who he is looking for and he is not here. I take out my breast before he starts crying. He loves playing with my breasts like his late brother did. I take my phone and unlock it. I almost scream when I see Nyathuko's missed call. He tried to call me at 01h00 am. Why the hell was I sleeping? I put Ndlelenhle away and give him his favorite toy. I grab my purse and open it. I smile. In my purse I have Nyathuko's picture. He was 7 years old here and he looks so cute with his dimples. I stole it from his father's house and I love it with all my heart. I kiss it)

Me : Please don't give up on us Nana.

(I sigh and take out my airtime. I load it and dial his number)

Nyathuko : Hello?

(He answers. My smile starts fading)

Me : Hi Thukeh usalele?



Nyathuko : No I'm up but I'm busy with something.

(I swallow hard)

Me : U busy ngani?

Nyathuko : What do you want Sthabile?

(My throat close up)

Me : Ngibone i missed call yakho

Nyathuko : Yami?

Me : Angsazike kanti bangaki oNyathuko efonini yami?

Nyathuko : I'm sure kube iphutha



Me : Oh? A mistake?

Nyathuko : Sthah please I don't have time for this sthand....(clears throat) Sthabile.

Me : Sthandwa sami

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I don't have time for this sthand....(clears throat) Sthabile.

Me : Sthandwa sami say it Thukeh. I know that's what you wanted to say so say it Nana. You know I'll always be your love. Bhambatha wami mina ngadalelwa wena and you....

Nyathuko : Stop it Sthabile!! Just stop!



Me : But it's true Thukeh

(Silence)

Me : Hello?

(He dropped the phone. I clench my teeth in frustration. A message follows after our call)

Message : I was serious Maka Zanokuhle. I think divorce is what we need futhi siyidinga manje kuse early.

(My body is already shaking as I finish reading his message. I run my hand all over my head. I take a breath in and out. My phone rings. It's him)

Me : Yebo Nyathuko



Nyathuko : Did you get my message?

Me : Yes I did. Why are you doing this? Nyathuko why ungafuni ukuqonda ukuthi kwenzekeni?

Nyathuko : I don't want to understand. I've been understanding all this time wenza izinto ezinzima Sthah ucisho ubulalisa ingane yami ngoNqabayethu I understood. Into engingafuni ukuyibona ukubona lomshado uphenduka ufana nowabazali bami. I don't want to see that. I don't want to hurt you Sthabile and uma siqhubeka

nalomshado I will hurt you because everytime ngikubuka I will always remember that you cheated on me and awufuni ukwazi ukuthi how far that could push me so please ngivumele ngikudedele uqhubeke no..... (sigh)

Me : So you truly believe that I'm having an affair with Delani and you believe that I'm carrying his baby?

Nyathuko : Yah

Me : Okay. I'll leave kodwa ngiyacela ungilinde ngibelethe. I don't want to deal with izindaba zama divorce nabameli while I'm pregnant ngakho ngiyakucela ungibekezelele ngize ngibelethe.



(Silence)

Me : Usekhona?

Nyathuko : Yes. Why Sthabile? Why did you cheat on me? Ingoba mhlampe anginayo imali eyanele or kukhona la engihluleke khona? Where did I fail?

Me : I'm not cheating on you Thukeh futhi angikaze

Nyathuko : Ilamanga akho ke angidinayo. Why are you lying?

Me : I'm not lying nana please come home sikhulume

Nyathuko : No!! Bye



(He hung up. Ndlelenhle is staring at me. I wipe my tears and try to pull out a smile)

Me : Hi baby

(He laughs. I take a deep breath. There is a shooting pain in my lower stomach)

Me : Sit here boy boy don't fall. Umama uyabuya

(I walk out and head to Zanokuhle's room. I get in and break down in tears.)

Me : Kodwa Nkulunkulu wami ungishiye lani?

(I kneeled down and prayed until I kept repeating the same thing. I didn't know what to say to God anymore. I open my eyes and sit on the bed. I call my mother)



MaKheswa : Fuze

(I look up at the ceiling pushing back my tears. I swallow the lump in my throat)

Me : Mawami

MaKheswa : Oh my baby what's wrong?

(I clear my throat and stand up)

Me : Nothing mama

MaKheswa : It's the Zondis right? What have they done this time?

Me : Nothing new



MaKheswa : Namanje basadinelwe ukukhulelwa kwakho? Kahleni bo! Kanti awuyena yini umfazi kaNyathuko ukuthi sebengadinwa kuphele unyaka?

Me : I don't care anymore. Mah can we talk?

MaKheswa : Khuluma nami mntanami

Me : I want to come home mama

(She sighs)

MaKheswa : Sthabile I don't think that is a good idea. I don't.....

Me : Please mama ngifuna ukuba nomndeni.

MaKheswa : Kodwa unomndeni wakho nje lapho

Me : I know but ngiyacela ukuhlala nawe until I give birth.

MaKheswa : Does Nyathuko knows about this?

(I swallow)



Me : Yes Yes he knows. Empeleni wuye who came up with this idea. We both think it's better ukuthi ngibelethele ngalapho ekhaya. Mah kuningi esibhekene nakho abantu bakwaZondi banomsindo. I need a break mama please allow me to come. Ngiyacela ukhulume no Mapholoba ningivumele ngibuye ekhaya okwesikhashana

MaKheswa : Kukungile Mntanami. Come back home. I'll deal with your father

(I sigh in relief)

Me : Ngiyabonga Mawami



MaKheswa : Uyohlale unekhaya lapha Mntanami ungakukhohlwa lokho.

Me : I know mama. I know

MaKheswa : I love you so much

Me : I love you too

MaKheswa : Goodbye my baby

Me : I'll see you later

MaKheswa : Ngizokuphekela ukudla kwakho okuthandayo.

(I laugh and tears squeeze out of my eyes)



Me : Thank you mama

MaKheswa : Fuze

(I hang up and sigh. I look around. There is no use fighting this for now. This house no longer feels like home without Nyathuko but I know that soon everything will be back to normal. I'll leave but I know

that in a day or two all this madness will be over and we are going to be fine all over again. Divorce my foot!)

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Chapter 33

KWA-MASHU

4 DAYS LATER



(Nuh and I went to town today.)

Me : Yoh! It was a long day

MaKheswa : Senibuyile

Me : Yeah. uNyathuko uwa lethile amanabukeni engane?

MaKheswa : No was he supposed to bring the nappies?

Me : Yes mama for Ndlelenhle. uNyathuko useqala ukungihlanyela ke manje Mah

(I feel emotional)



MaKheswa : Uh-huh ehliisa umoya calm down Sthabile.

Me : No Mah I can't calm down. Ngeke mina ngichanyelwe ingane ebusuku

(I stand up and head to my bedroom. I take out my phone and call him)

Me : Yini ke manje Thukeh?

Nyathuko : What are you talking about?

Me : Amanabukeni engane. I told you ukuthi akasenawo

Nyathuko : No you didn't

Me : Ungangisanganisi Thukeh! I did. I sent you a message because you didn't answer your phone!



Nyathuko : Angikuzwa mina when you are shouting

(I sigh)

Me : Thukeh sicela amanabukeni please bandla

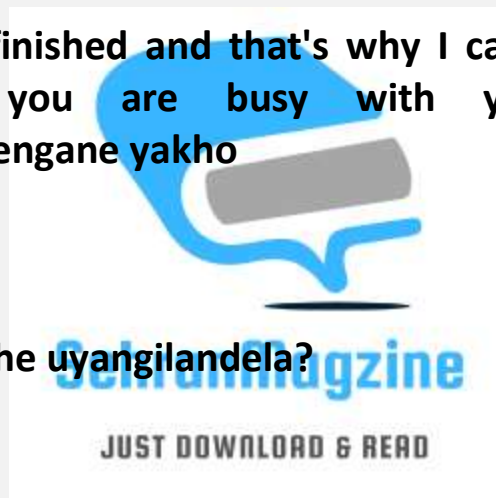
Nyathuko : I'm in Richards Bay awuwathenge ngizokusendela imali.

Me : No!!! No I can't! Where am I supposed to go and buy the nappies at this time? Ufuna ngiwathenge kuma Pakistan?

Nyathuko : No kanti awasekho yini?

Me : Yes they are finished and that's why I called you. Nyathuko I understand that you are busy with your girlfriend but angingakulandeli ngengane yakho

Nyathuko : Ubani othe uyangilandela?



Me : I am. Imina manje ofonayo encengana nawe aybo uhlukane nami phela Ay nengane yakho

Nyathuko : I will bring them.

Me : When?

Nyathuko : I'll send somebody to bring them. Yini enye ephelile?

Me : Uzothumela?

Nyathuko : Yah

(My breathing grows louder)



Me : Ngicela ungayenzi leyonto Thukena

Nyathuko : I just told you that I'm not home so ufuna ngenzeni?

Me : What are you doing in Richards Bay?

Nyathuko : Ngifike ngomsebenzi ufunani ke manje i proof? Sthabile I don't owe you anything.

(He hung up. I scream)

Sthabile are you okay? Kwenzenjani?

(My mother asks. I cover my mouth)

Me : I'm okay Mah



(I stayed in my room until late. I walk out to have dinner)

MaKheswa : Ukudla kwakho kukwi microwave

(There is a box of Pampers on the couch. My heart races)

Me : Who brought that?

MaKheswa : Oh uMpatho uthi uwanikwe uMkhuleko ucelwe uBaba kaGqamuza ukuthi ewalethe

Me : What?

MaKheswa : What's wrong?

Me : Nothing



(I go to the kitchen. My eyes are full of tears. I take out my food and slam the microwave closing it)

Ungangibulaleli izinto zami

(I turn around. It's my mother)

Me : Sorry?

MaKheswa : Why are you angry?

Me : I'm not angry

MaKheswa : You are.

Me : I'm just angry at Nyathuko. He didn't buy the baby formula

MaKheswa : Wena uyadinwa uma uZondi kukhona izinto angazithengi?



(Silence)

MaKheswa : Sthabile you can't get everything you want. First of all Ndlelenhle is also your son so you can't expect Zondi to be the only one who buys everything for the baby. Kuyabanjiswa ngengane ngoba nawe uyasebenza

Me : I'm not working anymore mina. Ngamiswa

MaKheswa : Because you are pregnant

Me : No I was suspended.

MaKheswa : Aw I didn't know that. Ubuyela nini?

(I sigh)



Me : Ey Mah I don't want to talk about it. I'm going to my room

MaKheswa : Is everything okay?

Me : Yes

MaKheswa : Ngibona phela umyeni wakho engasafoni njengakuqala

(Wuu! Uh-huh MaKheswa is something else)

Me : Nyathuko still calls me everyday

MaKheswa : I see.

(I take my food and go to my bedroom but as soon as I sit down Mapholoba walks in. He sits on my couch. He is busy using his toothpick to clean his teeth. I sigh)



Me : Mapholoba

Ngcobo : Yah uyaphila?

Me : I'm fine baba

Ngcobo : Good what are you doing here

(I put away my food)

Me : I thought my mother told you

Ngcobo : She did but I don't understand

Me : Ngizohamba Baba. Ngicelile ukubethela ngapha ekhaya

Ngcobo : Why now? Because when you gave birth to Ndlelenhle wawusemzini wakho

Me : Hawu baba you know how the Zondis feel about this pregnancy so kuhlukile this time.

Ngcobo : They are angry?



Me : Yes

Ngcobo : Sthabile uyabona lokumitha kwakho angihambisani nakho. I still think it's wrong futhi nawe usuyabona. Look at you ndodakazi you are here alone izingane zonke zibheke wena. Where is your husband?

Me : Usendlini

Ngcobo : Endlini? What is he doing ~~endlini~~ yedwa? He is busy with other women

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uhleli wena uyancelisa. Sthabile things are going to be different uyabona lengane oyithwele uyongibuza ungiphale ulimi izokonela umshado

Me : That's not true Mapholoba

Ngcobo : It's true. Ayikho indoda efuna ukuhlala endlini okuhayiza kuyona izingane. You know how Ndlelenhle cries. Awucabange sekukhala le kukhale leya kukaka le ngapha nayi naleya isikakile. Isichitho leso esibi kabi

Me : Ay ngeke sihlulwe izingane zethu

Ngcobo : If you say so. But I want to tell you something when things go South don't come back here nalezingane zakho. This house is not a Creche. Nganele mina ngo Zanokuhle no Gqamuza. You see this one that you are carrying ay kuzoba eyakwaZondi ngempela



(I swallow)

Me : I hear you.

Mapholoba : Good.

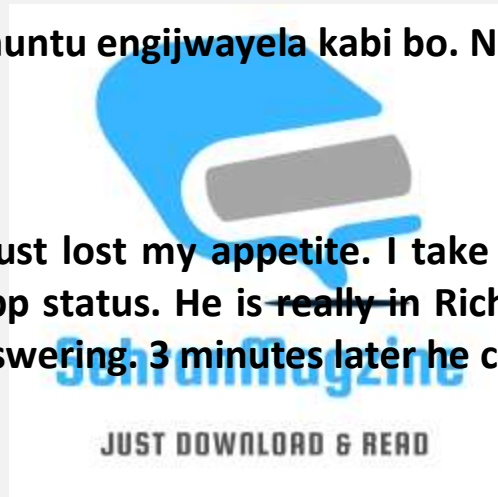
(He stands up)

Mapholoba : Eat your food

(He walks out)

Me : Mxm nangu umuntu engijwayela kabi bo. Nehlukwe elikhulu

(I close my door. I just lost my appetite. I take my phone and check Nyathuko's Whatsapp status. He is ~~really~~ in Richards Bay. I video call him but he is not answering. 3 minutes later he calls)



Me : Hi

Nyathuko : Sthah I'm busy here. Kwenzenjani?

Me : Mkhuleko brought the nappies. Ngiyabonga

Nyathuko : Okay

Me : How is Richards Bay?

Nyathuko : I don't know Sthabile. Ngicela ukulala. I have a meeting tomorrow morning

Me : Okay



Nyathuko : Baright uNdlelenhle no Zano?

Me : Yes they are fine.

Nyathuko : Where is Ndlelenhle?

Me : Nangu ulele

Nyathuko : Okay goodnight.

Me : Thukeh wait. Uzobuya nini?

Nyathuko : I don't know when I'm coming back

Me : Unobani lapho?

Nyathuko : What do you mean?



Me : I'm just asking

Nyathuko : Ay Sthah awukahle. Bye

Me : Okay

(I end the call. I received a text from him)

Message : I'm alone.

Unamanga why didn't you answer my video call pho? - Me

(He is not replying. I get ready for bed and open the door)

Me : Zanokuhle are you coming?



MaKheswa : No uzolala nathi

Me : Okay. Nilale kahle

MaKheswa : Usuyalala early kangaka?

Me : Yeah I'm tired

MaKheswa : Okay Goodnight

Me : Goodnight

(I close the door and switch off the light. I keep checking if Nyathuko is online on Whatsapp. Let me call him)

Nyathuko : Yah Sthabile kanti Kwenzenjani?

Me : I'm feeling sick nana



(I'm already crying. I'm not sick but missing him makes me sick)

Me : Thukeh?

Nyathuko : Ngilalele

Me : Ngiyagula ngempela

Nyathuko : What's wrong?

Me : I don't know my chest is burning

Nyathuko : You are going to be fine. Why don't you call your boyfriend?



Me : Nyathuko please

Nyathuko : No ngiyabuza.

Me : Can we just talk until I fall asleep? Not about Delani kodwa

Nyathuko : No we can't

(I cry even more)

Me : Ngiyacela Thukeh. Kubuhlungu I can't sleep

Nyathuko : Sthabile ngicela ukulala

Me : Okay



(He hung up. "I'm in pain" I Updated my Whatsapp status. I know he won't see it now but he will see it tomorrow when he wakes up)

(I woke up to my phone ringing. I know it's Musa who normally calls me early in the morning.)

Me : Hi Musa

(Silence. I look at my phone screen. Yho! It's not Musa it's Nyathuko. I check the time. It's 02h10 am and I thought it was around 07h00 am. I guess he can't sleep and now he thinks he can call me)

Me : Oh Nyathuko ngithi uMusa

Nyathuko : Awphume Sthabile. I'm outside

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Chapter 34



(I can't believe he is here. I slowly walk to his car. I'm going to pretend like I'm sick. The door is unlocked so I pull the door and get inside his car. I've told him countless times to lock all doors because here in KwaMashu people are hijacked in broad daylight but he doesn't care.)

Me : Hi

(He nods. I see the war isn't over yet)

Nyathuko : Nawu amaphilisi esilungulela. I told the lady that assisted me that you are pregnant so uthe lawomaphilisi are safe.

(He went to Dischem Pharmacy. I take the tablets from him)

Me : Ngiyabonga



Nyathuko : Uyazi ukuthi ngisukaphi Sthabile?

(I swallow)

Nyathuko : Ngisuka e Richards Bay. I drove all the way from Richards Bay ngeza la and I had to cancel all my important meetings. Ama meetings okuyiwona abengiyise khona e Richards Bay but I canceled them ngenxa yakho Sthah

Me : Kodwa I didn't say you should come back mina Thukeh

Nyathuko : Wenze ngamabomu. Yonke lento oyenzile nalezinto ozibhale ku Whatsapp ubuwazi ukuthi ngizozibona.

Me : No bengingazi

Nyathuko : Musa ukuphika into oyaziyo Sthabile. Ubushwabulela bani kwi status sakho?



Me : Bengingashwabuli ngithe nje kubuhlungu ukugula unganakwe muntu

Nyathuko : Oh. So usuyajabula ke manje usunakiwe? You knew I'd come back right? Ubuwazi ukuthi ngizobuya ngoba vele uyazi ukuthi uyangisanganisa. Sthabile you are selfish

Me : Hhaibo Nyathuko

Nyathuko : Yes you are selfish. Wena uzicabangela wena kuphela. Into ebalulekile kuwena ile esuke ifunwa uwena kuphela and nothing else.

Me : Nana that is not true

Nyathuko : It is true. You know how important those meetings were to me. We spoke about them for weeks kodwa futhi masengilapha sekuwena othi ngihleli namantombazane and that's why I wasn't answering your video calls. Uya lapha ko Whatsapp uyobhala lezinto zakho owazi kahle ukuthi ziyanginyanyisa.

Me : I didn't know ukuthi usuno Whatsapp

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Nyathuko : Buka usangenza islima namanje. Were you not the first person who sent me a whatsapp message wathi sengibuyisele u Whatsapp futhi?

(I keep quiet)

Nyathuko : Sthah angazi noma ubona ukuthi ngiyisididi yini

Me : Of course not.

Nyathuko : No wena you think I'm an idiot! Did you tell your boyfriend that you are sick ngoba ufonele mina nje? Angithi vele ubuwazi ukuthi.....

(I break a loud scream crying while pressing my chest. He jumps to the back seat immediately. He sits next to me and touches me all over)

Nyathuko : Sthah what's wrong?



Me : Heartburn

(I whisper. He wraps his arms around me. Nazoke! I bury my face in his chest. Gosh I miss him so much)

Nyathuko : Aphi amaphilisi?

(I don't need that. Pills are for sick people)

Me : No

Nyathuko : Kubuhlungu kephi kanti?

Me : My chest



**Nyathuko : I'm sorry. Ngiyaxolisa — nokukthethisa sthandwa sami.
Uwena kodwa Sthah yazi**

(He kisses my forehead. I smile a little)

Nyathuko : Woza la. Sit here

**(I wipe my cheek and climb on top of him. I rest my head on his chest.
His baby kicks. See everyone is happy now. I hope I'm not that heavy
with this big stomach)**

Nyathuko : Uhleli kahle

Me : Mhmm-mhmm

Nyathuko : Singayi eClinic?

(He kisses the top of my head. No way! No Clinic!)



Nyathuko : Mhmmm baby? Awufuni siye eClinic?

Me : No

(I kiss his neck while rubbing my pussy against his dick. He is trying to fight it but his dick can't fight this. It's getting harder down here.)

Nyathuko : Sthabile please

Me : Why?

Nyathuko : I don't want....

(I suck his lower lip)

Me : Mina ngiyafuna. Nika mina ke



Nyathuko : No Sth....

(I climb off him and undo his jeans.)

Nyathuko : Sthabile don't.... Damn!

(I take his dick all in. I've done this once and that was way before we got married and I failed dismally when I was doing it. My mouth

couldn't handle his size honestly but today I'm willing to give it another try)

Nyathuko : Amazinyo Sthabile amazinyo! Uyangilamaza

(Why is he lying?)

Me : Stop lying



Nyathuko : I'm serious. Iyeke lento awukwazi.

Me : Unamanga ngiyakwazi

Nyathuko : Awukwazi ngoba uhlafuna ipipi lami nje

(Aibo!!)

Me : Oh your girlfriends do better than me?

Nyathuko : Wena ilomfana wakho wamazinyo amagolide okufundise lento ngoba phela ubungayenzi lento?

(He is referring to Delani. Delani has gold teeth)

Me : Kusakela nini bengingayenzi?

Nyathuko : Ay leave me alone



(No I'm not going to leave him alone. Why is he acting like he is not enjoying this? I continue. He groans. See what I mean? He pushes his dick down my throat and my eyes start watering. I vomit. What a disaster?)

Nyathuko : Dammit. I told you to stop buka manje ungiphalazela

Me : Uwena nje.

Nyathuko : Ngenzeni mina?

Me : You know what you did! Ubufuna kwenzeke nje vele

Nyathuko : No awukwazi.

(If Nyathuko says that one more time I'll scream)



Nyathuko : Suka

(He is just trying to make me feel bad. I know and it's working. I'm angry now. He takes off his jacket and takes off his t-shirt. He cleans himself. My vomit is not even that much)

Me : Sorry

Nyathuko : Ayikho into othi sorry yona Sthabile

Me : No Nyathuko stop acting like you didn't do this on purpose. Wena vele you didn't want to have sex with me wenza into ezokwenza ukuthi sixabane khona singeke senze i sex because I disgust you. Ngiyakunyanyisa angithi ngoba ucabanga I slept with Delani?

(He wears his jeans and gets out of the car. He opens the boot of his car. He is wearing a clean t-shirt. He comes back and wipes where he was sitting. He closes the door and goes back to sit in the driver's seat)



Nyathuko : Ngicela ukuhamba

Me : Enza okubonayo Thukeh

(I fix my gown. I'm fuming my lips are quivering. I keep blinking to stop myself from crying)

Me : Nxi

(I open the door and put one foot down.)

Me : Why are you punishing me? Nyathuko kuyoze kube inini ngempela ngixolisela into engingayazi? I'm sorry okay? I'm sorry I didn't tell you ukuthi uDelani uyahlanya and he thinks that he and I are married. I'm sorry you are hurt and ngiyaxolisa ukuthi awuyazi i photoshop.

(He is silent)



Me : Zondi ngiyakukhumbula. I want to come back home ngicela ukubuyela ekhaya.

(I sigh)

Me : Nyathuko I love you so much. When are you going to actually realize that I want only you? Yazi indlela engikuthanda ngayo nengikuhlonipha ngayo wena no mshado wethu I can't even look at any other man ngaphandle kwakho. Thukeh I have no reason to cheat no reason at all because I have everything I need. You are everything.

Alikho nelilodwa ilanga la engihalela khona enye indoda ngaphandle kwakho so why would I cheat?

Nyathuko : How am I supposed to know?

Me : Wow

(I sigh and get out of his car. I head home with tears streaming down my face)

Maka Zanokuhle?



(I stop walking and turn around)

Me : Yes

Nyathuko : Please don't go

(I make my way back to his car)

Nyathuko : Ungabe usahlala ngalapho

(We laugh. He opens the door and sits on the front passenger seat.)

Nyathuko : Woza uhlale phezu kwendoda yakho

(I smile and sit on his lap. You know the devil works overtime so the moment I sit down my phone rings. I should have left it. The caller ID is Delani. I look at Nyathuko he chuckles and shakes his head. Why on earth would Delani call me at 03h00am am?)

Me : Please answer it

(He takes my phone and answer. He puts the call on a loudspeaker)

Nyathuko : Sho

Delani : Sweetheart

(I freeze. Nyathuko looks at me. His gaze is so cold and intense)

Nyathuko : Ubani uSwithathi wakho?

(Yho! He pronounces the word sweetheart in IsiZulu.)



Delani : Hello?

(Delani ends the call)

Me : Uyamuzwa ke Thukeh? He is crazy

Nyathuko : No he is.....

(A whatsapp message pops up. Nyathuko opens it. Holy shit! It's Delani sending me a picture of him naked again.)

Nyathuko : Kusayiwona lama photoshop akho namanje lawa?

(Oh Jesus Christ. Here I am crying again. Awe Jesu! I curse the day Delani was born)

Me : Thukeh I....



Nyathuko : No! How is he crazy when he calls you ngoswidi? Nibizana kanjalo vele? Sthabile umuntu ovale ifoni ngaleskhathi ezwa ukuthi akakhulumi nawe you want me to think he is crazy? Lomuntu okusendela izithombe zakhe enqunu he is crazy? Ungangenzi islima wena. Suka ngihambe

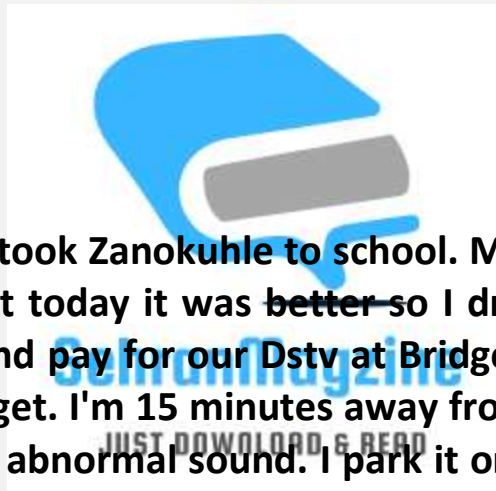
Me : Nyathuko please don't do this

Nyathuko : Sthabile hamba

(If I don't leave now this man will beat me up. I stand up and go home. This time Nyathuko drives off)

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Chapter 35



(The following day I took Zanokuhle to school. My car has been acting weird these days but today it was better so I dropped off Zanokuhle and decided to go and pay for our Dstv at Bridge City because I knew Nyathuko would forget. I'm 15 minutes away from Bridge City and my car starts making an abnormal sound. I park it on the side of the road and get out. As soon as I get out of the car I feel my back burning. My expected date of delivery is still far so I have nothing to worry about. I look around and the streets are empty. I know this is not a busy road but I need some help right now. I try to take a few steps but the pain gets worse. I slowly go back into my car and search for my phone. I need to call Nyathuko. He throws me straight into voicemail. I was expecting this. I send him a message and put my phone in my bag. I press my hand on my stomach and breathe in and out. I'm feeling pains all over my body now. There is a car coming. I step out of my car and wave my hand. The car stops. Thank God it's Nqabayethu. He is with his friend)

Me : Nqaba thank God it's you

Nqabayethu : Kuhambani?

Me : Angizwanga?

Nqabayethu : Ngithi what's going on? Umeleni la?

Me : My car broke down and I can't get hold of Nyathuko.

Nqabayethu : Oyah

Me : I think I need hospital

(I flinch in pain)



Nqabayethu : Manje mina ngingena vaar?

Me : Nqabayethu please... I... I think ngiyabeletha.

Nqabayethu : Congratulations

Me : Nqaba ngiyakucela. Ngicela ungiyisa esibhedlela noma ufonele uThukeh



Nqabayethu : Awuncime imoto Zet

(His friend turns off the engine)

Nqabayethu : Sthabile after everything you did yini ekudenkisa ukuthi mina ngingasiza wena?

(I press my stomach)

Me : Pl... Please I'm begging you

Nqabayethu : No

Me : Ngiyakuncenga

Nqabayethu : I said no. Zet?

Zet : G?



Nqabayethu : Asvaye. Shaya imoto

(The engine starts and they drive off. I can't believe this. The pain is getting better. I sigh. I need to try and call Nyathuko again. There is another car coming. I don't have the energy to stop it. I continue searching for my phone inside my back where I threw it. I feel something covering my mouth and nose.)

Ssh!

(Someone shush me. I turn around. For a second I thought my eyes were deceiving me)

Me : Delani

(My eyes become blurry. I'm feeling dizzy. I fall into his arms)



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(I open my eyes. They feel so heavy. I look around. What the hell am I doing in this shack? I jump when I see a rat running around the floor)

Me : VISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM “ FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELSh!!!

(I scream)

What's wrong darling?

(Hell no! I was actually lying on Delani's chest this whole time)

Me : What am I doing here?



(I ask and run to the door. I try to ~~open~~ it but it's locked. Delani is smiling)

Delani : Finally we are together.

Me : Delani open this door!!

Delani : Why are you fighting this? Sthabile you and I love each other. Awusakhumbuli sisafunda we kissed Sthabile

Me : Ey! Ey! Stop it mahn! Awukahle ukuzihlanyisa Delani. Let me go

Delani : Am I lying?

Me : It was a stupid kiss we were young Delani. Ngo kiss nje owodwa usungenza yonke lemisangano?

Delani : I'm not crazy!!!!



(He screams and gets out of bed. It a single bed that can fall any minute from now)

Me : Okay calm down

Delani : I'm not crazy!!! You are my wife and you are carrying my child. I'm not crazy!!!!

(He screams and bangs the bed.)

Me : Delani stop!!!!

(He turns around. His eyes are wide open and he is breathing like a wild animal. I try to open up the door once again)

Delani : You want to kill me?

(I quickly shake my head)



Me : No no no. Angisoze ngakwenza lokho.

Delani : Okay come. Sit here

(He points at the bed)

Me : Delani I can't. You need to let me go. My husband is.....

Delani : Noooo!!!!

(He screams louder and grabs a long knife. I cry)

Delani : I don't want to do this but you are pushing me. I thought we were going to die together in peace but you want me to spill blood. Is that how you want us to die together? Lying in the pool of our own blood holding each other? That is actually perfect! Blood is red Sthandwa sami and red symbolizes love.

(My blood freezes)

The logo for SehranMagzine features a stylized blue and grey graphic above the text "SehranMagzine" in a blue, sans-serif font. Below the main text, it says "JUST DOWNLOAD & READ" in a smaller, grey, all-caps font.

SehranMagzine

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Delani : You know there was a red bright color representing the spiritual awakening of Moses as he was visited by God.

(I shake my head)

Delani : Do you know John 6:55? It speaks about blood. God says For my flesh is real food and my BLOOD! is real drink. Sthabile you and I were really meant to be together but unfortunately we don't have time anymore my love. Isikhathi sethu kulomhlaba ongcolile siphelile. Sinempilo enhle esilindile angithi?

Me : No

Delani : Yes!!!!!!

(He screams and I block my ears. I suddenly feel wet between my thighs. My eyes widen)



Me : Delani?

Delani : What?

Me : The baby the baby is coming

Delani : Our baby?

Me : Delani my water just broke. I need to go

Delani : No my love you can't go now. Sit here they are coming.

(I feel a shooting pain)

Me : Delani open this door



Delani : No no no. You want to leave me!

Me : No

(He kneels down and searches under the bed. He takes out ropes)

Me : No

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no please don't do that. Please don't do that

Delani : You leave me with no choice. I can't lose you anymore. Come

(Water is now running down my legs. Delani pushes me to sit on an old chair and he ties me up on a chair)



Me : Please don't..... VISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM ” FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELSaa!!!

(I scream. That pain again)

Delani : You are lying I know you are lying. Uzama ukungithusa

Me : I'm not.... I'm not trying to scare you. The baby is..... VISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM “ FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELSa!

(I scream. My forehead starts sweating. My body is heating up)

Me : Delani my water just broke. Ngizwe ngimanzi.

(He shakes his head and scratch his hair)

Delani : No.... No!!!!!



(He covers his ears)

Delani : They are coming. They want to kill me

Me : Oh Nkulunkulu wami please help me please help me Father.

(I pray while breathing in and out)

Me : Nyathukooooo!!!!

(I scream and my eyes closed. When I open them Delani is strangling me)

Delani : Don't call his name Don't call his name!!!!!!

(I try to remove his hand from my neck)



Delani : Say sorry

Me : So.....

(He let go. I cough)

Me : Sorry

Delani : You are my wife. Say it!!!

Me : I'm your wife.

(I say gasping for air)



Delani : Nothing will come between us nothing! I won't let them anymore. They are coming to kill me but they will find us both here. They've been chasing me with their dogs and.....

Me : Water... I need water

(He looks around. He runs into a corner and grabs a small bottle.)

Delani : There is no water drink this. It will help you with the pain

(He opens it and the smell of it suffocates the entire shack. It smells like acid. I shake my head)

Me : No

Delani : Drink it

(I cry even more. He roughly lifts up my chin and shove the bottle inside my mouth.)



Delani : Drink drink!!

(It tastes like urine. I'm not going to swallow this shit)

Delani : Gwinya!!!!

(Now I feel like my mouth is burning. I spit it out on his face. He slaps me and grabs his knife)

Me : Please I don't want water anymore

Delani : Drink or I'll kill you

(I close my eyes and drink.)

Delani : Drink all of.....



(I hear a loud bang and the door opens. 3 men and one woman walk in. I don't know these people)

Me : Please help me

(I see Delani climbing out the window)

Vimba!!

(A man shouts)

Uyabona ke? Ngiwuzwile umsindo. Hawu! Hawu! Cisho yafa ingane yabantu

(A woman says)

Me : Hospital.. Please



Hhaibo! She is pregnant!

Me : Please help me

(I say and push)

Me : VISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM “ FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELSVISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM “ FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELSa!!!!

Oh no! No no. She is giving birth muqaqeni. Ngobese muqaqeni uyabeletha. I'll go and call Maka Sphiwe

(The woman says)

No there is a car la emuva kwendlu. Let's take her to the clinic. Asimuyise e clinic yakwa C



(Another man says)

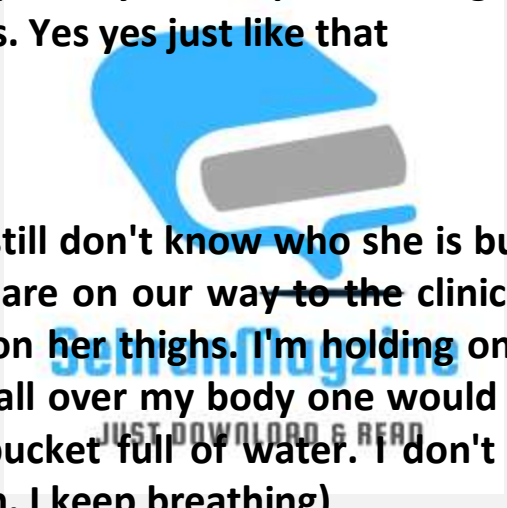
I don't think she will make it to the clinic. Uyabeletha manje. Don't push ngane yami okay? Don't push. Phefumula phefumula..... Sondezani imoto Ngobese!!

(The woman screams and one of the men lifts me up and carries me outside. I can't breathe anymore)

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Chapter 36

Please don't close your eyes. Keep breathing sisi keep breathing. Don't close your eyes. Yes yes just like that



(The woman says. I still don't know who she is but I hear them calling her Maka Sane. We are on our way to the clinic. I'm sleeping on my back with my head on her thighs. I'm holding on to her hand tightly. The way I'm so wet all over my body one would swear that someone poured me with a bucket full of water. I don't know where all this sweat is coming from. I keep breathing)

Maka Sane : Don't push ngane yami. We are almost there. Sokuyisa e Clinic yase Marobhothini la e Unit 10. Bazokusiza khona. Ngobese did you find her things?

(Ngobese is driving)

Ngobese : No there was nothing kuloyamkhukhu nothing. Even her clothes were not there nezengane imbala. Ngibheke ipasi lakhe ngaze ngancama

(Maka Sane nods while fanning my face with a magazine.)

Maka Sane : Kuyacaca lengane wilande ngenkani kubo. Men are evil how can you abuse umuntu wesifazane othwele ingane yakho kanjeya? Waqala nini lomfana eshaya lengane yabantu

(They think I'm Delani's girlfriend and they swear they've heard him beating me up before which is not true. In my mind it's like I'm explaining to them about what really happened but my mouth is closed so clearly everything I think I'm telling them is just all in my head. I'm definitely going crazy. I've never felt like this before I just can't speak)

Ngobese : He almost killed her this time. Besizovuka ngezinye nje futhi izindaba sekuthiwa kutholakale owesifazane ebulewe emikhukhwini e Bhambayi.

Maka Sane : Hawemah! Owesifazane okhulelwe smakade. Yazi ngibonga ukuthi angiyizibanga nje yonke lento.

Ngobese : What happened kahle kahle?

Maka Sane : Kusize u Sane who was washing the dishes outside. Ngithe ngibona wangena esegulukudela ethi Mah khona usisi ohayizayo

Ngobese : Oh nkosi yami



Maka Sane : Ngiphumele emnyango ngiyobheka kodwa ngingezwa lutho. Ngithe ngibuyela endlini kwayilapho ke nami engimuzwe khona umuntu ehayiza kodwa kuyizwi lendoda. Ngezwa ukuthi no man lomsindo usuka kulomkhukhu ohlala labafana be woonga and for a moment I thought it was them sebedakwe ilento abayidlayo kanti akunjalo.

Ngobese : I would have thought the same thing

Me : Something told me to go and check. Ngahambake ngalunguza emufantini wesicabha mengithi nje nhla indoda iphethe ummese ongangobaba ngibonwe.

Ngobese : Usebenzile usebenze kakhulu ngoba ngempela ibizofa lengane.

(The more they talk about what happened the more I feel like I'm losing my breath)

Maka Sane : Ibizofa. Ohhe(she sighs) kazi bazothini ke kulena yona i clinic kube kweyamandiya nokwenza.



(The car stops moving)

Maka Sane : Ngobese talk to him. Esami isingisi asisavumi.

Ngobese : Only Mr John understands my English kodwa naso lesa sesivele sanyamalala novalo inkosi mpela.

(It's only the 3 of us in this car. This is definitely not my car. I wonder who is the owner of it)

Maka Sane : Bhidilisha Ngobese Bhidilisha nje noma yini

(I think we are at the entrance)

Hi can I help you?



(Someone asks. He must be the security guard)

Ngobese : Yes. Eer the girl is.... Yini ukuzala Maka Sane?

Maka Sane : Produ... Preg. Ey wemfana wendiya the baby in the stomach is coming.

Ngobese : Come see

(There is a little bit of silence)

Security guard : Damn! She is pregnant. Get in get in. What happened to her?

(The car starts moving and stops again. All doors open and someone lifts me out of the car)

Security guard : Bring that wheelchair. Put it here



(I keep closing and opening my eyes. They put me down in a wheelchair)

Security guard : Don't take her to the reception. Take her straight to that building and they will direct you where to go from there.

Ngobese : Okay.

(Ngobese pushes me with a wheelchair. Someone stops us. I'm too tired to open my eyes)

Ngobese : Sawubona nurse

Nurse : Where are you taking her baba?

Ngobese : Uyabeletha.

(Someone touches my neck)



Nurse : This is not looking good. Dadewethu please try to open your eyes

(I can only open one. She sighs)

Nurse : Okay I'll take it from here. Ngicela nilinde khona la Mah no Baba

Maka Sane : Oh nkosi yami. Uhambe no Thixo mntanami

(You see Maka Sane this woman is a God sent. Even if I die today I will remember her. A single tear runs down my cheek. We are no longer outside because I can hear people talking.)

Nurse : Mabusi? Busisiwe? Hhaibo! Sister Chiliza!

Hey sorry angikuzwa. Saze sa..... What happened here?



Nurse : I have no idea. Some people just brought her in bafike nje bezithwabazela bengaphethe nethawula

Sister Chiliza : What? Where is her file? Ubexukuza layikhaya kodwa?

Nurse : I don't know she came with nothing.....Nangu uNgcece

Sister Chiliza : Oh no

Kwenzeka ntoni apha?

(Ngcece asks. I don't know if my water is breaking again or I'm peeing myself but something is going on. I push with all the energy I'm left with.)

Okay! The baby is close. She won't make it to Maghandi. Let's moveasinaxesha. She is losing consciousness! She is losing....



(I can't hear anything anymore)

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(I don't know how many times I've fainted. I open my eyes. I'm still in this bed. My bed is surrounded by a lot of nurses. I see Sister Chiliza and Ngcece are also here. Ngcece holds a certain position around here

and she is the type of woman you don't want to mess with. She is the reason why I left this clinic when I was pregnant with Enzelwe and Zanokuhle. We always fought. I don't think she sees me. I don't know how I'm still alive. Wait my baby where is my baby? I remember giving birth but I don't see my baby. Why are these nurses still here and sweating? Because they have delivered my baby.)

Ngcece : She is losing a lot of blood.

(She wears new gloves and inserts her fingers in my vagina while staring at the machine that is making noise next to me .What's going on here?)



Ngcece : The baby is coming slowly.

(What baby?)

Sister Chiliza : She is awake

Ngcece : Thank God

(I see her doing a holy cross. Was I dead? They start speaking nurses' language and mentioning numbers. The more she pushes her fingers the more I want to poop.)

Me : Toilet pl...

(I groan. I feel like my bones are cracking. I'm feeling cold. I push and I'm sure I just messed up myself on this bed)

Her stool is full of blood. She needs to go to the hospital!



SehranMagzine

The logo features a blue speech bubble containing a white book icon. Below the speech bubble, the text 'SehranMagzine' is written in a blue, sans-serif font.

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Ngceke : If engahhamba ngoku she will lose this baby.

Sister Chiliza : She can't she can't!..... Sisi listen to me. I need you to push just one more time. I'm begging you

Me : I can't

Sister Chiliza : I know you can. You are the most strongest woman I've ever met so I know you can do this. Look at your baby girl

(She turns around and picks up a baby from a bed. While she picks up the baby. I stretch my arm and touch my vagina. I feel the baby's wet hair. They are right there is another baby coming)

Sister Chiliza : She is alive and she is doing well but her twin needs to come out now. I need you to look at her and remember why you need to do this. You are the only one who can save her twin ngakho ngiyakucela. Hold her and push

SehranMagzine

(She places my angel on my chest. I can't even open my eyes and look at her but I can hear her sucking her fingers. Tears spill out of the corners of my eyes. I hold her little leg and push harder. I hear another baby crying. Khambule was right I was carrying twins. The nurses are screaming in excitement and I can hear one of them praying. The room goes dark all over again)

HOURS LATER

(I didn't feel any needles when they were stitching me but it seems like it's all over now. My two beautiful girls are sleeping next to me and they look exactly like me. Now I'm looking at two women who are still waiting to give birth. The things they are doing here wow. If I wasn't feeling this weak I'd be laughing. One of them is trying to lift up the bed with her head. She stops and grabs a broom and sweeps the floor. The other one is busy making every bed here. Sister Chiliza walks in with a cup of coffee and two slices of bread. I don't know what day or time it is but I guess it's the morning.)

Sister Chiliza : Hello beautiful people

(I smile)

Me : Hi



Sister Chiliza : How are you feeling today?

Me : Better

(She looks around)

Sister Chiliza : I'm sorry we had to put you here indawo ebese singenayo. Isikhathi sokuthi ubelana sesiphelile but you were not waking up.

Me : What?

Sister Chiliza : What is more strange ukuthi ubungaqulekile kodwa indlela obukhathele ngayo you couldn't even move. You've been here for 3 days now and akuzona izinsuku ongazihlala emtholampilo lezo



Me : I understand

(She sighs and shakes her head)

Sister Chiliza : What is your name?

Me : Sthabile Zondi

Sister Chiliza : Sthabile. Wow yazi Sthabile ube ubufakazi kimi ukuthi ngempela u Nkulunkulu ukhona. Indlela ofika uyiyona nendlela ekubenzima ngayo ubeletha I've never seen anything like that selokhu ngaqala ukuba u nurse. Namanje ngiyazibuza ukuthi uphile kanjani wena nalezingane.

(I sigh)

Sister Chiliza : Don't ever stop praying.

Me : I'll never stop



(She smiles)

Sister Chiliza : You are ready to go home and the people you came with are.....

(Delani crosses my mind and I jump)

Me : Delani where is Delani?

Sister Chiliza : Please calm down. No one is going to hurt you here

Me : Ndlelenhle. I left my son with my mother. My son needs me

Sister Chiliza : Okay okay calm down. Breathe in and out

Me : No



Sister Chiliza : We know what happened. The people you came with are being questioned by the police as we speak

Me : No abanacala. They saved my life

Sister Chiliza : I know they told us everything but the police are just doing their job. Who else can we call?

(I think of Nyathuko. I know he is worried sick about me or maybe he doesn't care)

Me : No one

(She raises her eyebrows)

Sister Chiliza : Akekho nomngani?



Me : Musa

(She smiles)

Sister Chiliza : Okay let me get a.....

(The door opens)

Busisiwe kancane nje

(Someone says outside the door)

Sister Chiliza : I'm coming.... Please give me a minute... And please try to eat

Me : No problem



(She walks out. I try to eat but flashbacks attack me. Everything from the moment Nqabayethu refused to help me to the moment where Delani kidnapped me. I know that if Nqabayethu agreed to help me then I wouldn't be here but I don't blame him. I only have myself to blame for everything that happened to me. Sister Chiliza walks back in. Her face looks different now. I look at the newspaper she is carrying)

Me : What's wrong?

(She sighs)

Sister Chiliza : Someone is looking for you. Look at this video

(She hands me a cellphone and I click play. It's Nyathuko in the video. My heart starts racing)

Nyathuko : Ngiyacela bantu bakithi kunanoma ubani onganolwazi. I just want my wife back. I need her to....



(He pauses and covers his face with his hands. My eyes fill up with tears)

Me : My husband

Sister Chiliza : So this is your husband?

(I quickly shake my head)

Me : Yes

Sister Chiliza : The one who tried to kill you?

Me : No. Delani is not..... Mabusi I want to go home

(I say while staring at the video)



Sister Chiliza : Look at this. Ukhiphe umkomelo ka R30 000 azowunika umuntu ozokuthola

(She takes the cellphone and hands me the newspaper. I read the newspaper and lift up my eyes to her)

Me : Sister Chiliza?

Sister Chiliza : Yes

Me : Please don't call Musa. Ngicela ufonele umyeni wami

(Her lips stretch to a wide smile)

Sister Chiliza : Okay



(I give her the newspaper and look at my twins. We made it even though Delani almost killed us in that shack but God was there to protect me and my babies. I can't imagine how happy Nyathuko will be when he sees his girls. Finally he gets the baby girl that he always wanted and God didn't bless him with one but two. I smile and stare up at the roof)

Me : And your mercy is still bigger than my mistakes. Your mercy is new every morning. I know that was you Father thank you for loving me and protecting me nasethunzini lami lokufa. Amen

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Chapter 37

(Later that day all the Zondis came to see me. They came with flowers balloons and a lot of food. Nyathuko is leaning against the wall. He can't even look at me. He keeps looking at his babies and rubbing his face. His eyes are ready and yes I was expecting him to lose weight. I don't want him to stand there anymore. I want him next to me. Everyone is busy with the twins. I swallow)

Ntokozo : Thukeh unehlazo



(I'm tired of them judging him about me giving birth at the clinic. I don't see anything wrong with it plus Nyathuko didn't know I was close to my delivery date in fact no one knew)

Me : Baby? Nana?

(Ntokozo looks at me. I don't care. There is silence)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami

(I stretch out my hand to him and tears run down my cheeks. He hugs me tightly)

Nyathuko : Ngiyaxolisa Sthah. I'm sorry sthandwa sami

Me : It's okay baby. It's okay



Maxwell : Okay let's give them some privacy shall we?

Sthenjisiwe : But I...

Maxwell : Come on Thenji usazozibona izingane zika Bhuti wakho

(They walk out. As soon as the door closes Nyathuko crashes his lips onto mine)

Nyathuko : Cisho ngafa Sthandwa sami. What happened Sthah?

(Nyathuko doesn't know what happened. He doesn't and I'm not ready to talk about it)

Me : I know baby.

(He looks at the twins and rubs his hands together. He is like a little kid seeing a lollipop right now)



Nyathuko : Izingane zami

(I laugh. Everything feels perfect right now)

Me : Izingane zakho sthandwa sami

(He picks them up gently one by one. And place each on his shoulders. He sniffs. Oh my baby. I want to stand up and hug him)

Nyathuko : Sthah ngiyabonga

(His voice is breaking)

(I wipe the tears from my cheeks. The doctor walks in. I can't believe Ngcece called this doctor for me only for me. I don't know how I'll ever thank Phoenix Clinic for saving my life)



Me : Hi Doc... Thukeh?

(Nyathuko is in his own world now with his twins. The smile on his face doesn't fade. He keeps kissing them. The doctor laughs)

Doctor : Leave him. Awukho umzuzu odlula loya empilweni

(We laugh)

Doctor : I'm not going to be long. I'm just here to let you know that you are ready to go home. Kodwa ngikhulume nomphathi woMtholampilo and he agreed that you can sleep one more night ukuze siqinisekise nje ukuthi konke kukahle. Your family mentioned that you have your own doctor

Me : Yes ngicabanga ukuthi wenze iphutha nje mayelana nosuku lwami lokubeletha kodwa amaphutha ayenzeka angithi?

(He laughs)



Doctor : Don't worry everything is fine. The babies are fine and you are fine. Ngifuna ukuqinisekisa ukuthi uzoba right when you get out of here.

Me : I'll be fine Doc

Doctor : Perfect. Uzobe usukulungela ukuhamba ksasa at 10h00 am

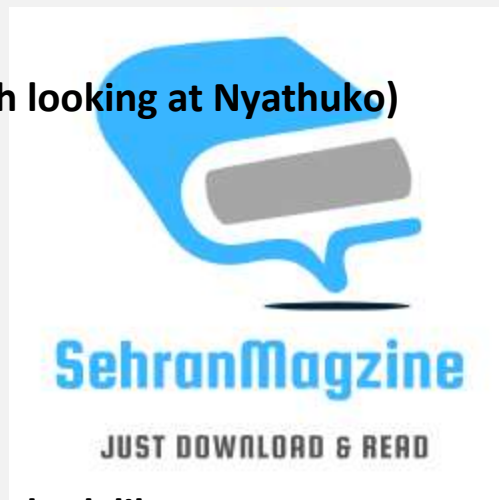
Me : Thank you so much

Doctor : Keep well.

Me : Thanks

(He walks out. I laugh looking at Nyathuko)

Me : Nana?



Nyathuko : Baby they look like you

(I laugh)

Me : And Ndlelenhle looks like you

Nyathuko : No but this one looks like me

(I laugh)

Me : You wish.

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami ngiyabonga

(I smile)



Me : Come and kiss me

Nyathuko : Ha! Ngizowisa amawele ami

(I laugh out loud)

Me : Sekwamawele akho manje?

Nyathuko : Yah baby. Ngifuna bebizwe ngamawele ka Thukeh.

(I laugh)

Me : Thukeh stop! Ngizoqaqeka izitishi

Nyathuko : Ngiyaxolisa Mam'Zondi. Baby adla izandla amawele ka Thukeh



Me : Come let me see

(He sits down next to me.)

Nyathuko : Uyawabo? Alambile sthandwa sami Ay ngeke

(I widen my eyes and laugh)

Me : Hawu kade ngibancelisa manje?

Nyathuko : But look at them. They are small

(I laugh)

Me : Yazini nana? Please leave. Ngizoqaqeka izitishi uwena nalamawele ka Thukeh



Nyathuko : Mhmmmm. Aze amahle amawele ka Thukeh

(He kisses their cheeks one by one. Will he ever put them down?)

Me : Uzongilanda ksasa?

(He quickly lifts up his head)

Nyathuko : Kanti asihambi manje?

Me : No nana. Bazongi discharger ksasa

Nyathuko : But this is not a hospital

(If I laugh one more time I'll break my stitches)



Me : I know but they want to keep me overnight just to ensure that I'm fine.

Nyathuko : Angihambike nami

Me : Nana no

Nyathuko : I'm serious Sthah. Ngizolala la

Me : You can't.

Nyathuko : I can.

Me : They will see you and chase you out

Nyathuko : They won't. Ngizocasha. Angihambi mina Sthah khohlwa

Me : But they are waiting for you outside

Nyathuko : I'll tell them to leave

Me : Thukeh ngeke ilunge lento

Nyathuko : Izolunga uzobona wena



(I sigh)

Me : Ngizoke ngizwe ke

^

^

(His father and his sisters left. I spoke to my mother over the phone and she was so happy. Nyathuko has been hiding under this blanket that they came with ever since his father and his sisters left. He is hiding from the nurses. There is a curtain separating my bed from other beds so we are only worried about the nurses. The twins are now sleeping. This bed is small for Nyathuko and I but he just won't hear it)

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Nyathuko : Lala kumina

Me : Nana do you understand that I gave birth just a few hours ago?

Nyathuko : Ngeke ngihambe Sthah.

(I laugh. I slowly try to find a better position to sleep and the door opens. I quickly cover his head)

Sister Chiliza : Bye Sthabile

Me : Bye Mabusi

(She frowns)

Sister Chiliza : Is everything okay?



Me : Yeah yeah yeah

Sister Chiliza : Okay. I'll see you tomorrow hopefully

Me : Yeah of course.

Sister Sister : Please get some rest

Me : Will do.

(She walks away)

Nyathuko : Ay Ay Ay ukhona omunye osazoza?

(I laugh)



Me : No we can sleep now.

(I rest my head on his chest. Finally I feel home. Now there is silence)

Nyathuko : Baby?

Me : Yeah

**Nyathuko : Why did you insist that we give those people money.
Ibona abakulethe la?**

(I swallow)

Me : Yes

Nyathuko : What happened Sthah?



(Oh no)

Me : Angisafuni ukukuqambela amanga

Nyathuko : Yah?

Me : Baby I... U...Delani kidnapped me

(He tries to sit up)

Me : Please please don't be angry. Akangenzanga lutho ngiyathembisa.

Nyathuko : Uthi kwenzekeni?

(I explain to him I tell him almost everything but not everything. I won't tell him that Delani wanted to kill me. His heart is pounding. He keeps swallowing)



Me : Please don't be angry

Nyathuko : So Delani was the reason why ubelethe ngingekho mina weza la wena ulethwa abantu ongabazi?

Me : Thukeh please

Nyathuko : Delani is the reason why amawele ami ngiwafice engagqokile la nawe ungagqokile angathi niyahlupheka?

(I keep quiet)

Me : I'm going to open a case

Nyathuko : No

Me : What?



Nyathuko : Alikho icala elizovulwa. I'll deal with him myself

Me : Like you dealt with Steven. Thukeh ngeke kulunge ukuthi wena uhambe ushaya abantu uzoboshwa

(Silence)

Me : Ngicela ukuyochama

(I don't like how quiet he is)

Me : Nyathuko?

Nyathuko : Okay sthandwa sami



Me : Ungangiphelezeli uzobanjwa

(He shakes his head. He is angry I know he is. It's just that it's hard to read his emotions because he is always calm even in the midst of worse times. I slowly get out of bed and he checks on his twins. I take my pads)

Me : Let's go

Nyathuko : Woza ngikuqukule

Me : No ngizothunukala baby

(He wraps my arm around his neck and we slowly walk into the toilet)

Nyathuko : Nangu u nurse

Me : Uphi?



(I quickly turn around. He laughs)

Nyathuko : Ngiyadlala

(I hit his shoulder)

Me : Uyaphapha wena

Nyathuko : Ngiyadlala sthandwa sami

(He opens the toilet door for me and we both get inside.)

Nyathuko : Ngeke bewantshontshe amawele ami?

(I laugh)



Me : Cha sthandwa sami ngeke

(He pulls down my pyjama. I try to stop him when he pulls down my underwear. There is a pad full of blood here. He looks up)

Nyathuko : Don't do that nana

Me : Sorry

(He gently pulls down my underwear and he helps me sit on the toilet seat. He steps out. I pee and put on a clean pad)

I need us to talk wakithi. It's urgent

(Who is he talking to?)



Nyathuko : Please call me mawuthola le voice note

(The toilet door opens)

Nyathuko : Usuqedile sthandwa sami?

Me : Yeah. Who were you talking to?

Nyathuko : No one

Me : I see.

(He lifts me up)

Nyathuko : Kubuhlungu?



Me : Kancane

(He bends down and kisses my vagina. I hit him while laughing)

Me : Sies! Thukena

Nyathuko : Kuphume amawele ka Thukeh phela la

Me : Ndlelenhle will kill you wena

Nyathuko : My king will never do that

Me : Our twins need names

Nyathuko : Amawele ka Thukeh

(We laugh. We head back to bed)



Me : You are crazy

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Chapter 38

(The following morning I couldn't wait to get home. I'm so tired. I just want to rest. We went to my doctor who assured me that I'm fine so

all I need is to sleep. I'm sitting in the back seat holding twins and Nyathuko is driving slowly.)

Me : Yazi baby mawungagijima nje kancane kungabangcono

(He looks at me in the rear view mirror)

Nyathuko : You want me to break your stitches?

(I laugh)



Me : No but uhamba kancane kakhulu. Kanti asiya KwaMashu?

Nyathuko : No

Me : Thukeh come on I miss my sons. U Ndlelenhle uyangidinga

Nyathuko : Ndlela is fine sthandwa sami

Me : No he is not.

Nyathuko : He is with my father bamulandile

Me : I don't trust you. Bamlande nini?

Nyathuko : Last night



Me : I miss my mother. Ngifuna ukumkhombisa amawele

Nyathuko : Uzowabona

Me : Asiqale ekhaya ngiyakucela

Nyathuko : Why do you want me to ruin your surprise?

Me : What surprise?

(He sighs)

Nyathuko : ONtokozo arranged a party for you

Me : A party?



Nyathuko : Welcome back home party

Me : Really?

Nyathuko : You need it sthandwa sami. Izolo ubungakwazi nokulala

(I know. I was having nightmares crazy nightmares. I hate Delani for what he did to me.)

Nyathuko : Ngifuna ujabule you've been through a lot

Me : Ngiyabonga kodwa besingekho isidingo

Nyathuko : What?

(He looks at me and shakes his head. I smile)



Me : Okay. Ngiyabonga baby. I promise you I'll act surprised

(We laugh)

Nyathuko : Please ngoba bazongibulala. Awakusindi amawele ka Thukeh?

(I laugh)

Me : No. They are tiny

Nyathuko : Aibo izidudla lezo

(I laugh)

Me : Nyathuko stop



Nyathuko : Nangu ubaba ethi sikephi?

Me : Ukusendela u whatsapp?

Nyathuko : Yah

Me : Please tell him you are driving

(He continues typing on his phone while driving)

Me : Thukeh please put your phone away

Nyathuko : Ngiyaxolisa sthandwa sami

(He throws it on the seat next to him)



Nyathuko : I need to fetch your car lapha kuNqabayethu

(This is what happened Nqabayethu and his friend came back from wherever they went to after they left me but when they came back they found only my car. Everything I left in my car was still there. Nqabayethu decided to call Nyathuko's office number and he told him that he found my car. He didn't mention that he saw me and I asked for help so I'm also not going to mention it)

Me : Mhmmmm

(He parks the car on the side)

Me : And now?

(He jumps to the back)

Nyathuko : Ngicela ningihlalisa nami



Me : Thukeh come on we need to go.

(He kisses my lips)

Nyathuko : Sengikhumbule amawele ka Thukeh phela mina

(Jesus! I roll my eyes. He takes one baby and I breastfeed the other because it seems like we are not leaving here any time soon.)

Nyathuko : Makhosazane kaBaba

Me : You do know ukuthi usazolala nabo ubusuku bonke so this stop and go is really unnecessary nana

Nyathuko : I just miss looking at them. Look how beautiful they are bafana nawe Sthah kancane kodwa. Lo ufana nami

(I laugh)



Me : They need names

Nyathuko : Amawele kaThukeh

Me : Amawele ka Maka Sane lawa

(He looks at me and smiles)

Nyathuko : Beno Ngobese

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we need to go.

(He kisses my lips)



Nyathuko : Sengikhumbule amawele ka Thukeh phela mina

(Jesus! I roll my eyes. He takes one baby and I breastfeed the other because it seems like we are not leaving here any time soon.)

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Nyathuko : I just miss looking at them. Look how beautiful they are bafana nawe Sthah kancane kodwa. Lo ufana nami

(I laugh)

Me : They need names



Nyathuko : Amawele kaThukh

Me : Amawele ka Maka Sane lawa

(He looks at me and smiles)

Nyathuko : Beno Ngobese I know. Nondaba invited them to come over this weekend uma kukuthi asiyanga eNdwedwe ukuyoshisela amakhosazane ami impepho

Me : That's good

Nyathuko : Ngeke ngibakhohlwe laba bantu.

(I sigh)

Me : Me too



Nyathuko : Look at my babies Sthah. Indlela amahle ngayo amantombazane ami ngifisa angathi ngingawavalela endlini engabonwa abafana

(I laugh out loud)

Nyathuko : I'm serious sthandwa sami. Bayamithisa abafana

Me : Ay Ay Thukeh befika nje emhlabeni sebezomitha?

Nyathuko : I know baby but they grow up fast and soon they will be going to school and some boy will break their heart and I will have no choice but to kill

(I laugh)

Me : Stop.



(He smiles while staring at me)

Me : What?

Nyathuko : Umuhle sthandwa sami

Me : Umuhle nawe Thukeh wami

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda ngenhliziyo yami yonke.

Me : I love you too nana

(There is a blanket that I was using in the clinic next to me. He fixes it and places one baby on it)

Me : Ngizomphatha lo ngoba usancela



Nyathuko : Okay. Let's go home

(He kisses my cheek and jumps back to the driver's seat)

Me : Sohamba nini ukuyothengela amawele ka Thukeh?

Nyathuko : Ngizohamba no Ntokozo ksasa. Khona izinto ezithengwe ubaba no Vee but uzoyibona zimbi

(I laugh)

Me : Zimbi kanjani?

Nyathuko : Ziyabiza kodwa zimbi

(He starts the engine)



Nyathuko : Ngihambe baby uright?

Me : Yeah nana I'm fine

(He drives off)

Me : They need names kodwa Thukeh. My angels ubaba akafuni ukuniqamba u mama uzoniqamba ke.

(I kiss the twin I'm breastfeeding on the forehead. Nyathuko laughs)

Nyathuko : Baby amawele KwaZondi aqanjwa amagama eseshiselwe impepho. Azoqanjwa ubaba futhi

Me : Oh now I remember. Askies Nana sengikhohliwe

Nyathuko : Yah sthandwa sami that's why we need to take them home this Friday



Me : Mhmmmm

(What the hell is going on. The twin I'm holding is making a weird sound like someone who has sinus and she is breathing heavy. I check the one sleeping next to me and the same thing is happening to her. I hold both of them)

Me : Thukeh?

Nyathuko : Uyabona ke uNtokozo useyafona

(Silence. They both stop at the same time. There is a small amount of blood coming out of their small noses)

Me : Nyathuko!!!

(I scream)



Nyathuko : What's wrong?

Me : Stop the car. Stop the car!!

Nyathuko : Okay

Me : Baphuma umangozini Thukeh. Stop the car.

Nyathuko : What?

(He stops the car and quickly gets out. He opens the door and looks at them. He is not doing anything he is just staring at them like he is crazy)

Me : Nyathuko?

(He is still staring at them.)



Me : Why are they not moving Nyathuko?

(Why is Nyathuko not doing anything?)

Me : Let's go to the hospital.

(He slowly wipes the blood from their noses with his thumb)

Me : Nyathuko!!!

(He lifts his head but he accidentally hits the roof of the car with his head. He gets out and hits himself on the car door. What's wrong with Nyathuko? Can't he see the twins are not well? He puts his hands at the back of his neck and begins walking. Where is he going?)

Me : Nyathuko let's go to the hospital. Nyathuko!!!



(I put one baby down and got out of the car with one. I follow him)

Me : Nyathuko?

(He stops and lowers his hand)

Me : Please let's go

(He turns around. His eyes are red. He pulls me onto his chest and kisses my forehead)

Nyathuko : Mlethe la kumina sthandwa sami

Me : I....

Nyathuko : Please baby. It's okay bring her to me.



(I give him the baby)

Me : The other one is sleeping in the car. Let's take them to the hospital Nyathuko ngiyakucela

(We walk back into the car. He puts the twin next to the other one and takes off his t-shirt)

Me : Why ubamboza ngeskibha sakho Thukeh? Nyathuko what are you doing?

(He takes his phone and gets out of the car. He pulls me out of the car and closes all doors. This is not fucking happening. My heart races)

Me : Nyathuko ucabanga ukuthi wenzani?

Nyathuko : Woza la sthandwa sami



(He says while placing his phone on his ear)

Me : No vulela izingane zami Nyathuko.

(He wraps his arm around my neck and presses me on his chest. Why is he crying?)

Me : Nyathuko ngidedele ngidedele

Nyathuko : Baba... Baba ngicela uze lana

(I look at him. He is talking to his father)

Nyathuko : The twins are gone. Izingane zami azisekho.

(My brain freezes)



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Chapter 39

(I don't remember myself sitting down. I don't know how I sat on the damn pavement with these stitches in my vagina. I don't understand what the hell is going on. I don't feel anything I feel dead. Nyathuko is sitting next to me. He is wrapping his arms around me. I'm staring at his car that is parking in front of us. Our babies are in there)

Thukeh?

(It's his father Ntokozo and Vee.)

Nyathuko : Baba my babies are gone. Amadodakazi ami Nondaba.

(He's been saying the same thing. He is not talking about the babies that took me hours to deliver. He is not talking about the babies that I was breastfeeding just a few minutes ago. I can still feel the warmth of their mouths around my nipples. I have blood flowing down because I gave birth to those babies. I have stitches for heaven sake. I was holding them just now so how the hell can they be dead? This is just another bad dream. This can't be happening. Maxwell lifts me up and hugs me)

Maxwell : Ngane yami. It's okay

(Ntokozo is crying. She is on her knees crying out loud)

Ntokozo : Yini kanti le esiyonile Nkulunkulu why are you punishing us? Yenzi ingane ka Mah kuwena ukuthi uze uyenze nje? Why God? Why?

(She is banging her hands on the ground. My chest is dry. I can't even cry. I'm watching and listening to everything that is happening around me but none of it makes sense. I'm waiting for someone to wake me up from this terrible dream)

Vee : Ntoko it's okay baby it's okay. Come here

(She pulls her up.)



Maxwell : Ikhiyiwe imoto?

(Nyathuko hands him the car keys and he unlocks the car. He goes inside. I see him removing Nyathuko's t-shirt from the twins.)

Maxwell : Hha! Mantombazane kamkhulu. Kulungile

(I take a few steps towards the car but Nyathuko stops me)

Nyathuko : Sthah please ungayi

Me : I'm fine Nyathuko let me go. Ngi right angithi uyabona? Ngiyeke ngizibone izingane zami please

(He swallows)



Nyathuko : Okay sthandwa sami

(Maxwell gets out of the car. He heaves a sigh. I walk past him and get inside. They are next to each other. They are not breathing. Their skin is now changing. They are cold. I bit on my lower dry lip while staring at them.)

Me : Naze nangikhohlisa zingane zami. We were fine. What happened my angels?

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami please

(He pulls me out of the car. I don't know when Ntokozo got in)

Ntokozo : Intando ka Nkulunkulu yamasimba! Wenzeni uThukeh baba? Nyathuko and Sthabile don't deserve this baba! They don't!

(She cries all over again.)



Maxwell : It's okay sthandwa sami woza kubaba

(She pulls her out of the car and hugs her. Nyathuko keeps kissing my forehead)

Nyathuko : Sodlula la angithi uyakwazi lokho? We will get through this

(He cupped my face. His eyes welled up with tears)

Nyathuko : Angithi sthandwa sami?

(I shake my head. I feel numb)

Me : Yah

Maxwell : Thukeh woza la kancane mfan'wam

(Nyathuko kisses my forehead again)



Me : Go I'm fine.

(He kisses my nose and goes to his father. Vee holds my arm)

Maxwell : Vee please take them home. Nyathuko and I will stay behind

Vee : Of course baby

Maxwell : Kusamele ngifonele nasekhaya

Nyathuko : Othi ngikhulume no Sthah

Maxwell : Okay go my boy



Nyathuko : Baby?

(He takes my hand and kisses it.)

Nyathuko : Uzohamba no Vee no Ntokozo. Ngizokufica ekhaya uyezwa?

Me : Okay

Nyathuko : Woza la.

(He hugs me)

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda

Me : Ngiyakuthanda nami



(He presses his lips on my forehead)

Nyathuko : Ntokozo?

Ntokozo : It's okay boy boy. Sofona

(Ntokozo holds my hand)

Ntokozo : Let's go sthandwa sami

(I look at Nyathuko's car that is carrying my babies babies that I wasn't able to bring home alive. We were so close to home so close. What did I do wrong? A first single tear rolls down my cheek)

Me : Bye my angels

(I say underneath my breath)



Ntokozo : Kodwa Nkulunkulu wami Sthah please don't do that. Please sisi. Ngena emotweni

Me : I can't

(I can't keep my eyes off Nyathuko's car)

Ntokozo : Please Sthah

Me : Let me see them one more time

Ntokozo : Sthabile no please don't do this.

Me : Ngiyacela. I can't go I can't. Mhlampe bazovuka Ntokozo mhlampe baqulekile okay? Thukeh had a nosebleed but he woke up. Usakhumbula?



Ntokozo : They won't baby. They won't wake up

(Nyathuko is coming.)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami come here.

Me : Okokugcina Thukeh Ngiyacela. Let me see them one more time

(He shakes his head)

Nyathuko : No baby angisavumi. Kwanele sthandwa sami. Our babies are gone. Sthah they are gone. Please go home to our boys uNdlela uyakhala. Please go nana nami ngizokulandela

(His eyes are too red now. He keeps kissing the back of my hands. I quickly shake my head)

Me : Okay



Nyathuko : I love you Sthabile

Me : Okay

(I break down. He hugs me)

Nyathuko : Ntokozo please make sure my wife gets some sleep when she gets home

Ntokozo : I.... (sniffs) I will Thuthuh. Come Sthah

(I look at Nyathuko's car. After today I will never look at Nyathuko's car the same way ever again)

Ntokozo : Get in baby

Me : Okay okay okay.



(I get inside Maxwell's car. Ntokozo sits next to me and pulls me onto her shoulder)

Ntokozo : Ngiyaxolisa sthandwa sami ngiyaxolisa.

Vee : That jacket?

Maxwell : Yeah bring it here. I don't know if it will fit Thukeh.

Vee : It will. He can't wear that vest only.

Maxwell : That's what I'm thinking. Is it clean? You know Thukeh nezinto ezingcolile they don't mix. No i right. Bye Vee.....Ntokozo?

Ntokozo : Bye Baba

Vee : Bye baby



Maxwell : I love you

Vee : I love you too. Please keep me posted

Maxwell : I will.

(The car starts. I try to lift up my head but Ntokozo presses me on her shoulder)

Vee : God

(She sighs and drives off. We are going home without my twins. How did that happen?)

^

^

^



(We arrived in UMhlanga. It's quiet outside. We walk inside the house)

Sthenjisiwe : WeSlu ngizokusakaza awucime leyo TV

(She is fighting with her daughter. She looks at me and quickly moves her gaze to Ntokozo. Ntokozo shakes her head)

Sthenjisiwe : Hawemah! Hawemah!

(She says and runs up the stairs. Nqabayethu walks down holding Ndlelenhle)

Ntokozo : Bhuti Nqaba

Nqabayethu : Ey

(Ntokozo sighs)



Ntokozo : Yah neh.

Nqabayethu : Sthabile?

(I try to pull out a smile but tears stream down my face. I can't even look at my son.)

Nqabayethu : Come here. Kuzoba grand

(He hugs me. My son is playing with my ear)

Me : They are gone Nqabayethu



Nqabayethu : I know sisi wami but it's going to be fine....Ey popayi lethela u Aunt amanzi.

Ntokozo : Bring water Sluleko. Baphi oAzande?

Sluleko : Upstairs

Ntokozo : Yeka leyonto ulethe amanzi

Me : I want to sleep.

Ntokozo : Okay sisi. Yeka Slu

(I pull away from Nqabayethu)

Nqabayethu : Ube grand Maka Ndlela

(I sniff)



Me : Thanks

Nqabayethu : O Thukeh ne tayma nibashiyile?

Ntokozo : Yes uthe ucela uze weBhut'Nqaba angithi bekumele belinde.....

(She sighs)

Nqabayethu : Sho. Othi ngihambe Dade

Vee : Come here boy boy

(Vee takes Ndlelenhle from Nqabayethu)

Ntokozo : Okay Bhuti... Sthah let's go ~~baby~~



(We went to Nyathuko's room)

Ntokozo : Phuza lamaphilisi sisi khona uzothi ukulala azibuhlungu izitishi?

Me : No

Ntokozo : Okay baby.

(I drink the pills. She fixes the bed for me and I sleep)

Ntokozo : I'll come back and check on you

Me : Thanks



(Ntokozo walks out. I try to sleep but I keep seeing my twins. I take 3 more pills. I want to sleep. I want to forget.)

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Chapter 40

(I open my eyes. My head is on Nyathuko's chest. The first thing that comes to mind is that we lost our babies)

Nyathuko : Baby?

(He sits up)

Me : What time is it?

Nyathuko : U 01h00 ekuseni.

(He kisses me)



Nyathuko : Khona ugogo ka Ndlelenhle ezansi

Me : My mother is here?

(He smiles. His eyes are swollen more than mine)

Nyathuko : Yes

Me : Ngicela ukumubona

Nyathuko : Okay sthandwa sami

**(He kisses my forehead and gets out of bed. I also crawl out of bed.
The sheets are dirty. There is blood all over)**

Me : Eish!



Nyathuko : Baby come on stay in bed.

Me : No Ngingcolise umbhede

Nyathuko : Umbhede?

(I sigh)

Me : Yes

(He goes to the bathroom and runs water for me in the bathtub)

Nyathuko : It's okay. Come here



(He helps me take off my dress. My breasts are swollen already and they are painful. He places my dirty dress on the bed and he helps me inside his bathroom. I take off my underwear and take a bath. I feel drowsy.)

Me : Thukeh?

(Silence. The door opens)

Nyathuko : Yah baby uyakhuluma?

Me : Ithawula angiliboni

Nyathuko : Okay ngiyeza

(He goes and comes back with a towel. He dries my body and helps me back to his bedroom.)

Me : Hawu bengizowushintsha umbhede you didn't have to.

Nyathuko : It's okay baby



Me : Thanks.

(I take the dirty sheets)

Nyathuko : Sthanah leave that sthandwa sami. I'll sort it out. Woza sigqoke

Me : But....

Nyathuko : Baby it's okay. This is for your stitches to heal faster. U Ntokozo ukuthengelile. Lala

Me : I'll do it myself

Nyathuko : Sthah?



Me : Okay

(I sleep on the bed and he spreads my legs. It's a spray. He sprays around my stitches and he uses cotton wool to dry them)

Me : Ouch!

Nyathuko : Sorry sthandwa sami

Me : Iyancinza lento

Nyathuko : You'll be fine now.

Me : Where is my bag with my pads?



Nyathuko : Everything you need is here.

Me : Thank you baby.

(I sit up and get dressed.)

Nyathuko : Kumele siye eNdwedwe baby manje.

(I sigh)

Me : I know. Liphi iduku?

Nyathuko : Nali

(I wrap the doek around my head)

Me : Let's go.



Nyathuko : Uzodla kancane?

Me : I'm not hungry

Nyathuko : I bought you some fruits

Me : Thanks Nana. Asambe ngiyobona u Mah

Thukeh u Sth.... Oh there you are.

(Ntokozo walks in. I guess no one is sleeping)

Ntokozo : Khona u Mah ezansi sthandwa sami

Me : Yeah uyasho u Thukeh

(She looks around)



Me : Sorry about the mess

Nyathuko : Aibo

(Ntokozo laughs)

Ntokozo : Myise ezansi Thuthuh. I'll wash these

Nyathuko : No relax

Ntokozo : Thukeh please. Ngiyacela

Nyathuko : Okay



Me : Kodwa Ntoko ngizowasha no Thukeh naye aka....

Ntokozo : It's okay sthandwa sami. Please go to mama downstairs

(I shake my head)

Me : Okay

(Nyathuko holds my hand and we walk out)

Me : Ufike nini u Mah?

Nyathuko : Izolo ebusuku? Ulandwe u Sthenjisiwe nendoda yakhe

Me : Okay... Mama?

(She stands up quickly)



MaKheswa : My baby

(She hugs me tightly. I cry all over again)

MaKheswa : It's okay Mntanami. Konke lokhu uthixo unezizathu ngakho. Akasoze akulahla mntanami. Niyezwa bantabami? U

Nkulunkulu uzoniqinisa nje. Anihambi nodwa nina nihamba nomenzi wakho konke. Nalokhu kuzodlula. Uzowapholisa amanxeba

Nyathuko : Mchumane

MaKheswa : Ahhh Sthabile mntanami Ay kulungile uyazi wena nkosi.

(She wipes my tears. I sit down on the couch next to her. She brushes my hair)

Me : Uphi ubaba?



MaKheswa : Uyeza Uyeza ubaba sthandwa sami.

(We are both whispering)

Maxwell : Mfonele phela Thukeh

Nyathuko : Akalele kodwa?

(Nyathuko pulls out his phone. Who are they calling?)

Maxwell : Is it ringing?

(Nyathuko shakes his head and puts the phone on loudspeaker)

Nyathuko : Mzilankatha ninjani baba?



(Oh it's Khambule)

Khambule : Nondaba siyaphila. Oh sekulungile?

(I look at Nyathuko)

Nyathuko : Yebo baba usefikile umkhwekazi wami. u Baba yena uzofika mekuphuma ilanga

Khambule : Good. Uyena engimdinga kakhulu uMapholoba

Nyathuko : Mzilankatha. Shuthi ubaba ngingamlanda?

Khambule : Ngizoba nohambo manje ekuseni but I'll be home around 11h00 kanti futhi singahlangana nase Velelemu

Nyathuko : Oh uzophuma ngakhona ko Verulam?



Khambule : Yes

Nyathuko : Angibonge Mzilankatha

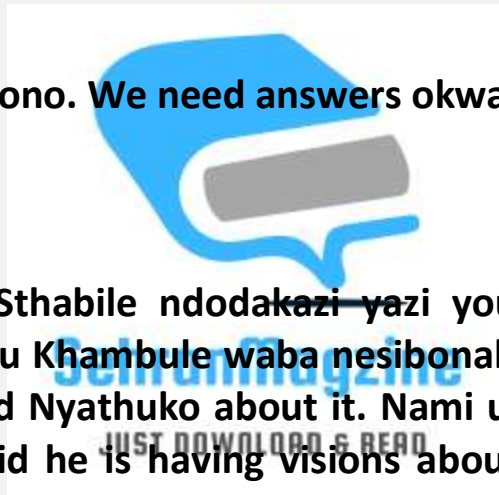
Khambule : Uqine ndodana

Nyathuko : Baba

(Nyathuko hung up)

Nyathuko : Uthi uzoza

MaKheswa : Kwangcono. We need answers okwangempela



Maxwell : Impela. Sthabile ndodakazi yazi you were still sleeping skhuluma la. Ubaba u Khambule waba nesibonakaliso before kuzalwe amawele and he told Nyathuko about it. Nami u Thukeh wangitshela ukuthi Khambule said he is having visions about the twins like they were in danger wangacacisa kodwa. Now after what happened yesterday sithe let's call him and ask him to come home ezohlola nje kukhona wonke umuntu and he asked ukuthi kube khona no Mapholoba ngoba lento angathi ayithinti umndeni wakwaZondi kuphela but it has something to do with Ngcobos as well.

Me : Yebo baba

Maxwell : So he is coming

(Sthenjisiwe is coming with someone. Oh uMkhuleko)

Me : Kuzwakele Nondaba

Mkhuleko : Sanibona

Mkhuleko hi

(We greet back)



Mkhuleko : Bafo

(He hugs Thukeh)

Nyathuko : Ey bafo

(Nyathuko sighs)

Mkhuleko : Ey ey yini kodwa le engiyizwa ngobaba?

Nyathuko : Ngizulelwa umqondo bafo

Mkhuleko : Mhmmm Mhmmm Mhmmm. Fuze?

(I swallow the lump in my throat and clear my throat)



Me : Bhuti

Mkhuleko : I'm sorry sisi. Alwehlanga lungehlanga

Me : Siyabonga

(I blink fighting back my tears)

Mkhuleko : Khona oNqaba emnyango

Nyathuko : Oh

Sponsored



othi ngibabheke. Sthand...Sthah?

(My mother smiles)

Me : Yah nana

Nyathuko : Ngila emnyango. Ngiyabuya manje

(I shake my head)

Me : Okay

(He walks away with Mkhuleko)

Maxwell : Let me go and check on my grandson.

Me : Ngicela ukumubona bandla baba



(I'm sure he is wondering where I am. VISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM “ FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELS! My boy lost two beautiful sisters just like that? Life is unfair)

IN NDWEDWE

(We arrived with Khambule. Not everyone is here. Most family members will come on the day of the funeral but all the elders are here. Gogo Maphalala is in Mabuyi's room. She's been crying ever since she arrived here. My parents are here. The family sangoma (MaJali) is here the one that was here for Ndlelenhle's ritual. I heard Bheki is the one who called her. Now we have two sangomas. The Zondi drama never ends)

Khambule : Cha ngizomdedela umama enze akuzele uma kukuthi nisangidinga ngizoqhubeka

Bheki : Who told you to come here?



(Habe!)

Maxwell : Ufi.....

Khambule : It's okay Nondaba omkhulu

(He cuts Maxwell off)

Khambule : weGagashe ngibizwe unangu undodana ubefuna ngize kwakhe but I told him that I want to speak to the whole family nomndeni wakwaNgcobo imbala

Bheki : Kusukela nini manje oNgcobo bezibandakanya nezangoma? Sinaye thina umuntu osihlolelayo so we don't need you! Umama uMaJali uzosibonela ukuthi what happened to Nyathuko's twins ngeke sihlolwe uwena

(Khambule chuckles)



Khambule : Angizile ukuzonihlolela la. I'm here to tell you that inina enibulale amawele endodana yenu

WHAT!?

(We all ask)

Bheki : That's nonsense! We didn't kill Nyathuko's children! Lezingane sazi kahle ukuthi zizalwe ngesikhathi esi wrong abaphansi bethukuthele

Khambule : Gagashe omkhulu tell me. Why were the ancestors angry at the twins when they were not angry at this boy?

(He points at Ndlelenhle)

Bheki : Ungibuza umbhedo! Ndlelenhle was conceived out of wedlock

Khambule : Namaphahla nawo ngokunjalo



(We look at each other)

Khambule : UMangcobo akathelwangwa ngenyongo wabikwa emadlozini ako Zondi and lokho akumenzi umfazi walayikhaya

Bheki : Angishongo Mah? Ngasho!

Shlangu : Awuthule nje kancane bafo sizwe nansi inyanga

Bheki : Fine

Khambule : You don't get what I'm saying. What I'm saying is that UMangcobo kade ekhulelwe amawele amadlozi akwaZondi abemubona ngalendlela vele ayemubona ngayo when he was carrying Ndlelenhle. Reason being awakaze ebone UMangcobo ebikwa kubo ethelwa ngenyongo so asamubona njengentombi nje KaNyathuko not umfazi wakhe. Indlela ayemubona ngayo kade ekhulelwe uNdlelenhle nangalesikhathi esethwele amawele ayikaze yashintsha kubo ngoba vele UMangcobo awakaze amububona njengomfazi wabo. Now tell me yini ebingenza bedinwe amawele ekubeni bengadinwanga uNdlelenhle?

(Silence)

Khambule : Inkinga sesikhonze kakhulu ukucabangela amadlozi ukuthi acabanga kanjani nokuthi enza kanjani and for that reason ithina esiwadalela ulaka

Zenzele : What happened to our twins?

Khambule : Ilomsindo ebeniwenza la obulale izingane. Lokushwabula ebenikushwabula nentukuthelo ebeninayo ikona konke lokho okuthathe imiphefumulo yamawele. Akukho dlozi elibulale izingane la futhi akathakathwanga UMangcobo. Into ethakathe UMangcobo ulimi lwenu. Amabomu lawa. Mapholoba?

Ngcobo : Mzilankatha



Khambule : Nawe uyangena la. Nihulumo neqisa kwaze kwazwela kwaMaphalala. U Nyathuko unesiphandla esilenga lapha kwaMaphalala koninalume and that makes him one of their own. Nothing will ever change that. U Nyathuko ubhekwe idlozi lakoninalume kwaMaphalala okudlula ela la KwaZondi. Into eniyenza kuNyathuko ithinta kunyakaze isiphandla sakhe esilenga emsamu wabase Mbathamkhonto. Nithe nina menigxuma KwaZondi begxuma kwaNgcobo nisho nokusho ukuthi you want nothing to do with the twins that MaNgcobo was carrying wamemeza u Maphalala wathi maye! Uma isizukulwane sami singafunwa muntu siyaphi na? Wasilanda isizukulwane sakhe. Ngani? ngenxa yolimi lwenu! The Zondi ancestors had nothing to do with the death of MaNgcobo's twins no! Where are the snakes that were fighting in MaNgcobo's room khona layikhaya?

(Gulps)

Khambule : Those were the twins. Niyazi ukuthi layikhaya when someone is pregnant with twins nivakashelwa izinyoka ezimbili. Am I lying?

Shlangu : No

Khambuke : Afika amawele ubaba wawo akekho uhambiswe iwona lomsindo enihlale niwenzela. Alwa amawele phambi kwenu enikhombisa ukuthi athukuthele—ngempi eyayikhona in this homestead that day but nawaxosha. They were fighting for their father. Animxoshanga uNyathuko that night kade ninomsebenzi?



(Silence)

Khambule : Nyathuko ungilungise menginamanga. Did your twins not die after you just mentioned that they will be given names here?

(Nyathuko clears his throat)

Nyathuko : They did

(He is right they did)

Khambule : Lamemeza ikhehla lakwaMaphalala lathi how can my grandchildren be given names empephweni yakwaZondi when their sons have already spoken death over their lives? Wamemeza uMsuthu waseNkalanjana wathi lamaphahla azoya kanjani kwaZondi ukuphila kwawo sekuqalekisiwe na?

SehranMagzine

(Bheki rubs his face. They are all sweating now. My father seems dumbstruck. Yes they did this. They all did this. They were blaming me for my second pregnancy from the very beginning and that didn't sit well with the Maphalala ancestors so they took the babies and for that I will forever blame my father and Nyathuko's uncles)

Khambule : Mapholoba awungikhumbuze ukuthi uthini u Proverbs 18:21

(My father sighs)

Ngcobo : Meaning of Life and Death are in the power of the tongue. The tongue has the power of life and death and those who love it will eat its fruit.

(Gulps)

Khambule : Amen. Zingane zakwaZondi mhlazane nafunda amandla olimi amandla ento oyikhipha ngomlomo wakho konke kuyolunga. We are here today because this family and the Ngcobo family didn't know when to stop talking because you all didn't know when to stop making noise. Yebo ingane iyathethiswa meyonile kodwa akungathethwa kuze kweqwe. Nithethise uMaNgcobo kwaze kwazwela nakuwona amawele. This is their mother and nawo abengafuni ngaye njengoba abengafuni ngoyise menisuke nimshaya nimuthela ngotshwala.

(Silence)

Khambule : Angiphinde futhi. UNyathuko lo ubhekwe idlozi lakoninalume kwaMaphalala ngaphezu kokuba ebhekwe elakubo kwaZondi ngakho whatever you do to Nyathuko or his children

abakwaMaphalala abadala will always fight for him. Nikuthanda lokho noma ningakuthandi

(I wipe the tears from my face)

Khambule : I'm done here.

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Chapter 41



(After a long quarrel about whether I should sit on the mattress or not I told Nyathuko to drop the fight and let me sit on the mattress. I have no energy to fight there is no more fight left in me. My parents went back home. I'm sitting with Gog'Maphalala on the mattress. I'm sleeping on her thighs. I feel tired. My eyes are closed but I'm not sleeping. I hear Nyathuko walking in. He is complaining about something)

Gog'Maphalala : Yini manje?

Nyathuko : Ay ay bafuna ngiye le manje Esdumbini ngiyolanda umkhulu uMhloiselwa.

Gog'Maphalala : Come and sit here. Aibo ufika nje sekumele uhambe?

Nyathuko : I don't have petrol. Nemali ka Petrol anginayo manje laba bafuna ngihambe bengeke bewufake futhi.

Gog'Maphalala : Why are they not asking Njabulo to go there? Wena akumele ulokhu untanta okokuqala nje lokho futhi okbalulekile. Omalume bakho abawusebenzisi kodwa umqondo



Nyathuko : Kade esho noBaba

(He sighs. I feel his hand on my cheek)

Nyathuko : Ulele?

Gog'Maphalala : Yes I told her to sleep. Ephumule kancane

(Nyathuko kisses my cheek. Gog'Maphalala laughs)

Gog'Maphalala : Usumkhumbule?

Nyathuko : Mhmmm



Gog'Maphalala : Let's leave her to rest nje kancane.

Nyathuko : Yah

(He keeps caressing my cheek)

Gog'Maphalala : Where is Zanokuhle and Ndlelenhle?

Nyathuko : Ndlela is sleeping. UZano ulapha endlini ka Baba omncane uKwanele bayadla.

Gog'Maphalala : Nihambe kahle kodwa?

Nyathuko : Ye.... Ubani manje futhi loyo?

Thukeh?

(Someone is calling his name outside)



Nyathuko : Mhmmm Mhmmm Mhmmm

(He sighs)

Gog'Maphalala : Nokumemeza nje kushoniwe oBaba bakho ay badala ubala nje laba. What do they want from you?

Where is Thukeh?

(Bheki is asking outside. Nyathuko is ignoring him)

Bheki : Thukeh?

(He is at the doorstep now)

Nyathuko : Aw uyangibiza?



Bheki : Kade ngikubiza

Nyathuko : Yazi angizwanga

(Why is he lying?)

Bheki : Sondela

(Nyathuko kisses my cheek and stands up)

Nyathuko : What's wrong?

(They are standing outside the door)

Bheki : Why are the twins' pictures all over Whatsapp?



Nyathuko : Angazi ukhuluma ngani

Bheki : Uthi uMaka Njabulo odadewenu bafake izithombe zamawele ko Whatsapp

Nyathuko : Yah ngibonile

(We took some pictures with our babies when I was still in the clinic so I guess his sisters posted those pictures)

Bheki : And you did nothing about it?

Nyathuko : Into eyenziwayo nje le Baba nowadays

Bheki : They are dead Nyathuko their pictures shouldn't be all over social media. Abakangcwatshwa nokungcwatshwa. Iphi inhlonipho?

Nyathuko : I'll tell them to remove the pictures



Bheki : Ucabanga kanjani wena umthetho wakho?

Gog'Maphalala : Kwenzenjani Zondi?

Bheki : Bafaka izithombe zamawele kulezinto zabo

Gog'Maphalala : Awukhulumi kanje wengane ka Gladys

(Gogo whispers to herself)

Gog'Maphalala : Thukeh?

Nyathuko : Ngizokhuluma nabo bezisuse

Bheki : Do that!



Gog'Maphalala : Woza

Nyathuko : I didn't know it was a problem. Ngibonile ONtokozo befake izithombe but I.... Ay layikhaya.

(Nyathuko says while walking back in)

Gog'Maphalala : Please tell them to remove them khehla. Asifuni ukukhuluma ngoba sebeqalile nje oyihlo bekhuluma

Nyathuko : I'll tell them.

Gog'Maphalala : Okay. Sekufanele ngihambe mina manje

Nyathuko : Hawu you are leaving?

(Gogo yawns)



Gog'Maphalala : Mhmmm. Angithi akukho muntu lapha ekhaya manje labafana abaphuza lapha e Tavern yakwaMngadi bazozenzela nje kungekho muntu

(Oh no she is leaving)

Nyathuko : Eish yah

Gog'Maphalala : Basanda kubulala iwindi lakwa Phewa nje bedlula bedakiwe

Nyathuko : Ka Mluleki?

Gog'Maphalala : Yes a day before yesterday.

Nyathuko : Ha!

Gog'Maphalala : So I need to go



Nyathuko : Okay ngizokuhambisa

Gog'Maphalala : No no Thuthuh. Sekumele uhlale wena uzothe

Nyathuko : Yeah. I'll ask Mxolisi to take you home

Gog'Maphalala : Ngizogibela amatekisi

Nyathuko : No bazokuhambisa. Othi ngimbheke

Gog'Maphalala : Okay

(Silence. Nyathuko has walked out)



Gog'Maphalala : Mano?

(She brushes my hair)

Me : Gogo?

Gog'Maphalala : Useyahamba uGogo

Me : Yebo

(I sit up. She smiles and kisses my hand)

Gog'Maphalala : You are going to be fine angithi?

Me : Yes



Gog'Maphalala : I'll come back on Thursday. Angithi u Thukeh uthe the funeral will be on Saturday?

Me : Yes.

Gog'Maphalala : Okay. I'll see you on Thursday

Me : Okay Gogo

UMxolisi ake.... Sthandwa sami usuvukile?

(His face lights up)

Gog'Maphalala : Usevukile

(Nyathuko comes and sits next to me. He wraps his arm around my neck and kisses my forehead)



Nyathuko : Uright?

Me : Mhmm-mhmm

Nyathuko : Gogo u Mxo akekho but Njabulo will take you home

Gog'Maphalala : Ay loyo nokunuka amakhwapha

(Gosh! I'm too tired to laugh. Njabulo's armpits must be really bad because I remember Mabuyi complaining about the same thing)

Nyathuko : Aibo

Gog'Maphalala : Ay suka. Where is my bag?

Nyathuko : Ngiyabuya manje Nana



Me : Okay

Gog'Maphalala : Mina ke imali ufake upetrol Thukeh

Nyathuko : No no Gogo. Don't worry

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no Gogo. Don't worry I'll.....

Gog'Maphalala : Please take the money. Uthe awunayo imali ka petrol kanti futhi usazoyisebenzisa imoto ngoba nisazohamba

(She gives him R600)

Nyathuko : Ngiyabonga



Gog'Maphalala : Uzungifonela angithi?

Nyathuko : Yeah I'll call you.

Gog'Maphalala : Mano usale no Thixo sthandwa sami. I'll see you on Thursday

Me : Uhambe kahle Gogoh

(She kisses my cheek and stands up. They walk out. I look at the two candles that are burning next to me next to them are my twins' clothes. After a few minutes Nyathuko came back. We are both sitting on the mattress. He is sitting with his legs stretched out straight and I'm resting my head on his lap)

Me : Where is Ndlelenhle?

Nyathuko : He is with Sthenjisiwe beno Zanokuhle.

Me : Okay



(Zanokuhle walks in. He looks around and looks at the candles)

Nyathuko : Nkosana ka Baba

Zanokuhle : Baba Is mommy sleeping?

Nyathuko : Yah why?

Zanokuhle : Are you sure she is sleeping?

Nyathuko : Bakwenzeni mfan'wam?

Zanokuhle : Nothing. Woza ubone Baba

(What is Nyathuko looking at now?)



Nyathuko : What's wrong?

Zanokuhle : Ingincinzile inunu ngigeza

Nyathuko : Where my boy?

Zanokuhle : Totoloji

(He whispers)

Nyathuko : Etotolozini?

Zanokuhle : Daddy don't... Ay wena Babah uyamemeze kanti.

(Nyathuko laughs. I'm laughing too under the blanket)



Nyathuko : Wait don't go. Khombisa uBabah phela. Show me where did it bite you?

Zanokuhle : Kuzongena abantu

Nyathuko : Close the door.

(I hear the door closing and there is silence)

Zanokuhle : See daddy?

Nyathuko : U Mosquito mfana ka Baba. Where were you bathing kanti?

Zanokuhle : At the back of the house

Nyathuko : Kulamanzi angcolile engithe phuma kuwona?

Zanokuhle : No daddy. I used clean water

Nyathuko : Ngizokufaka umuthi yezwa mfan'wam?

Zanokuhle : Okay daddy



Nyathuko : Come here. Iphi i jacket?

Zanokuhle : Ikhona. You won't tell mommy right?

(Nyathuko's lap is crowded now. I slowly move to the pillow and leave Zanokuhle sitting on Nyathuko's lap)

Nyathuko : Why not?

Zanokuhle : Because she is a girl.



(Nyathuko laughs)

Nyathuko : I won't tell her

Zanokuhle : Why are you lighting up the candles?

Nyathuko : Because osisi baka Zanokuhle baye ku Enzelwe.

Zanokuhle : The twins?

Nyathuko : Yes my boy

Zanokuhle : Aunty Ntokozo showed me the pictures. Why ngingabazi pho mina?

(Oh my baby)



Nyathuko : Because they were....

(He pauses)

Nyathuko : They were shy and scared of people

(Zanokuhle laughs)

Zanokuhle : Like Enzelwe?

Nyathuko : Yes my boy. Hamba ugqoke i jacket

Zanokuhle : Hug me daddy

Nyathuko : Come hug me



(I look at them hugging. My heart melts)

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda phela

Zanokuhle : I love you too daddy

Nyathuko : Ngizoza ngizokufaka umuthi

Zanokuhle : Okay

(Zanokuhle walks away. Nyathuko pulls me back to his lap)

Nyathuko : Did you hear our boy?

Me : I heard him. Uncinzwe umaskito?

Nyathuko : Yeah kancane kodwa

Me : Did you eat?

Nyathuko : Yah sthandwa sami

Me : Liar



Nyathuko : Awudli nje nawe sthandwa sami

Me : I ate.

Nyathuko : Aw ngisho ukudla mina Sthah

Me : I need to pee

Nyathuko : Asambeni



Me : Ima. We need to talk about the funeral.

Nyathuko : Nondaba said he will take care of everything kodwa ngizowathenga amabhokisi Ngimutshelile naye

(He helps me up. I release a sigh)

Me : Ngiyakuzwa

(I pick up the blanket and put it around my shoulders. The Zondis said I should keep it around my shoulders wherever I go so that's what I've been doing)

Nyathuko : Asenjani amabele?

Me : I'll be fine nana



Nyathuko : Uthe uKhulu uzo....

(His phone rings. He takes it out and answers.)

Nyathuko : Hello?

(He bends down and helps me put on my sandals)

Nyathuko : Yes it's him speaking.

(Silence)

Nyathuko : What do you mean? Please just tell me

(What's wrong now?)



Nyathuko : Yeah yeah. I can come now

(Silence)

Nyathuko : Thanks for letting me know.

(He hung up)

Me : Yini manje futhi

Nyathuko : The Autopsy results are back... Uthi lomuntu angazi it's preliminary what but they found something. Bathi bathole u poison Sthah kwelinye lamawele

Me : What?

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Chapter 42



FRIDAY 12h30 pm

Nyathuko : I'm not going to repeat myself. Akukho mlindelo ozobakhona la. My twins will come home tomorrow not today

Shlangu : That's not how we do things

Nyathuko : I don't care. There will be no wake.... Fine you can all go ahead and hold one but imizimba izobe ingekho

(Most of us know that there's a vigil that needs to be held a night before the funeral. Nyathuko is against that. His reasons are not clear)

Maxwell : Mfan'wam we need to burn Impepho for the twins and give them names. Kumele befakwe iziphandla so how are we going to do all of that tomorrow ngosuku lomngcwabo?



Nyathuko : Sthabile was poisoned izingane zami zashona ngendlela engingayiqondi. I understand that abadala bakwaMaphalala bayekelele ngamabomu but she was poisoned. How she was poisoned I don't know but we all know that whoever did it umuntu obengafuni mina so wabulala izingane zami. I'm sick and tired of indaba yalayikhaya

Bheki : Usola thina?

Nyathuko : If the shoe fits wear it.

(Oh my God Nyathuko)

Khulu : Aibo Nyathuko

Nyathuko : Kumele ngithini? Ngeke ngizibe ukuthi uSthabile udlisiwe mina ngilokhu ngithi idlozi idlozi



Maxwell : Nyathuko those are very serious accusations xolisa.

Nyathuko : Sorry

(He says with his head down.)

Maxwell : Say it like you mean it

Nyathuko : Ey baba kanti nifunani kumina?

(He stands up and walks out)

Zenzele : Ay kwanzima

(He sighs)



Khulu : Kunzima weZenzele mina ngivele ngingazi mase kunje. Ukuthi uNkulunkulu wengathathi ngani mina esikhundleni sikayihlo angazi. This is too much for me. Mhlampe angabe akunjena if your father was still alive

Maxwell : Mah please don't say that

Khulu : Ngiqinisile Ndabe.

Bheki : Uqinisile u Mah. Ndabenhle we all know that if baba was still alive u Nyathuko angabe akanjena. Labantu bakwaMaphalala bayone bayiqeda ingane

Maxwell : Are you saying I failed?

Bheki : You didn't raise him. All your life you've been surrounded by bikes women and tattoo machines. Awukaze waba nendaba nomndeni wakho okanye izingane zakho and you wonder how Nyathuko turned out to be this rude? Ukhuliswe kwaMaphalala!! Ungekho wena ugijima nezithuthu namantombazane kanye nalo ink ogcwele umzimba wakho!



Khulu : Kahleni kahleni Bhekisisa.

Bheki : Mah uyangicika u Ndabe ngoba uvele efike la angathi akayiqondi indlela eziphethe ngayo ingane yakhe ebe azi kahle!

Kwanele : I understand why Thukeh is angry. Nami bengizokwenza okufanayo

Shlangu : Awuthule wena

Kwanele : Okay

(Kwanele is tranquil sometimes)

Khulu : Makoti uthini wena?

(I clear my throat)

Me : I'll speak to him



Khulu : Siyabonga ngane yami

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(I managed to speak to my husband and he listened. The twins are coming home today)

Me : Nihamba ngaskhathisini kanti ukuya emakhazeni?

Nyathuko : Manje sthandwa sami

(Mabuyi walks in with Nyathuko's clothes)

Mabuyi : Thukeh sengiqedile uku ayina



Nyathuko : Thank you

Mabuyi : Sthabile u right sisi?

Me : I'm fine

Mabuyi : Ngizoza manje ngizohlala nawe. Thukeh ngizozibeka endlini yakho izingubo zakho

Nyathuko : Okay I'm coming.

(Mabuyi walks out)

Nyathuko : Ngisayogeza

Me : Okay nana.

(He kisses me)

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda yezwa?

Me : I love you too



(His eyes are searching all over my face)

Me : Khuluma

Nyathuko : Baby please don't get me wrong okay?

Me : Yah?

Nyathuko : Sthah I understand that kunezinto engizenzile ezibhedayo ezakuphatha kabi.



Me : Uthini Thukeh?

Nyathuko : Did you try to terminate the pregnancy mhlampe udiniwe waphuza something? Ngizo understanda baby just tell me.

Me : No

(My eyes fill up with tears)

Nyathuko : Sthah ngiyaxolisa sthandwa sami. I didn't mean to upset you

(He hugs me)

Me : It was Delani

(He slowly pulls away)



Nyathuko : What?

Me : He gave me something. He forced me to drink something that day ngoba mina ngangifuna amanzi engekho. He... he had a knife Thukeh. Ngangisaba

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wangishaya ngempama

Nyathuko : He did what?

Me : I didn't know it was poison. I tried to fig...

(I break down. He pulls me into his arms)

Nyathuko : It's okay



Me : He is crazy Nyathuko he is crazy.

Nyathuko : I know. Ungakhali sthandwa sami

(He wipes my tears)

Me : Ngifuna ukumubophisa I don't care ukuthi uyahlanya. Ubulale izingane zethu

Nyathuko : He will pay

Me : Yes ngifuna eye ejeli

Nyathuko : Yah.



(He kisses my cheek. I was expecting him to go all crazy but he is still calm. Does he ever get crazy?)

Nyathuko : I love you

(I smile)

Me : I love you too nana

Nyathuko : I'll make sure ukuthi uDelani uyaboshwa

Me : Ngicela sizilele amantombazane ethu kodwa kuqala. I don't need any drama okwamanje

Nyathuko : Kulungile sthandwa sami. Othi ngihambe

Me : Okay baby

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(The twins are here. How did my babies end up in those little caskets? They were fine. My babies were fine. I fainted when Nyathuko and his father walked in. Each of them holding a casket. This house feels so heavy. Zanokuhle is so traumatized. Nyathuko disappeared soon after the viewing of the twins and he's been gone ever since.)

Ntokozo : Maka Ndlela u Thukeh akashongo ukuthi uyaphi?

Me : No where is he?

Ntokozo : Nobody knows. He was in his room waphuma wangena emotweni wahamba

Me : Let me call him

Ntokozo : He left his phone



Me : Ay kodwa u Thukeh uyangihlupha. Uhamba kanjani manje ngoba uyazi ukuthi he needs to be here. Ejike engatsheli muntu

Ntokozo : Where could he be?

Me : Uhambe nini?

Ntokozo : An hour ago

Me : Jesus isikhathi sini khona manje?

Ntokozo : U 18h00 kumele kuqalwe manje umsebenzi wezingane and he is not here

Uphi u Thukeh

(Njabulo asks while walking in)



Ntokozo : We don't know.

Njabulo : Bayamdinga manje. Awumfonele Ntoko

Ntokozo : He left his phone

Njabulo : Aibo

Ntokozo : Anihambe no Mxo niyombheka ka Khethi

Njabulo : O Khethi balana no Mzi

Ntokozo : Angisazike

Njabulo : Eish



Ntokozo : Bule animubheke naka Smelane

Njabulo : Okay

(Ntokozo heaves a sigh)

Ntokozo : Hawemah kwaze kwanzima

Me : Why did he leave his phone?

Ntokozo : I have no idea

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(Hours passed. We waited and waited for Nyathuko. It's just after 02 am. All of us are worried now. I can't stop crying. People are singing and I wish I could tell them to get the hell out of this rondavel. I can't think and I hate that. Nyathuko's father walks in and sits next to me)



Maxwell : Ndodakazi yami. We need to commence with the ritual without Thukeh

(I sniff)

Me : Kanti baba uphi uNyathuko?

Maxwell : Wherever he is he is fine. Maybe he just needed some time to be alone. I saw him at the mortuary and he wasn't looking good.

Me : What if...

Maxwell : No no he is fine. He will come home

(He cuts me off)



Me : Yebo

Maxwell : Come let's go.

Me : Yebo

Gog'Maphalala : Oh niya endlini yempepho?

Me : Usho njalo umkhulu kaNdlela

Gog'Maphalala : Wena how do you feel about that? Do you want to be part of the ritual?

Me : Thukeh is not here Gogo ngizothini?

Gog'Maphalala : You don't have to be part of it. Akuhambiselani nenkolo yakho



(I sigh)

Me : I have no choice. I have to do this for amadodakazi ami

(She brushes my back)

Gog'Maphalala : Okay sthandwa sami

Mabuyi : Let me help you up

Me : Thanks

(I stand up with my blanket. These stitches are killing me today. I've been sitting for too long. We go to the big rondavel where they burn impepho. I sit next to Shlangu's wife)



Bheki : We have to do this kungaze kuphume ilanga

Maxwell : Yah

(I thought they were going to take out the bodies from the coffins but Mabuyi said they won't. I only see ihlahla next to umsamu. I see the goat skin that was used for iziphandla for the twins. MaJali is here)

Bheki : We can begin now shall we?

Maxwell : Yes. Where is Kwanele?

Kwanele : Ngila bafo

Maxwell : Please come clo....

Ntokozo : Nangu u Thukeh!



(I quickly look at the door. Here he is. Thank God. He is wearing his black overalls. He removes his beanie hat and takes off his boots. Where the hell is he coming from?)

Maxwell : Wena Thukeh ngizokushaya. Uphumaphi?

(His father is angry)

Khulu : Leave him Ndabe. Akuseyona indawo yomsindo le. Asibonge ukuthi usefikile

Maxwell : Sondela!!

(MaJali groans)

MaJali : Hheyiii!!!! Nyathuko please go and take off those clothes zingcolile ndodana. Nezandla zakho zingcolile

(MaJali says while hitting the floor with ishoba. Her eyes are closed. What does she mean?)



Nyathuko : Yebo

Maxwell : Wenzeni Thukeh? Uphumaphi?

(Nyathuko ignores him and walks out. What if he was with another woman and that's why MaJali is saying he is dirty? Nyathuko wouldn't

do that. Not today! After a few minutes he comes back wearing his grey and black Nike tech fleece tracksuits. He sits with his knees up next to his father)

Zenzele : Let's begin

Maxwell : Ngisondeza oGogo noMkhulu oNondaba Bhambatha Gagashe. Naba abazukulu bami ngicela nibamukele nibaphe ukukhanya.



MaJali : Give us the names Nyathuko

Nyathuko : Nasisipho and Sandisokuhle

(I smile I love them. They are not just twins or amawele kaThukeh their names are Nasisipho Zondi and Sandisokuhle Zondi . How I wish they were alive)

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Chapter 43

(Today is the funeral. I'm busy getting dressed in our room. Nyathuko walks in. He is ready and looking good as always)

Nyathuko : Yah sthandwa sami

Me : Thukeh unghengelile ama breasts pads? My breasts are leaking and ku worse namhlanje



Nyathuko : Yeah I did

Me : Thanks

(He opens the wardrobe)

Me : Ubukephi izolo?

(He places the box of breast pads on the bed and kisses me. He goes down and kisses my breasts)

Me : Thukeh ngiyekhe please. Ngithe kade ukephi?

Nyathuko : I was with Nqabayethu.

Me : Oh so why umaJali ethe hamba ushintshe?

Nyathuko : Because



(He kisses my lips)

Nyathuko : I was holding a gun. We went to the shooting field bengfuna nje ukuphazamisa umqondo wami

(Aah! Man my husband. I know he is trying to be strong but the death of Nasisipho and Sandisokuhle really breaks him)

Me : Okay nana. Udlile?

Nyathuko : Mhmm-mhmm

Me : Let me finish getting dressed. Phuma

(He laughs and kisses my forehead)



Nyathuko : Okay.

(He heads out)

Me : Thukena?

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami?

Me : I love you nana

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda nami Mam'Zondi

(We are going to be fine. I know we will. As soon as he walks out my phone rings. Why the hell is Nokuzola calling me? I'm thinking of ignoring her but I answer anyway)

Me : Zola



Zola : Mathabi unjani?

(She sounds like someone who was crying or someone who has the flu)

Me : Ngingcwaba izingane zami namhlanje Zola.

Zola : I heard. Ngiyaxolisa sisi

(Is she fucking kidding me? Her brother killed my babies)

Me : What do you want?

Zola : U Delani akasekho



Me : Delani can't go anywhere ngidinga ukukhuluma naye after the funeral.

Zola : He is dead Sthabile

Me : What?

(I'm shocked)

Zola : Yah uzibulele.

Me : Why? How? Yenzeke nini lento?

Zola : Uhambe wayolala kujantshi wesitimela and he was hit by a train

(My eyes widen)

Me : Unamanga Zola



Zola : Aw akasekho. Ushone namhlanje ezintatha and he left a letter esho ukuthi uyaxolisa for everything he did to you. Usekhathele ilento yakhe yokuhlanya

Me : Wow. This is sad

(I mean it. I hated him but I didn't want him to die maybe not the way he did. Being hit by a train? That is.... Wow. I can't even begin to imagine what it was like)

Zola : Let me not keep you for long ngiyazi nawe Mathabi usosizini sisi but I thought I should let you know.

Me : Thanks. Ube right sisi dudu nase mndenini

Zola : Nakuwena ngokunjalo



(She hung up. Geez! I can't believe this. Nyathuko walks back in)

Nyathuko : Nana Usu right?

Me : Geez!

Nyathuko : Yinike manje leyo geez?

Me : He is dead

Nyathuko : Baby people have started arriving.

Me : Delani he is dead Thukeh.

Nyathuko : Ha.

Me : Ha? Thukena ushayiswe isitimela.



Nyathuko : Mhmmmm. Let's go baby abantu sebefikile

(Wow! Can you all believe Nyathuko right now?)

Me : Thukeh ngithi uDelani ushonile. Uhambe wayolala kujantshi wesitimela

Nyathuko : Ngikuzwile Sthah

Me : And the only thing you can say is "Ha"? Really baby?

Nyathuko : Let's see. Today I'm wearing a black suit burying my twins that I only spent a few hours with before they died right in my wife's arms. Amawele abulawe uyena uDelani loyo. Do I care that he is dead? No sthandwa sami I don't. Now please let's go siyobeka amakhosazana ethu endlini yawo yokugcina

(My heart is bleeding)

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Me : I'm sorry Thukeh. Ngiyaxolisa Nana angazi uku.....

(He kisses me

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cutting me off)

Nyathuko : I love you

Me : I love you too

(Sthenjisiwe walks in)

Sthenjisiwe : Ngiyaxolisa ukuniphazamisa



Me : It's okay sisi

Sthenjisiwe : We need to go. Sebefikile oMah

(My parents are here)

Me : Okay

Nyathuko : Let's go.

(I fix my doek. Nyathuko wraps the scarf around my shoulders and he kisses my forehead)

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(I keep seeing Nyathuko and his father carrying those small coffins Zanokuhle walking in front of them with a white wooden cross. It's all over now my babies are gone and all I'm left with is leaking breasts blood flowing and stitches as a reminder that I gave birth to the babies that I'll never see ever again. I've been staring at this wall I don't know for how long)

MaKheswa : Sesiyahamba manje sino Baba my baby.

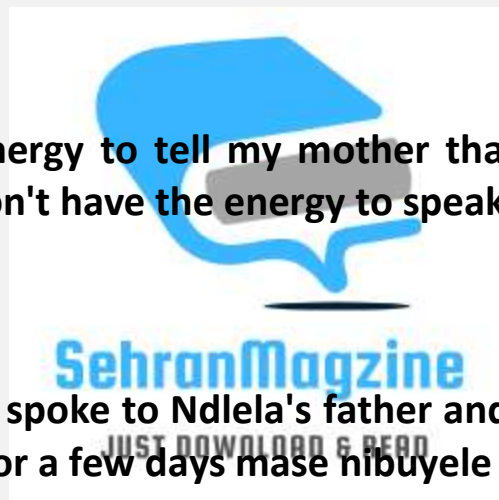
(I sigh)

Me : Okay Mah

MaKheswa : Nizomuvulela angithi icala u Delani?

Me : Mhmmm

(I don't have the energy to tell my mother that Delani is dead. My body is too tired I don't have the energy to speak.)



MaKheswa : Good. I spoke to Ndlela's father and I asked him to allow you to come home for a few days mase nibuyele emuva.

Me : Okay kodwa angazi sibuyela nini. I heard Khulu saying that we need to stay for a week at least before we go back to Ballito khona izingane zizosibona

MaKheswa : She is right. And okunye you and Baba kaNdlela will be forced to come here more often since the twins are buried here

angithi kumele ehlale ehlale enibone nifika ni cleane nasemathuneni awo. Kungcono ke bona ngoba bangcwatshwe ekhaya unlike Enzelwe olena kude.

Me : Yeah

MaKheswa : Ungacabangi kakhulu mntanami.

Me : Yebo Mah



MaKheswa : Let me leave you nathi singaze sifike ngokuhlwa Kwa-Mashu.

Me : Nihambe kahle Mah.

MaKheswa : I'll call you. Ngiyakuthanda mntanami

Me : I love you too mama. Uvalelise ku Mapholoba

(She smiles)

MaKheswa : I'll do that. Ungakhohlwake ukushisa ubisi emlilweni

Me : Okay u Thukeh u ngithengele nama breasts pads so selungcono ukuvuza ubisi.



MaKheswa : Okay Mntanami. Usale no Thiko

Me : Amen

(She walks out and I feel emotional. Nyathuko walks in. I don't want him to see me crying. I look away)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami?

Me : Yah Thukeh. Sebehambile oNqaba?

(Musa couldn't make it. He is still overseas)

Nyathuko : No they are still here.

(I shake my head)

Nyathuko : Uthi uMah awudli



(I keep quiet)

Nyathuko : Sthah please say something.

(He sighs)

Nyathuko : Ufuna ngenzeni sthandwa sami?

Me : Nginike amanye amawele Thukeh

Nyathuko : Sthah.....

Me : I want to forget. I want to forget.

(He holds me.)

Nyathuko : It's okay baby.



(I sniff)

Nyathuko : Ngimubize u Nomzamo?

Me : No I don't want to speak. I want to sleep. Ngizobuye ngimubone

Nyathuko : Let me go and tell Ntokozo to bring you some sleeping pills.

Me : Thanks

(He kisses me and stands up. He walks out and I take off my clothes. We went to the river after the funeral because it had something to do with one of the Zondi's many traditions and again I didn't fight. I'm not a fan of cold water so I'm feeling cold. I wore my warm clothes and put the ones I was wearing in the washing basket. Why is Nyathuko's overalls so dirty? Nyathuko never gets dirty. I pick it up and look all around it. There is a huge stain on the shoulder of it. I smell it. I don't know if this is a smell of blood or what. He walks in)

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Me : These are the overalls that you were wearing last night?

Nyathuko : Yeah

Me : Thukeh is this blood?

(He looks at his overalls in my hand)

Nyathuko : Yes

Me : Ulithathephi igazi?

(He clears his throat)

Nyathuko : Kade sihlaba imbuzi izolo ebusuku



Me : Oh please get rid of it. Ngeke ngilwashe igazi lembuzi

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuzwa Mam'Zondi

Me : Wait igazi lembuzi kanjani because....

(He walks closer to me and kisses me. He pulls away)

Nyathuko : Here are your sleeping pills. Get some rest

(I take the pills from his hand)

Nyathuko : I'll burn this

(He says and walks out with his overalls. I don't even remember him taking them from my hand)



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Chapter 44

(A week in Ndwedwe felt like two years. It's been two weeks since we buried our beautiful babies but it still feels so surreal. Thanks to my husband who is very supportive. He's trying so hard to make me happy though I can't make him happy. He is trying to be strong for all of us but I know he is not coping. I've heard crying a couple of times in our guest room and I just let him. Today we went to church in

KwaMashu. Me him our kids Nqabayethu and his girlfriend Nomzamo. I feel better much better. Maybe a word of God is what I needed. Nqabayethu and his girlfriend are still here.)

Nomzamo : You were sleeping Nqaba

Nqabayethu : I was bored. Why did they stop playing the keyboard?

(I laugh)

Me : Because we were praying



Nomzamo : Why did you go to the front?

Nqabayethu : Because uthe ngiye uThukeh

Nyathuko : Yah. Ususindisiwe ke manje

(Nqabayethu seems like he is about to explode. I can't help but laugh)

Nqabayethu : Ini?

Nyathuko : Yeah the pastor said those who want to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior should come to the front and you did. Awuzwanga?



Nqabayethu : No! Thukeh uwena nje othe ngiye daar

Nyathuko : I asked you if you wanted to and you said yes

Nqabayethu : Ey bengizivukela ebuthongweni mina angizwanga lutho.

Nyathuko : Batheni kuwena?

Nqabayethu : I don't remember but I remember them asking about ukwamukela uJesu njenge Nkosi no msindisi

Nyathuko : Wathini?

Nqabayethu : Ngathi sho

Nyathuko : Wavuma?

Nqabayethu : Sho



Nyathuko : Uyabona ke? Ususindisiwe wakithi

Nqabayethu : Aibo kanjani? I didn't know

(I'm cracking)

Nyathuko : But there is nothing wrong

Nqabayethu : Eh baba mina ngisazokwenza izinto zamadlozi. Sho ngiyavuma ukuthi lendoda iwumsindisi and stuff but ngeke mina wakithi ngishiye idlozi

Nyathuko : My wife did and she is fine

Nqabayethu : Ay ay Thukeh ubusholani ukuthi ngiye daar?

(My stomach hurts from laughing)



Nyathuko : Uzoba right wakithi.

Nqabayethu : No Thukeh you don't get it. Kanti lento akumele isuke kumina ngaphakathi kumele ngiphoqwe?

Nyathuko : But no one forced you to go there uziyele wakithi.

Nqabayethu : I thought they were calling people abebevakashile.

Nyathuko : Sorry wakithi.

Nqabayethu : So what now? I need to go to church every week?

Nyathuko : Yah

Nqabayethu : And if I don't? Bazothini Maka Ndlela?



(I'm laughing so hard I can't respond.)

Nyathuko : They will call you. Angithi you gave them your number?

Nqabayethu : Sho

Nyathuko : They will call you wakithi

(Yey my husband can lie with a straight face)

Me : He is lying Nqaba don't listen to him.

Nqabayethu : Nxi unamanga wena mehlo amakhulu

(Nyathuko laughs)



Nyathuko : Usaba ukusonta kanje Nqaba. Eish eish yimbi lento

Me : Nawe Nana awufuni ukusonta

Nyathuko : But baby angibabazi njengo Nqaba. Yey cisho wafa uNqaba ezwa eyokuya esontweni njalo

(We all laugh. Gosh! I needed this)

Zanokuhle : Uncle Nqaba come and play with me

Nqabayethu : What are we playing my boy?

Zanokuhle : Multi legged race. We are going to run with our adjacent legs tied together with a rope.



Nomzamo : Nami ngicela ukudlala

Nqabayethu : You are going to pair up with Maka Ndlela. Lo ngoba uyadelela uzothatha u Ndlela

Nyathuko : But Ndlela can't run properly

Nqabayethu : Yah angithi uyaphapha.

(We laugh)

Nyathuko : Ndlela woza boy.

(Nyathuko and Ndlela are so going to lose this race)

Nomzamo : No Nqaba we are starting from the gate baby

Nqabayethu : Okay



(Ndlelenhle is laughing at the rope already)

Nyathuko : What happens if I lose?

Me : You cook Nana

Nyathuko : Ndlelenhle I'm not cooking today uyezwa?

(We laugh)

Nomzamo : Ready when you are.

(Nyathuko holds Ndlelenhle's arm)



Nyathuko : We are ready. Nqaba hlehlelani nino Zano nifuna ukurobha nina

Nqabayethu : Siqondene nje

Nomzamo : Okay in 5 4 3 2....one Go

(The race begins. Nqabayethu and Zanokuhle are leading. We are following them. Their rope breaks. We are leading now and into the finish line. We won. We sit down and watch who will come second. Ndlelenhle is not having it. He wants Nyathuko to let go of his arm)

Ndlelenhle : Unke!!!

(He cries and bite Nyathuko's hand)

Nyathuko : Okay okay phuma entambeni yami... Niyamubona ke lomuntu wenu?

(Ndlelenhle sits down and plays with the rope. Nomzamo and I are laughing)



Me : We won.

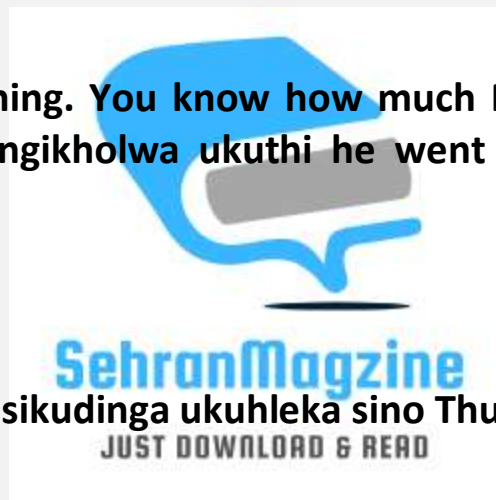
Nqabayethu : Ay lentambo yami no Zano ibibheda

Nyathuko : Besizowina thina. Manje uNdlela uhamba ecosha yonke into. He is the reason why we lost.

(We laugh. For a moment I forgot all my pain. We ate. Nyathuko Nqabayethu and the kids went to buy Nqabayethu's beer. Nomzamo and I are in the living room eating popcorn)

Me : Musa is coming later.... Yey! Today was amazing. Thank you for coming wena no Nqaba

Nomzamo : It's nothing. You know how much Nqabayethu cares for Thukeh. Namanje angikholwa ukuthi he went to church ngoba nje ecelwe u Thukeh



Me : Ngiyabonga. Besikudinga ukuhleka sino Thukeh

Nomzamo : You guys are going to be fine.

Me : I really hope so.

Nomzamo : Do you know how lucky you are ukuba nendoda enjengo Nyathuko?

Me : I believe I am.

Nomzamo : You are. All he wants is to see you happy. Uyena owenze yonke lenjabulo that you saw today.

(I sigh)

Me : I know.



(I've never got a chance to sit down with Nomzamo and get to know her and I always wonder if she really loves Nqabayethu or she loves the fact that he has money)

Me : Nqabayethu is very good with kids. Now I understand why Zanokuhle loves him

(Her face changes)

Nomzamo : Yes he loves kids. Kunezinye nje azinakekelayo e Ntuzuma

Me : I heard. Uke uzibone nje wena naye senishadile ninabantwana?

(She shakes her head. I knew it)

Nomzamo : No

Me : Why?



Nomzamo : He is not Nyathuko

(I don't know how to take that)

Me : What do you mean he is not my husband?

(She smiles and shakes her head)

Nomzamo : I'm sure the first time you met Nyathuko you couldn't wait to be his wife.

Me : Actually that wasn't the case

Nomzamo : Tell me about it



(I bite my lower lip and laugh. I look closely at a single popcorn between my fingers and lift up my head)

Me : I was scared

Nomzamo : What?

Me : Ngangizibuza ukuthi lomfana wakwa Zondi omuhle kangaka ufunani ku Stezi

Nomzamo : Stezi?

Me : Igama engangibizwa ngalo e High School. When I met Thukeh I was more fat than this. Ngigqoka kambi. Ngingena shape. Ngangingashelwa mina Nomzamo. My first kiss was with Delani the only guy who was interested in me eskoleni. Lapho ngingamfuni nala ehambe khona

(We laugh.)



Me : May his soul rest in peace. Yey I hated Delani. You know one thing about me as much as I considered myself fat and ugly but ay mntakababa I didn't settle for less. Ngangifuna umfana omuhle onuka kahle and my friends used to laugh at me. Yey ngangisho mina ngithi one I will marry a guy like Will Smith or..... What's the name of this guy who drove me crazy?

(I snap my fingers trying to remember his name)

Me : Sh... Sean... Sean Paul. Wuuh!

(We both burst into laughter)

Nomzamo : Thatha Maka Ndlela!

Me : I'm telling you. And my friends would ask Stezi uyazibona kodwa ukuthi unjani? Will Smith would run if he were to meet up with you.

Nomzamo : Aw man that's unfair. Babeyisho kanjani kodwa into enjalo kuwena?



Me : Did I care? Hell no! I was rude eskoleni very rude.

Nomzamo : Why?

Me : There was a time where I respected everyone but kwafika langithi khona you know what? screw all this. I was tired of the bullying. Yazi ngangifika esikoleni ngidwetshiwe ema toilet or

ezindongeni zesikole. One of my classmates would just stand up out of nowhere ehambe eyongidweba ebhodini. Kuhleke i class lonke. Whenever I eat kuqhamuke umuntu ethi usuyadla futhi wena sdudla? You know those nasty comments "Usuyadla FUTHI?"

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you know what? screw all this. I was tired of the bullying. Yazi ngangifika esikoleni ngidwetshiwe ema toilet or ezindongeni zesikole. One of my classmates would just stand up out of nowhere ehambe eyongidweba ebhodini. Kuhleke i class lonke. Whenever I eat kuqhamuke umuntu ethi usuyadla futhi wena sdudla? You know those nasty comments "Usuyadla FUTHI?" "You are always eating" "Mfuqasi".

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Nomzamo : I'm so sorry Sthabile

Me : I got to a point where I was like you know what? I'm tired. And I became the bully. Every Friday I was fighting. I remember there was this cute guy eskoleni and I liked him so much. I always wrote his name on my hand. Almost all my belongings had his name written on them. His name was Fanele. Ethu u Mah weSthabile ubani lo Fanele? Ngivele ngihleke ngithi u mngani wami. Ey but u Fanele was always with his girlfriend. I hated his girlfriend ngihlale ngiyihlupha leyantombazane yabantu and they broke up well I thought they broke up. So I wrote a love letter ngayifaka kubhakha womfana and Fanele

found the love letter and he came to my class. We spoke washo ukuthi naye he likes me but inkinga I'm rude. I told him I would stop being rude and I stopped. Ngase ngizithulela ngingalwi namuntu but lutho umfana and the next thing he was back with his girlfriend. Wathi nje I wanted you to leave my girlfriend alone angisoze mina ngathandana nesdudla esinjengawe

(We burst)

Nomzamo : And that was it?



Me : That was it. When I was doing my Matric kwafika umfana omusha eskoleni. He joined our school around March ngoba umndeni wakhe wawusanda kufika KwaMashu so wedinga isikole. The guy was an intelligent student

so bavuma othisha. Safika isiqengqe sakwa Dlomo sahlala eduze kwami e classini. We became friends engisiza nasezifundweni zami. His name was Nkazimulo Dlomo.

(Her eyes widen)

Nomzamo : Zanokuhle's father?

(I smile)

Me : Yes. My first love my first real kiss ngawuqala ngaye and uyena owathatha ubuntombi bami.

Nomzamo : Wow. Was he your Will Smith?

(I laugh out loud)



Me : No! But he drove every girl crazy and ilokho nje okwakubalulekile kumina. Having what they couldn't have. He loved me ngenhliziyo yakhe yonke. Sajola kwamnandi saqeda iskole and he got a bursary mina ngangayithola

(I laugh)

Me : Kodwa wangizamela u Mapholoba nami ngahamba ngayofunda. Life was good esho ukuthi he wants to marry me. Nangempela he got

a job ay lapho ngangu madam. He spoiled me. Until one day he lost his job ay kwashuba. And then I fell pregnant kwaba worse.

Nomzamo : He committed suicide?

Me : Yes. Ay ke eseshonile kwakungathi akafuni ndoda eduze kwami. Men hated me ngalendlela engachazeki. The only man owayengidlalisa ngothando was our security guard emsebenzini nomunye nje owemubi enezilonda ekhanda. Ngahlala six years wonke ngishimile ngagcina sengizitshelile nje ukuthi I wasn't meant to be loved nokuthi olwami uthando was buried with Nkazimulo. Ngaphuma kubafana.



Nomzamo : But Nyathuko came along?

(My smile grows wide)

Me : Eish Inyathuko yakoZondi. Ah! My man came when I least expected. Indoda emadodeni. I was like no man leli i player! There is no fucking way umfana onje efuna mina. He had everything uyamubona nawe uNyathuko so it didn't make sense. Ngangike ngivuke ebusuku ngithi what? Me and that guy? No. I hated him.

Nomzamo : You hated him?

Me : Yes I hated him. Ngangizonda ukuthi uzongilinga. Deep down ngangithi lomfana wazi kahle ukuthi akingithandi he wants to use me and uzolala nami ehambe ngisale nenhliziyo ebuhlungu engingasoze ngakwazi ukuyipholisa.

Nomzamo : Kodwa kwangenzeka



Me : Wangikhombisa uthando engingakaze ngalubona. Ngagula kodwa walana eduze kwami uBaba ka Ndelelenhle. Nomzamo he prayed for me and ilapho engathi khona Nkosi yami ngiyabonga eyami lendoda.

(Tears roll down her cheeks)

Nomzamo : Wow

(I want to cry too. I can't believe how far I have come)

Me : Uthando alukho lula. Olwami no Nyathuko alukaze lwaba lula. Nanamhlanje kusenzima but ngiyazi that I love him and he loves me. Ilokho okubalulekile

(She sniffs)

Nomzamo : I love Nqabayethu. Yazi mina nawe we have something in common. Nami ngangifuna nje indoda engizoziqhenya ngayo indoda ezojika amakhanda but bro... (Sigh) ngenze amaphutha Sthabile.



Me : Are you not sure about Nqabayethu?

Nomzamo : I love him but sengizwa angathi ngiphoqelekile ukuthi ngimthande because I owe him. I feel like ngamuphuca umuntu okwakuyena kuphela mhlampe owayezomuthanda ngokweqiniso

Me : Umuntu?

(I'm confused now)

Nomzamo : Yes his son. Ngakhipha isisu I killed his son.

Me : You....

(I shape the words unable to get them out of my mouth. My throat is closing up)



Nomzamo : I did. Ngiwusathane angithi? And I know that one day he will kill me ngihambe ngiyoshela esihogweni.

(I shift closer to her and wrap my arm around her neck)

Me : No no. Sthandwa sami ayikho leyonto.

Nomzamo : Ikhona Maka Ndlela. I'm a bad person. Why nami ngingayigcinanga ingane yami njengoba nawe ugcine amawele?

Me : You did what you had to do and no one has a right to judge you.

Nomzamo : Kodwa u Nkulunkulu uyangehlulela. Nothing is going well my sister is sick I lost my job abantu abseduzane nami baba namabhadi ngenxa yami. Nothing is going well

Me : Calm down sthandwa sami

(She shakes her head)



Nomzamo : He is going to kill me Maka Ndlelenhle. Nqabayethu is going to kill me the day he finds out about the abortion

Me : No he won't. Nomzamo ayikho yonke lento oyishoyo awekho amabhadi onawo. This whole thing is in your head.

Nomzamo : How?

Me : Imagine engathi uphethwe izinyo manje

(She clenches her teeth)

Me : What I'm trying to say is that kunezinto esizitshela ukuthi ziyenzeka but azikho. Wena you know that abortion is wrong and unonembeza ngalento owayenza. Unembeza wakho lo odlala ngekhandela lakho. Usuzitshelile vele ukuthi because you had an abortion so izinto zakho ngeke zilunge and that's exactly what is happening. Angihambiselani nakancane nokuhushulwa kwezisu but angikwazi ukuthi ngithi ngiphoka wonke umuntu wesifazane ukuthi ezale ingane angayidingi. Wenze okufanele wena so stop beating yourself up.

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Nomzamo : God gave me a gift and I returned it. Nginesono

Me : Mina ngithi babusisiwe labo abavuma izono zabo ngoba bayakuthethelelwa ukunalabo abaqhubeka bewela esonweni.

Nomzamo : So you think wonke lamabhadi engibona enzeka empilweni yami they don't exist?

Me : Most of them don't. Unembeza wakho udlala ngekhandela lakho and lokhu okutshela ikhanda lakho ikona okwenzekayo.

(She sighs)

Nomzamo : Ngenzeni manje?

Me : Forgive yourself



Nomzamo : Ngingakwenza lokho. No Nkulunkulu mhlampe naye engangixolela but Nqabayethu will never forgive me. Uzongibulala

Me : He won't.

Nomzamo : Today we were supposed to go and see Khambule and sobabili siyazi ukuthi Khambule was going to tell him about the abortion. I had to ask Nyathuko to stop him.

Me : I understand ukuthi uyasaba but he won't kill you.

Nomzamo : He will! u Nqabayethu uyangihlukumeza Sthabile uyangishaya!

Me : What?



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Chapter 45

(It's 07h00 in the morning. I don't want to sleep anymore. Zanokuhle is at school. Ndlelenhle is sleeping. I'm busy applying makeup on Nyathuko's face because I'm bored)

Me : Buka baby wawuzoba muhle kanjani if you were a girl.

(I give him my small mirror)

Nyathuko : Ay sthandwa sami susa lento

(I laugh out loud)

Me : Wait lala nana ngiqede. Utheni ke?



Nyathuko : Uthe bazoba ne meeting Thursday

Me : Maybe I need to contact De Klerk ngibuyele emsebenzini wami omdala

(He glares at me)

Me : Ngiqinisile Thukeh musa ukungibuka kanjalo. We both know how people feel about me at Ndaba Media and I'm sure they will vote me out.

Nyathuko : Ay Sthah awukahle.

Me : I'm serious. Musa ukucwayiza

Nyathuko : Ungenzani ke manje?



Me : Ngikufaka i Mascara

Nyathuko : Yini manje leyo? No no baby? Baby stop!

(He jumps and rubs his eyes. I laugh)

Me : Wait Nana uzozixhophla. Lala la kumina ngikususe. Ithi kanje amehlo ungacwayizi.

Nyathuko : Ay!

(I laugh)

Me : Okay cwayiza ke.

Nyathuko : Sondela ngiqabule kancane?

Me : If I do uzovuma ngikwenze ishiya?



Nyathuko : Kanjani?

Me : Ngizolithi cut cut kancane

Nyathuko : Weee! Uyahlanya!

(I laugh out loud and kiss his forehead)

Me : Angisadlali nawe

Nyathuko : Hawu sthandwa sami sondela ngiqabule

(I press my lips on his mouth and he sucks my lower lip)

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda uyezwa?



Me : Ngiyakuthanda nami baby

(I laugh)

Me : Uthe uNqabayethu sithandana njalo.

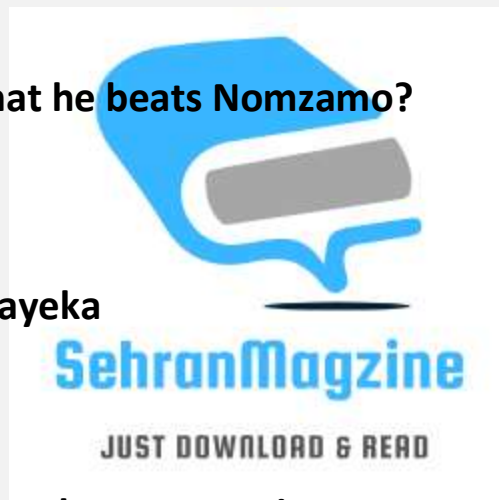
(We laugh)

Me : Nana?

Nyathuko : Yah baby

Me : Do you know that he beats Nomzamo?

Nyathuko : Wathi usayeka



Me : Akayekile. Usamushaya namanje

Nyathuko : U serious?

Me : Yes baby unghombisile imivimbo

Nyathuko : uNqabayethu useyahlanya ke manje. Ngizokhuluma naye

Me : Udinga ukuboshwa

Nyathuko : Unenkinga loya

Me : We all have problems



Nyathuko : Sthah his problems are different. He killed his own sister unama anger issues

Me : You are just trying to defend him ngoba kuwumngani wakho

Nyathuko : I'm not defending him.

Me : You are. Vele phela nibhonya naye amantombazane

Nyathuko : Aw sekunjalo manje?

Me : He needs to go to jail. Eyolwa nontanga bakhe lapha

Nyathuko : Sthah I will speak to Nqabayethu. Iyeke lento

Me : I'm not going to leave it. Ngeke mina ngibuke u Nomzamo ebhokozwa u Nqabayethu Never!



Nyathuko : Maka Nasisipho ngithe iyeke lento!!

(He says and gets out of bed)

Nyathuko : Uthanda ukungena izinto ongahlangani nazo

Me : Where are you going?

Nyathuko : Ngiyosusa lento ongenze yona ebusweni!

Me : Hawu baby I'm sorry ke. Ngeke ngisakhuluma ngo Nqabayethu

**Nyathuko : No ulokhu ungipenda la angathi ngintombazame.
Ucabanga ukuthi ngudoli wakho**

**(He goes into the bathroom. I cover my face with a pillow and giggle.
He looked cute though.)**



Nyathuko : Sthah?

(He is back. I ignore him)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami?

**(He removes the pillow from my face. I shift and sleep on my hands.
He climbs on top of me)**

Nyathuko : Baby ngiyaxolisa ngokuthetha

Me : Please leave me alone Nyathuko

Nyathuko : Sthah wami ngiyaxolisa phela sthandwa sami

(He kisses my cheek)



**Nyathuko : I'll speak to Nqabayethu and find out what's going on. I
promise**

Me : Okay

Nyathuko : Ngibuke phela

Me : No

Nyathuko : Hawu muntu ka Thukeh

(He mimics my voice while tickling me. I giggle?)

Me : Okay stop!



(He kisses me. He is between my legs and I can feel his hard dick. Fuck! I miss sex but it's still too soon and he knows. I break the kiss)

Me : Stop baby

(He clears his throat)

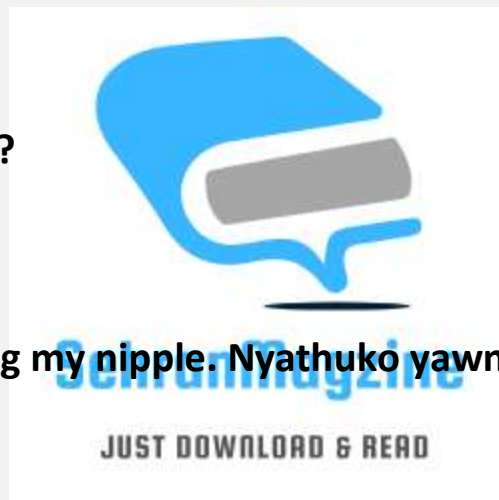
Nyathuko : Sorry sthandwa sami

(He gets off the bed with a full tent.)

Me : I'll be fine soon Nana

Nyathuko : Come on baby don't worry about it. Asambe phela ngoba sesivukile

Me : Siye e Gateway?



(I ask while squeezing my nipple. Nyathuko yawns)

Nyathuko : Yah. Asebuhlungu?

Me : Kancane

Nyathuko : Let me see

Me : Don't squeeze them

(He kisses them)

Nyathuko : Sohamba?

Me : Yeah. Ngizogqokani kodwa?

(He opens our wardrobe)



Nyathuko : Lengubo?

Me : Let me see... No not that one Nana.

Nyathuko : And this one?

Me : Yanwebeka leyo ngikhulelwe.

Nyathuko : Uzogqoka i jean pho?

Me : No

(I get out of bed)

**Me : I'll wear this one. Wena you'll wear these tracksuits ngoba ngeke
ngi ayine.**



(I hope he doesn't protest)

Nyathuko : Okay

(I smile)

Me : Ave umuhle Thukeh wami

Nyathuko : Aw ngoba ngivume ama tracksuits sengimuhle?

(I laugh out loud)

Me : Uhlale umuhle nana

(He wraps his arms around me and kisses my neck)



Nyathuko : Uzodlani?

Me : Uzokwenza u bacon kuqala?

Nyathuko : Uyawufuna?

Me : Mhmm-mhmm. Nana you need to give some of these clothes to the clinic. Wagcina nini ukugqoka lezikibha?

Nyathuko : Yeah bengithi ngizohambisa izolo but I forgot.

Me : Ngizokunika ezinye zikaNdlela angasazigqoki

(I come across a black beret and a black scarf)



Me : And then?

(He pulls away from me)

Me : Bakunike lezinto?

Nyathuko : Benginqena ukukhuluma Sthah

Me : Thukeh I meant it ngeke ngizile.

(I look at him out of the corners of my eyes)

Nyathuko : I know and I told my father

Me : Please kabi

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ngeke ngizile.

(I look at him out of the corners of my eyes)

Nyathuko : I know and I told my father

Me : Please kabi ngikwenze konke. Ngabahlonipha abantu bakwaZondi but le eyokuzila ngigqoke izikhafu ezimnyama nama beret? Ay niyongixolela sthandwa sami ngeke ngiyenze.

Nyathuko : I know baby. Bengithi ngizozishisa

(I let out a sigh)

Me : Uyafuna ngizilele uNasisipho no Sandisokuhle?



Nyathuko : Cha. Sthah I respect your beliefs ingakho ngingashongo lutho kuwena ngalenzilo.

Me : Kodwa yona lenzilo ihleli la ku wardrobe wethu nezingubo zethu baby

Nyathuko : Ngiyaxolisa

Me : Ay Thukeh ay

(I shake my head)

Nyathuko : Ngiyaxolisa Mam'Zondi

(He wraps his arms around my waist and kisses my cheek)

Me : It's okay but I don't want this here.



Nyathuko : Letha la

(I give him the scarf and the beret)

Nyathuko : Uthe uzodla?

Me : Yah

(He spins me around and presses his forehead against mine)

Nyathuko : Are you angry?

Me : I'm hurt

Nyathuko : Ngoxolisile nje kodwa sthandwa sami.

Me : Ngiyakuxolela



Nyathuko : Qabula indoda yakho phela

(I giggle and kiss him)

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda Sthabile

Me : I love you too baby

(Ndlelenhle cries in his bed)

Me : Ohhe! Awuhambe naye baby ngilungise umbhede

**Nyathuko : Okay. Usheshe ke Sthah we need to come back early
engakaphumi u Zano eskoleni.**

Me : Ouch! Okay



Nyathuko : Yini manje?

Me : Please remind me to buy something for heartburn

Nyathuko : Ayipheli namanje?

Me : Uh-huh

Nyathuko : Sodlula e Pharmacy

(He kisses my cheek and he goes and picks up Ndlelenhle from his bed)

Me : Morning baby



(He looks at me and rubs his eyes. My son is not a morning person)

Me : Ukwatile uBhambatha

(Thukeh laughs and walks out with him)

^

^

(We went to Gateway. We are at Checkers. Nyathuko is pushing the trolley with Ndlelenhle sitting on it.)

Me : Yazi u Zanokuhle usenuka amakhwapha Thukeh. Ngimuzwile ekuseni.

Nyathuko : Ayikho leyonto

Me : Ngiyakutshela I need to buy him a roll on lapha ka Clicks. Ongithathela leya tissue.



(There Is this girl following us. I'm starting to pay attention to her now)

Me : I think we are done now.

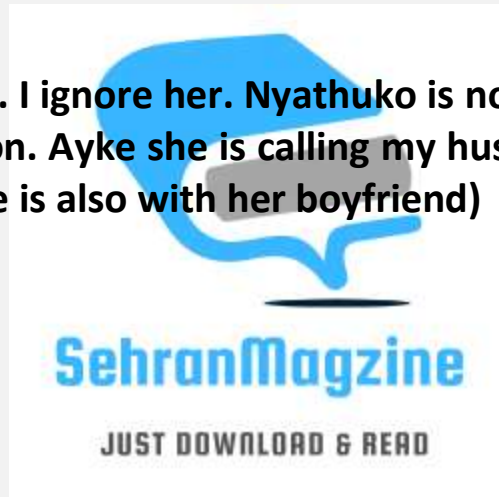
Nyathuko : Yah

Me : Hambani ke.

(She is following us. I wrap my hand around Nyathuko's arm and we head to the till)

Sorry sisi

(She says behind me. I ignore her. Nyathuko is not paying attention he is playing with his son. Ayke she is calling my husband now. Nyathuko turns around. Oh she is also with her boyfriend)



Nyathuko : Sho

Kancane mfethu

(Her boyfriend says)

Me : Give me your wallet ngikhokhe ube ukhuluma nabo.

(He takes out his wallet and gives it to me. He goes to them with Ndlelenhle. I stand in the queue. Nyathuko comes back sooner than I thought. He puts Ndlelenhle back in the trolley and he takes off his jacket)

Me : Why ukhumula?

(He kisses my cheek)

Nyathuko : Ungcolile ngemumva sthandwa sami



Me : What?

(Oh no. I have a big stain of blood mind you I'm wearing a white summer dress)

Me : Eish.

(He tied up his jacket around my waist.)

Me : Is that what they were telling you?

Nyathuko : Yah.

Me : Bengithi sengi right yazi. Ngicela ukuya emotweni

Nyathuko : Come on baby isifihlile i jacket.



Me : No Thukeh I want to go. Thatha u wallet wakho

(I'm crying now. I feel embarrassed)

Nyathuko : Okay okay sthandwa sami. Let's go

(He takes the trolley and moves it aside. He takes Ndlelenhle and wraps his arm around my neck. We walk out of Checkers and go to our car. He puts Ndlelenhle in his seat. I'm holding his arm)

Nyathuko : Sit here my boy

Ndlelenhle : Unke! nce

Nyathuko : Okay mkhulu uzokunika u Thukeh incence.... Eish sthandwa sami? Baby?



(He cupped my face)

Me : Please let's go.

Nyathuko : Okay ngingakuthengeli lutho?

(I shake my head)

Me : No I want us to go home.

Nyathuko : Okay sthandwa sami. Ngena

(He opens the door for me and I get in.)

Nyathuko : Uhleli kahle?

Me : Yes



Nyathuko : Woza la

(He lifts up my chin and kisses me.)

Nyathuko : Awufuni lutho?

Me : No

(He closes the door and he walks all around and opens his door. He gives Ndlelenhle his bottle and he drives off. Fuck this blood! I thought I was done with these periods. My doctor assured me. I don't know but I hate myself. I should have worn a pad)

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Chapter 46



Me : We need to buy a new one. Ay le yokuwasha ngezandla ngeke baby

Nyathuko : Ngizowuthenga sthandwa sami

(Nyathuko and I are busy doing laundry outside. I'm washing and he is rinsing.)

Me : Yeka baby I'll do it

Nyathuko : No ngiyakusiza nje.

(I smile)

Me : Uzongikhumbula mase ngihambile?

Nyathuko : You are not going



(I laugh. He goes and hangs the clothes)

Me : Angizwanganga Nana?

Nyathuko : Awuhambi

(I stand up straight)

Me : u Mchumane uyangikhumbula

Nyathuko : Nami ngiyakukhumbula

(I laugh)

Me : I stay here



Nyathuko : Uzobuya nini?

Me : Mhmm? Ngizobuya nini? I'll come back on Thursday ngoba kune meeting angithi?

(I rins Ndlelenhle's clothes and join him at the clothing line)

Nyathuko : 2 days wonke Sthah? Ayngeke sthandwa sami.

Me : Angihambe namhlanje ngibuye ksasa ke

Nyathuko : No

Me : Asephelile ama pegs?



Nyathuko : Mhmm-mhmm nawa

Me : What do you mean no? Thukh you can't expect me to come back the same day

Nyathuko : Why not?

Me : Because I....

(He tickles me and I laugh)

Nyathuko : Uzovinjwa yini?

(I'm laughing I can't talk. I laugh until we both fall on the ground.)

Me : Thukeh stop mahn... Ngizochama Thukeh

(He laughs and pulls me to lie on top of him. I kiss his nose)

Me : Indoda yami enhle



Nyathuko : Aw le oyishiyayo?

Me : I'm not leaving you nana. I'll come back

Nyathuko : Ngibuyela emsebenzini ke

(He is playing with my braids and it feels like heaven. I close my eyes and enjoy the feeling)

Nyathuko : Uyezwa?

Me : Uh - huh

Nyathuko : Hawu baby ngizosala ngenzeni la?



Me : Watch TV

(We laugh)

Nyathuko : No if you leave nami I'm going back to work

Me : Mhmmm

Nyathuko : Sthah washo o Mhmmm angathi senza i sex manje

(I giggle)

Nyathuko : Usulele! Ay sukuma siwashe

(I laugh and lift up my head)



Me : I'm not sleeping baby I'm not!

Nyathuko : You are baby! Buka amathe kumina

(He points at his chest where I was resting my head. I laugh)

Me : Amanzi Thukena this is not saliva.

Nyathuko : Amanzi anje?

(He tickles me and I sit up quickly while laughing. I'm now sitting between his legs)

Me : Yimbi kodwa i Ballito uyayibona baby? Isemahlathini

(I lift up my head and look at him. He laughs)



Nyathuko : Yinhle

Me : No!

Nyathuko : Zanokuhle told his grandfather that it's boring here

Me : Nondaba?

Nyathuko : Yeah. Uthe usibhekela indlu lapha eMhlanga

Me : Really?

Nyathuko : Kodwa asiyi lapho.

Me : Why not nana?



Nyathuko : Angifuni ukuhlala eduze kuka Baba

Me : Let's move to Westville then ko Ntokozo

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami we are fine here.

(He kisses my forehead)

Me : Oh sibuyele eMachobeni

Nyathuko : Are you serious?

Me : I'm kidding baby. We are fine here

Nyathuko : Awukufuni kodwa la

Me : No I do. I love it here



Nyathuko : Our son hates it. Uncamela ka Nqabayethu

(We laugh)

Me : Phela kudlalwa izinqola Ohlange.....Baby asiqede ukuwasha phela

(I stand up and leave him sitting)

Me : Uzobabuyisa nini u Nqabayethu? I miss Nke now

(I laugh)

Nyathuko : Ay loyo ongibiza njalo

Me : Unke ince



(We laugh)

Nyathuko : But I don't want them to spend too much time with Nqabayethu

Me : Why?

Nyathuko : Sthah uyamazi u Nqabayethu ngeke nje umqonde

Me : But he loves them nabo futhi bayamuthanda noNomzamo ngokunjalo

Nyathuko : Kodwa angisafuni beye khona

Me : Did you speak to Nqabayethu about... You know?

Nyathuko : I did angazi noma ungizwile yini



Me : Utheni?

(Silence. I turn around)

Me : Thukeh don't

(He is holding a garden hose pipe. He is laughing)

Me : Nana don't do it... No!

(He splashes me with water. I run inside the house. He follows me)

Me : I hate you

Nyathuko : Come here sthandwa sami



SehranMagzine

The logo features a stylized blue speech bubble containing a white and grey book icon. Below the speech bubble, the text 'SehranMagzine' is written in a blue, sans-serif font.

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(He helps me take off my clothes and he lifts me up. He carries me into the bathroom and we both shower. The next thing I'm on my knees sucking his dick while water hits my face. No I didn't vomit)

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Chapter 47

KWA-MASHU

(The last time I left home I was going to Bridge City and that trip changed a lot of things. We planned but God decided. I just finished bathing and my mother walks in.)

MaKheswa : Hhaibo namanje usasebenzisa ama pads?

Me : Mhmmm. But the blood is light ~~now~~

The logo for SehranMagzine features a blue speech bubble containing a white book icon. Below the speech bubble, the text "SehranMagzine" is written in a blue, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the phrase "JUST DOWNLOAD & READ" is written in a smaller, black, all-caps font.

SehranMagzine

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MaKheswa : Aibo is that even normal?

Me : Yes Mah

MaKheswa : Okay your father is back.

(I smile)

Me : Uphi?

MaKheswa : Ngale but I told him that you came alone

(I laugh)

Me : Wathini?



MaKheswa : You know he loves his grandchildren udumele. Ay kodwa nawe Sthabile ngokushiya izingane

Me : uThukeh nje Mah. Angithi uGogo wakhe asked them to visit her eMzinyathi

MaKheswa : Aw bandla unjani yena uGogo?

Me : Uyaphila. Ngamgcina ngomngcwabo

MaKheswa : Ehhe

Me : Can you believe them Mah? Bebefuna ngizile

MaKheswa : Uzile?

Me : Yes wear black clothes.



(Her eyes widen)

MaKheswa : Unamanga

Me : Ngiyakutshela ntombi. I refused but banike uThukeh leyonzila I don't know if they thought he would force me yini to wear those things.

MaKheswa : Wathini u Baba ka Ndlelenhle?

Me : He burned them

MaKheswa : Is that allowed?

Me : What do you mean?



MaKheswa : Kunendlela yokwenza izinto mntanami.

Me : I don't understand. Bengithi uzongeseka

MaKheswa : I do my baby I do support you kodwa angifuni uzithole usukolunye ubishi ngenxa yamadlozi akwaZondi noma Ka Maphalala.

Me : Ay they understand.

MaKheswa : If you say so. Mina sengiwasaba kabi amadlozi akuloya muzi. How did they allow our grandchildren to die just like that?

Me : u Nasisipho no Sandisokuhle bathola u poison Mah

MaKheswa : Ngamabomu

Me : Ayke



MaKheswa : Washona no Delani

Me : Yes ngangithi ngizokutshela.

MaKheswa : He killed himself?

Me : Yep. Unembeza awudlali Mah

MaKheswa : Kodwa ukufa kabuhlungu kangaka?

Me : Imagine ke ngoba ezami izingane zashonela kulezi ezami izandla

MaKheswa : Oh my baby I'm so sorry. Bengingaqondile ukukuvusela amanxeba

Me : It's okay mama

(She hugs me. I smile)



Me : I want to see my father

(She laughs)

MaKheswa : Go

(I walk and find my father washing his feet. He smiles)

Ngcobo : Mashiya amahle

Me : Mapholoba

Ngcobo : Unjani Fuze?

Me : I missed you. Othi ngikuwashe izinyawo



(He laughs. I grab a chair and sit in front of him. I wash his feet)

**Ngcobo : The last time you washed my feet you were 12 years old.
Nibanga no Mongezi ukuwasha izinyawo zami**

(We laugh)

Me : Mongezi always beat me to it

Ngcobo : He did.

(My mother joins us)

MaKheswa : Umsindo owawuba kulendlu. "Ey imina engiwasha ubaba izinyawo" "No you did it yesterday imina namhlanje"



(We laugh)

Me : Ey yah neh wakhula umuntu

Ngcobo : And I'm so proud of you ngane yami.

(I smile)

Me : Liphithawula lakho?

Ngcobo : Nali

(I dry his feet)

Ngcobo : Kodwa umshiyeleni uGqamuza ka Mkhulu?

Me : Use Mzinyathi. Nami bengisafuna ukuhlala nabazali bami nje ngedwa



(They laugh)

Ngcobo : Shuthi awakho ke lama chips

(He opens his bag and takes out NikNaks)

Me : Hawu ngiyabonga baba. Uyabona me why I came alone?

(We laugh)

Ngcobo : Bayaphila kodwa oNondaba?

Me : Yes bayaphila

Ngcobo : That's good



(I massage his feet)

MaKheswa : Angiphake. Seniqedile?

Me : Yes. Uphekeni?

MaKheswa : Ay uzobona usudla

(We laugh)

Me : Hawu Mah

(She stands up and goes into the kitchen)

Ngcobo : Uyaphila ngane yami?



Me : Yes I'm fine

(I smile)

Ngcobo : I want to apologize Sthabile. Izinto engazisho kuwena ngane yami zaba wrong. Ngumzali wakho kwakufanele ngazi kangcono

Me : Cha cha Mapholoba Ungaxolisi baba. Everything happens for a reason I believe.

Ngcobo : Ngaba nephutha. Eqinisweni ukuthi emehlweni ami uyohlale wintombazanyana yami encanewhich is wrong. Uwumama womuzi manje ufanele ukukhulisa umndeneni wakho.

Me : I understand Mapholoba.

Ngcobo : Ngiyabacela ke abanye abazukulu-



(I laugh out loud)

Ngcobo : Abayishumi

Me : 10 Mapholoba?

(We both laugh)

Me : Let me check on my mother

Ngcobo : Okay ngane yami

Me : Amasokisi ngikuthathele?

Ngcobo : Please sthandwa sika baba

Me : Okay



(I go to the kitchen and wrap my arms around my mother. I missed her so much. She laughs)

MaKheswa : Usuzoncela?

(I laugh)

Me : Ha! Upheke idombolo kanti?

(She laughs)

Me : Ongipha kancane

MaKheswa : Sesizodla kodwa



Me : Okay. Ngicela ungibekela amanzi etiyе ke

MaKheswa : Okay my baby.

Sthabile!

(My father calls out)

Me : Yho! I forgot about his socks... Ngiyeza Mapholoba.

(My mother laughs)

MaKheswa : Alapha e drawer

Me : Okay



(I went to their bedroom. We ate

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watched TV and went to bed. The moment I switched off my light I got a call from my husband. He was outside)

Me : Nana ngiyabuya kodwa ksasa. You didn't have to come here

(Zanokuhle and Ndlelenhle are sleeping in the back seat)

Me : Aw pakithi my babies.

**Nyathuko : Bengingeke ngilale ngingakubonanga sthandwa sami.
Woza la phela indoda iqabule**

(I giggle. We kiss)



Nyathuko : Selinjani igazi?

Me : Still there.

Nyathuko : You'll be fine angithi?

Me : Yes nana

Nyathuko : Asambeni siye ekhaya

(I laugh)

Me : No. I thought you were going to Mzinyathi

Nyathuko : uGogo angithi kushone umngani wakhe



Me : Aw bakithi that's sad.

Nyathuko : Ubesemdala kodwa

Me : Nana!

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : What? It's true

Me : Thukeh ukufa akunayo iminyaka

(He sighs)

Nyathuko : I know. Ngicela ukuhamba sthandwa sami lamadoda engakavuki.



Me : But I don't want you to go

Nyathuko : Nami I don't want to go baby but I have to.

Me : No you don't. Solala endlini ka Mongezi

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Ha ha ha uthini kodwa Sthah. Ufuna ngishawe idlozi sthandwa sami? Mhmm?

(He sucks my lower lip)

Me : But angifuni uhambe

Nyathuko : Asilale la emotweni ke

(I giggle)



Me : Are you serious?

Nyathuko : Yeah

Me : Okay ngizohambisa u Zanokuhle no Ndlela endlini ke

(He kisses my forehead)

Nyathuko : Okay

(I went to put Zanokuhle and Ndlela on my bed)

MaKheswa : Sthabile?

(Eish)



Me : Mah?

MaKheswa : Is everything okay?

Me : Yes Mah khona ubaba ka Ndlela

MaKheswa : Did he come with our grandchildren?

Me : Yes naba.

Ngcobo : Bring them here

(I thought he was sleeping)

Me : Balele baba



Ngcobo : Go to your husband. Ngizobalanda lapho bazolala nathi

(I smile)

Me : Okay

MaKheswa : Usheshe Sthabile ay lento yokuma emgaqweni ebusuku

Me : Ngizoshesha Mah

(I run back to my husband. Yes we slept in his car in the back seat. I woke up to a knock on the window)

Sthabile?

(Shit! Shit! It's my father. I sit up quickly)



Me : Baba?... Vula iwindi Thukeh

(I whisper. He shakes his head)

Ngcobo : Nilale la?

(I look at Nyathuko)

Me : Yebo baba

Ngcobo : Kodwa zingane zami niyenzelani lento ikhona indlu ka Mongezi?

(I don't know what to say)

Me : Sizumekile Mapholoba



Ngcobo : Ay ay Sthabile

(I sigh. He is gone. We laugh)

Me : Oh my God my neck is killing me.

Nyathuko : Sorry sthandwa sami

(He kisses my neck)

Nyathuko : Let's go home

(I laugh)

Me : Ubufuna lokho vele. Fine let me go ngiyogeza



(I check the time. It's 06h30 am)

Me : Ngizokwenzela isinkwa

(We laugh)

Nyathuko : No sthandwa sami sodla endlini

Me : Okay

(I kiss his cheek and open the door)

Nyathuko : Sthabile?

Me : Yah baby

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda Mam'Zondi.



(I smile)

Me : I love you too Mancinza Intombi yabuyela esokeni

(We laugh. He pinches my arm.)

Me : Ngibuyela esokeni ngempela usungincinzile

Nyathuko : Isoka lakho phela imina

(I laugh and get out of the car.)

Nyathuko : Usheshe sthandwa sami

Me : Okay nana. I love you



(I say and walk away. I gently open the door. I hear my father complain about me and Nyathuko sleeping in the car)

Me : Ngiyaxolisa baba

Ngcobo : Ay come here

(I laugh and head to their room. There is a pain in my chest. I take a deep breath and continue walking inside their room)

MaKheswa : Nilale emotweni?

(I laugh)

Me : No mama we.....



(I press my chest. The pain is getting worse and stronger. I feel dizzy)

Ngcobo : Sthabile!!!!

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Chapter 48

NARRATED BY NTOKOZO KA SOSIBO-ZONDI

(My brother is going crazy. Sthabile was quickly rushed to the ICU as soon as we got here. We've been sitting here for exactly 6 hours and no one is saying anything.)

Sthenjisiwe : Thuthuh nali i coffee mtakamah

Nyathuko : No I don't want coffee. I want to see my wife. Why bethuli? Huh Ntokozo? Why bengasaphumi lapha?

The logo for SehranMagzine features a stylized blue and white graphic of a person's head and shoulders, possibly representing a character or a specific theme. Below the graphic, the text "SehranMagzine" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

SehranMagzine

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Me : Mfana ka Mah calm down. Uzoba right uMaka Ndlela

Nyathuko : No no no.

(He rubs his face and scratches his head)

Nyathuko : What happened? Yini engiyenze wrong?

(MaKheswa is crying non stop)

Ngcobo : Mfan'wam calm down

Nyathuko : Cha Mapholoba



Mkhuleko : Bafo she is going to be fine.

Nyathuko : I want to believe that but....

(He sits down and digs his fingers in his head)

Me : Thuthuh come on don't do this.

Nyathuko : She was fine Ntoko. U Sthah ube right

Me : I know mfana kaMah I know. Kodwa uzoba right Sthabile is a fighter

Maxwell : Doctor! What's going on?

(We all stand up)

Nyathuko : Where is my wife?



Doctor : Mr Zondi

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your wife is.....

Nyathuko : Ey! Ey! Ungangisangeneli

Doctor : She is alive. Isimo sakhe sibucayi but she is alive

(My brother sighs and rubs his hands together)

Nyathuko : I want to see her

Doctor : Can I talk to you in private?

Nyathuko : Why? Kwenzekeni?



(The doctor looks around)

Me : Khuluma dokotela

Nyathuko : Yes talk. Umndeni wami lo.

Doctor : Please sit down

Nyathuko : No

(Doctor sighs)

Doctor : Okay



Nyathuko : Talk!!!! What is wrong with my wife?

Doctor : We ran some blood tests and lead poisoning was detected.

Nyathuko : What?

Doctor : Lead poisoning is also called plumbism. It's a deleterious effect of a gradual accumulation of lead in body tissues as a result of.....

Nyathuko : Hey hey stop uyithathephi u Sthabile leyonto?

Doctor : Mr Zondi lead can enter drinking water especially where the water has high acidity or low mineral content that corrodes pipes and fixtures.

Nyathuko : Iyalapheka angithi?

Doctor : Yes but.....



Nyathuko : But what?

Doctor : Lead poisoning is the least of our worries. Her heart is damaged. There is a tumor on her heart

(My heart races)

Maxwell : What?

Doctor : Okwamanje kusenzima ukusho imbangela yalelithumba but it's..... It's bad.

(Nyathuko walks towards the door and he comes back. He is losing his mind. He sits down and continues rubbing his face)

Doctor : We need to remove her heart.



No!!!

(We all say except for Nyathuko)

Doctor : Lelithumba lithwele ushevu lingalimaza amanye ama organs. Liyavuza

MaKheswa : Hhawe Jesu!!!

Ngcobo : Ingane yami.

Me : No no no. No!!

Doctor : She needs a heart transplant as soon as possible.

Maxwell : But that's impossible! Lezinto zithatha isikhathi

Doctor : There is nothing else we can do.



Maxwell : How much time do we have?

(Doctor sighs and shakes his head)

Doctor : Angikwazi ukusho okwamanje

Nyathuko : Give her my heart

What!?

(We all ask.)

Maxwell : Thukeh no.



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Chapter 49

NARRATED BY NTOKOZO KA SOSIBO-ZONDI

(What is happening now feels like a terrible dream. I keep looking at the elevator that my brother walked into hours ago.)

Me : Baba he is going to die. He can't do this!

(My father is pacing around with his hands at the back of his neck. Sthenjisiwe is still crying even now. Mkhuleko had to drive Sthabile's parents to my father's house because it's closest to the hospital. MaKheswa really needed to rest she looked like she was going to die so we had to ensure that she goes home and gets some rest)

Maxwell : I know kodwa ungakhathazeki his heart won't match. It's very rare for a female to get a heart from a male donor so let's all calm down.



Me : Yeah yea...

Baby!!

(I turn around. It's my stepmother. My father goes to her and hugs her tightly)

Vee : I'm sorry I took long.

Maxwell : It's okay love I'm just glad you are here.

(They are kissing now and my father's hand is all over Vee's ass. Jeez! Is my father aware that we are still here and the reason we are here? I deliberately drop my keys on the floor just to interrupt them. Vee breaks the kiss and clears her throat. I roll my eyes and pick up my keys)

Vee : Ntoko Siwe.



Me : Hi

Sthenjisiwe : Hey Vee.

Maxwell : Baby he wants to give his heart to Sthabile.

Vee : Where is he now?

Maxwell : I think they are running some tests

Vee : I'm sorry my love I'm so sorry.

(My father shakes his head and rubs his face)

Vee : Did you eat?



Maxwell : Yes we ate.

Vee : Where is Yada and Zanokuhle?

(Even today I still don't know why she calls my nephew "Yada")

Maxwell : At home with Sthabile's parents.

(My husband Smilo and Sthenjisiwe's husband Nqobani walk in. I jump into Smilo's arms)

Me : Mshingila

Smilo : Bhambatha

(Nqobani hugs Sthenjisiwe)



Smilo : Baba Nondaba.

(My father sighs. The last time he looked this broken was when he got a call from our grandmother that our mother had died. No we can't lose our brother. We've lost so much already. I love Sthabile so much but I can't lose my brother. I will fight)

Maxwell : Hey Sosibo niyaphila?

Smilo : Siyaphila baba

(We sit down)

Me : Where did you leave Azande and Samkelo?

Smilo : I left them with my mother. Uphi pho usbali?

Me : I don't know bangene lapha.



Smilo : Where is Maka Ndlela?

Me : Asikaze simbone bayanqaba.

Smilo : That's crazy.

(I sigh)

Me : I know.

(The elevator opens and I quickly stand up. I know that's my brother.)

Me : Thuthuh

Nyathuko : Hey nisekhona.



(He is pressing a cotton wool on his finger)

Me : Sisekhona Thukeh besingeke sikushiye wedwa lana. Let me see your finger

Nyathuko : No bebethatha igazi.

Me : Lisaphuma?

Nyathuko : No

(I take the cotton wool and throw it in the bin. I look at him. He looks like hell. It actually breaks my heart seeing him like this)

Maxwell : Mfan'wam

Nyathuko : Baba



(They all greet him I mean our husbands)

Maxwell : Did you see her?

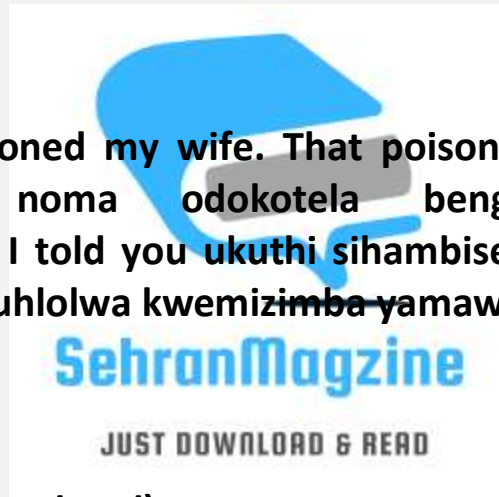
Nyathuko : No bathe ksasa. They actually don't know what they are dealing with okwamanje so....

Sthenjisiwe : Oh nkosi yami.

Nyathuko : Imikhuba yaleyanja ewu Delani yonke le.

Me : What?

Nyathuko : He poisoned my wife. That poison was too strong and dangerous yize noma odokotela bengawubonanga.....Baba uyakhumbula when I told you ukuthi sihambise u Sthah kudokotela after ama results okuhlolwa kwemizimba yamawele?



(My father rubs his forehead)

Nyathuko : Uyabona ke manje kuthiwa saya then babezowubona early lo poison and Sthah wouldn't be lying in that bed as we speak kodwa ke cha akekho owafuna ukungilalela.

Maxwell : My boy we had a funeral to prepare for. Sasingekho isikhathi and Maka Ndlelenhle was fine

Nyathuko : Is it fair ukuthi ngiphinde ngilungisele omunye umngcwabo?

(Gulps)

Nyathuko : Where are my sons?

Me : Home no Bhuti Mkhuleko no Gogo kaZano.



Sthenjisiwe : Thuthuh ngeke you need to get some rest. You look terrible

Maxwell : Yes I think we should all go home and freshen up.

Nyathuko : No

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I think we should all go home and freshen up.

Nyathuko : No no I'm not going anywhere. What if ngiya hamba and u Sthah esale lane e....

(I hug him)

Me : Please don't say that.



Nyathuko : I'm not going. Ngizohlala kulezihlalo kuze kuse

Maxwell : Nyathuko you need to be strong for your children's sake. You know how much Ndlelenhle loves you he loves you more than he loves his mother. Uyakudinga ekhaya

Nyathuko : Kuzofanele efunde ukuphila ngaphandle kwami manje u Ndlelenhle baba.

Maxwell : Nyathuko stop it man!

Nyathuko : I'm serious baba. If those results come back ekhombisa ukuthi inhliziyo yami ikulungele ukuthi ngiyinike u Sthabile ngizokwenza lokho. I'm not going to live without her I'm not.

(He sits down and cracks his fingers)



Me : Ngicela udle ke at least

(He lifts up his head and looks at all of us)

Nyathuko : I don't understand yazi. Lezinto eningitshela zona ukudla kanye nokulala. Is any of it going to wake Sthabile up from that bed? Kuzomuvusa u Maka Nasisipho? Huh? Baba? Sthenji? Ntoko kuzomuvusa sisi wami?

(Sthenjisiwe shakes her head)

Nyathuko : Ngicela nihambe niyosiza uMchumane ngezingane zami.

Me : We can't leave you here Thukeh

(He shakes his head)

Nyathuko : Ngiyacela.



(There is a doctor coming. Nyathuko stands up immediately.)

Nyathuko : Doctor

Doctor : Hi everyone

Hi

(We greet back)

Nyathuko : And? Am I....

(Nyathuko clears his throat)



Doctor : Yes Mr Zondi you are a match. Your heart will fit perfectly

Nyathuko : Yes! Thank you.... Thank you so much.

(He is happy he is the only one who's happy here right now. Sthenjisiwe leans against the wall and slowly goes down. My father slowly sits down and I feel like I'm standing with my head and not my feet.)

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(I couldn't sleep a wink. I was crying all night. I'm feeling thirsty now. I need water. I get out of bed and head downstairs. I stop when I see my brother playing with Ndlelenhle on the couch. I lean against the staircase railings and cross my arms over my chest while I watch them. They are fighting over chips. I smile)

Nyathuko : No leave my chips. Uyangiluma nje wena.

(Ndlelenhle bites his nose. They are both laughing like everything is fine. I sigh and make my way to them)



Nyathuko : Buka Ndlela ay ngalapho. Buka la

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(My nephew looks at me. He is biting on his lower lip. There is saliva all over his chin)

Me : Uyaqhumisa u Ndlela

Nyathuko : Yeah that took him long enough. Unekhanda eliqinile lo

(I sigh and take Ndlelenhle from him. I sit down)

Me : Yah khehla. Thukeh doesn't want you to give you chips?

(He points at the chips with a sad face. He wants to cry but he looks so cute. I kiss him and laugh. I snatch a packet of chips from my brother and give it to Ndlelenhle)

Me : Where is Zanokuhle?



Nyathuko : He is still sleeping. Ukhathele u mfan'wam.

Me : Yeah. Bengithi senihambile naya e Ballito

Nyathuko : No uthe u Nondaba sihlale kodwa oMapholoba baye khona e Ballito.

Me : Ngizwile and why are you up so early? Uthe udokotela kumele uphumule

Nyathuko : Ngisazophumula isikhathi eside kabi

(I know what he means and it's breaking my heart.)

Me : Thukeh stop it!!



(He sighs and throws himself back on the couch)

Me : Look at him Thuthu. Look at how he looks at you. Useyakwazi ukuthi uwena ubaba wakhe so why do you want to leave him?

(He shakes his head)

Nyathuko : Sengisenzile isinqumo Ntokozo and nothing is going to change my mind.

Me : Do you really think ubaba uzosayina amaphepha okuthi wena ubulawe? Esayine ukuthi kubulawe inkosana yakhe? Indodana yakhe eyodwa nje vo? Do you really think he would do that?

(His big eyes widen)

Nyathuko : What do you mean?



Me : Thukeh you know that we all love Stabile simuthanda kakhulu but awukwazi ukuphoqeela ubaba ukuthi ekhethe between his only son and his son's wife. That's unfair Thuthu.

Nyathuko : You want my children to grow up without a mother like we did?

Me : This is different!

Nyathuko : No it isn't Ntokozo. Usukhohliwe ukuthi u Nomcebo wesiphethe kanjani? You want the same thing to happen to my sons?

Me : Hhaibo wena awufani no Baba!

(Who the hell am I kidding? My brother was exactly like my father. Bringing different girls into his room but he changed after Sthabile. He changed so much. What if we lose Maka Ndlelenhle and he goes back to his old lifestyle? They say a leopard can't change its spots)

Nyathuko : Do you really believe what you just said? Ntokozo sobabili siyazi ukuthi lendoda oyibona phambi kwakho yakhiwa u Sthabile and if anything happens to her konke lokhu kuzophela nya and then what? kwenzekeni ngo Zanokuhle no Ndlelenhle?

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Me : What about us? Usicabangelile thina before you made all the decisions that you made?

(His Adam apple sinks down his throat)

Me : You didn't.

(I stand up and go to my room with my nephew. I find Sthenjisiwe sitting on my bed staring at the wall)

Me : Siwe

Sthenjisiwe : He won't be able to live without a heart.

(I sigh. She lifts up her eyes to me. Tears are streaming down her face. She aggressively wipes her nose with her hand)



Sthenjisiwe : He will die right? Our brother will give his heart to Maka Ndlela yena esale engenayo inhliziyo mase eyafa. Nginamanga?

Me : You are right. He will die and save Maka Ndlela

(She shakes her head)

Sthenjisiwe : Waze wayimosha Impilo yethu u Delani. I know he is dead but I wish ngingaya ethuneni lakhe ngiligumbe ngiphinde futhi ngimubulale ngalezi ezami izandla.

Me : Usuku oluqalekisiwe okwazalwa ngalo u Delani. I hope he is burning in hell

(I put Ndlelenhle on the bed)

Sthenjisiwe : U Babah Uthi u Thukh akafuni u Maka Ndlela ebe kwi waiting list.



Me : I know. She doesn't have time.

Sthenjisiwe : How can our government allow something like this? Kubulawe abantu bephila? No!

Me : Umthetho omusha kanti futhi awuphoqi muntu. U Thukeh uzenzele yena isinqumo and lokho kungikhombisa ukuthi akanendaba nomunye umuntu besides his wife.

Sthenjisiwe : Exactly! And you know what's worse? Ukuthi noma kungathiwa wonke lomthetho ubungekho but u Thukeh ubengeke ephile ngaphandle kuka Sthabile.

Me : I know but we have to do something. I'm sure there are other options.



Sthenjisiwe : Ubazwile odokotela they said there is nothing else that they can do.

Me : No

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(Later that day I was sitting with Dr Ncube in his office)

Dr Ncube : You don't get it Mrs Sosibo.

Me : No I do but ufuna ukungitshela ukuthi ayikho enye indlela?

Dr Ncube : Yes there are other options but they are risky.

Me : How?

Dr Ncube : Singalihlinza ithumba but the problem is uma nje lingathinteka kancane wonke loshevu—olithwele ungathichekela kwamanye ama organs.



Me : Can you at least try?

Dr Ncube : It's too late. Ukube mhlampe le tumor ibonakale kusenesikhathi bekukhona esingakwenza but now it's beyond our control. Transplant is what she needs right now.

(My head is pounding)

Me : Can she speak now?

Dr Ncube : Not today. Isimo sakhe siyaguquguquka

Me : Ey fuck Delani.

Dr Ncube : Excuse me?

(I shake my head)



Me : Nothing. Dokotela he is not dead my brother is not brain dead so nizoyenza kanjani yonke lento?

Dr Ncube : We have a machine called CR69-SONA we will use it to stop blood or oxygen supply to his brain. When his brain is starved of oxygen he will....

Me : He will die.

Dr Ncube : He will be declared brain dead but still on life support.

Me : Nizomubulala! Just say it!

Dr Ncube : Mrs Sosibo I understand that you are upset but what your brother wants to do for his wife is now allowed and very much legal. Mina nje ngenza umsebenzi wami. Look we do offer counseling and I think you.....



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Me : No no! I don't need counseling. Dr Ncube uyabuqonda kodwa ubunzima balento or you are just happy that isibhedlela senu sizokwenza loluhlelo okukuqala ngqa?

Dr Ncube : I'm aware but asiqali ukwenza uhlelo lwe transplant. Mrs Sosibo our hospital is one of the best hospitals in the country. We have high experienced surgeons so siyayazi into esiyenzayo.

Me : Uma umsebenzi wenu uncomeka ngaleyondlela so why can't you help Sthabile ngaphandle kokuthi kuze kufe umfowethu?

Dr Ncube : Your brother understands isimo sikankosikazi wakhe and he understands that there is nothing else engenziwa. This was his decision and our job is to support his decision. We were worried about the size of his heart but to our surprise ivele yamatcher ngqo.

(I nod)



Dr Ncube : We need to run more tests but because this is an emergency sizoqinisekisa ukuthi ~~at least~~ in 3 days from today ibe isiyenziwe i operation.

(Tears roll down my face)

Me : I can't lose my brother. Please do something

(He sighs)

Dr Ncube : Mr Zondi made it clear ukuthi akafuni sizame eminye imizamo engabeka Impilo ka Mrs Zondi engcupheni. Now imagine if we go ahead with the heart surgery and try to remove the tumor without Mr Zondi's permission and then we lose Mrs Zondi.

Me : Jesus (I mutter)

Dr Ncube : Engasibophisa u Mr Zondi. Singavalwa nokuvalwa lesibhedlela

Me : Then let me talk to him.



Dr Ncube : I wish you all the best with that.

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Chapter 50

NARRATED BY NTOKOZO KA SOSIBO - ZONDI

(It wasn't easy to convince Nyathuko to allow the hospital to remove the tumor but he finally agreed. The operation is tonight. I can't even eat. Nyathuko made it clear that he doesn't want to talk. Sthenjisiwe and I are in the kitchen. We are both leaning against the counter staring into space. Ndlelenhle is with Nyathuko in his room. Zanokuhle went to visit Nqabayethu. My father is at work. Nyathuko walks in and opens the fridge. He is making food for Ndlelenhle.)

Me : Usevukile?



Nyathuko : Mhmmm

(Nyathuko's eyes are swollen. He is a mess. I've never seen him eating proper food ever since Sthabile went to the hospital)

Me : Thukeh please eat

Nyathuko : Angifuni lutho angifuni ngisho amanzi Ntokozo.

(I sigh. He stops mixing Ndlela's food)

Nyathuko : Please assure me ukuthi ngeke ngizole ngalento enithe ngiyenze

(I gulp)

Nyathuko : Where is Gogo?



Sthenjisiwe : Ubhuti Mkhuleko umlandile. Maka Ndlela's parents are coming later

Nyathuko : Ngicela nifonele ekhaya nitshela obaba omdala beshise impepho. Nitshela uMapholoba ehambe eyothandaza entabeni. I don't care tell them to do whatever they have to do ngoba ngibafunge oBhambatha uma nje angase kubekhona okwenzeka ku Sthabile namhlanje.

(He shakes his head and crosses his fingers)

Nyathuko : Ngeke ngiphile.

(He takes Ndlela's food and walks away. My eyes closed . God how did we get here?)

(Later Nyathuko got a call to rush to the hospital and two hours later we followed. Nyathuko was nowhere. I looked around but I couldn't find him)



Maxwell : Doctor what's going on?

Ngcobo : Kwenzenjani ngempela? What happened to my daughter?

Dr Walker : Mr Ngobo please take a seat

Me : Doctor what happened?

Dr Walker : I'm sorry but the heart surgery wasn't successful. The time that was set for Mrs Zondi to wake up has passed. We need her to wake up.

MaKheswa : Oh moya oyingcwele

Dr Walker : We need to remove her heart tonight. Mr Zondi is ready

(Dr Walker says and walks away. My father put his arms over his head. My eyes widen. The elevator opens and Nyathuko walks out. He is wearing a hospital gown already. He smiles. I broke down)

Maxwell : Thukeh don't do it ngiyakucela mfan'wam. Please don't do it

(Nyathuko shakes his head)

Nyathuko : Nondaba lalela baba I...

Maxwell : No no you don't have to.

Nyathuko : Baba you need to understand why I'm doing this. I'm doing this for my sons for myself. Sonke siyazi ukuthi u Sthabile uzokwazi ukuphila ngaphandle kwami but mina ngeke ngikwazi ukuphila ngaphandle kwakhe so I rather die kuphile yena.

(I cry even more)



Nyathuko : I have to do this. I have to save my wife's life ngiyaxolisa kakhulu. Ntokozo? Sthenjisiwe? Ngiyaxolisa kakhulu. Kodwa sengiphilile mina manje. I've done everything la emhlabeni I loved ngakhala

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ngajabula.....Ngaba nendodana. Ngishiya inzalo yami la emhlabeni but angimshiya uNdlelenhle ngoba ngingamfuni but ngimshiya ngoba I love him so much. I know what it was like growing up without a

mother and I don't want my sons to go through the same thing

(Sthenjisiwe shakes her head)

Sthenjisiwe : You know that's not true. Deep down you know the reason why you are doing this angithi? Thukeh do you love her that much ukuthi usungamufela mfana ka Mah?

(He licks his bottom lip and presses his lips together exposing his dimples. He is healthy he is not sick but he is just choosing to die. Mkhuleko walks in with Zanokuhle and Vee follows holding Ndlelenhle. Nyathuko smiles)



Ndlelenhle : Unke

(Nyathuko blinks rapidly)

Nyathuko : Makhosana ka baba

(Dr Walker is coming)

Dr Walker : Mr Zondi I'm sorry to interrupt but we don't have much time. We need to go

Nyathuko : I know... Can.... Can I please talk to my boys?

(He stutters)

Dr Walker : Of course.



Zanokuhle : Babah why are you wearing this thing?

(Nyathuko clears his throat and puts both Ndlelenhle and Zanokuhle on his lap. Ndlelenhle is playing with his ear.)

Nyathuko : Lalela Nkosana ka Babah u Babah kufanele ehambe.

(Zanokuhle frowns)

Zanokuhle : Go? Where are you going?

(Nyathuko swallows)

Nyathuko : I'll come back ngelinye ilanga okwamanje ngicela ungithembise mfan'wam ukuthi uzomunakekela umfowenu. Please promise me that you will take care of your mother as well. Ngithembise ukuthi nizomhlonipha uMah angithi ngisho sengihambile?



(Mkhuleko groans in pain)

Zanokuhle : But mommy is sick..... Daddy where are you going?

Nyathuko : Promise me

Zanokuhle : I promise Babah

Nyathuko : Ngiyanithanda bafana bami ngenhliziyo yami yonke.

(He kisses his boys. Ndlelenhle is laughing. He is just happy to see his father but what he doesn't know is that he is seeing him for the last time)

Zanokuhle : I love you too

(Nyathuko heaves a sigh)



Nyathuko : Okay I need to go. Batheni u Nqabayethu no Thalente? Baseza?

Me : They don't know.

Nyathuko : Good.

(I sniff)

Zanokuhle : Uncle Nqabayethu disappeared. We were playing and he disappeared.

(No one understands Zanokuhle and what he is saying right now is the least of our worries. Nyathuko stands up)



Nyathuko : Ngiyanithanda nonke. Nginithanda ngenhliziyo yami yonke

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(We hugged each other for the last time. I don't want to let him go. This is my only brother. Mama's first born and I was born after him. He loved me oh yes he did. My brother lived and he loved indeed. I finally let go of him)

Nyathuko : Mchumane please remember to pray for me Mah

(MaKheswa is weeping. Sthenjisiwe cries out loud)

Sthenjisiwe : Please don't go

(Sthenjisiwe grabs Nyathuko's arm)

Sthenjisiwe : Please don't leave us.

(Nyathuko cupped her face and smiled)



Nyathuko : You asked me if I love her that much? The answer is yes. Yes sisi wami I love her that much. I'm doing this to save the woman that I love with all of my heart. A woman that I'll never be able to live without. Even if Sthabile died today before I saved her. I don't think I was going to see usuku lwakusasa. Sthabile is my definition of love there is no me without her. Ngakho ngicela ningivumele ngihambe

(Sthenjisiwe goes down on her knees and screams)

Nyathuko : Ngianithanda

(A single tear rolls out of the corner of his eye. Dr Walker squeezes his shoulder. He walks inside the elevator. He stares at Ndlelenhle until the elevator closes. He is gone for good this time)

Dr Walker : Family you are allowed to be present during the operation.

Maxwell : No



(They all say no. They are all crying now even Zanokuhle and Ndlelenhle are crying. I can't watch them anymore)

Me : Doctor I want to go.

(He nods)

Dr Walker : Come with me

(I follow Dr Walker. We took 3 elevators before we got here.)

Dr Walker : You are not allowed to go in but you can watch everything from here

Me : Okay

(I watch through a huge glass window. My brother is now naked. His eyes are still open. I don't know what they are doing to him. I see his eyes closing and the world starts closing in on me. The earth must be bleeding. Darkness falls all around me. My breathing grows louder. I take a step back with my hand covering my mouth and tears streaming down my face. This is it.)

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Chapter 51

NARRATED BY NTOKOZO KA SOSIBO-ZONDI

(The elevator opens and I walk out. I stand outside the elevator and scan my eyes around. MaKheswa and Ngcobo are praying for God knows what. Ngcobo has a Bible. His hands are raised in the air and his knees are going up and down like he is seeing God coming from that roof. He is praying in tongues together with his wife. Deep down I want to tell them to shut the fuck up. Deep down I want to tell them fuck their God and fuck that prayer. Smilo stands up as soon as our eyes lock. From what I see he doesn't know if he should come to me or sit back down.)

Smilo : Maka Azande



Me : He is gone.

(I say walking towards them. My father punches the wall. Sthenjisiwe is on the floor not that she fainted but sometimes her body can't take bad news and she just falls. Nqobani is sitting on the floor with her. He is squeezing her in his arms. Mkhuleko walks out with Ndlelenhle and Zanokuhle. Vee is trying to comfort my father. I'm just glad that my husband knows when I don't need him near me and right now I

don't. I don't need anyone to tell me that it's going to be okay or quote Bible verses for me. I just want to deal with my brother's death my way. My father walks out. Vee comes and stands next to me)

Vee : You are brave Ntokozo. So you saw everything?

Me : No but I saw him dying.

Vee : Where was Sthabile?

Me : I didn't see her.



Vee : Oh my Goodness imagine her waking up and finding out that her husband is dead because he gave her his heart. That is.... Jesus!

(I'm trying to process what Vee is saying. God who is going to tell Sthabile that the love of her life is gone but he left her with his heart? This is insane)

Me : Mhmmmm

Vee : Ntoko I'm so sorry. I'm sorry about your broth.....

(I walk away from her. I don't need this right now)

Me : Sthenjisiwe isikhathi sokukhala sesiphelile. Izingane zika mfowethu ziyasidinga



(I mean it. I'm done crying. After my mother's death I realized that crying really doesn't change a thing. My father considers me stronger than Sthenjisiwe. Even when my brother lost his twins he said Ntoko you will come with us not Sthenjisiwe because she will die when she gets there. I've always been stronger than Sthenjisiwe ever since we were young and sometimes my mother would say "unenhliziyu embi Ntoko kwakumele ube indoda" and I would just laugh. Sthabile's parents can't even look at me. This is not their fault so I don't understand why they look guilty or is it me? Do they think I'm angry at them or that I'm blaming them for my brother's death? No I'm not.)

Sthenjisiwe : He is gone Ntoko. Ngeke ngiphinde ngimubone

(Her nose is blocked and swollen now)

Me : We need to let the family know

(My phone rings)

Me : Hello?



Miss Zondi Hi. You are speaking to Nancy from Ndaba Media I just wanted to find out how the operation is going.

(She says. I look at my phone screen)

Me : What the fuck?

Nancy : Miss Zo...

Me : It's Mrs Sosibo

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not Miss Zondi. And no! No comment! Nx!

(I click my tongue and hang up. My father walks back in)

Maxwell : Please switch off your cellphones.



Me : How dare you baba?

Maxwell : I don't know how they got hold of the story. Izintatheli zigcwele lapha emnyango and everyone is looking at me

Me : What?

Maxwell : I can't deal with this right now

Me : Ubufuna kona ang.....

(I pause and grab a newspaper from the table near me)

**Article : BREAKING NEWS : NDABA MEDIA & ADVERTISING CEO'S SON
NYATHUKO ZONDI DIES.**



(I read the article with my eyes wide open)

Me : What the fuck? Baba! Buka i Mabaso Media ukuthi ibhaleni.

**(I give my father the newspaper and grab another one. This one also
has Nyathuko's picture. I read the newspaper headline that's written
in bold font)**

Article : THE SON OF WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN MR NDLABENHLE MAXWELL ZONDI HAS DIED SOON AFTER DONATING HIS HEART TO HIS BELOVED WIFE.

Me : Bukani ne City Journal ibhaleni? Aibo! Afike nini lama phephandaba?

Sthenjisiwe : Siwafice la kade sifika

Maxwell : This is false information.



Me : What false information? Thukhen is dead baba.

Maxwell : But they released these stories before he died before I released a statement and for that I'm going to take legal action against them.

Me : Maybe you need to take legal action against your company as well because ngiqeda ukuthola ucingo oluvela kubona!

Maxwell : What?

Me : Bengicabanga ukuthi sivumelene ukuthi ifihlwe yonke lento njengesifiso sika Thukeh but no! You told your journalists izindaba zethu! This was supposed to be confidential baba!

Maxwell : I did not speak to my journalists about this.



Me : You did. Baba usukhohliwe ukuthi how much you love attention?

Maxwell : Hey Ntokozo!!!

Me : Usayine amaphepha ukuthi u Thukeh efe. You killed my brother because you wanted attention!

Maxwell : You don't mean that.

Ngcobo : Mntanami please calm down. Nondaba asehlise umsindo

(He squeezes my father's shoulder. I sit down and Smilo holds my hand)

Maxwell : Ntokozo?

(I ignore him)



Smilo : Dali ubaba ukhuluma nawe

Me : Akangiyeke bandla

Maxwell : I don't want to fight with you ndodakazi yami not today. Ngicela sihloniphe umfowenu indodana yami. I'm sorry ngalezinto enizibona emaphepheni. I really had no clue.

Me : Fine.

(He sighs)

Vee : Are you okay?

(She wraps her arm around him. I roll my eyes.)

Maxwell : I need to release a statement.



Vee : Yeah.

(Ngcobo is looking at them. I'm sure he wonders why my father chose an Indian lady?)

Me : Kumele sifonele oKhulu ekhaya sibatshela ukuthi u Thukeh ushonile.

(My father rubs his face)

Maxwell : Yah

(MaKheswa cries all over again. The truth is even though Sthabile might survive after the transplant but Nyathuko's death hit them. My brother was loved and life without him will be difficult for all of us.)

Me : Ukephi ubhuti Mkhuleko nezingane?



Maxwell : In the private reception downstairs.

Me : I'm not sure ukuthi kusele isikhathi esingakanani before beqede leya operation but ubethe loyadokotela uzosibiza sibone u Thukeh mase beqedile.

Ngcobo : Ay angisathandi abazukulu bami behlale kulendawo.

Maxwell : Mapholoba is right. They are still young bayoze behogele imimoya emibi. They need to go home now

Me : Shuthi sohamba nabo no Sthenji

Maxwell : Nizoya e Ballito. Kumele kubekhona abantu manje emzini ka Thukeh. Nifike niqoqe nezingubo zika Thukeh.

(I wonder who will sit on the mattress since Sthabile is here. I wonder if she will be able to attend the funeral)



Me : Okay

Maxwell : Okunye sokhuluma mengifika.

(Dr Ncube is coming)

Dr Ncube : Hi

Maxwell : Doctor

Ngcobo : How is my daughter?

Dr Ncube : Uvukile

Me : Ngempela?



Dr Ncube : Yes you can come and see her now.

MaKheswa : Ooh! Ngiyabonga ngonyama yezulu.

(It's sad because we can't celebrate with them. Mkhuleko walks in. I take Ndlelenhle from him)

Me : He is wet.

Mkhuleko : Yeah

Me : Ngizomushintsha emotweni.

Zanokuhle : Aunt Ntokozo I want to sleep.

Me : Okay khehla. Let's go and see your mother first.

Maxwell : Uthini u Zano?



Me : Useyazela. Let's go khona ngizobahambisa

(We follow Dr Ncube. My knees are hitting each other. I'm feeling weak. Sthabile's father notices.)

Ngcobo : Mlethe lana umzukulu Ndodakazi

Me : Ngiyabonga baba. Umanzi kodwa

Ngcobo : It's okay.

Smilo : Maka Azande maybe we need to sit down kancane sobuye sibalandele.

Me : No I'm fine.



Dr Ncube : You can go in. Okwamanje she can't speak but she is fine and uzonizwa menikhuluma naye.

Maxwell : Okay. Please don't let those journalists in.

Dr Ncube : No problem.

Me : Dr Ncube?

Dr Ncube : Mrs Sosibo

Me : Umzimba kamfowethu kwenzenzekani ngawo?

Dr Ncube : Uhmhhh.....

(Something vibrates in his pocket)



Dr Ncube : I'm sorry but I really need to rush to the OR. Doctor Nkosi will answer all of your questions. Please excuse me

Me : Okay

(He walks away. We wait for the door to open and we walk in)

Maxwell : Aibo!

(What now? I slowly lift up my eyes. There is a man sitting on a chair next to Sthabile's bed. He is holding her hand with his head down. He is actually pressing his lips on Sthabile's hand. I must be losing my mind. I close my eyes and open them. I rub them because clearly there is something wrong with them)

Zanokuhle : Babah

(The man smiles and stands up. My eyes widen. It's him. He is still wearing the hospital gown. Oh my God! it's him. It's him! My brother is alive)



Me : Thukeh?

(He smiles)

Nyathuko : The heart surgery worked. She woke up..... Sthah woke up before my operation.

MaKheswa : Ngempela uNkulunkulu wami uyaphila.

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Chapter 52

A MONTH LATER



(To God be the Glory. I don't know how I will ever thank God for what he did for me. I'm back home alive. I'm still weak but I'm fine. My husband is here for me as always. Nqabayethu is missing)

Me : Ouch Nana!

Nyathuko : Sorry sthandwa sami.

(He is cleaning my incision)

Me : uNqabayethu namanje lutho?

Nyathuko : Yeah he is still missing. Ay udabule amafu u Nqaba

Me : Hhai Thukeh wena.



Nyathuko : I'm serioussthandwa sami. Ushise indlu yakhe and his cars.

Me : Musa is also worried shame. How is Nomzamo?

Nyathuko : Baby ngihlale ngilana nje mina

Me : Not all the time.

Nyathuko : She will be fine. Somthola uNqabayethu

Me : And hopefully you'll find him alive.

Nyathuko : Done.

Me : Thank you Nana.

Nyathuko : Awufuni ukuyodla nami ezansi?

Me : I do baby but ngikhathele



Nyathuko : Woza ngizokuqukula

Me : Ngizozihambela Nana it's okay.

Nyathuko : Let me go and wash my hands khona sizohamba

(He goes into the bathroom. I slowly get out of bed. I need my socks. I open the first drawer)

Me : No not here...and then? What is this?

(There is a newspaper. It's talking about how Nyathuko donated his heart to me)

Me : Baby?



Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami ngiyeza.

(He walks out of the bathroom)

Nyathuko : Hawu baby wenzani manje?

Me : Thukena yini le?

(He takes the newspaper and throws it in the bin)

Nyathuko : Nothing uyabazi nje abantu bamaphepha banamanga. Kuthiwa ngishonile angithi lapha?

Me : Yes but what I don't understand is why would they lie about something like that?



Nyathuko : Ufuna ngithini ke manje Sthah sthandwa sami?

Me : No ukuthi nje angiyizwa lento abayishoyo

Nyathuko : Okay fine. I wanted to give you my heart

Me : What?

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : I'm joking. There were rumours about me wanting to donate my heart to you.

Me : That's ridiculous.

Nyathuko : You think so?

Me : Of course. What do you even mean?



Nyathuko : Kuthiwa ngangifuna kusinde wena kufe mina?

Me : That's crazy! Ihlukephi ke leyonto nokuzibulala? Ihlukephi leyonto nalento eyenziwa u Nkazimulo?

Nyathuko : Yah. No don't worry sthandwa sami.

Me : Are you okay?

Nyathuko : Yeah yeah I'm fine Mam'Zondi. Let's go

(He lifts me up and carries me downstairs)

Zanokuhle : Mommy!



(Zanokuhle and Ndlelenhle both leave their toys and run to us. Zanokuhle gets to us first)

Ndlelendle : Unke!!

(He cries and throws himself on the floor. Ndlelenhle hates defeat)

Nyathuko : Ngenzeni mina Ndlelendle? u Zano nje okushiye

(We laugh. He is kicking and screaming on the floor. I laugh)

Me : Put me down Nana. Liyabhubha

Zanokuhle : He is crying because he can't run

Me : Hhapo! Woza mfana ka Mah



(He stands up. I open my arms for him and he runs to me. He hugs my leg)

Me : Yes baby. Wafika ku Mah u Ndlela

Nyathuko : Don't lift him up baby uzothunukala. Come here boy boy

(Ndlelendle quickly shakes his head)

Ndlelendle : No!

(He screams while wiping his tears. We all laugh)

Nyathuko : Aibo why are you angry at me? Udinelwe mina angabe udinelwa ubhuti wakho

Ndlelenhle : No!



Nyathuko : No yani? Uyahlanya wena

(He lifts up his arm for me to pick him up)

Me : Kodwa mfana ka mah uyisdudla kangaka. Boy boy I can't lift you up.

Nyathuko : Woza

(He lifts up his arms.)

Me : See? He is not angry anymore

(Nyathuko lifts him up. We go and sit on the couch)

Zanokuhle : Babah I have homework



Nyathuko : Okay. I'll help you... Uzodlani sthandwa sami?

Me : Ice cream

Nyathuko : No

Me : Thukeh you can't break my heart now. Izovele ime nse mase uyaboshwa.

(He laughs and goes into the kitchen)

Nyathuko : u Mzet akasafoni ke manje

Me : Was he supposed to call you?

Nyathuko : Yah. Angithi they got a few leads today



Me : What if Nqabayethu is in jail?

Nyathuko : No that's not possible.

Me : Pho uphi Thukeh?

Nyathuko : Unezitha u Nqaba

Zanokuhle : Uncle Nqaba gave me his gun.

Me : What?

Zanokuhle : We were doing a roleplay and he ran away. Aunt Nomzamo was crying

Me : Okay boy boy. Thatha leyamoto izowisa ubhuti wakho. Thukeh you were saying something



Nyathuko : Nqaba has enemies maybe bamuthumbile somewhere.

Me : Bashisa indlu yakhe pho? And his cars?

Nyathuko : Yeah.

Zanokuhle : Uncle Nqaba is in heaven now mommy.

Me : No baby

Zanokuhle : I know he is in heaven. I saw him in my dreams. He was drowning in the river

(Hhaibo! What is Zanokuhle saying?)



Me : Thukena do you hear what Zanokuhle is saying?

Nyathuko : Uthini?

Me : Woza Nana

(Nyathuko is coming)

Nyathuko : Uh

Me : Zano tell Babah who you saw in your dreams?

Zanokuhle : Uncle Nqaba. He is in heaven now Babah

(Nyathuko and I look at each other)



Nyathuko : Maybe it was just a dream mfan'wami.

(Zanokuhle shakes his head)

Zanokuhle : No daddy he is gone. He left his Ghetto King

(I clear my throat)

Me : He will come back

(I brush his back. I really hope Nqabayethu comes back alive)

Me : Nana let me help you in the kitchen

Nyathuko : No no I'll dish up sthandwa sami.

Me : Okay



(There is someone at the door. Zanokuhle runs to open the door)

Zanokuhle : Aunt Ntokozo! It's aunt Ntokozo

(Ntokozo walks in. I smile)

Me : Hey Ntoko

Ntoko : Mfazi ka bhuti wami

Me : How are you? Come here

(She comes and hugs me)

Ntoko : Thuthuh niyaphila?



Nyathuko : Sisi wami yeah siyaphila.

Me : You came alone?

Ntoko : Yes Siwe is working double shift. Ngithe angidlule nginibone

Me : Oh man! Thank you

(She lifts up Zanokuhle first and kisses him. He puts him down and lifts up Ndlelenhle)

Ntokozo : Hello Ndlela hello baby

(Ndlelenhle laughs)

Nyathuko : We are eating. Come and help me



(We laugh)

Ntokozo : Okay. Aibo

Sponsored

I thought I'll find Gogoh here uthe uzoza nje

Me : Yeah tomorrow.

Ntokozo : Oh okay. Zano please go and fetch Ndlela's towel khona ngizomubeletha boy boy

Zanokuhle : Okay

(Nyathuko and Ntokozo go into the kitchen.)



Ntokozo : Lutho ubhuti Ngabayethu?

Me : Aibo lutho. We were just talking about him ngoba ungena nje

Ntokozo : Ayngeke I don't think he is still alive wherever he is.

(Nyathuko comes back and sits next to me. His hands are all over me now. He is kissing me)

Ntokozo : I tried to call his girlfriend but she didn't pick up

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda yezwa Sthabile?

(I smile)

Me : I love you too Nana.



(He kisses my lips. Ntokozo laughs)

Ntokozo : Aibo Thukeh seniyaqabulana lapho I thought you asked me to help you.

Nyathuko : Ngiyeza

Ntokozo : Ay qhubeka uqabule umfazi wakho lapho.

(Zanokuhle comes back with a big towel and gives it to Ntokozo)

Ntokozo : Ufonile uKhulu?

Nyathuko : No why?



Ntokozo : No she called me earlier and asked me ukuthi usenjani u Maka Ndlela wathi anisaghamuki.

Nyathuko : Hawu but I told them ukuthi Sthah is still recovering and sizozama e right.

Ntokozo : Yeah I told her kodwa uyamazike uKhulu mase ebalisa.

Nyathuko : Ebalisela ini? Aibo.

(He is playing with my hand. He kisses it)

Me : I'll call her later

Nyathuko : Nkosana ka baba go and take your homework

Zanokuhle : Okay daddy.....wooo! your phone is ringing.

Nyathuko : Ubani?



Zanokuhle : Ze...ay I don't know Babah. Mi

(He gives Nyathuko his phone)

Nyathuko : Oh u Mzet... Sho Zet

(Nyathuko stands up)

Nyathuko : What? Kephi?

Zanokuhle : Uyabonake Mah? Uncle Nqaba is dead.

Me : Shhh! Awuthule Zanokuhle

Nyathuko : Okay okay I'm coming.



(Nyathuko puts his phone in his pocket)

Me : Yinindaba Nana?

Nyathuko : Damn! uNqabayethu

Me : Wenzeni Thukeh?

Nyathuko : Nqabayethu is dead.

(My eyes widen)

Ntokozo : Hhaibo Nyathuko!

Nyathuko : Yeah yeah. I... I need to go to Verulam. Ntokozo please stay with my wife



Ntokozo : Yah yah of course. Go

(Nyathuko kisses my cheek)

Me : Go Nana.

(He runs upstairs and comes back with his jacket and his car keys. He is talking to someone over the phone)

Nyathuko : Yah he called me. Thalente ikephi lapho?

(Yooo! I can't believe this)

Nyathuko : Liphi i bridge? Okay okay. I'm coming

Ntokozo : Bathini Thuthuh?



Nyathuko : Bathole isdumbu lapha emanzini e Verulam.

Me : Jesus!!

Ntokozo : Yho!

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami ngiyabuya.

Me : Okay Babah. Call me okay?

Nyathuko : I will.

(He kisses me)

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda



Me : Love you too baby.

(He kisses Zanokuhle and Ndlelenhle's cheeks)

Nyathuko : Sisi wami

(He hugs Ntokozo)

Ntokozo : I'll stay with them relax. Ufone

Nyathuko : Okay..... Sthah?

Me : Bye nana

(He opens the door and walks out. Zanokuhle seems frozen next to me)



Me : Hhaibo! Hhaibo! I can't believe this. U Nqabayethu akasekho?

Ntokozo : Aibo Sthabile! Nami angikholwa

Zanokuhle : I want to sleep mommy

(Oh my God! I've forgotten how much Zankuhle loved Nqabayethu)

Me : Boy boy are you okay?

Zanokuhle : I want to sleep

(His eyes welled up with tears. Oh my goodness)

Ntokozo : Eish! Maybe Thukeh shouldn't have told us that in front of him



Me : Zano listen baby. Uncle Nqabayethu is not dead he is not dead.

(Tears run down his face. I wrap my arms around him)

Me : I'm so sorry my baby. I'm sorry boy boy

(I want to cry too. I've never seen my son this sad)

Ntokozo : Maka Ndlela please don't cry. Angifuni ubuyele esbhedle....Jesus! Where is the remote?

(Nqabayethu's story is now all over the news)

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Chapter 53



(I constantly feel depressed after my heart surgery and tonight it's worse. Maybe it's because my husband is not here. He did call me and he told me that he was going to be late. He confirmed that the body that was found in Verulam is Nqabayethu's body. His family said they will wait for the DNA results. My medication kicks in.)

(I don't know how much I slept but Nyathuko is back now and I think he just came back now. He is busy opening my legs)

Nyathuko : Baby?

(He kisses me)

Nyathuko : I need you Sthabile

(I open my eyes and he is staring into my eyes. His eyes are bleeding nothing but pain)



Nyathuko : I need you mamah.

(He says while staring into my eyes but I can feel his dick touching my clit. He presses his forehead against mine and slides in his dick. He takes me gently and slowly but not for long until he goes deep and roughly. He groans)

Nyathuko : Mhmmm! Mhmmm!

(He groans with each powerful thrust and with each thrust I feel his dick growing more harder inside me. No Nyathuko is going to tear my vagina today. He is hurting me but if this helps him release the pain he is feeling now then I'll endure)

Nyathuko : Mhmmm!

(No no I don't think he is still aware that we are having sex. This is not sex this man is fighting with me.)

Me : Thukena? Baby?



(I try to push him but he is heavy)

Me : Thukeh stop!

Nyathuko : Uh?

(So he doesn't feel that he is hurting me?)

Me : Ngiyalimala Nana ulifaka kakhulu.

Nyathuko : I'm sorry.

(He pulls out)

Nyathuko : Ngiyaxolisa sthandwa sami. Anginakanga



Me : It's okay

(He gets out of bed)

Nyathuko : I'm sorry for waking you up.

(He wears his jeans. I jumped out of bed and hugged him)

Me :I'm sorry baby I'm sorry about Nqabayethu.

Nyathuko : It's alright.

(He kisses my neck)

Me : Please don't go Nana. Stay with me



Nyathuko : Ngicela ukuyobhema

Me : Okay

(I stand on my toes and kiss his forehead. He smiles)

Me : I love you Thukeh

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda nami Mam'Zondi

(He takes his cigarettes and opens the door to our balcony. I sit on the bed. Nqabayethu was like a brother to Nyathuko. I know this is hard. I sit on the bed and think about Nqabayethu. The things he used to say his crazy jokes. Nqabayethu was a character. I remember the day he wanted to kill me. Wow I can't believe he is gone.)

(Nyathuko comes back. He climbs on the bed and sits behind me. He wraps his arms around my stomach. I'm now sitting between his legs playing with his feet. He kisses my neck)

The logo for SehranMagzine features a stylized blue and grey graphic above the text "SehranMagzine" in a blue, sans-serif font.

SehranMagzine

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Nyathuko : Ngiyaxolisa yezwa?

Me : It's okay Nana

Nyathuko : Did I hurt you?

(My vagina is burning but I'll lie)

Me : No. How is Nomzamo?

Nyathuko : Confused...Eish let me call her. Uthe ngimtshele mase ngifikile

(What? I look at him)

Nyathuko : Where is my phone?



Me : Do you really have to call her?

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami she.....

Me : No abekho yini abantu bakubo bemududuze?

Nyathuko : You don't want me to call her?

Me : Why? Aibo

Nyathuko : Yinindaba?

Me : Ayke call her.

(I remove his hands away from me)



Nyathuko : Awusho ngani ukuthi awufuni?

Me : Ngithe call her nje Nyathuko

Nyathuko : No angabe uyasho ukuthi awufuni uyeke lezinto ozishoyo.

Me : Ziphi?

Nyathuko : Ay Sthah asiyeke lento.

Me : Fine let's leave it. Nathi siyakudinga Zanokuhle was crying. Uthe u Nondaba uzomlanda ksasa ehlale e Mhlanga for a few days.

Nyathuko : Ntokozo told me. Uhambe nini yena?

Me : Around 19h00. When is the funeral?



Nyathuko : Tomorrow

Me : Ngokushesha okungaka?

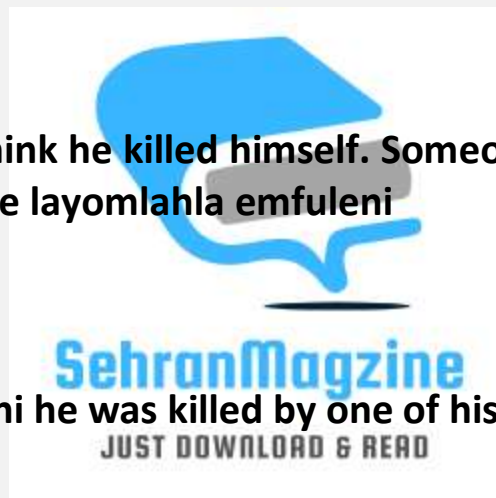
Nyathuko : That's what Nqabayethu wanted. Wathi ufuna ukungcwatshwa same day or the following day.

**Me : But wayengazi ukuthi uzoshona kanje. What about the DNA?
What if akuyena loya?**

Nyathuko : It's him sthandwa sami. Ibisabonakala i tattoo le abenayo emlenzeni. They found his jacket and his watch as well.

Me : Kodwa bakithi ngo Nqaba. Why would he take his life?

Nyathuko : I don't think he killed himself. Someone killed Nqabayethu igwala nje elimthathe layomlahla emfuleni



Me : Ucabanga ukuthi he was killed by one of his enemies?

Nyathuko : No Nqabayethu's enemies were going to kill him in broad daylight phambi kwabantu just to prove a point.

Me : Pho ubani?

Nyathuko : Maybe it was one of his friends. u Nqaba ubesenabangani abaningi nje engingabathembi.

(He gets up and takes off his jeans)

Me : But amaphoyisa azomthola.

Nyathuko : Police are useless. It will take them years ukuthola umuntu owenze lento



Me : I wonder ukuthi bamubalalele kephi

Nyathuko : In his house and that's why they burned down his house ukucisha ubufakazi

Me : We don't know that Thukeh.

Nyathuko : I know.

Me : I feel sorry for Nomzamo.

Nyathuko : Ukubuzile wabuza no Zanokuhle. She said size no Zanokuhle ksasa she misses him.

Me : u Musa animubonanga?

Nyathuko : I saw him. Uyena o busy manje uhlanganisa umngcwabo.

Me : But they won't struggle phela u Nqaba ubenezimali zakhe.

Nyathuko : Yeah

Me : I need to call Musa. Kade esho ukuthi uzoza ezongibona bakithi

Nyathuko : Yah.



Me : u Nomzamo yena uthini?

Nyathuko : Uthi Nqabayethu was angry after he found out ukuthi abandawonye. Naye she thinks Nqabayethu killed himself.

Me : Nami ngicabanga kanjalo shame. How is his father?

Nyathuko : Akazi lutho ngoyo Nqaba sebebuza ku Musa yonke into.

Me : Lo Musa ababengamufuni nala ahambe khona.



(He sighs and sleeps next to me)

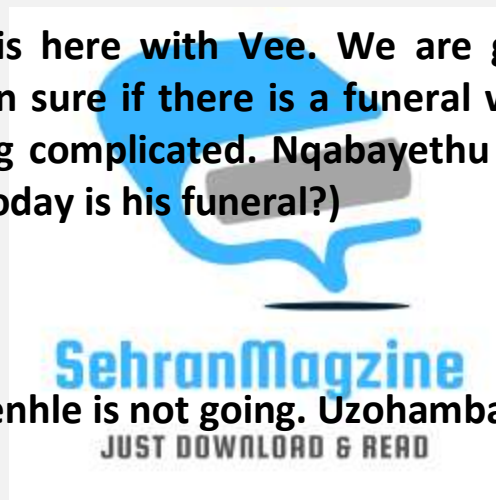
Me : Aren't you going to eat?

Nyathuko : No no I'm fine sthandwa sami.

(I can't imagine what he saw and that's why he can't eat. I want to ask him more but I see that he doesn't want to talk anymore. I switch off the light. He wraps his arm around me. Now I can sleep)

THE FOLLOWING DAY

(Nyathuko's father is here with Vee. We are getting ready for the funeral. I'm not even sure if there is a funeral where we are going. I find this whole thing complicated. Nqabayethu was found yesterday for God's sake and today is his funeral?)



Maxwell : But Ndlelenhle is not going. Uzohamba nami no Vee

Nyathuko : Baba nothing is going to happen there.

Maxwell : Nqabayethu was a criminal Thukeh kuzobe kugcwele izibhamu lapha.

Me : I think baba is right

Nyathuko : Okay

Maxwell : Uzohamba nomkhulu angithi mfan'wami?

Nyathuko : Uphethwe isisu

Maxwell : Is he teething?



Me : Yes ukhipha amanye amazinyo

Maxwell : Nyathuko needs to go to Mzinyathi eyomufunela lenhlabathi eba sendlini.

Nyathuko : Indlu yomnyovu?

Maxwell : Yeah

Nyathuko : Ayikho uGogo wayibheka. I'll go and check it out eMachobeni

Maxwell : Yah nimubilisele yona. He will be fine

Me : Uzoya nini Nana?



Nyathuko : Ntambama. Zanokuhle let's go my boy.

(We are ready to go now. Nyathuko fixes my scarf and kisses my cheek)

Maxwell : Give me his bag Thukeh

Nyathuko : Okay

Maxwell : Leave the milk. Ngizomuthengela olunye

Me : Thank you baba. Bye Ndlela

(He is not even looking at me. He is scratching his hair)

Maxwell : Ziyamshisa manje lezinwele ngizomugunda.

(We laugh)



Nyathuko : No baba. Ngizozigundela mina

Maxwell : Nizobuya esegundile

Nyathuko : Soxabana

(We laugh while walking out of the house)

Me : Sis'Moltah siyabuya.

Moltah : Okay sisi. Wamuhle boyza

(Zanokuhle smiles)

Nyathuko : Bonga phela Nkosana ka baba. Yini manje le oyiphethe

Zanokuhle : My watch is broken.... Thank you aunt Moltah.



Nyathuko : I'll buy you a new one. Come here

(Nyathuko lifts him up)

Me : Hey Vee

Vee : Hey darling

Me : Why didn't you come in?

Vee : Aww!

(She looks at her boyfriend)



Maxwell : Don't look at me baby. Tell her you are wearing shorts

Vee : Max!

(We laugh)

Vee : Hi Thukeh

Nyathuko : Mamncane

(Vee is blushing. Gosh)

Me : Sizomlanda ke baba ntambama

Maxwell : Okay Mathabi



(Yep he calls me Mathabi now. Nyathuko opens the door for me and I get in. We are using his car.)

Nyathuko : Ndlelenhle woza kubaba phela

(He puts Zanokuhle in the back seat and takes Ndlelenhle from Maxwell)

Nyathuko : Baba will be back okay?

(He kisses him)

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(Nqabayethu's funeral was held in his home e Mlazi. I've never seen so many people. How did all these people know that Nqabayethu's funeral was today?. Nomzamo is a mess she can't even walk. I didn't go to the cemetery. I stayed in the car but Nyathuko went. There are motorbikes here and people are carrying guns like Bibles. There was no pastor holding the service. Nqabayethu's friends held the service until the end. I've never seen anything like that. They were all wearing black overalls even my husband. He left his clothes in the car. Now I know there's something behind those black overalls. To my surprise there are no journalists. We haven't eaten. I'm sitting with Zanokuhle in Nyathuko's car.)

Me : uBaba wakho akabuye manje sihambe

Zanokuhle : I'm hungry

Me : Khona ama chips

Zanokuhle : I don't want chips.

**Me : Usuzongiqalela le drama yakho ke manje phambi kwabantu?
Aibo Zanokuhle**

Zanokuhle : Ngifuna uBaba wami



Me : Uzomtholaphi la ngoba kunje? Awkahle isdina wena

(He is crying)

Me : I told Nyathuko ukuthi sikushiye! Buka manje.

(I take out my phone and dial Nyathuko's number)

Yah baby I'm here

(Oh here he is. He is knocking on the window. I opened for him. He kisses me)

Nyathuko : Ikhalelani manje i Nkosana ka baba?

Me : Ifuna wena



Nyathuko : Hawu bamba la Sthandwa sami.

(He bought us Nandos)

Nyathuko : Woza ku baba

(He takes Zanokuhle and wipes his tears)

Me : Kanti niphumaphi?

Nyathuko : La e mall. Abafuni nje laba nokudla kwabo

Me : Oh thank you Nana. Uhambe ngani pho?

Nyathuko : Thalente's car... Yah I'm coming.

Me : They are calling you now?



Nyathuko : Yah

Me : Thukeh we need to go now. I miss my son. Zano come and eat

(He shakes his head)

Me : Oh ubunginyela mawuthi ulambile?

(Nyathuko kisses his forehead.)

Nyathuko : Sthah uh-huh

Me : Awusazi isdina abesibanga la.

(There is a kid coming)



Nyathuko : Yah princess

(She smiles)

Girl : Uwena umalume Thukeh?

Nyathuko : Yeah

Girl : Okay kuthiwa nginicele.

(Nyathuko smiles)

Nyathuko : Umuhle wena ngathi amawele ami.

(The baby girl laughs)



Nyathuko : Uyawazi amawele ka Thukeh?

Me : Twins?

(Nyathuko laughs)

Nyathuko : Uh!

Me : No I don't know them. Baphi?

Nyathuko : Ba slayer no Jesu.

(I laugh out loud. Good people I have one crazy husband)

Me : Thukena come on. Hello baby

Girl : Hi



Me : What is your name?

Girl : Anathi

Me : You are beautiful Anathi

Anathi : Thank you.

Me : Come eat with me.

(She smiles. I give her a piece of meat)

Anathi : Thank you

Me : Thukeh who is calling us?



Nyathuko : I don't know.

Anathi : Mkhulu Zungu

(Mzet is coming)

Mzet : Thukeh igawulo phela

(He says while joining us)

Nyathuko : No siyahamba manje wakithi

Mzet : Without eating? Ay ungayidali leyo.

Nyathuko : Sidlile manje



Mzet : What did you eat? Aibo musa ukusangana wena Thukeh. Sthah unjani Nkosazana?

Me : I'm okay Mzet

Mzet : Wozani phela Mah. Lenunu yakho ingizela netori

Nyathuko : Imina inunu wena?

(Nyathuko laughs and kicks his leg.)

Mzet : Ngiyadlala

(I laugh)

Me : Sesidlile ngempela



Mzet : No no. Let's go. u G ubengeke eyincanywe le enidalayo

Nyathuko : Sthah?

Me : Fine let's go.

(I slowly get out of the car. Mzet takes Zanokuhle from Nyathuko. Nyathuko wants to lift me up)

Me : Uh-huh baby mahn

Nyathuko : Woza ngikuqukule

(I laugh)

Me : No I'm fine. Bazothini kodwa abantu



(We go inside. We find Musa Nomzamo and other people that I don't even know. Musa screams. He is still dramatic)

Musa : Bitch!

(I laugh)

Me : Sam Sam

(He hugs me)

Me : Wuuh uh-huh wena wacasha kangaka

Musa : Life hey

Me : Eish I know. How is she?



(I point at Nomzamo with my eyes)

Musa : She is drinking. She will be fine

(Nomzamo is now squeezing Zanokuhle in her arms)

Nomzamo : My baby!

(Zungu calls Musa)

Me : Go I'll see you later.

(He kisses my cheek and walks out. I sit down. Nomzamo seems really drunk now)

Nomzamo : He left me Sthabile



(She shakes her head for a very long time)

Me : Kuzodlula sthandwa sami. God will strengthen you

Nomzamo : He won't. God doesn't care

Me : That is not true

Nomzamo : Kodwa ubonile umngcwabo wesoka lami? Bekungathi owenkosi

Me : It was beautiful.

(She is smiling now)



Nomzamo : I'm sure uyabangena manje in heaven.

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(We laugh. Nyathuko is not here anymore. There is food so I'll eat and forget about him)

Athi ey I'll give you money it's not like I'm poor and stuff

(Another girl says. We all burst. Nqabayethu was funny)

Nomzamo : I'm so going to miss him

Me : I know baby. We are all going to miss him.

Nomzamo : But he is fine now. Bonke ubuhlungu sebudlulile

Me : I hope they find whoever did this. Eboshwe

Nomzamo : You want Zanoluhle and I to go to jail?

Me : What?

(I'm confused now)

Me : u Zano ungenaphi manje?



Nomzamo : Nothing I'm just saying. Aibo I heard Nqabayethu's lawyer is here.

(Nyathuko walks in)

Nyathuko : Nana?

Me : Yah baby

Nyathuko : Kancane



(I stand up and follow him. He kisses me)

Nyathuko : u right?

Me : Yeah u Nomzamo lo osengikhulumela izinto engingazizwa

Nyathuko : What did she say?

Me : Never mind. Sesiyahamba?

Nyathuko : No Nqabayethu's lawyer wants to see us.

Me : Us? Why?

Nyathuko : I don't know. Where is Zanokuhle?

Musa : Thukeh sebekutshelle?



Nyathuko : Yeah yeah. Siyeza

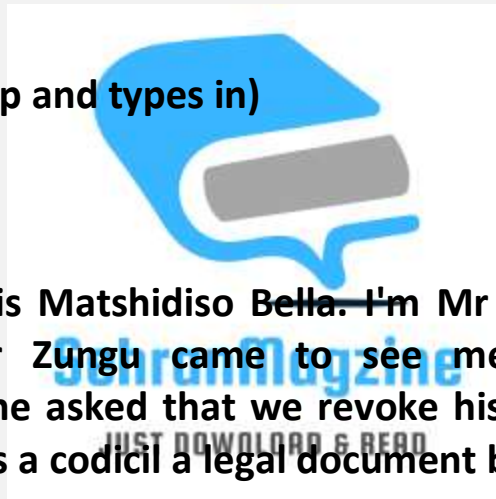
Me : What's going on?

Nyathuko : Let's go.

(We go to the lounge where Nqabayethu's parents are sitting with Nqabayethu's lawyer. We sit down. Musa walks in with Zanokuhle and Nomzamo.)

Lawyer : Let me not waste your time. Let's get into it... Uhmhhh

(She opens her laptop and types in)



Lawyer : My name is Matshidiso Bella. I'm Mr Zungu's attorney. As I've mentioned Mr Zungu came to see me a day before his disappearance and he asked that we revoke his old will and make a new one. This here is a codicil a legal document but I'd rather not take you through it.

Zungu : Ushiyeni u Nqabayethu sisi?

(Matshidiso shakes her head)

Matshidiso : Right. Let's take a look at this. Where is Zanokh... Zanokuhle?

Nyathuko : Here he is.

Matshidiso : Great. Let's get into it. Is everyone ready?

Yah yah

(We all say)



Matshidiso : Uuuhh let me fix this. There we go. You can look at the screen. Thank you

(She leans back and crosses her arms over her chest. She is beautiful but full of attitude. I guess all lawyers are full of attitude. Oh it's a video of Nqabayethu)

Nqabayethu : If you are looking at this it means I'm gone. I asked my attorney to deliver this soon after my funeral because I want everyone to quickly move on with their lives. Igama lami ngu Nqabayethu Immanuel Zungu. Lezi izifiso zami zokugcina. Nginomuzi e Westville amaphepha awo wonke nizowathola ku mmeli wami. I'm leaving Ghetto Legacy in the hands of Zithulele Hlatshwayo

(That's Mzet)

Nqabayethu : I'm leaving 2 million Rands for my brother Musa Zungu. 1 million rands for my sister Nomzamo.

(I smile looking at Musa and Nomzamo)



Nqabayethu : Kunomunye u 3 million rands nendlu e Westville my six cars konke lokho ngikushiyela ingane kamngani wami u Zanokuhle Dlomo.

Me : What?

(No no no. I'm going to faint. Nyathuko is also shocked. The video goes on but I can't hear anything anymore. Nqabayethu left an inheritance for our son? That's insane!)

Matshidiso : According to Testamentary trust. If you are leaving an inheritance to minors. For instance.....

Zungu : This is bullshit!

Matshidiso : May I proceed? Thank you. As I was saying Mr Zungu had to set up a Trust upon his death in order for Zanokuhle Dlomo to inherit his assets. All these fees were covered to protect his Legacy.



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Nyathuko : Wait wait uthi u Nqabayethu ushiyele u Zanokuhle ifa?

Matshidiso : Yes he is one of the beneficiaries of Mr Zungu's last will and testament. I can.....

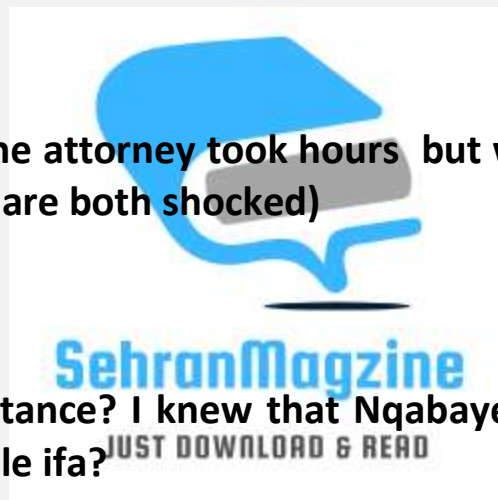
Zungu : u Nqabayethu wangangishiyela lutho mina? Uyise omzalayo? This is bullshit!

(Nqabayethu's parents are not happy about this. I look at Nyathuko. I want to go home now)

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Chapter 54

(The meeting with the attorney took hours but we are done now. I'm talking to Musa. We are both shocked)



Me : A whole inheritance? I knew that Nqabayethu loved Zanokuhle but ukuthi emushiyele ifa?

Musa : Bitch a whole 3 million rands plus a house and cars? Wow. Are you sure my brother wasn't related to the Dlomos?

Me : Hell no. Mina u Nqabayethu ngamazi ngo Thukeh

Musa : Wow he really loved Zanokuhle. You are rich my friend

(We both burst)

Me : Hhaibo wena it's not my money.

Musa : You are Zanokuhle's mother.

Me : Kuthiwa kumele elinde eze ebe neminyaka ewu 18

Musa : No 16. The lawyer said 16



Me : Yees! Sam I don't get it. Why u Nqabayethu ephuthume yonke into yakhe? umngcwabo amafa..... ufune nje yonke into isheshe.

Musa : Exactly! Yazi he called me 2 days before he was reported missing and he said Musa if I die ebusuku ningingcwabe ekseni the following day and if I die during the day ningingcwabe ebusuku

Me : Ooh Musa

Musa : Wathi singazili he wants us to just move on like nothing happened.

Me : Musa yazi u Nqabayethu knew he was going to die. I'm telling you



Musa : Now I'm sure that he killed himself. He planned the whole thing. I mean why would he change his will?

Me : He left his house wayozibulala e Verulam?

Musa : Yep. Crazy neh?

Me : Very

(I yawn)

Me : Uphi umyeni wami sihambe? Ngikhumbule kwami mina manje

(Musa laughs)

Musa : Ukhumbule ipipi lika Thukeh nje wena

(We laugh)



Musa : Thanks for coming friend. I know you are still weak but you came and for that I want to say thank you so much.

Me : Anything for you. Manje lendlu eso Hlange kuphelile ngayo?

Musa : Ha! About that house my father wanted me to go and stay there alone ngathi khohlwa. Sthabile mina I'm still a Monroe and

ngoba u Nqaba engasekho nje I'm done with the Zungus. Ngihamba nabazali bami ngiyaphesheya

Me : So you've made up your mind?

Musa : My parents are worried bacabanga ukuthi ngizobajikela but I'm not going to do that. Those people love me they raised me. Bangithola ngimncane ngilahlwe u Mah so I'll always choose them.



Me : What about your mother? Your biological mother?

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Musa : Ngihlanganaphi? Did she try to look for me? No. She doesn't care so why kumele ngizihluphe ngomqwayizi? Nqabayethu is the only person obengithanda and now he is gone. Angisena lutho la.

Me : Don't talk like that.

Musa : You know what I mean.

(He sighs)

Me : Uthini ubaba wakho?

Musa : He just wants my money ifa lami and ngeke elinuke. I'm leaving Sthabile.

Me : I understand baby. Come here

(I hug him. My eyes widen. Nomzamo is coming and she is wearing Thukeh's jacket)



Nomzamo : Ithe indoda yakho ngikunike

(She smiles and hands me Nyathuko's car keys)

Me : Thanks. Iphi yona indoda YAMI?

(I emphasize "YAMI" while looking at the jacket she is wearing. This is definitely Nyathuko's jacket. He keeps it in his car. Sthabile hold yourself hold yourself.)

Nomzamo : At the back of the house no Mzet.

Me : Is that his jacket?

(Musa pinches my arm. Nomzamo laughs)



Nomzamo : Yeah besengigodola wangiboleka but it's big. Buka ingifihla nezandla

(I'm going to scream)

Me : Yeah. Sam Sam I'll call you. Nomzamo keep well.

(I fake a smile and walk away. I find Nyathuko sitting on a brick with Zanokuhle standing between his legs. Others are eating meat. They are talking and laughing)

Ntuzuma : i millionaire ena 8 years. Ey u G ubeyincanywa blind lentwana

Me : Sanibona

Ntuzuma : Mfazi ka bafo

Mzet : Woza sidle inyama



(I laugh while shaking my head)

Me : No thank you. Baba ka Ndlela ngicela wena kancane

(Nyathuko stands up.)

Nyathuko : Wakithi ngindlela manje

Mzet : Sho wakithi sokhuluma. Utheni loya detective?

(They shake hands. Nyathuko comes and wraps his arm around my waist)



Nyathuko : Udinwe ubani sthandwa sami?

(He whispers in my ear)

Me : No one

Nyathuko : I don't know Mzet. Ngibanike i number yakho. Ey ngiyahamba mina ngikhathele

Mzet : Nihambe grand Mah

Me : Thank you

(I smile. We go to Nyathuko's car. Isn't he going to take his jacket from Nomzamo? He opens for me and I get in. He opens for Zanokuhle)

Nyathuko : Ngena Nkosana ka baba. Ey ukhathele unje

(He laughs. He will laugh alone

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I'm not interested. He gets in and starts the engine. I guess we are leaving our jacket. I put on the seat belt and looked out the window. He drives off)

IN BALLITO

Me : What do you mean ngeke elithathe ifa lakhe u Zanokuhle?

(I take off my shoes and follow them upstairs)

Nyathuko : Sthah lezinto zizosilethela ukukhuluma esingakudingi

Me : No! It's his inheritance. u Nqaba ushiyele yena

Nyathuko : Did you see Nqabayethu's father?



Me : I don't care! I don't care how he feels! Ubelindeleni u Zungu? Thukeh akamukhulisanga u Nqaba so of course ubengeke ethole lutho.

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami we don't need all those things. Zanokuhle is fine

(He puts Zanokuhle in his bed.)

Me : Lezi izifiso zika Nqaba zokugcina and no one is going to interfere with them.

Nyathuko : Oh Sthabile kulungile ke. Noma yini sthandwa sami.

Me : Wena nje ukhuluma ngoba u Zanokuhle ungamzali uma kuthiwa lezinto zishiyelwe u Ndlelenhle ubungeke unqabe.

(I know he is going to be angry. I don't know why I said that. He turns around slowly)



Nyathuko : Uthini Sthabile?

Me : Ungizwile

(He sits on the corner of Zano's bed. He takes my hand and pulls me onto his lap)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami?

(Hhaibo! He is not angry)

Me : Nyathuko



Nyathuko : Awuchazele indoda yakho la. Isho ukuthini lenkulumo yakho?

Me : You know what I meant and you know I'm right.

Nyathuko : Mam'Zondi awungitshele do you think I don't love Zanokuhle?

Me : You love him.

(He does fuck he does! I know he loves him)

Nyathuko : Manje?

Me : I'm sorry Thukeh. Kushelele ulimi

Nyathuko : Sthabile?

Me : Baby



Nyathuko : Angifuni ungidakelwe. Lamasimba ongitshela wona ubuwagcina namhlanje. Do you understand?

(The tone of his voice is low but firm. Wow.)

Me : But Nana...

Nyathuko : Do you understand me?

Me : Yes I understand and I'm sorry.

(He gently pushes me to stand up. He stands up and walks out. Oh wow. My phone rings. It's Nondaba)

Me : Baba

Hey Sthabile it's Vee



Me : Oh hey Vee.

Vee : Yes I just wanted to let you know that Yada will spend the night with baby and I.

(Baby and I. Abasebadala)

Me : Oh okay. Does Thukeh know about this?

Vee : Yes Max is speaking to him on my phone as we speak.

Me : Okay no problem.

Come love. It's burning



(Nyathuko's father says in the background. Vee laughs)

Vee : Switch it off baby!.... Sorry about that.

Me : No problem go before he burns down that house.

(She laughs)

Vee : Goodnight darling.

(I hang up and shake my head)

Me : Aybandla

(I walk out. I go into our bedroom. Nyathuko is showering. He walks drying his head. He is naked. I swallow)



Me : Uzodla?

Nyathuko : No

Me : Okay. U Ndlela akabuyi

Nyathuko : I know.

(Silence)

Me : Where is your jacket?

Nyathuko : Yiphi i jacket manje?

Me : Ebomvu enesigqoko ye Under Armour

Nyathuko : Ayikho yini la?



Me : No

Nyathuko : Red jacket? Ngine jacket ebomvu mina?

Me : Shuthi sengiyahlanya.

Nyathuko : No I'm asking.

Me : Le ehlala emotweni

Nyathuko : Oh that one. Iku Nomzamo ngikhohliwe yazi

Me : Where is your phone?

Nyathuko : Nayi lapha



Me : I want to call her and tell her to give it to Musa mina ngizoyithatha ku Musa

Nyathuko : Baby come on. There is no need

Me : Umuphe yona?

Nyathuko : No wibolekile.

Me : And you gave it to her?

Nyathuko : Sthabile please

Me : Ngiyabuza. Yini eboleke eyakho ngoba phela sifika lapha ubegqoke i jersey le wool. Beselikephi ke?



Nyathuko : Wabuza mina manje sthandwa sami

(I go and take his phone. He quickly stands up)

Nyathuko : Ay Ay Sthah awukahle. Stop that.

Me : Stop what? Let me call her

Nyathuko : No angifuni.

Me : Aibo awufuni?

Nyathuko : Yeah angifuni. Usuzokhulumela ngisho ama jacket angasile manje? Aybo Maka Nasisipho awukahle. Give me my phone

Me : Kahle kahle when did she take your jacket? Benihlangana kanjani?



Nyathuko : Ha! Ha! Ha! Aibo ibhadi lami ke leli. Ufuna ukuthini ke manje?

Me : I'm asking Nyathuko!!

Nyathuko : Bangifice emotweni ehamba no Ntuzuma wathi uyagodola. I didn't even give her that jacket uzithathelile

Me : Wathula nawe?

Nyathuko : Nx! Uyangisanganela wena

Me : Let me call her ke khona ezogcina ukuzithathela izinto zendoda yami.

(I unlock his phone but he snatches it away from my hand)



Nyathuko : Wena Sthah uvele ungenze isdididi. Akukho Nomzamo ozomfonela la! Aibo nangu umuntu ehlanya bo.

(He says while walking out of that door with his phone.)

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Chapter 55

(I trust Nyathuko I do but I don't trust any other woman who looks at him. My husband is one in a million. He is too perfect well "physically perfect" And sometimes I wonder what will happen if he repeats the same mistake that he made with Mimo but things change and he sleeps with a woman he can never let go? A woman he will love more than he loves me. A woman that will do things I never did and treat him in a way that he had never been treated. Sometimes I get so scared because I know I'll never survive without Nyathuko Zondi. There will never be another Nyathuko Zondi. After our argument he went downstairs and he's been there ever since. I finish taking out my braids. Now I don't know what to do. I'm not going to sleep without him. I want my husband I miss him. I take my afro comb and head downstairs. He is talking to someone over the phone and he is laughing. I stop walking and listen.)



Nyathuko : Uhlulwe i video call wena.

(He laughs. He is sitting on the couch. He is hitting a DSTV remote on his leg. Who is he talking to? I go straight to him.)

Me : Nana?

(He lifts up his eyes to me. I give him the comb)

Nyathuko : Uh?.... No no I'm talking to somebody else. Ufike nini?

(Somebody else? Wow. He is looking at me. Why is he not hanging up?)

Me : Ngicela ungikama izinwele



(He takes my hand and pulls me to stand in front of him. He takes the cushion and puts it on the floor. I sit down)

Nyathuko : Uthi uzohlala or she is going back?

(He runs his fingers through my hair)

Nyathuko : Did she come with her kids?

(He combs my hair but he is pausing in between)

Nyathuko : No Gogoh let her stay. Mina ngizomufunela umuntu ozomgadela izingane.

(I sigh in relief. He is speaking to his grandmother. Sometimes I forget that he is a "mfana ka gogo")

Nyathuko : Yah ngimkhokhele. I don't want her to go back to the streets eyodla i woonga lapha. Uzomitha futhi



(I guess his cousin is back. He has a cousin who is a drug addict)

Nyathuko : I'll call you tomorrow Gogoh. Ulale kahle

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Vala phela

(Silence)

Me : Was that Gogoh?

Nyathuko : Yeah she wants us to visit.

Me : Soya nini because you are going back to work?



Nyathuko : We'll see. Nondaba called Ndlela didn't want to sleep.

(We laugh)

Me : I knew it. Akalali uNdlela ungekho

Nyathuko : I video called them. Wakhala engibona

Me : Oh my baby

Nyathuko : Ngakhuluma naye waze walala ehleka into engekho

(I laugh)

Nyathuko : My cousin is back.

Me : With her kids?



Nyathuko : Yeah. She will steal my things and leave again

Me : Wabuya nawo ukhiye?

Nyathuko : No baby she sleeps in my room. ileyonto engidinayo. She will steal my clothes ezidayise mase eyahamba

Me : But maybe she won't.

Nyathuko : She wants a job but she has no one to look after her kids.....Ngiyakuluka.

Me : Ungangiluki into engaqaqeki Nana.

Nyathuko : Ngeke sthandwa sami.



Me : We can look for someone ozomgadela izingane

Nyathuko : Yeah I told Gogo. But kumele eye rehab kuqala ngizomqukula ngenkani mina.

(I laugh)

Me : Aibo Thukena. Kumele eziyele yena ngoba ethanda

Nyathuko : Ay. Baby?

Me : Yah Nana

Nyathuko : Iyangihlula lento

(We laugh)



Me : Ngazile. Leave my hair

(I stand up and sleep between his legs)

Nyathuko : Awulambile?

(He kisses my forehead)

Me : No

Nyathuko : Awusayidinelwe indoda yakho angithi?

Me : Cha sthandwa sami

(I kiss his hand)



Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda Sthabile

Me : I love you too Nana and please let's not talk about Nomzamo.

Nyathuko : Okay baby

(He plays with my hair)

Nyathuko : Uzogqoka iwigi?

(I laugh out loud)

Me : Ah never. u Nana uzonginika imali yokuluka angithi?

Nyathuko : Yeah. Let's call Zama khona ezoza ezokuluka

Me : Okay baby



(He calls Zama. The call is on a loudspeaker)

Nyathuko : She is not answering. Usele.....Hello?

Zama : Sho skhokho

Nyathuko : Ngithi usulele. U right?

Zama : Ngikhathele ibhadi mfana Thukeh. I just arrived now

Me : Unihambisile u Mzet?

Zama : No sihambiswe ilomfana wentshebe ebomvu ehamba echama indlela yonke.

(We laugh)



Zama : Kubuhlungu izinyawo skhokho. Wena? When did you leave ngoba ngibone imoto yakho ingasekho?

Nyathuko : I don't know but bekula ko 18h00

Zama : Okay. Where is Sthabile?

Nyathuko : Nangu la. Ngifuna uzomluka phela umfazi wami ksasa

Zama : Are you going to pick me up?

(He laughs.)

Nyathuko : No but I'll pay for your transport

Zama : Okay I'll come. What time?



Nyathuko : Noma inini

Zama : Okay ke skhokho

Nyathuko : Thanks. I'll see you tomorrow

Zama : Sho

(Nyathuko hang up)

Nyathuko : Uzoza

Me : Thanks baby. Did you feed your cat?

(He almost jumps)



Nyathuko : Eish I forgot. Let's go baby

(I sit up)

Me : Sukuma phela baby.

(He stands up with a huge tent. I laugh)

Me : Weeh Ay ngeke

Nyathuko : Uwena Sthah

Me : Thukeh uhlale uqhanyelwe we....ouch! Ubuhlungu umthungo wami namhlanje

Nyathuko : Amakhaza sthandwa sami let me see.

Me : I'll be fine baby



(He kisses me)

Me : Let's go Nana. I want to sleep

(We go to the garage holding hands. He dishes up for his cat)

Me : You need to sell this bicycle Nana

Nyathuko : No I'll give it to inkosana ka baba

Me : But it's big

Nyathuko : Othi ngilibo ukuthi lisahamba

(He climbs on. I laugh)



Nyathuko : Woza ugibele

Me : Uzongiwisa baby

Nyathuko : Ngeke. Woza sthandwa sami. Sit here

(I balance my hand on his shoulder and get on the bicycle.)

Nyathuko : Hold me

Me : Okay

(The bicycle starts moving. I laugh out loud)

Me : Thukena ima baby ngicela ukwehla



(He stops)

Nyathuko : Lidinga amafutha.

(He bends down and checks it out)

Nyathuko : Buka li rastile.

Me : Have you ever used it before?

Nyathuko : No ngalithenga kwelinye iphara. Nqabayethu paid for it. Nqaba bought everything he never needed

(We laugh)

Me : Thanks for the lift though



(I laugh. He spins me around and kisses me)

Nyathuko : Ngoba usheshe wehla nje

Me : I thought you would cause an accident sife

(He laughs and hugs me. His phone rings in his pocket.)

Nyathuko : Ngibulale isithandwa sami? Never. Ubani manje loyo?

(He takes out his phone. Nomzamo is calling. I take a deep breath. He looks at me)

Me : Where is Blackjack?



(I pull away from him)

Nyathuko : Sthah don't do that.

Me : What do you want me to say? Yazi lento yalentombazane ngizama ukuyiziba but no ingihleli la emqaleni.

Nyathuko : Khuluma naye ke sthandwa sami. Nayi ifoni

(I shake my head)

Me : No

Nyathuko : Please baby. Angifuni sixabane futhi

(The call ends but she calls again)



Me : Fine

(I take his phone and answer)

Nomzamo : Yah wena mehlo amakhulu

(She giggles. My blood boils)

Me : Nomzamo

Nomzamo : Oh Sthabile it's you. Unjani?

Me : My husband is busy can I help you?

Nomzamo : No it's okay. I'll call him tomorrow

Me : It's 22h30 ubufunani?



(Silence. I look at the phone screen)

Me : She hung up

Nyathuko : Maybe her airtime ran out.

(He takes his phone and puts it back in his pocket)

Nyathuko : Liphumile ke lelikati

Me : Or maybe udinwe ukuthi imina engibambe ifoni.

(He searches for his cat behind the boxes. I help him search for it)

Nyathuko : Ufuna ukuthini Sthah?



Me : Nothing. Angisafuni ukukhuluma ngo Nom.....Thukeh!!!!

(I scream and jump into his arms. He squeezes me tightly)

Nyathuko : What's wrong baby?

(I point at the boxes.)

Me : Ikati lakho. Ikati lakho it has babies.

Nyathuko : What? That's impossible.

Me : Hamba ubuke!



Nyathuko : Jack is a tom he can't have kittens Nana.

Me : I know what I sawThukeh. There are kittens there. He is sleeping with them!

Nyathuko : Okay baby. Calm down

(A cat from next door walks in carrying a small cat by the mouth. I scream and run outside of the garage. My skin shivers. I want to vomit. I just can't stand kittens. They disgust the hell out of me. Nyathuko laughs following me.)

Nyathuko : Baby I'm sorry. I didn't.....

Me : I can't baby I can't.

Nyathuko : Okay okay. I'll kill them

(I vomit)

Nyathuko : Baby!



(I finish and head back inside the house. He goes and gets water for me from the fridge)

Nyathuko : I'm sorry sthandwa sami. Drink here

(I drink while looking at him out of the corners of my eyes. He wants to laugh)

Me : Hleka Thukeh ngoba ufuna ukuhleka

(He burst)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami I didn't know ukuthi usaba amakati amancane.

(He laughs and throws himself on the couch)



Me : Wena awulisabi uphaphe lwenkukhu olumnyama?

(He stops laughing)

Me : I thought as much

(This one is scared of black chicken feathers. You know those long black shiny ones? Yep. You can rob him all his money with only a black chicken feather. Even his car he would give you the way he is so scared of black chicken feathers. But here he is laughing at me because I'm scared of "small cats")

Nyathuko : Kodwa sthandwa sami akufani. Wena you almost died.

Me : Why is that cat from next door bringing her babies into our garage?



(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Maybe Jack is the father and baxabene manje usezomshiya nezingane.

(I burst. Nyathuko is crazy)

Me : That was disgusting. They looked wet! Ew!

(I rub my arms. I feel like they are touching me. He comes and hugs me)

Nyathuko : I'm sorry sthandwa sami.

Me : You need to speak to those white people begade lelikati labo elifebayo

(He laughs)



Nyathuko : I will. How are you feeling now?

Me : What if angena layindlini

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sthandwa sami.

Me : You need to speak to those white people begade lelikati labo elifebayo

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : I will. How are you feeling now?

Me : What if angena layindlini Thukeh? Ayngeke Nana I can't sleep here.



Nyathuko : They won't sthandwa sami. I promise

Me : No no no Thukeh.

(My skin shivers all over again)

Me : Look at my arms.

Nyathuko : I'm sorry baby. Okay othi ngihambe ngiyowalahla. I'll leave them outside our gate

Me : Hha! I'm not going back there

Nyathuko : I'll go. You will stay here

Me : You want to leave me alone?



Nyathuko : Okay senzenjani sthandwa sami?

Me : I don't know baby but I'm not sleeping here okwangempela Thukeh. O Jack bazongena nalezingane zabo la behlale la kusofa.

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : They won't Nana. Bazohlala e garage

Me : Wuuu! Uh-huh. You don't know that. Ulibonile leliyakati? Maybe she will bring more

Nyathuko : Okay let's go and sleep in the hotel.

Me : Singayi e Mhlanga?



Nyathuko : Sebelele manje.

(He takes out his phone)

Nyathuko : Let me check Regal Inn. I hope loyamfana osebenza khona uyasebenza manje

(I go into the kitchen and take a packet of chips while Nyathuko calls the hotel. I want to eat but I can't. The thought of those kittens just blocks everything.)

Nyathuko : Hello?

(I go back and sit on his lap. He kisses my cheek)

Nyathuko : Kyle it's Nyathuko Zondi bro.

(I look at him)



Nyathuko : Yeah I need a room now. Can you sort me out?

(He kisses me)

Nyathuko : Yeah yeah yeah. Don't worry about that.

(He looks at the time)

Nyathuko : Before midnight.... Okay see you now.

(He hung up)

Nyathuko : Asambeni baby.

Me : Uvumile?



Nyathuko : Yeah. We need to be there before midnight

Me : Okay. Ngizoya kovusa u Zano

Nyathuko : Awusabi?

(He laughs)

Me : Wena ngizokulandela izimpaphe ezizogcwala lendlu ngoba uyeyisa.

(We laugh)

Me : But baby maybe we don't have to go. We can stay silale lana kusofa. Think about it this is a waste of money.

Nyathuko : Ngeke baby ulale kusofa. Let's go sthandwa sami. Don't worry about money



(I smile)

Me : Okay.

(We slept in the Regal Inn. We checked out at 10h00 am and went to Umhlanga. We fought again on our way back. What I saw this

morning was that Nomzamo was calling Nyathuko for the entire night but Nyathuko had his phone on silent because he didn't want me to hear it ringing. Fine I let it slide. On our way back she called him again and she complained about how badly the Zungus are treating her in Mlazi so she wants Nyathuko to come and take her home. My question was why is she not taking taxis? And the answer I got was "She is not used to taxis")

Me : Boy boy I missed youfana a Mah.

(I kiss Ndlelenhle. Nyathuko walks inside our room.)



Nyathuko : Bawakhiphile amakati. We can go home now. U Zama uthe uzoza ksasa.

(I don't even want to know how they took them out or who took them out)

Me : Awusayi kolanda u Nomzamo?

Nyathuko : No she will take Uber.

Me : Yini emhlule ukwenza lokho ekuqaleni?

Nyathuko : Angazi Sthah

Me : Thukeh awungitshela is this how things are going to be ngoba engasekho u Nqaba? U Nomzamo uzokhalela kuwena njalo?

Nyathuko : Ay mina kuphela Sthah. Uyamfonela noMzet but wena awufuni ukungilalela



Me : Ngilalele ini?

Nyathuko : She needs us baby no Nqaba ubezokwenza lento engiyenzayo kuthiwa bekushone mina. He was going to be there for you

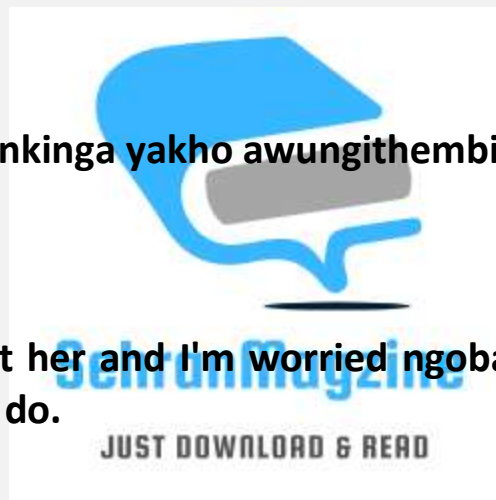
Me : Be there for who? Nqabayethu hated meNyathuko. Uyakwazi nawe lokho but angikho lapho

Nyathuko : I told her to stop calling me.

Me : Angisho ukuthi engafoni but nje ungathi ngelinye ilanga uyamduduza uzibone usuphakathi kwamathanga akhe.

Nyathuko : Ileyo ke inkinga yakho awungithembi.

Me : No I don't trust her and I'm worried ngoba wena you don't see what she is trying to do.



Nyathuko : No one is trying anything here. Wena nje ucabanga ukuthi ngihambe ngibhebha noma ubani and Sthah iyangidina leyonto. Buka sengisho inhlamba phambi kwengane

Me : Just be careful that's all.

Nyathuko : Ngeke esafona u Nomzamo. I told her to call you mekukhona into ayidingayo

(Vee knocks)

Vee : I'm sorry to disturb but we are eating downstairs

Me : Oh no Vee we are fine. We ate before we came here.

Vee : Please come. You'll have snacks



Me : Okay

(We follow her. Maxwell and Zanoluhke are playing Playstation.)

Maxwell : Love you know my grandson plays way better than you.

Vee : That's because you always cheat when you are playing with me.

Maxwell : Cheat? Me? My love I'm offended.

(We laugh)

Maxwell : Oh you guys are here. Let's eat. Come mfana ka Mkhulu

(He lifts up Zanokuhle in the air. He ~~laughs~~)



Zanokuhle : Mkhulu Mkhulu st... stop.

(He laughs and puts him down)

Maxwell : What are we eating?

Vee : You'll see baby

Maxwell : I need to go to the office. Mathabi when are you coming back?

Nyathuko : Nangoke ubaba

(We laugh)

Me : Your son doesn't want me to work.



Nyathuko : Wena ngizobiza izingane zamakati

(I laughed and hit his shoulder)

Me : Uyaphapha

(He laughs and wraps his arm around my neck. He kisses me. Maxwell coughs)

Nyathuko : Ay let's go to our house

(We laugh. We start eating)

Maxwell : How was the funeral?

Nyathuko : It was good. Ey kwenzeka ezinye izinto lapha but I'll tell you later.



Maxwell : Okay

Nyathuko : Ubuyile u Thina.

Maxwell : Really?

(Nyathuko feeds me his food and I feed him mine. Maxwell shakes his head)

Vee : Wow.

Maxwell : See love. No wonder they get pregnant every year

(We burst)

Nyathuko : She wants a job baba.



Maxwell : Wantshontsha loyo emsebenzini. I'm done with her

Nyathuko : What if ubuyela emgaqweni?

Maxwell : Who cares Thukeh?

(Nyathuko shakes his head)

Nyathuko : Uzosebenza lapha kumina ka Bhambatha

Maxwell : And she will steal all your money.

Nyathuko : She won't.

(Zanokuhle is busy playing with his food.)



Me : Usuthi Zano?

(He shakes his head)

Zanokuhle : Mommy I saw Aunt Nomzamo in my dreams. She was walking inside the kraal with an old man.

(Nyathuko looks at his father)

Nyathuko : Uphupheni Nkosana ka Baba?

Zanokuhle : u Aunt Nomzamo eka Khuluh engena esibayeni nomunye umkhulu.

(Ka Khulu is at Ndwedwe. But what was Nomzamo doing there? I don't believe in dreams and all that but this one doesn't sit well with me.)



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Chapter 56

Me : Ndlelenhle I told your father ukuthi engangiluki lamafindo akhe angaqaqeki buka manje. Ay!

(I'm trying to untie the hard terrible knot that Nyathuko made on my hair. I'm sweating now.)

Me : Zano?

Ndlelenhle : Nano!

(Ndlelenhle screams Zano's name for the very first time. I laugh. My son is the best)



Me : Hhapona fana amana. Usubiza ubhutina wena? Huh baby?

(I kiss him. Zanokuhle walks in)

Zanokuhle : Mah?

Me : Woza la babah. Wenzani ngale?

Zanokuhle : I was brushing my teeth. Uphi u Babah?

Me : He is coming. Ongiqaqqa lento boy boy. Woza

(He jumps to our bed)

Zanokuhle : Ukulukile ubaba wami?



Me : Wangibheda.

Zanokuhle : Hello Ndlela!

(He kisses him all over his face. Ndlelenhle laughs)

Me : Kade ekubiza weZano. Umzwile?

(Zanokuhle laughs out loud)

Me : Serious he said Nano. Isho futhi Ndlela. Biza u Zano boy boy

(He is not interested anymore)

Me : Hawu kwaqaqeka Zano. Yho! Finally

Zanokuhle : Mommy I'm hungry.



Me : Go and eat cereal. Ngizobuye ngikwenzele isinkwa

Zanokuhle : Iphezulu.

Me : Uhlale ugibela kwi counter nje Zano.

Zanokuhle : Ubaba wami wathi ngizowa.

Me : Just go. He is not here

Zanokuhle : I'll tell him ukuthi uwena.

Me : Anginendaba. Take your brother with you. Ngoba nangu esethatha ikama lami.... Ndlela stop it!!!

(I shout and he cries.)



Zanokuhle : Leave it Ndlela let's go.

Me : Hamba nobhuti wakho. Suka la

(They head out. Zano is holding Ndlelenhle's hand. Ndlela is still crying.)

Me : Ningawi yezwa Zano ezitebhisini.

Zanokuhle : Okay mommy

(Ndlelenhle comes back running. He hits me on my thigh and bite me. Zanokuhle is rolling on the floor laughing. I'm so shocked. No no Ndlelenhle is not as calm as his father. He just hit me and bit me because I shouted at him. Nyathuko's son just hit me. Wow. He finished and went to sit down next to his brother. He is wiping his tears now. He is happy because he got his revenge.)



Me : Umbonile Zanokuhle ubhuti wakho engishaya?

(Zanokuhle is laughing so hard)

Zanokuhle : I saw him mommy.

Me : WeNdlelenhle ushaya bani? Usuyangishaya wena ngisho no Baba wakho engakaze engishaye? Yazi uyajabula

Zanokuhle : Let's go Gqamuza come. Stand up my little brother.

(Why does Zanokuhle seem pleased with what Ndlelenhle did? I swear Nyathuko's kids are going to kill me one day. They walk out holding hands)

Me : Nyathuko where are you kanti?



(I ask myself. I take my phone and Whatsapp him)

You are missed here : Me.

(He called me soon after I sent him a Whatsapp message)

Me : Nana wenzani kanti lapho le engapheli?

Nyathuko : Ngicabanga wena sthandwa sami.

(I laugh)

Me : Thinking about me?

Nyathuko : Uh! isthandwa sami sizulazula emqondweni wami.

(I smile)



Me : Where are you?

Nyathuko : I love you Mam'Zondi wena.

(I laugh out loud)

Me : I love you too baby. Buya phela

(Silence)

Me : Nana?

Nyathuko : Turn around.

Me : What?



(I turn around and laugh. He is leaning against the door looking at me. He has a bunch of red roses in his hand.)

Nyathuko : Don't hang up on me.

(I laugh)

Me : I won't.

(He is here

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**we are looking at each other but he doesn't want me to hang up. This
guy)**

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda



Me : Nami ngiyakuthanda Bhambatha omuhle

Nyathuko : Woza phela indoda iqabule

Me : Inuka umjuluko indoda

(We both laugh. He is coming from the gym. He hung up. I go and hug him. He kisses me)

Me : Thank you baby these are beautiful. When did you buy them?

Nyathuko : On my way back.

Me : Ngiyabonga myeni wami

(I close my eyes and inhale. I smile)



Me : I love them Nana.

Nyathuko : Wamuhle kanje manje mfazi ka Thukeh

(I laugh out loud. What does he even mean? My hair is a mess and he says I'm beautiful.)

Me : Ngimuhle ngempela?

Nyathuko : Kakhulu sthandwa sami. Woza la. Ngiyaku...

(He sucks my lower lip)

Nyathuko : ...thanda Uyezwa?

Me : Ngiyezwa sthandwa sami. I love you too



(He whistles)

Nyathuko : Ay ay muhle umfazi ka Nyathuko mahn! Baby?

(I laugh)

Me : What?

Nyathuko : Umuhle

Me : Pho who are you calling?

Nyathuko : Mapholoba

Me : My father? Why?



Nyathuko : Ssh! Mapholoba ninjani baba?

(Why is he calling my father?)

Nyathuko : Siyaphila baba. Where is Mah?

(He sits down and I sit on his lap)

Nyathuko : Fuze ngabonga kodwa ngokungizalela umfazi omuhle kanje?

(My mouth is wide open.)

Nyathuko : Bengifonela ukubonga nje futhi Mapholoba.

(I laugh and stand up. I didn't expect that at all.)



Nyathuko : Niphile Mapholoba.

(He hung up)

Me : Wow

Nyathuko : Yinindaba?

Me : Nothing I'm just... wow. You are full of surprises. Utheni ubaba?

(He pulls me back onto his lap and places the roses on the bed)

Nyathuko : Are you okay?

(I sigh)



Nyathuko : Yinindaba sthandwa sami? Huh?

(He kisses me)

Me : I'm worried about Zanokuhle's dream. Baby u Zano uhlale ephupha izinto ezenzekayo. I was sitting here and thinking and wonke amaphupho akhe ayenzeka.

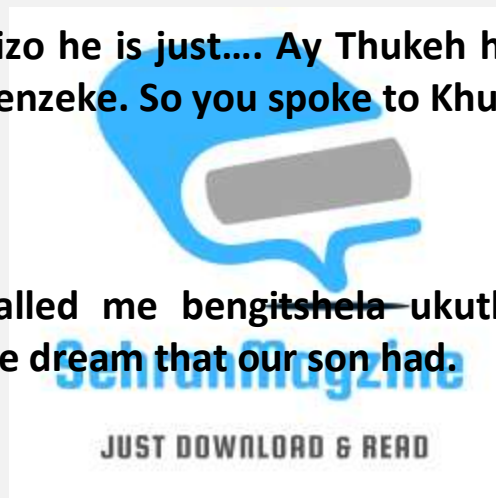
Nyathuko : I know baby. So nawe ucabanga ukuthi he is gifted?

Me : Gifted?

Nyathuko : That's what Khulu said.

Me : No akanalo ubizo he is just.... Ay Thukeh he is not gifted ukuthi nje uphupha izinto zenzeke. So you spoke to Khulu?

Nyathuko : They called me bengitshela ukuthi u baba omdala u Zenzele had the same dream that our son had.



Me : That's strange

Nyathuko : What is more strange ukuthi bavuke namhlanje ekuseni kugcwele amachwane ezinkukhu igceke lonke.

Me : Are you serious?

Nyathuko : Yeah. I don't understand zonke lezinto zasekhaya

Me : Utheni yena u Khulu.

Nyathuko : Asikhilumanga kakhulu. sthandwa sami I don't care. Asiyeke yonke lento.

(Nyathuko is hiding something from me.)



Me : Ookay.

Nyathuko : Ngifuna sihambe for a week or two. Sishiye izingane nje sthandwa sami sihlale sobabili away from here.

Me : Why?

Nyathuko : Because I miss us I miss my wife. I know you are here but I miss thina singakashadi singakabi nazo izingane. I want to be with you sthandwa sami I want to be with you alone.

(I smile)

Me : Ngingakuthanda lokho

Nyathuko : I spoke to my father wathi bazohlala no Zano no Ndlela size sibuye.



Me : Okay

Nyathuko : Yeah. Sthah angifuni uthando lwethu lushabalale no.

(He shakes his head)

Nyathuko : I don't want anything to come between us not even our children. I know I'll sound crazy but I love you okudlula wonke

umuntu okudlula yonke into. Sometimes I feel like uthando engikunika lona alusanele.

Me : No lwanele sthandwa sami

Nyathuko : Pho why sixabana njalo?

Me : Couples fight all the time.

Nyathuko : No not us. Angifuni mina ukubona wena udiniwe udinwe imina? No



(I smile)

Me : I love you so much.

(Zanokuhle runs inside our room)

Zanokuhle : Zama is here

Me : It's aunt Zama to you.

Zanokuhle : But she is short

(Nyathuko laughs)



Nyathuko : Woza la Nkosana ka baba. Unjani u Zama?

Me : Thukena uh-huh baby musa ukuhleka.

Zanokuhle : She is short.

(Nyathuko bursts)

Me : She is not that short. Futhi ke Zano usawu Aunt noma e short.

(We stand up and walk out. Nyathuko is still laughing. We go downstairs to Zama.)

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Chapter 57

A WEEK LATER



(We were away for a week as Nyathuko suggested that we leave the kids and go spend some time together so we did but we had to come back sooner than we wanted because some people from Mzinyathi wanted to kill Nyathuko's cousin Thina. Apparently she stole some clothes somewhere and they are looking for her. We walk in. She is watching TV with Moltah. She stands up. She has big eyes like Nyathuko. She is beautiful but she has a few scars on her face. She looks nervous)

Thina : Thuthuh.

(Nyathuko walks towards her)

Nyathuko : Woza la

(She opens her arms . I'm expecting a hug but Nyathuko slaps her across her face. I scream)

Me : Thukeh!!



Nyathuko : Ngathini kuwena?

(She slaps her again)

Moltah : Aibo baba ka Ndlela no no no.

(Thina hides behind Moltah)

Nyathuko : Woza la wena! Ngathini kuwena?

Me : Stop it Nyathuko! Stop!

Thina : I'm sorry I'm sorry bhut'Nyathuko.

(Nyathuko runs upstairs)



Me : Come here sisi.

(She is crying. I hug her)

Me : I'm sorry sisi

Thina : He won't forgive me.

Me : He will. Let me go and speak to him

Thina : Okay

Me : Sit here

(I look at Moltah and shake my head)



Me : Moltah safika ngeziwengu wengu. Uyaphila sisi?

Moltah : I'm okay sisi. Please go and talk to him

Me : Okay

(I go upstairs. Nyathuko is smoking on the balcony. I sit on the bed and wait for him. He is not coming back now. I'll take a bath. I finish and find him sitting on our bed)

Me : That was really unnecessary.

**Nyathuko : Sthah umuntu wesifazane onjani oziphatha njengo Thina?
What if those people found her lapha ekhaya bamubulala baphinda
balimaza no Gogo?**

(He has a point but still he shouldn't have slapped her like that)

Me : She is still young Nana. Kufanele enze amaphutha

The logo for SehranMagzine features a blue speech bubble containing a white book icon. Below the speech bubble, the text "SehranMagzine" is written in a blue, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the tagline "JUST DOWNLOAD & READ" is written in a smaller, grey, all-caps font.

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**Nyathuko : She is 25 years old unezingane ezu two. She needs to do
better!**

Me : Okay okay. I understand but please don't be hard on her.

Nyathuko : Fine

(I climb on top of him. He smiles)

Nyathuko : Buka nje she ruined our trip ngisahleli nomfazi wami.

(I kiss him. He squeezes my ass. I move up and down slowly. He is getting harder. I laugh)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami awukahle.

Me : No. Let's go



(I get off him and put on my gown. I take our blanket.)

Me : Ngiyobuka i TV ezansi

Nyathuko : Ngilinde phela

Me : Uzoxolisa kuqala ku Thina?

Nyathuko : No sthandwa sami. She....

Me : Bye

(I leave him and head back downstairs)

Me : Hawu sis Moltah usuyahamba yini?



Moltah : Yes ngibona lemvula angathi ifuna ukunetha.

Me : Why don't you sleep then uhambe kusasa?

Moltah : I can't sisi I need to prepare for church.

Me : Okay ngizokubizela u Uber.

(She smiles)

Moltah : Thank you so much

Me : Thina did you eat?



Thina : Yes sisi.

Me : Okay ukhululeke sisi. Angithi uyazi ukuthi ikini la?

(She smiles)

Thina : Yes.

Me : Good. You left the kids with Gogoh?

Thina : Yes uthe ngibashiye.

Me : Okay

Ushiya izingane no Gogo uzalela u Gogo wena?

(Nyathuko says while walking down the steps)



Me : Nyathuko...

Nyathuko : No baby. Thina you are coming with me tomorrow. Uzosebenza lapha e Sneaker shop. Ngeke uhlale layindlini whole day ubukane ne TV.

Thina : Okay

(I honestly feel sorry for her.)

Me : You don't mind?

Nyathuko : Of course she doesn't mind Sthah.

Thina : I'll go.

Nyathuko : Sis'Moltah ngizokuhambisa



Me : No baby. Her ride is almost here. Ngibize u Uber

Nyathuko : Okay.

(He sits next to me and wraps his arm around me. He is kissing me all over my neck now. My husband doesn't care who is around he will kiss me)

Me : Nana stop.

Nyathuko : Ngicele ukumbatha

(I cover him with the blanket while staring at my phone. I feel his hand running down to my vagina. I feel goosebumps. Goodness! I should have worn my panties. I swallow. He rubs my clit. Why is Nyathuko doing this to me? I try to close my legs together but he pinches me. I hope Moltah and Thina don't suspect anything. I try to focus on my phone)



Me : Mhmmm!

(I moan)

Moltah : Maka Ndlela are you saying something?

Me : No no no. Your ride.... your ride is almost here

Moltah : Okay ngizolinda e gatini

Nyathuko : Thina phelezela u Sis Moltah khona uzovula i gate

(My eyes are closed now)

Thina : Okay



(Moltah and Thina walk out. I hit Nyathuko's hand)

Me : What are you doing?

(He laughs. He sleeps on the couch and pulls me to sleep on top of him)

Me : What if they saw you?

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Uwena nje obusuhayiza

Me : I did not

Nyathuko : You did sthandwa sami

(We laugh.)



Me : Do you think she will manage lapha e sneaker shop?

Nyathuko : She will. Eke engintshontshele uzobona ngizomubophisa

Me : Aibo Thukeh

(He lifts up my gown and massages my ass. I'm not going to fight that but what if Thina walks back in?)

Me : Stop that

Nyathuko : Uh-huh. Baby awuphakame kancane ngiyalimala

Me : Sorry Nana

(I get up.)



Nyathuko : Yah. Woza

(He pulls me back)

Me : Uuuh!

**(Believe me his dick is inside me. I try to get up but he holds me tight.
He is laughing)**

Me : Thukena what....

(The door opens. Thina walks back in. I bury myself in his chest.)

Nyathuko : Ugibelile?

(He is moving slowly inside me. Thina will see this she will)



Thina : Yes. She said she forgot her charger

Nyathuko : Yah...

(He softly groans and kisses my neck.)

Thina : Bhuti?

Nyathuko : Thina awuhambe uyokhipha into ozoyigqoka kusasa.

Thina : Okay

(I hear her footsteps going up. Nyathuko squeezes my ass and goes all in. He wants to take off my gown. I stop him. This is not our bedroom. We are still enjoying our unplanned sex and suddenly there is a car parking outside. I jumped off him)



Nyathuko : Dammit u Thina akalivalanga i gate?

Me : Angabe ubani loyo?

Nyathuko : Mhlampe u Mzet.

(He gets up and fixes his tracksuit. He opens the door with his hand holding his dick that is still up. His eyes narrowed)

Nyathuko : Khulu?

Me : What?

(I stand up quickly and fix my gown)

Nyathuko : Baba omdala



Me : Aibo bafunani?

(I whisper to myself)

Nyathuko : Ngenani

(Nyathuko opens the door a bit wide. It's them. Khulu and Zenzele. I can't believe this)

Khulu : Koti

Me : Khulu ninjani?

(God! I have no doek on and I'm already wearing a gown at this time. It's 17h00. What are they going to think of me?)

Khulu : Amahlala akhona mntanami. Hawu senilele njalo?

(I clear my throat and look at Nyathuko)

Nyathuko : No. Siyafika nje nathi

Zenzele : Niyaphila?



(This man's voice is so big and scary. He looks around and they sit down.)

Me : I'll go and put these upstairs

Nyathuko : Azisindi sthandwa Sami?

(I roll my eyes. Can't Nyathuko see that I'm trying to escape?)

Me : Cha Na... Baba ka Ndlela.



(I quickly correct myself. My mother said I should call him Baba ka Ndlela or Zondi in front of his family. I take their bags and go upstairs)

Me : Thina? Thina? Where are you?

(I search for her in Zanokuhle's bedroom. Here she is)

Thina : Sisi is everything okay?

Me : Cha Cha Cha the Zondis are here.

(I put their bags on the bed and let out a breath. Their bags were a bit heavy)

Thina : Aibo what are they doing here?



Me : I don't know. I need to change this gown.

(I run to our bedroom and open the wardrobe. I take out a long dress and a doek and scarf. Thina walks in)

Thina : Are they downstairs?

Me : Yes futhi ababukeki bejabulile. Let me go there. I hope abazile ukuzodakwa la!

(She laughs)

**Me : I'm serious. Ngoba kungenjalo bazophuma beshile layindlini.
Ngizobabilisa ngamanzi**

(I tie up the doek around my head.)

Me : Let me go there.

Thina : Good luck



(I laugh and walk out. I go back to them)

FEW MINUTES LATER

(I'm sitting next to my husband. He is holding my hand)

Me : Khulu ngingakutheleli elinye itiyiye?

(She quickly shakes her head)

Khulu : Cha Koti. Sit down sit down mntanami.

Me : Okay



Zenzele : Where is Zanokuhle?

(He knows Zanokuhle's name? I'm shocked)

Nyathuko : Naye uno Ndlela emzini ka baba

Zenzele : Hawu when are they coming back?

Nyathuko : Tomorrow. Nibekwa yini kude kangaka?

Mkhulu : Koti anehlise kancane loyamsindo kamabonakude.

Me : Thukeh where is the remote?

(Nyathuko grabs a remote and lowers the volume)



Khulu : Asizile kabi bantabami

(Nyathuko lets out soft laughter)

Nyathuko : I want to believe that.

Khulu : Zenzele please tell them.

(Zenzele clears his throat)

Zenzele : U Nyathuko uyazi ngamaphupho ebesiba nawo so we called a sangoma ukubona nje ukuthi what's really going on nokuthi bafunani abaphansi.

Nyathuko : I see.

Zenzele : Isangoma told us that our ancestors are not happy ngendlela nina enenza ngayo.



Nyathuko : About how we do things kanjani? Angiqondi.

Zenzele : After they saved MaNgcobo's life they were hoping ukuthi nizolalela lokhu abakufunayo.

(I'm confused. How did the Zondi ancestors save my life?)

Nyathuko : What do they want kahle kahle?

Zenzele : Bafuna umshado wesintu u Mangcobo ethelwe ngenyongo. Bafuna kukhule nomndeni wakho.

Khulu : Yonke lemfuyo evele yaqhamuka esithubeni ibisikhombisa nje ukuthi abadala bafunani.

Nyathuko : They want more children? Kanjani Khulu ngoba ibona ababulala izingane zami?



Khulu : Hhayi Nyathuko hhayi. Don't talk like that.

Nyathuko : But it's true.

Zenzele : Ukudlula kwamawele ka MaNgcobo kwaba isiyekelo sezinyanya zakwa Maphalala. With Thandeka's twins I understand mhlampe idlozi lakwa Zondi laba nesandla but...

Me : Kancane kancane. Ubaba omdala uthini methi Thandeka's twins?

(I look at Nyathuko. My heart is pounding)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami I can explain.

Khulu : You didn't tell her?

**Nyathuko : Khulu ngenkulu inhlonipho can I please speak to my wife?
Sthah into yakudala le. Singakashadi. Thandeka was....**



(I can't listen to this. I stand up)

Nyathuko : Sthah please. Let me explain

Khulu : Hlala phansi Koti.

(I sit down. I want to scream. I'm angry.)

Nyathuko : Baby into yakudala. I was going to tell you but angisibonanga isdingo. I'm not even sure if those were my kids.

Me : When did it happen?

Nyathuko : Before Enzelwe's death. Ngisho sezigcwatswa no one told me. Kwakungezona ezami leziyazingane kodwa kwa Zondi benza izinto ngendlela yabo. Bageza u Thandeka behind my back.



Zenzele : Her mother came to us ehamba nabantu bakwa Mhlongo.

Nyathuko : Those were not my babies! Kanti yini enzima ukuthi niyizwe lapho?

Me : Walala naye kodwa?

(Silence)

Me : Thukeh?

Nyathuko : Ngenza iphutha Mam'Zondi. Wayengibambe ngalezinto zakhe nje

(Yho! Yho! I'm going to die right here. I stand up and go out outside. I'm going crazy. I go into our garage and sit on the floor. After a few minutes Khulu walks in.)

Khulu : Koti?



(I wipe the tears)

Me : Khulu

Khulu : Phakama ntombi yami. Phakama

(She helps me up. We sit on the couch that stays in our garage)

Khulu : You are going to be fine

Me : I don't know anymore.

Khulu : Listen to me umendo awukho lula MaNgcobo. Sikhule singaka nje usenzima nakithi. Usakhalisa abafelokazi abangasenamodada kodwa izinkinga zomendo wabo zisabahleli emahlombe. Uyabona lendandatho oyifakile Makoti?



Me : Yes

Khulu : Look at it

(I look at my wedding ring.)

Khulu : Yinhle iyakhazimulaawuzwa nokusinda kwayo emunweni wakho. Koti this is the only thing enhle nekhazimulayo emendweni this ring. Okunye kuyasinda. Kufanele uqonde ukuthi once wangena emendweni akusoze kwahlale kuwubukhazikhazi njengalendandatho oyifakile. Marriage is a huge thing mntanami. Ufuna ukubekezela ukuxolela amandla nokuthanda.

Me : I know Khulu but u Baba ka Ndlelenhle ungiqambele amanga. He should have told me ngokukhulelwa kuka Thandeka.

Khulu : He was trying to protect you. Wayevikela uthando lwakhe.

(I sigh)



Khulu : Mntanami ayizithutha amadlozi akwa Zondi kodwa anamandla. Kuzomele uqine and make sacrifices

Me : Make sacrifices?

Khulu : Let me tell you something. You see Nyathuko's grandfather? He had a wife before me. Mina ngiyintombi nje ayeyibona ngasese.

His wife was a sangoma isangoma esigangile. Wazama ukuntshontsha idlozi lakwa Zondi.

Me : Really?

Khulu : Yes. Lokho kwadala ulaka olukhulu kwabaphansi. Bavala inzalo yakhe. Wayethi Uma ekhulelwe zishone izingane. She started accusing me of witchcraft and she told me that I had a hand ngokushona kwezingane zabo. I decided to break up with Zenzele's father.

Me : Okay?



Khulu : He kept coming back. Engitshela ukuthi his ancestors are angry bafuna umfazi wakhe ephumile kwa Zondi. I wanted nothing to do with him but I still loved him. One day bavuka zonke izinkukhu zichamisele. Izingulube zazihulule. Ngalesosikhathi njalo ebusuku I was dreaming of myself walking inside the kraal ngiphethe umkhonto.

(This sounds exactly like Zanokuhle's dream and all that is happening currently)

Me : What happened after that?

Khulu : I spent only one night with Zenzele's father. Ngamitha. Wazalwa u Zenzele walandela u Bheki walandela u Shlangu. Ngizala nje ngiseyintombi idikazi.

Me : What?

Khulu : Yes. U Zenzele no Bheki kanye no Shlangu ngabazalela ekhaya. Befihliwe bengakaze belibhade kubo. Zenzele's father was scared to tell his parents about the kids. —Langilwela idlozi lakwa Zondi ngashada. Waphuma umfazi wokuqala wazalwa u Ndabenhle wazalwa u Kwanele.



Me : Just like that?

Khulu : Just like that. MaNgcobo once wazalisa ngaphandle kwaZondi ube ushadile you marry that girl ebe umfazi wesibili.

Me : Yoh

Khulu : Kunalelidlozi elikuxwayisayo ngokuzokwenzeka.

Me : What will happen?

Khulu : Uyabona uNyathuko ngoba ewehlisa kalula nje u zip webhulukwe lakhe? Ukhona lo azomumithisa. The ancestors are warning you. Leyamfuyo egcwele umuzi iyakuxwayisa. Uzophuma kulomshado Ingene enye intombazane because you don't want to listen to what the ancestors are saying and for that bazoletsha umuntu ozobalalela uphume wena. Uyosala nemigqa eminweni yakho eyoba isikhumbuzo ukuthi wake washada wagaoka indandatho yakwaZondi. Do the right thing koti. Kuzofanele ukhethe phakathi komshado wakho nensindiso yakho.

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Me : Amadlozi akwaZondi asengivivinya ngokholo lwami? Ngempela Khulu?

Khulu : You need to choose before it's too late.

(She stands up and walks out with her hands on her back)

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Chapter 58

KWA-MASHU



(I'm visiting my parents after a long time. I needed some time away after I had to behave like a rural wife in my own house. Khulu and Zenzele stayed for two days. Two fucking days!)

Me : But I'm getting used to it now. Nyathuko calls it his tattoo

(I'm showing her my incision)

MaKheswa : Yini i tattoo manje?

(I roll my eyes)

Me : Hhayi ntombi you are aging faster than I thought.

(She laughs)

MaKheswa : I know what a tattoo is. Ilento ephuma kushingamu wo Zanokuhle.



(I laugh out loud)

Me : Ungayisho leyonto phambi kwabantu uyongihlaza.

(We laugh)

MaKheswa : Gqamu-Gqamu akasanazi u Gogoh.

(She brushes Ndlelenhle's hair. I sigh)

Me : I know. I was still weak and Nyathuko didn't want me to go anywhere.

MaKheswa : Yah. How is he?

Me : Akekho. He visited his grandmother eMzinyathi. Sishiye u Thina endlini



MaKheswa : Iphara?

Me : Mah please. Yazi she is really trying. Uyasebenza nokusebenza.

MaKheswa : Where is her mother?

Me : Aibo weMah yazi umaka Thukeh weyiwele. Umawakhe ke iwele lika Maka Thukeh. She died in a car accident.

MaKheswa : Umamezala wakho weyiwele?

Me : Yes Kodwa umaka Thina washona kuqala mengizwa and Thukeh's parents took care of Thina. Nangoke esefika e University eshintsha and she started using drugs.

(I laugh)



Me : Yesterday ke wavukwa ilezinto ze arosta and she was sitting outside elangeni. Uthi u Thukeh manje uzokwenzenjani? And she said I'll be fine. Ntambama ke she disappeared and Nyathuko went to look for her. Wabuya naye wamshiya endlini. Mase ebuya u Thukeh ubuya umphathele i woonga. Uthi ngingamane ngikuthengele mina ukunokuthi uhambe untshontshela abantu.

MaKheswa : Ahawu isono. Yey umuntu owadala i woonga ngeke elibone izulu ngisho elezinja

Me : It was sad seeing her like that. Nyathuko is even thinking of getting her arrested evele eyohlala ejeli

MaKheswa : But she has kids.

Me : That's what I told him and zincane izingane zakhe. But uyingabile i woonga. I think she really wants to stop but she doesn't want to go to the rehab.

MaKheswa : Does she drink?



Me : No ay utshwala akabuthinti.

MaKheswa : I feel sorry for Zondi kodwa ke sothini? Owakwabo and awukho umgqomo wokulahla umuntu.

Me : That's true. Ayke....Zano please go and play outside. Your brother is falling asleep.

Zanokuhle : Okay mommy

Me : Sengiyamunqena lo usenomukhuba wokuthutha izindaba ezitshela u Thukeh.

(She laughs)

Me : I'm serious mama. He tells him everything

MaKheswa : All kids do that.

Me : Ay

MaKheswa : Yah?

Me : The Zondis came to see us. They told us about how livid their ancestors are ngoba angikakathelwa ngenyongo.



MaKheswa : Baselapho namanje?

Me : And they won't let this matter rest. They are coming for my marriage ke manje.

MaKheswa : How?

Me : They want Nyathuko to take a wife that will listen to them and respect their wishes. Isangoma sesishilo ke ukuthi u Thukeh khona intombazane azoyimithisa and that girl will become his wife ngiphume mina.



(Her eyes widen)

MaKheswa : Unamanga Sthabile.

Me : I'm telling you. Ijoka ke mina engilithwele kuloyamendo

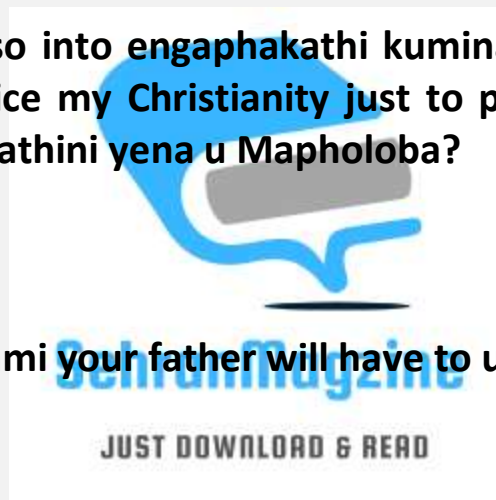
MaKheswa : Kodwa mntanami ulingwa yini?

Me : I don't know. The devil is testing me

MaKheswa : Kodwa phela wena awusasonti

Me : Kodwa insindiso into engaphakathi kumina Mah into engikhule ngayo. I can't sacrifice my Christianity just to please Amadlozi akwa Zondi no mama. Engathini yena u Mapholoba?

MaKheswa : Mntanami your father will have to understand.



Me : Cha. Awangibulale amadlozi akwa Zondi mefuna.

MaKheswa : Don't say that.

Me : Ngithini Mah?

MaKheswa : Uthini yena ubaba ka Ndlelenhle?

Me : Ulokhu engithembisa ukuthi nothing will happen yena ngeke emithise muntu. You know Nyathuko nje Mah.

MaKheswa : Inkulu lento weSthabile and we shouldn't take it for granted.

Me : I know but nami ayikho into engizoyenza.



MaKheswa : Do you love baba ka Ndlelenhle?

(I look at her. How can she ask that?)

Me : What kind of question is that? Mah u Thukeh ngingamufela.

MaKheswa : Maybe it's time you prove that. Sthabile you know very well that Baba ka Ndlela loves you and uzovuma noma yini wena

oyishoyo. You know very well ukuthi lento yomshado wesintu is very important to him but because he loves you and he wants to see you happy so uzokwenza angathi yonke lento ayibalulekile kuyena.

Me : Nyathuko respects me Mah kanye nokholo lwami.

MaKheswa : But wena you don't respect amasiko akhe.

Me : I do. I allow Nyathuko to burn the incense and speaks to his ancestors endlini yethu manje kungani yena usiko lwakhe sekufanele luncindezele eyami inkolo?



MaKheswa : No inkolo yakho iyona ecindezela umshado wenu. Mntanami trust me this will end in tears. Ake wenze nje ngamabomu wenze lento abayifunayo.

Me : No. That will mean I'm choosing ancestors over my God.

MaKheswa : Ayke. Ngigeza izandla. Have it your way Sthabile umshado wakho vele lo mntanami. Obani laba?

(She looks through the window)

MaKheswa : It's Nuh and Mapholoba. U Nuh u Nuh. U Nuh usethandana no Mkhuleko.

(She whispers. My eyes widen)

Me : Ay Ay Mah ayikho leyonto.



MaKheswa : I'm telling you. Thula naba beza

(They walk in.)

Nuh : Mbhunguka

(I laugh)

Me : Oh please. I always come here

(I stand up and hug her)

Nuh : Ay u Mah ngimubonile bephuma kothandaza.

(My mother laughs)



Nuh : How are you mngani?

Me : I'm okay oe. Angisakwazi

(My father goes into their bedroom and my mother follows him.)

Nuh : Ngikhona oe

Me : Let's go to my room. Kuyabanda la

(We go to my bedroom. My phone rings as soon we sit down.)

Me : u Thukeh

Nuh : Ay usefuna ukukulanda

(I laugh)



Me : Yah Babah

Nyathuko : Mam'Zondi kade ngikufonela.

Me : I'm sorry Nana. I was charging my phone la ekamereni mina ngingale e dining.

Nyathuko : Okay. I miss you

Me : I miss you too baby. Uyaphila u Gogoh?

Nyathuko : Yeah she is fine. Uzobuya kusasa angithi?

Me : Yes Nana but after church.

Nyathuko : u Ntokozo naye useyasonta



(I laugh out loud)

Me : Since when ngoba phela Ntokozo hates going to church.

Nyathuko : I don't know but sebeyasonta bonke no Smilo

(I laugh)

Me : I don't believe you Nana. I'll call her ngizizwele ngokwami.

Nyathuko : Baby mina ngifuna nibuye namhlanje nje

(I look at Nuh and laugh. She saw this coming)



Me : I can't baby. Sisahlale 2 days kuphela and kade futhi sagcina la.

Nyathuko : Okay

(He sounds disappointed but he will be fine)

Me : Come on Nana sobuya kusasa

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuzwa sthandwa sami. Where are my boys?

Me : Ndlela is sleeping and Zano is playing outside

Nyathuko : Okay I'll talk to them later. Ngena ku Whatsapp phela

(I laugh)

Me : Okay baby



Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda

Me : I love you too baby

(I hung up. Nuh laughs)

Nuh : Iyaphila kodwa ngaphandle kwakho lendoda?

(I laugh)

Me : This one is bored ufuna ngingene ku Whatsapp manje.

Nuh : Yoh! Ay engafa u Thukeh ngaphandle kwakho

(I laugh. I log onto Whatsapp and find thousands of messages from him. He is complaining about me ignoring him.)



SehranMagzine

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Me : Ngicela uyiyeke indoda yami. He is just feeling guilty

(I reply to my husband)

Vuma phela nginilande Mam'Zondi : Him

Nuh : Guilty about what?

Me : Wamithisa u Thandeka

(Nuh is shocked)

Nuh : Kanjani Sthabile?

No Baby. Soza kusasa. Ususe Ballito yini?



(I reply)

Me : Angazi oe kodwa uyaphika. Do you remember what I told you? That we saw Thandeka e Gateway ehamba ngenduku ehamba nomawakhe?

Nuh : Yeah

Yeah I came back the following day. Ngangineyo indawo yokulala ngalala ka Phewa ku Mluh because Thina was sleeping in my room. : Him

Did you speak to amantombazane akwa Mtshali about the clothes she stole? : Me

(I reply and put my phone away)



Me : Angathi kwakusanda kushona wona ke amawele.

Nuh : They had twins?

Me : Yes ashona and the Zondis cleansed Thandeka behind Nyathuko's back. Wagula u Thandeka after that. Manje uti u Thukeh u Thandeka wegula because his family cleansed her after losing izingane okwakungezona ezakhe but still wagezwa kubo.

Nuh : But that's possible. Oe lento yedlozi ayidlali.

Me : I want to believe him yazi Nuh but u Thukeh usengigile kakhulu.

Nuh : Ayngeke mngani. Yes your husband has slept around a few times maybe but ukumithisa?

Me : Uthi uyazazi yena memithisile so akakaze emithise u Thandeka.

Nuh : I believe him mina shame. Loyamndeni wakwa Mhlongo ukhohlakele oe and they would have done anything just to keep Thandeka in Thukeh's life.



(I sigh)

Me : Maybe. Wena ke? Zithini ezakho?

(She giggles)

Nuh : Sengu Mamncane ka Zano

Me : What?

Nuh : Yebo oe

Sponsored



shame. Loyamndeni wakwa Mhlongo ukhohlakele oe and they would have done anything just to keep Thandeka in Thukeh's life.

(I sigh)

Me : Maybe. Wena ke? Zithini ezakho?

(She giggles)

Nuh : Sengu Mamncane ka Zano

Me : What?

Nuh : Yebo oe sengu Mam'Dlomo. Sino Mkhuleko siyajola

(I laugh out loud)

Me : Are you serious?



Nuh : Yes usibonile nje umawakho.

(I open my mouth wide)

Me : And when did this happen? Aibo what about his wife?

Nuh : Ngihlanganaphi nomfazi wakhe? Ngidla indoda nje mina qha

(Oh - My - Goodness. Did she just say that?)

Me : Wow Nuh

Nuh : And ngiya catcher ke manje.

Me : Aibo wena



Nuh : Ngiyakutshela mngani u Sphamandla ngimshiye phansi.

Me : You lie!

Nuh : Serious.

Me : Unjalo ke wena uvele ubone lo ushiye lo fast.

(She laughs)

Nuh : I'm just having fun oe

Me : No you are catching feelings. You said it yourself

Nuh : I am hey but kuzodlula

(My phone vibrates)



Me : WeJesu! U Thukeh sengikhohliwe.

(He is video calling me. I quickly answer)

Me : Nana u Nuh. Look she is here and ulokhu engixoxisa

Nuh : Hi

Nyathuko : Nkosazana sawubona

Nuh : Awusavakashi

(Nyathuko laughs)

Nyathuko : I will maduzane nje.



Me : Baby usejola no Mkhuleko

(Nuh laughs and hits my shoulder)

Nyathuko : Aw yinhle ke leyonto. Where is Zanokuhle?

(I roll my eyes. Is that all he can say?)

Me : I'll give him the phone.

(I stand up and walk out)

Nyathuko : Baby I really miss you.

Me : Nami sthandwa sami. Fika ekseni siye esontweni sonke mase sibuyela e Ballito mekuphela isonto



Nyathuko : Okay

Me : Are you okay Nana?

(I just don't feel him today. I stop walking)

Nyathuko : Yeah yeah I'm good. Ilento ka Thina nje

Me : Batheni kwa Mtshali?

Nyathuko : I paid them imali yezingubo lezi azintshontsha u Thina

Me : Bathi bazomuyeka?

Nyathuko : Yeah

Me : Pho why do you look stressed?



Nyathuko : I'm fine sthandwa sami. Where is Zano?

Me : Nangu engena. Zano nangu u Thukeh

(I give Zanokuhle my phone. He smiles)

Zanokuhle : Daddy!

(He waves his hand)

Nyathuko : Nkosana ka baba unjani mfana ka baba?

Me : Ulethe ifoni yami mase uqedile Zano.



Zanokuhle : Okay mommy.

(I go back to Nuh)

Nuh : Wemngani I need to go. u Mkhuleko uthi uyeza ntambama so I need to go ngiyopheka

Me : Mhmmm

Nuh : Are you okay?

Me : Yeah yeah yeah. u Thukeh nje lo ongididayo

Nuh : What's wrong with Thukeh?

Me : I don't know he looks off.

Nuh : Off? How?



Me : I don't know.

Nuh : Maybe you should go to Ballito then.

Me : No I'll call Thina.

Nuh : Okay angisabuzanga nomthungo ukuthi unjani.

Me : No it's healing. I'll be fine

Nuh : That's good. Sokhuluma ku Whatsapp ke

Me : Yeah uhambe kahle oe.

Nuh : See you.



(She walks out. Zanoluhle walks in with my phone.)

Zanoluhle : It's ringing mommy

Me : Oh u Ntokozo. Hello maZondi

Ntokozo : Maka Ndlela how are you?

Me : Ngiyaphila sisi. Kade ngithi ngizofona

Ntokozo : UkwaMashu?

Me : Yes kodwa ngibuyela e Ballito ksasa. Ubhuti wakho uthi usuyasonta

(She laughs)



Ntokozo : Yah neh. All thanks to your parents. Yazi bangikhombisa indlela anamandla ngayo Nkulunkulu

Me : What do you mean?

Ntokozo : The way they were praying kade usesibhedlela. Nanamhlanje ngisakholwa ukuthi wavuswa umkhuleko ka MaKheswa kuloyambhede wesibhedlela Sthabile even Smilo believes so.

Me : Yeah wona amandla ka thixo ayamangalisa.

Ntokozo : Kwavele nje kwavuka enye into kumina. Saya esontweni and I'm happy ngaleso sinqumo engasenza.

Me : I'm happy for you Ntoko. Niya emaromeni?



Ntokozo : Yeah la ekwakusonta khona u Mah and ngifuna ukubhabhadisa izingane zami nje maduze.

Me : That's good.

Ntokozo : Aybo we Sthabile is my brother okay? Angimuzwa nje kahle.

Me : He said he is fine kodwa nami uyangidida.

Ntokozo : Nami. That's why ngivele ngafonela wena because I thought mhlampe uyazi ukuthi what's going on.

Me : u Thukeh uvele engafuni ukukhuluma

Ntokozo : He is like that. Uvele efele ngaphakathi

Me : Ngiya endlini kusasa and hopefully he will tell me ukuthi yini inkinga. Sengicabanga nokufonela u Thina



Ntokozo : Awumfonele Maka Ndlela maybe she knows something.

Me : Okay sisi.

Ntokozo : You'll get back to me.

Me : Of course.

Ntokozo : Thanks sisi.

(I hang up and scroll down to Thina's number. I call her)

Me : Thina unjani?

Thina : I'm okay sisi.

Me : Use Ballito?

Thina : I'm still at work but u Thukeh usendlini.

Me : Okay. Is he okay?



(Silence)

Me : Thina?

Thina : I'm still here. Sisi I think you should come back. There is a girl coming here

(My heart races)



Me : What? Intombazane? Where?

Thina : Yes. A day before yesterday yafika lana e Sneaker shop yahlala no Thukeh e office lakhe bevale isicabha.

Me : What?

Thina : Yes. And this morning she came to your house ekseni kusa. I heard her fighting with Thuthuh mina ngilele ekamereni lika Zano. She

was talking about going to the police to confess about something and Thuthuh was begging her not to go to the police.

(I don't understand what Thina is saying. Maybe she is high because right now she is not making any sense)

Thina : She was wearing a short dress sisi ingubo encane ebiveza izinga zakhe. You need to come back.

Me : Okay okay. Ayilona i coloured leyo ntombazane?



Thina : No akalona i coloured. Ngimushuthile. Her name is Nomzamo.

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Chapter 59

(I'm sitting in the lounge with my parents. My father is reading me a whole Bible and I think he is close to the end now but it's just that I wasn't paying attention. I keep hearing Thina's voice in my head and my mind wanders back to Zanokuhle's dream.)

Ngcobo :.....incwadi engcwele ikubeka ngokusobala ke lokho. Sthabile you can't allow your marriage to change you. Lizothini lona ibandla selizwa ukuthi indodakazi ka Ngcobo isikhonza Amadlozi? Please don't let them change you mntanami. Think about this family's reputation.



MaKheswa : Ngeke Mapholoba Musa ukudlala ngengane. Sthabile is no longer a Ngcobo so she has ~~nothing~~ to do with this family's reputation anymore.

Ngcobo : She is still our daughter ka Kheswa.

MaKheswa : Myeni wami u Sthabile usewumfazi wakwa Zondi whether you like it or not.

(I stand up and grab my father's car keys.)

Ngcobo : Where is she going nokhiye beveni lami?

Me : Ngizolibuyisa iveni lakho Fuze I just need some fresh air.

MaKheswa : Mntanami we didn't mean to upset you. Uyabonake Mapholoba usuwenzeni? Odokotela bathi akasidingi i stress u Sthabile but buka manje.



(I walk out. Did I tell you that my father bought an Isuzu single cab with my lobola money? Yes he did. That money he promised not to touch because it was dirty well he finally used it and he bought himself a car. I get inside his car and drive off. My phone rings for the 5th time. I look at the screen and focus back on the road. It's Nyathuko calling. It stops ringing and I switch it off and press the accelerator. I don't even have my driver's license with me but I don't care. I keep driving)

(Okay I don't know where to go from here. I heard it was this side but I don't know where exactly. I stop the car next to a young couple. They are holding hands. I roll down the window)

Me : Sanibona

Hi

(They both say)

Me : Kukephi kwaMchunu mengila?

(The guy looks at his girlfriend)



Me : Please I'm harmless.

(They both laugh)

Guy : Kungale Uma udlula isikole i Siphesihle Secondary School

Girl : We are also going there sihlala khona. Siphuma e Verulam ngezinyawo. Sidle imali yokugibela.

Guy : Baby.....

(I want to laugh. So these two went on a date and they spent all the money even money for transport. I like them though. They look cute together)

Me : Jump in. Let's go



Guy : Sohlala khona la emuva we don't mind.

Me : Fine

(I don't want to waste any more time so if they want to sit in the back of the car I'll gladly let them. He helps his girlfriend climb in and I drive off. I never thought this place was this far. I'm tired of driving now. After a few minutes I hear a knock on the window and I lower my speed. I open the window)

Guy : Mawufika kuleliyabhodi please take left.

Me : Okay

(They told me where they were going to jump off. I stop the car to drop them off.)

Me : Ngicela ukubuza umuzi wakwa Mhayise imuphi kulemizi?



Guy : Mhayise?

Me : Yes kubo ka Nomzamo

(They shake their heads)

Me : Intombazane ende nje she is dark skinned unezinga ezinkulu namazinyo angathi agibelene la ngaphambili

Guy : Ay sorry sisi we don't know her.

(I close my eyes and release a breath. I open my eyes.)

Me : You know her. Her boyfriend used to drive a black BMW ebhalwe Ghetto King kwi windscreen.

(They look at each other)



Girl : Usho usisi ka Mlondi. Her name is Simtholile not Nomzamo

Me : Cha mina ngazi ukuthi u Nomzamo. Where is.....

(I pause when I see her getting out of some car. I think it's Uber.)

Me : Never mind.

(I start the engine and drive off. I park next to her and get out of the car)

Me : Nomzamo hi.

(She frowns but her face quickly gets back into shape.)

Nomzamo : What are you doing here?



Me : Sisi can we talk?

Nomzamo : No what do you want from me?

(Ha! She is giving me attitude. I thought I was going to be nice but nah)

Me : No what do you want from my husband? Yini le oyihlanganisa no Thukeh ngoba ngiyezwa kuthiwa awusapheli emzini wami?

Nomzamo : I don't know what you are talking about.

Me : Ungangenzi islima wena nondindwa. Yini ekuhlanganisa no myeni wami?

Nomzamo : He is your husband angithi? So why don't you go and ask him ukuthi uhlanganiswa yini nami?



Me : Yazi I was totally wrong about you. Yeka ngikuzwela Nomzamo kushone u Nqaba kanti uthi lala luza bosala bekwengula. Wajabula kushone u Nqaba angithi? Because you couldn't wait to open your legs for his best friend! Umuntu obefana nobhuti kuyena! Yey unehlazo Nomzamo

Nomzamo : I don't know what you heard but you got it all wrong. Empeleni wuye umyeni wakho ofuna mina angithi wena uyahluleka ukuba umfazi wakwa Zondi? Songena ke thina esaziyo ukuthi indoda ithandwa namasiko ayo.

(I raise my eyebrows in disbelief)

Me : You know? You know about the Zondi ancestors? Who told you Nomzamo?

(She laughs)

Nomzamo : Your time is up Sthabile. Sekusele amahora amubalwa nje ubuyele esibongweni sakho sakwa Ngcobo



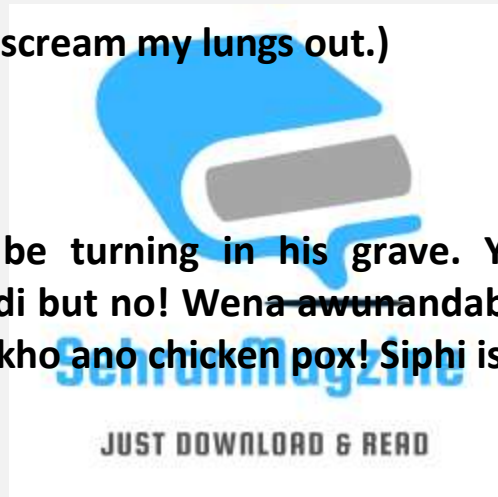
(My blood is boiling. Who told Nomzamo about what the Zondi ancestors want?)

Nomzamo : Sthabile you don't deserve him buka nje namanje umi lana emgaqweni umemezana nami. What kind of a wife does this? Nyathuko deserves better than this.

(She looks at me from my head to toe. I throw a fat slap across her face. She shakes her head and smiles)

Nomzamo : Enza noma yini oyifunayo. Hit me all you want. Ngishaye Sthabile. Angithi wena wibhokolo? Go ahead hit me Sthabile. Hit me kodwa okusalayo ngeke ngiyeke ukubona u Thukeh. Sengizomubonela kona lokhu ke manje

(Yho! Yho! I want to scream my lungs out.)



Me : Nqaba must be turning in his grave. Yazi umzimba wakhe usashisa kuloyamgodi but no! Wena awunandaba usuvulela abangani bakhe lamathanga akho ano chicken pox! Siphi ismilo sakho? Ulunywa inkanuko?

Nomzamo : Yes! Yes iyangiluma and awufuni ukwazi ukuthi ubani ozoyinwaya.

(She is getting closer)

Nomzamo : Sthabile let me tell you something uyabona u Thukeh? Uzongishada. I'm going to be his wife and you won't do shit about it ngoba umndeni wonke wakwaZondi ngisho nezinyanya zakhona imbala zizobe zisemuva kwami zingeseke! Ngizongena emagcekeni akwaZondi uthanda noma ungathandi.

Me : Uyongena ngifile msunu wenja!

(She laughs)

Nomzamo : Heh! Lakhuluma ikholwa elikhulu. Uzobona wena. Qhubeka nje uzihlanyise. U Thukeh owami—



Me : What is wrong with you? Uloyiwe?

Nomzamo : No ngiphila saka.

Me : No something is wrong with you!! Akekho umuntu ophila kahle ekhanda ongenza lento oyenzayo Nomzamo.

Nomzamo : Believe whatever you want. Anginendaba nawe mina Sthabile.

Me : Waze wayisfebe Nomzamo. Yazi uyinkunzi yesifebe. Isifebe esahushula isisu

(She laughs out loud)

Nomzamo : I was expecting you to say that. Ngingcono mina ngahushula ezakho ziyafa. Unesinya esi weak.



Me : I'm going to kill you.

Nomzamo : You wish!

Me : Nyathuko will never marry you baby girl. Mhlampe usekubhebhile and lokho wakubona sekuwumshado kanti cha. Uyogcina khona nje ukukubhebhela ema office kodwa kowami umuzi awusoze wangena.

**Nomzamo : I wouldn't be so sure if I were you because who knows?
Maybe sekuno Zondi omncane okhulayo la esiswini sami.**

(Oh my God he slept with her. Nyathuko slept with Nomzamo. I try to punch her but she blocks my hand. She shakes her head)

Nomzamo : Don't push it Sthabile.

Me : Stay away from my husband. Please.

The logo for SehranMagzine features a stylized blue speech bubble containing a white book icon. Below the speech bubble, the text "SehranMagzine" is written in a blue, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the tagline "JUST DOWNLOAD & READ" is written in a smaller, grey, all-caps font.

SehranMagzine

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Nomzamo : No no no. I won't stay away from him. Sthabile uma u Thukeh engangifuni then it's over. Ngizoqeda nya ngempilo yakhe. I will make sure that he stays away from you. I will make sure that mina naye sifela ejeli and who knows? Mhlampe nendodana yakho u Zanokuhle will grow up in jail.

Me : What? Lingenaphi ijeli manje?

Nomzamo : Nyathuko knows what's good for him so ngeke elenze iphutha ngakho kuzomele wamukele that soon I will be Mrs Nyathuko Zondi.

Me : What are you saying?

Nomzamo : Go and ask our husband.

(She laughs and walks away leaving me dumbstruck. Her mother is screaming her name)



Nomzamo! Nomzamo why are you embarrassing me? Usuhamba ulwa no nonkiloyi wena emgaqweni?

(Her mother asks. She is calling me a bitch)

Nomzamo : Uyena oshaye mina Mah.

She did what? Uyazi ukuthi engahamba eseyisudumbu la? Wentombazane?

(She is calling me. I don't have the energy anymore. I get inside my father's car and drive. I didn't know so many people were watching us. I tighten my hand on the steering wheel and drive past them.)

(What if Nomzamo is the woman that the Zondi ancestors want for Nyathuko? What did she mean when she said she will make sure that they all go to jail? And how is my son involved in this whole thing? Is this about the dreams he's been having? But how? Wait so all this time Nomzamo had feelings for Nyathuko? I remember when I asked her if one day he would love to get married and have kids with Nqabayethu and she said "He is not Thukeh" I should have known. That girl fooled me. I trusted her I trusted her so much. Tears blurry my eyes I cross yet another red traffic light. I take my phone and switch it on. I throw it next to me. I lift up my eyes to blue lights all over the road)

Me : Oh shit.

(They stop me and tell me to park aside. My heart is beating fast. I take my phone and search for Nyathuko's number. My hands are shaking. I'm nervous. I dial his number. He quickly answers)

Me : Nana they want to arrest me. They are going to arrest me Thukeh.

(My body is trembling)

Nyathuko : Baby calm down okay? Calm down. Where are you?

Me : Verulam... I...I.....



(I stutter)

Nyathuko : Verulam? Okay baby? Nana? Tell me what you see lapho sthandwa sami.

Me : A.. A.. A garage BP garage

(I look around)

Me : Bridge and a school. They are coming to my window Thukeh.

(I lower my phone from my ear and roll down the window. Tears are flowing down my face.)

Officer : Sisi udlule i robot libovu.

Me : Hi

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udlule i robot libovu.

Me : Hi... I... I thought it was green.

Officer : Awuwazi umehluko phakathi kuka red no green? Why aren't you wearing your seat belt?

(I grab the seat belt and put it on)

Officer : Don't you think it's too late for that?

Me : Please forgive me baba uphoyisa I'm stressed. Nomzamo slept with my husband. Ufuna ukuchitha umshado wami.

(I sniff and wipe the tears. He laughs and shakes his head)



Officer : Wow this is interesting. Who is Nomzamo

Me : Nqabayethu's girlfriend.

(I'm losing my mind. I don't know how to defend myself. He shakes his head again)

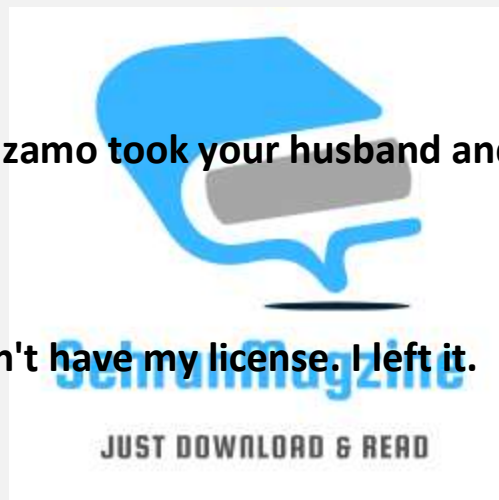
Officer : May I see your license?

(I shake my head)

Me : You can't.

Officer : I guess Nomzamo took your husband and your license.

Me : She didn't. I don't have my license. I left it.



Officer : Sisi unesikhathi sokudlala wena. Open this door and get out of the car.

Me : No no no I can't. I can explain

(Tears rain down my cheeks once again)

Officer : I'm sure you will. Kodwa ay lana uzochaza e police station.

Me : No no. No police station No police please.

Officer : I don't have time for your games. Sisi I'm not your friend and definitely not your husband. I'm doing my job here. Phuma emotweni!

Me : Please don't arrest me please.



(I beg. He opens my door and pulls me out of the car.)

Me : Please.

Officer : Come. Nicabanga ukuthi siyadlala la.

(He takes me straight to their police car.)

Officer : Get in and stay here.

(I get in and look around. I want to pee. I suddenly feel sick. I'm scared)

(Minutes later I hear the sound of a bike. I sit up and look out the window. I see my husband's red car. His father is also here with his bike. Nyathuko gets out of his car and Maxwell climbs off his bike. He takes off his helmet and they go and speak to the police. Nyathuko is looking around. He is searching for me.)



Me : Thukeh!!

(I know they can't hear me but I feel safe now. They seem to be arguing with the police but finally I see them coming my direction. The door opens and I get out and run to my husband. He hugs me. I don't want him to let me go.)

Nyathuko : It's okay baby. Siyekhaya manje.

Maxwell : Mathabi are you okay?

(He takes off his biker jacket and covers my shoulders)

Me : I'm okay baba.

Maxwell : Did they touch you?



(I shake my head)

Me : No

Maxwell : Good. Son take her home. I'll deal with these people.

Me : What about my father's car?

**Nyathuko : Don't worry sthandwa sami Nondaba will take care of it.
Let's go**

(We go to Nyathuko's car. He opens for me and I get in.)

Me : My phone I left my phone.

Nyathuko : Ikephi sthandwa sami?



Me : In my father's car.

Nyathuko : I'll go and get it.

(He kisses my forehead and walks away.)

IN BALLITO

(The drive here was very quiet. The only thing that Nyathuko did was crack his neck. I also couldn't speak. I was still nervous. I got here and took a shower. I'm in bed now. I'm worried about my kids but I know they are safe with my parents. Nyathuko walks in smelling like mint. He's been smoking.)

Nyathuko : What were you doing in Verulam?

(I keep quiet)



Nyathuko : Sthah ngiyazi angithi ukuthi awulele.

(I sit up)

Me : Yes I'm not sleeping. I went to see Nomzamo.

Nyathuko : Why?

Me : What do you mean why? Nyathuko awungitshele yini ngempela? Imina inkinga?

Nyathuko : Ukhuluma ngani?

Me : I will tell you ukuthi ngikhuluma ngani. Well guess what? Ngiyile kobona intombi yakho yangitshela yonke into ebengidinga ukuyizwa. That you had sex with her that you are going to marry her wangitshela nangendlela engisihluleki somfazi ngayo. Uthe ngesinye esi weak esibulala izingane zakho!

(He is not saying anything. No reaction at all.)



Me : Tell me something u Nomzamo uyena lomfazi omkhethelwe amadlozi akwaZondi? Uyena lo ozokwandisa umndeni wakho ngoba phela mina ngiyahluleka esami insinya siqalekisiwe sibulala izingane zakho so yena u right angithi Nyathuko?

(Silence. So he is not going to deny anything I say?)

Me : Thukeh where did I go wrong? Yini le engiyenzile engaka? Usuka la Thukeh uhamba uyokhuluma izindaba zomuzi wethu with your girlfriend? You promised to love me Nyathuko wathi uzongivikela. What happened ngempela?

Nyathuko : You happened Sthabile.

Me : What?



Nyathuko : Awufuni ukulalela. Uvele ugxajelwe ikhanda wenzise okohlanya. Angase ngikubuze manje ukuthi ubuthwala ikhanda uyonzani ku Nomzamo ngeke ungitshela because you think you are a man in this marriage. Kumele ngizwe wena mina.

Me : Uyangithuka manje Nyathuko!

Nyathuko : Ukhuluma iphutha.

Me : Bekumele ngenzeni? Huh? Bekumele ngihlale and relax while you are fucking that bitch in my house?

Nyathuko : I didn't sleep with Nomzamo

Me : You did!! Usukhohliwe ukuthi owakho u zip weblukwe uyaxega? She is your best friend's girlfriend. Uyintombi ka Nqabayethu namanje u Nqabayethu lo owayefana nomfowenu!! What? Nihlangene no Nomzamo? Ukuhlohlile Thukeh ukuthi nidle lemali u Nqabayethu ayishele u Zanokuhle? Huh? Is this about that bloody inheritance?

Nyathuko : Ungazongidakelwa wena. Ukhuluma nobani kanje?



(He stands up from the floor. He is going to hit me)

Me : I'm sorry.

Nyathuko : Sthabile when are you going to start listening to me? Uzoqala nini ngempela ukungibona njengomyeni wakho? I'm trying Sthabile everyday I'm trying. I'm trying to protect this family our marriage our kids kodwa wena njalo uyalwa.

(Tears fill up my eyes)

Nyathuko : No no ungazami nokuzama ukukhala. Into ozoyenza you are going to stay away from Nomzamo because if you don't....

Me : Uzokwenzani Thukeh? What are you going to do if I don't?

Nyathuko : Sthabile please sengiyakuncenga ke manje. Stay away from Nomzamo. Nomzamo knows things things that could destroy my life things that could destroy Zanokuhle and you impilo yenu yonke.



Me : What things?

Nyathuko : Sthah I'm trying sthandwa sami. I don't know how I'll get out kuyoyonke lento but I'm trying. I'm doing this for you for umfan'wami u Zanokuhle. I'm doing this for our family so I'm begging you to please stay out of it. Phuma ku Nomzamo she is not your friend.

(If this involves Zanokuhle then now I'm sure it's about inheritance.)

Me : Just tell me Nyathuko is this about ifa lika Zanokuhle?

Nyathuko : No I can't tell you. I can't Sthah.

(He shakes his head)

Me : Ulala naye Thukeh. Ufuna ngihlale layindlini and relax like everything is okay then the next thing engene layindlini nesisu? Esemithi ingane yakho!



(He rubs his face)

Nyathuko : Ha! Ha! You know what? I can't do this.

(He opens the wardrobe and takes out his jacket)

Me : Wena nje you want to come up with excuses njalo ngobufebe bakho? Every month I have to deal with you nobufebe bakho? You are torturing me Nyathuko! Don't you see it? Ay fuck mahn Thukeh.

(He puts on his jacket)

Me : Usuya kuyena angithi? Uyomtshela about how useless of a wife I am?

(He shakes his head and sighs)



Nyathuko : If only you knew izinto engizithwele emahlombe ami Sthabile...(sigh)

(He puts on his hood and zips up his jacket)

Nyathuko : But it's okay Uma ukuthanda wena kuyincazelo yakho konke lokhu then fine. I'll keep going hoping that one day uyobona indlela engikuthanda ngayo but I just hope it won't be too late.

(He takes his phone and walks out.)

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Chapter 60

(It's the end of the month. Nyathuko went to Ndwedwe and he came back yesterday. He went to discuss another ceremony that they will be having for Ndlelenhle. Apparently now that he has teeth they need to thank him and give him isiphandla. I don't know why Nyathuko had to go there when they could have discussed it over the phone like they always do. I'm sleeping on his chest with my hand on his dick as usual. When he is sleeping on his back you'll find my head on his chest and my hand resting on his dick. He brushes my arm and types on his phone. Whatever he is doing on that phone must be really important because his whole focus is on that phone that I want to smash on the wall. I always get worried when he spends a lot of time on his phone. I know Nomzamo has been quiet for a couple of days but what if she is back in his life? I move and rub my hand against his penis. I'm keeping it professional though like someone who is fast asleep but moving. He kisses my forehead. Nondaba moves slowly under my hand. He is slowly getting up. I feel butterflies in my stomach. Nyathuko stops all the butterflies when he puts his hand over mine and presses him down. His phone vibrates and he quickly removes his hand from mine and clicks his tongue. Who is calling him? He is typing again. He finishes and kisses my forehead.)

Nyathuko : Baby?

(I keep quiet and pretend to be sleeping. He is looking at me I can feel his big eyes staring at me but I don't dare blink. He sighs and kisses my nose. His phone vibrates again.)

Nyathuko : Ungifonelelani ngoba uyangibona ngiku Whatsapp? No no no ungangifoneli. Nx!



(He clicks his tongue. I wonder who he is talking to.)

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Nyathuko : Mam'Zondi?

(I keep quiet)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami vuka phela manje.

(He shakes my arm)

Me : Mhmmmm

(I try to move away from his chest but he pulls me back)

Nyathuko : Baby huh-uh

(I open my eyes. He is smiling.)



Nyathuko : Sawubona mfazi wami omuhle.

Me : Yah Thukeh. What time is it?

Nyathuko : U 08h00. Kanti niya ngasikhathi sini e Gateway?

Me : Now asiyi e Gateway kodwa.. Where is Ndlelenhle?

Nyathuko : Basezansi no Thina.

Me : Okay othi ngilale kancane Thukeh ngizovuka ngo half past.

(I move to my pillow and sleep on my stomach. He climbs on my back and kisses my neck. His dick is poking my butts. He gently rubs his dick between my butt crack. My clit aches I feel my nipples getting harder. I could be angry at Nyathuko but my body always betrays me. He stops. I feel his warm breath in my ear)

Nyathuko : Mamah?

The logo for SehranMagzine features a stylized blue speech bubble with a white outline, containing a grey silhouette of a person's head and shoulders. Below the speech bubble, the text "SehranMagzine" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the phrase "JUST DOWNLOAD & READ" is written in a smaller, black, all-caps, sans-serif font.

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Me : Yes?

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda yezwa?

(He says and I suddenly feel his hands squeezing my breasts. He presses his lips on my shoulder and puts it all in. My body trembles a bit. I tighten my grip on the pillow)

Nyathuko : Eish! Mhm-Mhmm Mam'Zondi? Baby?

Me : Uh baby?

Nyathuko : Ngiyaxolisa kodwa ngizochama manje sthandwa sami.

Me : Okay baby okay.



(I bite the pillow. I can feel his penis right inside my lower stomach. I cum before he does. He groans a bit louder and presses his forehead against my back)

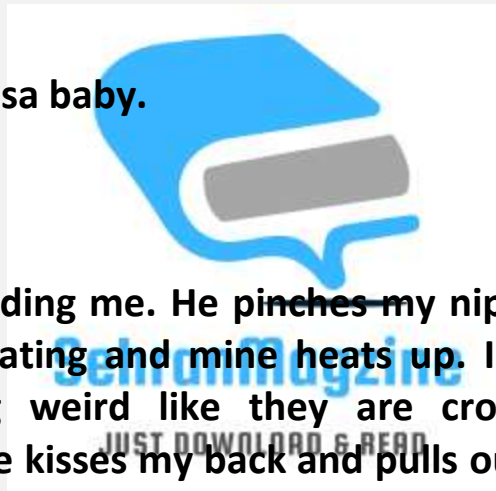
Nyathuko : Wabasela kanje Mam'Zondi? Huh baby? Mhmm?

(I laugh. He kisses my shoulder with his dick still inside me. I feel his dick grow harder again inside me. He pushes it in.)

Me : Huh! Thukena

(I flinch)

Nyathuko : Ngiyaxolisa baby.



(He says while pounding me. He pinches my nipples and goes faster. His body starts sweating and mine heats up. I feel cramps and my eyes do something weird like they are crossing. We are both breathing heavily. He kisses my back and pulls out. He lifts up my legs and shakes them. You know that thing they do to babies when they finish ukuchatha? That's exactly what he is doing to me. I laughed out loud and hit his hand.)

Me : What are you doing?

Nyathuko : Just making sure ukuthi kuhlala noma ezu three this time.

Me : Three what?

(He laughs and gets out of bed)

Nyathuko : Nothing. Baby uzo driver?

(He goes into the bathroom. I can't even move. That round drained me. He walks out of the bathroom cleaning his dick with a towel.)



Nyathuko : Huh baby?

Me : No uzosihambisa.

Nyathuko : But I'm meeting with the suppliers sthandwa sami.

Unke!

(Ndlelenhle screams for his father outside the door)

Ndlelenhle : Ma

(He is hitting the door with something. Yes I'm Ma)

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuzwa mfanwam. Yima uzokuvulela ubaba.

Me : But uthe uzosishi....



Ndlelenhle : Nkena!!!

Nyathuko : Yah Ndlela ngiyeza.... Ngitheni mina baby?

Me : Awumvulele Thukeh unomsindo. Give me the towel

(He throws me the towel and wears his pants.)

Nyathuko : Ngithe mina ngizonilanda.

(He opens the door.)

Ndlalenhle : Nano dutu unke dutu

(He has his empty bottle in his hand. He is here to complain about his brother and that empty bottle)



Nyathuko : Wenzeni u Zano?

(Ndlalenhle cries and throws himself on the floor. That boy is so dramatic. Nyathuko laughs)

Nyathuko : Nangoke.

(Zanokuhle walks in)

Nyathuko : Nkosana ka baba nibangani no mfowenu?

(Zanokuhle looks at his brother acting crazy on the floor. He sits down and pulls him up with his arm)

Zanokuhle : His milk finished and he wanted more. Aunt Thina told him to come and tell you that he wants more. Ukhalela ukuthi I told him that there's no more milk.



(Zanokuhle is wrapping his arms around Ndlelenhle he is trying to comfort him. Ndlelenhle is looking at Zanokuhle explaining what happened with tears drying up in his cheeks. I wonder if he understands what Zano is saying.)

Me : Kodwa u Thina ke yena usenqena ukufakela ingane ubisi? Ay ukhona naye methandile

Nyathuko : Woza ku baba mfan'wami.

(He lifts up Ndlelenhle and holds Zano's hand. They walk out.)

Me : Thukeh utshele u Thina ukuthi sengiyageza.

(I yawn and stretch my arms. Something vibrates under the pillow. Boom! Nyathuko forgot his phone. I quickly get out of bed and run to lock the door. I unlock his phone and log onto his Whatsapp. I open his chats with Nomzamo. Nyathuko was the last to reply. I close my eyes and take a deep breath. I start by reading today's chat)

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I know he won't get arrested but I want him to know what he did. That he is the reason ngingasenandoda. : Nomzamo

Mina ngibophise uma uthanda. Angilisabi ijeli but please khipha ingane yami kuyoyonke lento. This will destroy his life Nomzamo. Kanti wena umuntu wesifazane onjani ongenazwelo? : Him

I did what you wanted me to do. Hlukana nami ke manje please : Him

(What's going on between Nomzamo and Nyathuko? I've never felt this confused in my entire life. I go through the whole chat but their conversation doesn't make sense. This is how it goes.)

Usadiniwe? : Him

Lawa owangithengela wona. Lathula. : Nomzamo

Mzet is asking questions : Him



My status wasn't directed to you ngyaxolisa kodwa. : Nomzamo

Ngithe mengifika e office. : Him

Ugesi awukho namanje : Nomzamo

Please remove my picture u Sthah ngimufakela ama data manje and uzongena ku Whatsapp. I don't want her to see that picture. : Him

Uyangiqhatha manje : Him

Ngidlula esikoleni : Him

Ngizoyiphatha. Susa lezinto ozibhalile : Him

I was waiting for you to remove that profile picture kodwa kulungile I will delete : Nomzamo



(Now it's clear to me that Nyathuko deleted some of the messages but he forgot to delete them all and that's why their conversation doesn't make sense. I quickly put the phone under his pillow. There is a knock on the door.)

Me : I'm coming.

(I grab the towel and pretend like I'm still cleaning myself. I open the door)

Nyathuko : Ukhiyeleni la?

Me : Kade ngisasula Thukeh and I didn't want the kids to walk in on me.

Nyathuko : Let help you

Me : No I'm done.



(I feel so fucking emotional but I'm not going to cry. He kisses my forehead)

Nyathuko : Ngikutshelile ukuthi ngiyakuthanda?

(I fake a smile)

Me : Love you too

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda.

Me : Come on Thukeh. Usegezile u Thina?

Nyathuko : Anginakanga yazi sthandwa sami. Where is my phone?

Me : Angikaze ngiyibone

(He searches for it under the pillow. I swallow. He puts his hand in his pocket and types on his phone with the other hand. He releases a long sigh. Now I'm worried. What if Nyathuko and Nomzamo are dating behind my back? No I'm not going to ask him about it. He is topless. I press my lips on his back and inhale the smell of Brut mixed with his sweat. He puts his phone in his pocket and turns around. He lifts up my chin and kisses me)



Me : Are you okay Nana?

Nyathuko : Yeah I'm fine baby.

(He wraps his arms around me and squeezes me in his arms. He sighs)

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda Sthabile.



Me : I love you too Nyathuko.

LATER THAT DAY.

(We just came back from Ballito Mall to do groceries. Nyathuko didn't pick us up so we took Uber. His car is here. Bheki's car is also here. I look at Thina and frown.)

Me : Ufunani lo la?

Thina : Ekabani?

Me : He! I wonder what's going on here.

Thina : Here is another car coming.

(I look at the gate. It's my father's car)



Me : Hhaibo! Abazali bami

Thina : Maybe someone died

(My heart races. They get out of the car)

Me : Mah nenzani la?

(She shakes her head)

Me : Mapholoba?

(I leave them and the groceries and run inside my house.)

Me : Thuk....



(I pause. The first person I see is Nomzamo in her pink jacket. Nyathuko is sitting next to her. My brain freezes. Nyathuko stands up.)

Nyathuko : Baby

Bheki : Sit down Nyathuko.

(Nyathuko shakes his head and sits down)

Khulu : Woza koti. Come and sit here

(Even Khulu is here. My eyes well up with tears. I think I know what's happening here. It's easy to read the room. My parents walk in. I look at my mother and shake my head)

Me : Please mama. They can't do this to me.... Mapholoba ngiyacela baba.



(My father squeezes my hand.)

Mapholoba : Sanibona

Bheki : Fuze

(We sit down. Nyathuko is still sitting next to Nomzamo. He is covering his face with his hands. I press my face against my mother's shoulder and let tears flow. Someone else walk in.)

Sanibona

(It's Nyathuko's father)

Bheki : Hhey Ndabe waze wafika. Sit here



(They planned this. This whole thing was planned.)

Khulu : Ndodana yami

Maxwell : Niyaphila Mah?

Khulu : Ey siphila kephi nje Ndabenhle kunje?

Bheki : Ntombazane finish what you are doing there usidedele. Sifuna ukukhuluma izinto ezibalulekile la zomndeni.

Thina : Yebo

(We sit in silence. My mother keeps kissing my forehead and brushing my back)

Bheki : Anicime lobhazabhaza we TV Nyathuko.



Maxwell : Thukeh iyona i remote le?

(Silence)

Bheki : Iyeke Ndabenhle Iyeke.

(Another silence)

Bheki : Thukeh tell us why we are here.

(Silence)

Maxwell : Thukeh?

(Nyathuko clears his throat. I don't even want to look at him or anyone else.)



Nyathuko : You all know why you are here baba omdala. Sayikhuluma nje lento ekhaya.

Bheki : But you told us that you two were going to wait until eze egeze untombazane lo.

(Silence)

Bheki : MaNgcobo I know you may be wondering ukuthi yini le esigcwalisa emzini wakho selishona ilanga. Nangu umuntu osilethile ubaba wezingane zakho. Yena nalentombazane angithi bayashada.

(I quickly lift up my head and look at Nyathuko. His face is still buried under his hands. Nomzamo's hand is on his lap. She is playing with her fingers over my husband's lap and my husband is not doing anything about it.)

Bheki : Siyazi sonke ukuthi this what we need. This is something that our ancestors have always wanted ukubona inyathuko yethu yako Zondi ishada umshado wesintu. Nyathuko usalikhumbula igama lakho ukuthi lisho ukuthini? Wena wethiwa idlozi. Lathi wena you are the way you will lead the way and ~~others~~ will follow. Uyinyathuko yesizukulwane sako Zondi. Noma yini oyenzayo uwena indlela yabo. Uwena umcabi wenyathuko bona balandela wena. Isibonelo sabo uwena. Bonke o Njabulo no Ntuthuko uwena umqali wenyathuko yabo. I know how much you love MaNgcobo but I'm proud of you for remembering who you are imvelaphi yakho. Luhle uthando ngane ka mfowethu kodwa akufanele uvumele uthando lukuvale amehlo. We don't know this girl but siyabonga nakuye ukuba abe umnqobi waleligodi ebese silimbelwe ilomushado wakho kanye no MaNgcobo and we hope that she will respect you us kanye naye u MaNgcobo.

Me : Nyathuko uyashada?

(He gulps)

Bheki : Aibo! You didn't tell her?

Me : Cha akakaze engitshele.

Maxwell : Nyathuko is this true?

Nyathuko : I will speak to my wife(sigh) alone.

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MaKheswa : Mntanami akahlukani nawe ubaba ka Ndlela. He is just following usiko ukuze kuvikeleke wena nomshado wenu. U ntomba....

Nomzamo : MaMhayise Mah.

MaKheswa : Oh. U MaMhayise uzokwenza lezinto ongakwazi ukuzenza wena. Uzoshada umshado wesintu yena

(I shake my head)

Me : No no no. Thukeh you can't do this to me. Bhambatha you can't

(I kneel down in front of him and hold his hands)

Me : Please Nana don't do this. Sokhuluma ngalento Thukeh. We can fix this.



Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami ngiyaxolisa.

Bheki : He is not going to leave you. Nizoba abafazi bakhe nobabili. Wena uzoba umfazi osindisiwe wephepha u MaMhayise yena uzoba umfazi wakwa Zondi olandela usiko.

Me : Is this what you want Nyathuko?

Nyathuko : I have to do this Mam'Zondi. Ayikho enye indlela.

(I look at Nyathuko and bite my lower lip while shaking my head)

**Me : Okay okay fine. I'm not going to stand on your way.
Usekhulumile u Baba omdala wakho.**

Nyathuko : Sthah.....

Me : I want a divorce.



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Chapter 61

KWA-MASHU

(I did not let my parents go without me. I couldn't stay in that house so I came back with them. Nyathuko refused with Zanokuhle and Ndlelenhle so I left them. I came home with my parents. I came home wearing the same clothes that I was wearing in Ballito Mall and I brought absolutely nothing else with me except for my cellphone. I've been crying ever since we left Ballito. My father asked my mother to sleep with me in my room but I still can't sleep. I'm crying. I heard that Nyathuko followed us and he was seen around KwaMashu but I don't care. I just woke up from another beautiful dream of him and I. We were so happy. Why is Nomzamo ruining my life? She was Nqabayethu's girlfriend just yesterday and today she is planning her wedding with my husband? God is punishing me. You know sometimes I don't understand God when you put him first he just shit on your face. He should be protecting me right now fighting for my marriage but no! Hhayi! sometimes aka appreciate u Nkulunkulu. Stru! Nasi.)



Sthabile?

(I quickly wipe my tears and swallow.)

Me : Mah?

MaKheswa : Mi bamba. Nuh wants to talk to you my baby.

(Why is Nuh calling at this time?)

Me : Yah Nuh.

Nuh : Why is your phone off? Aibo we oe! Is Thukeh okay?

Me : I don't know



Nuh : Sthabile nangu emi lapha emgaqweni namanje. Kusukela izolo ngo 18h00 ntambama umi lapha sekuze kwasa emile.

Me : Leave him. He is crazy

Nuh : Don't say that.....wait I don't see his car and it's cold out there. Awumufonele oe.

Me : No Nuh! I'm not going to call him. Bye.

(I hang up and switch off my mother's phone)

MaKheswa : Uthini u Nuh?

Me : Uthi Ubona u Nyathuko.

MaKheswa : What? Unamanga! Did he not go back to Ballito yesterday?



Me : I don't know and I don't care.

MaKheswa : Cha Sthabile you can't say that. It's 02h00 am. Ikwa Mashu la and people get killed so what if ubulawa abantu la uBaba ka Ndlelenhle silele thina? Angithi kwaZondi kuzothiwa ubulawe yithi? Nginamanga?

(She gets out of my bed and opens the curtain)

MaKheswa : But I don't see him. Ukephi kanti?

Me : I don't know. Mah please come back and sleep

(She sighs and climbs back to the bed.)

MaKheswa : Ngazi ithinike intombi yakhe ngoba engekho nje ekhaya ngalesikhathi.



(I keep quiet. What if people kill him? Nuh said she didn't see his car so what if he was hijacked and they took everything? My eyes widen. I sit up quickly)

MaKheswa : Where are you going?

(I see my mother is struggling to sleep)

Me : Ngiyochama

(She sighs)

MaKheswa : Ukhanyise e passage.

Me : Okay

(I go into the bathroom. I don't even want to pee. I just stood there and went back to my room)



Me : Mama?

MaKheswa : Yes my baby.

Me : Ngizoya komubheka u Thukeh

MaKheswa : What if ume kude le ngase big mama? You can't go alone. Angifuni ulimale mntanami

Me : I'll be fine mama

(I walk out. I didn't expect to see my father here. He is sitting in the lounge. He is staring at the TV but I doubt he is watching anything. He looks stressed but why is he watching TV at this time? Is he watching porn movies? But there is a Bible in front of him.)

Me : Mapholoba?



(He quickly stands up. I don't think he slept at all.)

Me : Fuze please go and sleep.

Ngcobo : Where are you going?

Me : Ngidinga ukukhuluma no Nyathuko baba. Ukhona la phezulu emgaqweni.

Ngcobo : But it's not safe for you to go alone. Ngizokuphelezela

(Hhaibo!)

Me : Baba no. I'll be fine



(He shakes his head and takes his knobkerrie. I roll my eyes)

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Ngcobo : Don't worry ngeke engibone nokungibona u Zondi. Kunamaphara la emnyango Sthabile. Let's go

(Ayke! He is walking me to my ex husband. He is walking behind me. I see Nyathuko in his black and white Puma tracksuits and his grey beanie hat. He is sitting under the street light. He is resting his head on his arms. He doesn't even see that I'm coming. I turn around to tell my father that he can go back but I find him already making his way

back home. Nyathuko lifts up his head. Our eyes meet and he stands up.)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami...

Me : Don't touch me Nyathuko

Nyathuko : Okay ngeke ngikuthinte. I promise.

Me : Where is your car?



Nyathuko : Ise Ballito. They took my car keys... kwamele ngigibele ama taxi. Sthah ile ngifike izolo la sthandwa sami. I really need to talk to you.

Me : She is controlling you already? Usekwazi nokuthatha okhiye bakho bemoto?

Nyathuko : Sthabile I.....

Me : There is nothing to talk about Nyathuko. This marriage is over.

**Nyathuko : Ayikho leyonto. Sthabile awukwazi ukungishiya. You can't
Maka Zanokuhle you can't leave me. i divorce yani ngempela Sthah?**

**Me : Umzwile uBaba omdala wakho indlela angidelele ngayo?
Nyathuko the truth is your family was never going to accept me.
Bebengizonda.**



**Nyathuko : That is not true.... But who cares? Ngiyakuthanda nje mina
Sthabile.**

Me : Do you really love me?

Nyathuko : Ngempilo yami yonke.

Me : No no you don't! Ubungeke ufune ukushada u Nomzamo if you really love me. Umshadelani pho yena? Am I not enough?

Nyathuko : You are more than enough sthandwa sami but I have to do this. Kumele ngimushade u Nomzamo.

Me : Nyathuko yini le engaka akubambe ngayo u Nomzamo?

Nyathuko : I can't tell you.

Me : See? Namanje usangenza impatha!



Nyathuko : Okay sthandwa sami I'll tell you.

Me : Then tell me and tell me now.

(He is going to lie. I can feel it in my bones)

Nyathuko : Uhhh... Before I met you ngangi.... I was working for Nqabayethu. Besenza izinto ezi wrong sthandwa sami.

Me : Benibulala abantu? Ngoba phela iyona into enkulu leyo umuntu angayenza.

(Silence . My blood starts freezing. My eyes widen)

Me : Nyathuko ungangitsheli ukuthi uwumbulali! Please...



Nyathuko : No no angiyena. I've never killed anyone. Besiganga sintshontsha. Sintshontsha izimoto

Me : I asked you Nyathuko uyakhumbula ngikubona uphethwe izibhamu eNdwedwe? And I asked you ukuthi wake waba isigebengu yini and you looked me in the eye waphika.

Nyathuko : I didn't want to lose you.

Me : Stop lying yazi Thukeh yonke lento oyishoyo amanga! Pho ungenaphi u Zanokuhle kuyo yonke lento?

(His big eyes move all over my face. Got him!)

Nyathuko : Ifa inkinga. The police are doing an investigation and they want to know who Zanokuhle is. Sthah u Nqaba imali yakhe wayithola ngezindlela ezi wrong and leyomali iyona le ayishiyele u Zanokuhle. Lamaphoyisa azolokhu exaka ingane yami ngemibuzo engapheli and that will affect his life.

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Me : Okay let's go then. Asihambe la e KZN. Let's go away siyishiye yonke lento sishiye naleyo inheritance. We can sell our house that is in Phoenix nale eseMachobeni ngisho nale ese Ballito. Zonke singazidayisa sihambe siyoqala impilo kude.

(He shakes his head)

Me : Kanti ufunani!?

(I shout. I'm angry now. What's wrong with Nyathuko)

Me : Okay fine tell me ukuthi ngenzeni and I'll do it.

Nyathuko : There is nothing that you can do now. Lento ayisekho lula ngoba ucabanga. Sthandwa sami there is only one way now and leyondlela ukuthi ngishade u Nomzamo khona ezovala umlomo. Nomzamo has nothing to lose and she knows it. Ingakho enza lezinto zakhe kumina because she knows ukuthi mina I have so much to lose and....



SehranMagzine

Me : No no! Akusona isizathu leso and you know it! You love her Nyathuko sonke lesikhathi ubuwenza u Nqaba isilima. Who knows? Mhlampe ninesandla ekufeni kuka Nqaba ngoba benifuna ukwenza lamasimba! Ey waze wangidina Thukeh!

Nyathuko : No Sthah ungayisho kanjani leyonto?

Me : Vele you love her! Benenza mina no Nqabayethu izilima!

(I can't believe I'm screaming in the streets at 02h00 in the morning. This is not love no no no this can't be love. Love doesn't look like this it doesn't sound like this. People who love each other don't treat each other like this. I have to let this go.)

Nyathuko : No I don't want her

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Sthabile. Angifuni omunye umuntu wesifazane ngaphandle kwakho. Sthandwa sami mina ngangidalelwe wena.

Me : Stop! Just stop! Nyathuko awuyeke ukungenza isilima.

Nyathuko : Angikwenzi islim.....

Me : Nyathuko angidlali I want a divorce. Thukena akulona uthando lolu sthandwa sami. You think you love me but you don't. Awungithandi wena Nyathuko. You just love the fact that unomfazi ongakaze ekufebele ngisho nakanye ngisho usumshiya endlini uhamba uyolala nezinye izifebe.

(His face changes.)

Nyathuko : Uthi akulona uthando lolu?

Me : No it isn't. Loluh? Loluh akulona uthando Thukh. Uthando alukho nje

Nyathuko : Ha! Aibo!



(He can't believe I said that. He blinks a couple of times and rubs his face. I think I just broke his heart for the first time.)

Nyathuko : Ufuna ukungitshela ukuthi konke lokhu esesidlule kukona akusho lutho? It had nothing to do with love? Umshado wethu ubuwumdlalo? Sthabile ngicishe ngakunika inhliziyo yami and you think that wasn't love?

Me : You almost did what?

(He shakes his head)

Nyathuko : It doesn't matter anymore.

Me : Thukeh wait. Wawufuna ukungina inhliziyo yakho?

(Mkhuleko's car stops next to us)



Mkhuleko : Fuze

(Mkhuleko can wait. This is more important. I grab Nyathuko's hand but he pulls away)

Nyathuko : Leave me alone Sthabile .

Me : Nyathuko please don't go.

(He shakes his head and gets inside Mkhuleko's car. Mkhuleko drives off. My mouth is wide open. Wait Nyathuko wanted to give me his heart? Nyathuko almost died for me? But why did no one tell me about this? I make my way back home. I see a few security guards. I don't know if they are coming from work or going to work. They greet me but I have no energy to greet them back. I'm sure they think I'm rude. My father is waiting for me at the gate. I can't believe he waited all this time. We go inside the house. We find my mother sitting on the couch. She stands up as soon as we walk in.)

MaKheswa : My baby you are back.



Me : Why ningashongo ukuthi u Nyathuko wanted to be my donor? Nikusho konke kodwa le yokuthi u Nyathuko wefuna ukunikela ngenhliziyo yakhe kimi nangayithinta.

(They look at each other)

Ngcobo : The Zondi family asked us not to tell you. Sasingazi ukuthi uzoyithatha kanjani yonke lento and Ndlelenhle's father didn't want to upset you. You were fine ndodakazi yami and no Zondi naye

wayengena nkinga ngakho sasingekho isidingo ukuthi sikutshela yonke into.

(I remember that newspaper article. I remember how angry I got when Nyathuko mentioned that he wanted to give me his heart. I remember how I told him that what he would have done wouldn't be different from what Nkazimulo did and he ended up saying he was joking. He tried to tell me he tried. A single tear rolls down my cheek. I go inside my bedroom and close my door)

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(I managed to get some sleep. I open my eyes to my mother sitting on my bed with a bowl of porridge. I smile.)

MaKheswa : You look better

(I smile)

Me : I feel better but I'm not hungry.

(She laughs)

MaKheswa : Idla kancane.

Me : Please mama. I'm fine.



(She sighs)

MaKheswa : Okay. Uzohamba nami angithi ngiyohola?

(My mother is now a pensioner. People think she did some fraud because they think there's no way she is 60 years old but she is 60 years old and she looks 60 years old... Okay maybe 56.)

Me : What are you going to buy for me?

MaKheswa : Whatever you want.

(We laugh)

MaKheswa : Do you remember how you used to love ikota ene sausage sisahlala emakhaya?

(I laugh)



Me : Ne coke le encane eyayisebhodloleni.

(We laugh)

Me : Sengingavele ngiphalaze manje

MaKheswa : I don't think so. Indlela owawuyithanda ngayo? Njalo mengiya o Tongaat uthi ngikuphathele yona. Ngisho nginemali ay wena wawungenandaba nezinto ezibizayo.

Me : Yah neh. Ngakhula ke

(I sigh)

Me : Othi ngivuke ngigeze

(I try to get up but she holds my hand)



MaKheswa : Mntanami wait.

Me : Yes?

MaKheswa : I know you said you don't want to talk about it kodwa Kufanele sikhulume.

(Here we go again)

**MaKheswa : Mntanami unesiqiniseko kodwa salento ofuna ukuyenza?
This divorce won't only affect you but izohlukumeza nezingane.**

Me : Zizojwayela izingane. Mah what I will not do ukuthi ngihlale emshadweni engingasajabule kuwo ngoba ngithi ngenzela izingane. Cha lokho ngeke ngikwenze Mchumane

MaKheswa : But Zondi loves you.

Me : Nami futhi ngiyamuthanda futhi ngiyoze ngife ngimuthanda kodwa ngiyaphuma kulomshado. Ngeke Mah ngihlalelane no Nomzamo singabulalana ekseni kusa.

(She sighs and shakes her head)

MaKheswa : Ngeke ngisho lutho ke mina. I will support you. Your father is not okay. He blames himself for this whole divorce thing. Uzwa sengathi uyena omoshe umshado wakho.

Me : Akuyena. Nyathuko's disgusting past and Nomzamo's cursed existence ikona okumoshe umshado wami.

MaKheswa : What do you mean?

Me : Forget about it mama. Let's go siyodla imali yakho yempesheni

(We laugh)



MaKheswa : Ngiyakuthanda mntanami

Me : I love you too mama

MaKheswa : Ugeze ubuso ngamanzi abandayo. Ubuso bakho namehlo kuvuvukele

Me : I will.

(She stands up and walks out. I sigh and rub my face)

^

^

(At 13h00 we took a taxi to Bridge City. I left my car in Ballito. It doesn't belong to me anymore. My father went to a church meeting with his Isuzu so we had to use public transport.)

Me : Do you think Zanokuhle went to school today?



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MaKheswa : Yes angithi ubaba wakhe akafuni elove.... weSthabile ukhumbule ngithengele ubaba wakho umuthi wokurabha.

Me : Yeah. I wonder wenzani u Ndlela manje. I'm sure he is eating kodwa

(I giggle)

MaKheswa : Mhlampe uzihlalele nobaba wakhe.

Me : Yes bonke no Nomzamo.

MaKheswa : Don't do that to yourself mntanami.

Me : What? Mah kuzomele ngijwayele manje ukuthi Nomzamo is going to be part of my life ngisho sengihlukene no Thukeh.



MaKheswa : It doesn't have to be that way.

Me : Uyazisholo nje Mah kodwa wazi kahle ukuthi ngiqinisile. Naye usezoba umama woNdlelenhle phela. The Zondis will make sure of that. They love her ubabonile nawe. U Khulu ubeselokhu esinekile nje nezisini ezimuncu.

MaKheswa : Aibo! Sthabile musa ukukhuluma kanjalo ngomuntu omdala.

Me : Ukuthi bayangidina ngokuba amaxoki.

(We walk inside KFC)

MaKheswa : Go and sit down. I'll order

(I go and sit in the corner where no one can see me. The queue is a bit long so I'll call Nyathuko while I wait for my mother. I take out my phone and call his number. What is taking him so long to pick up?)



Nyathuko : Sthabile.

Me : Hey how are you?

Nyathuko : Ngi right unjani wena?

Me : Good. Thukeh ngizoza ngizolanda izingubo zami ezinsukwini and ngizobuya nezingane zami. Ngikutshela manje ngoba angifuni sixabane mase ngifikile.

Nyathuko : Okay

Me : Perfect! Where is Ndlela?

Nyathuko : Basemnyango



Me : U Zano yena uyile esikoleni?

(He sighs)

Nyathuko : Yeah.... Sthah look angiqondile ukukudelela but please stop calling me ungabe usangifonela. Bathe laba mekukhona okudingayo usuzokhuluma no Nomzamo yena etshele mina.

(God must be fucking kidding me! I feel KFC closing in on me. I see people getting smaller and my head spins)

Nyathuko : Hello?

(I clear my throat)

Me : I'm still here. Ukhona u Nomzamo lapho?

Tell your father what you did. Babe uchithe lonke ubisi.



(Nomzamo says in his background. I slowly lower my phone from my ear with my eyes wide open.)

Sthabile!!

(I almost jump)

Me : Yes? Mah? Uyakhuluma?

MaKheswa : Is everything okay? Yazi ngimi lapha and ngibona angathi awusekho right.

(I fake a smile. No I'm not going to tell.)

Me : Yes I'm fine. That was Musa

(I point at my phone)



MaKheswa : Ngiyabona. Ngiyeza ke

Me : Okay

MaKheswa : Are you sure you are fine?

Me : Yes mama. I'm fine

MaKheswa : Okay

(She walks away. What the hell did Nyathuko say to me? I must go through Nomzamo first if I need anything from him? What the hell? That's nonsense. There is a pain in my heart. I take a deep breath. My mother finally comes back)

MaKheswa : Laba bavele begxishe i drink yakho ama ice ngisho ungawacelanga.



Me : Mhmmm

MaKheswa : Sthabile are you sure you are okay? Yazi uyajuluka mntanami

Me : I'm fine. Ngine pain encane nje la ngasenhliziyweni.

(She stands up immediately)

MaKheswa : Kunodokotela la ngaphakathi. Let's go and see him.

Me : There is no needmama. I'll be fine yeka ihaba.

MaKheswa : WeSthabile ngabona lukhulu mina ucisho ungifela. I don't want to take chances. Let's go.



Me : Mah uyabiza loya dokotela nje. Relax ngizoya kowami udokotela ksasa.

MaKheswa : Cha ibiyini imali ukunokuthi ngigijime ezibhedlela futhi?

(She won't let this go. The drama of this woman is unmatched. I roll my eyes and stand up)

MaKheswa : Uyaphi namathambo?

Me : I'll give them to Danger and Manyathela

MaKheswa : Awushiye leyonto

(I laugh and follow her. From there we went straight to see the doctor. I told him about every pain that I feel in my body and he did his countless check-ups that will cost my mother a lot of money.)

Me : Nesinya sesinokungihlupha nje like I told you. But ilokho kuphela

Doctor : No everything seems fine to me. Kanti nenhliziyo yakho ishaya kahle. You just need to get more rest and maintain your level of stress.

Me : I don't know if I'll be able to maintain i stress sami wemntaka Nkulunkulu phela mina nginenguzunga yezinkinga.

Doctor : You have to try please. Stress is not good for you and the baby.

Me : Baby? What baby?

(He smiles)

Doctor : Oh you are four weeks pregnant. Congratulations Mrs Zondi.

(I sit up quickly)



Me : Yey! Congr....no no no. I'm sure wenze iphutha. Mhlampe ilezinto zakho ezingasebenzi. Ngihlole futhi

Doctor : There's no need for that. You are pregnant and I'm sure of it.

Me : Ghaa! Wangiphinda lodoti owu Nyathuko. Nx!

(I click my tongue. This is a disaster)

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Chapter 62

Me : Musa you are a lifesaver bro. Awazi ukuthi bengiyidinga kanjani imoto ezongiyisa e Ballito



Musa : Bitch tell me about this shit that is going on. Is it true?

(The moment Musa heard about Nomzamo and Nyathuko he drove straight to Kwa-Mashu to see me.)

Me : It is true. Udadewenu umthathile u Nyathuko. U Ntokozo no Sthenjisiwe badinwe bayafa. Angifuni nokuyikhuluma ke eka Gogo eMzinyathi. Akafuni nokuyizwa nje le.

(He bangs the steering wheel.)

Musa : I knew it! I knew it!! I knew that bitch had a thing for Thukeh even Nqaba knew.

Me : Are you serious?

Musa : Yes. Khona ngomunye u day my brother came to my house early in the morning wathi ufuna ukulala and I asked him ukuthi kunani endlini yakhe? You know?



(He looks at me. He looks so angry. He is angry. When he explains using his hands I always know that he is livid and that's what he is doing now. He grabs tissues and wipes the sweat from his face.)

Me : Yeah

Musa : Yhuu! sana yavela yashisa nalemoto.

(He rolls down his window)

Musa : And he said he is tired and udinwa yini endlini.....

(He throws the roll in the back seat)

Musa : Udinwa ukuthi he won't be able to sleep kuzomele elokhu elalena no Nomzamo ephupha ngo Thukeh.

Me : Musa what are you saying?



Musa : I'm telling you Sthabile uyabona lesiya sfebe besimuphupha nokumuphupha u Thukeh.

Me : Ize iphumisele inja. She is obsessed Sam Sam.

Musa : Exactly! And ungena ngale obsession yakhe emshadweni which won't work. What will happen the day she realizes that she doesn't really love Nyathuko?

Me : I don't know. U Nqaba wathula naye?

Musa : Loyo nje ubevele ethi "bafo it's not like leyantombazane ngizoyishada and stuff"

Me : I'm going crazy Sam I don't know what to do. Nalengane nayo ingizela nezinkinga no Mah ngapha she is busy asking me ukuthi utheni udokotela.



Musa : Mana ke are you not planning to tell her?

Me : No. Angifuni belokhu bengishumayeza naye u Nyathuko I won't tell him.

Musa : But I'm sure that one knows ukuthi ukumithisile.

Me : The Zondis will kill me this time.

Musa : Never. But you know that you can't divorce Thukeh now that you are pregnant?

Me : Ngithembuze no Nomzamo? Never! Uyazi ukuthi I'm not allowed to call Nyathuko anymore?

Musa : Kusho bani?



Me : Abantu bakwa Zondi. Sam this is serious ukuthi wena awuboni.

Musa : But mngani wami you are not working. How are you going to take care of the boys because clearly u Nomzamo uyanqoba and she will make sure ukuthi awusatholi ne cent elisuka ku Thukeh?

Me : Kumele ngenzeni?

Musa : Hlala emshadweni. Deep down you know ukuthi u Nyathuko uthanda wena and soon u Nomzamo uzodinwa and leave Nyathuko

alone but if you leave uzobe umuvulela indawo to stay and get comfortable.

(I sigh)

Musa : What if....

(He looks at me)

Me : What?



Musa : No yeka.

Me : No tell me.

Musa : Okay

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tell me.

Musa : Okay What if Nomzamo killed my brother?

Me : No I don't think so. Uyigwala ngisho umubuka nje u Nomzamo.

Musa : Ukuthi nje it doesn't make sense. After Nqabayethu's death I decided to ask around because I needed answers.



Me : And?

Musa : Khona lomfana obeyiphara waso Hlange. Uthi after the fire wabona umuntu ofana exactly no Nomzamo ebaleka ebusuku. Kanti futhi uthi he saw Nomzamo engena nomthwalo omkhulu emotweni that same night before the fire.

Me : Musa unamanga.

Musa : I'm telling you but Uthi mhlampe naye webanjwe i woonga akabonanga kahle. 2 days ago ngiyile ke kuloyomuzi futhi ngithi ngiyokhuluma naye but they told me ukuthi lomfana wakhona ushonile.

Me : What?

Musa : Yeah he was a druggie. He overdosed washona

(My eyes widen)



Me : Oh my God.

Musa : Yah neh. Manje ke akasekho omunye umuntu ongasiza kuyo yonke lento namaphoyisa awatholi lutho.

Me : Damn! I'm sorry Sam. I know how much you want justice for your brother.

Musa : I'm dropping this whole thing manje. That boy was my last hope and now he is dead so nje...

Me : Kodwa bazomuthola umubulali

Musa : I don't think so. But ithemba alilahlwa

(We arrived in Ballito. The gate was opened so Musa drove in. Nyathuko's car is here. Good he is home.)



Musa : Don't knock kukwakho la.

(I laugh and open the door. We walk in. No one is downstairs. I guess they are all upstairs.)

Musa : Ko-ko

Me : Ssh!!

Musa : Don't shush me. What if they are having sex upstairs? I want to distract them.

Me : No they are not. Sit down

(Musa sits down. I go into the kitchen and open the fridge. I bought all this. I take out my cranberry juice. I take two glasses and go back to the lounge.)



Me : Juice?

Musa : Don't they have wine maybe? I think I'll need it.

Me : Stop with the drama.

(I sit down next to him. I hear laughter coming from upstairs)

Me : Awuzwe lesfebe.

(They are coming. Nomzamo is carrying her bag and she is wearing Nyathuko's jacket. Yey! I swear this girl doesn't have clothes. I try to stand up but Musa pulls me back.)

Musa : Don't

(He whispers)



Nyathuko : Ngeke ngisayigqoka i jacket ebigqokwe uwena.

(Nomzamo laughs)

Nomzamo : Bamba ke isikhwama ngifase i jacket.

Nyathuko : No

Musa : Abasiboni

Me : Mhmmm

Nomzamo : Please babe.

(Nyathuko takes her bag and walks down the steps. He pauses when he sees us. He is staring at me. I wave my hand because I don't know what to say.)



Nyathuko : Sanibona

Musa : Hey T.

Nomzamo : Obani la.....Oh hi.

Me : Nyathuko ngizolanda izingubo zami nezingane zami.

Nyathuko : Okay

(Nomzamo wraps her hand around Nyathuko's arm. Wow)

Nyathuko : Izingubo zakho zikhona kodwa Ndlela and Zanokuhle are not here.



(He pulls away from Nomzamo and puts her bag on the couch)

Me : Bakephi?

Nyathuko : Base Ndaba Media no baba.

Me : Oh ubudinga isikhathi sokugona lesfebe wahambisa izingane zami? Nyathuko seziwumthwalo manje izingane kuwena?

Nomzamo : Aibo! Sisi

Nyathuko : Nomzamo stay out of this. No izingane aziwona umthwalo kumina.

Me : So why are they not here?

Nyathuko : Ubaba olande u Zano esikoleni wahamba no Ndlela and from school he took them to work with him.



Me : I see. Ngicela ukuthatha izingubo zami phezulu.

Nyathuko : Fine kuvuliwe.

Me : Mxm

(I stand up and go upstairs. I look around my bedroom. Nothing seems off. I open the wardrobe and take out my clothes.)

Why did you leave your car?

(I turn around. Nyathuko is leaning against the door.)

Me : Kanti akuyona eka Nomzamo?



Nyathuko : No u Nondaba wayithengela wena leya moto.

Me : No I'm fine. Ngicela lezinto zami zombhede

Nyathuko : Okay

Me : Yini uthe umfazi wakho uze uzongigada?

Nyathuko : No.

(I sigh)

Me : Ngicela ungipakishela izingubo zengane zami ngihambe

Nyathuko : I packed them last night angithi ushilo ukuthi uyeza.



Me : Wow. Nyathuko uzonginika nje izingane kanjalo? Yazini? Vuma ukuthi seziyakuhlula ngoba sekufike loyamfazi and ingakho usuzilaxaza kumina.

Nyathuko : Uthe awufuni sixabane when you get here. Uwena othe uzohamba nezingane bekumele ngithini mina?

Me : Fine! Ezami vele zazalwa imina! Wena wazi ukuhloma ipipi nje umithise! Ave uyinja Thukeh ngikutshele. Iphi futhi ingubo yami e blue?

Nyathuko : Nayi eduze kwejezi

Me : Nxi! Yazini enye? I won't be following you around ngesondlo sezingane so please ngicela ukungakufoneli ngikukhumbuze ngemali.

Nyathuko : There won't be any need for that. Uzotshela u Nomzamo ukuthi izingane zidingani and she will tell me.

Me : Aibo ngiyalingwa! Since when do I have to tell Nomzamo about our children's needs?



Nyathuko : Ngenza lento efunwa abantu basekhaya

Me : Umsangano wonke lo. You know what? Khohlwa imina ngeke ngiwenze loyo doti. Ngeke ngidinge nemali yakho. Nginabazali bami mina Thukeh and they will help me.

Nyathuko : Sthabile why ungafuni ukungicabangela? Noma ikanye nje Maka Zanokuhle

Me : Uyangicabangela wena?

(He sighs)

Nyathuko : Ukhiye wemoto uzowufica ezansi Sthah.

Me : Angifune khiye mina. U Nomzamo uziwashile lezinto?

Nyathuko : Uzongikholwa mengithi angilali naye?

Me : But....

Nyathuko : Akalali la but you can take izinto zakho zombhede.

(He sighs and heads out.)



Me : I'm pregnant Nyathuko.

(He slowly turns around)

Nyathuko : Angizwanga?

Me : Ngikhulelwe.

Nyathuko : Awudlali ngami angithi?



Me : Why would I do that? Noma ucabanga ukuthi sengifuna ukukubamba ngesisu?

Nyathuko : That's not what I said. Uye nini kudokotela?

Me : Izolo.

Nyathuko : Washo ukuthi ukhulelwe?

Me : Yehheni! Sekumele ngithinike manje smakade?

(He smiles)

Me : Ayikho into ejabulisayo ngalento Nyathuko. Lengane ifike ngesikhathj esi wrong



Nyathuko : No that is not true. Sthabile ngeke zingihlule izingane zami ngisho sengishade no Nomzamo.

Me : Seziyakuhlula. Nakhu nje you are sending them away.

Nyathuko : Akukona lokho engikwenzayo. I just want to protect them and ngiyazi ukuthi mebehleli no Mchumane bazoba right.

Me : Protect them from what?

Nyathuko : Ngiyabonga.

(He says and walks out)

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Chapter 63



(The plan is to go back to Auto Movers. I'm busy sending all the documents that De Klerk requested. I'm hoping this pregnancy will treat me well and that I won't get sick. I don't want it to affect my work. In all of my pregnancies this one will show sooner. My body is already changing and it's like I'm gaining weight every single hour and my nose is already getting bigger. I think this baby hates that I'm trying to hide it and now it's going to show itself to everyone especially my parents. My phone beeps with a message. It's a message from Nyathuko)

Message : Ngikuthumele imali yokuthenga izingubo. Ngibona angathi uyakhuluphala.

(Heh! He is calling me fat.)

Me : Cha waze wangijwayela u Thukeh.

(My door opens and his son crawls in. When Ndlelenhle opens my door my boy will definitely use his bum but only when he is opening my door. I don't know why. He stands up. His face is shining with Vaseline. I laugh out loud)



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Me : Hhapon! Usebagezile u Gogo bona. Yey uyanigcoba u Mah u vaselina yazi wenza sure.

(He rubs his eyes. He looks sad. I frown)

Me : Aibo ubani oshaye u Ndlela wa Mah? Huh baby? What's wrong?

Ndlelenhle : Unke.

Me : Weeh! Kanti uzodakwa la.

(My phone beeps again. It's a bank notification. Nyathuko transferred R7 000 into my bank account. A message from him follows)

Message : Angikakabi nayo kahle imali. Ngizofaka enye next week. Ngizozwa ngawe ukuthi uzokwenzani ekhanda.



(I finish reading his message and put my phone under my pillow.)

Me : Woza ulale boy boy.

Ndlelenhle : Unke

Me : Thukeh is not here. Ngicela ungabangi isidina babah I'm busy here. Come and sleep.

(He shakes his head and walks out)

Me : Uyanghlanyela wena.

(I yawn and stretch my arms)

Me : Ngaze ngalamba Jesu.



(Zanokuhle walks in)

Zanokuhle : Mommy I think my little brother is sick.

Me : Why? Wenzeni?

Zanokuhle : He is resting his head on the couch and he doesn't want to play.

Me : Myeke uvukwe iconsi lakwa Zondi. Go and play with Mpatho mengafuni ukudlala nawe u Ndlelenhle.

Zanokuhle : Mpatho went to visit his father.

Me : Hhaibo akasasho u Nuh.

(I take my handbag and take out R3 and give it to Zanokuhle)



Me : Hamba uthenge inyoka yakho

Zanokuhle : Thank you mommy.

Me : It's okay my boy. Ubuyile umkhulu?

Zanokuhle : No

Me : Ugogo uyapheka?

Zanokuhle : Uh!

Me : Okay

Zanokuhle : Thank you Mah.



(He smiles and runs out of my bedroom. I stretch my arms and take my phone. I dial Thina's number.)

Me : Hello Maka Skhulile.

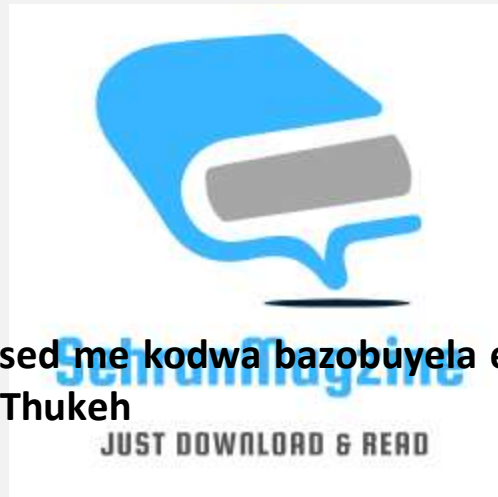
Thina : Hi Sisi. Unjani?

Me : I'm good sthandwa sami. WeeThina yazi I think ngashiya ama heels ami lawa a purple lapha endlini ka Thukeh. Awukaze uwabone?

Thina : Sis Moltah saw them. Akhona Sisi

Me : Thank God. Okay bengifuna ukubuza lokho sisi. Aipona! Ngibonile u Thukeh eposte o Skhulile ku Whatsapp. Balapho e Ballito?

(She laughs)



Thina : Yes they missed me kodwa bazobuyela emuva soon. Angifuni ukuba umthwalo ku Thukeh

Me : Nonsense. Every child deserves to be closer to their mother.

(She sighs)

Me : Ukuthi nje uSisi Nomzamo uyazishaya izingane ethi zingathinti lutho without her permission.

Me : Did she do that to my kids?

Thina : No but wathi uma efikile endlini akafuni ukubona o Ndlela no Zano ucela u Thukeh ebayise e Mhlanga ku Baba ka Thukeh.

Me : Mhmmm. Ay ngiyabona. Impela u Nomzamo umubambe phansi u Thukeh.

(I sigh)



Thina : She is really controlling him. Ungena layindlini noma ingasikhathisini she even came home drunk. Uyabona last week? The whole of last week she came home after midnight edakiwe.

Me : You lie!

Thina : Serious sisi. But ngabona u Thukeh echitha amawayini akhe u Nomzamo lapha ku sink and after that she stopped drinking... Sisi oke umufonele phela u Thuthuh yazi he is not okay.

Me : I'm not allowed to call him nje.

Thina : Aw? Aybo akekho right. Une stress ngenye indlela. This morning ngimufice elele lapha kwi balcony elele phezu komcamelo nethawula kugcwele izingamu ezingakanani zikagwayi eduze kwakhe. Mhlampe bezu 20 or 30. Yazi sisi ulale khona emnyango for the whole night ngoba umbhede wake ubuqondile kubonakala ukuthi akalalanga kuwona.



(I'm not going to lie what Thina is telling me breaks my heart but what can I do now?)

Me : He will be fine. Ugcine nini yena u Nomzamo ukufika?

Thina : Usanda kufika and I heard them talking about some boy from Ohlange who died. I don't know if I heard correctly but angathi bathe he overdosed amaphilisi

Me : Yes Musa told me about that boy. He died after overdosing drugs.

Thina : Yes drugs. Yeah babekhuluma ngalokho bakhuluma nangamaphoyisa..... Nono no nginamanga akagcinanga ukufika ngalelolanga wagcina ukufika kuthangi nakhu u Sis Moltah ethola ama pregnancy tests awu four e bathroom ka Thukeh.

(My heart races. I start sweating and stand up immediately.)

Me : What? Ama pregnancy ayethathwa u Nomzamo?



Thina : Yes

Me : Wait wait wena wawabona?

Thina : No uthi u Sis Moltah wathi u Thukeh she must throw them away.

Me : Okay okay uthini u Moltah? Were they positive?

Thina : Uthi akabonanga ngoba u Thukeh wavele wamlandela kade eyo cleaner e bathroom.

Me : No

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uthini u Moltah? Were they positive?

Thina : Uthi akabonanga ngoba u Thukeh wavele wamlandela kade eyo cleaner e bathroom.

Me : No no no no.

(I scratch my hair. My whole body is now itching)

Thina : But maybe she is not pregnant Sisi. Akalali endlini ka Thuthuh

Me : No no no she is pregnant ngizwa ekhanda. She is pregnant Thina she is pregnant. Ukhulelwe u Nomzamo

Thina : Sorry sisi.

(Wuuh! Uh-huh I hang up. She is saying sorry. Aibo!)



Me : Dammit! Dammit! HVISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM “ FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELSVISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM “ FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELSaa!!!!

(I scream hitting my bed)

Hhaibo! Hhaibo! What's going on here? Sthabile!

(I turn my head to my door)

Me : Ngizoyikhipha lengane ka Nyathuko!

MaKheswa : Ingane yani?

Me : Nomzamo is also pregnant mama. Lengane mina ngizoyikhipha.

MaKheswa : Wait Are you pregnant?



Me : Yes but I'm going to have an abortion.

MaKheswa : God forbid! Sthabile uthini? Usuyahlanya?

Me : No mama. I don't want this baby! Lengane izongiphula umoya nje. Ngizoyondla ngani mina?

MaKheswa : Mntanami sit down.

Me : No Mah! I don't want to sit down. u Nomzamo umithi naye. Uyazi ukuthi bazothanda Ingane yakhe okudlula eyami kwaZondi angithi? Nyathuko will forget about me mama. Uyabona ke manje sengine sure ukuthi kuphelile phakathi kwami no Thukeh. He is going to forget about me mama.

(Tears flow down my face.)



MaKheswa : No my baby this is not a competition okay? u Thukeh uzonithanda nobabili.... Mntanami who cares if MaMhayise is also pregnant? Nawe Ukhulelwe and ubaba ka Ndlela uthanda wena.

Me : But kwaZondi bathanda u Nomzamo. They are going to make my life a living hell.

MaKheswa : But Baba ka Ndlelenhle won't. Uhlale eseduze kwakho Mntanami

Me : Mama awubazi abantu bakwa Zondi. U Thukeh uyabalalela enze noma yini abamutshela yona.

(I sigh)

Me : It's over mama. Nomzamo won.

(My phone rings. It's Nyathuko. I want to vomit.)

MaKheswa : Bamba ifoni Sthabile what if kubalulekile?



(I take my phone and answer)

Me : Yah.

(Silence)

Me : Nyathuko khuluma bandla. I don't have all day.

Nyathuko : Are you okay?

Me : Yah.

Nyathuko : Ingane yami injani esiswini?

Me : Angazi mfethu.



(He sighs)

Nyathuko : Uyitholile imali?

Me : Yes.

Nyathuko : Okay.... I wanted to tell you ukuthi siya e Ndwedwe this Friday. There is a family meeting ebizwe u Khulu.

Me : What family meeting?

Nyathuko : I don't know kodwa bathe ngikutshele.

Me : Angizi lapho.



Nyathuko : Kubalulekile ukuthi ufike ~~Maka~~ Zanokuhle.

Me : No I know what that meeting is all about! Angithi wena umithise u Nomzamo!

(Silence)

Me : Usuyisimungulu manje? awusakhulumi.

Nyathuko : Ubani okutshela leyonto?

Me : It doesn't matter ukuthi Ubani ongitshelile. Okusalayo sengiyazi. Awusho how are you going to take care of all these kids?

(Silence. I look at my phone screen. He hung up on me)

MaKheswa : Uthini?



Me : Sivale ifoni ngisakhuluma lesfebe sakwaZondi esimbi esigcabile. Nxi!

MaKheswa : Aibo Sthabile!

(She exclaims and covers her mouth with her hand. I walk out. I'm bloody pissed off)

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Chapter 64

ENDWEDWE

(We are here. The mighty soon to be Zondi wife has spoken and the Queen said the ceremony to put Ndlelenhle isiphandla must be tomorrow because "They need to quickly get it out of the way and focus on planning for her wedding" Yes that's what the madam said and you know what Khulu said? That old toothless hypocrite? She said "Umfazi wedlozi phela u MaMhayise so when she says something we need to listen and obey because sometimes it's not her speaking but our ancestors speak through her." Yho! You see right there when she said that I actually wanted to take off all of my clothes and run into their kraal and scream until all their cows get a heart attack and die. Anyway I no longer have a room here in Ndwedwe umfazi wedlozi took over. I was told that I'm going to sleep in Khulu's old rondavel and Nyathuko's father said over his dead body. He then told me that I can sleep in his room. I don't know where he will sleep but I'm sure Vee is waiting for him at the Fairbreeze hotel or somewhere else. Ntokozo and Sthenjisiwe are not coming. They said they are both working this weekend but I know they were lying. I'm busy fixing the bed when Nyathuko walks in holding Ndlelenhle. I haven't heard Nyathuko's voice ever since I arrived here. Oh and Musa brought us here and he went back to his house. Zanokuhle is not here he is visiting his grandmother Mrs Dlomo.)

Nyathuko : Uselele

Me : Oh thanks.

(I take Ndlelenhle from him and put him in bed)

Nyathuko : Are you okay?

Me : Ngi right Nyathuko mfethu.



Nyathuko : Ingane yona i right?

Me : Ey Thukeh please leave me alone bandla. Why ungayi ukuyobuza eka Nomzamo?

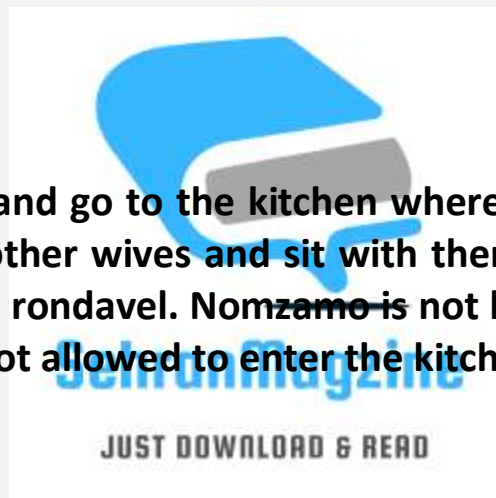
(He heads out)

Me : Thina is not the one who told me ukuthi u Nomzamo umithi. There was no need ukuthi ubukise ngaye phambi kwentombi yakho

(He looks at me and shakes his head before he walks out.)

Me : Mxm.

(I put on my jacket and go to the kitchen where they are holding the meeting. I join the other wives and sit with them. Men are sitting on the other side of the rondavel. Nomzamo is not here and I think that's because she is still not allowed to enter the kitchen as yet.)



Khulu : Ntuthuko please take all the children uye nabo endlini kayihlo. Sizokhuluma izinto zabantu abadala lana khehla izinto ezingafanele zilalelwe izingane.

Ntuthuko : Yebo

Kwanele : Ukhiye ukumawakho

Mabuyi : No it's open.

(All the children walk out)

Khulu : Wezingane zami I know niphuma emsebenzini and you are all tired nifuna ukuyophumuza imizimba ngakho ngizokha phezulu nje ngingageqi amagula ngize ngifike nasenzikeni.

(They nod)



Khulu : I spoke to MaMhayise earlier. I know this is a private matter but we need to address it as a family ukuze mekukhona inkinga sikwazi ukuyixazulula. Nyathuko?

Nyathuko : Ye.....

(He clears his throat. I don't know if it's those cigarettes he smokes like a crazy man that makes his voice to be more husky or it's because he's been quiet for too long.)

Nyathuko : Yebo

Khulu : We have a problem Nondaba. u MaMhayise ukhala ngokuthi awumuthinti.

(This is definitely a private matter but I'm here for it. She proceeds.)



Khulu : You know that women have needs so what I don't understand ukuthi uma engathintwa uwena njengendoda yakhe uthi enzenjani? eshone kuphi?

Bheki : Nyathuko awulali noMaMhayise?

Nyathuko : Yes.

Bheki : Why not? Uthi elale nobani?

Nyathuko : I don't know. Akenze akubonayo

Hhaibo!!!

(Everyone else is shocked but not me and Mabuyi. Mabuyi is happy to hear this.)



Zenzele : No Nyathuko don't say that.

Bheki : Uyadelela lo.

Maxwell : Thukeh show some respect!

Nyathuko : Angifuni. Since when do I have to discuss my sex life with you?

Khulu : We want to help you.

Nyathuko : Angivukelwa. Ngisizeni ke

Yho! Aibo!

(Everyone exclaims)



Nyathuko : Yini nababaza? That's what you wanted to hear nje. Nizothini ke manje? How are you going to help me? Nizongiyisa enyangeni?

(Silence)

Nyathuko : Ningibizela umbhedo la. Into angabe siyayikhuluma indaba yokukhulelwa kuka Sthah.

Bheki : What?

Khulu : Ini?

Bheki : Nyathuko you don't listen huh? Umumithisa kanjani lo futhi wazi kahle ubishi esikulona because of you nalenkani yakho?

Nyathuko : Sekwenzekile.

(Bheki shakes his head)



Bheki : Yeyisa okwangempela Mah lengane ka Ndabe. Ifuze abantu bakwa Maphalala!

Khulu : Calm down Bheki. Nyathuko does MaMhayise know that MaNgcobo is pregnant?

Nyathuko : No she doesn't know. Uzotshelwa imina.

Zenzele : Nyathuko why are you so stubborn? Uyazazi izinkinga ozozisusa ngalesisu sika MaNgcobo? Wazi kahle ukuthi akatheliwe ngenyo....

Nyathuko : Futhi ngeke ethelwe ngaleyonyongo angithi akafuni?

(He cuts him off and stands up)



Nyathuko : Yazini? I'm tired of all this nonsense. Ngikhathele indaba yamadlozi. Bonke abenze abakubonayo. U Sthabile no Nomzamo nabo abenze abakubonayo ngikhathele manje.

(He tries to walk away but Maxwell forces him to sit down. My heart is bleeding. Tears are running down my face. Nyathuko doesn't care anymore. His eyes tell me that I've lost him for good this time. As he sits down our eyes lock and he quickly looks away as soon as he sees that I'm crying.)

Maxwell : Can you listen for once? Sit down!!

(His father is angry now.)

Bheki : Ijaha ukuhamba lenja! Ibona kahle kodwa ukuthi kusakhulunywa!

Khulu : Hhayi Bheki. Lungisa ulimi mfana wami.

Bheki : No Mah!! Nina niyayisaba lengane! Ngalebhesi yayo nje endondozyo isizibona iyindoda? You are nothing Nyathuko! Lawomasende aluhlaza onawo awakwenzi indoda! Fakol!



(I want to stand up and leave)

Khulu : Nyathuko if MaNgcobo is pregnant anikwazi ukuqhubeka nesehlukaniso somshado. You two will have to wait until the baby is born. Asisazi isizathu salengane ezayo ukuthi isiphi ngakho asizokwenza into engase ithukuthelise idlozi lalayikhaya okanye elakwa Maphalala.

Zenzele : Bazohlalisana kanjani?

Bheki : Kumele ebuye u MaNgcobo lapha kubo angithi she calls herself Nyathuko's wife? So until they get divorced kuzofanele ebuye ka Ngcobo. She will stay kulendlu yakhe ese Finikisi ededele u MaMhayise kulomuzi ose Ballito. Nyathuko needs to spend more time with MaMhayise before they get married.

Khulu : Lithini elakho wena Ndabenhle?

Maxwell : What can I say kodwa Mah? Nothing.



(There's sadness in Maxwell's voice. Nyathuko rubs his face. I can't take it anymore. Clearly Nomzamo is going to take everything from me even before she gets married to Nyathuko. I stand up with tears running down my face.)

Me : Please excuse me.

(I leave and go back to the bedroom. I close the door and throw myself on the bed next to my son. I continue crying. My mother is

calling but I can't I can't talk to her. 2 hours later the door opens. I can smell his Brut. It's him.)

Nyathuko : Sthah?

(I'm not going to talk to him. He sighs)

Nyathuko : She is not pregnant Sthabile. u Thina wakhuluma iphutha.

(I don't care anymore.)



Nyathuko : It's okay I'll leave. I wanted to tell you ukuthi ngizolala ngale endlini ku Nomzamo. I'll see you tomorrow. Ulale kahle.

(I open my eyes. He is on his way out.)

Me : Yazini yini ebuhlungu? Ukuthi kukona konke osukwenzile kubona bonke ubuhlungu osungizwise bona I still love you the same way I did kade ufika endlini yami okokuqala ebusuku uphethe ibhodlela le

wayini. Uthando lwethu lonke ubulokhu ungvivinya ngobufebe bakho and I hope you are happy now. Usubalethele umakoti abamuthandayo manje la kini and they are making sure that I lose everything.

Nyathuko : No

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no no you are not going to lose anything. Maka Zano please don't leave me. Ngithanda wena mina Sthabile.

Me : Then don't marry her.



Nyathuko : I'm sorry but I have to. Kufanele ngimushade but izophela lento Sthabile.

Me : Awukaze ulale naye?

(Silence. I sigh.)

Me : Forget I asked. Angazi nokuthi ngihlanganaphi.

Nyathuko : I did. I slept with her once. Kodwa ngayisebenzisa i condom Sthah.

Me : Then why would she buy ama pregnancy tests?

Nyathuko : Because uyahlanya. u Nomzamo uyahlanya Sthabile.



Me : Sometimes ngiyaluzonda usuku engaya ngalo kuloya McDonald's ngoba wawungeke ungibone kodwa futhi uma ngicabanga izibusiso ongizele nazo empilweni yami izingane zami ezinhle onginike zona angizisoli kangako. You ruined my life Nyathuko uyabona lo zip weblukwe wakho obungavaleki ruined my life but it's okay. Uma kuyisabelo sami lesi ngiyavuma. I wish you all the best wena no Nomzamo. Ngiyathemba yena uzomuthanda kangcono. And no I'm not going to divorce you Nyathuko ngizohlala ngibekezele ngoba ngiyakuthanda.

Nyathuko : Sth.....

Me : Hamba uyomithisa u Nomzamo ukhulise umuzi wakwa Zondi. She will give you something that I might not be able to give you ngoba esami isibeletho siqalekisiwe. Nalengane engiyithwele mhlampe ngeke ngiyibone nokuyibona.

Nyathuko : Please don't.....

Me : Please leave.

(He rubs his forehead and walks out.)



THE FOLLOWING DAY.

Bheki's wife : Uthi u Thukeh she left with all her clothes.

Shlangu's wife : Uhambe ngani kodwa because ufike ngemoto no Thukeh?

Bheki's wife : Nawe Maka Ndlela awuzwanga lutho?

Me : Cha

(I say and continue sharpening the knife. Nomzamo is missing. No they think that Nomzamo is missing.)

Mabuyi : Ehhe! Angithi anikwazi ukuvala imilomo layikhaya ningovovo liyakhapha.



Bheki's wife : Mina uyangixaka Maka Ntuthuko ukuthi usho ukuthini. I told you that I'm not the one who told MaMhayise that Maka Ndlela is pregnant. Bengihleli no Wandile mina ebusuku egula.

(She says and walks away)

Mabuyi : Awumubheke ebaleka nezimbavu mbavu zamabele lelixoki leli. I heard her talking to Nomzamo last night after the meeting. Bengibhema lapha emuva kwendlu ngamuzwa lophoshozwayo.

Me : Mhmmm

(I have a pounding headache. I don't want to talk especially about Nomzamo. I walk out. Nyathuko's father is back but I don't see Nyathuko.)



Maxwell : Asimutholi. U Thukeh akakabuyi naye?

Bheki : No

Kwanele : How can she just leave engatsheli muntu? Did she fight with Nyathuko?

(Shame. They are really worried.)

Bheki : Yes uzwile ukuthi u Mangcobo ukhulelwe. Labantu balayikhaya abakwazi ukuvala imilomo angithi.

Kwanele : She will be back. Mhlampe usadinga ukushawa umoya.

(Ndlelenhle screams for the hundredth time)

Ndlelenhle : Nunu!!!!



(Why is Ndlelenhle embarrassing me? He's been calling isiphandla that is on his wrist inunu. He just looks at it and screams out of nowhere. He even tries to take it off.)

Maxwell : Calm down mfana ka mkhulu come here. Akuyona inunu le

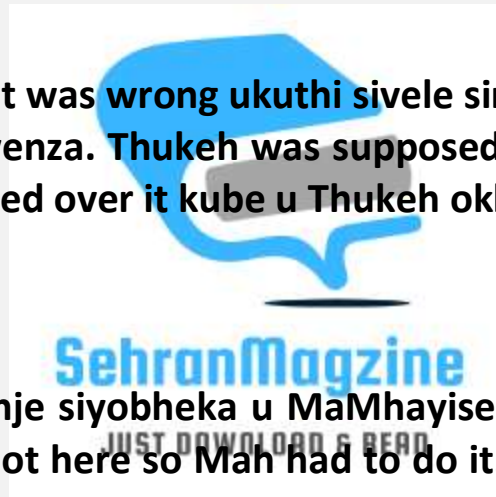
Kwanela : Ubona loboya u Ndlela

(Kwanele laughs. I think he enjoys seeing what Ndlelenhle is doing.)

Bheki : Lengane ayikhishwe lesiphandla ngoba phela ayisifuni. Mhlampe nayo isindisiwe.

(What the fuck did he just say? I clench my teeth in frustration. I hate that man. I hate him with all of my heart.)

Zenzele : No I knew it was wrong ukuthi sivele simufake nje isiphandla efakwe u Mah nokwenza. Thukeh was supposed to do it and bile was supposed to be poured over it kube u Thukeh okhuluma nabaphansi.



Bheki : Besingekho nje siyobheka u MaMhayise. Ilanga bese liphuma and Nyathuko was not here so Mah had to do it. Ubengeke ke ekwazi ukuma emsamu.

Maxwell : She was supposed to wait until we got back.

Bheki : Wazini ke wena ngosiko? Ngoba wahluleka ngisho ukufundisa izingane zakho.

(Maxwell shakes his head and gets inside his car with Ndlelenhle. I'm watching them with a big pot in my hands. I'm standing next to an old bathtub that is filled with water for ducks to swim. I don't know how I dropped the pot inside the bathtub but the pot is now drowning in dirty water. I quickly took it out. My phone rings and I quickly take it out and answer.)

Me : Hello?

Maka Ndlela hi.

Me : Oh Ntokozo it's you. Sorry angibukanga.



Ntokozo : It's okay sisi. Where is Thukeh?

Me : He is not here.

Ntokozo : Nasefonini angimutholi.

Me : Yeah he is out looking for Nomzamo.

Ntokozo : What? Uduke ngempela kanti?

(I sigh)

Me : Yes.



Ntokozo : Maka Ndlela I'm sorry. ~~I know~~ ukuthi asikwazanga ukuza ukuthi nje I'm tired i drama yalapho.

Me : I understand sisi.

Ntokozo : When are you coming back? I want us to go out tomorrow. Silale noma isehhotela uthi ukupholisa ikhanda Maka Ndlela.

Me : Awazi ukuthi ngikudinga kanjani lokho.

(We both sigh. I hang up. Tears are running down my cheeks already. I remove the lid from the pot.)

Me : Dammit!

(My rice is now dirty and it smells like urine. I'm done cooking and I'm not going to start all over again. I hate these people so why bother? I look around to see if anyone is watching. I rinse it once and put the pot back on the campfire for it to evaporate the remaining water. I'm not going to eat that not when I know what happened. My head is just all over today. I can't even think straight.)

Ungangiphakeli mina mase niphaka.

(Jesus! When did he get back? Did he see what happened with the rice and that's why he says I shouldn't dish it up for him?)

Me : Oh

Nyathuko : U right?

(I wipe the tears away from my cheeks)

Me : Mhmmm-Mhmmm

Nyathuko : Okay

Me : U Nomzamo... (clearing throat) Did you find Nomzamo?



(He shakes his head and walks away)

Please please bare with me ?? we are getting there. Thanks for your patience

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Chapter 65

(We are in Breakers Resort Umhlanga. I didn't know how much I needed this until I got here. I'm away from everything from being a parent being a wife. For hours I've forgotten about my miserable life and I'm enjoying life and living for now. I'm surrounded by happiness love and laughter.)

Ntokozo : Yey! Let Sthabile eat whatever she wants. My brother paid for this.



(Now I know that all this was Nyathuko's idea and he paid for it. I hate him but I'm grateful.)

Me : Now this is a good life.

Ntokozo : We should do this more often.

Sthenjisiwe : Exactly! If I had enough money I was going to stay here for a whole year.

Me : Hhaibo mfazi oshadile! What about Nqobani?

(We laugh)

Sthenjisiwe : He will survive. Siyajola thina emshadweni wethu

(Okay I'm confused)

Me : Niyajola? How?



(Ntokozo laughs)

Ntokozo : Ey mfazi ka mfowethu you know nothing. U demedi lentombazane uyabona le usisi wesoka lakho? U rabishi lo. Tell her Siwe.

(Sthenjisiwe is laughing)

Sthenjisiwe : No he cheated on me ngamubamba and I said no yazini? Let's all jola. Angithi wena my kuku is not enough so yah jola nami ngijole because your gwayi is also not enough for me.

(I burst. No she must be kidding)

Me : Uyadlala wena.



Sthenjisiwe : I'm not. Uyabona ke manje sesiya nje kahle ema clubbin and when he sees a girl mase elokhu emoyizela I just ask him "Uyamufuna skhokho?" ethi "Yah" ngithi ngena kuye mfana wasemzini and then he goes and sometimes he doesn't come back nami ngizibonele ibhobhodleyana melingekho futhi ngiziphuzele utshwala bami ngigoduke. Isiyobonana mhlazane ebuya ekhaya futhi and sometimes kube wuye oyongibona mhlazane ngibuya. Uyayizwa leyonto?

(No she is serious.)

Me : Wait niphila leyompilo no Nqobani?

Sthenjisiwe : Yes angithi kwathiwa indoda ayibuzwa ukuthi ibuyaphi so that's what I'm doing. Nix mabuzana.

Ntokozo : Awazi wena Sthabile. Inyama ibolile kuloyamuzi. Ibole kumama yabola kubaba. Akubuzwa muntu ukuthi uphumaphi akubuzwa muntu ukuthi uvelaphi.

(They say the last part together and they both burst.)



Me : Wow. Ay impilo isimanga

Sthenjisiwe : It is. But we are happy. Akekho nje oba ne stress. We are happy and our kids are happy. Uyayizwa leyonto?

(She laughs. No

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maybe it's not her speaking but alcohol because right now she is drunk. My phone vibrates)

Me : Nangu ubhuti wenu esenda i message la.

(I read out the message)

Message : I hope you are enjoying yourself. Ngifuna wazi ukuthi ngiyohlale ngikuthanda Sthabile and noma yini engiyenzayo good or bad ngiyenziswa ukuthi ngiyakuthanda.



Ntokozo : Aw man! That's so sweet.

Me : Sweet? Oh please Ntoko.

Sthenjisiwe : Lo nonkroyi wakhe uphi ngempela?

Me : I don't know. I hope she doesn't come back. Ehlale nje kulelogodi akulo

Ntokozo : Igoti? What do you mean?

Me : Ngisho la acashe khona

Sthenjisiwe : How can she just disappear nje kanjalo?

Ntokozo : Udla izimali zika Nqabayethu— wherever she is. Ngezwa kuthiwa ziphumile.



Sthenjisiwe : So soon?

Me : Yeah that lawyer ka Nqabayethu. What's her name?

Ntokozo : Matshidiso Bella

Me : Yeah she called me ekhuluma ngendlu ukuthi angazi kanjani and I told her ukuthi ngine stress okwamanje. I'll get back to her.

Sthenjisiwe : I still can't believe that Nqabayethu left everything for Zanokuhle phela washiya yonke into u Nqabayethu ku Zano.

Me : Yah hey but angiyifuni oe into ezoletela ingane yami izinkinga.

Ntokozo : What do you mean?



Me : I'm just saying. Phela yonke lento ka Nomzamo ihlangene nalezimali.

Ntokozo : Ngamuzwa u Thukeh esho but it didn't make sense to me.

Me : Same here but ngibuye ngikholwe ukuthi uqinisile. Ingakho nje sengimanqika nqika ukuthi u Zanokuhle ethole lezinto.

Ntokozo : Yeah hey but this is money Sthabile. You can't just.....

Me : Angifuni ukufaka umndeni wami enkingeni especially my son. Yazi kwa Dlomo basanda kungifonela wathi umaka Nkazimulo "Maka Wele ngizwa kuthiwa u Zanokuhle ushiyelwe imali yegazi" ngathi ay angikwazi ke lokho.

Ntokozo : Who told her?

Me : I think u Mkhuleko.



Sthenjisiwe : Oh yes. Uyena

Me : Yeah.

Ntokozo : Enough about dead people nezimali zegazi asiqhubeke siphuze.

(We laugh)

Me : Phuzani.

Sthenjisiwe : I'm sure one glass won't do any harm to the baby.

Me : Wuuuh uh-huh umfowenu uzongibulala.

(We laugh)



Ntokoza : Ngizwa ethi u Thukhen usishaye phansi isiphandla sika Ndlela.

(We laugh)

Me : He did. Aibo yahayiza ingane ithi inunu.

(They laugh out loud)

Ntokozo : Cha kodwa nasekhaya nalamasiko abo. How can you put ingane ena one isiphandla?

Sthenjisiwe : But basifaka o Wandile no Lubanzi.

Ntokozo : Ay ngeke Siwe they were a bit older than u Ndlela ngesikhathi befakwa.



Sthenjisiwe : Mhlampe no Ndlela uzoshaya eza Thukeh efune iziphandla zakomalume.

Me : How?

Ntokozo : No lento eshiwo u Siwe is different ukunale ka Ndlela. When Thukeh was born babengashadile u Mah no Babah. U Thukeh ebiza u Maphalala. The families were not getting along njengoba nanamhlanje nje u Baba omdala u Bheki engabafuni abantu bakomalume no Gogo engezi (burps)

Ntokozo : Excuse me.... noGogo engezi mekwenziwa izinto zakwa Zondi. Impi yabo nje endala. So u Thukeh ukhulele komalume enzelwa izinto komalume such as imbeleko and thomba ceremony all those things. Neziphandla ezifaka komalume and our parents got married wakhishwa ke u Thukeh kwa Maphalala wafakwa kwa Zondi. Uthe esenzelwa izinto lapha ekhaya kwakuvele kubhede kulahleke imbuzi or mefake isiphandla sivele siwe noma evuvukale ingalo.

Me : Jesus!



Ntokozo : Yeah ubona u Bheki nje njalo uma ekhuluma no Thukeh ethanda ukufaka abantu bakomalume it's because of that. Ukhule kanjalo ke u Thukeh ebangwa yidlozi the Maphalala ancestors were saying yey this is our boy he was introduced to us and the Zondi ancestors on the other side bethi yey this is our boy ingane yendodana yethu. Until today basamubanga.

Me : But that is something that could be fixed right?

Ntokozo : Mebeya phela kwa Zondi beyoxolisa ngokuphika u Thukeh then it could be fixed.

Me : Wait waphikwa u Thukeh?

Sthenjisiwe : Akaphikwanga ubaba waphikwa o Khulu. They said u Mah Unamanga udlala ngobaba just because our mother was older than our father so they didn't want her and no Thukeh bamuphika kwathiwa lezandla akuzona ezakwa Zondi.

Me : You lie!



Sthenjisiwe : Yey wathi u Mah kwashuba impela. U Khulu wabaxosha wathi they must go and look for ubaba ka Thukeh because ubaba yena akayena nje ubaba ka Thukeh.

Ntokozo : Manje ke they want to go and apologize kodwa nje uthi u Gogo no akasabafuni.

Me : This is serious nina.

Ntokozo : It is ukuthi nje uyabona owethu u Gogo u Maphalala? ay akasipetuli sisi. Usonta impela but amagqubu uwabamba ngesifuba sakhe sonke.

Me : Yho!

(No maybe I need to talk to Gogoh about this. No ways!)

**Sthenjisiwe : But nabo ekhaya abazehlisi ngendlela they just.....
Aibo!!! Hawema!!!**



(She is looking at her phone with her eyes wide open)

Ntokozo : Yini!?

Sthenjisiwe : u Nomzamo guys.

(My heart races)

Me : U Nomzamo wenzeni?

Sthenjisiwe : Nangu nangu epostwe o Mzet.

Me : Bamu posteleni?

(I try to stand up)



Sthenjisiwe : She is dead. Uzibulele bafethu! Hawemah!

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Chapter 66

Me : Please drive a little bit faster Ntokozo please.

Ntokozo : Okay okay calm down okay? Calm down. Siyafika manje

Me : Do you think useyazi kodwa yena u Thukeh?

Sthenjisiwe : I think sebemutshelile o Mzet. Aybo kanti where is the video?

Ntokozo : Forget about the video Siwe.



(We had to drop everything and drive to Ballito. The gate is open and Thukeh's car is here. I sigh in relief. I jump out of the car and run inside my house.)

Me : Thukeh? Nyathuko?

(I run upstairs and check in our bedroom. The door to our balcony is open. He is sitting on the floor. He is talking but I can't hear what he is saying. I move closer to the door.)

Nyathuko :.... You would have done the same thing. Wakithi ngiyobulala for umndeni wami I will kill for my wife and my sons and I'll do it over and over again if I have to. You know Zanokuhle is my son and into ebengingeke ngiyivume ukuthi ngikhulise indodana efana nawe wakithi. You were enough.

(Silence. I look behind me and find Ntokozo and Sthenjisiwe standing behind me.)

Ntokozo : Who is he talking to?



(She whispers in my ear. I cover her ~~mouth~~ with my hand)

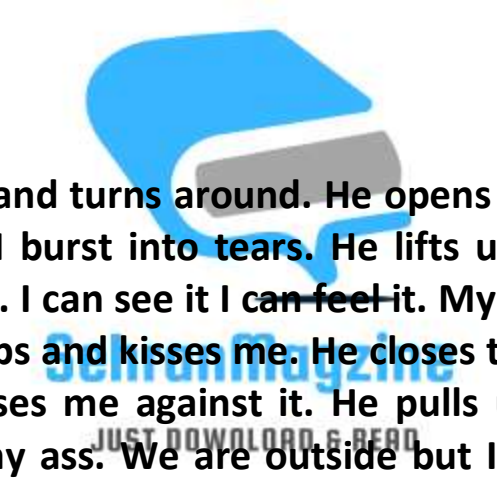
Nyathuko : I don't mind going to jail nawe uyakwazi lokho but umuntu mase ethinta izingane zami okunye lokho. (silence) Izinto zenzeke ngendlela ezazidalwe ngayo. Hlala naye wakithi nami ngihlale nowami.

(He places something next to him. It's Nqabayethu's picture. After that I see smoke all around him. He is smoking. I turn around and ask Ntokozo and Sthenjisiwe to excuse us. They go back downstairs and I make my way to Nyathuko.)

Me : Nana?

(He slowly lowers the cigarette from his mouth. He presses it on the floor and he stands up. Tears well up in my eyes.)

Me : I'm sorry about Nomzamo



(He shakes his head and turns around. He opens his arms and I throw myself in his chest. I burst into tears. He lifts up my chin and looks straight into my eyes. I can see it I can feel it. My man is back. He runs his thumb over my lips and kisses me. He closes the sliding door while kissing me and presses me against it. He pulls up my dress and his hand runs all over my ass. We are outside but I know he is going to fuck me right here and I'm not even going to try and stop him. I lift up his t-shirt. He takes it off and helps me take off my dress. We are fully naked now. I can only hope that none of our neighbours are watching. He lifts up my leg and goes all in. He bangs me. I feel sorry for this door because Nyathuko's is going to break it down. He spins me around and takes me from behind. His hand is squeezing the back of my neck. My breasts are now suffocated by the door. This is war. I can feel his semen running all the way down to my legs but he is still breaking apart my poor vagina. I'm about to cum for the third time. He pulls out. For a second I think we are done but no we are going straight to the floor. I don't even feel the cold tiles on my back. He

spreads my legs and rubs his penis on my dripping wet vagina. He moves the head around my clit while staring at me.)

Me : Thukena

(He slides in. I swear this is going to take the rest of the night.)

Me : Qeda manje Thukeh qeda baby.

(I breathe heavily in his ear. This always works. He squeezes my breast and collapses between my breasts. He pulls out and lies next to me. He pulls me onto his chests and covers me with his t-shirt. He kisses the top of my head.)

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda Sthabile

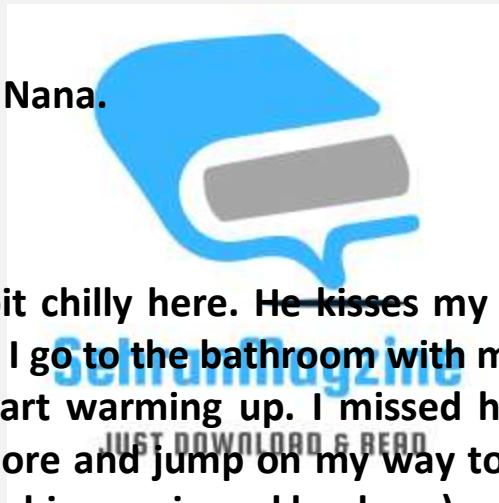
Me : I love you too Thukeh wami.

(We stay in silence)

Nyathuko : I'm sorry Sthah ngiyaxolisa ngakho konke engikwenzile.

(I kiss his chest and tighten my arm around him. Nomzamo is dead. Am I sad? NO but what about Nyathuko? I know deep down he is broken and he is in pain. Will he get over her death? I don't know.)

Me : I'm feeling cold Nana.



(Yey! It's getting a bit chilly here. He kisses my forehead. He follows me with our clothes. I go to the bathroom with my legs spread out. He laughs. I feel my heart warming up. I missed hearing his laughter. I spread them a bit more and jump on my way to the bathroom. I just want to hear him laughing again and he does.)

Nyathuko : Baby uzokhipha ingane yami.

(I laugh and get inside the bathroom. I shower. I smile feeling his kisses on my shoulders.)

Nyathuko : Ngingabulala for wena sthandwa sami. Ngingalufela uthando engikuthanda ngalo.

(I don't think he has ever killed or he will ever kill but I know he would die for me. He almost gave me his heart so yes I know.)

Me : I know.

(He kisses my neck. I feel his hard dick swaying around my ass. Not again.)



Me : Nana khona o Ntokozo ezansi.

(He stops kissing me.)

Nyathuko : What?

(I giggle)

Me : Yeah. We found out what happened seza la sonke.

(He sighs. I know he knows what happened how Nomzamo died but I'm scared to ask him. We finished showering and went downstairs. Ntokozo and Sthenjisiwe are now grilling our meat.)

Ntokozo : Bese sihashukile Thuthuh

(I laugh. Nyathuko shakes his head)



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Sthenjisiwe : What happened ngempela Thukeh? Ushone ngempela ko.....

Ntokozo : Sthenjisiwe Zondi!!

(She cuts her off)

Sthenjisiwe : Sorry.

Ntokozo : We are not going to talk about Nomzamo here. She was a bitch and she is dead. The world is now a better place so please shut the fuck up if you have nothing better to say! Okay? OKAY?

(She shouts. No I've never seen Ntokozo this angry. She is drunk but she is angry.)

Sthenjisiwe : Ngixolisile nje Ntoko.



Ntokozo : Good.... Thuthuh we are going to sleep here and I need more alcohol mfana ka Mah.

Nyathuko : Ngizobuthengaphi kodwa utshwala manje mina Ntokozo?

(Hhayi hawu! Why is Ntokozo doing this to my man now?)

Ntokozo : Please Thuthuh. Ngisafuna ukudakwa nje mina. It's still early.

Nyathuko : Okay

(Ntokozo smiles)

Ntokozo : I love you



(Thukeh shakes his head and goes upstairs to take his car keys. I stay around for a few minutes and then I follow him.)

Me : Ubhekani baby?

Nyathuko : Lamateku angcolile.

(I wasn't here so I have no idea)

Me : Isebusuku manje.

Nyathuko : Yah.

(He looks at his All star. I climb on the bed and wrap my arms around his neck)

Nyathuko : Awufuni ukuhamba nami?

Me : Angifuni sihambe.



Nyathuko : Umzwile nje u Ntokozo sthandwa sami.

Me : Can't you call one of the guys from ka Bhambatha bemulethele utshwala?

Nyathuko : Kukude baby besuka lapha e Mzinya....Oh yah u Nkanyiso uhlala la e Shakas head.

(Sthenjisiwe knocks.)

Nyathuko : What's wrong?

Sthenjisiwe : Khona amadoda alapha emnyango.

Me : Men?



Sthenjisiwe : Yes they want to speak to Thukeh.

Nyathuko : Okay tell them I'm coming.

Sthenjisiwe : Ungayi Thukeh angathi amaphoyisa lawana. Sizothi awukho

Me : What? Police? Efunani amaphoyisa la?

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami it's okay. Bengazi ukuthi azofika la.

Me : What do they want?

Nyathuko : I don't know.

(We all walk out. Ntokozo is fighting with them)

Ntokozo : Ningazokhuluma ukunya la!



Me : What's wrong Ntokozo?

Ntokozo : Nx! ilaba nje

Nyathuko : Ntokozo uh-huh

(Ntokozo raises her hands in surrender)

Nyathuko : Sanibona

(I wrap my hand around Nyathuko's arm)

Cop : Ndoda we need to talk to you. Kunemibuzo nje esifuna ukukubuza yona



Nyathuko : Yah.

Cop : Singakhulumela emotweni?

Me : No he is not going anywhere.

Cop : Sisi asikhulumi nawe.

(My blood boils)

Me : Awuzongithatha kanjalo. This is my house and this is my husband.

Nyathuko : Sthabile please....

Me : Cha Thukeh. Ngeke ngivume umuntu ezongikhulumela ukunya emzini wami. I know my rights!



Cop : Fine. This is detective Pillay kunemibuzo nje that we need to ask you about Miss Mhayise's death.

(Nyathuko swallows)

Nyathuko : Khona inkinga?

Cop : Not exactly. This is about the video....We understand that you and Nqabayethu Zungu were close?

Nyathuko : True... Sthandwa sami let me talk to them.

Me : Are you sure?

Nyathuko : Yes.

(He kisses my cheek and walks out. He closes the door and I go back and sit down)



Me : Ave bedelela laba namabhuzu anukayo.

Ntokozo : Bangidina kabi.

Sthenjisiwe : Is Nyathuko a suspect?

Ntokozo : Just shut up Sthenjisiwe!! Jesus!

(Ntokozo stands up.)

Ntokozo : I need more alcohol.

Sthenjisiwe : Call Smilo ekulethele.

Ntokozo : Where is my phone? Letha la-eyakho ngimufonele.



Sthenjisiwe : Take it.

Me : Ntokozo awubheke ukuthi abahambi yini nendoda yami laba.

(Ntokozo laughs)

Ntokozo : No they are still here.

(A few minutes later Nyathuko came back.)

Cop : Niyeke ukusibuka ngamawindi nina.

**Ntokozo : Or what? Nihlulwa ukujaha izigebengu nizodakwa la!
Lamakhehla lawa.**

Me : Amakhehla asindwa amabhuzu



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(I close the door. Nyathuko is sitting on the couch laughing)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami nizoboshwa.

Me : Ay. Bebefunani?

Ntokozo : Thuthuh uthi u Smilo simulinde e garage he will bring my alcohol.

Nyathuko : Oh okay. Let's go

(And just like that. I didn't get my answer. We went to the garage. Ntokozo and Sthenjisiwe are now dancing with a petrol attendant. I'm sitting with Nyathuko in his car and we are laughing.)

Me : Look at Sthenjisiwe uyamubamba baby.



Nyathuko : Izoxoshwa emsebenzini leya nkunzi.

(I laugh)

Me : Gosh! Yazi angathi usekhohliwe nokuthi usemsebenzini.

(We laugh)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami ngicabanga ukuyophahla lapha eMbathamkhonto.

Me : Ka Maphalala?

(He kisses my hand)

Nyathuko : Yeah.



Me : Ookay kodwa awukaze wenzele izinto komalume wakho.

Nyathuko : I do ukuthi kade ngagcina and I want to do it... ngiyacela ukukwenza.

(I smile)

Me : Okay Nana. Nami ngizoza angithi?

(He laughs. He looks better now way better. Maybe Nomzamo's death doesn't affect him.)

Nyathuko : Yah sthandwa sami.

(I laugh)

Me : Okay



(I swallow)

Me : Abakaze bekufonele kubo ka Nomzamo?

Nyathuko : They did. Ngizobabona ksasa

Me : I see.

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami it's over now. Ngiyeke ngenze lento siqhubeke nempilo

Me : Fine. Ungcwatshwa nini yena?

Nyathuko : I don't know ngizozwa ksasa.

Me : Thukeh what happened ngempela?

Nyathuko : She killed Nqabayethu.

(My eyes widen. I cover my mouth with my hand)

Me : Are you serious?

Nyathuko : Yes she told me. Angazi ke kodwa ukuthi uzibulaleleni



(He says and looks out the window)

Me : Unembeza shuthi phela. How did she kill herself?

Nyathuko : I don't know Sthabile.

Me : Wenze i video and she posted it before she died. We saw the video and she looked.....



Nyathuko : Yah. Sthandwa sami can we not talk about this?

Me : Fine I'm sorry baby. I'm sorry


Nyathuko : Nangu u Smilo.

(He gets out of the car.)

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Chapter 67

EMZINYATHI



(For the first time in this marriage I feel like Nyathuko's wife. I'm walking around the yard with iphinifa and a doek around my head. I can't explain how welcomed I feel here. Even the grounds I'm walking on sees me as Nyathuko's wife. The Zondis are not here. Sthenjisiwe and Ntokozo are here. We all arrived last night and Nyathuko communicated with the Maphalala ancestors through ukuphahla. He bought a few chickens and Gogoh made umqombothi for him. We are having breakfast in the lounge)

Gog'Maphalala : Zithandwa zami.

Ntokozo : Gogoh

Gog'Maphalala : Mano nilale kahle?

Me : I slept well Gogo wami.

Gog'Maphalala : That's good. Ay wezithandwa zami I think we need to cook. Ngibona kwanda abantu lapha emnyango.

Sthenjisiwe : Early kangaka?



Gog'Maphalala : Ehhe...uphi u Thukeh? Skhulile go and call Nyathuko lapha emnyango.

Ntokozo : What are we going to cook?

Gog'Maphalala : Uzoya kothenga u Thukeh.

(Nyathuko walks in with an empty traditional beer pot "ukhamba")

Gog'Maphalala : Thukeh asizophela nje lesizulu bengakaphuzi abanye? Ukhumbule phela sthandwa ukuthi kusazofika naba lapha kwa Bhekumbali

Nyathuko : Salukazi sami ngibahlalise kanjani abantu lapha emnyango bengaphuzi lutho kodwa?

Gog'Maphalala : Lalela you need to go and buy a few things ukuze kuphekwe.



(Nyathuko's eyes search around and our eyes lock. He smiles)

Nyathuko : Sawubona Mam'Zondi wami.

(I laugh)

Me : Yah Nana.

Gog'Maphalala : Ungilalele kodwa?

(We laugh)

Nyathuko : I'm listening salukazi sami. Yeah I'll go. Ngithengani?

Nqo-nqo kwaMaphalala

(Someone is outside)



Gog'Maphalala : Kanti abantu bezwe ukuthi sihlabe inkomo yini? Go go and welcome them Thukeh.

(We laugh. Nyathuko walks out)

Gog'Maphalala : Nyathuko should have bought a goat at least ngoba uyazi ukuthi unokhanda olunjani labantu. Bavele bethi bhu bonke.

Ntokozo : But we need to tell them ukuthi bekungewona phela umsebenzi.

Gog'Maphalala : Who will tell them?

Ntokozo : Maka Ndlela

Me : Never.

(We laugh)



Ntokozo : Imani ke uma sihlanganisela isikabhu manje kungabanjani?

Gog'Maphalala : We can do that. Nihambe nisithenge eMtshebheni.

Ntokozo : Yeah so that people can eat ngoba phela kuzogcwala into engibonayo.

Gog'Maphalala : That's true. Let me go and speak to Nyathuko.

(She walks out)

Sthenjisiwe : U Aunt Nomusa usahleli nentombazane yakwa Mdladla namanje?



Thina : Yes bahlanganisa ngamanye amabhanoyi azobaleka nezimali zabo.

(We laugh. Nyathuko walks in)

Nyathuko : Baby woza la sthandwa sami kancane.

Ntokozo : Don't keep her for too long

(We laugh. I stand up and follow Nyathuko to our room. He closes the door and kisses me.)

Nyathuko : Sawubona mfazi wami omuhle.

Me : Sawubona myeni wami omuhle.

Nyathuko : Baby ngithi mina lana o Gogo bafuna ukuthenga isikabhu.

Me : Yes she told us.



Nyathuko : I'm going to use the money from Ndlelenhle's account. Phela angisenayo imali mina manje sthandwa sami.

Me : That's fine.

(He smiles and kisses me)

Nyathuko : Nizopheka ini?

Me : I don't know Nana I'll ask Ntokozo. Sokubhalela uyabo?

Nyathuko : Okay.

Me : Ngiyahamba ke manje.



Nyathuko : Wait. Woza ngiqabule

(I laugh)

Me : Usile wena ufuna ukungikhumula

(He laughs. I walk out and leave him)

LATER THAT DAY.

(People are happy. They are singing. This place feels like home. I didn't know that ceremonies were this good because at the Zondis it never felt this good. Nyathuko didn't plan to have something this big but now everyone is here. We cooked and people ate. Now they are eating inyama.)

Gog'Maphalala : Uyayibona indoda yakho iyigagu kanjani?



Me : He is good. Yini pho engafuni ukusina ka Zondi? Yazi akalithinti ihawu khona.

Gog'Maphalala : Because he knows ukuthi owakwa Maphalala yena.

(This is my chance to ask her about what Ntokozo and Sthenjisiwe told me.)

Me : How was he like growing up?

(She smiles)

Gog'Maphalala : Soft. He was a mama's boy

(I laugh)

Me : But he loves his father too.



Gog'Maphalala : He does.

Me : O Ntokozo bangitshela ukuthi kwaba nezinkinga nomndeni wakwa Zondi ekuzalweni kwakhe.

(She sighs)

Gog'Maphalala : That's true. I remember it like it was yesterday. Bangitshela isikigi abantu bakwa Zondi ngilethe lengane. Beyipequlula izandla nezinyawo ekugcineni bathi no this is not Ndabenhle's son.

Me : Hawemah Gogo.

Gog'Maphalala : I'm still angry kuze kube inamhlanje because every time ngibuka abantu bakwa Zondi ngicabanga how badly they treated Zothani. Waze Washona u Zothani bemuphathisa okwenebethoni.

Me : Nyathuko's mom?



Gog'Maphalala : Yes. UNkulunkulu wangibusisa ngamawele nami u Zothani no Zibusiso. U Zibusiso yena wezala nangu u Thina. Washona kuqala ke kodwa ukuno Zothani.

Me : I'm sorry Gogoh

Gog'Maphalala : Uyabona u Maxwell he used to park under that tree. Ehamba ngesithuthu. I asked Zothani ukuthi lomfana wesithuthu owaphi na? And she kept saying ay Mah he is my friend.

(I laugh)

Gog'Maphalala : But one day wangitshela ukuthi umfana loya Mah siyathandana. Igama lakhe u Ndabenhle wakwa Zondi. I'm not going to lie I was worried ngoba ngangibona ukuthi umfana uyingane ukuno Zothani but I wanted to see all my children happy ngakho ngathi Ay u Zothani uyakwazi akwenzayo.

Me : Yes



Gog'Maphalala : Nangoke esemitha. Wasitshela sino Mkhulu ukuthi usekhulelwe. I got so angry. Zothani was an attorney and I didn't understand ukuthi umithiswa kanjani nje umfana wesithuthu. Washo ke ukuthi aibo Mah u Ndabenhle is a businessman. Okay. Anishadile Zothani umndeni walomfana uyazi ukuthi umithi? I asked her and she said ay uzobatshela. As much as they were old and independent but still kwakufanele senze izinto ngendlela because they were not married. U Thukeh kwakuyingane yokuqala ka Zothani so we wanted to do things the right way.

(I shake my head.)

Me : Yes

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umndeni walomfana uyazi ukuthi umithi? I asked her and she said ay uzobatshela. As much as they were old and independent but still kwakufanele senze izinto ngendlela because they were not married. U Thukeh kwakuyingane yokuqala ka Zothani so we wanted to do things the right way.



(I shake my head.)

Me : Yes I understand.

Gog'Maphalala : Zothani kept quiet ngaze ngakhuluma no mkhulu. My husband was just like Nyathuko ethula umyeni wami engazwani nomsindo but ngase ngimudinga ke manje ukuthi ekhulume no Zothani and find out what was going on ethethe methetha njengobaba wakhe. Aw u Maphalala wenza ubu soft bakhe wathi

asiyeke ingane. I decided to keep quiet. Wazalwa u Nyathuko lutho ukuya kubo. Ubaba wakhe efika emubonele lapha phansi kwesihlahla. Kuhlalwe emotweni kushone ilanga. Ngithi mina mkhulu lengane ebonelwa emotweni phansi kwezihlahla kanti yini? Ethu umkhulu angiphume kulento.

(Oh man my poor husband. I look at him. He is busy there talking to different people.)

Gog'Maphalala : Sijabuleke mesibona u Zothani ethu uyolala kwa Zondi kanti usho e fulethini lika Ndabenhle umntanami. That time Nyathuko didn't have a name. Akafuni ukumqamba Ubaba wakhe etshele u Zothani ukuthi izingane ziqanjwa kubo but the problem is akakwazi ukuthi ehambise ingane kubo ngoba akamushadile u Zothani. I asked mkhulu ukuthi eqambe ingane wanqaba wathi we must wait the Zondis will come around. Wayelokhu emuteketisa ke u Thukeh ethu u Manqamane ngoba phela nakhu akanagama. Kuze kube inamhlanje angazi why he called him Manqamane.

(We laugh)

Gog'Maphalala : Ekhalu u Zothani ethu Mah Ubaba uqamba ingane yami uthu u Manqamane. Other kids will laugh at my baby. What kind of a name is that?

(I burst)

Gog'Maphalala : Ngamutshela ukuthi angithi yini anifuni ukuqamba ingane igama. Ayke one day savuka sashona e Ndwedwe kanti siyosukela inyoka emgodini. Bayiphika ingane sabuya sikhexile. I told my husband what happened but he told me to relax and he kept telling me that the Zondis would come around. Sahamba isikhathi. Ngathi uyabona ke ngiyakhohlwa manje abantu bakwa Zondi. Sayenzela ingane imbeleko kodwa wathi umkhulu no we won't give him a name uzoqhubeka nje ebe u Manqamane wakhe.

Me : Yes



Gog'Maphalala : Bathe bezwa eyokuthi senzele ingane umsebenzi wembeleko kwaZondi bagijima bazolanda ingane. Yabuya isiqanjiwe ukuthi u Nyathuko. Ngahlangana no Khulu e Verulam wangidilika wathi how did I allow my daughter to be with his son ngoba phela mdala u Zothani ukuno Ndabenhle. Washo nokusho ukuthi u Zothani ufuna imali ka Ndabenhle. Ngathi lale la ezami izingane zifundile.

Me : Yes Gogoh!

Gog'Maphalala : Ngazifundisa mina ezami izingane Mano. Zibusiso was a doctor and Zothani was an attorney. Ngabatshela ukuthi bengangidakelwa mina. U Zothani had her own money. Aw bandla kuze kusho bandla nakho okuwumntanami sekukhala kuthi Mah I don't know why they hate me so much kuloyamuzi. Bathi ngifuna imali ka Ndabe kodwa ngiyasebenza nje mina Mah.

Me : Hawu That is so sadGogona.

(I think I understand the pain Nyathuko's mother went through maybe not fully but I understand.)



Gog'Maphalala : Ngithi thula mntanami kuzolunga. Ndabenhle loved her and she loved him ngakho kwakungelula ukuthi ngithi akamushiye. She got pregnant again wakhulelwa u Ntokozo. Bashada ke no Ndabenhle umshado wesintu. Wathi esekhulelwe u Sthenjisiwe bashada omhlophe. Ukhulelwa nje u Zothani kuze kuyashadwa u Nyathuko usahlala nathi. Wakhula u Nyathuko ngahamba ngaya kwa Zondi and I asked them ukuthi bemenzele umsebenzi wokuthomba and they refused.

Me : Aibo!

Gog'Maphalala : Samenzela thina ke. He was getting old so we had to do it for him ngoba banqaba kubo. Kwadlula izinsukwana kwashona ubaba ka Ndabenhle and they came here bazolanda u Nyathuko. I wasn't home that day bafica u Nomusa bathatha ingane and ayiphindanga yabuya. Bayifaka iziphandla zakhona yagula babuya bazothi imina kukhona engikwenzayo. Wangithuka u Bheki washiya angalazi. Even today no one came back to apologize kwaze kwashona u Maphalala. Kwashona u Zothani lutho abantu bakwa Zondi.

Me : What they did was terrible. Akekho umuntu ofanele ukudlula kulento owadlula kuyona Gogoh.



Gog'Maphalala : Akekho noyedwa. They stripped off my dignity.

Me : They did. Kodwa Gogoh awucabangi ukuthi ubaxolele manje? Wenzele u Thukeh okungenani? Gogoh I can't lose this baby.

(She sighs)

**Gog'Maphalala : Mebesazimisele ngokuxolisa I will forgive them.
Ngiyobe ngenzela wena no Thukeh futhi nalapho.**

(I smile)

Me : Ngicela ukubona izithombe zika mamezala wami.

(She smiles and holds my hand)

Gog'Maphalala : Come I'll show you.



**(I follow her to her bedroom. There's noise now in the lounge.
Ntokozo Sthenjisiwe and others are drinking.)**

**Gog'Maphalala : You see this one wayeshada umshado wesintu. She
looked so amazing.**

(I smile)

Me : She was so beautiful.

(I run my hand over her picture)

Me : Gogoh please tell me more about umshado wesintu nokuthelwa ngenyongo.

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Chapter 68



(We are back in Ballito. Nomzamo's funeral is tomorrow and I'm ready. I'm going to look fucking good.)

Nyathuko : You don't need to buy new clothes. It's a funeral sthandwa sami akuwona umshado.

Me : Ufuna ngibe mumbi lapha phambi kwabangani bentombi yakho?

Nyathuko : Useyintombi yami futhi manje?

Me : You know what I mean. Unayo nje imali manje so why wenza nje?

(He shakes his head)



Me : Fine I'll use Ndlelenhle's money ~~now~~ mawungafuni mfethu Thukeh.

(He looks at me)

Nyathuko : Ngithe angifuni yini Sthah?

Me : Phela ngibona ubala izinto eziningi. "Yey yey Sthah akuwona umshado lo yey this yey that" ay yeka Thukeh. I'll.....

(I cover my mouth with my hand and get out of bed. I ran to the bathroom for the 10th time. I vomit.)

Me : VISIT : “ SEHRANMAGZINE.COM “ FOR MORE AMAZING NOVELSh!!

(I scream. I hate this now. The bathroom door opens. I can hear him laughing.)

Nyathuko : Ngeke ngipinde ngikumithise sthandwa sami.



(I lift up my eyes)

Me : Unamanga uzophinda Thukeh.

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Uzohamba kanjani because you are sick?

Me : No I'm not sick. I'll go

(He helps me up and cleans my mouth. He finishes and kisses me.)

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda ke

(I giggle)

Me : I love you too.



(We went back to bed. I can't stay in this bed. It's hot and I'm feeling dizzy. I look at the time. It's 07h30 am. Nyathuko is now fast asleep next to me. I hate how he sleeps these days. One would swear that he is the one carrying the baby. Gogoh said the reason he sleeps this much is because of the pregnancy but he is not the one pregnant so I don't get it. I shake him)

Me : Thukeh vuka phela Nana

(He takes my hand with his eyes closed and puts it over his dick. I laugh)

Me : Thukena?

(God! He is sleeping.)

Me : Thukeh vuka phela khona sizohamba. Thukeh?



Nyathuko : Mhmm-Mhmm

Me : Thukeh nayi inkukhu emnyama

(I laugh. I really need him to wake up. He opens his big eyes and moves them around the ceiling. He sleeps again. I shake him.)

Me : Yey vuka.

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda

(I laugh and get out of bed. He is not waking up anytime soon. I take a shower and check on Zanokuhle and Ndlelenhle. They slept together last night. I find Ndlelenhle sleeping with his feet on top of Zanokuhle's face)

Me : Aibo yaze yavelelwa ingane yami. Ndlelenhle izinyawo ezingaka kodwa boy boy.



(I remove his feet from Zanokuhle's face. I check if he is not wet and I go downstairs. I'm still sweating and feeling dizzy. I try to watch the TV but no the house is spinning. I take off my clothes and stay butt naked. No no I'm not getting pregnant ever again. I take my phone and call Nyathuko. He is not picking up. I go to the kitchen to get water. I'm walking around the house naked with my breasts bouncing. I drink water and go back to the couch. I continue trying to watch TV. I feel someone covering my eyes. I know it's him.)

Me : I know ukuthi ilenunu yakwa Zondi

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Nawe lenunu enesishwapha

(I laugh out loud)

Me : Nana I'm sick.



(He sits next to me and kisses my breasts and my incision.)

Me : Thukeh uh-huh ngiyagula

Nyathuko : Namanje akupheli?

Me : No akupheli baby.

Nyathuko : Why ungangivusanga?

Me : I tried to wake you up wathi wena Mhmm-Mhmm

**Nyathuko : Baby nami angathi ngiphethwe i morning sickness.
Ngishawa inzululwane**

(I laugh)



Me : Uyalunga

**Nyathuko : Ay ngeke lento kamamithisana iyagcina manje ngeke
kulunge. iyagulisa lento.**

(I laugh.)

Me : Uyayizwa? It's bad.

Nyathuko : Let me take you to the doctor.

Me : No no I'll be fine Nana. Ngifuna ukuluka namhlanje

Nyathuko : Uluka namhlanje kanti futhi?

Me : But I told you. The funeral is tomorrow

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angisenalo olunye usuku.

Nyathuko : Gqoka iwigi sthandwa sami

Me : Are you going to buy me a new one?

Nyathuko : No ibiza kabi leyamsila yehhashi. unawo nje.

Me : Kodwa leyomisila yehhashi uyayithanda mase ngigqokile.... I want plain black. Ngeke ngigqoke i weave ebomvu emngcwabeni.

Nyathuko : Lunga ke Sthah singabuyi ebusuku.

Me : Okay. Uzomugeza u Ndlelenhle?



Nyathuko : Yeah. Awudli kuqala?

Me : I'm not hungry.

Nyathuko : But I'm hungry.

(He runs his hand between my thighs. No he is hungry for other things. I quickly stand up and go upstairs.)

Nyathuko : Sishwapha esincishanayo.

(I burst)

Me : Nawe!

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(We are in town searching every salon and every one I know is full.)

Nyathuko : Kungcono la. There are only four people

Me : Ay kugcwele

(I want to cry now. I can't go to the funeral with these horrible hair.)

Nyathuko : Ngenzenjani ke sthandwa sami? Asifonele u Zama efike ezokuluka

Me : Ngiluke ubusuku bonke mina?

Nyathuko : Okay ngenzeni?

Me : I don't know Thukeh. Let's go back home

Nyathuko : Uyaduba ke manje

Me : Angidubi. Let's go

(He shakes his head. I leave him and go back to the car. Ndlelenhle and Zanokuhle are now sleeping. I get in and wait for Nyathuko. He gets in.)



Nyathuko : Uthe ingubo uyithengaphi?

Me : Ndawo. I don't need it anymore

(He chuckles)

Nyathuko : Wena uvele usangane esithubeni nje.

Me : Okay



(Tears fill up my eyes. He just called me crazy.)

Nyathuko : Wayithengaphi leya wigi?

(What? Fuck crying! I want to smile now. I look out the window)

Me : Naka Precious ayadayisa.

Nyathuko : U Precious wani manje? u Precious waka Smilo udayisa amawigi manje?

(Jesus! Lelibhinca leli.)

Me : No not that Precious. I'm talking about Precious Brand Hair Couture kuse Mhlanga.



Nyathuko : Okay

(I blink my tears away. I want to dance now.)

Nyathuko : Namanje awulambile?

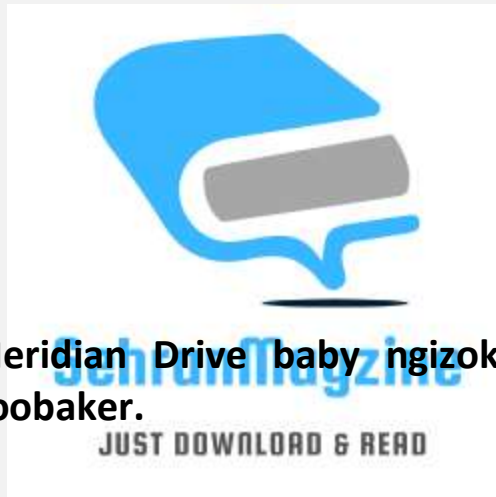
Me : No I'm still fine.

(He looks at his sons in the rear view mirror and he drives off.)

(He drove to Gateway where I bought my dress and shoes. We go back into the car)

Nyathuko : Kukephi ka Precious?

(I smile)



Me : Iya ngaku Meridian Drive baby ngizokwazi ukubona mase singalapha ku Dr Aboobaker.

(He drives off. We bought my weave and we went to eat. He just walked into his sneaker shop to check on his employees. We are waiting for him in his car. I keep checking on my weave because wow this one is the best.)

Zanokuhle : Mommy why are you so happy? Is it because aunt Nomzamo is dead?

Me : Yes my boy that too makes me happy. But okungijabulisa kakhulu into engizobe ngimuhle yona emngcwabeni wakhe.

(Zanokuhle shakes his head)

Me : Why wanikina ikhanda? Kambe ubese enidlisile mntanami. Do you miss her?

Zanokuhle : Just a little bit.



Me : Udakiwe! Zanokuhle u Nomzamo ubenganifuni ungaboni ngoba kade enisinekela.

Zanokuhle : But she liked me.

Me : She liked you amasimba? You know what? Shut up ngoba uzongidina.

Zanokuhle : But....

Me : Eat your food Zanokuhle!

Zanokuhle : This is not food it's a milkshake.

(Yey! I'm going to kill this boy. Nyathuko comes back before I do. Thank God)



Nyathuko : Udinwe yini manje sthandwa sami? Ngisheshe ngabuya nje Nana huh?

(He kisses me)

Me : I'm not angry.

Nyathuko : Sanibona makhosana ka baba....sthandwa sami uwabonile amateku engizowathengela inkosana yami?

Me : They are expensive. u Zanokuhle ukhula ngokushesha and soon uzobe engasawadingi lawamateku. Let's not waste money kusanengane ezayo.

Nyathuko : Nawe uthenga izinwele ungazigqoki nje. Isn't that wasting money?

(Wuuh! Uh-huh let me keep quiet. I'm not fit to have this conversation.)



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Chapter 69

(Today we are going to the funeral. Well the weather had to ruin my plans and now I can't show off my new dress. I walk inside my room

and I feel my heart hitting my throat. Okay Sthabile breathe. This is your husband and no one is going to take him away from you. Today you are burying one person who almost took him away from you. I listen to the voice in my head and swallow. Nyathuko is standing next to the mirror. He is wearing all black. Those formal pants that reveal his ankles polo neck and a coat. Simple but amazing. He is busy on his phone.)

Me : Umuhle Nana

(Oh and he has a new fresh haircut but he told me this was a funeral not a wedding)



Me : Ungizwile?

(He lifts up his eyes to me)

Nyathuko : u Mzet lo obhedayo. Uyakhuluma Mam'Zondi?

Me : Bengithi umuhle Nana.

Nyathuko : Ngiyabonga sthandwa sami.

Me : Nondaba has left with the boys.

Nyathuko : Get ready phela.

Me : Let me finish here.

(I'm eating fruit salad.)



Me : Uthini u Mzet?.... Open your mouth.

Nyathuko : What is this?

(I giggle)

Me : Fruit salad. It's delicious. Idla Nana

(I feed him. I don't like the reaction on his face.)

Nyathuko : Mhm-Mhm ufake i juice?

.

(I laugh)

Me : Yeah



Nyathuko : No sthandwa sami angithandi.

(I laugh)

Me : Bhinca nca nca

(He laughs)

Nyathuko : Gqoka phela mfazi wami.

(He lifts me up and kisses me)

Me : Nana uzongcola.

Nyathuko : Ntokozo and Sthenjisiwe are not coming.

(He puts me down and kisses my forehead)

Me : I don't blame them.

(I put the bowl on the bed. He takes it and puts it on the dressing table. I roll my eyes)



Nyathuko : Ngiyokhipha imoto. Uma ungaqedi ngiyakushiya sthandwa sami

Me : Give me 20 minutes

Nyathuko : 10

(I laugh. He takes his car keys and my bowl. He kisses me and walks out. I take off my gown. I'm going to wear my black knee length blazer dress and my black heels. I look at myself in the mirror and rub my stomach.)



Me : Ay Ay this looks bad. Ay aghaa!! I look like an elephant.

(I say to myself and kick out my heels. I throw myself on the bed. Everything I wear just looks terrible. I burst into tears. 25 minutes later Nyathuko walks in.)

Nyathuko : Are you....

(I cover my face with the pillow)

Nyathuko : Sekwenzenjani ke manje?

(He sits on the bed and tries to remove the pillow away from my face)

Nyathuko : Mam'Zondi kwenzajani sthandwa sami?

(I shake my head)



Nyathuko : Khuluma nami Nana.

(He finally removes the pillow)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami why are you crying?

(His eyes search all around my face)

Me : Go Thukeh. I'm not going anymore

Nyathuko : Why?

Me : Angisathandi.



**Nyathuko : No Sthabile uyazi ukuthi lento ongitshela yona ayikho.
What happened?**

**Me : Ngibumbi okay? Yonke into engigqokayo just..... Please leave
Nyathuko!**

Nyathuko : Baby come here.

(I stand up.)

Me : Look at me! Angathi ngiyindlovu nje iyosithela! I'm fat and nalesisu....

(He hugs me. I sigh. He pulls away and looks at me)

Nyathuko : Ungaphinde uyisho leyonto.

Me : But.....



Nyathuko : Ziphi izicathulo?

(He cuts me off. I show him my shoes. He helps me put them on. He opens the wardrobe and takes out my black coat that is similar to his. He places it over my shoulders. I work on my face nothing heavy though. I finish and put on my brand new weave. He holds my hand. We are standing in front of the mirror. Wow! Fuck what I said earlier. I am fucking beautiful.)

Nyathuko : You are the most beautiful woman I've ever met. The most powerful woman I've ever seen. You have no idea how much you changed my life and to hear you say all these crazy things about yourself kuyangihlukumeza Sthabile. I'm asking you to stop. Lesishwapha esami baby mahn and uyasihlukumeza.

(I crack up laughing.)

Me : I love you so much.



Nyathuko : Uthandwa imina Mam'Zondi.

(He kisses me. He takes my hand and places it over his dick. I break the kiss and laugh)

Me : Khohlwa

Nyathuko : Kancane

Me : No baby let's go.

(He laughs and holds my hand. We walk out.)

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(We arrived at KwaMchunu. Heh! Guess who is here? Bheki and Shlangu. I look at Nyathuko and he looks away. I'm still shocked by seeing Bheki and Shlangu and then boom! Ashton in a short dress exposing her snow white thighs.)



Me : Ay ngizovivinywa la inkosi impela.

Nyathuko : Don't start.

Me : No I'm not going to start anything. Asingishisi mina Thukeh lesiya sfebe sakho.

(He sighs. I brush my hair.)

Nyathuko : Can we go now?

(I smile)

Me : Yes baby.

(He gets out of the car and walks around to open for me. I get out and kiss his cheek. All eyes on us. Perfect!!)



Ey Thukeh

(Mzet says behind us)

Nyathuko : Wakithi.

Mzet : Ninjani Mah?

(I smile)

Me : I'm fine Zithulele unjani?

Mzet : Siyaphila Mam'Zondi. Kade nginilindile

(I look at Nyathuko. He is looking at his fathers.)



Me : Yeah.

Mzet : Let's go in. Bayaqala labantu

Nyathuko : Sure

(Nyathuko is not happy to see Bheki and Shlangu here but I know he knew that they were coming. He will have to explain later. We go

inside the tent. I smile. The bitch is dead. I can't believe that a bitch who wanted to take everything away from me is now lying in that cheap coffin. Her mother is looking at us under that blanket. Our eyes lock and she continues to pretend like she is crying. I heard that she was happy that Nomzamo died and she left her with a million of rands. Musa told me everything so she better drop all that act.)

(The funeral went on. I see a girl taking some blankets to the front. There is one in a big box. She reads where the blankets are coming from and finally she lifts up the one in a box)

Girl : Laba ke abakwa Zondi. u Nondaba u Nyathuko Zondi uzombathisa u.....



(My brain freezes. I look at Nyathuko who is sitting next to me. He squeezes my hand. I can't believe this man bazalwane!)

(I couldn't wait for the funeral to be over. We are now on our way back to Ballito. I don't want to talk not now. I'm chatting with Musa. He wants to know how the funeral went.)

Nyathuko : Manje ngeke sikhulume Mam'Zondi?

Me : Nyathuko please.

(He sighs.)

(We arrived in Ballito. I go and take a shower. I finish showering and start cooking. I didn't even drink water at that funeral. I cut my finger while slicing tomatoes)

Me : Dammit!!



(Nyathuko runs to me)

Me : I'm fine Nyathuko.

(I suck the blood on my finger.)

Nyathuko : Sthah....

Me : Awusho bebekubizelani kwa Mhayise lapha endlini yabo?

Nyathuko : Bebengibuza ngokugeza

Me : Cleansing? Why?

Nyathuko : You won't understand.



Me : Are you going to do it?

Nyathuko : There's no need.

Me : And Ashton? Ubukhulumani naye? Because benibukeka ni serious ngenye indlela.

Nyathuko : Nango ke. Serious ngani? Ubezongibingelela that's all.

Me : Yazi ngiphenduke isdididi lapha and it was so frustrating Nyathuko! Eyokumbathisa u Nomzamo yona angifuni nokiyiphatha! Bekufanele kodwa ukuthi uziphathise okomkhwenyana wakhona phambi kwami? You made me feel like your side chick Nyathuko and it was disgusting!

Nyathuko : Angazi ukhuluma ngani but I'm sorry you felt that way. Bengingazi lutho ngalento eyenziwe oBaba omdala.

Me : They disrespected me! Bathatha isithunzi sami basihudula phansi.



Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami ngiyaxolisa.

Me : Ungaxolisi Nyathuko. Vele umndeni wakho uyohlale ungibona njengesdwedwe.

(I throw the dishcloth on the table. I go upstairs. I'm not cooking anymore.)

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THE FOLLOWING DAY

(I open my eyes. Nyathuko is busy getting dressed. We haven't spoken since last night after our argument. His phone rings and he answers)

Nyathuko : Njinji



(Silence)

Nyathuko : No ngimutshelile ukuthi ngiyeza. Ngiyaphuma manje.

(Silence)

**Nyathuko : No no ungabe usayigibela i taxi I'll come and pick you up....
Yah yah. Sure**

(He hung up and put on his sneakers)

Nyathuko : Eish Eish.... Baby? Sthah?

(He still thinks that I'm sleeping)

Me : Mhmmm



**Nyathuko : I'm going to work sthandwa sami. Labantu be swimming
pool sebefikile.**

Me : You are going ahead with it?

(I sit up)

Me : Thukeh e Bhambatha's Lounge kuhlala izidakwa ezizophuza ziphoseke lapha kwi swimming pool mase ziyagwiliza zife and who will be held responsible for that? You!

Nyathuko : Ngeke yenzeke leyonto baby. The swimming pool will be at the back endaweni evikelekile. Ngiyicabangile lento baby relax.

Me : Oh



Nyathuko : Sthah sithola ama ~~bookings~~ every week cabanga ke sekune swimming pool. Ama pool party azoba lapha sthandwa sami uzobona.

Me : Mase nibona amantombazane angagqokile niqhanyelwe nilale nawo.

Nyathuko : Mxm. Ay othi ngivele ngihambe.

Me : Baleka vele uyazi ngiqinisile.

Nyathuko : Nondaba will bring Ndlelenhle and Zanokuhle later or tomorrow morning. Get some rest.

(He kisses my forehead)

Nyathuko : Ngiyakuthanda



(He says and walks out. I have an appointment with my doctor but because I see that he is still full of attitude I won't tell him about it. I check Whatsapp statuses. Nothing interesting here. I yawn and get out of bed. I stretch my arms and make the bed. I need to hurry. I'm already late for my appointment. I want Nyathuko to find me home when he gets back. I finish and take a bath. I thought I wasn't hungry but I am plus Nyathuko cooked last night. I can have his food for breakfast lunch and supper. I run to the kitchen and warm up the food. I leave food warming up and head to the living room. While searching for the TV remote I notice that there's someone standing outside my door. I can see the shadow. I go and open the door. I find him looking all around my yard. How did this man get in?)

Me : Excuse me? Can I help you?

(He quickly turns around with a smile on his face.)

Me : Can I help you?

(He stretches out his hand for a hand shake. I look at his hand and shake my head.)

Me : No who are you?



(He laughs)

Him : Oh I'm so sorry. Mina ngingu mseshi u Nyawose.

(Too dodgy for a Detective. I don't want him here.)

Nyawose : Please relax

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I'm so sorry. Mina ngingu msheshi u Nyawose.

(Too dodgy for a Detective. I don't want him here.)

Nyawose : Please relax I'm not going to hurt you. I just need your help.

Me : My help?



Nyawose : Can I please come in?

Me : I don't think that's a good idea.

Nyawose : Please Mrs Zondi.

(He shows me his badge number. I sigh)

Me : Come in

(He walks in and looks around.)

Me : How can I help you Detective?

**Nyawose : Ngiphethe icala lika Mnumzane Nqabayethu Zungu...
Mayela nokubulawa kwakhe.**



Me : Okay?

(He is staring at me which makes me a little bit uncomfortable. He clears his throat.)

Nyawose : Are you Zanokuhle's mother?

Me : Yes

Nyawose : How close were you with the late Miss Simtholile Nomzamo Mhayise?

Me : We were not close. Her boyfriend Nqabayethu Zungu was my husband's best friend.



(He is not taking anything down or recording anything I say. I guess he is not here to take my statement.)

Nyawose : Right. Tell me about the relationship between Mr Zungu and your son.

(I smile)

Me : Nqabayethu loved my son like his own. Ubeyithanda kakhulu ingane yami.

Nyawose : Awucabangi ukuthi mhlampe isizathu ebesenza ethande kangaka indodana yakho yingoba ubethi meyibuka ebone lempilo ayeyifisa esakhula kodwa wangayithola?

Me : I can't tell you izinto ebezenzeka emqondweni ka Nqabayethu.

Nyawose : Kukhona mhlampe okuhlukile okubone kwindodana yakho after ubudlelwano bakhe no Mnumzane Zungu?

(I try to think)



Me : Actually yes. Usewumntwana ophendulayo u Zanokuhle umntwana okwazi ukuzimela and stands his ground. Even ukusaba ebengike ngikubone emehlweni akhe kuphelile. Zanokuhle was a soft boy who was even scared to watch action movies alone but after he met Nqabayethu ngibone konke lokho kuphela. Uyabona manje usengahlala layindlini ubusuku bonke ebuka ama scary movies or action movies lapha kumabona kude.

(He puts his hands together and his eyes narrowed)

Nyawose : Mhmmm. So ungasho ukuthi his behavior changed from good to bad emuva kokuhlangana kwakhe no Mr Nqabayethu Zungu?

(If I knew that inheritance would come with so many questions I would have said no.)

Me : Do you blame him? He is still a child Detective and he spent a lot of time with Nqabayethu and he looked up to him. Ubemubona njengeqhawe.



Nyawose : Mhmm

Me : Inkinga ke uNqabayethu ubengafani nami nawe. u Nqabayethu ubengenaso isikole ubephuma ekhaya elingenaso isikole ekhaya elingenawo umthetho. Uwodwa kuphela umthetho abewazi and ilowo azibekela wona yena. Zanokuhle is a kid so he saw nothing wrong.

Nyawose : What did you do as his mother to protect him from Nqabayethu?

Me : U Nqabayethu akakaze enginike isizathu sokuthi ngingamthembi ngenzalo yami. I trusted him with my kids because I know ukuthi ubezithanda njengoba sizithanda izingane zethu.

Nyawose : You spoke about umthetho azibekela wona u Nqabayethu. Usho muphi?

Me : Noma imuphi umthetho ingane ekhule ngaphandle kwesandla somzali engazibekela wona.



Nyawose : I see. Do you sometimes think ukuthi lowomthetho uwusebenzisile nakweyakho indodana?

Me : Maybe.

Nyawose : Mhmmmm

Me : Ubebona u Zanokuhle njengengane yakhe. Uze wamshiyela ifa Detective

(Why does he look confused?)

Nyawose : He did. Do you think Zanokuhle trusted Mr Zungu?

Me : My son trusts everyone so yes ubemethemba u Nqabayethu.

(He smiles)



Nyawose : Usho ukuthi indlela abamethemba ngayo ubengenza noma yini u Mnumzane Zungu abengamuyalela yona ukuba ayenze?

Me : Yeah why not? Ubemuthanda futhi emuhlonipha.

Nyawose : Mhmm! Mhm! Ay Nkosikazi Zondi ngiyabonga kakhulu ngesikhathi sakho.

Me : Noma inini Detective.

(He smiles)

Nyawose : Before ngikhohlwe. Did you see the video that Miss Mhayise recorded before she died?

Me : It's all over social media.



Nyawose : It is. She confessed ukuthi wuye owabulala unnumzane Zungu.

Me : And? Awukholwa wena?

Nyawose : Angikholwa. This is what happened Miss Mhayise gave me a call weeks ago and she told me that she wants to press charges.

Me : Charges?

Nyawose : She then sent me a recording of her explaining about what exactly happened the day Mr Nqabayethu Zungu died. The recording was a bit unclear but ngingasho ngiqinisekise ukuthi yayichaza ngesigameko esadlula nomphefumulo ka mnumzane Zungu.

Me : So there is a recording?

Nyawose : There was a recording but not anymore.



Me : What happened?

Nyawose : The recording disappeared. I went to see Miss Mhayise because I wanted to tell her that I lost the recording and when I explained to her wavele washintsha and she pretended like she had no idea of what I was talking about. Nami ngangingasenabo ubufakazi obuphathekayo so I had no choice but to drop the investigation. Omunye wofakazi enganginaye naye wavele washona. He overdosed on drugs.

Me : Wathini u Nomzamo kule recording?

Nyawose : I cannot disclose that information for now but trust me there was so much in that recording.

Me : Izinto ezifana nani?

Nyawose : Njengobufakazi bokuthi u Nkosazana Mhayise akuyena owabulala u Mnumzane Nqabayethu Zungu. Mrs Zondi if I can get the original recording ngizokwazi ukuba nobufakazi obugcwele about what really happened the day Mr Zungu died and who knows? Ngingagcina sengitholile nokuthi Miss Mhayise didn't commit suicide but she was killed.

The logo for SehranMagzine features a stylized blue and grey graphic above the text "SehranMagzine" in a blue, sans-serif font.

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Me : Killed?

Nyawose : Mrs Zondi I need your help. Uyabona manje sengiyakholwa ukuthi sengilinqobile lonke lelicala but all I need is proof and justice will be served.

Me : How do you want me to help you?

Nyawose : Ubufakazi engibudingayo bulapha kwa Mhayise. There is a laptop enayo le recording engiyidingayo.

Me : Then go and get that laptop.

Nyawose : It's not that easy. Lelicala selivaliwe I'm the only one who is still working on it. My station commander doesn't know ukuthi ngisaqhubeka nokuphenya lelicala. Abantu abaziyo imina kanye nawe kuphela ngakho anginawo amaphepha angigunyaza ukuthi ngiye lapha kwa Mhayise ngiyolanda leya laptop.

The logo for SehranMagzine features a stylized blue hand holding a white laptop. Below the hand, the text "SehranMagzine" is written in a blue, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the phrase "JUST DOWNLOAD & READ" is written in a smaller, grey, all-caps font.

SehranMagzine

Me : Tell them you want to help their daughter. Batshela everything ongitshele yona and I'm sure bazovuma.

(He sighs)

Nyawose : I tried that but bangitshele ukuthi usiko labo alubavumeli ukuthi bethinte izinto zomuntu ongasekho ngaphambi kokuba bekhumule inzilo.

Me : I don't know Detective. Ucabanga ukuthi isekhona kodwa yona leyo recording? Maybe she deleted everything. u Nomzamo ubesevalwe uthando amehlo and ayikho enye into abesenendaba nayo ngaphandle kwalomshado abewuhlela no myeni wami.

(His eyes widen)

Nyawose : What?



Me : You didn't know? u Nomzamo ubefuna indoda yami. She did everything ukuze eyithole and they were going to get married nje maduze.

Nyawose : Wow. Tell me more

(He leans back. I shake my head)

Me : There is nothing much to tell you kodwa engikwaziyo ukuthi bekuhlangene namafa.

Nyawose : Mhmmm?

(I'm not going to tell him about Nyathuko's past.)

Me : Nqabayethu was a criminal. Izimali zakhe azikho msulwa so my husband was only trying to protect my son.



Nyawose : Protect your son? Uthini Nkosikazi Zondi?

Me : Nomzamo was threatening my husband.

(He smiles. Why is he smiling?)

Nyawose : I see. Yini kanti le engaka u Nkosazana Mhayise abeyazi ngo myeni wakho?

Me : Nothing. She was crazy!.... Detective I need to go now. I don't know if I will be able to help you but ngizozama. Kuzofanele ngikhulume nomyeni wami kodwa kuqala.

(He stands up quickly)

Nyawose : No no you can't. Please don't tell him I was here. Ngiyacela ukuthi esikhulume la kugcine khona la phakathi kwami nawe. The less people know about this the better. Angifuni lento ihambe ize ifike esiteshini ngoba kuzomosheka lonke lelicala.

Me : Nyathuko is.....



Nyawose : You can't tell him about this.

(I sigh)

Me : Why? Ngiyamuthemba u myeni wami Mr Nyawose futhi akukho engimufihlela kona.

Nyawose : Uma engathola ngalokhu impilo yakhe izoba sebungozini so please don't tell him about what we discussed here.

Me : Ebungozini kanjani?

Nyawose : I'll tell you soon. Okwamanje ngicela ungithembise ukuthi uzongisiza.

Me : Fine I'll help you.



(He smiles and slightly shakes his head)

Me : Now if you'll excuse me. I need to go somewhere.

Nyawose : Of course ithi ngingakubambezeli. Mrs Zondi thank you thank you so much ngakho konke okwenzile.

Me : It's nothing.

(I walk him out)

Me : Mr Nyawose where is your car?

Nyawose : My car? right my car. I.... I left it ngaphandle. Unogada okuyena ongivulele uthe ngingayishiya.

Me : Oh. Okay uhambe kahle.



Nyawose : Usale kahle Mrs Zondi.

(I walk back inside and close the door. I take my phone and look at that video that Nomzamo posted.)

Nomzamo : Kwase kusele kona ukuthi ngimubalale ngokwenyama. I watched his body going down to the river and since that night my life was never the same. Did I kill Nqabayethu Zungu? Yes I did. I killed him a long time ago and I'm paying for it.

(I sigh and throw my phone next to me. There is nothing off about this video. Nomzamo killed Nqabayethu. She knew what she was doing when she took that video and she planned her death. She looked like someone who was going to die. There is a dying light in her eyes the same dying light I saw in Nkazimulo's eyes the night he took his life. I stand up and rub my face. My phone rings. It's Nyathuko.)

Me : Thukeh

(I answer)



Nyathuko : What was he doing there?

Me : What?

Nyathuko : u Detective Nyawose ubezonzani lapho?

Me : He... Wait how do you know he was here?

Nyathuko : Sthabile ubefunani u Nyawose lapho?

(The tone of his voice sounds calm but firm.)

Me : Kukhona imibuzo abezoyibuza.

Nyathuko : What questions?

Me : About Nqabayethu's death.

Nyathuko : What did you tell him?

Me : Everything that I know.



**Nyathuko : What do you know Sthabile? You know nothing.
Uzoyiyeka nini ngempela lento yakho Sthah?**

Me : Yiphi into?

**Nyathuko : Kuphelile ke manje. You ruined everything Sthabile
everything.**

Me : What do.....



Nyathuko : Go and close that gate. Nx!

(He clicks his tongue and hangs up. Wait Is Nyathuko around?)

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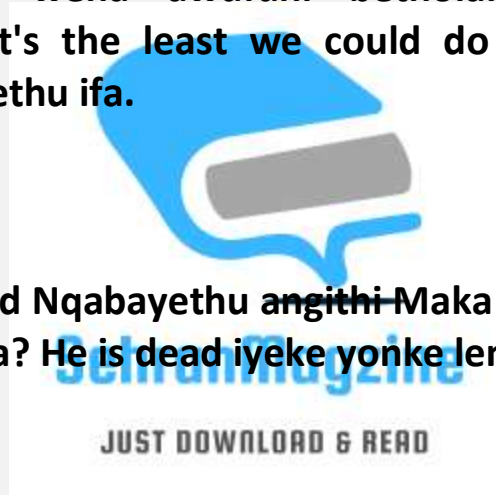
Chapter 70

Me : Ay fuck mahn Thukeh! He is a detective and he was doing his job!

Nyathuko : He is a detective who is going to ruin our lives our son's life.

Me : Kanjani? Nyathuko akakholwa ukuthi u Nomzamo obulale u Nqabayethu. Kanti wena awufuni betholakale ababulali baka Nqabayethu? Yazi it's the least we could do after u Nqabayethu eshiyele indodana yethu ifa.

Nyathuko : You hated Nqabayethu angithi- Maka Zanokuhle manje yini usunendaba kangaka? He is dead iyeke yonke lento



Me : Uyazi yini ukuthi ubani owabulala u Nqabayethu?

Nyathuko : u Nomzamo. Why did you let him in?

Me : Usebenza ngomthetho. Thukeh ayikho mina into engiyifihlile so I had no reason ukuthi ngivale izicabha.

Nyathuko : Yazi yini inkinga yakho Sthah? Uthatha lento yakho yobuntatheli uyifake ekhanda ngisho isidingo singekho. Awubuyeli Sthah lapha e Ndaba Media ngeke ubuyele ngisho usukhala ngoba lento yenu yezindaba iyanihlanyisa.

(Oh wow.)

Me : Journalism has nothing to do with this. WeNyathuko ngoba wena umubonile u Nyawose engena layindlini then why didn't you come in uzomukhipha layindlini?



Nyathuko : And ruin things even more? Sthabile loyamuntu ubengafuni ngimubone. He waited for me ukuthi ngihambe ukuze engene but wena awukubonanga konke lokho.

Me : Uwena oshiye isango livuliwe

Nyathuko : I did it on purpose. Ngimubonile engakangiboni yena and I gave him exactly what he wanted kodwa into ebengingayazi ukuthi wena uzomutshela yonke into.

Me : Yazi namanje I don't understand ukuthi why is this such a big deal!

(He sighs)

Nyathuko : Fine it's not a big deal. Lala ke manje

Me : Uyangisanganela nje wena Nyathuko.



(I had to cancel my appointment for today but I'll go tomorrow. I miss my sons I wish they were here. I'm chatting with Mabuyi. She is telling me that Kwanele was cleaning the twins' graves and he saw two snakes but he didn't tell Khulu or his brothers)

Me : Wazishaya yini we Buyi?

(I sent her the voice note. I look at Nyathuko he is not interested. He is busy on his phone.)

Me : Nyathuko uthi u Mabuyi bebecenta lapha emathuneni no Baba ka Ntuthuko babona izinyoka ezimbili zacishe zashaya u Baba ka Ntuthuko.

Nyathuko : Bakhulumile lapha emathuneni batshela amawele ukuthi bazocenta noma bavele bazenzela nje?

Me : Aibo angisazi ke! Aibo Nyathuko bebesiza thina bebecenta amathuna ezingane zethu manje I don't understand ukuthi ulwa nobani ngempela.



Nyathuko : Angilwi ngiyabuza.... Sure Thalente. Ithini lendoda?

(He walks out talking to Thalente over the phone.)

Me : Uyahlanya wena

(I say to myself.)

(I finally fell asleep. I open my eyes. Nyathuko is speaking to someone over the phone. I check the time it's 01h00am. Did he even sleep? He is still wearing the same clothes he was wearing yesterday.)

Nyathuko : Thalente ningimoshela isikhathi. I'll do this myself

(What is Nyathuko up to?)



Nyathuko : No angifuni muntu kulento. Tell me where he is. Ngizozenzela mina yonke lento. Nxi!

(He clicks his tongue and hangs up. He takes his car keys)

Me : Wathatha okhiye Thukeh uyaphi ngaleskhathi?

Nyathuko : Hamba ubuze u Nyawose wakho lokho.

Me : Aibo!

(He shakes his head and walks out)

^

^

(I couldn't sleep after he left. The time is now 08h00 am. Thina is back. I finish getting dressed and gather my purse. My phone rings. I don't know this number.)



Me : Hello?

Mrs Zondi it's me Detective Nyawose.

Me : Where did you get my number?

Nyawose : From your friend... Mrs Zondi ngicabanga ukuthi sengiyitholile indlela ongangena ngayo uyolanda leya laptop

Me : I don't think I want to help you anymore

Nyawose : Why? Did you speak to your husband?

Me : No angisafuni nje. Kanti ngeke futhi wenze lutho ngalokho

Nyawose : I know kodwa ngiyacela ungi size. Don't you want answers? Mrs Zondi if you help me ngizokutshela ukuthi kwenzekani ngosuku okwafa ngala u Delani Hlatshwayo.



Me : U Delani Hlatshwayo?

Nyawose : Help me and I will tell you.

Me : No

Nyawose : Asihlangane manje. I'll tell you.

Me : Nginendlela engithathayo manje. We can't meet today.

Nyawose : Where are you going?

Me : Aibo nali ibhadi bo! Nyawose I'm not your friend. Akucace nje lokho. Habe ngiyalingwa!



(I hung up and tried to call Nyathuko again)

Hi u Nyathuko Z lo shiya.....

Me : Fuck you!

(It's a voicemail again. I go downstairs.)

Me : Thina awukaze ukhulume no Nyathuko?

Thina : No sisi but his car is here.

Me : What? Eyami yona?

Thina : Nayo ise garage

Me : Aibo kanti u Nyathuko uhambe ngani?



Thina : Sisi. What's going on?

Me : I have no idea (sigh).. Ngisayobona udokotela. U Baba ka Thukeh uzofika la elethe u Zanokuhle no Ndlelenhle. Please Thina bengangeni ekamereni lami. U Ndlelenhle ufike edlale nge makeup yami lapha.

Thina : Okay sisi

Me : Ungifonele mekufika u Thukeh

Thina : I will.

(I take my car keys)

Me : Ngiyabuya

Thina : Bye



Me : Ukhiphe inyama

(I say and walk out. I drove to UMhlanga. There is this car following me. It's been following me from Ballito. My phone rings. Thank God it's Musa.)

Me : Sam sam

Musa : Bitch where are you?

Me : Ngiya kudokotela oe and kunemoto nje e off engilandelayo.

Musa : No way! Unobani?



Me : Ngedwa but sengiyafika ku dokotela

Musa : That's better. Mhlampe imoto nje engaqondene nawe but please call Thukeh ekulande.

Me : I will.

(He sighs)

Musa : My friend I'm leaving today.

(I continue looking at both my side mirrors and my rear view mirror. This car is still following me. I press the accelerator.)

Me : What?

Musa : Yes I don't want to be here anymore. Sengisulile nasemsebenzini.



Me : Musa you can't just leave.

Musa : I have to. Ngihamba nabazali bami they need me Sthabile. Bacabanga ukuthi ngizobashiya

(I see black smoke coming from behind. Something wrong is happening to the car that's following me. I change lanes. I'm almost at the doctor. There is traffic all around. All cars are changing lanes.)

Me : Musa I'll call you ba.....

(I hear a loud bang behind me. My eyes widen.)

Musa : Sthabile what is that?

(I park my car and get out of the car leaving my phone inside. I cover my mouth with my hand. My eyes are wide open. The car that was following me is on fire. People are running away and some are screaming. I don't know where to go. There is smoke all around and I'm confused. I feel someone grabbing my hand.)

The logo for SehranMagzine features a stylized blue and grey graphic above the text "SehranMagzine" in a blue, sans-serif font.

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Come come

(The person says. We get inside the car not my car. The car takes off. I look next to me)

Me : Ashton?

(It's Ashton. Nyathuko's ex girlfriend.)

Ashton : Are you okay?

Me : Yeah yeah yeah. What are you doing here? What happened?

(She hands me a bottle of water)

Ashton : I have no idea. I just saw flames. Please drink

Me : Oh my God. Oh God I almost died.

Ashton : I know. I was walking out of the doctor's room and I saw smoke all over the place and when I looked on the other side I saw you.

Me : I literally lost my mind.



Ashton : We all did.

Me : My car I left my car.

(She stops her car)

Ashton : Yes

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your car.

(God I feel so sick. My body is still shaking.)

Me : I need to see a doctor. I'm here to see my doctor.

Ashton : Of course I think it's safe to go back now.

Me : Yeah

(She drove back. There is chaos. Fire fighters ambulances and police are all here.)

Ashton : Oh my goodness. You know what? Whoever was in that car is dead.

(I don't even want to look. I vomit.)



Ashton : Hey hey are you okay?

(I shake my head. I can't even breathe)

Ashton : Is the doctor still open... Is he open?

(She is asking around)

Ashton : Dammit! He had to close. Let's go and see my father. Where are your keys?

(I point at my car. She helps me in and she jumps to the driver's seat. I don't even know where we are going but she finally stops my car and gets out)

Ashton : Come sweetheart.



(We go in. We find a white old doctor with his assistant they are looking at something. Oh no not this doctor. How am I going to pay for his service?)

Ashton : I need your help

Doctor : After how....

Ashton : Dad please not now!

(Wow this expensive doctor is Ashton's father?)

Ashton : There was an accident. I just want you to check if she is fine. She is pregnant dad.

(How does she know that I'm pregnant? Oh Nyathuko. I should have known.)



Doctor : Fine but I still need to talk to you. Please follow me

(I follow him. I leave Ashton with her father's assistant. His office is big with a lot of machines. Everything is different here even the bed.)

Doctor : Please fill in this form before I begin the examination.

Me : Okay

(I fill in my personal details and sign. He reads the form)

Doctor : Mrs Zondi

Me : Yes

Doctor : Okay please lie down.



(I let him do his thing. Nothing I'm unfamiliar with. We are doing the ultrasound scan now. I'm worried about his price. He smiles)

Me : What?

Doctor : Can you hear that. Listen carefully.

Me : It's a heartbeat

(He laughs. He is a good man)

Doctor : Can you see that shadow?

Me : Uhhmm... Yeah

Doctor : Okay

(I giggle)



Doctor : This is amazing can you see it?

(I don't even understand what I'm looking at but I'll lie)

Me : Yes

Doctor : Well at this stage heartbeats can be so in sync that some doctors find it hard to distinguish one from the other but from what I see and hear I can assure you that you are carrying more than one baby.

(He takes off his gloves)

Me : What? Are you serious?



Doctor : Very much serious. Congratulations you are carrying twins.

(My eyes widen. I don't know how I feel. What if I lose them again? That's the first to cross my mind.)

Doctor : Everything else seems fine. Your incision is healing perfectly. Continue eating healthy and avoid driving all the time okay?

Me : Okay..

(I was finally done. I didn't pay a cent. Ashton told me not to worry about it. Ashton is actually an amazing person. She is just so down to earth. Now I know that when two people are meant to be together nothing can stop them. Nyathuko would have easily chosen Ashton over me. I mean this woman is beautiful smart calm... She is nothing like me but Nyathuko still chose me.)

Me : Thank you for everything

Ashton : It's okay.

Me : Thukeh's phone is still off.



Ashton : Maybe he is busy with something but I can take you home if you don't mind.

Me : No no it's okay. You've done so much already

(I sigh)

Ashton : Are you okay?

Me : Why are you doing this? Why did you help me?

(She swallows)

Me : Tell me.



Ashton : Because I love Thukeh.

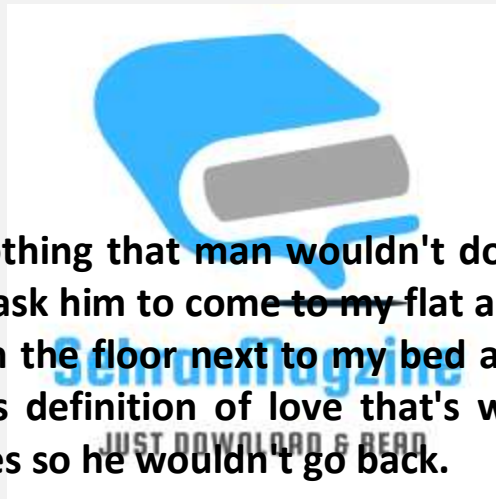
(I swallow nothing but air)

Ashton : I will never stop loving Thukeh but I've learned to accept that he is not for me. He taught me to live without him and he told me the importance of moving on. Sthabile I had no respect for you in fact I hated you for being part of Thukeh's life but the way Thukeh loves you and respects what he has with you...

(She shakes her head)

Ashton : It leaves one with no choice but to give it to you. You are a woman I give you that.

(She chuckles)



Ashton : There is nothing that man wouldn't do for you. There were days where I would ask him to come to my flat and you know what he did? He would sit on the floor next to my bed and just tell me about his love for you. His definition of love that's what he calls you. He burned all the bridges so he wouldn't go back.

(I smile)

Ashton : Don't smile. I need you to ask yourself if you love him as much as he loves you. Do you? Would you cross all the oceans he crossed just for his love for you? Would you? If something were to happen to him today would you say that you gave him all the love he deserved?

Me : Ashton ngingayifela indoda yami.

Ashton : That's good because if someone shows you how much they love you the best you could do is show them that you feel the same way. Don't take what you have for granted just cherish it before it's too late.

(Let's wrap this up later?)



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Final

UMHLALI DETECTIVE SEVERELY BURNED AFTER A CAR FIRE OUTBREAK.

FIERY CAR-CRASH KILLS UMHLALI DETECTIVE MXOLISI NYAWOSE.

(I finish reading the newspaper articles and throw the newspapers on the coffee table. My own throat is on fire. My knees are shaking. I close my eyes and lie back)

Sisi is everything okay?

(I slowly open my eyes)

Me : I don't know Thina.

Thina : Ubuyile u Thuthuh?

Me : No akabuyanga.

Thina : Kanti Ukephi?

Me : Angimazi mhlampe usejeli.

(Her eyes widen.)

Thina : What? Why?

(The door opens and he walks in. He is wearing black overalls and a black beanie hat. There is a backpack on his shoulder.)

Nyathuko : Sanibona



Thina : Thuthuh

(He looks at me and tears blurry my eyes)

Nyathuko : Sthah?

(I shake my head)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami.....

(I stand up and take my car key)

Nyathuko : Sthah uyaphi ke manje?

Me : Please leave me alone.

Nyathuko : No I'm not going to leave you alone. Sthabile khuluma nami. Sengenzeni futhi manje?

Me : Usuwenzeni futhi manje?

Nyathuko : Sthah.... Thina awuhambe uye phezulu kancane.

Thina : Okay bhuti

(She runs upstairs)

Nyathuko : Sthandwa sami bengise Mzinyathi. Fonela uThobani wakwa Phewa noma u Mlu bazokutshela ukuthi benginabo.

Me : Ngihlanganaphi mina no Thobani bako Phewa engingabazi?

Nyathuko : Okay baby please sit down. Khuluma nami mamah ngenzeni kanti?

Me : Nyawose is dead.

(His eyes drop. He presses his lips together. God he looks like Ndlelenhle right now. He shakes his head)

Nyathuko : Oh ushone nini?

Me : Angazi mhlampe ungangitshela

Nyathuko : I don't read newspapers. Anginendaba nezindaba zabantu



Me : Wow

Nyathuko : Ufuna ngithini?

Me : Nothing. Ngicela ukuhamba

Nyathuko : Uyaphi?

Me : That's none of your business Nyathuko

Nyathuko : Okay

(He let go of my arm and I walked out. I drove around not knowing where I was going. I stopped for a cup of coffee. There is a music band performing. I sit down and enjoy the music while having my coffee. My phone is off so nothing is bothering me.)

Hi

(I lift up my eyes to this tall fat guy. He is wearing a red suit. Can he even breathe in that suit? I hate him already.)

Him : Hello

(He smiles)

Me : I'm pregnant.

(He laughs)

Him : I like you already. Can I join you?

Me : No you can't.

(I keep a straight face. I'm not playing hard to get here. I hate this man.)

Him : You are really pregnant.

Me : Yes and ngiyawaliswa umubala obomvu so please....

Him : Mxm

Me : Whatever

(He walks away. I bursted his fat bubble. I get myself another cup of coffee.)

Hello my lady

(I lift my head. Another one)

Me : Wuuuh! Uh-huh



(I stand up and take my car keys. I leave him standing and walk out. I go straight to my car and drive off.)

(I stayed in my car until it was dark. No I'm back home inside my garage. I'm watching Blackjack. I don't know what he is doing in that corner. I roll down my window and call him)

Me : Jack?

(He lifts up his head and runs to my car. I open the door and he climbs in and rolls himself on my thighs. I brush his head and sigh)

Me : Do you remember the first time we met? Gosh I hated you. Uyakhumbula eMachobeni?

(I giggle)

Me : You've been around Jack hey? Ulibone lonke uthando lwethu. Kusona sonke lesikhathi engisichithe no Nyathuko umbuzo omkhulu umile? Do I know him?

(I sigh)

Me : I don't know... I don't know Jack.

(Jesus! I can't believe I'm talking to a damn cat. I get out of the car and dish up for him. I leave him eating and go inside the house. Thina is watching TV with the kids)

Ndlelenhle : Tha!

(I laugh)

Zanokuhle : Mommy ukubiza ngegama

Me : Aibo ubiza uMaka Zanokuhle ngegama. Hawu! Ndlela

(I go to them and kiss them. I lift up Ndlelenhle)

Me : Hapona! Akagqokile kanti u Ndlela wa Mah.

Thina : Nayi i gown yakhe uyikhumulile.

Me : It's hot here.



(I look around)

Me : Ivuliwe kodwa i aircon?

Zanokuhle : Ayikho i remote.

Me : Niyilahlile futhi.... Senidlile?

Thina : Yes but u Thuthuh akadlanga ulapha phezulu.

Me : Akadlanga ngani?

Thina : I don't know. I don't think he is okay.

Me : Othi ngiyomubheka

Zanokuhle : Come little brother.

(I put Ndlela down and head upstairs. Nyathuko is leaning against the door to our balcony. He is looking at the ultrasound picture that I left on our bed earlier. I cross my arms over my chest and watch him. He is flipping the picture all around . I want to laugh. He looks so confused. We didn't get the pictures for Ndlelenhle and the twins so I understand why he looks so lost. I love him so much. Now I'm hearing Ashton's voice in my head. This man has done almost everything to show me how much he loves me. Everything. And what have I done? Nothing. All I do is accuse him day in and day out. What if he killed Nyawose? Dammit. I'm doing it again.)

Me : Amawele Nana

(He turns around. The smile on his face is priceless. My man is gorgeous. I can't believe all of that is mine "kuthi Sthabile mina lo")

Nyathuko : Ngempela?

Me : Uh!

(I make my way to him. He hugs me and kisses.)

Nyathuko : Sthabile ngiyakuthanda

Me : Nami ngiyakuthanda kakhulu Nyathuko.

Nyathuko : I know sthandwa sami. I know.

(He kisses my neck)

Me : Let's get married

(He quickly pulls away)

Nyathuko : What?

Me : Asishade umshado wesintu sthandwa sami. Sengifuna ukuba umfazi wakho ngokuphelele

Nyathuko : Sthah....

Me : I'm ready Bhambatha. Ayisekho manje into engangihlukanisa nawe

Nyathuko : Aibo Sthabile

(He laughs and scratches his head. He can't believe this.)



Nyathuko : Baby

Me : Sengifuna inyongo yakwaZondi sthandwa sa....

(He kisses me. He breaks the kiss and stares right in my eyes. This time I'm sure he is searching for my soul. This is deep.)

Nyathuko : Ngiyabonga Mam'Zondi. Ngiyabonga sthandwa sami.

(He lifts me up and spins me around)

Nyathuko : Sthabile wami ngiyakuthanda wena.

(I laugh out loud)

Me : Ngiyakuthanda nami Thukeh wami wena.

Nyathuko : Ngiyabonga baby.

(My mother was right this traditional wedding was important to Nyathuko all along.)



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ENDWEDWE

(3 Weeks later here I am getting ready for my traditional wedding. My mother will not be part of the wedding no

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no no no not that she didn't want to be part of it but usiko. When the Zondis heard that I'm ready for the traditional wedding they wanted everything to be done as soon as possible. Inyongo had been poured

over my feet already. We are at the river now bathing. My father took this whole thing way better than I thought. He told me that he was proud of me. I'm not sure if he was pretending though and I'm not sure if he is coming today. Musa isn't supposed to be here right? But he is. He is moving to England tomorrow but I'm happy he is here for me. He is here to make sure that I look "sexy". Bazalwane how does one look sexy in isidwaba and all these beads?)

Musa : Do you have to cover yourself with this blanket though?

Nuh : She has to..... Usiko.

Musa : Oh screw that.

(We laugh)

Musa : Nyathuko is looking all yummy yummy in all those animal skins and his father? Oh gosh! I want him.

Me : But you are not gay.

Musa : I am.

(We laugh. He finally said it. Wow I love him.)

Nuh : His girlfriend is all over him. Why ejola nendiya sikhona?

Me : Wena u Mkhuleko uzokubulala

Nuh : Did you see the Dlomos? They are here. Cisho ngaquleka ngibabona

Me : Guys nine sure ukuthi ibona?



Musa : I saw them as well. Ugogo ka Zanokuhle ufake isicholo esingangale ndishi.

(I laugh out loud and quickly cover my mouth)

Nuh : Omakoti banamhlanje jehova.

(We laugh. Some women from Kwa-Mashu are here to support me even my mother's best friend MaSikhosana.)

MaSikhosana : We need to go now.

Me : Okay Mah. Siqedile angithi Musa?

Musa : Isn't this heavy?

Me : Isidwaba senkomo Musa of course siyasinda.

Musa : Look look look.

Me : Where?

Musa : Nangu u khaladi.

Me : Khala.....aybo Ashton?

(She waves her hand. I call her)

Musa : What if uzokuxhifa?

Me : Musa shut up.



Ashton : Hi

Me : Hey

Ashton : You look so stunning.

Me : Thank you

Ashton : Can I.....

(She hugs me. Wow)

Ashton : I'm so happy for you Sthabile and I'm so proud of you.

(Musa pinches me)

Me : Thank you. I didn't know you were coming. I didn't even know.....

Ashton : I came with Zet

Musa : Are you dating Mzet now?

Me : Musa!

Musa : I was just asking.....

(Ashton laughs)

Me : Thank you for coming Mimo. This means a lot.

Ashton : It's okay.

(We finally leave the river.)



(Everyone is here. All the Zondis are here. Gog'Maphalala looks beautiful. My father is here. Kufeziwe.)

^

^

(My sons look so beautiful next to their father. If Enzelwe and the twins were still alive they would also be there. I kneel down with ukhamba in my hands. I look at Nyathuko under the beads that are covering my eyes. He gives his Zulu shield to Zanokuhle and he smiles. There is a way he looks at me it just assures me that this is forever. We have overcome almost everything. There were times where I lost hope and thought it was the end of us but it wasn't. I don't know what tomorrow holds but I'm not scared anymore because I know that our love conquers everything. Everyday our love is new and everyday our love grows stronger. If I am His Definition of love then he is my living proof that true love truly exists and that it can actually last a lifetime. With God the center of our marriage we remain undefeated. Ngibonge ko Zondi oNondaba oGagashe oBhambatha kaMancinza kanye noMaphalala oMavuso Besuthu baseNkalanjana Abasembathamkhonto njengobhedu.)

His Definition (Season 2)

By Nomfundo Mbhele

The End.

(Thanks for reading. I appreciate your support. God bless you??)

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