

I FELL IN LOVE WITH MY SON



ROMANCE

Her hand
in his—He became
her tomorrow.

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01 PROLOGUE

Life is so unpredictable at times. One minute everything is going exactly as planned and then out of the blue your whole world crashes down. "Nandi me and your father will bring lunch" Mam Elizabeth said she was wearing her smile the one that bought sprit of life. By the way she's not my biological mother but the best mother ever "Stop stressing too much my little Nana you will get riddles" Bab Zwane said smiling when they were walking out. I faked a smile My parents look happy together. If they had their biological children I swear they were going to have the best parents ever. Mr Zwane is inability to get his wife pregnant (infertile) Man who don't have sperm in their semen have a condition

called azoospermia. It happens to about 1% of all men and 15% of infertile men. There aren't really any symptoms that you'd notice but if you've been trying to get your partner pregnant without success this condition could be the cause. So they had to foster me right away. As they walked out I had to think about my mother Phumza Mchunu that women . When I think about her my stomach mumble. I was always not in the good books on my her books. We always fight. I just wish I had a mother and daughter relationship. She's been pain to my life since I was a toddler. I grew up in the village blessed with plants and animals plus it is blessed with the river. I grew up in a family of 3 boys I was the only girl. Coming from where I came from you won't believe but I will take you through my journey. I was one of the hardworking girl in our village. I remember one day I was coming from the river to fatch the water I met a boy coming out from my house. I didn't greeted him because boys were not allowed to greet the girls or play with girls. I put

down the bucket of water that was on my head. I sighed I was hell tied because it was my fifth round until the 210 litre of drome filled with water. I got in to the main house just to get the lighter so that I can start the fire and start preparing for supper. Before I got in. I heard my father shouting at my mother. I didn't mean to snoop but I had to since I heard my name on their argument "Phumza! Nandi she's only 15 years old. She can't be someone's wife yet. She's not ready. My father said "Come on my love. Look on the bright side. Nandi she will be in the other world. She will be living her life. She will get the wedding that every girl dream of. She will be married to the most richest guy in this village. I mean we will be saying goodbye to the property" my mother said "We are in need with money babah" she added. Believe me I had a chest pain right there. The sudden shock making me tense my muscles. So I'm her ticket to for her financial problems now? "Phumza! You want to be financial free go marry him. Don't use my daughter for your

selfishness" my father said "She will get married like it or not Mfanafuthi Mchunu!" She said "You want to be financial freedom go marry the richest man in this village. He is old enough to be Nandi's father" my father said "She will get married to him when I'm dead" he added than stormed out he was burning anger towards her. Probably if he didn't go out he was going to rearrange her face. She just smiled. And fold her legs "Maybe his brother will talk some sense to him" she exclaimed. The term ukuthwala itself began to appear in public discussions of marriage during the 18s. People used the word to refer to a variety of irregular forms of marriage that took place without the consent of a woman or of her father or both. ... I never received my father's consent. But in my case my mother my mother was the worst devil in the world.

Sometimes I ask myself Phumza was my biological mother. That women was unbelievable. She was supposed to be a great mother to a only daughter. She was supposed to be in my side but no what did

she do she sold me like a 7 kg of potatos. That night I had the sleeplessness night. Philani my elder brother had to step in and cook because I was not feeling well. In the middle of the night. I went outside to urinate I heard people were whispering. "We need to get rid of him" That was my uncle my father's brother. What are they planning to do. "I love my husband but my happiness comes first" My mother said ----- AN HOUR LATER As I was still thinking how did my life turned out like this I received the call from the unknown number. "Nandi Zwane speaking" "Ms Zwane your parents were involved in car accident" the women's voices said "Pardon" "Sorry mam you need to come to the net care hospital" the women said.Sweat poured down my body as I stayed still as possible "It can't be my parents they are best drives" "Sorry mam you need to come here" she said again I hunged up the phone and dialled my mother's cellphone number. It went straight to voicemail and my father's. No it can't be. Not them maybe Phumza Mdluli and my

uncle Ernest Mchunu (my father's big brother) I dragged myself to the to my room and changed from sleeping wear to a Jean and a tee I didn't even bath because I wanted to be there for them. I didn't have time to call my boyfriend Ronald to take me there. He's a weird boyfriend I don't understand him sometimes moody sometimes he is fine. I just don't get him. My name is Nandipha Zwane I am 30 years old on my document because my parents Changed my identity on my really identity I was supposed to be 45 years old. Age fabrication occurs when a person deliberately misrepresents his or her true age. This is usually done with the intention to garner privileges or status that would not otherwise be available to that person. Yeah that's my journey I hope you will be part of it. ONE When I got to the hospital. My father was badly injured my mother was declared dead on the scene. My best friend she's gone. I will never see or contact her "baby I came here as soon as I got your call" Ronald said whisle he was rubbing my back. I nodded. It pains

me that I failed to save them. "my mother she's gone Ronald! I will never see her ever again. Her smile and love it is all gone" I said. Tears streamed uncontrolled. "Do you want me to take a day off?" Ronald asked. while his eyes were glued on his phone. I don't want to upset him "No honey I just want to be alone. And wait here for my father to wake up" I said faking a smile. He kissed me and left. Just like that. Elizabeth Zwane she's was not my biological mother but a mother she took me in the day I escaped from my so called marriage. And she raised me from the age of 15 until 45 years. As Ronald left I started to crying and thinking about my real name and family. Because I'm now left with Mr Zwane he cares a lot about me. My biological father died before my mother and his brother force me to get married to the old man. I've been living a lie my whole life. My life will turn up for good this time. I'm telling you. My aunties uncles from Mr Zwanes they dislikes me. They say I'm a busted child my mother had me with another man. They

wanted my mother to sleep with her brother in-law in order for her to be pregnant. My mother she's been faithful to her marriage. Hence she didn't want a doner but were blessed with me. Now she's gone. My pillar of strength she's gone. I'm no one with out her. I'm incomplete no one will call me slender Given the name has died also. Everything about me is fake Surname age. Thinking about how Phumza sold me that women everytime I think about her my stomach boils it gets angry immediately. I wish she's gets painful death along with her husband my uncle my father's brother. How funny it is they remarried after my father's death. Not to mention their son in law. That busted used to abused me. I know that Ronald can be difficult at times but he's a good boyfriend. Let me take you again to my sorrow life. 3Days later after Phumza (mother) and my father had their argument. I was disturbed on my peaceful sleep by the loud cry of my mother. I tossed out of my blanket. I folded my blanket nicely. And the grass

mat. I was about was to start my house chores as always. I heard my brothers crying too. They hardly cry. They believe that really men don't cry. At first I thought my father was dealing with his wife. But with my brothers crying that got my attention. I made my way where they were. My mother was covering her face with a blue blanket. My grandmother was also there crying. My uncle Ernest was brushing his mother (my grandmother) at the back. "Where is my father? I asked since he was the one who was not in the Mchunu's family tree. "I asked you guys a question where is my father"? I shouted. Seeing the Mchunu tree but my father was not part of it.. I Looked around no one was willing to tell me where is my father. I looked at my grandmother who was falling apart she shook her head. My father was the best son ever and a father too he didn't have any stress with anyone not unless you give him the reason to. My knees became weaker. I immediately became numb. My heart chest was going up and down threatening to

come out I started shaking. I looked at the biggest witch who was covering her face. She's hiding her true colours. I ran to her and started beating her. "Mthakathi ndin where is my father? (You witch) I was crying while I was beating her up everyone was shook about his death. My grandmother looked at me "Nandi I'm sorry" She said that crying. While reassuring the numbers also make plain why this one specific type of loss is so feared so painful and so stigmatized. "The death of a child is considered the single worst stressor a person can go through. Bafana he's gone" My grandmother said. We called him Bafana since his name was Fanafuthi. I tried to walk up to her since she was sitting on the doorway. I don't know how did I fall but I heard people screaming my name "Nandipha!!!! The next thing I remember I woke up at the hospital. There was a man who was sitting right next to my hospital bed. Reading a news paper. "What happened to me"? I asked him. He rolled his news paper and put it under his arm. "You are awake? He asked with a

smile on his face "Where is my family? "The are buring Fanafuthi" He replied "Who are you"? "I'm Vincent Zulu I am your plus one from now on" He said that proudly. I sattered up straight. I looked at him "I beg my pardon" "I'm your husband" I looked at him straight to his eyes. He is old enough to be my father. The same father who got murdered by his brother and his wife I don't have a proof but deep down I know that their took his life. Or my so called husband has a hand on killing my father.

WEEK LATER I was now a Makoti Mrs Zulu just like that. I'm sure my mother was enjoying that she won. I moved in his house with him and his mother. They said I'm going to be a wife a fifteen years old girl how was that fair. I became scared to attend school since I was not everyone's favourite due to I was always behind with my school work how much more after learning that I was married. I'm angry because they to ruined my life and my future Ukuthwala is a form of abduction that involves kidnapping a girl or a young woman by a man and

his friends or peers with the intention of compelling the girl or young woman's family to endorse marriage negotiations The was this one day when he got home Sponsored Ukuthwala is a form of abduction that involves kidnapping a girl or a young woman by a man and his friends or peers with the intention of compelling the girl or young woman's family to endorse marriage negotiations The was this one day when he got home I made him a cup of tea and he slapped me across the face. I knew it was wrong but when I wanted to run away he grabbed my with my hair. I knelt down and started crying and apologising something I did not do. For what I didn't know "You are my wife you need to behave like one" He was angry. I sobbed then nodded. "Now behave like one. We will make love tonight" He added. I've heard other girls at the river that they will be a time where he will want me to have sex with him. Even though I was not ready. I had to obey his command becomes I was his wife. "I will do anything for my husband" I humbled myself.

He smiled "I can't wait to eat you up today" He said. Wow just a reminder my mother sold me the same person who carried me for nine fucken months. I went to bath myself I walked to our room. He was waiting for me. I got on top of the bed. "You won't sleep with that dress aren't you? He asked. I nod and took off my dress "And that pantie? He asked with a hungry voice. Yes he was ready to eat me up as he claimed minutes ago. I took them off too. He was shacking. He started kissing me all over my body even on my viginer "Uhhh you are fucken wet" He say and took a towel he wiped my viginer. Then he got on-top of me he inserted his thing on my tiny viginer it was paining. He started pumping up and down.he didn't even care that I was crying. He pleased himself. When he was self-satisfied. He took the very same towel and wiped himself then me. "That was amazing" He exclaimed. Amazing my foot. He made me to lay on his chest. I cried silently on his chest. The next day I didn't want to upset him again so I waited in our room. when he got home he

got angry again. This time because I didn't make him a drink he dragged me out of the room and kicked me repeatedly in the head. That day I crewed out of the house he let me be and he said "Where will you go? Your mother and stepfather sold you like peanut" That was mouthful. But he was telling me the truth though. I got up he helped me. He was trying to avoid the villages. To him his family's reputation in the community was so important. He pulled my dress and forced himself to me. I was even scared to scream. No one was going to help me since I was his wife and everyone was minding their own businesses. Since I was thinking about my sad life the Nurse called me. "Ms Zwane your father he's awake" She said that with the smile. I wiped my tears. My heart jumped for joy for a moment. I than remembered that my mother just left us who would I be with out her. Losing a mother is one of the deepest sorrows a heart can know. But her goodness her caring and her wisdom live on-like a legacy of love that will always be with you. May that

love surround you now and bring you peace.

Mother's hold their children's hands for a while but their hearts forever. I unlike Phumza. I entered at his ward. I looked at my father badly injured. "Dad please get well. I can't loss you too. I just can't" As I was saying those words. He pulled me closer and hugged me. "Nana I'm sorry I failed to save her" He cried. My father never cried ever. "Maybe they made a mistake. Mom she's not a dying type" I said that crying my father let go of me then he shook his head. "She's gone Nandi she will never come back. She was declared dead on the scene. but I promised her that I will take care of you I'm not going anywhere Nana I will continue protecting you" To think how I met them it makes me wonder if it was a blessing or what? Family is everything but sometimes it can be difficult to put into words just how much your loved ones mean to me. That's exactly where these best family come in. Every single one of these. I wish I was saying those words about the my really family. But no they failed me. I

will miss our relationship our laughed and our family bond just me her and dad against the world the 3 of us. TO BE CONTINUED

02 Trust the one who could see three things in you: sorrow behind your smile love behind your anger and meaning behind your silence. "Nana if death didn't steal her from us mommy was going to say" My father said. It's been weeks since we buried her. She might be gone but she will be forever in our mind. "Nandi she's is a master of disguise; See that smile it has hidden sorrows behind it" He said trying to mandate her voice. We laughed. "It's good to see us laughing again" dad said "Yeah but this house is empty without her" I replied. He got up and grab his car keys then kissed my forehead. "Call daddy when you need anything" Dad said said. Knowing my father very well he is going to the office to keep himself busy. "Don't stress too much you will get reddles" my father added whitsle he was walking out. "Ok daddy just remember to take

care of yourself" I'm not sure that he heard me he's already gone. because he didn't respond me.

Thinking about my past sad serrow -----

-- MONTHS LATER My body started charging. Such as tiredness laziness stretch marks weight gain Sponsored and heartburn. The abused continued he would beat me up without any explanation. He would remind me that I should respect him. He became verbally aggressive with me too and would shout "You won't find anyone else. No one else will have you" He gradually became more violent towards me as well. It started out with him slapping me with out a valid reason followed by kicking me then it increased to pushing or shoving me but there is that one day he threw my head into a brick wall. After that he would lay into me three or four times a week I don't remember very well. He turned me as his sex slave. Abusing me was his daily bread. It's funny that his mother couldn't do anything with the abuse. He could force himself to me. Then he cuddled me and said "We're friends now' and I

promised to go back to see the puppies". I didn't understand what had happened. I knew it was wrong but I couldn't tell anyone because I'd have been beaten for straying from my boundary. If my father was still alive none of these could've happened. My own family failed me even my brothers (Philani Mpilo and Sihle) they failed Nandi Mchunu. To think that I had a good relationship with my big brother Philani. ----- Whistle I was still thinking about my sad past sorrows. I heard a knock at the door I went to get it. It was my boyfriend Ronald. "What are you doing here?" "I've missed you baby" Ronald said "You missed me?" I asked him. He's been distancing himself towards me. I know that I'm grieving for my mother but he should've at least attended the funeral. "Are you asking me that?" Ronald asked. He is my boyfriend he was supposed to be there for me. "Where have you been Ronald?" "I thought you needed some time alone" he replied. Grief can have a number of affects on relationships. Partners may grow closer

as they need each for support or realise that they would like to spend more time together. Intimate relationships may also experience a slow period if the grieving individual does not feel like becoming physically close to others "Ok Ronald I still need some time alone" I closed the door on his face before he gets angry. He didn't leave straight away he kept on knocking and kicking the door. "Nandi open this door" he is shouting "Just go away I need some time alone" I said with a sad tone. "If you don't open the denm door or I will break it" he shouted. Knowing him very well he will do that. And if I open for him I'm afraid he might hurt me that's for sure. He hates it when I disrespect him. I slowly opened the door a hot slap landed on my face. He was shacking and when he's like this I tell you I'm dead today. "Please honey don't do this not here this is my parents house" I said that crying. "Than let's go to your flat" is he crazy we are facing a huge dark cloud in our country. Girls and women get murdered each and every second by their

boyfriends and husbands. I'm not going to gamble my life. "What makes you think that I want to go to my flat? I asked "You don't want me to drag you there aren't you ?"He asked. "You know what if you want to kill me just do it here my love" I said when sobbing he gently pulled me and hugged me and brushed my back. He is now calm he won't hurt me. He's like this he gets angry out of nowhere. We broke the hug. This is what I needed from my own boyfriend. "Ronald you can't just disappear like that and you chose to disappear when I needed you the most" I said "As I said before I wanted you to grief for your mother in peace" he replied "I wanted you by my side. You should've atleast came to the funeral" I said. He looked at me and rubbed my hand. "And give your father more reason to hate me" he Ronald said. Yet he is in his door step I can't believe him right now. "It was the fenural Ronald! you were supposed to be there and support me as your girlfriend" I know my father he is over protective. I'm his only daughter and he knows

what makes his little angel happy. And the words hate it's a foreigner itself in this house. "I'm going through difficult time you were supposed to be the supportive boyfriend" I said he sighed. The last time I saw him it was the day my mother was declared dead. He is unbelievable. "Let's not fight Nandi I'm here now" he said. "Yes you are here now but..." He cuts me. "Let Ronald take you out of this house" he said. Still I'm not going anywhere with him it won't end well I'm definitely sure he will want me to spend a night with him. "Sorry honey my father and I we have plans for the day" I said starring at him straight in the eyes. He nodded then we shared a kiss "It's okay babes you and your dad need each other" Ronald said he's a good guy but he's shot tempered. "Ok I will call you and check you later" He added then walked out I locked the door I went to sit on my bed I was still thinking about my past sad sarrows. Vincent came back and he looked at me. "Good evening babah" I greeted him with a fake smile "Evening standwa Sam" he says I rolled

my eyes "You hardly sleep this days standwa" he says "I'm only experiencing tirednesslaziness and lack of sleep nje" I said "When last did you see your menstruation? he asked. To think about it it's been a while "I don't remember" I said. He stood up and lift me up. I didn't know why was he doing that.

"You are the best Nandi you are the women among the women" he exclaimed then put me down "Do you want anything to drink" he asked I was so confused about why is he caring out of the sudden

"Shouldn't I be the one to ask you that?" I asked

"From now on we are equal partners" he says not only few hours ago He just punched me and slapped me and I got away and I got into the cupboard -----

----- MBUSO ZULU As I was sitting with my uncles. My phone ringed. I answered "Hello" "Good morning I'm Pricilla Keena" She introduce herself.

I'm just hoping it's not one of the insurance companies selling me their deals. "Pricilla Keena?"

"Yes Pricilla Keena Zwanes company. You've successfully initiated your career of Project

management" she says "You said you are calling from which company? I asked "From Zwanes company. you were one of the lucky applicants who has been selected for an interviews It's been set for next week Monday 9am" "Ok I will be there please send me the at" I said "I will send you the details before the end of business today" she says then hunged up. I looked at my uncle I know they want to hear the good news. "Iza naza phela" (come out with it) uncle Philani says "Guess who scored an interview for himself" I shouted with joy "Thee only nephew I have in the world" uncle Sihle replied with a smile. I and my uncles we have a good relationship. We are always unique. We share everything. At first my father didn't want me to be around them but since we are family he had no choice my father he's a very supportive and protective like any other parents does. I'm his first born and favourite child. Because he blames himself for my mother's death. They don't know what happened to her but they found her clothes near

the river that means she drawn. I wish I've known her but what will I say life is life it had to happen how it happened. I'm sure where ever she is she's resting in peace. And watching over me her only son. She was loved by her brothers each of them have her picture on their closet especially Philani he always speak about her how special she was to him and their father. Uncle Sihle disappeared after she was forced to be married with my father. He just came back 3 years ago. TO BE CONTINUED

03 MONTHS GOES I can forget my password but not my pain I was doing my chores. I was all alone in that house. I felt the strong pain. I ignored it since I was 7 months pregnant. As I remember I took a bucket that day and walk to the river to fatch water. When I got their the were 4 to 5 old woman who were busy gossiping. Soon as I get there my I had stomach cramps then I felt wet on my legs I was embarrassed I thought I urinate myself one of them rushed to me she took me to the hidden place and

took the doek that was covering my hair as an
respective daughter in law and went to make it wet
she came back with 2 old woman who also helped
me I laid down on my back and open my legs. "I
need you to push with all the power you have" she
says. I was breathing heavily praying that I make it
because if not Tina and Vincent Zulu will kill me.
"Push" "The pain is killing me gogo! "Just push
ntombazane" (girl) she said.I closed my tights she
beat them I opened them again "Yenza njengoba
ngisho intombazanyana." (just do as I say girl). She
said. The pains were stronger and killing me.
"Ahhhh" the next thing I heard was a baby cries she
took him and wrapped him with her towel. I was
weak as hell they got me water to drink then
bought him to me. He was tiny I was even scared to
hold him. It's a pity because I didn't have a bond
with him even during pregnancy. "Breastfeed him
so that I can take you home" she said funny enough
all I wanted to do was to take a nap. I was tired.
"Thank you! "You welcome" she said.I was

struggling to feed him. Tears verge from my eyes. How can a fifteen years old girl be a mother. A child mother to a child. It doesn't sound good. After few minutes he was fast asleep. One of the old women took him from me they helped me to stand up. They had mercy in me because they accompanied me and the my baby at home. When we got there Vincent was shouting at his mother. "Tina how can you let her go huh" "She went to fetch water" the old woman said. She was not around when I left she's a witch "Babah ngibuyile" (I'm back) He turned and looked at me his palms were forming fists. "Nandi you've been out for almost 3 hours" he shouted "There is no need to shout at her babu Zulu" the old woman said "It was her time we had to..." She was cut by the baby's cry she gave him to me "Ngiyabonga gogo" (thanks granny) I said. She bid us a goodbye. Vincent was the most feared man in the village. He looked at me then smiled. Why is he smiling. My dreams were shattered my childhood was stolen I had no one to cry to it was

just me. I tried to feed him that time he was enjoying his breast milk "I need a bath" I said glanced at him. He took him I went to bath. ----- My father walked in while I was thinking about my sad past sorrows. He shook me. I looked at him with my eyes full of tears "Nana don't do this to yourself! He says "I can't father! I said he sat next to me. He made me sleep on his laps he brushed my back. "This phase will pass Nana! He said. If he knew. " It won't pass baba it will hunt me until I die" I said that crying. I think my mother's death bought the wounds in my life it opened the room of pain. My mother she was going to make me forget all my past sad sarrows. "Her death bought sadness and loneliness in this house but she wouldn't allow you to do this to yourself" dad said "Can you drive me to the club? I asked "Anything for my daughter as long as you won't get drunk and forget your name" he said. We chuckled He started singing ☹️In the middle of the turbulence surrounding you These trying times that are so hard to endure In the middle of

what seems to be your darkest hour Hold fast your heart and be assured I felt overwhelmingly. I fastly sleep on his lap ----- MBUSO ZULU

The SMS came through. 'your interview is set for next week Monday morning 9H00. Strictly wear formally bring along your own pen. Address Zwanes offices B 205 at Johannesburg central' could this be a dream come true. I rubbed my eyes and go through it again "What is it Mbuso? Philani asked he likes to protect me and my other uncles forgetting that he is old I'm the one who should fight for their battles "The interview will take place at Gauteng" I said "What is the name of the company? Sihle asked "Zwane construction company" I replied "You can't just go there. Do your research before you make big decision. Gauteng it's a huge city and some of the companies are scam. Always do your research" Sihle said. I loaded the cell data then I googled it "It's legit malume"(uncle) "Who is the founder of the company? Asked Philani "Zwane construction company limited was founded by Sthembiso Zwane

and his wife Elizabeth Zwane who recently died a week ago she was involved in a car accident she was declared dead on the scene and she left behind her husband and a daughter too" I read it louder for them "How old is the daughter" Sihle asked mind me the are taking notes "Her name is Nandipha Zwane she's 30 years old she's single and she likes to dance and sing" "Maybe she's also beautiful" Sihle said "Hawu malume why so interested" (eish uncle) "Phela O Nandipha hama shandapa" (girls named Nandipha are beautiful) Mphilo said "Come on you two the is no Nandipha who will be beautiful like our sister was. She was beautiful she didn't deserve whatever happened to her Sponsored she had a life to live for a son to take care of so let's stop admiring her beautiful with people we don't know" Philani said. It was said he was getting along with her. "You guys you loved her isn't it? I asked They both nodded "I wish I met her" I said "Mbuso mfana ka gogo" (Mbuso my grandson) my

grandmother called me inside the house. TO BE
CONTINUED

04 I don't know how did I ended up in my room. I checked the time it was already 6 am. I woke up and dragged myself to the bathroom. I took a shower and went back to my room and changed to my dress. I walked to the kitchen I was welcomed by a breakfast done by my father. He smiled when he saw me. "If it's my one and only daughter who could it be? Dad said "Babami" I said smiling "Just as our Father in Heaven demonstrates unconditional love fathers on earth need to display this as well. Unconditional love requires that a daughter knows no matter how badly she messes up her father will be there not to ridicule and demean but to forgive" he said "Thanks dad you are the best b.."I said and kept quiet because I remembered that he was supposed to take me to the club I just want to forget about my past sad sarrows. "Why do I sense a but here? He asked "I just wanted to ask. why

didn't you keep your promises yesterday? As we were eating "As a girl grows up men will come in and out of her life but the one man who will always be there is her father. The father daughter relationship plays a vital role in his girl's journey to adulthood yeah I decided not to go to the office today and spend a day with my daughter" he says with his sweet words just to cheer me up "Oh okay" that what I could say I know that my father can do anything just for me "So tell me where do you suggest dad and daughter should go today? He asked with his eyes glued to his plate "Music festival and the club since it's Friday I want to be in that stage yazi dad dancing sorrounded by my fans and busy screaming my name Nandi!!! Girl power!!!! We chuckled "uthanda ukudansa)" (you like to dance) Dad said "Dancing is the hidden language of the soul of the body" I said that smiling whistle I was enjoying my breakfast prepared by my mother's husband her smile keeper the owner who was owning her entire world that's my father for

sure. If I was to be asked to give an award to the best parents in the world I was going to give it to my family. For a moment I'd forgot about my hidden pain. My past sad sorrows. My dad looked at me then he smiled "I'm happy to see that smile again" my father said. I didn't realise that I was smiling though. "Thanks dad I wouldn't be smiling if you were not here" I said "I promised mommy to take a good care of you Nana! From day one I won't stop now because she's dead you are still my daughter the one only Nandipha the only God gave me Nandipha did you hear the message of your name?" he asked. I nod with the smile "Mis the hidden language of the soil" he said smiling "I'm no longer Nana now? He chuckled Infertile people are never at peace because of the discrimination they face from family and friends. And most of the people that suffer from it are women whereas a man uses a friend to cover up for him. If a man is infertile Sponsored whereas a man uses a friend to cover up for him. If a man is infertile he will ask his friend or

relative to sleep with his wife. Then his wife can get pregnant without anyone in the community knowing. But my mother decided the other way around people thinks that I'm their biological daughter. Even her own family knows that. "You are my Nana! Nana" he said we chuckled "Look Nana daddy 10 minutes to change then we will drive to your music what what" he said while standing up. --
----- After 3 days of giving birth the abuse started again and by that time it had a bonus a crying baby and sleepiness nights I couldn't take it anymore because if the baby was not crying then his father was beating me up wanting me to please him as a wife. I still remember that morning. I woke up with an energy to do everything in the house I cooked and clean laundry was done that day I asked Vincent's mother to look after Junior while I was going to fatch water. While I was on my way to the river I saw a R200 note just lying I picked it up and hide it on my shoe then I continued with my journey. I got the water and went straight to a place

that was called my new home. Before I took another bucket escaping that life came to my mind. I took my other dress that was my favourite I changed then took the clothes that I was wearing I placed them on the bucket. It felt like there was someone who was telling me what to do. I walked out of the yard without my so called mother in law seeing me. When I got to the river the mind of escaping was playing a tune. I looked around there was no one there. I took the very same clothes that was in the bucket I placed them on the stone that was there. I threw the bucket on the river. Then I ran fast as I could. ----- MBUSO ZULU "Ok family it was nice seeing you all but I need to go back to my father's house before I go to Johannesburg on Monday" "it was nice having you Junior Philani said. "I won't let you to go alone to the city of gold my father and sister won't forgive me" Sihle said. I'm blessed to have uncles like them. To think about about it uncle Siphesihle just returned 3 years ago he's the second born he left

home after my parents got married he went to live in Gauteng for almost 27 years old he came back because his friends told him that his mother is not doing well. You can tell he wanted nothing to do with his mother he still does but he is pretending just to see my grandmother smile. I thought when you go to Gauteng for such a long time without parental guidance you become a hoe a theft But my uncle here beat that record he became a teacher and leave his life without his family's help. "Thank you malume atleast I will have someone who's familer with the place" I said. "You welcome chana is the least I can do" he said. "We can keep in touch" I said "We will live on Sunday noon" he said I bid them a goodbye and my grandparents too. I took a taxi I never worked before or been in an interview room before. I grew up with a silver platter on my mouth I had everything my father was wealth everything was fine until things happen we had to move from where I was born to the other Eshowe because the land that we were using was

for someone else someone cruel he forcedly removed everyone who builded their homes. Forced removals are thus a cause of social conflict and prevent reconciliation and mutual enrichment of the society. Under the apartheid laws people were uprooted from their land if it was declared a black spot. Negotiations with the government was futile as the laws were there to be obeyed. Luckily that my uncles had their own land that was left by their father. The peace of land that belonged to my mother they gave it to me. Families do kill each other for such things but my uncles loved their sister that's for sure. ----- NANDI

ZWANE The club was full accompanied I was called on stage to dance. The crowd shouted "Girl power!!!! "My crush!! "Mis Zwane" I got in stage my father was sitting on the VIP section "We are blessed today she came with her father today" Palisa said she's my cousin from my father's side (Mr Zwane) she works here as a part time job and she has a full time job at ZCCL (Zwanes construction

company limited) as a office assistant. It's funny because I don't want to work at parents company I want to apply job like everyone does and I want to start where everyone does. She gave me the mic "It's a pity that I won't dance because dad is here I don't want him to be bored but I will do a little poem just for him" I said the crowd shouted. I sometimes question myself if I was still in that trapped marriage I wouldn't be here today. I took the mic "There were times I thought he was bein' Just a little bit hard on me But now I understand he was makin' me. Become the women that I am today. In everything he ever did He always did with love And I'm proud today to say I'm his daughter. When somebody says I would like to meet your parents I just smile and say you already have" I looked at him he smiled. I looked at the entrance I saw Ronald looking at me he shook his head. I closed my eyes and continued with the poem "The older I get. The more I can see How much he loved my mother and me And he did the best that he

could. And I only hope when I have my own family. That everyday I see. A little more of my father in my son's" When I said that last part tears streamed from my eyes remembering my selfishness what kind of a woman I am. Yet I was blaming Phumza (mother) for what she did to me. But I left my son with the evil himself. Hence I say that is why my relationship doesn't last long. TO BE CONTINUED

05 I broke down on stage. I held the mic I was shackingly this never happened to me before but the door of fearlessly just wanted to win me. When I'm on stage is ether I dance sing or crack a joke. With out shacking. I looked at my father he smiled the crowd whistle girls screamed Ronald just looked at me. I know that he's pissed off I don't know why but deep down he wishes that he can get on stage and embarass me in front of my fans and followers. I held the mic tight. I looked my father again. Tears verge on eyes "The following song is delicated for my parents" I said and the audience clap their

hands some screamed. You can even swear that the bought tickets for the show. I swallowed then close my eyes "I'm sorry mom and dad I know I've messed up bad I should've should've done should've done betterrrrr" (I reopened my eyes and closed them again) "I'm sorry mom and dad for all the time I had to get my life To get my life together But I didn't" by Selenator My father smiled. If he only knew that I'm hurting that smile will disappear. My fans shouted "Woow!! "Hey" "Girl power!! I go by the name of girl power on stage. I looked at Ronald he was burning anger I don't know why. I got out of stage and went to join my father. He stood up and hugged me. The question is if I did came with my son would the Zwanes accepted me? No I doubt because I had no idea where I was going. ----- THE ESCAPE I ran as fast as I could I didn't look behind me. I told myself that I'm going forward not backwards. When I got to the train station I was told that the train's are delaying. I had no choice but to hike to the bus station. When

I got there only four seats were available. I bought the bus ticket then I sat to the seat that was next to the window. Within 15 minutes it was full. The bus took off. "Goodbye Gingindlovu. Welcome Johannesburg" I said that by my heart. People were communicating and laughing. The only thing I did was to cry. I took 5 to 6 hours to get to the city of gold I viewed out through the window. The city of gold was beautiful. The bus stopped at the petrol station people got out I didn't. I only had R170 on me. The ticket bus only cost me R30. I don't want to misuse the money while I didn't know where to go. People came back. The bus took off again. It then stopped. The divided is according to where you were going. I only knew that I was going to the park station I heard my father that the famous point in Gauteng was the park station. I got to another bus I sat next to this woman we exchanged greetings. "I'm Elizabeth Zwane! "I'm Nandipha Mchunu! "Nice meeting you Nandi Mchunu! She said. I kept quiet She took out 2 paper glasses and pour the juice she

gave me since I was hungry I accepted the drink even though my parents taught me not to accept anything from a stranger I was hungry if you were going to trick me with a dog I was going to eat it that day. She then took out a container of ice cream it had a rice and chicken with salad aside. "Do you want to join me? She asked I think she realised how I was staring her food. I nodded. She gave me a plastic spoon we dined together. It was funny because we were strangers. When we were done we started having a friendly conversation "Thanks mah" I said "You are welcome my baby" she said then she added "Where to in jo' burg? She asked "Park station" I replied "I mean from there from there? She asked again. I didn't know what to answer "I will look for a..." She cuts me "Why are you shacking Nandi! I'm a woman you can talk to me" she said that brushing my back. Comforting me " My mother sold me" She continued brushing me. I told her everything beside baby Junior that I left on the bed "I can tell you ran away from home" she

said. I nod "I have no choice I want to be away from them" "It's okay baby I will take you to my house until you are ready to go home" she said my eyes popped out like the cartoons when they are suprised. We got to the park station we went to the public phones she inserted a coin she called someone "I'm at the park station" she said and placed the phone back. We sat down on the bench for almost 30 minutes. A man walked towards us. She stood up and hugged him. I looked at the other side. "Honey meet Nandi our daughter" "Nandi meet my husband Blessing Zwane!! she said that smiling. He strached his hand to me "Hello Nana! He greeted then look at his wife. I've been Nana to him from day one. "Honey what took you so long? she asked him "I got held up in traffic" he replied. She's smiled that made the man smile too " Love did you smile" he asked what kind of a question was that. "Yes honey I did smile and all thanks to Nandi" she said " You didn't tell me about this arrangement" he said. She sigh "It's a long story I will tell you when

we get home" she said with a smile "Did you smile again. Nana I think you bought a smile on her face" he said then wheel the league. We followed him. That night I had to experience many things such like TV sleeping on bed of my own and my own privacy for the first time. Remember I'm from the disadvantage village kraals gravels all over. Where girls were not allowed to wear jeans. And play with boys. After some months I was legally their daughter. They changed my name since I left everything that belonged to me. I was no longer Nandi Mchunu or Mrs Zulu but Miss Zwane. I went back to school and I gave it all to my studies at first I wanted to make them proud but when times goes I saw future on my studies. That's how I met my parents. ----- STILL AT CLUB I was thinking how I met my mother and father while I was holding a glass of wine. To think that I left an infant the innocent soil with the devil that bought another hidden pain of my life "Nana stop thinking to much you have been holding that glass for an

hour now" my father said. Didn't even drink my wine. "Let's go home Nana" He said. It's true I'm thinking too much this lately. I'm hurting deep down I mask my real feelings. I thought that by hiding the hurt would fade but it never really goes away. It's hard to confront the fact that I have been hurting. This could make me unnecessarily lash out at people I isolate myself and even experience bouts of depression. ----- MBUSO ZULU

I got home my step mother look at me. With a sad written in her face. She then hid her face. My father smiled my siblings smiled too " Zulu decided to come back" my father said "I will have to disappoint you this time father I'm going to Gauteng this Sunday" I said "Yhoo Sihle want to steal my son from me" he said. I sat next to him "I got the call from the contractions company I have a interview set for this coming Monday" I said my stepmother shook her head. "Gauteng Mbuso is dangerous" my father said "I want to do something that I love for once and I'm still going for an interview" "I hear

you" he said "Don't worry dad Sihle will accompany me since he knows Gauteng very well" I said. He sigh in relief "At least you will be safe"

"Congratulations Mbuso" my step mother said before she got up. I don't know why she hate me I'm a grown man I can do anything for myself.

"Thank you mama" I said. TO BE CONTINUED

06 My past has defined me destroyed deterred me and defeated me. It has weaknesed me. I got a call from Ronald he says we must meet up. We hardly spend time together since mama past on. Not that I don't want to spend time with him but sometimes I can't stand his mood swings especially now with my hidden pain. That is why I moved back to my parents house I need protection from my father. He can't protect me when I'm in my flat. I checked the time only 30 minutes left. I quickly ran to take a one quickly shower. I then applied a lotion I went back to my room and check on my closet I didn't know what to wear kept on changing and looking at

myself in the mirror. Still I didn't know what to wear I ended up debating whether I should wear a dress or skirt with a blouse. I ended up wearing the dress that my mother bought for me a week before she died. checked the time only few minutes were left I requested an uber. I do have a car but after what happened to my mother I just don't want it anymore or to sit at the front passenger seat. I got the notification that the Uber is outside the yard. I took my perse and look at myself again. My make up was on point everything was perfect. I walked down stairs to I saw my father glued to his laptop. "Babami" I said "Nana where are you in rush to? he asked while his eyes glued on his laptop. My mother decided to leave us. Look at my father he is bored "Dad I'm going out" I said "On a date? He asked I'm glad that I can share everything with him. I'm used to be open with them. They let me do my own mistakes and learn from them. "Yes dad but if you need me to stay I can cancel the Uber and stay with you by" I said I need to be the for him "No Nana go

have fun and bring me something on your way back" he said. I kissed him on the forehead then exited the house. The uber was waiting for me -----

----- MBUSO ZULU A new journey in life is often the beginning of new and exciting adventures. It may include traveling to other places and it is an opportunity for a fresh start. "Dear God I'm taking this new journey and opportunity please guide me and protect me along the way Amen" I prayed.

"Amen" my father said "Good luck son" my father said "Thank you dad" "Make sure that the city of gold doesn't swallow you. Your mother won't forgive me if anything happens to you. I cannot fail you as I failed her before" he exclaimed "Don't

worry dad it's just an interview I'm not yet employed" I said "I know son I just don't want anything to happen to you" He said "Nosipho!!

Mbuso he's leaving" he said looking at his wife "Ok Mbuso have a nice trip" she said faking a smile. I know her smile when she's not faking it. She's been my stepmother since I was 3 years. I've learnt that

she dislikes me and she's not pretending to. But just because my father he's here we have to play a son and mother relationship that doesn't exist. My phone vibrated it was a SMS from Sihle he's waiting for me. " Thanks guys I love you I promise I will be back before you knew it dad" I said he tapped my shoulder. I bid him a goodbye. Walked out. Sihle was patiently waiting for his nephew. "Malume!! "You ready? He asked "I never been ready like I'm" "We will spend a night at a friend's house and tomorrow morning I will accompany you to ZCCL (Zwanes construction company limited) early in the morning" he said "Should we? He added by asking I nodded ----- NANDIPHA ZWANE The drive was not that long. Ronald stood up as soon as he saw me. Entering the restaurant. "Thanks for coming baby" he said while hugging me. We sat down " I missed you I missed this" I said. He looked at me his eyes were red "What is it honey are you alright? "Baby I'm good. Shall we order? He asked "Yes" We ordered and we dined with out saying a

single word. He called me to come to just dine with me and looked at me? "How is dad" he finally said something "He is fine" "Nandipha you are a beautiful lady any man would love to have you" he uttered "Honey what is the? "Nandi I loved you and I still does but we can't be together. You don't deserve me you deserve a better man who will love you Sponsored protect you and cherish you" he said. He is breaking up with me. "What is going on Ronny? "You don't deserve me. I'm harmful towards everyone that I get involved with. I don't want you to be a be a victim of abuse. I would hate it to see you unhappy because of me" he said "Are you breaking up with me? "Yes! No" he said "Which one is it? "I'm protecting you from myself I'm dangerous for you and myself. I'm diagnosed with a bipolar" he said "A bipolar? "Bipolar disorder is a mental illness marked by extreme changes in mood from high to low and from low to high. Highs are periods of mania while lows are periods of depression. The changes in mood may even become mixed so I

sometimes feel elated and depressed at the same time. Bipolar disorder isn't a rare diagnosis" he said. Now it explains why he is sometimes moody sometimes he just a good boyfriend as he is now. "I'm sorry Nandi I wish you the best in life" he said "Honey we are in this together. I'm sure they are treatment for this disorder" "Nandi you don't get it it's over" he said. Paid the bill then stood up and left just like that. I just sat there hoping that he will come back. I checked the time it was already late. I decided to leave. I caught a mini bus to my flat. It is not that long. I sent my father an SMS letting him know that I will sleep on my flat. He replied 'ok' I just want to be alone. I just don't understand why everyman I breakup with me. They just come into my life and leave me heart broken. Maybe I don't deserve to be in a relationship. I cried myself to sleep. TO BE CONTINUED

07 MBUSO ZULU I woke up in a strange place Music so loud where I'm I? It ringed a bell that I'm at uncle

Sihle's friend. I got up from the bed and fix the bed. I made my way to the sitting room. I see things that are not meant to be seen. Sihle was kissing the lady he introduced as a friend. I wattempted to go back to the room. The lady called me "Mbuso! "I'm sorry I didn't mean to" "It's okay mchana" Sihle said "I wanted to ask where can is the bathroom? I asked "On the opposite door of the room you slept on" she directed "Thanks" I walked back to the room I slept on I took my toiletries and went to the bathroom. It looks beautiful the last time I saw a shower it was at varsity. I took a quick shower. Wore my formal clothes. My uncles friend iron for me last night. I looked at myself in the mirror. It's funny because my father believes that mirrors are meant for women. You can't debate with the man he is still on lives that generation that they didn't have rights. Times have changed now. We have equal rights both men and women. I went to join them for breakfast. I've seen defferent genders but this two are more than friends. "Thanks for the

breakfast" I said "You welcome Mbuso" she said I checked the time it is 8:36 "Malume we are running late" I said. First impression of the interview never be late. Be there an hour before. "Relax chana it's a 15 minutes drive. And Dineo will drive us there. I nodded. I kept on checking the time. "We can go now" Dineo said. I almost lost my patience. We got to the car she's driving the latest Hyundai sonata Model 2020-2021 it has continually refined its Sonata mid-size sedan to keep pace in the competitive family-sedan class always placing a big emphasis on value. Currently offered with a choice of gas or hybrid drivetrains the Sonata is backed by one of the most generous warranties available: 10 years or 100000 miles of powertrain coverage. Overall the Sonata is ideally suited to practical shoppers and small families. My uncle was the one who was driving. I didn't know that he can drive but anyway what did I accept from a high school Accounting and Mathematics teacher. He looked at her she looked at him. they both smiled. "Friends

nhe" I said they chuckled. Only heaven knows why?
"Chana we are friends thats all" Sihle said "Ok I believe you" we laughed "Dineo baby girl don't mind my nephew he can be crazy at times" Sihle said "For a person who is about to enter to an interview room you seemed relaxed" Dineo said. Why shouldn't I "He's nervous" Sihle said "Nervous who me no I will nail the interview" I said. We chuckled. It feels like I've known Dineo for a very long time I just met few hours ago. We got to the huge green bulding. It has a log of the company written in bold ZCCL then in small italc Zwanes construction company limited. My uncle didn't even ask me the address but what did I accept from Mr know it all. That's how well he knows Jo' burg. "We are here for the interview sir!" he said to the security guards "Ok Mr sign here" the security guards said. We got off the car. Sihle kissed her on the forehead then she hitted the road. We signed then he asked to see the massage that I received. I showed him. I showed us where should we go. We

walked in to the reception. ----- ZCCL
OFFICES My uncle went to the receptionist I
couldn't hear what was he saying to her because
their said one person at a time. He came to me.
"Let's take a sit" he said We sat down. It seems like I
was not the only one who got the call. "Malume do
you think I have what it takes for this job" I
whispered to him. He nodded. "Are you sure sis
Dineo she's your friend? I asked "She's my baby
mama" he replied "So you have a child? "Yes she's
13 years old" he replied again "Does grandparents
know about her? I asked "Hell no so that my child
can be forced to a marriage to a man 3 times more
then her age. I won't risk my daughter. Like I failed
to fight for my sister. my sister drowned herself
because she got married forcefully" He pouse when
he saw a lady entering she seems like she's carrying
the world over her. She looked around. Everyone
looked at her. Her beauty it's like she just walk out
of a magazine or television. Gauteng is packed with
beautiful girls. If my father didn't choose me a

woman that I will get married to her when I'm ready I was gonna come here in Gauteng to find myself a beautiful wife. But no he already made his mind "Pricilla is my father in? She asked "Yes but he is busy with the interviews you can go wait for him on your mother's office" the receptionist said she shook her head "Tell me the truth am I a play ground where men come play soccer then left it just like dirty? She asked the receptionist shook her head "No Ms Zwane! "Don't lie to my fa..." She half shouting at the receptionist. My uncle made his way to her. "Baby girl the is no need to shout like that especially not Infront of the help desk" Sihle said while he's helping her to calm down he came with her to sit next us. She sighed then sobbed she covered her face by her hands. "Are you alright mam? I asked she just ignored me. My uncle holding his laughter. The Lady came and called the first candidate. Her eyes ran to the girl who was sitting. "Nandi is that you? The lady who was calling the candidate asked "Just go away mzala" Nandi

answered My uncles had a debate the other day about girls called Nandi and their beauty uncle Philani ended up saying 'Come on you two there is no Nandipha who will be beautiful like our sister' then Mpilo closed the chapter by saying 'Come on you two there is no Nandipha who will be beautiful like our sister was. She was beautiful she didn't deserve whatever happened to her she had a life to live for a son to take care of so let's stop comparing her beautiful with people we don't know.. the girl I'm looking at right now she's beautiful. I've seen my mother's pictures she was indeed beautiful but this girl here she's hot. My mother was young to be somebody's wife nor to me a mother. Knowing my father very well he doesn't have a soft spot for anyone even my step mother he used to abuse her to a point she had to miscarry hence why everytime I and her we have our own argument I chose to leave I don't want Vincent to find out. An old man walked to the reception. I think he's in his early 60s if I'm not mistaken "Mrs Keena how many

candidates left? He asked before she couldn't reply. The girl got up and ran to him "Babah" she hugged him tightly. Shame poor girl "It's okay Nana daddy he's here" the man said "He...he..." The word failed to come out she just sobbed and sniffed while she's in her father's arms "Pricilla call Palisa and tell her to come down right now" the man said to the receptionist "Ok Mr Zwane! She took the phone and called. "Ms P Zwane you are needed down here right now" she hanged up. I looked at Sihle who was looking at me he shook his head. He started whispering "And wena? He ask "What about me? I asked him too "Stop undressing the poor girl with your mother's eyes" he said "Kodwa" (but) I said and kept quiet. I wasn't doing whatever he thinks I did. The skinny beautiful lady walked up to the reception "Oh uncle what happened to her? She asked she was here couple of minutes ago why didn't she asked her. "I don't know Palisa I will find out from you later now I'm busy please take her home" the man said "Ok uncle Sthe I will" she said

he broke the hug and kissed the girl on the forehead you could tell that the man was angry. "I'm sorry dad to just budge in to your workplace like this I didn't know where to go I wanted someone who will tell me that everything will be alright" she said crying the lady they called to take her home lead her to sit down next to us again. "Nana it's ok no harm done you are always welcome here this is your company" he said " Why did mommy chose to die. now I need her more than ever" she said I feel her pain especially to a girl like her lossing a mother. Tears verge from my eyes I found myself brushing her back. "Grief is like the ocean it comes in waves ebbing and flowing. Sometimes the water is calm and sometimes is is overwhelming. All we can do is learn to swim" I said my uncle Looked me and the man did "Learning to swim huh it won't help she was my only friend. She was my doctor a good listener and a good advisor. I can't share everything with my dad I can't believe that she's gone" she said. I continued brushing her

"Thanks for saying those wise words to her young man" the man said and walked away. The ladies got up she looked at me "Mzala he broke up with me" she said then cried. She looked at me "Thanks" she said then she ran out the other laid followed her. I looked at my uncle he smiled. What kind of a man would let a woman like her cry. I wish I knew the guy and tell him the peace of my mind. Sihle whispered "What was that? I whispered back "I don't know I just felt her pain lossing a mother it's nothing that you can just expect as you didn't accept my mother's death. Especially when she said she was her only friend. A mother's love is like nothing else in the world. Unrelenting and yielding. Protecting and releasing. Demanding and unassuming. It's one thing in one moment and another in the next moment. It changes with a child's needs but is always there. The love I never experienced" I said. he nodded then smiled "Yeah I also felt her pain there is strong link between me her" he said it's true the is strong connection. I felt

it too. ----- NANDI ZWANE Did I just embarrassed myself. Why did I do that in the first place? All I wanted was my father's hug since my mother she's on the other side of the world to give me the love I need her like never before. She's gone. My only friend she's gone. "Here drink this" Palisa gave me a glass of water "Thanks mzala" I drank the water. And washed my face she gave me her make up kit. I fixed myself I looked myself in the mirror. What is it that I'm not doing right? that chase every guy in my life. I fall in love with with just pleased themselves after they are satisfied they spirt me like a chewed gums. Who said that people like Ronald cannot be loved. I loved him. But although I feel depressed Sponsored but is always there. The love I never experienced" I said. he nodded then smiled "Yeah I also felt her pain there is strong link between me her" he said it's true the is strong connection. I felt it too. -----

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anything just shout" Palisa said I nodded. He disappeared to the offices. I went to sit next to the guy who helped me earlier to calm down. "Thanks for your help" "You welcome" he said "Are you also here for an interview? I asked "No I'm waiting for someone who is here for the interview" he said "Ms Zwane I need your help" Pricilla said "Okey came with it" "Can you take this files to Mr Zwanes office? She asked I got up and take the files from her. I walked to the elevator I punched the floor number which it was 4. I was alone in the elevator. My heart was throbbing in my ears loud and irregular but I barely heard it for my mind was clouded with emptiness. I don't know why. The doors opened I walked out and tried to catch my breath. Within 15 seconds I was fine again I knocked then open the door without him saying I must enter. He was still in the middle of the interview " Dad Pricilla Keena send me to give you this" I said he smiled "Are you sure that you didn't force her just to see me? He asked "I'm telling the truth" he chuckled "Nana it's

ok even if you did force her to come and see how your father's doing" dad said. The guy was stealing glanced at me. I felt uncomfortable. The whole 30 years old girl she's sulking. Who would blame I need parents love. "Uhm dad I will see you... He cuts me "You are not going anywhere Nana stay here and help me with the payments" he said "But you are still busy with something" "No we done with Mr Zulu" he said my my heart was throbbing in my ears loud and irregular but I barely heard it for my mind was clouded with fear. Again. I whimpered and my legs collapsed underneath me. My teeth chattered. " Dad I....I....." I collapsed "Nana!!! Nandi!!!! -----
----- MBUSO ZULU The girl just collapsed. Mr Zwane lifted her up and ran out with her. I followed them like a lost puppy. We used the stairs this time "Nana please don't do this" he kept saying that. When we got to the reception my uncle was patently waiting. He got up when he saw me since. "Mr Zulu you can start working tomorrow I will send you the contract today" he said while was carrying

his daughter she cough he puts her down "I'm sorry Nana" he said while walking her to the sits "What happened? she asked "Shhh Nana calm down" he said. She looked at me "Babah! She called "Nana!! He responded "Can you please take me home" she asked "Anything for you Nana! Pricilla! cancel all my meetings for today" He said then look at the "Zulu see you tomorrow morning" he said. To tell the truth Mr Zwane liked how I represented myself the interview process was not that difficult as I accepted it was generally questions like who I am? What do I see myself in the next 5 years. What will I bring on the company. "Thanks Mr Zwane I won't disappoint you" I said my uncle smiled "We will talk tomorrow" he exited with his daughter. My uncle smiled "Congratulations Mbuso" he said I need to call my father and tell him the good news right away. Actually I was supposed to start today but since it was already late I will start tomorrow. He said his daughter she's refusing to take the CEO position because she doesn't want to start high

from the bottom like everyone does. She have the qualifications but since it's her parents company she has to start like everyone else. Since I will be working closer to Mr Zwane as a project manager I will talk some sense to her this is her lagacy and her children her father is old he needs to retire. TO BE CONTINUED

08 ----- MONTHS LATER The amount of energy it takes to metabolize large doses of alcohol causes more stress to the body even if you feel relaxed. However moderate doses of alcohol can also reduce stress. I gave all my life to alcohol just to escape my hidden pain. After being dumped by Ronald and losing a mother it seems like I lost everything. My father is here for me he works from home just to make sure that I don't hurt myself he's the only reason why I'm still alive today. If it was not for him I could be long death. I walked into the living room he was busy with work related I can tell by the document on the tea table. "Babami! "Nana!

you are awake? He asked What kind of a question is that "Yes dad! was I suppose not to? "Come sit next to dad and tell him what is troubling you. We both know that alcohol won't help you unless we talk about what is that killing my daughter like this" he said "Dad you won't understand" "Than make me understand Nana" he said while closing his file. I looked at him he looked at me he moved other documents from the couch that were next to him I sat. "Dad as I said you won't understand. I feel like giving up. My life is in hold I lost everything I mean everything that I had a mother a boyfriend and myself" He looked at me tears verge of my eyes "Nana you didn't lost anything mommy was going to want you to live your life without putting it on hold and giving it to the alcohol" he said alcohol helps me to escape the hidden pain. The was a knock at the door. "I will get it" "No Nana what if the person whose knocking is a theft? He asked while going open the do up too and went to the kitchen I drank a glass of water today I'm planning

to stay away from alcohol today. I walked back to the living area. I found my father with his new bestie. "Hello" I greeted the last time I met him it was the day I fainted on my father's office "Hey Nandi! How are you doing today" he greeted back I looked at my father "I'm doing good thanks and yourself" "Great to hear that. I'm also good since my future CEO she's good" he said dad just side smile and wink at me "Anything to drink? I asked "Juice will do" he said I looked at my father "One strong coffee Nana" he said. I went back to the kitchen I made myself a coffee and my father too than the juice for the visitor who is forward I made my way back to the living area. "One strong coffee for my old man" he smiled I smiled too "And a glass of juice for a forward guest" he looked at his boss they laughed "I kanda've changed my mind one strong coffee will do" he said while smiling at my father my father is enjoying this "You got to be kidding who will drink that juice? I said "You will drink it" they both said that "Babah not you too" I

said the guest took my coffee he sipped it twice
"One strong coffee done by my future CEO hmmm"
he said "Mbuso you are here to work not to make
my daughter feel uncomfortable in her own house"
my father said then laughed "Dad should I order
something to eat? I asked he looked at me then
smiled what is he planning I know my father very
well he is up to something "Thanks for reminding
me Nana I've already ordered I need to go and
collect the food" "I will collect the the food dad" I
said "You just take a good care of my guest" he said
that taking his car keys and walked away. I looked at
the guy he is a hunky dory and handsome. 'No come
on Nandi Zwane stop what ever you are doing. He
will come into your life and play with your heart like
everyman does' I said that silently I look at this guy
who was sitting Infront of me he smiled I took the
coffee that my father didn't even touched. "Oh I see
lazy from my future CEO" he said that written my
father over. I cannot work for his company. The
company belongs to the Zwanes he must appoint

his nieces and his siblings. Why would he tell people that I'm their CEO. I agree I have what it takes to become a chief executive officer with my Bachelor's Degree Economics Sponsored office administrator Engineering and law. Those are the qualifications I have had I've worked hard for them I gave it all to my studies until my mother said "I'm Given ma baby you will end up demaging your brain' and she was telling me the truth because varsity life was lit. I was just obtaining the other qualifications just to be at varsity "My future CEO you seem miles away" Mbuso said. "Why do you keep on calling me that? "Because I was told that you are the future CEO" he said "Who ever told you that lied to you" "With all the qualifications you have you have to use them create a name for yourself" Mbuso said "Did my dad ask you to lecture me? "No but we have a little talk about all your qualifications especially Bachelor's Degree... I cut him by laughing "Did I crack a joke? Mbuso asked "No you didn't but you sound like my father right

now" "He's my mentor my boss what will I say" he said his phone rang he answered it "Malume" he said than look at me "Since you are with sis Doneo I don't want to be a spare wheel" he said then laughed "Ok I'm on my way then" he looked at me then hung up "And then? I asked "My uncle and his girlfriend are at the club so he is inviting me to join them" he said "Do you wanna tag along? I asked he looked at me he nodded then smiled "Yup atleast I won't be a spare wheel" he said "Your uncle just enjoy having you around" I said and he nodded "I'm their only niece" Mbuso said "How many uncles do you have? I asked "Three uncles from a mother's side and none from my father's side" Mbuso said "You and your mother are blessed" I said he looked at me "I'm sorry mama to say this I never met her she died days after I was born" he said tears verge from my eyes it's hard not to know someone who was going to be special to him. A good friend to a child. He helped me to stand up I looked at him then this guy is hot sham no lie. "Do you have a

car? I asked he shook his head "Can you drive? I asked again "Yes I can drive" he answered "That means you will drive" "You mean your car? He asked "No Nandi's car" I said we chuckled. He took the cups that we were using he took them to the kitchen. He came back he let me led the way. When we got to the garage I realized that I forgot my hand bag that has my car keys "Oh baam" "What's wrong? "I forgot my car keys" I said then ran back to the house. I took my handbag and went back to him. ----- MBUSO ZULU I thought she was joking when she said I drive her. We got to the club I was holding her hand she was holding mine. I looked around Sihle whistle we walked to them Sihle got up and pulled out the chair for Nandi. I'm not used to this life. My dad was going to say 'udlisiwe' which means you've been bitwicked. I sat next to her. Sihle looked Dineo they kept on nodding "Hello friends" I said with a smile "Hello Mbuso" they greeted back. Sihle whispered on my ear "Introduction boy" what I looked at her it seems

she was waiting for that too. "Oh Nandi! Meet my uncle Sihle and his so called friend Dineo" I said they both laugh I like her white teeth so far.

"Friends meet Nandi my future CEO" I added they laughed again "It's nice to meet you again" Nandi said to my uncle. " I'm pleased to meet you Dineo" Nandi added. "It's our pleasure to meet you too baby girl" Sihle said. We ordered. "You are the one who will pay for this order" Nandi said my uncle smiled "No malume you invited me" I said "So? Sihle asked "You are the one who will pay for our orders" I said he looked at her then Dineo "Ladies do you agree? He asked "Since you invited him and he invited me he is the one who should pay for my order" she said my uncle clap his hands "Baby girl you kn... He was disturbed by a girl who was on stage "Ladies and gentlemen guess who's here today? She asked "Yho why did I come here? Nandi asked "Girl power decided to bless us with her presence after a month since miss her" the girl said Nandi bang the table "Can't a person have peace in

this club? she asked I think my uncle Dineo and I we were also confused "Ms Zwane we know that you are here show yourself and your fans have been asking about you bless them with your moves or your voice" the girl said "She will pay for this I swear" Nandi uttered. Then got up and walked up to the stage the crowd went crazy "Girl power!!! "Nandi!!! " Ntombi entle!!! (Beautiful girl) they shouted she took the mic from the girl she whispered into her ear they both laugh "My apologies guys I'm not feeling well today I will make it up to you this Saturday here" Nandi said " It's ok no girl you never disappointed us" someone said "I hope you all have your ticket" she said the crowd whistle and shouted her name over and over they ended up singing our Nandipha. She made her way back she sitted. We dined my uncle asked for the bill he looked at me. Then he smiled. "Eish here comes the trouble" Nandi said a huge tough guy made his way to us we looked at him Nandi kept on blinking her eyes "Mzwa not today I'm having a

great day with my friends please don't ruin my day"
Nandi said "Just a moment Nandi" he said Nandi
laughed "A moment? Did you gave me a moment
when you break up with me 2 years ago? She asked
"So this is how you live your life now one guy after
another? The guy asked "You said it Mzwa my life
not yours and I don't report to you whom I open my
thighs for. please leave me alone" she said the guy
nodded and left. "Girl I feel Yuh" Dineo said "I'm
sorry about that I'm just tired of people who thinks
that they have a say in my life My own father let me
do my mistakes and learn from them. But a person
who just came into my life for 30 minutes he thinks
he has a say in my life it doesn't work like that guys
it doesn't just be in the road without starting it" she
said she knows her story sure people who heard her
they kept on saying power Ntombi power (girl)
especially those who were sitting on the next table.
Sihle kept on nodding confirming what ever she was
saying. TO BE CONTINUED

09 NANDI ZWANE A smile is a curve that sets everything straight. I was having a great day with people I hardly know but they brought a smile into my face. I forgot about my hidden pain just for a moment. "Come again Mbuso" Sihle said then chuckled "I'm telling the truth my father chose a wife for me and I'm going to marry her soon" Mbuso said "Have you met the girl? Dineo asked "Imagine he is not even allowed to meet her nor see the girl it will be a surprise for both of them on their wedding day" Sihle added. Soze "What if the girl she's a satanic? I asked we All laughed "I trust my father he knows what is the best for me" Mbuso said "He just want to benefit from the girl's family just wake up Mbuso your father cannot be trusted like both your grandparents" Sihle said "Sihle you are ruining our date now" Dineo said "Is this a date? Sihle asked then laughed "No come on it's a double date Hle" Dineo added "Ok I'm sorry to ruin your double date friend" he said Mbuso laughed. We all crave closeness with other human beings. We need

to know there's someone out there who gets us. And sharing your thoughts with the help of some inspirational cute and positive. Whether you have a small group of close friends or an expanded group of personalities being on this table and having people who shares Their opinion brings something new to your life inspiring you to see the world a totally different way giving you a new shoulder to lean on and a new cheerleader to keep you feeling proud and motivated. This is why it's important to continue cultivating my new friends and learning what it means to be a good friend. Plus Sponsored giving you a new shoulder to lean on and a new cheerleader to keep you feeling proud and motivated. This is why it's important to continue cultivating my new friends and learning what it means to be a good friend. Plus we all know a true friend is hard to find. So when you do find that person who is your very best friend in the whole wide world be sure to hang on tight and make sure they know how important that person she/ he is to

you! Want To hugging and kissing your best friend It doesn't hurt to let your best friends know every now and then just how much that person mean to you. friendship so go ahead and share one with your sister from another mother or brother from another mother. You might even learn a few important lessons about being a good friend along the way "Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another: 'What! You too? I thought I was the only one" I said they looked at me "But their friendship is beyond" Mbuso said Dineo and Sihle looked at each other "Ok Mbuso you got us we are married and have a daughter together" Dineo said "Did you say you are a husband and wife? Mbuso asked while laughing what kind of a nephew who doesn't know his uncle very well. "Mbuso Zulu! I'm your uncle" Sihle said. To be honest his surname makes my stomach to be angry and mumble at the same time but how long should I live like this. Fear sadness and loneliness no the are millions of people using the same surname but they

are not related. I feel safe around this Mbuso guy I don't know why I feel the spark and I feel like I've known him for years now but anyway feeling is just a feeling. "Are you alright? Mbuso. asked his uncle laugh why? Only God knows why. This guy and his wife like to laugh and communicate with eyes poor Mbuso he needs to learn few things sure "Someone is in love where are his other uncles to experience this" Sihle said. His phone ranged "Sorry I have to take this it's my brother" Sihle added we all nodded he got up and walk to the smoking area. After few minutes he came back. He is shacking "What is it uncle? Mbuso asked "My grandmother just passed on" Sihle said while he was shaking and profuse sweating. Dineo helped him to sit down I looked Mbuso he who was crying silently. "Excuse me" Mbuso said "I just want to be alone" he add then got up. Death can steal happiness from people's happiness not so long we were laughing and enjoying ourselves. I followed him he until to the club parking lot he leaned on my car. -----

- MBUSO ZULU Death is the permanent cessation of all biological functions that sustain a living organism. The remains of a living organism begin to decompose shortly after death. It is an inevitable process eventually occurring in all living organisms. Death knocks on our door by surprise. I can't believe that she's gone it leaves an unfathomable pain and grief. My great-grandmother had no problem with anyone she was living her life like any human being she was 102 years old this year she wanted nothing to do with her daughter in-law (my grandmother) and son (my step grandfather) not because she hated them but she believed that they had murdered her son. But when it comes to her grandchildren and I you were going to swear that she was old. Nandi followed me. She was brushing my back without saying anything. "You and your family are in my heart and mind. My condolences. I'm sorry. It's terrible to hear about your loss and I express my sincere sympathy to you and your family" Nandi

said she's so sweet and she hardly know me but here she is giving me the shoulder to lean on. I turned and looked at her I smiled a little she looked at me. "Let's go" I said we entered in the car. "Don't worry Mbuso I will drive" she said. I looked at her she did the same she looked at me our lips met we ended up sharing a kiss. Then she stopped "I'm so sorry Mbuso" Nandi said "I'm sorry too" I looked her "Let me drive mama" I said she nodded. I feel her I think I'm falling in love with her. The kiss was an eye opener. She looked at me before I can start the car "Mbuso I think I'm.... " Nandi said then kept quiet "You think you like me. I like you too Nandi Zwane" I said and she gasped "I've been boys play field lately. But let's give it a try if you dare hurt me" she said then kept quiet "Mama I won't do that but this will be hard on me. Your father he's my mentor and my boss at the same time how will I looked him? I asked "Yeah you right" she said in frustration "And then? "Surly I will die sing...." I cut her by kissing her. TO BE CONTINUED

10 My new friend remember he is the one who told me to learn how to swim that means I should learn to let it go. And yes when you got those bangs you shouldn't have tried in the first place he consoled me. He drives me crazy I never felt this way about a guy I've been in and out relationships but I never felt this strong bond with my previous relationships. He was focused on the road I thought because he just received the sad news he was going to crush with me. He parked on our gate he looked at me "Will you it be fine if I left you here? He asked "Hell no you need to make sure that I'm safe and your mentor he's not mad at you for taking his daughter without explanation" I said I might be old but to my father I will be always that little girl. He nodded I pressed the remote control to open the gate. He drove in the yard. I opened the door on my side he did the same to his side. We made our way to the door I knocked my father opened the door. He did not let us in. "Nana I was worried about you" my father said giving me a hug. It ringed a bell that I left

my cellphone. My cellphone is my friend " Sorry dad I needed a fresh air" I said we broke the hug "Next time let me know" my father said "I will dad" I said and looked at Mbuso "Are you alright Mbuso? I asked "I am but" "Dad can you let us in please? He moved and we got in we sat down I looked Mbuso he was deep in thought "Dad your employee here" I kept my mouth shut "What about him? Dad asked "His grandmother just passed on" I said my father. Looked me with a judging eyes "Oh I'm so sorry Zulu" my father said. I need to get to use to his surname. I shook him. "Hello earth to Mbuso Zulu" "I'm sorry I should get going" Mbuso said "No son you can go tomorrow morning just let your uncle know" Dad said people who are infertile cares a lot about other people's emotions I wouldn't be surprised if he hired him because of the fact that he grew up without a mother. This come to my attention if he finds out that I had a son and I left him he won't forgive me. He loves children. "Zulu my deepest sympathy" Dad said I think he realised

that he didn't hear him before. Mbuso nodded. He was irregular breathing. Death is a thrift of happiness. "You can take a leave for seven days" Dad said "No I can't I just started working month ago" Mbuso said "You need some time off your family needs you" Dad said. To my father family comes first then other things will follow. Only time can heal your broken heart "You need to go home Mbuso. Don't worry about your work I will will update you" I said my father look at me "Yes dad I will step in his position until he is fit to be back" my father was shocked by my offer "Would you do that Nana? Dad asked with a smile "Yes dad it will just be a temporary thing doing it for a friend" I said my father smiled deep down inside him he is saying I got what I wanted "You mean as a CEO right? My father asked. "No dad I will be volunteering as a generic manager just for short period" I said he smiled. Mbuso he's a project manager. He manages all the projects at ZCCL. "At least we are getting somewhere" Dad said. I don't have the energy. He

must be happy. I looked at Mbuso he is so drained. What I'm I getting myself into? This guy mentioned that his father arranged a secret future wife for him. But the is this link connection I have I can't explain it is strong and I feel safe around him. From that day I budge in my father's workplace with a heart broken. I will just give it a try. "I'm off to bed dad good night" I said "And your food? My carrying my father said "I just ate father" I said with a smile "Nana I'm glad that you didn't touch the alcohol today" Dad said. I did mention it this morning that I was not planning to touch it "Goodnight dad and good night Mbuso" I said Mbuso looked at me "Sorry did you call me? Mbuso asked. It must be hard on him. "No Mbuso I was just saying goodnight" I wish he could just say this words Good night Sponsored sleep tight Nandi can't wait to see your smile in the morning so bright. As you fall asleep know that you are the last thing I think about at night and the first thing on my mind in the morning. Sweet dreams mama. Can't tell you how grateful I am to have you in my life. I

walked in to my room I changed to my sleepwear than. Today was the day. I don't remember when was the last time I laughed like this. Sihle's funny no lie he reminds me of my brother Siphesihle but that one only spoke when needed him and Mpilo we had to force them to speak. I and Philani we were talkative and very close too. He would help me to do my house chores. Enough about my greedy brothers. I walked to the bathroom to remove my make up. After I was done I walked out of the bathroom and went to the kitchen to get some water. I bumped into Mbuso "Hey" "Hi" Mbuso said "You didn't show me the room that I will be using" Mbuso added "Oh sorry I thought my dad was going to show you" I said he smiled. Hello where is the sulking Mbuso "I got you. The old man showed me I'm here to drink water and you forgot to say goodnight to Mr Zulu" "I did Mbuso" "And my goodnight kiss?" "This is too much now Mbuso" I said he kissed me uhmm His lips the ones I want to keep. His lips are the ones I'll dream of today when

I'm asleep. We stopped kissing "Good night mama" he said and spank my butt. from his future CEO to mama. "Night" a part of me wanted It to last for long we went out separate ways into our rooms

MBUSO ZULU My father will have to forgive me. I've found the love I was always looking for. Uncle Sihle was right my father what ever he is doing it he will benefit from it. I sent an WhatsApp message for Sihle 'Sorry Silhe I won't come back tonight. I will spend a night at a friend's house' ' That was quick' he asked I'm definitely sure that he is laughing 'Stop it uncle Sihle. Tomorrow I'm going home' I sent it he was typing ' Mbuso you just got the job the is no way that you can qualify for a leave' 'You won't believe that Nandi volunteered to step in for me until I came back' I sent it he sent an emoji of suprised. Then he typed again 'Ok we will catch the 14:00 afternoon bus' 'sure' i replied -----

THE NEXT DAY I never seen a hotel before but here I'm I am at one. I know Dineo's house has a style but this one everything is white and it's big too. The was

a knock at the door. Luckily for me I already bath
"Mbuso let's get going" Nandi said I opened the
door. I was still wearing my yesterday's cloth I didn't
know that I was going to spend a night. "Mama" she
smiled "Let's get going you need to change before
we go to the office" Nandi said "Ok mama let's get
going" I said she lead the way. She sat down. Aren't
we supposed to go? I looked at her I sat down "We
can't start our day with an empty stomach Mbuso"
Nandi said. Then she kissed me this is disrespectful i
shuffle my face away. TO BE CONTINUED

11 MBUSO Life is too short to stress yourself with
people who don't even deserve to be an issue in
your life. Life is too short to be anything but happy.
So kiss slowly love deeply forgive quickly. Take
chances and never have regrets. My great-
grandmother was laid at her final place. She was
loved by many she had was people's person.
Everyone was shocked by her death she was strong
for 103 years old woman. Her church mate

Sponsored friends and family were shuttered and supportive during this time. Everyone was busy minding their business. Dineo decided to come with her husband or should I say her friends she was helping around. I took my phone out of my pocket. I dialled Nandi's cellphone number. It took me straight to voicemail. "Why are you stressing yourself son? my father asked I thought I was alone. I wanted to be alone. "I'm not stressed" "Be strong Mbuso she would wanted you to be strong for her" Dad said. Indeed she would wanted that. "I know dad I will be strong" I said while I was glancing on my cellphone. Still virtually I would agree that such an emotional declaration routinely implies fervid feelings of love. Unless it doesn't. Before saying this words I explored several Internet forums on this topic of feeling so I could examine what different respondents had to say about the meaning of this poignant expression. And the results of my informal turned out to be a lot less predictable and far more suggestive than I'd anticipated. I can't explain how I

feel about Nandi I don't know how it happened it just happened we fell in love out of the blue. Sihle always laugh when I call her mama my mother name was Nandipha so it feels right to call her that. Can't my father leave me alone. I just want to be alone. His wife made her way. Her name is Nosipho. My father call her Sipho. This guy love the name gift let's just admit. She looked at me then his husband "Mbuso you seems drained son" Nosipho said. Why does she care. She's not my mother "Nosipho I'm fine" My father looked me "Mbuso respect" "Sorry dad" They looked at me "Excuse me" I just left them there. I'm grieving for my great-grandmother I don't need her pretended. I bumped into Sihle "Uncle! "Are you alright? Sihle asked "I can't believe that our old lady she's gone she's the one who was keeping our families together. She Was loved by many" "Yeah you right Mbuso but she would wanted us to be happy and be a family" Sihle said. Yeah he is telling the truth she wouldn't want us to fight. Especially my uncles and my grandparents.

Mpilo can pull some stunt she was the one who can stop him. ----- NANDI ZWANE Fall ill or fall into a trap. I just fell in love simple like that. I normally play hard to get but this time it only happen even Mbuso himself can't explain how did we ended up in love. His 7 days leave will end this Monday. I must say I enjoy working here but I don't feel like working here. "Nana it's lunch" My father shouted "I will join you dad" "Look at you. Not so long you wanted nothing with the company" Dad said "Let's say I enjoy sitting on my mother's office especially her desk and chair" He nod and smile "You know sometimes when I come to this office I wish I could see Lizzy's happy face" Dad said "She was a happy soil we need to accept that she's gone and move on with our lives" I Said my father smiled "That's it my Nana! she can't rest if we still keep her" Dad said "That's true" I said he grabbed the chair and sat on it. "You seems happy this days who the luck man? Dad asked. My parents know me very well "A lady doesn't kiss and tell dad" "But still I

want to meet up with him" Dad said "Dad it's still early days for that" "As long as he keeps you happy and smiling I don't have a problem with him" Dad said. I nodded. My happiness comes the best choice to my father. "Let's go for lunch" Dad said. "Dad I'm still busy with something" "You need to go to lunch Mbuso will be back on Tuesday he will catch up" Dad said "Says a man who want his job up to date" I checked for my phone didn't ring today or its because my bookings were cancelled for this weekend. I took it from my hand bag it's off how come this is strange I tried to switch it on with out no luck it doesn't switch on "Nooooo" "Nana! Dad called "My phone is fucked up" "Don't worry nana I will get you a new one or you can use Lizzy's's phone" "Thanks dad I will use Mommy's phone" "Anything for you Nana" Dad said. On the other side I'm Nana and on Mbuso's side I'm mama I hope he's not angry at me he calls me everyday I will call him using the office number. ----- MBUSO ZULU I tried calling her without no luck. My uncles

walked up to me. "Girl power she's working numbers on you" Sihle said "Who is this girl power? Philani asked. I ignored the question. I looked at Sihle he chuckled "This is unlike her" "You've known her for 2 second and you just dated you don't know her that much stop with the sulking" Sihle said "Sihle to hell with that" I said. My phone rings I checked it's from the office "Mr zulu speaking" "Mr Zulu how impressive" it's Nandi. I looked at Sihle and smile. "Mama. How are you mama? "I'm good thanks and yourself" Nandi said "I was worried about you" "Honey I'm sorry my phone died" Nandi said "Then put it on a charger" "It doesn't wanna function anymore" Nandi said. My father made his way to us "I'm sorry mama" "It's ok as long as I heard your voice I'm good" Nandi said "Girl power! Sihle called her as if he can see her "Is that your uncle? Nandi asked "Yes" "Say hi to him" "Ok I Will. Didn't you go to perform today? "No baby they cancelled my bookings for this weekend" "That means I still stand a chance to hear your beautiful

voice" I said she chuckled "Bye honey" Nandi said "I love you mama" My father looked at me "I love you too mama" She chuckled I did too. then ended the call. Sihle shook his head then smiled "Where were we? I asked "At a Eshowe" Philani replied. We chuckled my father looked at me "Are you sure that girl power she's the one" Sihle asked. I'm sure he asked in purpose "You out of all this people know very well that I love her and she's the one" Knowing Sihle very well he asked this in purpose "Bare in mind you are still playing then when you done we..."My father said Sihle and Philani cut him "Stop fussing the boy Zulu" ----- NANDIPHA DAY LATER. I found myself in a beautiful place blessed with fruit. I walked up to a tree that had was blessed with apple I grabbed one from the tree. 3 people looking at me with a smile. I looked at them among those people I saw my father fanafuthi Mchunu and his mother (my grandmother) plus my mother Elizabeth Zwane. I tried to reach out to them but they seems very far. They only waved

they hands on I waved at them with a smile.

"Nana!! Nana!!" My father disturbed me from my beautiful dream "Go to your room Nana" TO BE CONTINUED

12 NANDIPHA Early Sunday morning. I'm still shocked about the dream of my loved ones waving me a goodbye I don't understand it. My father must learnt not to disturb me on my sleep ever. He looked me. I don't wanna talk to him. Those people were trying to send me a message. I never dreamt about my family that was the first. Ever since I became a Zwane. "Nana please talk to me" I just looked at him. The room went dead "Nana!!! "Tell your father what did he do? So that he can fix it straight away" Dad said "You want know dad? He nodded "You done nothing" "So why I'm I getting a silent treatment then? Dad asked. I gazed at him "Dad how many times should I tell you do not disturb me on my sleep? "Oh that? I'm sorry Nana" Dad said "Sorry I was having a conversation with

mom and my ancestors" "Sorry!!! Nana" he said again. He looked at me I know him he's waiting for a response. "Dad" "Nana! He called "Do you know the meaning of dreams? "It depends" he responded "If you dreamt about a person who past on waving goodbye to you what does it mean? "It's a bid farewell" Dad said. Obviously it is "Eleborate" "For young people farewelling your parents is a sign that you seek greater independence. It can also mean there is a serious illness or grief on its way into your life. Parting ways with a good friend or a boyfriend is a sign of disloyalty and mistrust. Saying farewell to older people is a sign you feel guilty about not having given up a habit that is not good for your wellbeing. Having a farewell party can symbolize that soon something achieves success and comes to an end. It is a time of celebration and new beginnings" Dad said. This means new beginnings. I kanda've given up "Hearing your loved ones bid you farewell tells you they have great loyalty to you. When you say farewell in a dream this does not

bond well. You may lose someone from your physical world. Hearing farewell in a dream can mean you are walking away from the tough things in your waking life. This can be a message you need to stay and take responsibility for your actions in life" Dad said confusing me "Ok thanks dad" "You welcome my daughter" Dad said. Disloyalty? This is so confusing "Tell me what did you see on your dream" "I was in this beautiful place the field was green blessed with flowers and plants plus blessed with trees of different fruits. I wanted to reach out to them" "Sorry Nana for disturbing you on your beautiful dream. Since you've mention they were happy. The Symbolism of Dreaming of dead people smiling In the case where you are the dead person who has a smile on a face Sponsored such a dream is an indication of your happiness in the current moment of your life and that happiness is just the confirmation of your choices in life that was good" He said. I think they've improved my relationship. The last time I dreamt about my father it was the

day before I escaped from my so called marriage.

He told me that I will find peace. -----

MBUSO ZULU We were eating dinner since it's Sunday. We are still on my great grandmother's house with my dad to support me and his wife and my step siblings too. Sihle looked Dineo I'm sure if we were in their house I was going to watch them kissing each other. Sometimes I don't understand my grandmother (Phumza) I never saw her happy or angry Noh smile. What I can't read her facial expressions. She just comment there and there. I don't know why I will ask Sihle one day. My father looked at me. He's still angry how I talked to him yesterday. He had no right to tell me that I have a future wife the one I never met Sihle he's right if I let my father thinks that I'm owning him I will dance for his guitar until my last breath in this world. And everything that he's doing he it only benefit him not anyone as he claims. Dineo looked me poor Dee she only know Sihle and I. We introduced her as a friend I don't know how she feel about that. She got up

and clear the table. "Sis Dee sit down" "Don't worry Mbuso I got this" Dee said with a smile "Mbuso maybe she will listen to you" "Guys I'm just helping" Dineo said then walked away "Sihle! Mbuso! You too are you sure she's just a friend? Phumza asked "Not just a friend but my best friend Phumza" Sihle said I glanced on my phone "Waiting for a call" my father asked then he looked at his wife. I nodded "Mbuso I and your father would like to talk to you" my step mother said (Nosipho) "Ok shoot" "As a family" my father said "We are a family" "Well I don't want to talk" "Mbuso! Sihle shouted my name " We are a family what ever he wants to discuss with me as a family he must include you guys my mother would wanted that. And he must stop making decisions for me because they only benefit him" I said. Sometimes I include her into my conversation with my family like I onced met her "Is that my son talking or is it Gauteng speaking on his behalf? Vincent asked Sihle looked at me. Luckily Mpilo he's not my father's biggest fan. "Excuse me

family" "Mfana ka gogo please sit down we are still talking to you" (grandson) Phumza said. I respect this woman she never mistreat me like my Nosipho does "Okay but he must not tell me about the secret wife that he chose for me" "Mchana take it easy I believe Vincent won't do that" Philani said "But we need to talk son and I don't think you are going back to Gauteng with that attitude ahead of you clearly I'm losing you" Vicente said "Dad you know very well that I don't go against your wishes but this time around I'm sorry I'm going there with or without your permission" Philani and Mpilo they got up and walked away "Who is she? My father asked "Isn't too early to ask him that Vincent" my grandfather asked (Ernest) "It is uncle Ernest" Sihle said Ernest is their uncle their fathers brother who's now taking care of their mother after his brother died. My phone ringed I checked the caller ID is Nandipha. "I have to take this" Everyone looked at me "She's driving him crazy isn't she? My father asked I answered ----- Call conversation

"Mama! "Honey! Nandi said "You are driving me crazy you know that? I asked looking at my father "I do? Nandi asked "Mama! I just can't wait to see you tomorrow" "I can't wait too" she said "So how can we spend our time together? I asked "That can be arranged" Nandi said "How? "The are many restaurants around and my flat too" Nandi said. Good idea but her flat no "Let's take it easy mama" "Mbuso I had a d..." She was cut off maybe it's network connection. I checked on my side my cellphone was off how? I don't know because the battery was on 76%. "No! Nandi will kill me" Everyone looked at me. "What? I asked "What have you done? Sihle asked It seems like I said whatever I was saying louder "My cellphone just switched off I'm trying to switch it on it doesn't work" "This is a sign son" my father said "To hell with that Vincent" I said that getting up and left. Someone needs to remind him that he's old ----- NANDIPHA ZWANE Our call just cut. Maybe it's a network connection. He is driving me crazy. I never been

crazy like this. I remember our first kiss it has that affection I can't resist. His hands has the magic touch. I can't wait to have him all by myself. His chosen future wife will have to forgive me. TO BE CONTINUED

13 MBUSO Self-discipline is the ability to make yourself do what you should do when you should do it whether you feel like it or not. We have a choice everyday regarding our attitude for that day. We cannot change the fact that people act certain way we cannot change our past we cannot I loop his wishes. There is no love on earth greater than that of a father for his son. It is the duty of the father to give his sons a good chance and guide him through the way. When my dad did not hold my hand he had my back. My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person he believed in me. He must continue doing that things will be back to normal. Either than that our relationship is dead. If my father was like my boss Mr Zwane we were

going to have a father and son relationship. He support his daughter each and every decision she makes even though he knows that the decision she's making its wrong he told me that he want she needs to learn from her mistakes. Not my words but Mr Zwane's. But it's been approved you can not choose your parents. My cellphone doesn't work at all. Mr Zwane and I we spent too much time together. We do talk there and there. He loves his daughter he always put her in our conversation. We had a plan to bring Nandi on board as a CEO. She has to Mr Zwane will have to retire soon Nandi have to take over. Our plan was to make her understand that ZCCL was it's her parents company which means it's her lagacy and her children since she's the only daughter. Mr Zwane suggested that I must be her close friend and encourage her to see the bigger picture. now I don't know because things have esclated and he doesn't want anyone to hurt her only daughter. How will I explain to him that things has escalated will I lose my job? let's hope it

doesn't get there. ----- PALISA ZWANE I
Palisa Zwane Nandi's cousins our fathers were
siblings. My father died 3 years ago. Uncle
Sthembiso and his wife took me in since my mother
she's working as a house keeper and she's a stay in
keeper. I'm a drop out student. When I drop out of
school I was doing grade 10 I couldn't copy with
school. Aunt Elizabeth tried to talk some sense to
me but school was the last thing in my mind. But I'm
grateful that they gave me a job as an office
assistant. It is a good Job because I'm learning a lot
from it. I'm having my breakfast at MC and Beans
when Mzwandile walk to my table he is Nandi's ex
boyfriend "Sorry I'm late" Mzwa said. I looked at
him. What he's he on about "I can see that you've
ordered without me" he added "Tell me something
what I'm I doing here what do you want from me? "I
want you to bring your cousin here" he said "Askis!
Oh it that how it works where you were born" I said
I looked at him "I want my girlfriend here" he said
"You mean your ex girlfriend right? "She's my

girlfriend" Mzwa said. I looked at him. "Well performed Mzwa well performed brother" He got up and looked at me "Palisa Zwane you want me to remind you that your uncle and Auntis sent you to take Nandipha out of her parents company" he said. I look at him "Thought as much Palisa Zwane. Tell me will you bring her on board or must I raise the issue to the press" Mzwa said. To be honest my aunts and my uncle they want Nandipha out of uncle Sthembiso's inheritance because they believe that she's not his daughter. But my mother said I should not do such a thing. I don't know why do they hate her she's Nandi Zwane who doesn't have a broblem with anyone. She loves to sing and dance then laughed. I cannot do such thing to her. Beside if Mzwa want to tell uncle Sthembiso about. What his brother and sisters are planning that's none of my business he will be helping me to take out the burden that is on my shoulders. "You better kill me than to be killed by my uncle" I said then got up and left him there I'm running late. I checked the time

eish I'm no longer running late I'm late. it's 10:01
I'm starting to work from 9:00 to 9:30 if late uncle
sthe when it comes to work he doesn't have a niece
and daughter. Let's hope I catch a taxi and he will
understand why I'm late. Before I could get to the
street a certain stopped in front of me. I looked
back there was no one behind me. "Palisa" Mzwa
called me. He is following me "What do you want
Mzwa? "Get in the car or I will get you in the car
myself" he said. I started shaking. He opened his
car he force me to get in. -----

NANDIPHA ZWANE The excitement I feel is it
normal? Love and Romance. Love is physical
attraction to your potential partner doesn't equate
to true love. Keep in mind that attraction alone isn't
enough. If all that you know about Mbuso is that he
has the bluest eyes you've ever seen chances are
rare aren't really in love. I feel like some people are
capable of such a feat. I'm sure you've all known at
least one individual who always manages to swoon
for one person or the next. I used to think such

individuals weren't really in love that they just thought they were in love because they didn't know better. Once I grew to accept that love isn't tangible however and that it doesn't exist outside the mind I had to likewise accept that being in love only requires you to believe you are in love after my 13 failed relationship including my fake marriage. True some loves are deeper than others but you can't say a shallow love is not love it has "LOVE" right there in the title. I deeply love Mbuso I wonder he feels the same way. Every person experiences love differently.. Each definition of love varies just as the depth of each person's love does. Nevertheless every time we believe ourselves to be in love we actually are in love. I mean what does being in love mean if it's not the feeling we experience when I believe myself to be in loved? I experience being in love differently have our my creative twist on my romantic happy ending. More interestingly is the way we perceive being in love and how it changes when times goes. With each new relationship I carry

baggage memories experiences lessons learned. Each time I fall in love I change a little. I become slightly different person. Unfortunately every time my love fails it becomes more difficult to fall in love again. But this time it was easy. That's the tricky part about love. Which is hilarious in itself as Sponsored it becomes more difficult to fall in love again. But this time it was easy. That's the tricky part about love. Which is hilarious in itself as like I mentioned before it's all in our heads. Every time I love and have my heart broken or simply become disillusioned falling in love another time becomes less likely. I become pickier. I become more skeptical. I lost trust in other people and in my ability to pick the right type of person. But Mbuso on the other side he got my heart froze. This is really a shame falling in love I'd argue is the best part of life. Not the successes not the money not the traveling nor experiencing the world not helping save the world but loving another human being. Sure it's selfish but it feels so good at the same

time. The more times I fall in love the more I grow to understand the word love. The only other part is making sure I don't let a great one pass by. My mother used to say "Nandi if you find someone you love then continue to love that person for as long as humanly possible. It's all in your head. You can make yourself do it" Then my father would add in his wife's word and say "Fall in love regularly and do so with those you barely even know but be careful with whom you choose to love not fall in love with but really love. You don't need to know someone to fall in love with him" That's how I and my parents we are close even though mommy choose to leave us. In fact we all fall in love with people who are basically complete strangers. However not until you are capable of loving at a certain depth are you capable of truly loving. "Only when you begin to understand what having that person in your life means to you will you be capable of loving someone in the fullest sense. Not until you understand how it hurts not having this person by your side will you

understand how much you need him" my father said when did he come to my office I stood up and he hugged me and wiped out of my tears "Dad he is not taking my calls" I cried on his arms. "I love him dad" "Shh Nana maybe the person he's busy" I never told him that I'm dating his employee. He will be mad at me. He brushed my back "To love in its fullest form is to need someone's presence in your life in order to be happy. If you cannot be truly happy without an individual if you cannot imagine living the rest of your life without ever seeing this person again then you finally understand love" Dad said I sit down on my chair behind my desk my father sat on the edge of the desk "Falling in love is part of the search. Being in love is part of the learning experience. Loving is the goal. Once you love don't stop. Don't screw things up. Don't let your ego get in the way. Don't be mean or spiteful" I said my dad smiled "If you have a good thing then be smart and keep it a good thing. You can fall in love a hundred times it's possible. You can fall in

love with every stranger you meet" my father said. It seems like sometimes he can read my mind "Hell you should fall in love with strangers because that's when love is its most magical. But you won't really love more than a handful if you're really really lucky. Fall in love with as many strangers as you can until you find a person worth loving and then stick with him. If you love someone then not only must that person be deserving of your love but you must need that person's love" Dad added "Thanks dad you are the best father any daughter could ask for".

TO BE CONTINUED

14 NANDIPHA I woke up early this morning after my father left. I'm just happy that m everything will be back to normal then being inside the formal outfit to replacement me. I carried all my house chores as I always do I'm so tired. Dad suggested that we must have a time table for who's doing what on this day. I don't mind doing all the house chores. But he is determined to help me around since mom was

the one who was helping me around. My phone started ringing. I took it and answered. "Hello" "Nana I forgot my laptop can you please bring it" Dad said "Dad why don't you ask Palisa to come fetch it?" "She's not here again" My father said. Palisa never missed a day at work I mean even if she's sick "Unlike her" "Maybe she got a boyfriend" That's my dad for you. He is a super dad and a super uncle too "I was going to be the first person to know that" "Yeah yeah yeah Nana please make it quick" Dad said "Ok dad I'm coming" He just ruined my plan. I just wanted to sit on the couch have a nice wine day but he decided to forget his personal computer. I just wanted to recall my past sad sorrows but no dad had other plans for me. I took a quick shower. Then put on my make up wore my dress that my mother bought it for me the day before she died sometimes I remember her last word she said to me "Nandi me and your father will bring lunch" that was her last seven words she left me with I will remember her with those words. She was happy as

always but God decided to steal her from me. But anyways I won't question God why? He has his reasons why? Since she died via car accident I'm scared to drive. This means I I'm scared I will request an uber. I did and I went to take my hand bag and my purse too while I'm still waiting for it. I went back to living area. My phone vibtated I checked it out it was a SMS from the unknown number 'if you want to see your cousin you've to call me asap' My heart froze and my stomach turned icy. I took my handbag and my father's laptop and went out. Before I could lock the gate the Uber is here. I got in and greeted the driver. Then I started to debate with my heart should I call the person or what? Another SMS came through "You know very well that MZ he's impatiently do the right thing call him right now sweetheart" I called him right away "Mzwandile! "Sweetheart" he said "Why are you doing this? "I want to talk to you" Mzwa said "Where is Palisa? I asked "She's safe for now" Mzwa replied. God please protect her from

the evil "What do you mean for now? "Nandi get your ass here" he shouted I couldn't hear Palisa crying on the background of the phone. Knowing him very well he slapped her while he was shouting at me. He is my ex boyfriend he is abusive he doesn't repeat what he says if you want him to meet you halfway. "Please don't hurt her" "If you come I will release her" He ended the call. We arrive at ZCCL building. I paid an uber my mind is on my cousin right now. What if he hurt her it will be my fault he is my ex right? I got in the reception. Pricilla was busy with paper work. "Pricilla is my father in? I know that my father instructed them to let me in I need to follow procedures like everyone does. "Yes mam he said you will find him on the boardroom" Pricilla said I took the stairs my heart is racing. How can he do that? Why? he is the one who dumped me 2 years ago. I made myself to the boardroom. There were having a meeting with one of the biggest client. They were laughing When I got in they stopped. My father and the client smiled.

What games is my father is playing? His neice she's missing and he is playing games. Did he left his laptop on porpse or he forgot it. I gave him the laptop. He looked at me. "Nana are you crying? My father asked I shook my head "Mr Zwane thanks for your pitch you have a strong team" The client said "My team and I we will discuss about your vision and I will get back to you" she added "Thanks Mrs Smith" my father and Mbuso said. She stood up and looked me "Nandi be strong I'm sorry about your mother" she said I nodded. My father got up and walk her out. Why didn't he asked Mbuso. I sat down Mbuso looked me. He needs to explain why his phone is off. He brushed my back "Mama I'm sorry" "For what Mbuso" "My cellphone just died I don't have a cellphone for now" I looked at him. My father came back "Nana what happened? My father asked. Knowing my father very well he is worried about me. I showed him the SMS "Did he send you the location? He asked "Not yet dad please find her" crying "I will Nana trust me" he said. I trust

him. I took my phone and called the same contact that sent me an SMS it ringed once "Mzwa let's meet" "That's my girl" he said. I'm sure he's wearing a smile. This bastard. I looked at Mbuso I wish he can understand I put him on a speaker "Please let my cousin go" "As soon as you get here I will let her go. Don't tell your father or call the police about this" he said "Send me the address" "Ok I will" He hanged up. Is he crazy I'm the one who called why hang up. "I'm going to kill that boy Nana" my father said. That's anger speaking "Dad you need to play smart. I will turn my GPRS and Location on" "Can I see the SMS" Mbuso says. I handed him my phone. He smiled and took his laptop out. "What are you doing? I and my father asked "We can't risk you going there alone. Why is he taking long to send you the location he is probably moving her to another place. I'm tracking this cellphone number" Mbuso said. My father and I looked at each other "He is at the dump warehouse in downtown Street" Mbuso said "Can I go? "Let me call the police first Nana"

dad said "No dad he said no police should get involved he will hurt her" "He is right Ma..." Mbuso say and kept quiet "He is right Nandi police should get involved" Mbuso said while his eyes are glued to his laptop. My father went out. I looked at Mbuso right now I want someone who will tell me everything is gonna be alright. "Mama don't worry she will be back" Mbuso said "Why my cousin? He made me to look at him. Then he held my hand. I hate the fact that has this effect towards me. Right now I wish I can have him by myself. "Mama you need to trust me. She will" Mbuso said. I looked at him "Tell me here Mbuso why do I have a feeling that is strong towards you. Are you using muthi for me or something? "I feel the same way mama I can't explain why and I'm scared to lose you" he replied I'm scared to lose him too "When did you realise that? "At the beginning of our relationship it can be difficult to figure out who someone really is and what their true intentions are. But you should reach a certain point in your relationship where you

can comfortably show your true and authentic selves to each other. "Mbuso said "The last thing you want in your most intimate of relationship is to hide your true self. How can I love the real you if you're hiding it? So if you don't feel comfortable showing me who you really are take note" Mbuso added My father came back with my cellphone. I didn't realise that he took it. "Ok Nana the police are on their way to downtown Street" my father said "Ok why are we not going there? "We are going Nana. But I need you to stay calm" my father said "I need you both there" They looked at each other then nodded. I'm free to talk with this men. The is this feeling I had when I was growing up around my brothers I was safe especially around P (Philani) I used to call him that not until they sold me like a mug of nuts. I need to indicates my partner that I'm ready for our relationship to be in the next level. relations have commenced ----- PALISA ZWANE Mzwa kept me in this stink place the hole night. I couldn't sleep because he tied my hands and

legs. He is crazy he doesn't deserve my cousin. She deserves a better man who will love her and cherish her. Nandi she's beautiful with or without a make up. I just don't understand why don't her relationships last. Mzwa came back with Bread and a mixed orange juice. There is no way going to eat this. I mean no way. "I bought you something to eat" Mzwa said "Please let me go" crying "I'm still playing with your cousins mind I will send him the location after an hour" Mzwa said "Why are you doing this? Why don't you kill me? I shouted "I want what belongs to me" he said "My uncle won't allow that to happen" "Shut up Palisa shut up" he made his way to me. Suddenly I felt as though something has walked through me and left me numb shaking. My heart was throbbing in my ears loud and irregular. Sponsored but I barely heard it for my mind was clouded with fear at the same time I'm just praying that he doesn't hurt me. He sucking my breast. I closed my eyes "Please Mzwa let me go" He slapped me "There was no way I was going to

let you go without eating you up" he said. he was breathing heavily. This guy was hungry to eat me up. "Mama!!! I cried ----- MBUSO ZULU I Mr Zwane was driving I was sitting on the back passenger seat with Nandi. She was leaning on my shoulder. I can't sleep anymore because her smile. I imagine what the body contact with her would be like and get very nervous? I realize that I'm in love with Nandipha. Hormones are released and the entire emotional world is turned upside down. I'm happily in love the overall feeling is like a lasting euphoria of happiness that accompanies me through every day of my life and makes everything feel more beautiful. Negative things no longer weigh so heavily on. So I may becomes easier to bear. That's where the say I love this woman. Unlike my previous six relationships they did not have this spark I'm having with this woman. She's the one for me. My father has to bless my relationship I don't like the tension between me and my father. TO BE CONTINUED.

15 PALISA I experienced traumatic desire I never thought this could happen to me. He unzipped his pants. I shuffle my eyes from him. I felt my bowels loosen as my bladder reacted freely to the all engulfing fear. My life flashed before my eyes. "Please don't rape me Mzwa! I was crying I just wish my cousin could come to my rescue "Who said I want to rape you?" he asked "You want to rape me. You think she will give you a chance if you hurt me huh? "I'm not going to rape you sweetheart it will be just two adults doing what adults do" he said proudly "Sexually forcing yourself onto me that will be a rape. Using your authority physical force Sponsored or coercion to have sex with me that will be a rape too. Doing it against my will is that is another crime of rape too" I said. Every muscle in my body screamed at me to flee but I remained frozen. He looked at me he sat down "This is all your cousins fault" Mzwa said. How can he blame Nandi she's not the one who held me hostage and who nearly raped me. I sobbed I heard footsteps I

doubt he heard it. Was busy with his phone. There is no way Nandi would let me suffer. We sometimes don't see eye to eye but at the end of the day we are cousins and we care for one another. Even though our uncle and Aunties want me to destroy her I won't do that. Nandi she's been always there for me. I remember when my father died. Nandi was there for me. She was engaged to be married but she chose to be there for me. They ended things because she was there for me. But since she chose her family over her fiancé. So why should I destroy that person who cares for me. "Hello is anyone here" this is my cousin's voice. Mzwandile looked at me. He smiled "Mzwa! Palisa! She called I'm sure she was taking the right direction. I know she's shaking and afraid at the same time. "Guys this is not funny anymore" she said. Mzwa crawl to me "How come she's here I just sent her the address seconds ago" he whispered "I don't know maybe she was nearby downtown" I answered with a loud voice. He covered my mouth with his dirty arms. I

don't know what did Nandi see on this guy. Nandi she's beautiful and rich she can date anyone she want to. But with Mzwa she failed to choose.

"Mzala! is that you? She asked "Mmmm" I couldn't say anything since he was covering my mouth

"Mzala hang in there I'm here now". She said.

"Sweetheart! Mzwa called "Mzwandile! Nandi called "Who are you coming with? He asked while her was still covering my mouth. "Is just me honey" Nandi said walking in. Tears streamed from her eyes

"Mzwa let her go" Nandi pleaded. He removed his left arm. The next thing he pointed a gun on my head. I never been this scared before. My heart froze and my stomach turned icy "Honey please let her go. I will give you all the attention that you seek from me please" Nandi begged again "Sweetheart I'm sorry I should've known better and chose you over her" Mzwandile said "It's okay now. We can move on now. Please put the gun down and come give me a hug" Nandi said with a fake smile. He did as instructed and walk towards Nandi. He opened

his hands for a hug Nandi ran to his hands and hug him. "I'm so sorry Nandipha" Mzwandile said he is crying. "It's all water under the bridge ok. Just nntie her than we will have our own privacy" Nandi said. What is her plan. She's softening him. You won't know with my cousin. She has the ability to soften a man. ----- MBUSO ZULU We followed Nandi along with the Police officers her ex boyfriend he is insine sure. He sent the location after an hour. Let's hope he didn't hurt Palisa. Police officers suggested that Nandi should try to make him calm down. We heard everything "It's clear now. You two stay behind and let us do out work" police officer said "We will let you do your job. But please let us in" Mr Zwane said. The police officers nodded. "Are you sure that you are alone sweetheart? The guy asked Nandi "I'm sure love. You don't have to hurt anyone. I love you you baba just untie her and we can even flee the country" Nandi said. She can act but what did I accept from artist. A person who can dance and sing for millions

of people. Without being nervous I know is that she's a spoilt brat but she's strong. -----

---- NANDI ZWANE He walked to Palisa. I thought he was going to untie her but he picked up his gun and walked back to me. He looked at me. I was not fearing for my life but Palisa's life. I have nothing to live for. I left my son Junior 30 years ago. Maybe he's a grown man he doesn't need me. Why should I live? "Mzwa what is this? Why are you doing this?" "Are you sure that you are alone? He asked I nodded. He took few steps to me since he was standing few metres from him. He wrap his arm on my neck and strangled me and pointed a gun on my head. "Nandi stop lying" Mzwa said "I..I.." "You what Nandi? Mzwa asked. My father promised that he will protect me. I've been in this room for almost 30 minutes. There is no sign of him or the police. "Mzwa please let my cousin go" Palisa asked crying. "You shut up" Mzwa shouted at Palisa "Ba...ba..h" Each and every word I try to utter was breaking since he was strangling me. "Mbu..s..o" "You played

me sweetheart" Mzwa said . I closed my eyes. "Put your weapon down Sir" the voice said. I opened my eyes. Four police officers were holding their firearms. I'm good as dead today. "You lied to me Nandi" Mzwandile said. I thought he was going to let me go. But no. "Ah..hhh" this time around I couldn't catch my breath "I suggest you let the girl go sir" the second police officer said. "Why are you muddling on my affairs Officers. You want me to shoot her then shoot myself too? Mzwa asked. They shook their heads. I felt Mbuso's presence but I can't see him among this people. I just met this guy but the affection he has is like I've known him for a very long time. Someone grabbed the gun from Mzwa he let go of me. I fall and I looked up for the person who saved me. It's Mbuso. He was fighting him. The police officers walked up to them and separate them. My father was helping Palisa. He hugged her. Why would Mzwa do this? He doesn't want to see me happy. What did I do to deserve this kind of life. Mbuso walked up to me. I tried to stand

up but I failed "Take it easy mama" he said .This guy my father he's here. He will be suspensors. He hugged me and helped me to stand up. "Mzwandile you are under arrest for kidnapping Palisa Zwane. You have the right to get yourself a lawyer if you can't afford one the state will provide you with one. You have the right to remain silent any word you say it can be used against you in the court of law" Officer 1 said they handcuffed him. I feel sorry for him "Mr Zwane we would like to take a statement from Mis P Zwane" Officer 2 said "I will come with her" my father said "Ms Zwane can I have your cell phone please" officer 3 asked. This is my personal cellphone. Why does he want it. I looked at my father he nodded. "Why? I asked "We want that message he sent" officer 3 answered "Don't worry detective I've captured everything that was happening here" someone said this voice was familiar I checked who was talking. It was Senzo Zondo we were friends before he moved he relocate from cape Town to here. He looked at me

he smiled I smiled back. "She can screenshot all the messages that she received from him and send them to me" Senzo said. That will work on my favour. The police officers and Senzo walked out with Mzwandile. "Mama are you alright" Mbuso asked This time he whispered. I nodded "Yes I am" I looked at Palisa who was shaking unconditionally. "Mzala did he hurt you?" "He wanted to thank mzala" she said then cried "Zulu please help Nana to the car. I will follow you with my niece" my father said. TO BE CONTINUED

16 NANDIPHA (MONTHS LATER) Mzwandile was arrested. Palisa moved in with dad with us. Mbuso and I we are officially dating. I have my father's blessings. I thought he was going to be against our relationship since he is his employer but no I thought wrong. Since is Friday we have a double date with his uncle and sis Doneo. I will meet them there because they are from work. I was driving playing house music. I got the courage to drive my

car without being scared. Dad said if it is meant for the accident to happen it will happen whether I'm driving passenger or being driven it will happen. I'm grateful to have a father like him. He is playing both a mother and father role at the same time. I'm really blessed to have him in my life. I parked my car next to sis Dineo's. I got out of the car. And walked in to the restaurant. Sis Doneo was sitting alone I made myself to her. "Hello" "Hey how are you" Dineo greeted back "I'm good thanks and yourself" "I'm good" she answered "What is the use of a double date if the guys are not here?" "They are on their way" she replied "Nandi I've been meaning to ask you something" Dineo said "Okey shot" "How did you fall in love with Mbuso in such a short time?" Dineo asked "I really don't know. We just find ourselves deeply in love" "I get you. But what did you see in him?" She asked. "I'm I in a interview or some sort" "His personality and kindness that's what attracted me in him" I answered she smiled "He is really kind I thought I was the only one who see

that" Dineo said "Shall we order" "Let's wait for the guys" Dineo said The first time I met them. Sihle said that they are married and have a child too. "How old is your child? "She's 13 years old smart and talkative like her father" Dineo said "How was KZN? "It was good. The family was welcoming especially the brothers are funny like the guys" Dineo said "So you were playing a Makoti" (daughter in-law) "I was not even a Makoti I was just a friend who happened to be shy" Dineo said We chuckled "I'm tired of this we've been married for 8 years. I never met his family until his grandmother died. Still he is treating me like his friend around his family" Dineo said "Sihle must thank your father for giving Mbuso the job because if he didn't I was going to divorce him without thinking twice" Dineo exclaimed Secret marriage is usually a civil marriage but there are also members of the clergy who will perform a secret marriage. There are locales that allow a marriage ceremony to be held in a closed court session and the file is sealed. Only the judge

has a record of the marriage. I felt someone tapping my shoulder I turned its Mbuso. Sihle went to sit next to Dineo. Mbuso kissed me on my cheek then he sat next to me. "Mama! He said "Honey" "Hiabo elders are here" Sihle said. We laugh "As if you don't do that Infront of me" Mbuso said "We apologize for being late" Mbuso said "And why you guys late? Dineo asked "Because somebody's daughter wanted to come with us" Sihle said "She wanted to meet the famous girl power" Mbuso said "Ncoo that good she will meet me one-day. For now she must focus on her books" "But mama you must stop by one-day" Mbuso said "She will be happy to see you" Dineo said "Ok I will see what can I do" "Ok you let Mbuso know then" Sihle said. This is a good idea "Actually we can go now" They all looked at me "Mama are you sure? Mbuso said "Definitely sure stamdwa sam" (my love) He smiled "Let's order takeaways than" Sihle said "Okay" I exclaimed -----
----- MBUSO ZULU I drove her car. She is busy with her cellphone while I is focused on the

road. Why did she made that hard decision. Now I see why did her previous relationships didn't work. She makes decisions without thinking twice.

Sometimes in life Sponsored but there are also members of the clergy who will perform a secret marriage. There are locales that allow a marriage ceremony to be held in a closed court session and the file is sealed. Only the judge has a record of the marriage. I felt someone tapping my shoulder I turned its Mbuso. Sihle went to sit next to Dineo. Mbuso kissed me on my cheek then he sat next to me. "Mama! He said "Honey" "Hiabo elders are here" Sihle said. We laugh "As if you don't do that Infront of me" Mbuso said "We apologize for being late" Mbuso said "And why you guys late? Dineo asked "Because somebody's daughter wanted to come with us" Sihle said "She wanted to meet the famous girl power" Mbuso said "Ncoo that good she will meet me one-day. For now she must focus on her books" "But mama you must stop by one-day" Mbuso said "She will be happy to see you" Dineo

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MBUSO ZULU I drove her car. She is busy with her cellphone while I is focused on the road. Why did she made that hard decision. Now I see why did her previous relationships didn't work. She makes decisions without thinking twice. Sometimes in life you have to make decisions that are best for you not for everyone else. Not for anyone but just you. We got to Sihle's house. They got here first. I got out of the car and made my way to her side. I opened the door for her she got out. "Are you sure about this? "Yes honey" Nandi answered. We made our way in. Keitumetsi froze as she sees Nandi. She stood up and walked up to Nandi slowly. She stood there in front of her for almost 5 to 7 minutes "Wow it's her" Keitumetsi said "Okay baby let our

guest sit down" Dineo said. She was excited I can even see her last tooth. With that smile she's wearing "Hi my name is Keitumetsi" "What a wonderful name. What does it mean? Nandi asked "It means I'm happy" Keitumetsi answered "Surely your mother she's happy" Nandi said "I'm Nandipha. But people call me girl power" "Your name means I'm given right? Keitumetsi asked "Correct Nandipha is of African origin and means Gift from God. Nandipha is of Xhosa origin and means they gave me" Nandipha said "Are you a Xhosa? Keitumetsi asked "I'm a mixed Xhosa and Zulu" Nandipha said "Okay guys let's settle down our food will be cold" Sihle said "Dad why are you jealous?" Keitumetsi said "Can I take selfies with you?" Keitumetsi asked "Yes but on one condition" Nandi said "Which is? Keitumetsi questioned "If you let me sit down I will tell you" Nandi said. We chuckled "Dad you are not the only one who brings life in this house today" Keitumetsi said "But she's not better than me" Sihle said. We laughed "You are not better

than me with what? Being beautiful or ugly? Nandi said "Let's eat guys" Sihle said. He won't answer this question. He says my mother used to call him Mubiza so that will remain with the question mark. My mother meant a lot to my uncles. Sometimes they do share lot of jokes she used to say. Before they forced her for marriage. If I was present by that time I was going to protect her from my father. I'm a mistake I shouldn't be born. Maybe she would've not drown herself to the river. "Excuse me" I said then stood up to my room "Mchana you can't do that" Sihle shouted. TO BE CONTINUED

17 NANDIPHA I wish he can just let me to his world I'm his girlfriend I suppose to know what's eating him. Not judging my that partner means I'm allowing him to say what is on his mind and simply being willing to hear it. This does not mean that I don't have an opinion or that I can't offer it at some point. In order for him open up to me he has to feel truly accepted for who he is not for who I may want

him to be. Or I need to be patient with him. If I respond to his thoughts by immediately offering my point of view with something like 'Well Sponsored that's wrong. I don't agree' or 'Where did you get a crazy idea like that?' any man is going to clam right up. They're afraid if they say something too personal. I walked up to him he was sleeping facing the roof. Sis Doneo have the nice house. It's not that big like my parents house but its a Warm home. I must say I'm happy to be myself and to be someone's role model aspecial a teenager. I like that girl so far she got the vibe. I made my way to his bed. He looked at me. I kissed his forehead then I looked at him. He opened his arms letting me lay on his chest. I felt his heart beat it it's beating fast. "I wish you could let me in your world" "My world like? He asked "Just open up for me" "Let me know what is it that is eating you" He didn't answer me. He started kissing me. The pleasure took over as I kissed him back. He took off my dress. He was breathing heavily. He made me lie down on his bed.

He got on top of me He unbuttoned my bra and took it off followed by my pantie. I smiled I've been waiting for this moment to happen. He started to sucked body with his tongue and my breast too. "Honey that's painful" " I'm sorry mama" He continued sucking them gentle then he moved down to my cookie. "ahhh baby stop it I put it inside me" that comes out whispering "come again" Mbuso whispered "Babe I want you so badly" He smiled then finger fucked me While squeezing my butt. "Mbuso! (breathing heavily) He got between my thighs. I was so wet. I closed my eyes. He was moaning "Mama you are so wet" he said. "Mbuso! "That's my name" he said "Get inside it already" He did as I said. "Ahhh Nandi!!!" He screamed my name I opened my eyes and closed them again. "Oh my oh....oh Mbuso" No protection I don't know his status so does he knows mine no he doesn't. -----
----- PALISA ZWANE Uncle Sthe made me to move in with them. I sometimes get jelouse when they have their conversation they don't want me to

feel left out on their conversation but I do feel left out. Because they talk about their fancy lifestyle I'm not comfortable on telling my uncle that I'm going to my boyfriend I lie instead of telling the truth Nandi does and she's used to. As a father and daughter. Sometimes they cook and sing together. If I didn't know better I was going to say they are sleeping together. Their bond is so strong. I had a father and daughter relationship but not like my uncle and my cousin. "Yes Pali do you need some help? Uncle Sthe asked "No I'm done" He wants to help me with the dishes. No I'm not that lazy okey "Okay then suite yourself I'm going to the mall what should I bring? He asked again "Nothing. I think we have everything in the house" "Beside Nana's favourite desert" he said "Okey" I said. Nana to a third years old. She's older than me with 5 years but she's still a crying baby. My father uncle and aunts they were against uncle Sthe they claim that Nandipha she's not his daughter. Uncle Sthe distance himself from the family. They moved to

Cape Town Just to be away from us they came back rich I think Nandi was doing grade 10 I don't remember because she repeated a grade. If you want to see his true colours touch her late wife or Nandi you will see flames. "Bye Pali" uncle Sthe said walking out. ----- MBUSO ZULU I walked to the dinning area. Sihle and Dee their were having their conversation. They kept quiet as they see me. Nandi she's taking a shower. I don't wanna lie she knows how to satisfy her man. "Family" I said while sitting down "Hey" Dee said. You never know with Nandi she's the one who calls Dineo Dee. Sihle looked at me. He smiled. I did take a shower is that obvious. But the is no way that he can see that I was having a adult session. "Malume! "What is it Mbuso? "Nothing is just that your eyes have something to say" "Does my eyes speak now? We chuckled. "Why did you storm out like that Mbuso? Sihle asked " We will talk malume" "Weee Mbuso? Sihle said. Nandipha made her way to us. She's beautiful as always. "What did Mbuso do now?

Nandi asked "He drained you girl" Dee said while laughing. Sihle and I looked at each other. The girls chuckled "What is it? Sihle asked I'm glad that he has no idea of what is going on. Philani was going to know within a minute. "Sis Dee do you have painkillers? Nandi asked Dineo. Why does she need pain killers "That kind of of painkillers I don't have" Dineo answered "I guess I will have to pass by the pharmacy than" Nandi said "Don't even guess girl just do that" Dee said they chuckled "Come on you too share what ever you are eating with us" Sihle said "Women's talk babah" Nandi said TO BE CONTINUED

18 NANDIPHA The is this feeling I feel around Mbuso I cannot describe it especially after our sexually incounter. I feel giddiness nervous excitement euphoria and Decreases in serotonin Mbuso. Romantic love is a key goal for many people. Whether I've been in love before 11 times. I disincluded my so called marriage I because I didn't

fell in love with that monster I was forced be married to him. I just hope they are all dead. Especially Vincent and his mother Phumza and Ernest. Thinking about people who stole my dignity I get stomach bug. To think of this love as the pinnacle has romantic experiences perhaps even the pinnacle of life experiences. Falling in love after Ronald break up with me. The universe brought happiness into my life. I feel alive it is exciting even exhilarating. This love might seem mellow or calm. I find myself thinking of him. I love Mbuso. Instead of I'm in love with him. He is held up at work. He never stressed about work but now he is focused or he is avoiding me. But why would he avoid me we are in love. This transformation doesn't necessarily mean there's anything wrong with our relationship. Loving Mbuso instead of falling in love with him simply illustrates how feelings of love evolve over the course of a relationship. Falling in love involves a lot of hormones which can supercharge my feelings and make them wildly fluctuate. When I'm around

him our love increases dopamine and norepinephrine lead to feelings of pleasure giddiness Sponsored giddiness nervous excitement and euphoria. Even after spending all day with him that day I still feel lonesome when he is not around me. I wonder does he feels the same about me. and whether he is thinking about me. My phone ringed I checked the caller ID it's Mbuso "Hello mama" Mbuso said. I blushed this guy makes me happy sure "Hello babah" "How are you doing today?" Mbuso asked "I'm super" "How super? Mbuso asked. I laughed "110% Super" He chuckled "Why are you laughing?" "As for hundred and ten percent mama" Mbuso said while laughing "You are ruining my day Mbuso" "I'm sorry mama" he said "Tell me why should I forgive you?" "Because I'm your boyfriend and I'm handsome and you won't be mad for me forever" Mbuso said. I find myself smiling and thinking how handsome he is. As he describe himself. He is handsome and hunk too "Ok Mr handsome how are you doing?" "I'm good mama just

that I miss you" he said "Oh I'm missed? "Very"
Mbuso said "Make it up to me" "How about we
meet tonight? "As a? He asked "A what? "I'm the
one who asked a question first" he said "As a date
babah" (daddy) "That's my girl I will send you the
details" he said. A girl if he knew that I'm older than
him with a son maybe on his age. MBUSO ZULU This
transformation doesn't necessarily mean there's
anything wrong with our relationship. Loving
Nandi instead of falling in love with her simply
illustrates how feelings of love evolve over the
course of a relationship. Beautiful is a woman who
has a distinctive personality she can laugh at
anything including herself and she is specially kind
and caring to others. She is a woman who above all
else knows the value of having fun and not taking
life too seriously. She is a woman that I can trust
and count on to brighten my future with her. She's
a wife material .She's a woman who can inexplicably
make man feel really good just by being around her
and yet brings such great sadness when I'm not

around her. She is a woman who I will never really get to know. She's my best friend forever. Her smile makes her pretty even more. Her body makes her. I can write a book about her and her beauty. I never felt this way before. The love I have for her is pure.

TO BE CONTINUED

19 NANDIPHA The whole idea of a dinner date turned be indoors date. Mbuso decided that we should just chill on his bed cuddling each other just me and him since Sihle and his wife went to North West. Sihle he's a good guy I don't understand why don't he tell his family about sis Doneo and his child. They are good together and they love each other. I know sometimes families would judge your decision but atleast they must know that you are married. This will cause conflict should anything happen to him. "What are you thinking mama? Mbuso asked "Nothing is just that I don't understand why did you cancel our date? I asked just to avoid his question "I didn't cancel it I Just

don't understand why should we go eat fast food while we can just cook and watch movies together" he said "Well I don't like movies" "Thats the whole idea of cuddling each other. Let's just cuddle and forget about everything else. You are the only person I want to fall asleep next to. Cuddling snuggling laughing and kissing are the things I want to do whenever I'm with you mama" Mbuso said "What do we call it? "Cuddling date" Mbuso replied. I laughed "A What date? "You heard me. Those dates have names. Back then we had scoopers date" Mbuso said "Can I ask you something? "Anything mama" he said "With all the love that you have for me. What about your chosen future wife? "You are my hope friends and future wife too. I cannot marry a person I never met. And I don't..." Mbuso said. I cut him "Well baba you will learn to love her and respect her" "And why are we having this conversation? Mbuso asked "Because I want to know where do I stand with you" He removed his arms that were around me. He looked at me. "Stand

up" Mbuso ordered. What did I say something wrong. I did as requested. He also got off the bed he stood next to me. Why are we doing this? Only one way to find out. He looked at me I looked at him. "We are standing here" Mbuso said "What? "You said you wanted to know where are we standing. Here we are and we are standing together. Looking each other on the eyes I'm not going anywhere. You are my road to die" Mbuso said "What about her? "She's no one to me. She must forget that Mbuso Zulu will be her husband. Maybe in her dreams I will be her husband" Mbuso said. Whenever he says his surname my heart plod it threatened to stop right away. I need to get to use to it. I need to focus on the future. I need to be myself and be me. I placed my right hand on my chest I sat on the edge of the bed. He looked at me before he uttered "Look mama I understand that you got hurt multiple times" I looked at him "How many relationship that didn't work? Mbuso asked. What? "Is it important to tell you that? "I was just

checking since you said we should be evil and..." I cut him "We should let each other in our world" " But you are not letting me. in do you?Mbuso asked. This is hard for me. To just open up about my past. What if he asked what happened with my son. "I just don't feel comfortable talking about my previous failed relationships" "Ok what if I tell you that I only have six failed relationships" Mbuso said "Ok Mbuso don't judge me" "Who I'm I? to judge an angel like you" "I have 13 failed relationships. Including..." I kept quiet as soon as I realized I was going to sell my soul to my boyfriend. Mbuso he's very close with my father so him knowing that I had a son. My father won't forgive me he loves children he doesn't want them to suffer. My father dislike people who lie to him. "Mama.. " Mbuso called . I was my own dream land. "I'm sorry Mbuso I have to leave" He looked at me. I got up when I was about to leave he pinned me and kissed me. "Mbuso... "That comes as a whisper. He continued kissing me "We can't do this it's already late and..." He cuts me

with the kiss on my lips until the pleasure got to me I kissed him back we shared a kiss. I unbuttoned his shirt. He lift me up and took me to his bed. "Umuhle mama uyazi? (you are beautiful you know that) he said I nodded. He kissed me and took off my clothes. I could tell from his eyes that he means business this was not going to be love making it's going to be sex and not just sex but to remind me how much does he loves me. Not even foreplay Nothing. He came to me I was still shocked from the Dick that I was facing. He sucked me .

_____ PHILANI MCHUNU On this day my sister 30 years ago my sister drawn herself on the river. We are gathering as a family to honer her and other family members who passed on years ago. She was my closet friend she was funny she would crack a joke about Sihle and Mpilo just to drive them crazy. Since they were too shy even to laugh or ask for a glass of water. But now you won't believe Siphesihle can drive me crazy. He sometimes remind me of Nandi. "Mbuso failed to

attend" Vincent Zulu said "It's understandable he took the leave on my grandmother's funeral" I said "Vincent don't be hard on him you will push him way" Phumza said. At first she didn't want to believe that her only daughter she's gone. She tried acting strong for couple of years. "I'm not pushing him away" Vincent said "You are Zulu. You've done too much damage already. Stop forcing him to marry someone he doesn't love" Phumza shouted. You want to see her evil colour step in her toe. "Guys come down. Let's Mbuso and Sihle do what ever makes them happy" Ernest said (he doesn't care that's what I know) To tell the truth my late sister suspect that he had a hand on my father's death. There was no way my father could commit suicide. They got my sister married at a young age. We were not allowed to visit her. She took the easy way out because of my mother and stepfather Ernest. I've learnt to love him as my stepdad not my father's brother. They got married right after 6 months of his death. "Philani call Mbuso and invite

him for a family meeting along with his girlfriend" Vincent said "Why do you wanna see his girlfriend?Mpilo asked "I'm blessing his relationship if she makes him happy who I'm I to stand on his happiness" Vincent said "I don't see myself losing my son because of my selfishness" Vincent added. I scrolled down to Mbuso's name. It ringed then took me straight to voicemail. I tried again it took me straight to voicemail again. "I think he is still busy" I said "It's 20:43 he can't be busy" Phumza said "Let me try again" I tried calling him again it ringed and he answered this time "Malume... he said "Mbuso unjani" (how are you) "What do I owe to get a call from you" Mbuso said "Well I want you here this weekend" "Is that a request or an order..." I cut him "It's a order babah""You got to be kidding malume" Mbuso said. "Wee mfana I will come there and beat you up you have grown some balls I will reap them off" (hey boy) "Malume I don't have time for this I'm busy with something" Mbuso said. What gotten to him. Mbuso he's a great boy and he has a

recept towards us especially his father and I "I want you and Sihle Here this weekend" "Oh my poor uncle I think you've forgotten that Sihle has his phone if you can just hang up the call I'm busy right now" Mbuso said. I hunged up. I looked at everyone "What? Mpilo asked "We are losing him. We should've allowed him to go to Gauteng" I said "Phila my brother what makes you thinks like that" Mpilo said "The person I was talking about that was not my sisters son. Mbuso won't tell me that he is busy like he did right now" "What did he say?. My mother asked I explained to them their were all shocked. NANDIPHA "Oh no Mbuso...that can....no no no that can never get inside me" Unexpected Veins and all popping. "I'm sorry baby you don't have to do this"I moved backwards but he pulled me back by my leg. He kissed my neck while taking off my shirt and then followed by my bra he took it off with only one hand. Talk about experience. His eyes were red bloody red. He sucked my breasts making sure to bite the nipple a little while he was

at that his other hand was on my trouser. He stopped with sucking my breasts and fully focused on taking off my trouser. As soon as it was down the pantie followed. "Sthandwa sam" (My love) Mbuso said I closed my eyes. His middle finger unexpectedly went inside my nuna he finger fucked me. "Mmmmmmm ahh honey" "Look at me when I talk to you" Mbuso whispered How do I look at him when he is doing this to me? I never dated someone that was younger than me I'm in mid 40s guys not 30s. He is my first young star (Ben ten) I slowly opened my eyes. "Talk to me 12 failed relationships including what mama? Mbuso asked I shook my head. Is this a kind of a punishment? Dating young star I'm experiencing new things. All my previous relationships were terrible headache sometimes. "Oooh ye...yes baby ahhh that is soooo good" I screamed His phone rings he ignored it. Yet again ahhh that is soooo good" I screamed His phone rings he ignored it. Yet again unexpectedly his dick just went in it was so so hard and painful. "Ouchhh

Mbu....be gentle" I was in tears. "It's in now mama don't worry. You are not letting me in your world right? Meaning you can stand me" Mbuso said He wasn't moving. I couldn't even look at him I just closed my eyes "Vula amehlo ungibuke Nandi..." (Open your eyes and look at me Nandi..) Mbuso said I ignored him. He took out his dick all of it. As I was slowly opening my eyes he put it back in with force. "Aha!!! You...you are hurting me" I screamed "Open your eyes mama" Mbuso said I did and looked at him. He started moving slowly shaking his waist in a circular movement it felt so good. The moisture of my nuna was making the pleasure even more. "We will talk now and get to know each other better" Mbuso exclaimed I just nodded with tears I couldn't say anything since he was inside me. "Khuluma" (Talk) Mbuso said "Ahh....ye...yes Mbuso.. "What are you agreeing to?" Mbuso asked "That we will talk and... get.... to know each...other." what ever I was saying was breaking because this Mbuso here got me in the position that

I never thought I was going to get myself into.
"Excellent mama" Mbuso said He started pumping
in harder I felt like my abdomen would tear up.
Luckily I'm in pregnant control "Haaaa ahhh
Mbuso...oh Mbusooo...you are in too deep...ah ah
ah" I screamed "Then why did you stop talking?" He
asked while he was pumping "Mommy...
ahhh....I.....I'm sorry babah" I was crying because of
pleasure and because I couldn't tell him why I was
also crying because my vagina is already feeling the
pain. "Ukhalelani?" (Why are you crying?) Mbuso
asked "Because....ohhhh....ah baby
because...you....yes yesss" "Lalela ke mama what
ever it is we can go through that together I won't
judge you we all human beings we do mistakes"
(Listen) I salute him shame. Young star's knows how
to make a woman feels good "I...I love you Nandi....
what is it that you are not telling me? He asked I
never told any of my previous boyfriends that I was
married before. Why should I tell him.
"Awungiphenduli ngani" (Why aren't you answering

me) Mbuso asked "Nothing honey it's just my past... He fucked me good I was so tired. So numb. His phone ringed. He did not answer it. It ringed again he reached to his phone and answered. He was in call "Malume... "What do I owe to get a call from you" Mbuso said "Is that a request or? "You got to be kidding malume" Mbuso said. His facial expressions changed. I don't I couldn't tell weather he was mad or what "Malume I don't have time for this I'm busy with something" he said So I'm something now "Oh my poor uncle I think you've forgotten that Sihle has his phone if you can just hang up the call I'm busy right now" Mbuso said than he hanged up. He is disrespecting he should've taken the massage. He looked at me and walked back to me. I dislike people who disrespect their elders. I wanted to be out of here. I got off the bed I tried to reach my bra but he grabbed it first. He picked me up and walked to the wall and pinned me against it. He started being gentle. Now I'm getting punished for whoever called him "I love you mama"

Mbuso exclaimed "I....I love you too" He was hitting each and every corner there is to my vagina kissing my neck my lips and his one hand playing with my breast. "I'm....Ohhhh shit.Can I come inside" he said "No!! Ahhhh yes no....ooooohhh Mbu...I....I'm also coming" That drove him to the edge. He whispered that into my ear. He then walked with me to the couch. We laid there trying to catch our breaths. "Uyangisanganisa MaZwane" (You drive crazy miss Zwane) I smiled and rested my head on his bare chest. "I love you too babah" "I love you more than you love me and more than you love yourself" He kissed my forehead. TO BE CONTINUED

20 NANDIPHA _____ WEEK LATER No man is ever old enough to know better. My father he's getting old he doesn't want to admit. He keeps on forgetting things. Now I'm taking the file he has left on the tea table. He was busy with it last. I'm taking it to his office. He hasn't called yet but he will call. So instead of dwelling on the worse that could

happen why don't we stay in the present moment and enjoy the good stuff that comes with every stage of our lives? Time might leave marks on our bodies but when it comes to keeping our spirit young we have full control. I arrive at ZCCL the reception was empty I guess Pricilla went to the rest room or somewhere. This is unlike her. The reception phone rings as if the person who was calling senses that she is someone here. "Zwane construction company Nandi Zwane speaking how may I assist you?" "Wooh wooh I'm impressed my Nana" dad said "Mr Zwane how may I assist you?" "With the receptionist who has the energy like you. Please send Mr J Van Buren to my office" dad said "I okay Mr Zwane" He chuckled I put the phone down. And look among the people who were here. It seems like it's a busy day. I walked out to this people who are patiently waiting "Mr Van Buren..." The white man looked at me. He smiled before he speaks "That's me Ms..." He said "Ms Zwane... Mr Zwane said you can go to his office" He

got up and extended his hand to me I extended mine to his hand. We did a hand shake "I'm Jacob Van Buren" "I'm Nandipha Zwane" I think we look at each other for almost 10 minutes without blinking our eyes. I removed my hand "It's my pleasure to meet you Ms Zwane" he said "It's my pleasure to meet you too Mr Van Buren" "You can call me Jacob" "Noted Mr Zwane he's waiting for you" I said with a smile he nodded "Office number? Jacob asked "4th floor office 403" "Okay thanks Ms Zwane" Mr Van Buren said "You welcome" That was... I cannot explain. I'm use to it. I turned. my eyes landed to Mbuso and Keitumetsi their eyes glued at me. How long he's been there. I walked back to the reception. And sit pretending like I didn't see them. I felt someone tapping my shoulder. I turned is Keitumetsi. I got to know this girl more than her parents does. She's carrying heavy burden in her. "Aunt" "Keitu... Why are you here? Why didn't go to school? "I got suspended" Keitumetsi replied "What have you done? "I got into

the fight with one of the bullies My parents failed to represent me when they called them. So....

Keitumetsi said I cut her "You say your parents did what? I asked then looked at Mbuso who was standing on the other side of desk "She's telling the truth. Sis Doneo was busy than my uncle made it clear that he won't go there" Mbuso said "Sis Dee was too busy for her daughter and Sihle deny to represent her daughter too thats bull-shit" "Mama you are at the reception" Mbuso whispered. Other parents have no life sure. My parents their would let what ever it was just to be there for me. My father still does that. I'm his first priority. He bet to lose investors when it comes to his Nana. I talked to her mother the other day she didn't show any interest in her daughter. What is important to her it's her lifestyle. My mother loved fashion. Each and every fashion and lifestyle I was asking her. But when it comes to me I was her first priority like I'm to my father. Imagine a 13 years old girl failed four times. No Dineo must stand up for her daughter.

"Where is the receptionist? I asked "She call on sick" Mbuso replied "And Palisa? "She's helping one of the seniors administration with something. She will join you soon" Mbuso said "She better do that. So Keitumetsi how long will your suspension take? "Until my parents go there"Keitumetsi answered. I'm trying to avoid Mbuso. I don't know what happened few minutes ago. I can't help how men look at me. I wish I can. That's why I'm always indoors if I don't have gigs that needs to attend "Mama why are you avoiding me? Or you are pretending like nothing happened few minutes ago" Mbuso said "What happened few minutes ago? I asked like I don't know what he was talking about "You and the client? Mbuso asked "I think you need to get back to work Me and your cousin here we will be fine" I said whisle my eyes were glued on my phone. "Okay than I will see you too than. We will talk about this later on" Mbuso said He left. I sigh in relief. The same attraction that I have for men thats one of the biggest fare that made some of my

previous relationships turned out to be abusive ones. "Thanks aunt. Can you believe that he wanted to do half-day to babysit a 13 years old. I just don't know what got into my father... he had the best interest in my life I don't know what changed now" Keitumetsi said. I could tell this was hard for her as it was for me when a mother sold me as a cup of nuts "I will talk to your parents don't worry" She nodded. Palisa made her way. "Mzala" Palisa muttered "Hey cuz" "I'm sorry for leaving the reception is that Emily asked me to help her" Palisa said "Next time tell Emily that the reception cannot handle itself" I said "I'm sorry" Palisa said. I wanted to laugh at her especially how humble she is. But I can't I have to wear my serious face. I don't want her to let people use her and give her their work. I agree she's an office assistant. She can help anyone around the office but those people are ungrateful they are using her. She's doing half of their work and their get paid because of her sweat. "It's ok Mzala... Please take over I will be on the CEO's

office if you need me" I said. My mother's office it's still empty. I don't know why my father hire someone. The company needs a chef executive officer (CEO) "Baby let's go" Keitumetsi got up. I took the file that I bought for my father. We took the elevator. We got to the 4th floor and I went to his assistant "Lwazi... "Ma'am..." Lwazi said "Can you give this to Mr Zwane" "Mr Zwane made it clear that you can get in to his office anytime. weather he has client or not. Just go in there. Dad's Princess" Lwazi said. People call me dad's Princess I don't know why. I believe him when my father give you instructions follow them as they are. I knocked to his office. "Enter" my father shouted I opened the door I entered and Keitumetsi followed me. Dad smiled as soon as he saw me holding the file. You are the best Nana" Dad said. He wearing his smile. "Next time you left something I won't even come here" "You got to be kidding Nana. You know that I'm getting old infact I should retire Nana" my father said. He looked at Keitumetsi "Oh father this

is Keitumetsi Mbuso's cousin" He looked at her for a while "wooh whoops. Hello Tumi is nice to finally meeting you. I'm grandpa Sthembiso B Zwane" Dad said. Keitumetsi extended her hand to my father. He took it and kissed it. I steal glance at Jacob who is doing the same. He smiled I smiled too. "It's nice to meet you mkhulu" (grandmother) Keitumetsi said "Ok girls I'm still busy I will see you in an hour or so" my father said "Oh I will be in mommy's office" "Great Nana please don't leave without telling me" dad said "I won't babah" I kissed him on the forehead and left Keitumetsi followed me. We got to the CEO's office it was clean as always. My mother's picture was still displayed on the wall. I asked Keitumetsi to take it for me. She got on-top of the other desk next to the wall she took it and gave it to me _____ MBUSO ZULU I took my phone dialled Philani's cellphone number. I haven't spoken to him since that evening. His phone ringed unanswered. I tried calling him again. This time he answered "Nephew..." Philani said.

Knowing my uncle very well he is disappointed in me. He had hope that Jo'burg won't change me. There is nothing wrong with Jo'burg it's just that people change their attitude when time goes "Hello! Uncle I would like to apologize for my behaviour the other day" "Okey" Philani exclaimed "I don't know what gotten to me. I'm deeply sorry" "I hear you Mbuso" he said "I'm trying here uncle please meet me halfway" "It's okay Mbuso. I really needed to hear those words coming from you. I was so disappointed in you" Philani said "I'm I forgiven?" "Only if you show up with Sihle on the day that is set for us to meet his new family and welcome them as our extended family. It will be a small ceremony welcoming his daughter whom we never knew about" Philani said "I promise I will come I won't miss it. My leave has been improved already" "Don't disappoint me boy" Philani said "Don't do babies and accept us to welcome them when things go wrong in their lives. Introduce them to us in time" Philani added "I won't disappoint you uncle

Phila" Keitumetsi is issued doesn't need us to get angry at her. She had one in one talk with Nandi. She opened up for he unlike she open up to us. Nandi suggested that Keitumetsi need custom. (Usiko) because the girl she's struggling to copy her school work. Sometimes when she's writing her eyes becomes blur. Sometimes I ask myself Why didn't her parents noticed that thier daughter is struggling academically. Sihle said she changed schools four times. And failed four times. And she always pick a fight her fellow classmates. That is why sis Done and Siphesihle didn't go for her hearing. Sihle said she has to learn the hard way. Not that he doesn't care. He loves his daughter he can do anything for her. . Last week they went to North West. To sis Dineo's family they family agreed that Siphesihle must perform a custom for his daughter. So month end we going to KZN. Nandi won't join us. She said she won't play a daughter in law while she's still a girlfriend. That's understandable. _____ NANDIPHA

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21 NANDIPHA (LATER ON) In life the only thing that you can expect is the unexpected the only surprise is a day that .The only thing that should shasurprise

me is that there are still some things that can surprise me. The wiser I become the lesser I will be surprised! Surprise is the greatest gift which life can grant us. I ended up filing some of the documents that were lying around. On my father's office. Some people do get paid because they showed up in their workplace. Lwazi he's my father's personal assistant he needs to make sure that all the documents are in order. Keitumetsi and my father went to get us something eat. Knowing my father very I'm very sure that he suggested that they went to cinema 4D tutorial or worse he betrayed me and went to have a ice cream day. I looked at the files I'm almost done. "Mama we need to talk" Mbuso said. I didn't heard him coming in. I turned and looked at him. "We do? He nodded "Where is my cousin? Mbuso asked "She's with my father they will be back soon" "Let's talk than" Mbuso said "Talk about what Mbuso? "What is going on between you and Mr Van Buren? Mbuso asked "There is nothing going on honey" "It didn't seems like there was nothing going

on" Mbuso said. Jealousy in a relationship is normal. It may be triggered by our love or fear of losing someone dear to us. However if you believe he is just being a normal nonviolent jealous boyfriend just like all the other guys who are scared to lose me in their life because he mentioned Mr Van Buren. I and him we exchanged contact. This will force me to change his name right away. "I'm talking to you Nandipha..." Mbuso said. He needs to trust me. I'm a artist I do network with people. I do gigs I told him that before. "If you want to continue being with me then you have to learn to stop being so jealous because I do not plan to continue enduring your distrust" "Have you ever loved me Nandi? Mbuso asked. What kind of a question is that again he knows that I love him with all my heart. How can he ask me this question. How can he doubt my love like that? "You said you love me Mbuso... but you do not believe me. Things cannot continue this way Mbuso... I asked you to trust me because I would never be with another guy but

you" He looked at me without saying anything.

"Now excuse me I'm trying to work here" "I'm knocking off now. will you bring Keitumetsi home? Mbuso asked. I nod. "Yebo babah" "Babah? Only my elder uncle calling me that especially when he is mad at me" Mbuso said laughing "Just leave Mbuso" I said. I could see that he is defeated. He walked out. I continued doing what I was doing. About 30 minutes I was done. There is no sign of my father and Keitumetsi. I checked my phone it's nowhere to be found. I had it minutes ago. I took the office phone call it rang unanswered. It was not ringing in this office. Not so long ago it was here. I'm sure Mbuso took it. Yes he took it "Nana...We are back" dad said with a smile "What took you so long?" "Just guess who's going back to school tomorrow" Keitumetsi muttered. That is why they took longer than I expected "Father what did you do?" "Fathers do not provoke your children to anger but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" dad said. Knowing my father very well. He's

going to preach the word of God. I need to get out of here. "That's Ephesians 6:4" Keitumetsi muttered. She has already earned his heart. "Amen Keitumetsi" dad said "Thanks dad this means a lot to the girl I hope she's happy" She nodded then smiled "Indeed she's happy" dad said "Don't worry granddad I will be in the next grade next year" Keitumetsi said "How many percentage are we talking about? Dad asked "75% up front" Keitumetsi said. New bestie of my dad smiled "That's my girl" dad said "Okay besties we need to go" "Jelouse doesn't suit you Nana" dad said "No I'm not jelouse dad is just that I got the instructions that I must take her home before the sunset" "I believe you Nana take the girl home and come back home before the sunset too" dad said. How old I'm I again? "Okay dad the teen girl will be back before 21:00" We chuckled "That's after the sunset Nana" dad said "See you dad I love you. Let's go baby" I exited his office. Before he can say something.

MBUSO ZULU I do want to

trust her. But I'm scared to lose her. I hide my darkness and my fears and my desire because it's easier that way. It's easier than the risk of losing her. But love demands my vulnerability. In fact it seems that's the only thing it truly does demand of me. It demands that I stand in front of the person that I love and say 'This is all of me. I don't know if you will continue to love me after I bring you into the darkened corners of my heart but I need you to know me to really know me. It's not an easy concept to grasp by any means. But Sponsored to really know me. It's not an easy concept to grasp by any means. But I can say that when I am able to feel this way when I am able to love without overly attaching to needing that love I feel more intimate and closely-tied to Nandipha. I am more willing to share who I am and what I desire because ultimately I am not living under the idea that I cannot for the sake of myself and my well-being be without Nandi. The need to detach from the relationship as something that my survival is

contingent upon is truly a way to experience a deeper connection and intimacy and love. Because I can love from my desire to love not my need to love not my need for their presence not my heart clutching to her heart out of fear. The fear of losing someone that I love is something that I live with. Indeed she asked me to trust her. But girls like her cannot be trusted. I took her phone. I seek her attention. "Mbuso where is Keitumetsi? Sihle asked "She's with Nandi" You left my daughter with your girlfriend? Sihle asked again "Not like I left her with a stranger" "Indeed girl power won't harm her" Doneo said "We are leaving in the other other world were girls get raped and kidnapped" Sihle say "You only see that now Siphesihle Mchunu when you left us you didn't think about that" Dineo said "Doneo watch your tone when talking to me" Sihle shouted I got up "Mbuso please don't leave me alone with your uncle" Dineo said. I sitted again. We heard the car hooter this could be Nandi. "I will take this" Sihle said. I never seen him like this. He's

always happy what gotten to him. "Why is he mad?" "We had an argument before you got here" Dineo said "Sorry to ask you this. Why?" "It's about Keitumetsi suspension. There are many ways to punish a child. But to let her be suspended that's not a good way to discipline a child" Dineo said. Sihle walked in with Nandi and Keitumetsi "My cellphone please" Nandi said "Hello to you too mama" "Hello to you too my foot. Don't mama me Mbuso just give my phone back" Nandi shouted. I could see that Sihle want to laugh. But the situation was not allowing him to. "Aww calm down mama" "Don't tell me that shit Mbuso... Just bring my phone... You don't owe me Mbuso no one owns Nandi Zwane" Nandi said "I'm sorry Nandi" "Just bring my phone back" Nandi said "Okay mama I will give your phone back. But we need to talk" "You need to talk I don't need to talk I need my phone" Nandi said "Yes Ntombazane" Sihle said (girl) "Malume.... You are enjoying this aren't you? He chuckled. "Mama please hear me out" "Mbuso you need to deal with

your jelouse and when you are done dealing with that than we will talk" Nandi said _____

PHILANI MCUNU I looked at my mother. She was washing the dishes. "Mom do you think that Sihle's wife. Is that girl who was on grandmothers fenural"

"Yes she's the one. The was no friend who can iron your clothes do all the house chores without complaining" Phumza said "How do you feel about the news that he's married and have a daughter"

"As long as she makes my son happy I am happy"

Phumza said "The grandchild? "Atleast they will be a girl in the family. Since Nandi died I never had peace. When I looked at her son I wish I could keep on apologizing to him" Phumza said "Stop blaming yourself mom. I hope she has forgiven you" "You don't know how do I feel son. I keep on seeing her calling my name asking me not to get her married"

Phumza said "It's obvious mah remember that we didn't get her remainings. We only buried her clothes that we found hear the river. She's not resting in peace" "It's been 30 years Philani"

Phumza said "Maybe the crocodile and other animals ate her remainings" "After all Sihle's daughter ceremony blown please take me to the cemetery" Phumza said. TO BE CONTINUED

22 NANDIPHA I regret coming here. Regret is a negative cognitive or emotional state that involves blaming myself for coming here. feeling a sense of loss or sorrow at what might have been or wishing we could undo a previous choice that we made. The pain of regret can result in refocusing and taking corrective action or pursuing a new path. I ended up joining them for dinner. There is no way I'm going without my phone. That phone is my best friend. It was silent on the table only the sound of forks and knives when "This is ridiculous can someone say something" Keitumetsi said. This girl she reminds me of myself when I was in her age. I could force my brothers to say something. Even though they did not have anything to say. "Just eat and go to bed Keitumetsi" Sihle said "Dad why are you doing

this? I apologised but you keep on pushing... Keitumetsi said. And she was cut by Sihle "That's your everyday song. Each and every year you... Sihle said. I cut him off this time "This is not how you should discipline the child you are sending her to the wrong direction" " Do you have a child? Sihle asked. The question made me mad. I wish I was sitting next to him this fork was going to do wonders. I swear I abandoned my son. Maybe he's a grown man probably a father to someone. "I don't have a child Sihle but you are being hard on the child. And you are sending her to the wrong direction" "You cannot come into my house and tell me how to raise my child" Sihle shouted. I looked at Dee who was trying to warn me to shut my mouth up. I looked the fork that I was holding. No Nandi just leave before you do something that you will regret. That was the song playing on my mind. How can I go without my phone. "I'm sorry Sihle. But your parenting skills will send your daughter away" "What do you know about parenting Nandi?"

Because the only thing that you know is to dance and entertain drunk people" Sihle said. Just a simple wow. I might not know everything about parenting but this is out of control. Being a dancer and a Singer that's a hobby it doesn't defined me as a bad influencer as he put it. "Maybe you are right Sihle... I know nothing about parenting. But I was once a teenager you need to set up rules regarding her homework visiting her friends and curfews discuss them beforehand with Keitumesti so there will be no misunderstandings.between you and Your daughter. She will probably complain from time to time but also will realize that you're in control. Believe it or not teens still want and need you to set limits and enforce order in their lives even as you grant her greater freedom and responsibility" "grant who the freedom? Sihle asked "Not that freedom you are thinking about. Try to meet her halfway" "Who are you her spoke person? Sihle asked. Nandi stay in your lane Nana my father was going to say that "I don't have time for this" I got up

then I looked at Mbuso "I'm sorry girl power I didn't mean to" Sihle said. He never gave me the reason to hate him. "Apology accepted Sihle" He smiled and try to kiss Dineo she pushed him. I looked at my jealous boyfriend "My phone please" " Can we at least talk" Mbuso said " I don't have the energy to Mbuso" "Mama please" Mbuso said "If I dare miss a gig this will be the end of the road" "Mbuso... Give the her cellphone before the road ends" Sihle said "She can go get it in my room" Mbuso said "Forget it Mbuso I'm not going to do that" "Suit yourself miss Zwane" Mbuso said " You are not serious right now" "Believe me I am Mama" Mbuso said "I hate you Mbuso... "I love you too Mama" he said "Save yourself Nandi he won't go through for you" Sihle said. This is not going anywhere. I went to his room my phone was just lying on his bed. I took it and unlock it. I quickly scroll to my phonebook mind me I changed Mr Jacob's name to gigs. Than looked it. Before I could walk out of his room Mbuso was blocking the door. My heart sank "Mbuso" "Mama..."

"Mbuso said "Can I go out please" "You think you can just come over and leave just like that? Mbuso asked "Please" "Please... Mbuso said I chuckled. "What is going on between you and Jacob? Mbuso asked "Nothing he wants me to perform for his sons birthday" " So you are getting gigs from our investors now? Mbuso asked "Is there anything wrong with that? " I asked you a question Nandi... You don't ask a question with a question" Mbuso said "The last time I checked I'm a measure shareholder of the company" I hate to use this line but he force me to do so "Thanks for reminding me Mama" he said. He kissed me. I looked at the other side. He kissed my neck. "Mbuso... He continued kissing me. "Mbuso" That comes out as an whisper.

PHILANI MCUNU I looked at Uncle Ernest or should I say my step dad. "Uncle my mother she's not doing well" "Phumza will be ok. Maybe Siphesihe's daughter will be the resembling of Nandi" Ernest said "How do you know that?

"Nandi was a hard worker a smart girl who cared for

her mother and her brothers" Ernest said. He is telling the truth. My little sister cared a lot about others than herself. That's the reason why Mr Zulu chose her. He only cared for his reputation. Since Nandi was a hard worker that made Vincent to compete with the king he married her before the king does. I wish I had a say by that time. I could've saved her she was my best friend. I didn't have the powers by that time like I have now. She was always right about my uncle and mother that they were having an affair. She didn't tell anyone but me. After my father's dead that's when I realized that maybe she was right. And there is the possibility that they killed him. My father was a happy soul. We were his light hence he named my sister Nandipha that means he was given. "Let hope she will" "Wena Ernest no one will replace my daughter like you replaced your brother" Phumza shouted "Say that again Phumza" Ernest shouted "Elders don't do this" Mpilo said "Apologise son" Ernest said. He have to when it comes to Mpilo we don't agree with him.

"Apologise my children" Phumza said It's sad because my mother never showed her daughter the love she had for her. This is hurting her. I wish I could just turned the time. And see them fighting as a mother and daughter. _____ MBUSO ZULU I know that I heard no right to take her phone. I never seen her this mad and Sihle just added on the stress. She took off her clothes by herself. She didn't need my help. "I'm sorry Mama" "I can't deal with your jealousy but I can deal with this" she said that while her eyes were glued to my d!ck " Oh I see"I went to her she separated her legs I looked at her as she spread her legs wide for me to see and do as I please with her pussy. I love her so much. I breathed and went down on her I was leaving trails of kisses all over her body from her neck to her boobs and all the way down to her torso. "I...ahhh...oh baby" Nandi whispered She was breathing heavily I moved down to her thighs. I patiently kissed each one of them and finally I reached her coochie. I blew hot air while nibbling

on her clit. She held my head that's when I started eating her up while finger fucking her. "You smell so good...mmm Mama..." I said "Ohhh yes....yes Mbuso... I.... Ohhh fuck I need you inside already...ahhhhh" Nandi screamed I took out my finger and licked them. I then went up to kiss her making her taste her delicious cookie. I squeezed her boobies while kissing her. "What do you need inside you Mama? I asked. I was now circling my dick on her wet pussy just teasing her. "Tell your man what you want Mama and your wish can be fulfilled by MJ Zulu" "I...Ohhh Mbuso.... stop doing that I need your dick inside me" Nandi muttered. I went to her neck I kissed it and gave her love bites as well. I then lowered myself to her ear I whispered "Thatha ke...put it inside you for yourself" (take it)Just after whispering I inserted my tongue inside her ear. I felt her hand going down to my dick she took it in her hand and directed it deep inside her pussy. I helped her by pushing myself further in. "Mmm... Ohhh honey Mbuso... Shit" Nandi said. I

started moving slowly with our fingers intertwined and eyes locked into each other's. "Ahh...I....Oh shut up...I fucken love you baby" I groined. She closed her eyes as I increased my pace I went faster than before. Her moans drove me crazy she held me tight while opening her legs even more wider I could feel myself hitting spots I've never hit before. "Ah fuck...yes fuck me...yes yes...baby I...Ahhhh Mbuso yesssss" she whispered " I love you Mama I don't like us fighting" TO BE CONTINUED.

23 MBUSO ZULU Remind someone they are in your thoughts everyday. After our intimacy foreplay we took an innocent shower and went back to my room. I helped her to get dressed. She kept on checking her phone. She is smiling. She's always in my thought. I almost lost my citizenship in her heart because of my jealousy. I knew what I was getting myself into when I fell for her. "You are driving me home Mbuso" Nandi said "I don't have the car to drive you remember" "You will drive me with the

car that is out side" Nandi said. She gave me her car keys. "I'm sorry for my behavior Mama" I kissed her "Just promise me that you won't do that again" Nandi said "I thought I was just a rebuke after that Portuguese guy break up with you" "no Mbuso... You are the resident in my heart don't doubt yourself" Nandi exclaimed "Oh I'm a citizen" "Hundred" Nandi said. We walked out to the living area. Were my uncle and Aunt Dee they were sitting on. "Power couples of the year" Sihle said. As soon as he sees us. This one nearly met his ancestors but Nandi felt sorry for him. The way she was holding that fork she was ready to use it on someones face. I was also ready to watch the movie. On a serious note though I was not going to let her do that. "What happened to an mad Sihle... Who almost bit my cousin girlfriend and Aunt alive? I asked "Well I just find out that your cousin she's going back to school tomorrow" Sihle said "Oh my father's new best friend broke the news to her parents already" Nandi said. Sihle said she knows

nothing about parenting only entertaining people. Yet she's the one who can communicate with his precious daughter. That's was uncalled for. "Mr Zwane he is the king among the kings" aunt Dineo exclaimed. But she is not wearing her smile. Uncle Sihle he's the one who taught me how to handle my girlfriend. Yet he is the one who is violently. They say lead by example that means you must create a picture of what's possible. People can look at you and say 'Well if he can do it Sponsored I can do it.' When you lead by example you make it easy for others to follow you. Look at the Mr Zwane he's leading by example. Many business men look up to him. He sat a example to many of us. "Ohhh both my girls are charmed by the old man now" Sihle said. He said that looking at his wife who is not smiling. "Okay okay jealous father husband and uncle... Can I see my baby girl before I leave? Nandi asked "You can go see her Nana" Sihle said "Not you too Sihle. Only one person who calls me that and I respond to him thats my father" Nandi said. She

said that walking away. Dineo looked at me. The only thing I've learned about her is that she's a straight talker. I sat down and looked at her. "Aunt Dee...." " Mbuso... In order to keep your relationship going you need to trust her. Commucate with her. don't intevine in her privacy. Here is the advice I have for you. Communication is the key for everything. This are the main reason and points you should set and have in order to keep your relationship going. Respect BoundariesTrust and Support" Dineo said. Trust is the main point of a relationship. But how do I trust when she just fell for people she hardly known. If she'd to read a person before jumping into other relationships she was not going to have so many failed relationships as she claims. She just just like a frog. At the end of the day she's the one who's getting hurt. "I wish I could stay but my father won't allow me to" Nandi said. I looked at Dineo then I nodded. "Thanks aunt won't kill nephew" Sihle said. Dineo stood up and left him like that "Lungisa indaba yakho no Jeso

Sihle" Nandi said (fix your story with Jesus) While laughing. She's enjoying what ever that is going on "You are enjoying this aren't you Nandi? Sihle asked. That's the same question I asked him earlier and he laughed at me. "What turns around comes around Sihle" I said that taking Nandi's car keys and my phone. "Let's get going Mama" I wrapped my hand on her arm. While helping her with my other hand to do the same to me. "I love you honey" Nandi said "I love you too Mama" I pinned her on her car and kissed her on her lips. I opened the door for her she got in. I went to open for myself and got in the car. I looked at her she looked me. "I just want to get home and go to my warmth bed and hug my teddy bear then fall asleep without being disturbed" Nandi muttered "Why? it's barely 8pm" "Because you made me tired Mbuso" Nandi said "We can go for second round right here if you want" Her eyes popped out like the cartoons when they popped their eyes out. "Mbuso you need deliverance" Nandi said "Then deliver me Mama"

She chuckled "You really crazy Mbuso" Nandi said "Just drive me home" she added _____

PHILANI MCUNU I watched my mother praying. I'd never thought I will see this day until today. She said her Amen. Then walk to her room. She came back holding my late sisters dress and my father's picture. She hugged them then cried. My mother she's losing her mind. She didn't cry all those years but now . "Phumza stop with that nonsense" Ernest said. When did he got here "I killed them" Phumza said. She was crying. She must consider herself luck because Siphesihe and Mpilo was not around. She was going to sing right now. "Phumza look at me" Ernest said "How do you sleep Mchunu knowing very well what we did was wrong. How do you find peace knowing very well that we killed them?" Phumza asked While her eyes were glued to her husband "We didn't kill anyone my love" Ernest said "Don't call me that Ernest this was your plan. You didn't lost anyone but I did" Phumza said "Your mother needs help son" Ernest whispered to my ear

"I lost the loving and caring husband and my daughter too" Phumza cried. I stood up and went to hug her from behind "Mommy it's all in the past" As much as I wanted to hate her. But I can't she's my mother. She's the one who bought me in this world. "I'm sorry son.... I'm sorry for the pain I've caused you and your brothers" Phumza said "It's okay Mom" She turned and looked at me "It feels like your sister could just walk in along with your father holding each other's hands like they used to making me jelouse" Phumza muttered. My father and sister had their special bond since a whole nother was busy. "Nandi.... I'm sorry ma-baby" Phumza said. She is crying. This is getting out of hands. She needs some help straight away _____

NANDIPHA We got to my house I'm tired as hell. Mbuso knows his story. He is the first boyfriend who's not violently calm and understanding. He looked at me. "This means I'm going to catch a taxi" Mbuso said "Obvious that's the punishment of taking something that doesn't belong to you" "But

you've punished me already" Mbuso said "No I didn't" I declined. "You did when you screamed my name" Mbuso said. I'm bit embarrassed. I looked outside through the window trying to avoid eye contact with him. He made me look at him. He kissed me "I don't mind hearing that scream again" Mbuso said. This guy he's addicted to sex sure "Just leave before my father find you here" I said that getting out of the car. "And your car? Mbuso "Drive safe honey. I will get it back tomorrow" "Okay blow me one last kiss" Mbuso said "Just go before I changed my mind" He started the car and drove off. Dad must get me a new car for my birthday. I find my father busy with his laptop as always. He need to rest he is not getting any younger. "Babami..." "Nana" He said. that while his eyes were still glued on his laptop "I got home before the sunset" He chuckled I joined him "It's 8:01 PM Nana.. who are you trying to fool Nana? Dad asked. He laughed "I'm sorry dad" "Nana you I'm getting old I would like you to step in on the company. If you are not doing

it for me do it for mommy" Dad said. Here we go again. Palisa made her way "Hello cuz" I'm trying to avoid my father. But it seems like I'm failing "Hey mzala" Palisa greeted me back then she walked to the kitchen "Nana please" Dad said "Please give me time to think deeper about this" "okay Nana goodnight" He said and left his phone open. TO BE CONTINUED

24 NANDIPHA [TWO WEEKS LATER] Family time offers many benefits including building confidence creating a stronger emotional bond between family members improving communication skills Sponsored better performance in school and reduced behavioral issues as well as providing an opportunity to make memories built on fun laughter and togetherness. Spending quality time with my aunties wasn't a bad idea. I got to know their sad and happy side they also got to know weakness. "You are a spoilt brat wena Nandi" aunt Sarah said. We both laugh "Who wouldn't be? While

you are on your 30s and they still call you Nana" aunt Christina muttered " Believe me I was against that. But with my father not everything you can succeed" "Let's bet his first word when he walks in here will be Nana" I added "Pinky promise. If his first word is not that you are taking me out for lunch. Then if he does I will visit you every weekend" aunt Christina said "That's my brother for you not everything you will succeed in him" aunt Sarah said. We laughed. My father and my uncle made their way in. "Nana..." I looked at my aunts we laughed at him "Girls Nana's did dad said something funny? Dad asked. We laughed "I guess one of my aunties here will be visiting us every weekend" "Change of plan I will do your hair then" aunt Christina said "Baba promise is a what? "Nana... Promise is a credit" Dad said "Sthembiso why are you siding with Nandi" Sarah said "Obvious phela sis babah will side with his nanah" aunt Christina said. We chuckled. I think they've made peace that I will be in their lives forever. I am my

father's daughter and I will be always be. My phone ringed I didn't checked the caller ID. "Nandi speaking hello" "Aunt it's me Keitumesti... " Hello baby... "I just called to hear your voice" Keitumesti said. With a faint voice "It's everything okay ma baby" "The ceremony it's went well. Now the family is having a min welcoming party I would be happy if you were here" Keitumesti said "Did Mbuso asked you to call me? "No no-one knows that I'm making this call with you the uncles are welcoming. But Mbuso's sisters and his father it's another story" Keitumesti said "So where are now? "I locked myself at my father's car" Keitumesti said. I could hear her sniffing "Did anything happen baby girl? "Sorry aunt I should've said anything" Keitumesti said This sounds serious. "Baby please send me your location I will be there within 45 min to 50 min" "Forget that I called you aunt" Keitumesti said then. She ended up. I had no choice but to call sis Dee. It ringed once she answered like she was waiting for it. "Sis Dee please send me the location I need to

speak to my baby girl" I said before she could say something "I was about to call you she locked herself in car" Dineo said "Just send the location" "Ok sis I would appreciate that" Dineo said. I hung up. Everyone in this room was looking at me. "I'm sorry guys this family fued we have will have to wait" "Nana... What's wrong? "I have to rush somewhere" " That somewhere of yours doesn't have a name" my uncle said "Dad is Keitumesti she's not well" "What's wrong with Tumie now" dad asked. The WhatsApp notification came through. It was the location sent by sis Dee. Since I left my car and dad won't allow me to use his car. I requested an Uber. "The only way to find out is to get there" "Okay Nana just send me the location I will fatch you" Dad said. I sent it right away. I went to my room and changed the shoes that I was wearing. To sneakers since I was wearing a jean the is no way I'm going to change it. If someone have a problem with that he/she must go hang themselves. The notification came through that the Uber is out side.

I kissed my father's forehead. The aunties complained I kissed their cheeks and walked out. Found the Uber waiting for me. _____

MBUSO ZULU Sihle was losing it I don't know what happened with Keitumesti. Not so long she was happy. "Aunt what happened?" "I don't know but she called girl power" Dineo said. She feels free around Nandi. I just pray that I can behave myself around her. Sihle banged the table. "Sihle just calm down you are making things worse" Philani said "Dineo if she doesn't come out of that car I'm going to do something that I will regret" Sihle said. This is embarrassing since we were sitting outside. An Uber approaching our yard. "This could be her" I said. Dineo looked at the Uber. She got up and rushed to it. Nandi got out of the car she hugged Dineo and made their way to us. We exchanged greetings with her. She rushed to Sihle's car. She knocked on the window. Keitumesti opened the car for her. "This plan better work you too" Sihle said. He pointed me and aunt Dineo. Then sat down "We

both know that she's the only one who will talk some sense to her" I said that while my eyes are glued to the car. Within 5 minutes Keitumesti and Nandi got out of the car. They hugged each other and held each others hands like best friends. Their made their way to us. I smiled a little Dineo smiled too. "Girl power she's the best" Sihle said. Not she knew nothing about parenting in his face. Nandi sat next to Sihle Keitumesti sat between Nandi and aunt Dineo. Nandi winked at me with a smile before she looked at Philani Mpilo and my grandmother who were sitting opposite her She looked them without blinking her eyes. She seems very scared and hardly breath. She Immediately she shuffled her eyes away from them and looked at aunt Dee "Sis Dee where can I find the restroom" Nandi uttered she was shacking. TO BE CONTINUED

25 PHILANI I just saw a ghost. I looked at my mother who was trying to be strong. That girl she's a resembling of my little sister everything about her is

our sister. Nandi whenever she was in trouble she'd look at me without blinking. And I would ask her what did she do. Me and Nandi we were very close. Something is not right here. I will just wait for that girl to come back here. I don't want to scare her.

"Bafo that's our sister" Mpilo whispered. I thought I was the only one who picked something up about the girl. "I doubt Mpilo" I whispered "Remember that she had a spot on her elbow" Mpilo whispered I nodded. "Ask Sihle" Mpilo whispered "Just relax I will get to the bottom of this. Remember that Sihle cannot be trusted" I whispered. He nod MBUSO ZULU I just wish I can hold her and tell her everything is going to be alright. But how while she locked herself in the bathroom for 3 hours now. Mpilo and Philani are busy whispering to each other's ear. They made my girlfriend felt unwelcome. After a long silence Philani cleared his throat. I looked at him. He has something to say but he won't say it. "Uncles I'm going to break that do believe me" "If you still want your relationship to

work just let her be she will be here whenever she feels like coming out" Sihle said "So how are we going to help ourselves Sihle? Philani asked "well P.... I'm already out you can go use the restroom in peace" Nandi said. Philani and Mpilo nodded at the same time like they were confirming something this are my uncles I know them then I know uncle Sihle. She keeps on biting her nails. She looked at me then took off her necklace. She stood beside me. Everyone this table looked at us. "Mbuso Zulu.. this is a symbol of my love to you I loved you babah. Thank you for showing me the love. I never knew that love does exist until you came into my life and taught me how to love someone unconditional. What we had was really I loved you Mbuso. You don't deserve me infact you deserves better than this" Nandi said. Why is she saying love as in a past tense. "No... Don't break up with me please Mama... whatever it is we can fix it as fix it" Philani opened their his mouth wider like he wanted to say something. Did Nandi had to break up with me in

front of my family? "Mbuso you won't understand" she cried. I love this woman but right now I hate her. "Then make me understand" I frowned. Philani whispered something to Mpilo they both looked at us "One day you will understand but not today" Nandi whispered. She walked to Keitumesti her best friend. She took off her diamond watch from her wrist She knelt down "Baby look at me" Nandi said. Keitumesti looked at her "Aunt what is going on? Keitumesti asked confused. While she wiped Nandi's tears something that I failed to I don't have the strength anymore "Baby girl I'm so sorry to just come in to your life and walk away just like this. But remember that I love you and I will always love you. With this watch I want you to know that time is very important. But Once you lost the time it will never ever come back to again. So make use of this time for a better living and be productive by having a good time management strategy" Nandi said. She looked at Sihle "Sihle please do me a favour. Take a good care of Tumi she's a good girl who needs both

her parents love" Nandi said "Girl power... What is this Mbuso and Keitumesti need you" Sihle said. Nandi looked at him than looked at everyone in this table. Her eyes were full of tears NANDIPHA My past cought me. My pain cought me. The reality kicked in my chest. I'm just feeling sorry for Mbuso and Keitumesti. Those two will always be in my heart. I looked at everyone in this table. My eyes met Vincent's eyes. My brothers are sharing the same table with this man. Oh my goodness what if he's Mbuso's father? I wish I could kill those people right now. My father said he will be here soon. I looked at everyone around this table here. I steady my breath and try to calm the panic. "You murderi family and the rapist himself" I'm not frightened nor afraid. What I'm feeling beyond such mere nouns "Na....nd...." Phumza said "Nandi" Vincent said. "Gogo... Dad what is going on here?Mbuso asked "Son that is your..." Mbuso stood up Sihle followed him. I felt the flight responses kick in increasing my heart rate flooding me with added adrenaline. I got

up and run. All I wanted was to die. I heard a car hooter it must just hit me. What is the use of living I don't value anyone in this world. I continued running I don't only God knows where I'm running to. "Nana.... It's me" I stopped as I heard my father's voice. I ran back to him. I sigh in relief. But still I steady my breath and try to calm the panic Dad met me halfway. "I'm sorry father... I'm sorry" Crying. He hugged me "It's all well Nana you are safe now I'm here" father said. We broke the hug. I turned and looked at the family fued who were walking to the direction where I and my father we are standing. Phumza she's limping. Mbuso Sponsored Sihle Dineo and Keitumesti they were not among the crew that's coming towards us. As for Vincent Ernest and Phumza they must make sure that they don't come near me. "Dad where is your gun? Sniffing I'm safe around my father that's the fact "Why do you need a gun Nana? Dad asked "This is the very same family who sold me to that man who's wearing a white shirt" I said. "No guns can be

used Nana... Just trust me no one will touch you"
Dad said "I'm sorry dad... I'm really sorry" I sniffed.
My heart is throbbing in my ears loud and irregular
but I barely heard it at the same time I feel my chest
pounding in my ears. TO BE CONTINUED

26 PHILANI MCUNU We Walked up to them. We
didn't have to investigate go any further. As she
called me "P" she's the only one who calls me that.
Nothing much has changed about her. She's still
Nandi that I know beside her fancy clothes and
make up. Her walk and actions are still the same. I
saw that when she was running than hugged the
man. She used to do that a lot. The only thing that
changed about her is that she's leaving her
expensive life and happy. I think she's rich too
judging from her clothes and the jewelry she gave
my nephew and niece. Vincent attempted to go
attack the man. But I managed to stop him. "I'm
sorry dad... I'm really sorry" Nandi said. "It's okay
Nana... let's go before..." the man said Nandi cut

him "Father the is no need to kill remember? Nandi said "Nana I promised your mother that I will take care of you. If it means I should die so be it" the man said Phumza looked me. I guess that cought her. Her own daughter calling someone father the father she never knew "Father we need to talk. Let's get inside the car and I will tell you everything" Nandi said. They walked to the car. They looked at each other " Nana..." "Dad..." "It's just a two of us against the world. Remember" man said " Just a two of us father" The man opened the car for Nandi. It seems like she's used to her fancy life. "What is our next step? " What do we do now? Vincent asked. As much as I wanted Nandi to come outside that car and explain herself. He statement kicked into my heart. " You murderers family and the rapist himself" this people bought pain into my little sister's life. I looked at Mpilo "Bafo..." "Bafo..." Mpilo said "We failed her as our little sister. Let's not fail our nephew too" "True bafo Mbuso needs us than she does" Mpilo said. He is telling the truth .

Yet Mbuso he's the one who got caught in the cross fire. How could Sihle be this blind. This will cost us. Mpilo and I walked back to the yard. We made our way to the house. Sihle was sitting next to Mbuso was sitting on the holding the same necklace that Nandi gave him. Than he took his phone out and started to record "Mama could we talk please" Mbuso recorded "Mbuso... ingane kadadewethu" (my sister's child) Mpilo said Mbuso looked us. He slammed his phone and against the he walked to Mpilo's room we could hear him groned than locked the door. _____ MBUSO ZULU All I need right now is to die. How can Nandi do this to me. What did I do to deserve this. I gazed at the necklace she gave me it is unsexed necklace from daniel wellington DW Elan necklace silver worth 50K. As much as I wanted to know how could she do that to me. _____ NANDIPHA ZWANE I told my father everything. He looked at me. I'm sure he hate me right now. "What are you trying to tell me Nana? Dad asked. While he's looking at the

crazy family fued that was out our car. "The is a possibility that Mbuso is my son dad" I said. Then cried "Why did you do this Nana.. Why Nana? "I'm sorry dad" "I hear you that you're sorry Nana... What is the way forward? Dad asked "I don't know dad" "What do you know Nandi huh? He yelled. I never heard him calling my name. I'm screwed sure. But anyway I deserve any punishment coming my way. "The only thing that you know is to behave like a teenager. Flirting with our clients forgetting that you are not 18 anymore" He yelled again this time he banged the steering "I'm sorry dad" That's what I can say. It's a good thing that I haven't respond him about his offer to take care of the company. They've done good job raising me in a good environment and best schools "I'm grateful dad for everything you've done for me. I'd understand if you want nothing to do with me. But please don't leave me here. Drive me somewhere far and safe than here" He looked at me then took his cigar and went out of the car with car. Without saying a word. As much as

I wanted to hear my brothers side of their story. But my heart was denying that. Did this drama had to a week before my birthday. So Sihle he's Siphesihe my brother. TO BE CONTINUED Sponsored PHILANI MCUNU We Walked up to them. We didn't have to investigate go any further. As she called me "P" she's the only one who calls me that. Nothing much has changed about her. She's still Nandi that I know beside her fancy clothes and make up. Her walk and actions are still the same. I saw that when she was running than hugged the man. She used to do that a lot. The only thing that changed about her is that she's leaving her expensive life and happy. I think she's rich too judging from her clothes and the jewelry she gave my nephew and niece. Vincent attempted to go attack the man. But I managed to stop him. "I'm sorry dad... I'm really sorry" Nandi said. "It's okay Nana... let's go before..." the man said Nandi cut him "Father the is no need to kill remember? Nandi said "Nana I promised your mother that I will take care of you. If it means I

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back to the yard. We made our way to the house. Sihle was sitting next to Mbuso was sitting on the holding the same necklace that Nandi gave him. Than he took his phone out and started to record "Mama could we talk please" Mbuso recorded "Mbuso... ingane kadadewethu" (my sister's child) Mpilo said Mbuso looked us. He slammed his phone and against the he walked to Mpilo's room we could hear him groned than locked the door.

_____ MBUSO ZULU All I need right now is to die. How can Nandi do this to me. What did I do to deserve this. I gazed at the necklace she gave me it is unsexed necklace from daniel wellington DW Elan necklace silver worth 50K. As much as I wanted to know how could she do that to me.

_____ NANDIPHA ZWANE I told my father everything. He looked at me. I'm sure he hate me right now. "What are you trying to tell me Nana? Dad asked. While he's looking at the crazy family fued that was out our car. "The is a possibility that Mbuso is my son dad" I said. Then cried "Why did

you do this Nana.. Why Nana? "I'm sorry dad" "I hear you that you're sorry Nana... What is the way forward? Dad asked "I don't know dad" "What do you know Nandi huh? He yelled. I never heard him calling my name. I'm screwed sure. But anyway I deserve any punishment coming my way. "The only thing that you know is to behave like a teenager. Flirting with our clients forgetting that you are not 18 anymore" He yelled again this time he banged the steering "I'm sorry dad" That's what I can say. It's a good thing that I haven't respond him about his offer to take care of the company. They've done good job raising me in a good environment and best schools "I'm grateful dad for everything you've done for me. I'd understand if you want nothing to do with me. But please don't leave me here. Drive me somewhere far and safe than here" He looked at me then took his cigar and went out of the car with car. Without saying a word. As much as I wanted to hear my brothers side of their story. But my heart was denying that. Did this drama had to a week

before my birthday. So Sihle he's Siphesihe my brother. TO BE CONTINUED

27 MBUSO I don't want to live anymore. I've nothing to live for. I'm just a picture of a Mbuso J Zulu. I'm so drained. Her words still play a tune in my mind. Did she ever loves me? Someone knocked at the door. Which part of I want to be alone. I wanted to die. I just want my body to feel my body living my spirit. I just want to see myself in the other world. I dislike falling in love because that made me do things that I'm ashamed of. How could Siphesihe fail to recognize his only sister. I mean those two could back chat each other then in the next minute things are back to normal. I looked at the picture that was on Mpilo's's room. Yet it's black and white color. But this girl on the picture look little bit like Mama. Even though on the this picture her heir isn't long like now. I'm trying to memorize the word that made my grandmother recognise her "You murderers family and the rapist himself" this people

bought pain into her life. Vincent raped her. According to my understanding Vincent violated her rights. According to google Ukuthwala is often associated with numerous other offences ranging from kidnapping rape sexist exploitation and human trafficking Sponsored to a general denial of woman's rights and the rights to equality. It is in clear violation of the South African Constitution which puts gender equality and the best interests of the child as a top priority. Their violated her right her rights. I saw hatred in her face you could tell that she wanted nothing to do with the Murdered family fued and the man who raped her. I hate myself right now. The strong feeling that we had for each other was not meant to be blissful as it was. It was meant to be a mother and son bond. But no I and Nandi decided the other way around. I hate myself right now. I wish my body could just leave my spirit. I don't want to live anymore.

_____ PHILANI Sihle knocked at the door. Hoping that he would open for him. "He is living us

without no choice but to break this door" "He won't hurt himself Philani let's just give him the space. He needs to heal" Mpilo said. He knows him very well. They're friends. Mpilo aunt Zodwa and Mbuso know each others dirty secrets. "How could Nandi be this cruel? Sihle asked. We all don't have the answer. She does look young but how did she managed changed her identity. I hate the fact that she was messing around with her own son. Sihle explained to us. How did they met her. That it was on Mbuso's interview day. How Nandi was heartbroken after her boyfriend broke up with her. She yelled at the receptionist he was the one who made her stop. He said he felt the strong feeling around her. But he chose to ignore it since he thought if it was our sister she could've been old by now. He was not even aware of her actions. Yeah if she didn't looked at me straight on the eyes without blinking. I was not going to recognize her. But that bought my attention to her. The door swing opened. Mbuso got out he looked very drained poor my nephew.

Like he been carrying the world over him. He looked at Sihle. "I'm resigning with immediate effect" Mbuso said. With his faint voice "You need that job Mbuso" "I will find another job. That one has all the memories of that women" Mbuso said "Are you working at the same company? Mpilo asked "No but she's my boss" Mbuso said. As much as I wanted to ignore what ever that was happening. I want to know more about her NANDI There were times I thought he was being. Just a little bit hard on me. But now I understand he was making me. Become the strong women that I am today. In everything he ever did He always did it with love And I was proud to say I'm his daughter. But it seems like that bus has passed. Wheneve somebody says I hope I get to meet your father I would smile and say well you meet him one day. I looked at him as he was viewing this place. I just wish I could die right away. What if he is indeed my son. Why didn't I go with him. I will never forgive myself. I hate being me as I hate Phumza Ernest and

Vincent. Dad hate me too. Why I'm I still breathing. This people they must kill me I'm going to ask for forgiveness from my father. I opened the car and got out of the car. I glanced down if I can not find a broken bottle in case the try to fight me I won't fight but I will just leave a mark to remind them that I'm no longer Nandi Mchunu or Zulu but Nandi Zwane. I felt someone's hand on my shoulder. I looked at the person. The same old man who raped me. Tears just streamed uninvited. "Father... father..." I shouted as if he he did something wrong to me "Father help me" "MaZulu stop with the drama let's talk like husband and wife" Vincent said "Let my daughter go Mister. I don't remember holding her hand and walk her to the aisle" my father said "And who are you? Vincent asked. He got the nieves to ask my father that question. He's is still old to be my husband "Zulu man you don't want to miss with the wrong person. I will get you arrested now for kidnaping a 15 years old and raped her" my father said "And as for Mchunu's I see a

coffin already but you guys need to pay for your sins the hard way" he added "Nandi get in the car we are going back to Gauteng we will meet this people at court if we have to" my father said again. From being his Nana to Nandi "I'm sorry my daughter" Phumza said. I don't know when did I jumped on her. I was beating her. People tried to separate me from her. But they failed. I will just get arrested for attacking an old woman. "Phumza I will kill you today" "Nandi let her go" Ernest said. He must be aware I'm coming for him to " What kind of a mother ar...." I heard a gun shot I mean a warning. I stopped it indeed it's a warning fire by my father. How can he do this he knows that I'm scared of guns. He rushed to us "Nana.. let's just go home" Dad said. He looked at me and walked to us. "Nana. Remember that is just me and you against the world" Dad said. I just looked at him. I'm breathing heavily "Let's just go home Nana... Please all of this it's a wave it shall pass soon" Dad said. This was my mother's signature This it's just wave it shall pass

soon. He helped me to get up and bought me closer for a hug. This is what I needed from my father not the yelling. We broke the hug. I turned I wanted to see the damage I've coursed to Phumza. The was a woman who was helping her to get up. Her son's just stood distance away from the family fued. They done nothing as they did to me. Mbuso just looked at me. He shook his head then walked away. I ran to Sihle and gave him two hot smack on his cheek.

"Nana.... Let's just go" TO BE CONTINUED

28 NANDIPHA The drive to Johnesburg was long and quiet. I fell asleep and woke up again. Finally we got home. My father got out without saying a word. It's already late. We got off the car. And made our way to the house. I just want a warm bath. Maybe the dirty of today will be removed from me. I hate being me. I hate myself. "It's been a long drive good night Nandi" Dad said. I'm no longer his Nana now. I messed up "Father... I'm sorry" "You have to be sorry Nandi and ashamed too" Dad yelled. He is

really mad "Dad I'm really sorry" "Which part of I don't wanna hear it Nandi? Dad asked "If you didn't get yourself in Mbuso's sheets Nandi maybe I was going to forgive you Nandipha" Dad said. And he walked away from me. I went to the bathroom. I ran both hot and cold water at the same time. He hardly look at me. He barely talk to me. What have I done. He was my friend now he is giving me a hard time. Not so long ago he told me this. Who will I talk to? I have no one. No one at all. It's just me alone. "As a girl grows up men will come in and out of her life but the one man who will always be there is her father. The father-daughter relationship plays a vital role in his girl's journey to adulthood" He was happy when says those words. We were so close Sponsored but the one man who will always be there is her father. The father-daughter relationship plays a vital role in his girl's journey to adulthood" He was happy when says those words. We were so close before my past hunted me. The next day I woke up with a full headache. I made my way to the

bathroom. I took a quick bath. I walked back to my room and changed my sleeping wear to a tight stripeless dress. I walked to the living area. Dad was having his breakfast. "Morning dad" "Morning Nandi" Dad greeted back "What are we having for breakfast?" "French breakfast. Change your outfit we are going to the office" Dad ordered "Was that an order?" I looked at him "Why dad?" "Because I said so" Dad replied. Just a wow. Palisa joined us. "Morning family.. I thought I was alone" Palisa said. "Well we came back last night we you were already snoring when we got here" Dad said. I dished for myself. The headache is not doing me a favour. "Nana I'm running late go change you will grab something when we got there" dad said "Do I have a choice?" "Unfortunately no Nandi" Dad said. Life is unpredictable enjoy it while you still can. Not so long I was happy in relationship with a man who loved me unconditionally. Now I'm stucked in the middle of nowhere. If something comes back to bite you it means a past situation causes problems later.

_____ MBUSO I hate myself right now. I hate that woman too. How could she lie about her identity she faked her own death. Did she ever loved me? Clearly not because she never mentioned anything about her marriage or son. I made my way to the living room. It is silent. I'm glad that Vincent and his family are not here. "Morning" "Good morning Mbuso" my grandmother said. I looked at her. Nandi did good in her face. She chose to beat her up on her face that women is crazy how can she atteck an old woman. "How are you Mbuso" Sihle asked "How I'm I? How would he ask me this question. "Mbuso it's not too late to work your relationship with her" Sihle said "With who Sihle? "With girl power" Sihle said "Are you out of your mind Sihle. Why don't you work your relationship with her" I frowned. What makes me angry is that I was messing around with my own mother. The person who gave birth to me. The very same woman who was raped by my father. Keitumesti walked in with aunt Dineo. Keitumesti she was

holding the very same watch that Nandi gave her. She sat next to me. "Mbuso" Keitumesti said "Morning Tumie" "Will aunt visit us ever again" Keitumesti asked. I looked at everyone. Nandi was the only person who could talk to her when she's down. I pulled her closer. "Look Tumi remember that Nandi loves you? She nod "Okay she will make a plan just to see you" She looked at me then frowned disapproval " Don't lie to me Mbuso... I was here yesterday she said her goodbye to you and me she gave us her favorite jewelries" Keitumetsi said. Indeed it was here favorite jewelries. She onced they belonged to her mother _____ NANDIPHA We got to the office. It seems like everyone was waiting for my father. "It's everyone here? Dad asked. They shook their head "No sir. Mr Zulu he's not here" Lwazi said "He won't join us today Lwazi he is on leave" Dad said "Mbuso just got here few months ago and he already had 3 leaves so far. What is it with the special treatment sir? Lwazi asked "Have you ever

asked me something and I refused? Dad asked. He shook his head "So what is this? Dad asked "How long will he be on leave Mr Zwane? The senior HR asked. "Ask Nandi" Dad said. I looked at him "I don't know" Dad said. The lady on the HR department raised her hand. Dad gave her the platform to speak. "Mr Zulu won't be part of the company anymore. He resigned with immediate effect" The lady said "Thanks for letting us know. Email me his resignation letter CC Nandi and Palisa" Dad said. Palisa and I looked at each other " Well they will be many changes from now on. Nandi and Palisa are full of games I'm putting that to an end today. Palisa you will be working at the reception since Priscilla will be my personal assistant and Lwazi will be Nandi's PA as our CEO" Dad said. Everyone clapped their hands. "Welcome and congrats miss Zwane" Lwazi said. Knowing him very well he's mocking me. "Dad..." He cut me "You don't have a choice Nandi" Dad said "Who will be filling Mr Zulu's position? HR asked " No one will be filling it. Mbuso will come

back he just needs some time" Dad said "What if he doesn't come back? I asked "Well his position will remain open" Dad said. Why is he doing this? He knows very well how do I feel about working here. The boring meeting ended. Everyone went to their position. Dad asked me to stay behind "Dad what was that? "Nandi you are no longer a teenager you need to set a goal for yourself" Dad said. He gave me the files. I what part of I don't want to work in the office does he understand. I have to leave this province before he freeze all my credit card. I don't like this tension between me and my father. I hate the fact that I felt the strong feeling. The fact that when dad said Zulu my heart almost stopped. See me in a relationship again kill me. _____

PHILANI We remained silent. I need to go to Gauteng myself. "Sihle when are you leaving?" "Tonight" Sihle answered "I'm coming with" Everyone looked at me "Why? Mbuso asked "I need to find my sister" "Good luck with that Malume" Mbuso said. TO BE CONTINUED

29 NANDIPHA Love feels as though it should be the easiest thing in the world. I was hoping that my relationship with Mbuso will last for lifetime. But no I was wrong. I'm not meant to be loved or happy. I've lost hope in love. No one will ever love me. All my relationships were toxic besides I and Mbuso we had that thing going a connection I never felt before. I glanced at my phone hoping that it will ring. But no it has been there without ringing. I hate the fact that dad didn't gave me a choice. I just can't wait to pack my things and leave. I can not stay like this. I dislike being forced to do something. Dad walks in the office. "Nana we need to talk" Dad said. I looked at him "Are you crying? Dad asked. I just looked at him. I've lost all the respect I had for him. "Okay Nana you can cry and feel sorry for yourself but believe me when I say you are my daughter I can do anything to protect you. Whatever happened the other day you had to experience that. Stop feeding sorry for yourself. Be my strong daughter that knows what does she want in life.

Remember when you were in grade 10? You knew what you wanted and you worked hard for that" Dad said. I still looked him. "Nana I know that you think I hate you" Dad said. I nod "I would never do that Nana..." Dad said "Well father you do hate me" " Nana how can you say that? Dad asked "Father you barely talk to me" "The heart of a father is the masterpiece of nature." Dad said. I smiled this is what I was accepting from my father. He always have the best interest in my life. "Nana you are my daughter. I'm sorry for making you feel like that this whole situation of you kicked me to hard" Dad said. The last time last time I said I'm sorry he nearly swallowed me alive. I never seen him like that. I can't afford to lose my father I already lost my mother including my boyfriend already. Whenever Mbuso says his surname my heart would plod and threatened to stop. But I chose to ignore that feeling. "Earth to Nandipha Zwane" Dad said I blinked multiple times. And come back to earth right away. "Look Nana this phase shall pass" Dad

said "Remember that it's just the two of us" Dad added. As much as I want to say those words back but I can't knowing that I'm leaving very soon "Dad I'm sorry I can't stay..." I cried. He came to me "Nana this phase shall pass believe me" Dad said. If I leave no one will protect me. Indeed is just a two of us. _____ MBUSO ZULU I glanced at my phone hoping that the same woman who torn apart my happiness and brought pain in my life will call but no. I took the very same necklace and put it around my neck. Her last word played on my head. "Mbuso Zulu.. this is a symbol of my love to you I loved you babah. Thank you for showing me the love. I never knew that love exist until you came into my life and you taught me how to love someone unconditional. What we had was really I loved you Mbuso... You don't deserve me infact you deserves batter" indeed I deserve better. I deserve to know why did she left me. Not only once but twice. I walked where Sihle Philani and Mpilo were sitting. "Uncles" "Mbuso" they both said "Sihle what

time are you leaving? " Only 3 hours from now"

Sihle said "I'm coming with. I hope you and Aunt won't have a problem for staying with me" "Mbuso you are always welcome in my house" Sihle said "Did your boss improve your resignation? Sihle asked "Mr Zwane called me earlier. He said he won't accept it. I should take as much time as I want to take but my position won't be filled permanently"

" Some people are lucky just like that" Mpilo said "If he knew better I'm not going back there" I said. They shook their head " I'm telling the truth guys" " Of course you are. But opportunities like that are rare. Since we are facing high rate of unemployment Mbuso just grab that opportunity with both hands" Sihle said _____

NURRITED Mr Zwane walked in the humans rights firm. It is one of highly recommend law firm in the world. "Good day Mr Zwane I wasn't expecting you today" the lady said "Well advocate except me now" he said " What can I do for you today mister" Mr Zwane said "Firstly I'm here to change my will

then after that I'm taking my woman out for dinner" Mr Zwane said. The woman smiled " You just changed your will few months ago? The lady said "Correct" Mr Zwane muttered "Stop doing that Sthembiso" "What did I do Nwabisa? He asked while his hand was on her tight. "Let's be professional for once" Nwabisa said. She switched on her laptop on. "What should I change for you? "Okay on my late wife's will she left half of her properties to our daughter? Nwabisa nod "And shares worth billions our daughter? The poor woman nods again "Okay on my previous will. Everything was going to my daughter? "Yes" "Okay than I will leave my ZCCL shares to Mbuso Zulu" "Before we go any further. Remember that you only have 45% shares? "That's correct. That 45% goes to Mbuso Zulu and my car will go to Palisa Zwane the hotel will go to both my sisters Sarah and Christina Zwane . 3 million will go to my neice Palisa Zwane to further her studies. 100 thousand Rand will go to my brother Paul Themba Zwane. Then the

remaining balance will go to my daughter" "Why add many beneficiaries? Nwabisa asked "Okay let's start recording" Mr Zwane said They started recording the video. It took them an hour and they drove to the nearby restaurant. They dined and enjoy themselves. Until Mr Zwane received a call about his Nana. _____ NANDI ZWANE I was at the club the shots keep on coming like the heavy rain "Keep them coming" "Girl power you have enough for the day" the bar man said "I'm spending my money not yours" "I know dad's little girl" the bar man said "Keep them coming as I request" "let me call your dad Nandi you had enough already" he added "What's wrong with everyone. Telling me how should I live my own life" I shouted "It's okay Nana don't do this to your self" I turned and saw my father with the family lawyer. " Sorry for that son I will take her home" dad apologize to the bar man "Haybo Sthembiso.." the lawyer said "I'm sorry dear maybe some other time. My daughter she's going through tough time and

she needs me" Dad said "Well Sthembiso you are chose Elizabeth over me. Now she's gone you are choosing your princess over me again" the lawyer said. I got up and walk up to her "Look woman you can do whatever you want whenever you want and talk whatever you want but don't you ever mix my mother's name on your love life" I said. My father pulled me aside "Nana stop being dramatic" "Father I was having a wonderful day until you came" I shouted. The music started by S'Villa ?I'm on my knees and I'm praying oh Lord! And my hands are held up high (oh no) And all that I have is sin Cleanse me oh Lord! ? I sat down on the floor and started crying. My father did the same and pulled me for a hug. It seems like I've gotten that we are in public. ?Uku ukushona kwelanga Kuleth' uzinhlungu zodwa Sponsored kuleth' izinsizi zodwa Uku ukuphuma kwelanga Kuleth' intokozo nenjabulo Thula thula mama ungakhali Sula mama inyembezi zakho Umdali uzosibonis' indlela Thula thula mama ungakhali Sula mama inyembezi zakho Umdali

uzosibonis' indlela Thula Mdali sohlala sicela Ngob'
implil' ihlala inzima Ngaphandle kwakh' ithemba
alikhho Nyembezi zixube negazi Mdali wethu sphinde
sacela Khiph' ubuhlungu ebusweni bami yeah Igama
lakho lihlala likhanya Uthando liphilisa empilweni☹

"Nana stop doing this. Your mommy won't be happy
to see you like this" dad said "she's happy to see me
heartbroken?" "Even Mbuso won't be happy to see
his mama like this" dad said. He got up and he
helped me to get up. We went to sit to his friend
lawyer. It was silent for few minutes. "Nwabisa if
you want us to work stop competing with my
daughter or my family" Dad said "Sthembiso it was
always Elizabeth even if she's on her grave it's still
her" "This won't work Nwabisa" Dad said He looked
at me "Nana let's get going" he added. I looked at
this woman then I winked at her. I'm not ready to
betray my mother. TO BE CONTINUED

30 MBUSO ZULU Abandonment fears can impair a
person's ability to trust others. They may make it

harder for a person to feel worthy or be intimate. But we are talking about Nandi here. The girl power. She has the power to make things slide. Indeed she has all the powers to do as she pleased. I know that my father is a piece of paper but Nandi on the other side takes a trophy of being cruel. I thought uncle Philani was joking when he said he's coming with us. Did I ever said I love her more than she loved herself. Yes I did that was our first intimacy foreplay. Oh I hate myself right now. "Stop feeding your brain about things that cannot be undone" Philani said "I loved her" "Stop pleasuring yourself" Sihle said "Okay guys I will stop" "We are going to the club" Sihle said "Okay you guys enjoy" they walked out all I can do is lie in bed and hope to drift away to sleep before I fall apart. Soidal is the last thing in my mind. As much as I try telling myself that it will soon be over and that I'll bounce back I still lack the strength to move on. Behind these small eyeballs is nothing but patches of dried blood from many nights of weeping. Why did she have to

grind my heart the way she did? Did we have to end what we shared? Did we have to let go of each other? What is the meaning of life if I don't have her by my side. "Mbuso tomorrow it's her birthday any plans? Keitumesti asked I didn't see her coming. The gap that Nandi left it will never be replaced to this girl's heart. She sees her as an angel. But to my eyes she's that heartless woman I ever known. "My plan is to lie down and do nothing" "I get what you're saying. Lie down and think about her" Keitumesti said. This girl she's full of jokes "And you have to eat Mbuso" aunt Dineo said while putting me the plate of food in front of me. Food is the last thing in my mind. How could the world be this cruel? How can a mother be this heartless? People grieve for someone who never died while she was living her life. All I'm trying to do is to erase all the memories of her in my mind. I wish I never fell in love with her. "Sorry aunt I will eat some other time" she looked at me. "You know you need to let it go. Your relationship was never meant to be"

aunt Dineo said. " Don't worry mommy I will fed him" Keitumesti said. She was trying to soften me. The only person who once said that was that woman who did this to me. "I'm full" they both looked at me. "That's enough Mbuso you need to talk to someone" Dineo said "Someone? I asked while I'm trying to figure out who's that someone. "A therapist" aunt said. I don't see myself sharing my pain with a stranger. _____

PHILANI
MCUNU We got to the club. There was a poster that has a picture of my sister with a guy that she will be competing with. I never known that she was going to become a artist. That's where did I fail as the bigger brother. I stood there and look at the poster. "I don't think that girl power will make it this time" a girl exclaimed. "She's broken did you see her the other how drunk she was? the other girl asked "Shame the poor girl missed her mother" the other girl said. Sihle looked at me then them. "Excuse me girls when was the last time you saw girl power? Sihle asked. The girls looked each other. "She was

here yesterday she was drunk" one of the girls said. The other one took out her phone and show Sihle the video. "Can you please send me the video? Sihle asked. The girl agreed. Can't a person have the rough day with out the public interfering. "Thanks dear" Sihle said "Please don't post it on social media" the girl bagged. At least the are people out there who knows what is life beside sharing every thing to social media. "Trust me I won't do that" Sihle said. At least the people who still have Ubuntu. We got ourselves a table. Sihle played the video. I must say Mbuso he's a strong young man I ever known. We ordered. There's my little beautiful sister entering the club. She went to a guy who was sitting the table that was behind us the guy got up and hugged her. Sihle looked at me. "Let's play the investigating game" Sihle said. I nodded and prayed that she doesn't see us. "I'm sorry Mr Van Buren" Nandi said "Jacob to you Miss Zwane" the guy said "Okay my apologies Jacob" Nandi said "Mr Zwane didn't mention that I'm meeting with you my lady"

the guy said "I think it might slipped his mind"
Nandi said "I thought I'm meeting with the project manager" the guy said "Well you are meeting with me babah" Nandi said. If a person was to tell me that my own little sister she's a snob I was going to tell that person to go to hell. But what I'm looking at right now. I'm sure that she mess around with every guy she meet. Just looked at how cosy they are. Sihle shook his head. I'm sure he's ready to bust. "Okay let's get to business babah" Nandi suggested. The guy smiled. "Bafo I'm out of here" Sihle said. He seems to forget what bought us here. "You are not going anywhere. We're here for few drinks" "Bafo Mbuso needs us not this girl" Sihle said "Okay let's finish our drinks babah" "Only this drinks then we go? Sihle asked "Yes and you are paying brother" you should seen his face when I said that. "You just like your sister" Sihle said. It's funny because we are whispering like we are those women who gossip.

NANDI ZWANE As much as I
didn't want to come here do the presentation with

Jacob but my father made sure that I come here and do it. He even hired a driver for me. When will this madness end. "How do you know that your materials are safe? Jacob asked. I don't know why did I have to do the presentation with this man. Especially to the environment like this. A whole club where is the professionalism in that? "Examining our construction materials involves Investigate the soil. The quality and type of soil on which the building is built are very crucial. Determine our structure design. And check the concrete mix. Zwane construction company limited do Inspect the wall thickness to ensure the safety features. We check for paint and plastering quality. Examine the elevators" "Well I'm impressed Ms Zwane. You did your homework very well. Mr Zwane have the best team" Jacob said "What are you saying? I asked he pretended like he didn't hear anything "Congratulations Ms Zwane you got the contact" Jacob said. " What? He nodded as I asked. Wow I did it. Yet I was shaking while I was doing the

investigation. "Look Miss Zwane I would like to stay and celebrate with you but I have to go" Jacob said. We got up and hugged. He left. The moment I was waiting is to drunk myself and forget about everything that is happening in my life. The bar man came to clear the table "Are you ready to order ma'am" he asked "The usually beer" " Beer not shots? He asked "Get her whiskey" someone said his voice is familiar. He came and sit right where Jacob was sitting. Kabelo he's one of my ex boyfriend. He cheated on me with the person I thought was my friend. I looked at the bar man. Luckily my food were still here including the fork. "What do you want KB? " I've came here to fix things" Kabelo said. I fastly got up and took the same fork that I was using. "KB I don't need a man in my life and stay away from me you are the worst thing that have happened to me" I said he got up too "whoops Nandi the is no need for that" Kabelo said "You seem to..." Before I could finish my sentence. Someone gently took the fork. I turned

and looked it was Sihle "It's okay Nandi he heard you. There is no need to be violent" Sihle said. Kabelo walked away. I blinked multiple times as I saw Philani. What the hell is going on here. They are here to kidnap me again. Maybe I'm overreacting. Sihle seems to be on my side. "Oh Sihle how is my baby girl? I asked trying to avoid Philani "She's trying. And how are you holding up? He asked. I sat down he set down too Philani joined us. "Baby steps a day I try to find activities that will help me stop thinking about Mbuso. I've gotten myself drunk and played all sorts of music but I still can't get him out of my head. I'm shattered. completely" I said with tears streaming on my eyes. "You don't have to do that Sisi" Philani said "You shut up P" "Okay girl power there is no need to do this" Sihle said "How is he doing? I asked they looked at each other "He's shattered completely too" Sihle said "Oh I wish I can just turn back the time and explain to him what happened" "Just give him time we will be there for him I hope that your new family is giving you all the

support you need" Sihle said "My father he's trying"
Sihle took out his phone and played the video
where I was on the floor crying. I stopped it before
it goes any further. "Sihle what is this? Why are you
following me? "I appreciate Mr Zwane for being
there for you. You are lucky because when you got
here you find yourself a family that cares and love
you. I just wish you told me that you are alive" Sihle
said with his red eyes "I just wanna escape this
pain" "Give yourself time" Sihle said. As much as I
want to hate him but I came to understand that he
was the only brother that cared for me. He also left
home. "And I'm glad too that you are working" he
add "As if I had a choice. My father did not gave me
a choice this time" I said while my eyes were glued
to Philani. Who was miles away. "Sihle it was nice
seeing you again. Please send my greetings to
everyone" I said. As much as I want to leave this
province but the slogan of my father 'it's just the
two of us' keeps on spinning on my mind. I can't
betray my mother I have to be there for my father

I'm done playing games I'm giving up in love.

NANDIPHA Who've thought that me Nandi Zwane will give up in love so easy. The past few weeks taught me to rely on myself. To think that I was all alone. All I needed was to hear Mbuso's voice. But no he never called me or visit me. I guess he's still dealing with his heartbroken. Love tell me about it. It can lead you to do things that are not meant to be. Felling in love with my own son was an eye opener. You don't just meet a handsome man and fell in love with him. You need to know who he is where he comes from. Before you jumped in to his bed. This days I'm experiencing some frequent urination. acute sense of smell. abdominal cramps. vaginal bleeding. It's not a big deal. Stress can do things to a human beings body. "Remember that it is okay to feel sad Nana. In fact it's okay to feel a whole range of emotions including sadness confusion and anger. The key is not to let those feelings affect your whole life. Do not try to numb yourself to the pain or swear off relationships

forever. These activities will only hurt you in the long run. Instead Sponsored and anger. The key is not to let those feelings affect your whole life. Do not try to numb yourself to the pain or swear off relationships forever. These activities will only hurt you in the long run. Instead give yourself time to feel the hurt" dad said. "Will he ever forgive me? I asked while my eyes are glued on his picture that I find on his office. "Nana stop doing that to yourself. You are his Mama. Remember? dad said trying to convince me. He got up and looked at me. "Dad where are you going? "Mama what are we having for lunch? He asked trying to interact Mbuso's voice. "Like really dad? I asked that smiling he sat down again. We bust out laughing. I appreciate this father of mine in my life. If it wasn't for him . My life was ripped apart. Though alcohol is the only way to escape the pain. But he is their for his Nana "Father thanks for being there for me. While I had no one" He looked at me. Than took his phone. "It's okay Nana. I once told you those words to you I want you

to remember them when you feel like I'm being too hard on you. As a girl grows up men will come in and out of her life but the one man who will always be there is her father. The father-daughter relationship plays a vital role in his girl's journey to adulthood" Dad said. I nodded "Nana have you seen my cellphone? I shook my head. He searched for it "Let me call it" I called it. It ringed right on his pocket. I'm not joking he keeps on forgetting things. And I don't blame him his age counts. Forgetfulness can be a normal part of aging. As people get older changes occur in all parts of the body including the brain. As a result I've notice that my father takes longer to learn new things he doesn't remember information as he used to he lose things like his file or cellphone. "I'm sorry Nana" dad said "It's okay dad just get me some ice cream on your way back" he winded his big eyes. I don't know what's going on I keep on craving for things this days. "Are you sure you are not pregnant? Dad asked. How can he thinks such things. I'm in birth control how can I fell

pregnant and by whom. My last intimacy foreplay was month ago with Mbuso. And it's been months since I have up in love and relationships. I need to find myself. "The is no such babah" he got up and walk away. Before he could get out of the door he stopped "If you say so" dad said while leaving the house. The moment I was waiting for. Just to drunk myself and forgot all the memories and pain of my life.

31 NANDIPHA I gave all my life to alcohol just to escape my hidden pain. After all the broken bottle of relationships I never experienced this heartbroken I have right now. Besides alcohol work keep me going. This was my father's idea. I hate office work. It's even worse that I'm doing double job. Mbuso's and mine. Dad doesn't want to fill his position. This is getting out of hand. He cannot force him to be part of my life. The boy has made his decision. And I believe his evil father poisoned him against me. The more I try to convince myself that

Mbuso he's not my son. But the is this something that make me believe that he is that son I gave birth to. That little infant I left when he was 3 days. I was selfish. "Nandi your meeting with Mr Van Buren has been cancelled" Lwazi said. I hided the bottle of whiskey that was under my desk. A music on my ear. I hate meeting with that Jacob. "Good" I said he opened his mouth like he is suprise. "Uh-huh" Lwazi uttered before he walked to my desk. He he pulled out the chair that was on the other side. "What is it my PA? I asked while looking at him. I could see that he needed to talk to me but I never gave him the chance to. We only talk about work related "Nandi why do you keep pushing me away? He asked. I thought he was going to ask why did I say 'good' when he said Jacob cancelled his meeting. But why do I keep on lying on myself. I will never love anyone else than like I loved Mbuso. "Lwazi you are not my type" "Mbuso and I we are age mate" Lwazi said " Maybe I can date your father Lwazi" I said. He shook his head "Why didn't you date Mbuso's

father than? He asked. This days I I'm impatiently. I get angry without a reason "Get out of my office Lwazi and never come back here" he got up "Look Lwazi I'm sorry. I'm not talking about your age but the type of person I do date. And you need to get this to your head. Your looks won't do me personally even though you are objectively attractive. I am not attracted to you but it is in no way an indictment against your overall attractiveness to others" While I was still talking I felt dizzy " Lwazi get me a glass of...

_____ MBUSO ZULU A part of me it's ripped apart. I just got home from job hunting. It's not easy as I thought. I left my CV to many companies. Other companies require 7 years experience. I don't have any references besides Zwane construction company limited. And I only worked five months. "Mbuso you back early" Dineo said "Yes I'm back Aunt" " Any luck? Dineo asked "No progress and the is nothing that is promising" "Shame Mbuso don't worry something will come

eventually" Dineo said " Where is are my uncles? I asked while she bought me lunch "Sihle went to a friend's house. And Philani he's in his room" Dineo said. We head a car hoot. I'm just praying it's not that woman she's the last person I want to see. Even if they say I'm breathing my last breath I don't want to see her. "I will get that" Dineo said. She got up and walked out. I ate my food. Dineo came back followed by Mr Zwane. I looked at them. "Mr Zwane" "Mbuso" he said. He just stood there. "You may take a sit sir" Dineo said. Mr Zwane pulled out the chair and sat down. "Thanks makoti" (daughter in law) he said. Wow I never heard the any of my uncles saying that say that to her. I think it felt special because she smiled a little when he said that. "Anything to drink sir? Dineo asked " Water please" Mr Zwane said. Dineo disappeared to the kitchen. "Mbuso I'm here to see you and your aunt" Mr Zwane said. I looked at him " Regarding? I asked. Sihle walked in. He looked suprise " Good day sir" Sihle said "Good day Sihle" Mr Zwane said. "It's a

good thing that you also here. But I came here special for your wife and nephew" Mr Zwane said. Sihle looked at me. Knowing Sihle very well "For my wife regarding? Sihle asked. Dineo came back with a glass of water. She gave Mr Zwane. "Regarding Nandi she needs someone to talk to. Someone like a mother" Mr Zwane said. However I still care about her but I don't want to see her. "Okay I hear you but I need to talk to my elder brother first before making decisions" Sihle said while looking at his wife. Dineo stood up and disappeared. After some time she came back than sat next to Sihle. Philani followed he sat next to Mr Zwane. "Babu Zwane this is Philani my elder brother" Sihle said " Philani this is Mr Zwane our Nandi's father" Sihle added. I could see that he was doubting to say that but finally he did met "It's my pleasure to see you closer Mr Mchunu" Mr Zwane said "It's my pleasure too" Philani said " Bafo (brother) Mr Zwane he's here to see your sister in law regarding his daughter" Sihle said. Mr Zwane chuckled. We looked at him " You

can say it Sihle regarding your sister that will never change though she believes that you failed her not once but twice" Mr Zwane said. Sihle looked at me then Philani "How can we help you then? I asked everyone looked at me "If I knew where can I go I would've gone there. And I don't know how did I get here but I found myself here. My wife was the only one who could talk to her. Nandi she's has given up in life. I'm doing all best to keep her away from alcohol But seems to be failing to" Mr Zwane said. Sihle was silently crying. His eyes were full of tears. "I thought work was keeping her busy" Philani said. "Yes it does after knocking off that's when she throw herself to alcohol" Mr Zwane said. He then looked at aunt Dineo "That's where I was hoping you could help me Mrs Mchunu" Mr Zwane said. Aunt Dee shrugged her shoulder "I'm not here to justify what my daughter did it was wrong of her to crowd her own son if she had mentioned anything about her son when she came to our lives we would've made a plan or do something the only

thing that she mentioned it was her 3 brothers and grandmother Sponsored plus mother and uncle who she believes that they are the ones who murdered her father and her faked husband who was abusing her physical and sexual" Mr Zwane said. She never cared about me. She never mentioned me. "We understand where you coming from Mr Zwane you knew that she had a family and you didn't...." Sihle cut Philani short I don't know why. "Mr Zwane... You did what we failed to do and I appreciate it. I cannot speak for my wife but what ever she decide I will support her. My sister she's broken I saw that the other day she nearly stabbed someone luckily I and my brother we were there" Sihle said " mAnd when was that? I asked. This is the first time hearing about this. "Few weeks ago" Philani said "Where did the indicate happened? and why didn't Nana mentioned that to me? Mr Zwane asked. Why is he asking us that shit "At Sibs club" Philani said. "Why would she stab a person. I thought she learned a lesson after stabbing Kabelo 3 years ago" Mr Zwane

said "Kabelo her ex? Sihle asked. How does he know that? Mr Zwane nod. Philani and Sihle looked at each other "That's the same guy he wanted to stab" Philani said. "This is huge then I thought. Nana need a professional help" Mr Zwane said " When she came to our lives she was all lost and lonely she could Knee down and tell offer me a cup of tea. Each and everyday after work. Until I and my wife realised that she needed help. She could woke up around 3 am and carried house chores. We were not rich by then the only thing that came our minds was to take her to social workers but that didn't help because she stayed only a day" Mr Zwane said. "What happened next? Philani asked " The social workers called us that night Nana wanted us" Mr Zwane said "And what happened after then? Sihle said "We had to move to cape Town and left everything behind our jobs the only thing that I needed was to see my wife smiling and that smile was Nandi. My wife got a new job after few months if I'm not lying. Her boss helped us to foster Nana

we took her to school she was still struggling with her past she repeated grade 11. 3 times that's when we got her the therapist that she needed. Hence why she's a artist that's why whenever she has no one to talk to she sing and dance that was recommended by her therapist" Mr Zwane said. I just wish she could just tell me why? I suffered because of what my father did to her. "It took her some time to be a normal child sometimes she could scream pleading for mercy on her husband. Lucky that my wife could make her calm Nandi has been through a lot she started to commit herself to her studies when she was in grade 12 and be that Nandi we all knows. Until adolescent kicked in Nandi started to close the gap that she messed she was 27 years old and she was doing her first year at UCT. That's where I won a Lotto and that's when we started all the business that we have" Mr Zwane said "Philani.... Mbuso my sister needs us. Dineo please go there and help my sister" Sihle said "I'm not promising anything but I will try girl power

helped us when we needed help with Keitumesti" Dineo said. Mr Zwane's phone rang. "Can I take this? Mr Zwane asked. Everyone was emotional in this room. But everything that Mr Zwane said doesn't explain why did she left me. TO BE CONTINUED

32 NANDIPHA I'm with smiling and laughing depression often hide my pain behind a happy face while leading seemingly normal lives. After I felt dizzy at the office. Lwazi had no choice but to drove me home. Here I'm I sitting with my pain. My past cought me I thought I'm I was in control. I thought I closed that sad chapter. I was wrong I came face to face with the same people who stole my youth and happiness. No one can erase the pain I have. I still remember Vincent's first hash words "You are my wife you need to behave like one" he was shouting and he roughly grabbed my heir that evening. How was I supposed to play somebody's wife on that age. I took a sip on the wine before I could hear my

father calling me "Nana I'm home" Dad announced "Oh you welcome babam" I said while my eyes were focused on my glass of wine. He won't even care because it's after work hours. I felt lot of eyes. Before I could face up. I started feeling nauseous. I got up and ran to the bathroom before I can throw up. I washed my face and walk back to the living area. I found my father holding our family album. Me him and mom. We were happy it was just a three of us. My father looked at the picture. I couldn't see tears in his eyes. "I wish she can stop thinking that alcohol is the solution of problems. I wish she can talk to me or get some help. We're been here before here we are again and this time you are in the other side of the world I just hope and pray that Nana gets help before she hurt herself or someone else" dad said that while his eyes were focused on the picture. He didn't even see me. I will just let him be. I went to my room I changed to my pyjamas. I also took Mbuso's picture the one I got in the office. I hugged it and cry myself

to sleep. _____ THE FOLLOWING DAY I woke up with a dull headache it ringed a bell that I was drinking last night. I jumped out of bed. I went to take a shower. It feels like I needed it. I wrapped myself with a towel I walked out of the bathroom I met with sis Dee. What is she doing here so early in the morning. "Morning girl power" she greeted. I don't have the powers anymore. Why do people keep on calling me that. I'm lost and lonely. Where will I find the time to sing and motivate those girls. I'm a broken bottle that cannot be undone. "Sis Dee.. why are you here? I asked Sponsored I just hope and pray that Nana gets help before she hurt herself or someone else" dad said that while his eyes were focused on the picture. He didn't even see me. I will just let him be. I went to my room I changed to my pyjamas. I also took Mbuso's picture the one I got in the office. I hugged it and cry myself to sleep. _____ THE FOLLOWING DAY I woke up with a dull headache it ringed a bell that I was drinking last night. I jumped out of bed. I went to

take a shower. It feels like I needed it. I wrapped myself with a towel I walked out of the bathroom I met with sis Dee. What is she doing here so early in the morning. "Morning girl power" she greeted. I don't have the powers anymore. Why do people keep on calling me that. I'm lost and lonely. Where will I find the time to sing and motivate those girls. I'm a broken bottle that cannot be undone. "Sis Dee.. why are you here? I asked the first thing that came my mind was Keitumesti and Mbuso. "Is Mbuso okay? She shook her head "and Keitumesti? She shook her head against "oh my goodness what did Siphesihe do now?. She looked at me and then chuckled "One question at the time. Everyone is okay. Me and Keitumesti we will be living here for the next two weeks" Dineo said. I felt dizzy while she was still talking. I balanced myself with the wall. "Nandi are you alright? Dineo asked. " I'm ok just want something to eat" I don't know what is going on with my body this days. This is serious this matter needs to be investigated. I'm experiencing

nausea and vomiting lately. Plus I become severely dehydrated. signs of which include little-to-no urine production dark-colored urine dizziness with standing)osing 5 or more pounds. I find it hard to forgive my brothers. I even find it hard to forgive myself too. To realize that I've been sleeping with my son Makes me feel ashamed of myself. I just wish someone could tell me that I was dreaming. I fail at some major life task such as investigating that strong feelings we had for each other. But how was I supposed to do that? Unedited TO BE CONTINUED

33 MBUSO ZULU If someone was to tell me that job hunting was not easy as I thought I was going to tell that person that she/he is lazy. Well job hunting is the most difficult thing in the world. Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not. Nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and

determination alone are omnipotent. I got to this restaurant just to get a glass of water. It was genuinely of Mr Zwane to pay me fully salary. But I don't want to over spend it. I will need each and every cent of it. The waitress came to assist me. "Good day sir table for one?" "Can you get me a glass of water" "Still water or tap water" the waitress asked. How embarrassed I am right now. I should be specific now I feel like a fool. I opened my mouth trying to say a word. Until someone came to my rescue. "Sorry I'm late Mr Zulu" I shook my head and came back to earth. Jacob is the one who apologised for being late. I'm not here for a meeting. I'm here to mind my own business. "Mr Van Buren" I offered a handshake "I didn't know that I was meeting with you. I thought I was meeting with Mr Zwane and Lwazi." Jacob said. Before I could answer me Zwane was here with Lwazi. Mr Zwane was surprised to see me with Jacob I'm sure. "I'm sorry we're late I hope we didn't keep you waiting" Mr Zwane said. He's

always calm no wonder why God blessed him with the successful businesses. Man like him deserves all the blessings coming their ways. "I and Mr Zulu we just got here so no harm done" Jacob said. We exchanged greetings we sat down. If I didn't make myself a fool I'm probably going to leave. "Mr Zwane I see that you bought your main army" Jacob said. Looking at me. Mr Zwane didn't know what to say either did I? "Our mission is enduring. To provide necessary forces and capabilities to the Combatant Commanders in support of the National Security and Defense Strategies" Mr Zwane said. This old man knows how to make people laugh. We laughed like there is no tomorrow. This people forgotten what bought them here. The way Lwazi was staring at me it was like I took something that belongs to him. We ordered. I could refuse but I remembered that I'm hungry and besides the company will pay for this bill. Who on Earth would say no to free food. We ate silently only fork and knives sounds. Jacob clear his throat "Since you

came with your main army I think he is the one I will be working closely with" Jacob said. Mr Zwane looked at me. The universe brought me here again "He's the project manager he's the one who should decide who should go on his team" Mr Zwane said. I don't know what there talking about "Who will agree to Durban for a month. Besides that it's a short notice? Jacob asked. Mr Zwane looked at me without saying anything. I played with the fork that I cleared my throat "Mr Zulu can you manage to organize the team for me" Jacob said "I.... Can manage" I agree on something that I don't know. Mr Zwane smiled Lwazi was pissed off. Why I don't remember fighting with this guy or any of my colleagues. Sihle once told me that people might pick a fight with you without any reason. I can work for the company so long I cannot see that woman. She never cared about me why should I be interested about her life. _____

NANDI ZWANE Daddy thinks that I'm 15 years old. Who said I need a friend or anyone to talk to for

that matter. I don't need a friend right now. I need closure. Where can I find it. Where will I buy it? How much does it cost? Who said happiness rely on the look probably that's bullshit the is no happiness in beauty. The only thing that beauty has is sadness and hurt broken. My life is meant not to be happy like other people. Pain after pain. Tears after tears. I so wish mommy was here. The only voice that I wish to hear is Mbuso's voice. Our relationship was strong. The memories we shared together especially our intimacy foreplay. If my mother was still alive she was going to say everything gonna be alright. But anyway that's what every mother's say to their children. But the is this woman I don't think she can say those words. Phumza never liked me she never cared for me. Why now. Someone knocked on my office. Lucky today I wasn't planning to drink alcohol. "dadewethu" (my sister) it's Philani. What does he want here. How could Palisa or Lwazi let someone in without an appointment. "What can I do for you P? I asked while I was

shaking. What if he wants to take me back to Vincent. "Sorry to budge in your office uninvited" Philani said. "Well you know that you are not welcome here and you are here" To think he was the best brother to me and Sihle Mpilo all but that was a lie he never been a best brother. But Sihle was he managed to abounded his own family because of the love he had for his little sister. He even get married without their blessings. "Nandi please" Philani said. I cut him before he could finish his sentence. "P I waited for you to come and rescue me but you never came. I could go to fatch water hoping to see one of my brothers to save me from that man but that day never came Sponsored but that day never came probably that dream never came true" I said. He sat down. Who gave him the permission to sit. "I know that you hate me right now and you have every right to. Your father explained to us what you went through. I came here to say my goodbye. Ms Zwane I hope one day you will find it in your heart to forgive me" Philani said "

Goodbye P never came back here" I said that before. I started feeling nauseous. It's weird because I didn't touch alcohol today. "Can you call Palisa or someone on your way out" "Are you alright Nandi? "I'm I.... _____ MBUSO ZULU The unexpected meeting ended. Mr Zwane and Jacob asked to have their private conversation. I could see that Lwazi had something to say. "Whatever you want to say Lwazi it better leaves Nandi's name out" I said "Man like you doesn't deserve a girl like her" Lwazi said "Lwazi you know nothing about me. And you know nothing about her" I said that with a low tone. He faked a smile "I don't know why Mr Zwane he's still keeping your position after what you did because clearly that Mr Zwane I know would've dismissed you or lost millions because of her daughter" Lwazi said. I didn't mean to laugh but I find myself laughing. Obvious each and every parent can do anything for their children. Unlike those parents who sold their children for marriage but that doesn't justify what

Nandi did to me. _____ PHILANI MCUNU

Nandi ran out I don't know where to. But she left her phone on her desk. I and Nandi we were close. I should've stopped them. I should've played the elder brother part in her life. Phumza want to see all her in children but I don't see Nandi coming with us Mbuso made it clear that he won't be there.

_____ NURRITED Mr Zwane drove to to his girlfriend's house. He got there and knock. His girlfriend opened the door for him. "Sthembiso I see that you have come to your senses" the girlfriend said " May I? Mr Zwane asked. While his girlfriend was blocking the door "Look Nwabisa I cannot chose between you and my daughter. I love you both" Mr Zwane said "it's either me or her" the girlfriend said. Mr Zwane looked at her. The is no way he can choose his Nana over anyone. He questioned his heart that can he trust this woman he is looking right now with his testimony won't she forge it? That was the question he was asking himself. "Nwabisa you know very well that my

daughter she's my first priority if this is the end of us I won't fight it" he said " Marry your daughter Sthembiso" the girlfriend said. The old man just left her with her poor opinion. He went to his car. And utter those words "I have to find myself a new lawyer" he said before he drove off. TO BE CONTINUED

34 NANDIPHA Yesterday's the past tomorrow's the future but today is a gift. That's why it's called the present. The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today. Short-term consequences of sleep disruption include increased stress responsivity; somatic problems; reduced quality of life (QoL); emotional distress; mood disorders and other mental health problems; cognition memory Sponsored and performance deficits; and behavior problems in otherwise healthy individuals.

"Someone she's sleeping on duty especially a CEO" someone said. Probably it is not my father. But someone who thinks I'm his friend. "Nana!

Someone called I dislike people who disrupted me on my sleep. I looked up is Siphesihe. Haibo this people things that my workplace it's a playing field "How can I help you Sihle? He took a sit. Who said he must sit? I yawned "Feeling sleepy? Sihle asked. I nod. "You disturb me on my beauty nap" "You are on duty Nandi" Sihle said before he chuckled. I don't think I made a joke "So? I asked struggling my shoulders "Because you are a CEO it doesn't mean you can do as you please" Sihle said. When they say people change its true. It was hard for this dude to speak his own opinion. "What time is it? I asked while still yawning. "It's 11:45. Why don't you take a half day Ms Zwane? Sihle asked as like he's my manager. Half day where here in your dreams. "It's almost lunch time. How may Nandi help Sihle? He looked at me "Is it a crime for a brother to come and check on his little sister? He asked. I shook my head "Okay then since you are going to lunch I will go with you" he said "Who said I'm going to go out? I asked "Nandi stop doing this" Sihle said. I can see

that he's trying to be nice "Ok where are you taking me to? I asked while taking my handbag. I got up. He looked at me "I'm not taking you anywhere girl power" Sihle said "I need something to keep me awake" I said "you are feeling sleepy like this everyday? Sihle asked. That's the good question. According to google it says The most common causes of excessive sleepiness are sleep deprivation and disorders like sleep apnea and insomnia. Depression and other psychiatric problems certain medications and medical conditions affecting the brain and body can cause daytime drowsiness as well. At first I thought it's because of all the stress. But this is getting out of hand. "Lately I'm experiencing forgetfulness and sleepily at inappropriate times" I said. He took my hand bag "Did you visit a doctor regarding this? Sihle asked. Before we exited the office "I'm just stressed Sihle it will pass" "If you say so but still you need to visit a doctor" Sihle said. We exited the office. We met with my father at the corridor. He smiled it's been

long since I saw his smile. "Look who's awake" Dad said with a smile "I wasn't sleeping dad" "Whatever Nana" dad said. The is probably something that he wants to say but he's afraid to. "I'm going out for a lunch" "Okay Nana" dad said _____

MBUSO ZULU To tell the truth empty pride won't take you anywhere. I was really strunded for any job even the cleaning job. Until the universe pushed me back to the Zwane Construction company limited. This is a good paying job. I'm glad that Mr Zwane kept my position. Not that I'm the best candidate anyone can do a better job than me. I'm preparing myself for a trip to Durban site. With my team. As long as I don't get to see Nandi I don't care I hope their keep me their until the site it's finished. My Grandmother want to see all his sons including me as her grandson. She said that she have something important to tell us. Whatever it is I don't want to get involved in that family's scandal. Something tells me that Philani knows more about what ever his mother wants to tell them he

encouraged me and Sihle not to go and he claims that he will update us. Sihle and his stubbornness say that he will go without Philani Knowing. My family with drama it can take an award.

_____ NANDI ZWANE Barbecue buy and braii lounge it's lit. I never been here before. Sihle he's the one who suggested that we come here. Its two blocks from our company. It's sad because I always pass here everyday and I never thought of visiting the place. I've Increased appetite this days. "You have appetite" Sihle said "I told you that I'm hungry" Sihle shook his head "want my plate too? Sihle asked "Are you sure that you don't want to visit a doctor? Sihle asked. I'm not sick why should I visit the doctor while I'm not feeling sick. His wife was telling me the same thing. "Nandi I'm here for you whenever you want to talk I'm a call away" Sihle said. This is a good timing for a brother to step in. My father he's old to protect me. "Thanks Sihle and I'm sorry for slapping you" he chuckled. Hiabo this idiot "I deserved that my sister I should've not

let you date Mbuso" Sihle said "I didn't recognize you Sihle believe me if I did none of this should've happened" "Nandi you are a strong woman you always have been. I've been checking all your social media accounts you've outdone yourself without us. What ever happened between you and Mbuso just let it slide dadewethu make our father proud that man believes in you and I do believe in you Nandi" Sihle said. Wearing his serious face "our father?" "Mr Zwane he's your father that makes him my father too. That man deserves all the blessings that's coming for him" Sihle said. I felt emotional "Sihle I just don't wanna admit but I really need help I need someone to talk to someone that I can trust" "That is why Dineo he's there for you. Nandi or should I call you girl power? Sihle said "You are an idiot you know" he rubbed his chest then take a sip of his juice "I'm an idiot because I let them took advantage of your innocently" Sihle said "That was Phumza and Philani's job not your job" "What kind of a mother does that? Sihle asked. Taking another

sip on his juice. _____ NURRITED Phumza
Nandi's mother got admitted because of her high
blood pressure and sugar level risen up. She doesn't
believe that her daughter she's still alive. She
believes that she can now tell her children the truth
about Nandipha's father. "Ernest will have to
forgive me. He killed his own brother and forced his
own flesh and blood" she said that to herself "He
better kill me. But he must remember that I was
married to his brother when I fell pregnant for him"
She said that to herself again. You could swear that
the old woman was losing her mind. On her hospital
bed. TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

35 NANDIPHA Sihle decided to be my body guard.
The lunch was great. We had lot to catch up. I must
say I got lucky to find a family that loves me. Sihle
went through a lot when he got here. "But you
became a teacher though" "Thats true I worked as a
sales person after a long struggle I registered myself
with the peanut I was earning to change my life for

better as it is now Life was very difficult! in a very cold at night difficult to find food many beatings from the security police and a lot of bullying from older homeless people they were no water for shower and even sometimes for drinking sometimes I would wake up in the morning not knowing where to go where would I get the food I would go angry the whole day sometimes I was waken by somebody beating me up for nothing no place to sleep sometimes bullying would forced me to go start up the fire for warmth bullying from older street homeless taking money by force from me since I was the shortest one and had no friend Sponsored bullying from older street homeless taking money by force from me since I was the shortest one and had no friend I had lots and lots of problem hence why I don't want to talk about my past or see the reality hence I used drugs to get high and forget all miseries" Sihle said. I thought my tears we gone. But hearing what my brother went through because of the love he has for me. "I'm

sorry Sihle" "It's okay I had to go through that dadewethu it was meant to be like that" Sihle said "I thought you turned your back on me" I said that with tears verge on my eyes he shook his head "I never turned my back on you. This feels like a dream because I never thought that I would see you again. I'd sometimes miss you forcing me to laugh or speak even though I didn't want to. Me coming to Gauteng and being homeless for months was an eye opener for me to believe in myself" Sihle said. I checked the time. "I wish I had powers to save you from my mother uncle and Vincent" Sihle said "And I needed to be saved by both my brothers I had to quit school Sihle I know I wasn't academically gifted by then but I had to go to school like any other children. But some people played Godly in my life" he looked at me "You know if it wasn't for my nephew I was going to kill Vincent" Sihle said. I had to explain to him what happened. "No problem brother karma will deal with them" "Karma already dealt with him Vincent lost everything house cars

and the businesses" Sihle said "Wow I want to see them suffer" "Their are suffering dadewethu Phumza she's five minutes to" he said. We chuckled. My father said the same the other day. " We are talking about your mother here Sihle" I said that laughing "Who's mother? Sihle said he was also laughing "My mother was going to say Idiot" this time he laughed so hard "I wished I've met your mother" Sihle said "Yeah she was my hero that one" "She was also calling you Nana? Sihle asked "No I'm only my father's Nana she was called me her slender Given" "Oh daddy's Nana" Sihle can be idiot sometimes. My father walks in he smiled "Thanks Mchunu for making my Nana laugh again" dad said "It's my pleasure Mr Zwane" Sihle said. My father tapped on his shoulder then walked out. Whistling Sihle looked at me. "And then? Sihle asked. "Let me tell you a little secret if you want to be his friend keep on making his Nana laugh you will be his best friend" "Fair enough" Sihle said _____

NURRITED Karma is not physical it is spiritual and

we carry karma forward through time within a given lifetime or as some believe from one lifetime until the next. When one deliberately disobeys the will of God karma is accrued. It is the intent of one's actions that generates karma. Phumza was in tears when her husband payed him a visit. Ernest sat on the chair that was besides the bed. He took Phumza's hand and kissed Phumza's palm "Ma'Phakade let's not fight" Ernest said. Since the return of Nandi the old couple barely talk to each other. "Phumza I thought you'd be happy about the return of my brother's daughter" Ernest said. Phumza looked at him with full of tears on her eyes. She doesn't know where to begin. Especially how did her late husband loves Nandi and Ernest wanted nothing to do with his brothers children. "Talk to me my love" Ernest said "She didn't return Ernest. That girl hates me and I don't blame her. Ernest I'm very sorry please find it in your heart to forgive me" Phumza said. Ernest just nodded he had no idea what was Phumza apologizing for "Phumza we are a

team" Ernest said "I Regret for the evil things I did and it can be tempered by time. I'm not proud of things I did know that it will come to bite me one day I just didn't know it was going to be so soon" Phumza said. While her eyes were shutted tears were flowing. Ernest started to get worried about his wife. "Ernest please organise a family meeting" Phumza ordered "We are having a family meeting tomorrow remember? Ernest said "That meeting didn't include Vincent and his wife" Phumza said. Ernest nodded. _____ NANDI ZWANE I

had a great day with Sihle. To be honest I needed someone to talk to beside my father someone to encourage me someone who has been through a lot and that person was my own brother. "We will talk dadewethu" (my sister) Sihle said "Walk me in don't you wanna see your wife and daughter? I asked "Okay I see that you want to stick around Sphe Mchunu" Sihle said. "Don't be flited" I said as we walked in we were welcomed by a Devine aroma. I hope that my father didn't hire a chef "Your sister

in-law she's now playing a makoti (daughter in-law) in the Zwane's family" Sihle whispered "how do you know it's her? I asked. We walked in. Keitumesti was doing her homework with the help of Palisa. Dineo was not among them. "Guess who's here" I shouted. Keitumesti ran to me. She's screamed as soon as she saw Sihle "Daddy!!!" she was very happy to see him. You could swear that it's only 5 days since she seen him. Dineo came running I believe Keitumesti's scream cought her "Siphe!!!" Dineo called "Love bite" Sihle said. I looked at Dineo she just smiled "You too have forgotten about Daddy Sihle" Sihle said we laughed. TO BE CONTINUED

36 NANDIPHA I believe that alcohol is for pain relief due to its ability to depress the central nervous system. By slowing down the brain and nervous system alcohol delivers a certain amount of relief. But Sihle on the other side made me believe that I'm not the only one who's going through rough

pace. I must admit. He's not the Sihle I know the Sihle who only spoke when needed to unless you force him to speak. I walked to the living area. Everyone was enjoying their breakfast. Let's be honest Dineo can cook. I immediately become hungry by Staring at the plate "Good morningorning mndeni" (family) "Good morning Nandi" they greeted me back. I pulled out a chair and sat down next to daddy. The scent of his cologne is bad he need to change it. "Dad which cologne are you using lately? He looked confused as I asked him "Bleu de chanel" dad said with confidence. "Probably change it" "Why? He asked he has been using it for years now" he frowned. "Sorry dad but it doesn't smell good" he looked at Palisa and Dineo they strengle their shoulders. "It's smell good by me" Palisa said "It's perfectly by me too" Dineo said "See you are the only one who is paranoid" dad said. "I suggest you should switch to another brand" "Okay Nana I will do that" dad said "Girl power the is something about you lately" Dineo said while

shoving a half of viana on her mouth. I took a fork and take the other half of viana. She looked at me then smiled "Nana you are abusing my daughter in-law" Dad said. he has been calling her that.

"Harrassing a sister in-law it has always been a dream to me now that dream has come true" we chuckled "I feel sorry for whoever is going be your daughter in law then" Palisa said. "Whatever cuz excuse me" "Did I say anything wrong? Palisa asked I gave her the detamined look then got up "Nana you haven't eaten your breakfast" dad said "I will grab something on my way to the office" "Breakfast kick-starts your metabolism helping you burn calories throughout the day. It also gives you the energy you need to get things done and helps you focus at work. Those are just a few reasons why it's the most important meal of the day" Dad said grabbing an apple from the fridge _____

MBUSO ZULU Empty pride is the deadly sin of superiority that reeks of conceit and arrogance. I was about to turn a blind eye to a great

opportunity. Chasing a dream it's not easy. "Okay team let's start by preparing pouring the foundation and complete rough framing" I said while looking at the site supervisor "We are on it boss" the site supervisor said "Worn all your protective clothing Sponsored I don't want anyone to get hurt Let's not risk assessments should be carried out it's my job to address all risks that might cause harm in my team. We must give always be informed about the risks in our workplace and how we are protected also instruct and trained on how to deal with the risks. You must consult your supervisor or me on health and safety issues" I said they clapped their hands "You know your job Mbuso we promise to stick by you" the supervisor said _____ PHILANI MCUNU I was sitting with my brothers. I was surprised to see Sihle here we agreed that he will save his petrol but he decided to follow me. He got here an hour ago. The meeting will be held on Phumza's ward. We are waiting for the visiting hours. Sihle took his phone out "This is getting out

of hand" Sihle exclaimed "What is getting out of hand? Mpilo asked "Nandi needs a professional help" Sihle said "What makes you think like that? I asked "Don't worry guys let me call her" Sihle said. He hasn't responded to me. He dialed numbers on his phone then placed it on his ear "Dadewethu" Sihle said. Mpilo whispered something to him. Sihle nodded "Sleeping on duty again? Sihle asked. "I wasn't sleeping Sihle I was just taking a nap" Nandi said. He placed her on loud speaker. I guess this is what Mpilo suggested "Ok I believe you" Sihle said. Why is he treating her like a child "Thanks for calling me I've a meeting to prepare" Nandi said "So you do agree with me that you were sleeping? Sihle asked Nandi laugh at the other side. "Okay Sihle I was sleeping" Nandi said "I hate to be the one to tell you this Nandi but you should see someone" Sihle said "Someone like a therapist? Nandi asked it surprise me that she's speaking to him freely after she kicked me out of her office "Sort of sleeping too much it's a serious illness" Sihle said he looked at

us again _____ NANDI ZWANE Sihle made me to forgot my past but I won't forgot the fact of sleeping with my own son. I was still on the phone with Sihle "If it continues like this I will make an appointment next week" "Sharp remember that what ever it is I will support you" Sihle said. I hunged up. As soon as I felt dizzy feeling nauseous. I stood up and ran to the bathroom vomited on the basin. Than Wash my mouth. What's wrong with me this days. I really need some help. I feel bad about what happened this morning. I need to apologise to Palisa she didn't mean any harm. TO BE CONTINUED
Unedited

37 PHILANI MCUNU We walked in Phumza's ward her skin was pale and swollen faces droopy eyelids and she looked tired. Sihle looked at me. She's worse than the last time I saw her. I walked to the position she was facing I knelt down. And brush her broken hair. "Phumza! She opened her eyes. " It's me Philani" she held my hand "Where are your

brothers? Phumza asked with a faint voice "We are here Phumza" Sihle said this dude he's forward Phumza smiled that's all letters "What about my grandchildren and my daughter in law? Phumza asked "Mbuso he's at work and Keitumesti She's at school Dineo said I should apologize for her absence she's helping a friend with something" Sihle said "A friend than her husband's family? Phumza asked even on her sick bed she's jealous. Sihle looked at her "Yes mom her friend she's going through a rough patch" Sihle said with a calm tone. Why is he lying he must tell her the truth she deserves to know that her daughter she's going through whatever she's going through. Nandi want nothing to do with us. But I'm glad that she's talking with one of the family members. Soon she will come to her senses. I looked at Sihle he looked at Phumza. Ernest walked in he helped Phumza to sit and put enough pillows behind her back for support he kissed her. Kanti even old people are romantic "How are you feeling today standwa sam? (My love)

Ernest greeted. I looked at this young brother of mine. Why is he protecting Nandi "Sihle a word" he looked at me then walked out. I followed him "What is it Philani? Sihle asked. " Why lying? "You want me to stress Phumza? Sihle asked. "Why are you protecting Nandi? "I'm being there for my little sister something that you failed to do as bigger brother failed to" Sihle said. I pulled him with his shirt he just looked at me "Philani let's not even go there" Sihle said. I know very well that chances of beating him are slim. I rether exchange words with him. "I'm sorry Sihle" "You should be Phila Nandi she's sinking deeper and deeper to dipression she doesn't need all the stress even Phumza doesn't need the stress right now" Sihle said "Your sister wants attention and I don't have time for her" "And your mother she's the one who did that to her remember? I won't tell her a thing" Sihle said. I was hurt after learning that my one and only little sister drowned herself we searched for her body for months before we buried her clothes. I had

accepted that she was gone. We better off without her. She's spoilt brat "Okay Sihle I hear you" we walked back to the word everyone was here. I thought it was a family meeting I'm surprised to see Vincent and his wife. Phumza looked at me and Sihle "You too didn't invite my daughter" I'm not sure whether she was asking or telling us "Sihle has all the answers" Mpilo said. I didn't accept that "I might have all the answers but girl power she's better off than us I will represent her too" Sihle said whilst stealing a glance at Vincent this guy he's proud of himself. "Sihle where is my daughter? Phumza asked again "Phumza you sold your daughter to Vincent girl power she's not your daughter I believe you didn't call us here to ask me about her" Sihle said I know him very well he's looking for a fight. Phumza started crying "Just save your crocodile tears Phumza. I've a trip to take for it will take long journey estimated time will be 06 to 7 hrs since it's 12pm now" Sihle he's getting on my nerves "Sihle leave" I frowned he walked away

"Sihle please stay" Phumza said while Sihle was holding the door knob I looked at Mpilo and Ernest. Mpilo shook his head. Sihle and Mpilo they're not scared of each other. "You guys you are full of games" Sihle said "She's not Fanafuthi's daughter" Phumza said Sponsored I looked at Mpilo and Ernest. Mpilo shook his head. Sihle and Mpilo they're not scared of each other. "You guys you are full of games" Sihle said "She's not Fanafuthi's daughter" Phumza said that grabbed everyone's attention including Sihle's attention who was ready to leave "Come again mom" Mpilo said "Phumza! "I'm.... I was never really too good at apologizing yet here I am willing to drop every single inch of my ego to get you guys to forgive me. I love you my children to a way I messed up trying to protect my own daughter from the poverty. Ernest our relationship is far more important to me than anything else and that is why I want you to forgive me. So I can protect the sacred bond we shared and would be a pity to see vanish because of my selfishness. I love

you and I'm sorry guys I'm really sorry. Losing any of you my children that will ripped me apart that would be like I'm losing my life itself. I am terribly sorry for hurting you guys especially Ernest Mpilo and Nandipha Please forgive me" Phumza said with tears on her eyes Mpilo looked at her "Uzama ukuthini Phumza? (What are you trying to say Phumza) Mpilo asked "Mpilo and Nandipha are Ernest's children" Phumza said. Everyone was shocked including Ernest himself "You are evil Phumza. How could you do that to your own children? Sihle asked whilst walking away from everyone he stopped at the door and turn to looked us. "I'm starting to believe that you killed my father. I wish you nothing but painful dead" Sihle said then he walked out Mpilo followed him. "Phumza what are you saying? Ernest asked "This apology really was not easy to pull off yet my ego is far less superior than my marriage. Which I have destroyed due to my stupidity. Please forgive me I love you you Ernest. Hiding this from you has been the

absolute worst of my nightmares. One that unfortunately came true. Sorry for doing this to you I love you babah and I'm deeply sorry. It saddens me to see that I failed so miserably towards you and my children. I am sincerely sorry for all I've done and I truly hope that you will forgive me" Phumza said Ernest got up and looked at her then shook his head "I... I...." Ernest failed to finish his sentence "I'm sorry Ernest" Phumza said this time she was crying. "Can I speak to my wife alone" Ernest said we walked _____ NANDI ZWANE We were having lunch. Before my phone started raining. I checked the caller Id it's Sihle. I answered "Dadewethu! (My sister) " Sihle! "How are you doing? Sihle asked "I'm perfectly fine and you? "I'm sorry Nandi for.... I think the is network connection "Sihle can you hear me Sih" I heard the car hotters and crush of something before the call cut off "Siphesiheeee" I shouted his name. Everyone looked at me I tried calling him his phone took me straight to voicemail. Dineo and Keitumesti looked

at me and my father too. "We lost connection" I said trying to convince myself that nothing happened to him My heart was throbbing in my ears loud and irregular but I barely heard it for my mind was clouded with fear. "Sis Dee do you have any idea where Sihle is? "He went to KZN" Dineo answered "Why? "They had to attend a family meeting" Dineo said "And Mbuso? I asked she looked at my father "He's at Durban" dad said "Tumie I need my laptop on my room" Keitumesti got up and walked to the stairs. I looked at her until she disappeared "I suspect that Sihle he's involved in car accident" I said Dineo took her phone and tried to call him " Voicemail" Dineo said she stood up and ran upstairs _____ MBUSO ZULU I was chilling with the guys. We are having our conversation as guys while the health Officer supervisor and other two ladies are preparing for dinner "Relationships sucks" "Says the man who was dating Nandi Zwane" Lucky said "That's the biggest mistakes I ever made" "Man what happened

to you you too were couple goals" Cedric said
"Believe me when I say that was a dream" TO BE
CONTINUED Unedited

38 NANDIPHA My father suggested that we woke up and go search for him at the nearest hospital where the accident took place. We are driving to the nearest hospital where the accident took place we are not sure that is Sihle but something tells me that he was involved in accident according to the News reporters Twelve people have been injured in an accident involving a bus and a VW at Harrismith it The VW Tiguan drive lost control. Sihle own a VW Tiguan. We haven't received call yet from the cops or anyone. After 3 hours We got to the Thebe Hospital I'm feeling sleepy we had to woke up around 2am now it's 7am I wish they allow us in. We walked to the reception. My father walked to the help desk. "Sir how may I help you today" the receptionist asked with her stinky attude. she's lucky because my father he's calmy at all the time.

"Morning to you too sisters I'm here to check if you have someone by the name of Siphesihe Mchunu" my father said "There are many Siphesihe Mchunu's that visit this hospital every day" she said. "Among the twelve people that were involved in Harrismith last night I believe that he's one of those people" dad said. Looking straight at her eyes with a calm tone I believe if it was my mother she was going to feel the heat. And if I wasn't supporting my sister in-law since she's weak I'm just praying that Sihle he's not among those people. I walked with her to the benches we sat down. She leaned on my shoulder and she started crying. "Sphe he's a good driver" Dineo said car accident doesn't choose weather you are a good driver or bad drive my father he's a good driver yet he got involved in a car accident that steal my mother away from me. Drivers are likely to be injure while driving. "Let's hope he's not among them" Dineo said how can I comfort her while I'm also numb I'm trying to convince myself that he's not among them. But my

heart believes that he is the VW Tiguan driver that lost control. "He never switch his phone off" Dineo said. I swallowed the is nothing I can say. My father walked to us. I looked at him. He's supposed to be home resting this time. But he's here helping me searching for my brother. "What are they saying? I asked while looking at him. He sat down next to me "Babah" (father) "They will bring the list of those people who got admitted here last night" dad said what if Sihle committed suicide? What was he apologizing for? Sihle can't do this his wife and daughter needs him and Mbuso too needs him. He can't just take the easy way out. My father was focused at the reception. The lady who was talking to him she was talking with a tall white guy who was wearing a doctor's uniform he looked at us then walked to us. We got up. "Siphesihe Mchunu" the guy said "Yes" Dineo said "I'm doctor Tremblay Martin" he said "Thanks doc I'm Dineo Mchunu.. Siphesihe's wife and those are my in-laws" Dineo said. Her eyes were red. I looked at this doctor

Tremblay Martin I must admit he's handsomely no lie. Jacob he's handsomely but this guy he's 10 times more "I'm pleased to meet you guys" Dr Tremblay said while I was stealing a glance at him he noticed that I was looking at him I turned and looked at my father I'm hoping that he didn't see anything. "Mr Mchunu got lucky out of that accident he's a fighter The cops are waiting for his network provider that they can call the last person he called" Dr Tremblay said a friendly reminder I'm the last person he called me "You mentioned that he's a fighter explain further" Dineo said I'm definitely sure if I was in her shoes I was going to need answers "He got minor injuries are caused by the impact of his body against any object or vice versa" Dr Tremblay explained while he was looking at me I sat down trying to avoid his eyes I bit my lower lip. The one thing that I've learned from my situation and Mbuso's is that the strong feeling can lead you to do the wrong path. It's sad for me that Mbuso hasn't called me or send me an WhatsApp

text. It's clearly that he doesn't want to hear the side of my story. "Can we see him? Dineo asked "Unfortunately no ma'am" Dr Tremblay said. This hospital smell horrible "Why? I asked. "Visiting hours are allowed from 12pm to 16;00" Dr Tremblay said. I thought he was the nicest person in this environment but no I was lying to myself "Please can we see him we just want to make sure that's him" I said the is this part of me that doesn't want to admit that he's the one. _____

MBUSO ZULU I'm pretty good at differentiating lies from truth and I tend to just nod my head and smile even when I know someones lying. Why waste the effort to argue with losers. My ego doesn't allow me to do such a thing. Delete them from my life How could she lie about her own age. My father he might be a contring freak but when he loves he loves. He won't hurt that person. Yes relationships have ups and downs but that doesn't give a person to do what Nandi did. She killed me inside. She ripped my heart. I wish she could've drowned

herself on that river. I never got the courage to call her and ask her what happened my ego doesn't allow me to do that. I don't think I will be able to face that woman she broke me in a way I ended up blocking everyone including my father who was always there for me When they say love is blind they are telling the truth. That blind love sometimes comes from idealization. In other words I think the person we love is perfect Sponsored and we might even forget their human side. we exaggerate all their good qualities and stop valuing our own so that we can say they're perfect. Her beauty is perfect but her human side it's far from being perfect. I looked at this lady I'm working with. She's a healthy and safety supervisor "Kwanda how do you find Durban? I asked trying to make conversation with her. She only talk to me when she greets me or knocking off. I chose her to be part of the team because I want to try my luck. "I find it chilly and it's beautiful itself I just can't wait to see the beauty of the beach" kwanda said "How many

children do you have? "None" kwanda said
"Husband or boyfriend? "I just broke up with my
boyfriend. Hence why I agreed to come with the
team just to be away from him" kwanda said. What
I've learned from my relationship with Nandi is that
don't be a rebound on someone that is already
broken. But on this statement she's broken and I'm
broken too. That won't hurt. I looked at her she's
wearing a short dress that realise her caramel
thighs. I took a pen and pretended like I was writing
something. "Mbuso tell me here why did you break
up with Ms Zwane? Kwanda asked I'm not ready to
talk about it. "We were not meant to be together"
"But you too you were perfect together I looked up
to you guys were my favorite couple" kwanda
exclaimed the was no perfection in that
relationship. "Yeah" that's all I could say "You too
you were meant for each other you are hot and
she's beautiful hopefully that oneday you will fix
whatever happened" Kwanda said " You are also
beautiful" she shook he heard "I don't know about

that" kwanda said I didn't ask her I was telling her "Your beauty cannot be ignored it is something unbelievable because it not only pleases my eyes but also warms my heart" "I still need this job Mbuso. I have a brother to take care of and a mother who is sick" Kwanda said. This people surprised me. Mr Zwane he's a easy person as long as you do your job accordingly "I know this will stay between us" "Mbuso I don't want Nandi to hate me" kwanda said. I got up from where I was sitting. I walked up to her I made her to looked at me "Kwanda If loving someone it's a crime I will plead guilty in the court of law" _____ NANDI ZWANE Seven hours later. Dineo woke me up. I was sleeping in a car. "It's twelve o'clock" Dineo said. I looked at myself on the mirror and fixed myself and we walked out of the car "How are you feeling now" Dineo asked. My stomach got angry few an hour ago. At first I thought it was priedod pains but no it was more than that because I threw up all the food that I ate. We walked to the ward that they were

keeping those people who were involved in that accident. My father was already sitting on the edge of the hospital bed. Sihle's face was covered by bandages the only thing I could see was his mouth and eyes. Dineo ran to him. I followed her and sit on the chair that was next to his bed "Sphe don't ever do that to me" Dineo said "I'm sorry Dineo" Sihle said. With a low tone. "What happened Sihle?" "Nandi is that you? Sihle asked. I nodded he sat up straight Dineo placed pillows behind him. No lies this woman loves her husband she didn't eat anything since from last night. "I don't know my phone was connected to bluetooth and I was talking to you" Sihle said he stopped talking when the doctor approached us "how is he? Sihle asked Dr Tremblay "Your brother needs blood type B and our list of blood donors is too long and you are not his blood type" Dr Tremblay said. "Denm you Phumza" Sihle exclaimed " Which brother Sihle" Dineo asked "I was driving with Mpilo" Sihle said. Dr Tremblay looked at us "Guys we can't wait for that long list

we need to get the donar soon" Dr Tremblay said. My father looked at me. They is no way I can risk my life "No daddy their is no way I could do that" my father just nodded I know he will support my decision even though he didn't gave me a choice on working under the ZCCL company that was part of my punishment for not telling them that I left a child behind. Dr Tremblay looked at me he shook his head "New sterile disposable equipment is used for each donor so there's no risk of contracting a bloodborne infection by donating blood. If you're a healthy you can usually donate a pint of blood without endangering your health" Dr Tremblay said "They is no way I'm going to do that" they looked at me. My father just nodded "It's okay Nana no one is forcing you" dad said _____ NURRITED Phumza was on her ward dripping wet her pillow with tears. "Why should I live while my children and husband too hate me" she was talking alone her husband walked in he sat on the edge of the bed he looked at her. The man was burning anger towards

his wife "How evil are you Phumza" Ernest said "I'm sorry Ernest I'm really sorry" Phumza pleaded "You just opened your legs wider begging me to kill my own brother and forced my daughter to marry that man" Ernest said "I did that to protect myself from the family. Fanafuthi loved Nandi more than his son's I was afraid that I was going to hurt my own daughter" Phumza said Ernest shook his head "No Phumza what you are saying doesn't make sense you sold my daughter why... Why... Phumza Why" Ernest was literally crying Do you know the pain of regretting something you did years ago and you knew very well that was wrong. Ernest was sinking deeper and deeper to the depression since he heard that Mpilo is his son and Nandi she's his daughter they same daughter he sold like a 7kg of potato "I killed my own brother because of you Phumza" Ernest exclaimed he looked at his hands they were shacking "I will kill you Phumza I swear I will kill you with my bare hands" Ernest said "I'm sorry Ernest I'm... "Nandi had a bright future ahead of her we

took that away from her" "I know I did was wrong and it's unforgivable" Phumza said and she got disturbed when the someone walking in that was Philani walked in. "It's my turn now uncle" Philani said "abathakathi" Ernest said "No matter where I go she carried me for nine months inside her she carried me on her arms and back for 3 years and life time in her heart I'm not going anywhere my siblings will come back on their own especially Mpilo" Philani said if he knew that his brothers are fighting for their lives he was going to swallow his words. TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

39 NANDIPHA I walked away from them. I can't believe that Sihle he's asking me to do that. I know that Mpilo he's 2 years older than me. But he seems to be to close to my greatest enemies. I'm only grateful that we find Sihle I wasn't going to forgive myself if we didn't. I'm the last person he called. I still don't understand how did he lost control and hit that taxi. I'm grateful to God that no one died on

that scene. As I was wondering around someone called me. "Ms Zwane" I turned and looked at Dr Tremblay. "No I'm still saying that no" "It doesn't mean you are his blood type match let's just do the necessary test if you are his blood type match you will decide either you help him or not" Dr Tremblay said here I was lying to myself that only private hospitals Doctors are so caring yet I'm at the public hospital with a caring Dr. My mother used to donate blood each year. She would say 'An adequate amount of blood is needed in all health care facilities to meet the urgent need for patients facing trauma and other lifesaving procedures such as blood transfusions which saves millions of lives each year' "No I'm not going to do that" people will call me Egoist that I only cares myself and I put myself before everyone else. That's true I've learnt to love and put my happiness first before everyone else. "Ms Zwane... I don't know you but I believe that behind that beauty the is a beautiful heart behind those spackle eyes they hold a story" Dr

Tremblay said I looked at him. "You right you don't know me this means you know nothing about me doc" I said if he knows what's good for him he will stay away from me "You mind having lunch with me" Dr Tremblay said Dineo and my father are lucky because I left my credit cards and dad has his car keys. "As long as you won't as you won't interrogate about myself" "I won't promise you that Ms Zwane" Dr Tremblay said he's making me when he calls me Ms Zwane. "Nandipha" "Huh" Dr Tremblay said "My name is Nandipha Zwane" "Oh... It's too long" Dr Tremblay said he's an idiot doctor no lies "Only 8 words doc" "Only 8 words doc" Dr Tremblay said I laughed he joined me "You crazy you know that?" "I don't know just join Martin for lunch" Dr Tremblay said "Hospital food" "No we will go to the nearby restaurant" Dr Tremblay said did he put we I haven't agreed yet "We? He raised his eyebrows as I asked "No dear we will go to the nearby restaurant" Dr Tremblay said making me to laugh "You such an idiot" I said that while laughing he

grabbed my hand we walked out his colleagues were looking at us. The drive to the restaurant was not too long. We walked to this restaurant it's beautiful it has good quality UV stabilized Fibreglass Table. My favourite top table. Tops for commercial applications. Outdoor all Weather Hospitality Grade. Highlights friendly & Professional Staff Available. He looked at me I looked at him. He laughed. "Which table do you prefer Nandipha? Dr Tremblay asked. I looked at him "Two to Four Person Tables. Two to four-person tables are the most popular restaurant table design Bar height tables High top or bar height tables pubs sports bars. ... ooths guests. Family dining tables or Outdoor tables" Tremblay said. I looked at him such energy this guy has a energy. But what did I accept from a doctor he is trained to do the talking. "You crazy yazi" he just smiled "Is that the table you are prefer? Dr Tremblay asked "Fibreglass Table will do" I whispered we walked to the table a waiter walked to us with menus "Smoked Salmon Potato Cakes

with Herbed Crème Fraîche" Dr Tremblay said the waiter was taking the notes this guy didn't even look on the menu. Or gave the waiter a chance to greet us "And your side ma'am" the waiter asked "Same meal" I said looking at this crazy guy Infront of me he didn't give the poor waiter a chance to greet us. "Why are you staring at me like that? Dr Tremblay asked me with his blue sexy eyes looking straight to my eyes "Sorry if I made you feel uncomfortable" he added "Who are you? I asked he smiled and extended his hand to me for a hand shake how crazy is that? "Hello I'm Martin Tremblay. I'm divorced man" Dr Tremblay said as for 'hello' and 'divorced man' "You look young for a divorced man" I said. "What can I say us doctors are more likely to be divorced than other professionals because of the long hours we keep and the stress associated with the job" Dr Tremblay said. He looked at me with judging eyes who knows why "I'm Nandipha Zwane an CEO at ZCCL company I was forced to work there by my father I've 1 son

whom I..." I kept quiet tears streamed uninvited. He took out a handkerchief and gave it to me. I wiped out those uninvited guests on my eyes. The Waiter came back with our meals. "Smoked Salmon Potato Cakes with Herbed Crème Fraîche Sponsored for you ma'am and Smoked Salmon Potato Cakes with Herbed Crème Fraîche for you sir" the waiter said. He looked at us "Anything else sir" the waiter asked "Orange juice for me" Dr Tremblay said orange juice upset my stomach this days "Which cocktail do you have? I asked he opened the menu page by page "We have MargaritaPaloma Michelada and Horchata" the waiter said Margarita Mexico's most well-known cocktail is a deceptively simple combination of tequila triple sec and lime juice served with salt on the rim of the glass I will have it. I'm just hoping it doesn't upset my stomach either "I will have Margarita" "Coming right up" the waiter said while he was walking away from our table "Most Mexican cocktail wow" Tremblay said "I didn't know what to have. If you will run out of your

budget my father can refund you" he surprisingly look at me while enjoying his food. I just lost my appetite by the smell of this food. Dr Tremblay look at me "Eat your food Ms Zwane before it gets cold" Dr Tremblay said what will I eat those now I need to consult a doctor "Doc can you run some tests for me" he looked at me "Which test? He asked I figured out that I don't know this person and he's not a family doctor so he can help me without telling my father "I just broke up with my boyfriend not so long ago I had to face on my past my mother died five months ago everything it's on my shoulders I turned myself to an alcoholic woman and that makes me loss my appite most of the time I'm always sleep between 11 to 12 noon and sometimes I'm experiencing nauseous and vomiting 3 to 4 times a day" He cuts me "Did you try to talk to someone? He asked "My father and sister in law are trying" "You mentioned naueous and vomiting 3 to 4 times a day. How do you find the food that used to be your favourite? Dr Tremblay asked "I

choose food this day's" "When did you see your menstruation? Dr Tremblay asked I had to think deeper before I answer this question I stopped going to my period 2 months "2 months ago" "Are you on any Barrier methods? Tremblay asked can it be my injection "Yes I'm using 3 months contraceptive injection" "Depo-Provera has sides effect but those are none of them. And I was going to say you are depressed but we need to run some tests before we get the wrong idea" Dr Tremblay said he ate his food the waiter came back with our drinks. We drank our drinks without talking he looked at his watch around his waist. He looked at me I didn't touch my food. He called the waiter "Bill please and a take away for those food" Dr Tremblay said. The waiter took my plate and walked away and came back within few minutes. With the bill and a take away bag. We walked back to his car. I guess that my father hasn't noticed anything because if he did he was going to call me none stop. We got to the hospital and we walked to his office I

didn't want to but he said they are some test before he gets the ideas. He gave me a container "Go and pee on this small container don't pour water because I will notice that" Dr Tremblay said I walked to the hospital toilets I peed on the container that he gave me I walked back to his office. He looked at me "How old are you? Dr Tremblay asked "I'm 30... I'm 45 years old" "Which one should I take between the two? Tremblay asked "I'm third years old doc" I said that while he was putting the pregnancy test on that container. He's wasting the government resources. There is no way I'm pregnant I'm 45 years old. He looked at me and smiled he took the other one "What does the first one says? I asked. He looked at me. With a smile on his face "Let's wait for this one" he said "Let me take your blood samples for further tests" Dr Tremblay said "I'm still waiting for this results" "Congratulations Ms Zwane you are pregnant" he said with a smile I thought he was joking but he showed me the both pregnancy

tests indeed they had 2 clear red lines oh my God
what did I do? TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

40 NANDIPHA I'm pregnant I'm pregnant I'm pregnant... This has been spinning on my mind it feels like a dream. It can't be... "Congratulations Ms Zwane you're pregnant! I'm sure you cannot wait to share the great news especially with your parents who will be future grandparents" Dr Tremblay said. If he knew that there is no easy way to tell my father this. I just let my tears flow "Why not take this opportunity to surprise your family and your boyfriend with this life changing event? Dr Tremblay said. I was starting to accept that I'm a mother to a young man whom was my boyfriend. I guess that even though the vision of me as a mom hasn't yet made it into my dreams I know I'm a mom at heart. If I had any doubts they vanished after this past week. But to accept this pregnancy this will be a disaster itself. How will I explain this to my father this is a disaster itself. It can't be Ronald's baby

because I'm 1 month and 3 weeks. Probably it's Mbuso's baby how will I explain this to him. Dr Tremblay looked at me. He handed me a box of tissues. It seems like I've too much tears to let them flow maybe by then I will be fine... "How are you feeling now? Dr Tremblay asked "I don't know I just want to go home" "Do you stay around here? Dr Tremblay asked I shook my head "No I leave at Johannesburg South" "That's 3 to 4 hours drive" Dr Tremblay said this guy like specifications Yoh "Who's the luck man? Dr Tremblay asked "It's complicated you won't understand" "You mean you have an affair with a marriage man? Dr Tremblay asked. I can't answer all his questions. We did the necessary tests. What it about the questions. I got up "Thanks doc" "You welcome Ms Zwane..." Dr Tremblay said. He handed me his phone "What should I do with this? "I already dialled zero add your nine digit" Dr Tremblay said. I took his phone and punched the nine digit he's asking for. And walked to the door I turned and looked at him

"Thanks doc I appreciate your help" he nodded "It's my pleasure I will check on you later" Dr Tremblay said. I walked out wondering around the hospital. My phone ringed. No doubt this is my father.

"Babah..." "Nana where are you? Dad asked. I hunged up and walked on the ward. Dineo was sleeping on the hospital bed next to Sihle. My father was sitting on the chair. "I'm sorry babah" "It's ok Nana... Where have you been? Dad asked "I was wonde...ring" I started crying. "What happened Nana" dad asked I literally breakdown.

"Dadawethu" (my sister) Sihle said "I'm sorry Dad I'm so... "I'm getting worried Nana talk to me" "I can't dad.. I can't" I cried out louder this time. I looked at my father then Sihle they are all worried. People were starrng at me like I'm girl power right now. I'm used to many eyes. I miss my mother now especially when things turn up to be like this "I just want to go home" "What happened? Sihle asked inside his bandage dresses "I will be fine guys it's one of this day's" "The hotel is booked Nana we will

go there in an hour" dad said. I feel sorry for myself I remember his words when he finds out about Mbuso being my son. 'If you didn't get yourself in Mbuso's sheets Nandi maybe I was going to forgive you Nana' this words are still spinning

_____ MBUSO ZULU I decided to call my father. The last time I talked to him at Keitumetsi's ceremony. His phone ringed "Someone has missed his father" Vincent said as soon as he picked up his phone "How are you dad" "I'm good and yourself? Vincent said "I'm good dad how is Nonjabulo and Jabulile? "Your sister's are fine they just misses you" Vincent said "I miss them too" "How is Nandipha? Vincent asked. They we go again that women's name. As much as I want to run away from her name but it keeps buzzing. Kwanda she's playing a hard to get game because of Nandi's name busy weighing on my life "I don't know dad and I don't care about her" I said then hang up. If he cares that much about her he must go to Gauteng

_____ NIRRIDED Ernest packed his

belongings. He looked at Nandi's pictures were she was a teen those are they only pictures they've for her. "I wish I knew" Ernest said. While he was still looking those pictures the reflection of him forcing his own daughter in to marriage. "Uncle Ernest please" Nandi was crying that day. His mother begged Ernest not to accept that money but what did he do. He didn't listen his mother now she's gone. "Philani.... Sihle... Do something I'm not ready to be someone's wife" those are Nandi's words bagging. Ernest sat on the edge bed of the phone he started crying. When you see a man's tears streaming things are hard. "Indeed she was not ready to be someone's wife. I sold my own daughter Sponsored how is Nonjabulo and Jabulile? "Your sister's are fine they just misses you" Vincent said "I miss them too" "How is Nandipha? Vincent asked. They we go again that women's name. As much as I want to run away from her name but it keeps buzzing. Kwanda she's playing a hard to get game because of Nandi's name busy weighing on my life

"I don't know dad and I don't care about her" I said then hang up. If he cares that much about her he must go to Gauteng _____ NIRRITED Ernest packed his belongings. He looked at Nandi's pictures were she was a teen those are they only pictures they've for her. "I wish I knew" Ernest said. While he was still looking those pictures the reflection of him forcing his own daughter in to marriage. "Uncle Ernest please" Nandi was crying that day. His mother begged Ernest not to accept that money but what did he do. He didn't listen his mother now she's gone. "Philani.... Sihle... Do something I'm not ready to be someone's wife" those are Nandi's words bagging. Ernest sat on the edge bed of the phone he started crying. When you see a man's tears streaming things are hard. "Indeed she was not ready to be someone's wife. I sold my own daughter I'm sorry Nandipha" He said that he was holding Nandi's pictures "I'm sorry baby girl" (crying) _____ NANDI ZWANE (LATER THAT DAY) This is going to be hard. It seems like

Mbuso blocked me on all his social media. How I'm I going to do this. My mother must be turning on her grave. I've disgraced my parents. They wanted nothing for me but the best. Not every parents can turn to be your friend. But the Zwanes have been there for me I shared almost everything with them. I never killed anyone but I'm about to do that to an innocent child. Abortion is illegal that means the greatest destroyer of a peace is allowed in our country. Here I'm I carrying the Zulu Seed on my womb again. I took the pill and walked to the sink. Just before I could get myself a glass of water I slipped. Dineo rushed to me I didn't tell anyone about this. The only person I was going to tell is Palisa but she's not taking to me either. And I don't blame her. "Girl power are you alright" Dineo asked "I am" I run my eyes to find the pill. Dineo accidentally stepped on it "Hai Dineo Maan" I shouted she was shocked by my reaction "What did I do? Dineo asked I looked at her she's been nothing but good to me "You stepped on my pain killer"

"You shouted at me like that because of a pill?"

Dineo asked I looked at the other side trying to cook up a lie "Sorry I have a terrible headache" "Oh babe I understand I will get you another pain killer"

Dineo said. TO BE CONTINUED Unedited.

41 NANDIPHA [MONTH LATER] Self love is by far not boasting in myself. Self love is an inner persuasion of value and worth concerning oneself. Self love is something that I owe myself and I need myself. I didn't get where I'm today because of pity I gave it all to my studies. At first I thought I was doing it for my parents but no I was doing it for myself because all my degrees has my name on them not my parents names My phone rang I checked the caller ID is Dr Tremblay "I'm not ill doc" we became friends overnight "Hello to you too preggy" Dr Tremblay said with a smile "Say that again" "Sorry my friend I was just checking on you before I start my new day" Martin said "Thanks you how are you?" I asked while I was walking to the dinning area

Palisa moved back to her flat and sis Dee she went back to her house to look after Sihle and her brother in-law. My father was ready up and the breakfast was served by him. "I will call you later on besties" Martin said "I will wait for that call then" we hunged up. I love breakfast and breakfast loves me. At least I think it does. "Morning dad" I greeted him with a smile on my face trying to convince myself that I'm not pregnant but that's all a lie I'm pregnant "Good morning Nana" he greeted me back whilst he drinking his coffee at least morning sicknesses are not that much anymore "Someone she's on a good mood today" dad said who wouldn't be while he has a friend like Dr Martin Tremblay who's a true friend. We recently became friends overnight. "I'm dad and thanks to life" I said while taking his vanilla muffin. My phone beeped it's a WhatsApp from Martin. I opened it "Corinthians 13:4. Love is patient and is kind; love doesn't envy. Love doesn't brag. is not proud doesn't behave itself inappropriately doesn't seek its own way" this

guy he's crazy. I smiled and blue tick him. My father looked at me. "Are you coming with me or you will call your driver" Dad said I thought he was going to be angry at me because I took his muffin but no he didn't he just smiled "I'm coming with you dad"

_____ PHILANI MCUNU I thought Mpilo would be back by now. But it seems like he doesn't want to be find his phone has been sending me to voicemail. From last month Enest moved out Sponsored I thought he was going to be angry at me because I took his muffin but no he didn't he just smiled "I'm coming with you dad" _____

PHILANI MCUNU I thought Mpilo would be back by now. But it seems like he doesn't want to be find his phone has been sending me to voicemail. From last month Enest moved out it's just me and my sick mother. I didn't accept this from Mpilo were supposed to be together on this. She's our mother I know what she did was wrong but I can't walk away from her. I'm her first born. "Should I get something to eat? "Porridge with butter son" Phumza said

demn you Mpilo did he have to left me alone like this "Okay Mom coming right up" I said while walking to the kitchen. To prepare the porridge luckily I had already boiled the water. I started preparing what she has asked for. _____

NANDI ZWANE I keep on reading that massage again. I just don't understand why do people get divorced and let man like go away. I remember I made a promise to myself that I'm no longer interested in relationships and stuff but this overnight friend of mine he seems to understand where I'm I coming from. He understand how broken I am as a woman. My phone rang. Speak of the devil is him again. He calls me 4 to 5 times a day "Praggy" Dr Tremblay said "I will hung up" "What did you succeeded on killing my innocent unborn baby" Dr Tremblay said. This guy he's crazy sure. How can you call someone's baby yours "I tried everything to get rid of this baby of my own son" "You done nothing wrong Nandi.. you didn't do anything get that to your mind" Dr Tremblay said.

I'm glad that I told him everything "But he hate me Martin he wants nothing to do with me" "Just let him be he will come around this is new. Don't push him away trying to call him. If he's ready to talk to you he will come to you" Martin says I'm really blessed to have him. "I will try" "Don't try just do it if you feel lonely turn on the music close your room and dance if that doesn't work Knee down and pray" Dr Tremblay said "I will try" " You are not alone on this. Hold on that Nandi I'm here for you" Dr Tremblay said "you are not here Martin" "I might not be there physical but I'm there for you and my unborn baby" Dr Tremblay said "True love is when they accept your past bless your present and believe in your future" Dr Tremblay added "Thanks friend" he hung up. Be confused it's where you begin to learn new things. Be broken it's where you begin to heal. He's even proud to say that. I'm not keeping this baby. Imagine a 45 years old woman on the labour screaming with young woman. I might look young but the reality is that I'm too old to have

a baby. I couldn't relive my life skipping the awful parts without losing what made it worthwhile. My friendship with Martin won't last I'm not meant to be happy to be in a relationship or making new friends. Maybe it will differ since it's a male friend. My father walked in to my office holding a ice cream "Ice cream for my one and only daughter" dad said "Thanks babah" (daddy) My father is acting all weird he's treating me like a 15 years old. TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

42 NANDIPHA Because one accepts oneself I don't need the whole world accepts me but my father to accept the condition I'm in. I don't know how do I tell my father. Just imagine I will be like "babah you are going to be a grandfather soon" knowing that man very well. Dr Tremblay said he will help me. We became the over night best friend over the phone. The universe doesn't give you what you ask for with your thoughts. It gives you what you demand with your actions. Sihle call on a family

meeting. I'm going there just to hear what the meeting is all about. Mpilo he's staying at Sihle's house. I don't know who was his blood match. But all I know is that my father knew someone who donated blood for Mpilo. Often the topic relates to a problem that the family is experiencing although family meetings can also be used to plan time together or to try to prevent problems from occurring. They need to get their head that I'm not Mchunu I'm Ms N Zwane. I thank Mrs lifestyle and Dr Tremblay to be part of my life. Dineo and Dr Tremblay they been great to me. They are the only ones who knows about my pregnancy. I got the courage to tell Dr Tremblay who's the father of my unborn child. At first I thought he was going to block me. He was like "The baby is innocent and the father too just give your son a space he will come around" what a good friend he is. He's ex wife didn't have a mercy by divorcing him. I think he's a great father and a husband too. "Lwazi please squzze all my meetings for tomorrow" "But you

know Mr Van Buren he doesn't like his meetings to be cancelled" Lwazi said the same person who cancelled our important meeting the last time. "If his giving you problems tell him to call me" I can use good problem solving skills I know how to communicate with the potatial sponsors and investors. _____ MBUSO ZULU What ever the meeting is all about I don't care I just want live my simple life. I got here last night. And now Sihle called on a family meeting. Family meetings are a structured discussion that can help family anger decrease. Families can use these discussions to resolve specific conflicts that might have just been argued about in the past. Families might use these meetings to discuss issues such as house rules vacation plans sibling rivalry changes in the family structure the Mchunu's has too much drama lately. Sihle must extend this house. Because soon Phumza might want to visit him. This will be our Gauteng family house. Aunt Dee she's busy with her pot. I walked up to her "Need some help? She jumped

and freaked out "Hai Mbuso" Dineo yelled "I'm sorry aunt I didn't mean to" "Don't ever do that" Dee said "I won't I promise" "Just go set up the table for me make sure that you put a bottle of still water for me" Dee said while she was focused on her cooking. "our we accepting a VIP guest?" "Sort of" Dee said. I walked to the living area I set up the table as instructed. Aunt Dee came with plates and glass. She placed them like one of the top restaurant "Get me 7 knives and 7 forks" Dee said. She went all out for this meeting. It must be very important to her. I took 7 knives and 7 forks from the sink and went back to the living area. Sihle and Mpilo they were ready sitting. "The aroma is killing me bafo" Mpilo said. Took the stuff from me she placed them accordingly. It looks like a family table at the classy restaurant. There was a car hooter Sihle went to get it. "Good luck guys with this meeting" Dee said as if she was warning us about something "Should we be worried sis?" Mpilo asked "No I was just saying" Dee said. Fearless of a family

damage. Fear is simply an unpleasant fact and should never be a barrier to success. Sihle entered with Mr Zwane the last time I checked Sihle said it's a family meeting. I'm just hoping that woman doesn't show up. "Rremogolo" (grandpa)Dee said with a smile on her face "Ngwetsi" (daughter in law) Mr Zwane said what ever their are saying to each other formed a smile on their face. I and Mpilo looked at each other. Mr Zwane sat down next to me. "I didn't know that you can speak Tswana" Sihle said with a smile on his face. "Morwa I'm a business man I meet different races and cultures everyday" (son) Mr Zwane said "I'm impressed" Sihle said Sponsored with a smile on his face. "Morwa I'm a business man I meet different races and cultures everyday" (son) Mr Zwane said "I'm impressed" Sihle said I head a familiar voice laughing outside it seems like she was talking to someone "I wish I can fly just to see your idiot face" even if they say I don't know this voice this is Nandi's voice she's the last person I want to see right now "You want your

ex wife to strike me" she said then laughed again. So she's involved with a divorced man. She moved on so fast. That was quick "Never" she said. While entering in. She was blushing who ever she's talking to he must be making her blush and smile like that. She's beautiful than the last time I saw her the glow says that she's happy. She has gained a little weight "I will make it up to you..." She stopped talking when she saw me she opened her mouth and cover it by her left hand. She looked at Dineo "Sis Dee I...." Nandi said she was cut by Dineo "Relax Nandi this meeting is not about.. " Dineo stopped talking she looked at her phone "I should go we will talk later" Nandi said to whoever she was talking to "I will do so bye" she add. Then hunged up. Than looked at Sihle "Sihle what I'm I doing here? She asked "Sit down Nana" Mr Zwane said how can she be a mother to a thirty years old man while she behaves like a teenager and Mr Zwane keeps on calling her that she won't grow whilst she's still spoiled like that I swear. She helped my father by

varnishing he wasn't going to endure this.

"Dadewethu vele ahlale phansi" (my sister sit down)

Sihle said Mpilo he's not too much of a talker. She took the bottle of still water that was on the table.

She sat down between Dineo and Mr Zwane. She drank the still water like there is no tomorrow. She looked at her stomach. Why is she acting like this?

"Whatever it is must not be long" Nandi said. I thought she was going to look at me but no he focused was on her phone "Okay let's proceed.

Nana please don't faint on me" Mr Zwane said "I don't think it's a good idea. She's not fit enough to handle another stress again" Dee said. "This needs to be done makoti" Mr Zwane said. Whatever it is it should not involve me accepting this woman as my mother. "Nandipha!!! Mpilo called she didn't even answer him until Sihle took her phone. Sihle he's crazy. "Wee Ms Zwane what is going on between you and this phone" Sihle said whilst smiling that's not what he wanted to say that "Sihle that's my phone and my privacy" Nandi yelled Doneo

whispered something to her "Okay Mr Mchunu you may proceed" Nandi said. Sihle smiled then looked at Mpilo "I don't know how can I say this" Sihle said "Just say what ever it is Sihle I don't have the whole day" Nandi said she has a stinky attitude that I never knew "Nana respect towards your brothers this are your brothers one day I won't be there to protect you you need to build a relationship with them especially Mpilo and Mbuso" Mr Zwane said. Nandi cut him. Me never "I have an important meeting to attend not this lecturing" Nandi said. I could no longer continue to care for her to be my mother. In particularly difficult scenarios I will turn to my step mom even though she dislike me but she's my mom and she's a good listener and great woman "Nana I learned that Ernest he's your..." Mr Zwane said than sigh "Ernest he's Mpilo and Nandipha's biological father" Sihle said. Nandi looked at him. He spoke fast "My father is Sthembiso Blessing Zwane" Nandi said she took her phone. She got up and walk to the fridge she took a beer. Whoo this woman. Dineo

looked at her and shook her head "Is that safe for the.." Dee said and keep her mouth shut "Dee you and Martin you need to get over yourselves I'm not keeping this thing inside me" Nandi said "can we talk girl power"Dineo said "I'm done talking. Dad you will have to forgive me for the last time now" Nandi said and left just like that. We all look at aunt Dineo "I'm sorry guys I failed disimally" Dee said "I suspected that my daughter she's pregnant but I didn't think that she would think of aborting the innocent child" Mr Zwane said "We have to stop her" Sihle said. Ive always knew that she's selfish but I never thought she could be this selfish killing innocent baby. But she's saving the poor child who would want to have a mother like her. She's a skank. She's an Ass hole I feel sorry for that her new boyfriend. Kwanda doesn't wanna give me a chance. People like Nandipha are lucky they jump from one relationship to another. TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

43 NANDIPHA Incomplete abortion fetal parts or other products of pregnancy may not be completely emptied from the uterus requiring further medical procedures. Incomplete abortion may result in infection and bleeding. The whole backstreet abortion was the bad idea I should've came straight here the all the medication and herbs I took weeks ago they created an infection in my womb. After I left Sihle's house I came straight to the hospital I explained everything to the nurses the process of aborting was supposed to be 2 hours with me it turned out differently I nearly met my creator I bled heavy to a point I got admitted. If this mess doesn't kill me I will consider myself as a strong woman. I never seen too much blood coming out from a human being. "The whole process can lead you into infertility" the nurse said what did I do now. Dr Tremblay and sis Dee were right when they said I'm signing my own infertility certificate or death certificate looked at me right now. I'm here feeling all helplessness. "You won't go home today

we are waiting for a doctors to be the ones to deal with this process" The Nurse said. What did I do? "Who should I inform at home that you are admitted" She asked "No one" "It cannot be no one your situation is worst they must be someone we don't want your family to seek answers should anything happen to you we don't want your family to sue the hospital we must follow up the prosecutor Ms Zwane" The Nurse said I took my phone and think who should I put as my next of kin. Probably that person won't be my father but Palisa or sis Dee. I gave her their contact. She took them and walk away from me After 20 minutes she came back to me. "Consider yourself lucky Ms Zwane one of the on call Doctor he will see you today he's highly recommend to all public clinics and hospitals around South Africa" the Nurse said maybe if I used the family doctor I should've been home by now.

_____ PALISA ZWANE I received a call from the unknown numbers since the whole kidnaping. I'm scared to answer calls I'm a hostage

surviver but I'm experiencing too much stress reactions including denial impaired memory shock numbness anxiety guilt depression anger and a sense of helplessness. The therapist seen not to be helping especially that I'm living alone now. All the work stress and guilt it's on my shoulder. I'm afraid to go back to uncle Sthe's house I can't deal with my cousin's mood because she's spoilt she thinks that we all spoilt. And she was the only one I can talk to but her break up with Mbuso drives her crazy.

_____ MBUSO ZULU Aunt Dee got a call and she disappeared. "I cannot get hold of her can any of you try to call her for me" Mr Zwane said I'm not going to do that her brothers will do that she was here she didn't even ask me how I'm I doing so why should I care. Aunt Dee came back she was shacking. She drank the water on the glass. We all looked at her "Guys we have to go to the hospital right now" Dineo said she was breathing heavily. "Why? Sihle asked "The is no time to explain I already called my cousin to go fetch from school

Keitumesti all we have to do is to go to the hospital" Dineo said "I'm not going nowhere till you tell us what is going on Dineo" Sihle shouted She looked at him than looked at Mr Zwane who was not paying attention to her "Mr Zwane please take me to the hospital Sponsored clearly no one cares about girl power in this room but you" Dineo said that's where Mr Zwane paid attention after hearing Nana's name "What did you say" Mr Zwane said I'm definitely sure that he's listening careful "She's in critical condition she needs us there" Dineo said Mr Zwane got up he didn't even ask the name of the hospital he just left Dineo and Mpilo followed him. "What are we waiting for Mbuso let's get going" Sihle shouted we walked to Mr Zwane's car the was no music. Just my grandgod father focused on the road. _____ NANDI ZWANE I'm sure that I'm doing to meet my creater today. The pain is not going anywhere I'm very weak I never felt this weak before. The nurses doesn't give a denm about me. It's been 3 hours since they said the Dr will be here.

I don't know what is taking long. While in pain I heard my father's voice. I can tell he's mad. I don't wish to see him right now. "Is she going to be okay? Dad asked whilst they were approaching where I was. I closed my eyes tears streamed uninvited "It's hard to tell right now let's wait for the doctor" the nurse muttered _____ MBUSO ZULU

We got where she was no lies she was defeated this time. "Nandipha what gotten to your head? Mr Zwane shouted you could tell he was really mad. I never seen this side of him before "Just keep your sorry Nandi" Mr Zwane shouted what happened to Nana she kept her eyes shut with tears steaming on her eyes. Aunt Dee was busy wiping them off "Look at me when I'm talking to you Nandipha" Mr Zwane shouted full name straight. She opened her eyes then closed them again "Nandi since when are you God to decide who should live or die? Mr Zwane asked "I'm sorry dad I'm sorry" Nandi muttered "No Nandi you always sorry" Mr Zwane said "Father please I'm sorry" Nandi said "Don't sorry me Nandi"

Mr Zwane said and walked away "Sis Dee please talk to him" Nandi said while she eyes were closed Dee looked at Sihle "But dadewethu why did you do that?(my sister) Sihle asked "I'm sorry guys" Nandi said the white doctor came to us "Nandi is that you? The doctor said she opened her eyes with a smile of faith in her mouth "Dr Tremblay what are you doing here? Nandi asked "I duty calls and what are you doing here? Dr Tremblay asked I looked at Dee and the guys they keep on nodding like their were confirming on something. He took a look at her file he shook his head. His face expression changed "I'm sorry doc I had to do it" Nandi exclaimed "It's okay mon amie" (my friend) Dr Tremblay said she smiled the doctor looked at us "Mchunu what a small world we met again" Dr Tremblay said "Indeed it's a small world" Sihle exclaimed "Can I be with my patient by myself" Dr Tremblay said "I'm sorry Mbuso I had to do it" Nandi said I don't care she must go to hell that's all. She's selfish like her mother "Brothers if I don't

make it today please take care of yourselves and my father please I love you guys" Nandi said "Mon amie you are not dying not today. I'm here to help you" (my friend) Dr Tremblay said Mpilo looked at us "Mr Zwane left with his car how are we going to get home? Mpilo asked "Taxis will be okay Malume" I said. We came here in such a rush. I'm sure none of us has money here. Nandi looked took her car keys she gave them to Mpilo "No I can't drive" Mpilo said "You got a brother nephew and a sister in law they can drive Mpilo just take the car as a gift from me. It will be a reminder of me if I don't make it" Nandi said whilst looking at Mpilo "Okay family fued you will see her tomorrow today I'm keeping her" Dr Tremblay said each time he talks Nandi and Dee they smile "Okay doc just take a good Care of my sister" Sihle said "I will Sihle" Dr Tremblay said Nandi moan in pain "Martin please do something" Nandi said whilst screaming. Oh is this her new boyfriend. Danm she decided to play God on an innocent baby if I was this Dr Tremblay guy I was

going to let the pain strike her just for killing his innocent baby. "Nandi you shouldn't have done that" Dr Tremblay said I just looked at him "Martin please do something" Nandi said while crying in tenderness. TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

44 UNEDITED Mr Zwane packed his clothes on a travelling bag. He made sure that his passport and Visa were up to date. He took a piece of paper and write a note for his beloved daughter. "My daughter one and only Nana I'm disappointed with your behavior lately. Nana when you see this letter just bare I'm mind that Daddy's fine and you will be fine too without me I will miss you nana and I will miss the sweet memories we shared me mommy and you nana. You will be in my heart forever. You will be always my daughter. Please Nana make time for my grandson and your brothers build a relationship with them. Learn to be independent. Saying a goodbye it pains me. But you need to take this journey without me. You are a grown woman who is

strong now behave like one. I know that I promised you and mommy that I will take care of you I tried but I failed disimally. Bidding you farewell it was going to be hard on me I want you to take care of the company this house it's a gift from me and mommy to you take a care of it. Remember the car you asked me to buy you as a birthday gift I did buy it for you. But since you were going through the most on your birthday I couldn't give it to you. I wanted you to learn from your mistakes and grow from them. I sincerely wish you continued success in all your future endeavors remember to take care of company parting and all weekend event let them go you are a mother to a 30 years old son now. Make me and mommy proud Nana I believe in you yours sincerely your Dad Sthembiso Blessing Zwane" He placed the letter on the kitchen counter. He looked around "She's a grown woman she will be fine without me" Mr Zwane uttered to himself "I hope this is the best decision" Mr Zwane uttered again. He requested a CAB for himself. It seems like

he was planning to do this before his daughter's drama. He couldn't just leave his daughter in the state that Nandi was in. It breaks him to leave her behind but he had to go without Nandi. He believes that she needs to make a wise decision. Within a few minutes his cab was here. He walked out.

"Goodbyes are not forever, they are not the end, it simply means I'll miss her until I meet her again" Mr Zwane uttered with a sad tone. The poor old man was disappointed in his daughter but he didn't want to admit that. He keeps on convincing himself that. He doesn't care about anything but carrying on for his Nana. And he doesn't want to do anything. In the state in which he was in, especially leaving his daughter, it is sad and he felt like he failed his daughter. Like he didn't raise her well. It saddened him that he cannot enjoy anything because his daughter's situation was difficult and unpleasant. He was in a state of feeling sad because what his Nana did was not good as he hoped. Upon the arrival at the OR THAMBO International airport, his flight was

about to take off "Good afternoon passengers. This is the pre-boarding announcement for flight 372A to Kansas City. We are now inviting those passengers with small children and any passengers requiring special assistance to begin boarding at this time. Please have your boarding pass and identification ready. Regular boarding will begin in approximately ten minutes time. Thank you" That was the announcement. His heart skipped. He went to the first gate then second one. He took out his phone he wanted to call his daughter but he remembered that he needs to do this. "I will be back after a year hopefully Nandi will be grown by then" he muttered to himself. "This is the final boarding call for passenger Sthembiso B Zwane booked on flight 372A to Kansas City. Please proceed to gate 3 immediately. The final checks are being completed and the captain will order for the doors of the aircraft to close in approximately five minutes time. I repeat. This is the final boarding call for Sthembiso B Zwane. Thank you" he ran to the

gate 3 as suggested _____ MBUSO ZULU I walked to the living room. We didn't talk when we got home last night. Everyone was shock especially aunt Dee. "Dineo are you sure that Dr Tremblay he's not messing with my sister? Sihle asked a carrying brother of the year "Stop doing that really man don't gossip Sihle" Dineo said they laughed "He's not gossiping he's asking" Mpilo said. I kept quiet and listen to their conversation whilst standing on the carodoor. I know the table will be quiet if I join them. "They are friends guys and Dr Tremblay he's a good friend. If it wasn't for him girl power would've killed herself by alcohol" Dineo said. "I believe you my love bite" Sihle said then kissed her on the cheek "Okay Sihle all I know is that they are friends and thanks to your stupidity accident that made me lose my new friend to a best doctor"Dineo said (jokingly) they laughed "My what? Sihle asked. While laughing Dineo got up "Bye guys some of us are employed" Dineo said Sponsored Dineo got up "Bye guys some of us are employed" Dineo said

then she kissed Sihle Sihle squeezed Dineo's butt. haibo Mpilo pretended like he didn't see anything If I was him I bet I was going to have gone long time ago. "Bye Mpilo" Dineo said "Have a great day Dee" Mpilo said. She took her phone and handbag then exited. I walked to them. I just looked at them "I'm also employed I have to dash" I said while taking an apple on the table "Good morning to you too Mbuso" Mpilo said "Whatever I'm fine you all fine bye I can see that" I walked away just like that my father taught me never to begged a anyone. I'm praying not to meet with that ass hole called Nandi I hate that woman with all I hurt. Dineo she doesn't want to tell the truth. Those too are dating you could see that through their eyes. I walked to taxi rank luck for me the taxi had one sit left before it takes off. I sat next to the door. The taxi took off. The trip to my workplace wasn't that long. It's a 20 minutes drive without traffic. I walked to the reception. I went to Palisa "Ms Zwane" "Hello Mbuso" Palisa said. With a fake smile "Why with the

attitude in the front desk? "How can I help you Mbuso? Palisa asked "Is my office still available?" "Yes it's available consider yourself lucky because uncle Sthe didn't replace you" Palisa said I saw Kwanda walking towards us "Morning guys. Palisa.. please call Ms N Zwane and inform her that Mr Van Buren wants to meet up with her and the team that was on Durban" Kwanda said "Come call her yourself" Palisa said "The last time I checked you are the receptionist and I'm the health and safety supervisor" Kwanda said "Kwanda I wouldn't be asking you. But me and my cousin we are not talking terms" Palisa said "Don't worry yourselves ladies she won't be joining us today" they both looked at me "Why? Palisa asked "Your cousin nearly died yesterday" " Oh my goodness what happened? Palisa asked I thought she wasn't going to be interested "She performed an incomplete abortion. That served her well she thought she's God..." Before I could finish my sentence Palisa slapped me. " What the hell? "You deserve it

Mbuso "Kwanda said and she walked away. What did I do now I gave her the reason to hate me more. "It you ever say something bad about my cousin Mbuso believe me I will get arrested for muder" Palisa said "It's that a thread? "Just go away Mr Zulu" She yelled like her fake cousin

PHILANI MCUNU My mum was sitting on a grass mat I was sitting on a wood bench. "If your father was still alive he was going to be proud of you" Phumza said "He was always proud of his children mum" "I know... Remember you used to help your sister with the house chores" Phumza said I and Nandi we were very close now she hates me now. I'm not the one who got her marriage. Her father did and Phumza too "Those days are gone" I said Phumza started coughing "Mom are you alright? She got worse "Amanzi" (water) Phumza said. I ran inside the house to get her water. Her cough is so dry I ran back to her. This time she was coughing with a mixture of blood. TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

45 NANDIPHA Life is about choices. I made decisions that I regret and I took them as learning experiences. I'm still experiencing the stomach cramps and vagina bleeding. Dr Tremblay said it will take 1 to 2 weeks for me to recovery fully. I just got discharged 30 minutes ago. Martin volunteered to accompany me. I wish my father could understand why did I do this. I couldn't carry my son's child. How was that going to sound? Not so long Mbuso almost became my tomorrow. He used to make me happy. No lies I just can't help the way he looked at me He hates me I can tell he doesn't want to be in the same room with me. I will just give him time that he needs to heal and accept me as her mother I don't accept the mother and son relationship though but to be there for each other All I can do is lie in bed and hope to drift away to sleep before I fall apart this whole situation of aborting nearly killed me if I didn't go to the hospital soon I was going to meet with my ancestors all the black market abortion medication I took they made a

huge damage in my womb. There is a possibility that I might not be able to be pregnant again. Martin packed next to my father's car. He looked at me "Don't ever try to harm yourself like that again" Dr Tremblay said. I looked at him he looked at me "I won't I promise" come to wonder why is my father here by this time. "I understand where why you did that but don't ever try to hurt yourself" Dr Tremblay said he's a good friend to tell the truth I was surprised when he walks to that hospital I didn't accept him to be the on call doctor. He never mentioned anything about being an on call doctor. But I didn't accept him to tell me everything about himself we are not in a relationship we just friends that happen to be overnight friend. "I wish my dad can be understanding as you are" "He's just disappointed as a parent he didn't accept you to do that. He will come around. Parents tend to think that if anything goes wrong with their children it's their fault. Not only do they have the pressure they put on themselves they may also have well-

meaning family members" Dr Tremblay "Thanks for helping me thanks for being a good friend aww" I said the stomach cramps striked me "Are you alright? Dr Tremblay asked how can he asked me that whilst he can see that I'm in pain "Just help me out of here I'm..." I stopped talking he opened his side then got out of the car first he came to my side he opened the car he helped me out... We took baby steps to reach to the house. He helped me to lie down on the couch. He looked at me. "Where can I find your kitchen? Dr Tremblay asked "On your second left hand the second door on your left hand side" I said while holding my stomach. He disappeared "At times like this mom I wish you were here Miss you so much" I said to to laud thinking the pain would go away Martin came back with a glass of milk "Here drink this" Dr Tremblay said shouldn't I be the one who's doing this? He's my guest but on this point I can't argue with him right? I drank the milk while he was sitting on the chair opposite me I positted the glass on the coffee

table. He looked at me And he took the glass back to the kitchen he came back he was holding an envelope this guy can't come in to my house and dig out our stuff. I looked at him. "How are you feeling now? He asked then sat on the same couch he was sitting on "Better" "It's normal to experience that all you can do is to relax don't overwork yourself drink too much water and 2 glass of milk daily don't eat heavy meal and don't smoke" Dr Tremblay said "Okay... And that? I asked pointing at the envelope he was holding. He smiled "Oh sorry I figured out this could be yours" Dr Tremblay said then he threw me that envelope it was sealed and had my name on it. This is my father's handwriting my heart plodded I sit up straight Sponsored then looked at Martin "Are you ok? Dr Tremblay asked I already have a bad feeling about this. What if my father doesn't see me as his daughter anymore what if he is kicking me out of his house or he wants everything that his wife left for me. "Where did you get this" I asked but why I'm I stressing myself I

knew that this day would come I knew from the first day I became their daughter that one-day I will get rejected by them. "On the kitchen counter" Dr Tremblay answered I slowly opened it. I read it tears streamed to my cheeks. Martin walked to sit next to me. I turned and face the other side I crossed my legs and silently cried he wiped my tears with his hand he wrapped his arms around me without saying anything I didn't accept him to say anything. He let me be _____ MBUSO ZULU I won't lie I enjoy working here. Or it's because of its my first job after I graduated 2 years ago. But it's not that. My colleagues are very welcoming and Mr Zwane he treat everyone equally. And he build a relationship with all his employees from top to bottom. I don't know without him how was this company going to be? Speaking of Mr Zwane he didn't come to work today. Maybe he went to see his daughter. Nandipha she's spoilt and Mr Zwane he's giving her too much credit. It's a bit that I will have to see that woman's face everyday. If I had any

plans to have a salary I was going to quit this job. I'm just hoping one of the companies where I handed my CV they could call me. With all the requirements that they want I do stand a chance besides the working experience they need 7 years working experience or more. How was I going to get that experience while I was still at tertiary. Kwanda entered my office holding some files "Mr Zulu please sign here for me" kwanda said. "Why must I sign this? I asked her trying to make conversation with her "I believe you can read" she said and attempted to leave. I quickly rushed to the door I closed the door it a good thing that the bosses are not here "Get out of my way Mbuso" Kwanda said "Forget it kwanda" "Why are you doing this Mbuso?" "Because I love you kwanda why don't you let me in" I said she her eyes popped out "Even you were the only man I left with in this country I was not going to be your girlfriend" Kwanda said " Why I'm I not.. " she cut me by a kiss "What just happened? I asked after we stopped kissing "Let's take this to

your house" Kwanda said "You are no longer scared of what people will say? "People won't do me anything. It's just that me and Nandi we come a long way together we attended the same high school and completed matric together then her mother became my mentor after completing tertiary before I was hired here" Kwanda said the last time I checked Nandi completed her high school at Cape Town and Kwanda she's from Cape Town "Let's go she will get over it" she nodded I've been waiting for this to happen uncle Sihle will have to forgive me for bringing a girl in his house. She walked out to take her stuff. She sent me an SMS stating that she's waiting for me at the parking lot I walked to the parking lot. Where she was waiting. 67% of my colleagues they own their own car's. "Can you drive? Kwanda asked " No" she chuckled "A whole project manager and generic manager cannot drive" Kwanda said "What will I say" "That means I should call my driver then" she said why buy a car while you won't drive it? Her driver is her

brother "Why? I asked "Because you can't drive"
she said "Say's who? She laughed then threw the
car keys on me "You are crazy you" kwanda said We
got in her car we hitted the road. The Zulu
ancestors are watching over me including the
Mchunu's. Just like that I got my girl. The drive to
Sihle's house is not that long. We got to the house
Sihle was reading some of his huge textbook. Mpilo
was reading a news paper. I looked kwanda who
was shy. "Uncles" "Mbuso" Mpilo said he looked at
me then kwanda "Oh this is my colleague her name
is Kwanda" Sihle closed his textbook "Oh kwanda
you welcome" Sihle said "Kwanda this is Sihle my
uncle the bad drive ever he nearly killed uncle
Mpilo" I said everyone laughed "What a way to
introduce your uncles to your girlfriend" aunt Dee
said while standing on the door Sihle got up walked
up to hug her. "Welcome back love bit" Sihle said
they walked to us Dineo looked kwanda she's a
queen of lifestyle "By the way I'm Dineo Mchunu
Mbuso's aunt and you are? "Her" aunt Dee cuts me

"I believe she can speak for herself" Dee said "I'm Kwanda Mbuso's f... Colleague" Kwanda said "F...Colleague I see..." Dee said than she sat down "Love bite be nice to her" Sihle said "I wasn't born yesterday.. Mbuso what is going on here? Dee asked "I'm telling the truth aunt" she looked at me Sihle pulled out the chair for Kwanda. I sat next to her "Yes you are telling the truth you just came back from Durban a day ago now you are bringing female colleague after what happened to you" Dee said Sihle gave her determined look "Dineo the is nothing wrong with what the children are doing" Sihle said "I don't accept you to understand Sihle Mbuso have been through a lot he needs a break" Dee said she was cut by a knock at the door "I will get it" Dee said she walked away "Mbuso this was a wrong idea" Kwanda whispered. I looked at Sihle he smiled. I onced told him about her while I was still at Durban. Aunt Dineo came back with Dr Tremblay who was holding Nandi who was taking the baby steps. Why didn't this woman die on the process of

abortion "Dadawethu" Sihle said getting up and went to hug her. I stood up and attempted to walk to my room. "Who will attend your guest Mbuso? Mpilo asked he's not too much of a talker. I looked kwanda I can tell she wanted to be out of here. "Sihle my father he's gone" Nandi cried. We all looked at her "What happened? Mpilo asked Sihle helped his sister to sit Dr Tremblay just stood there. "Dr Tremblay you may take a sit" Dee said "Thanks Mrs Mchunu but I'm not here to stay I have to perform a sargary at Harrismith to one of my patients" Dr Tremblay said. Nandi looked at him "Thanks for being there for me" Nandi said while she was crying. She helped my father by escaping he was not going to endure this shit. Knowing my father very well he was going to beat her until she behave like an adult. Not like a 15 years old girl "As much as I wanted to be here for you but..." Dr Tremblay said Nandi cut him "I understand Martin... I will be fine I promise" Nandi said. My father was not going to endure this sure. Sihle looked Mpilo

they both nodded then looked at Dineo "Guys I have to go I believe that she's safe with you guys and she won't harm herself again" Dr Tremblay said the uncles nodded. What a caring boyfriend to a wrong girlfriend who killed his unborn baby. "I can ensure you that she's 100% safe and Thanks doc for being there for her" Sihle said "Don't sweat Mr Mchunu.... Goodbye Nandi remember I'm a call away when you need someone to talk to" Dr Tremblay said now I see why doctors don't last in their relationships they don't have time for their partners Dr Tremblay walked out. Nandi gave Sihle an brown envelope. Sihle opened it he took out the peace of paper. He looked at Nandi again. "Don't worry sis he will be back" Sihle said. Nandi looked at me then kwanda who was shaking "Ok guys it was good meeting you. I have to go now" Kwanda said. "Don't leave on my account Kwanda I don't care what is going on between you two as long as it doesn't affect my company" Nandi said

NANDIPHA ZWANE After reading

the letter. I break down before Martin received a call. He didn't want to leave me alone in that house he believes that I might harm myself. How can my father do this to me. I steal glance at this beautiful couples. I can tell kwanda she was not feeling comfortable with this whole situation. "They is nothing going on Nandi. Mr Zulu asked for a lift that all" kwanda said while she was shaking "Relax Kwanda as long as you are happy I'm happy" I said Mbuso got up and disappeared to his room. Martin said I should give him a space he will come around. I will do that I believe Kwanda and Mbuso they've been working on Durban project together. It's obvious they spent too much time together. "You mean that I can be his girlfriend" Kwanda said. The cramps started again "Awww.. mommy... mah..." I screamed while my hands were on my stomach "Nandi" Mpilo called why could my father left me alone especially where I needed him. I'm hoping he will call me TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

46 NANDIPHA LATER ON. I drank ibuprofen to help me with discomfort. Mpilo is worried I looked at him. He's still the same he hasn't changed. Without love there would be no music. There would be no family no society no passion. There would also be no war. How can I claim that love is the root of all this? Because there is no higher bliss or more severe emotional distraught than that which can be brought on by being in love. Love turns people into angels. Just as it turns people into demons. If humans didn't love we would cease to exist. I cannot help it Mpilo he's very worried I knew very well what was I getting myself into before I went to do proper surgical abortion. I'm glad it was a success and safer than buying a pill on a black market. That almost killed me. I wish I had known that he was my son. I wish I could make him see why did I left him. There was no way I was going to risk my son yes I got lucky to find a family that loved me unconditionally "Mpilo...Don't worry about me I will be okay" everyone looked at me. "I'm serious I will be okay" I

said while rubbing my stomach. "Is there anything I can help you with? Mpilo asked "Yeah stop worrying about me. I will be fine" "We should worry about you" Mpilo said "I knew very well that doing abortion had side effects I'm 1 out of 10 of those women who made it alive" "And you continued doing risked your life? Sihle asked. I Sometimes I don't understand him Sometimes he's cold towards everyone sometimes he's Sihle I met few months ago "You won't understand why I did it" "Make me understand" Sihle said I looked at Dineo Mpilo Sihle then Kwanda who was uncomfortable with this whole situation "I couldn't carry another Zulu in my womb" Mpilo shook his head then he looked at Kwanda "Colleague please go and check on your colleague in that room" Mpilo said. He showed her the room she looked at me I nodded. "Are you sure" "Just go Kwanda before I changed my mind" she laughed she know very that I won't do that. If I mean something I mean it "Thanks Nandi" Kwanda said. Then she walked away. No body can

understand how I feel about this Sponsored I
nodded. "Are you sure" "Just go Kwanda before I
changed my mind" she laughed she know very that I
won't do that. If I mean something I mean it
"Thanks Nandi" Kwanda said. Then she walked
away. No body can understand how I feel about this
my father just left me hopelessly he was the only
parent I was left with a father who cares for
everyone especially his Nana. I know what I did was
wrong but I had no choice I had to do it. "What did
you mean by you couldn't carry another Zulu? Sihle
asked. I looked at sis Dee since she was the only one
who knew about my pregnancy. "It was his baby
and I'm his mother how was I going to explain that
to my child when he/ she grows? "Did you at least
tell him before doing that? "No the boy hate me"
"And he will hate you more if he finds out about
this"Sihle said "I don't care Sihle. I spent half of my
age living a lie. Look what did that end" "I
understand sis but you'll have to tell him" Sihle said
"And I'm not going to do that" "Bafo stop pressuring

her. She will do the right thing when she's ready"
Mpilo said. _____ MBUSO ZULU I laid
down on my bed. Facing the roof trying to find
words from that evil women. I can't stand her. She's
pure evil. Someone sat on my bed oh God help me
it's not Nandi. I sat up strength oh my world it's
Kwanda. I messed up I bought her here then I left
her with people she's unfamiliar with. Only that sick
spoilt woman. "I'm sorry Kwa... "I just don't
understand why did you put me in that position?
Kwanda asked. With tears on her eyes I wish I can
explain to her what happened between me and that
skank. "I didn't want to be in the same room with
that women over there" "What does she want
here? Kwanda asked "If my love for you is a crime I
want to be the most wanted" "It is a crime Mbuso
you left me on that position I never been on that
situation" Kwanda said. That was selfish of me "I'm
sorry I can make it up to you" "How Mbuso?
Kwanda asked. If she knew how much feel about
her she wouldn't ask me how. My head says no but

my heart says yes? It's wrong but it feels so right? I wish my I fell for her not that skank. "If you could just let me in your world we can work" Kwanda said. This Nandi onced said that to me. "I love you kwanda" "I love you too Mbuso" I got up she got up too. I brought her to my arms. I kissed her. I'm just avoiding her questions. Kwanda moaned. I kissed her hungrily and walked her to the bed she looked at me. "Umuhle yez mama" (You are beautiful) shit what gotten to me. I hope I don't call that skank's name. Kwanda smiled we continued kissing my hands moved to her tights since she likes to wear shorts skirt. She then unbuttoned my while I was inserting my fingers to her cookie. My mind reflected to Nandi. She blushed as I told her that she's beautiful Whistle still unbuttoned my shirt while she was just sitting on the bed. I pulled her her skirt up. An idea crossed my mind 'Nandipha' that women used a spell on me sure. I see her in kwanda. She went down on her knees she smiled at the same time. "What are you doing baby?" I asked

I know very well what she's about to do My eyes were still focused on what she was doing I closed and opened my eyes. "Ahh I fuck baby where Ahhh" she is now massaging my balls and going deeper with her mouth on my dick I held her head and pushed her in deeper I gagged my saliva caused moisture to my dick much to my enjoyment. "Ohhh fuck....yes mama.... Nandi I...Ahhh fuck" I groaned. She stopped and fixed her skirt "Did you call me Nandi? Kwanda asked. This is what I was fearing I'm going to kill that Nandi sure. She ran out

_____ NANDI ZWANE Why would my father do that. I won't run his company alone. He promised my mother that he will be there for me. I keep on checking my phone no task from him nor email or WhatsApp. I can't go through this with out him. His my father he supposed to support me as my father. I'm not meant to be happy. What happened to is just two of us? Kwanda came back she seems very disappointed. She sat next to me. I don't wish to know what happened inside that

room. Mbuso followed her. He looked at me. I glanced at phone and try to call my father. "Daddy this is not funny anymore" I said. While Mbuso sat opposite Kwanda. "Tell your daughter in law to fix her skirt" Dee said. I looked at her then we smiled a little. I fixed Kwanda's skirt she faked a smile. Dineo looked me she smiled "We say thank you sis" Dineo said. I didn't mean to laugh but I find myself laughing. "Girl power don't laugh we say thank you" Dee said "I'm sorry sis Dee" she looked at me. I steal glance at Mbuso. He clenched his jaw he gave me a death stare. "Nandi why didn't you die on a process of uncompleted abortion? Mbuso asked. I looked at something that I will hit him with. Kwanda took the glass of juice that was at the table. She knows that I was going to effusion that juice in his face "I will be in Keitumetsi's room" I said then got up and walk slowly nursing my cramps "I hate you Nandi" Mbuso muttered. I turned and looked at him "Thanks Mbuso" that's all I could say to him "Mbuso" Sihle shouted. The next thing I heard his hands pulling my

hair roughly. He's Vincent's son what did I accept from him "Babah.... Daddy help me" I realised that I'm calling for help to someone who decided to take his vacation trip. Mpilo separate his hand without fighting him. I don't know how he did that. I sat down on the floor and cried. "Daddy he's no where to protect you huh I will kill you" Mbuso said this call all his father's memories 'where will you run to mommy Sold you like a mug of nuts' I looked at Mbuso. "You are your father's son. You take after him women beater" I said Sihle pulled out him roughly. Mpilo helped me to stand up. Dineo and Kwanda were shocked. "It doesn't work like that Mbuso... We must respect each other in this house" Sihle said while pulling him out of the house "I'm sorry about that sis" Mpilo said while wiping the tears that were in my eyes. "What did I do in this world? I cried Mpilo hugged me. I cried on his shoulders. TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

47 NANDIPHA Well the earth was created for people and we are now here with a lot of people. Mpilo helped me to sit down. He looked at me. "I'm sorry about Junior's behaviour" Mpilo said. Indeed I named him Junior Zulu "Don't be Mpilo it's not your fault or his fault" he looked at me Dineo and Kwanda sat down as well. I don't want to be here anymore I just want to be alone. I'm trying to forget about my sad past sorrows. But how will I do that when I'm around him and my brothers. Tears streamed from my eyes down to my cheeks I no longer worry about them coming invited they part of my pain. Part of my sorrows and troubles "Don't cry sis this shall pass" Dineo said "I'm not meant to be happy in my life. I will never be happy Mpilo I will never be happy in my life I will..." Poor Mpilo he just glanced down "I'm sorry Kwanda that you had to experience this" she nodded I wiped out those uninvited guest on my face. "I feel ashamed for what just happened. I don't know what to say to justify that I betrayed you Nandi sorry for trying to

be you and forgot that I'm the perfect imagination of God. Dating your ex boyfriend was uncalled for. I take full responsibility for myself and my actions. I wouldn't pawn this off on you. I'm sorry it happened. And I hurt you had to take a blame for it" Kwanda said. What ever happened when they were it that room it has to do with me. But that didn't give him the right to do what he did. I'm no longer feeling safe here. Kwanda got up she looked at me. "Goodbye it was nice meeting you" Kwanda said looking at Mpilo and Dineo "It was great meeting you too" Dineo said Kwanda walked out. To think that I care about this boy before I even met him he was always in my mind he's been a part of me ever since I left him I could sometimes think about how is Phumza or Vincent treating him The mistake I ever did was to left him there without looking behind me. Maybe if I escaped with him none of this could've happened. Maybe if I asked him deeper about his family I should've find myself under my son's sheets. I felt someone tapping my

shoulder I looked it was Sihle. He sat down next to me. He usually sit next to Dineo but today he sat next to me. I'm sitting between my brothers I looked at them. They looked at me "How are you feeling? Sihle asked. I looked at him. I'm scared I don't feel safe here anymore. Tears streamed uninvited again. They are part of my pain and happiness I can't stop them I'm used to them. Mpilo used his thumb to wipe away those tears on my eyes "I don't know Sihle. I feel lonely and scared at the same time. All the pain that I buried inside me they just rose up" they all looked at me. "I had hope that one day I will come home to see how you guys are doing but I was fearing for my life Vincent killed my spirit beside of being old to me he used to abused me Sponsored he used to abused me he would come back from work and took of his stinky boots he would beat me up without any explanation. He would remind me that I should respect him and that he is the man of the house. He became verbally aggressive with me too and would

shout at me. He gradually became more violent towards me as well. It all started out with him slapping me with out a valid reason followed by kicking me then it increased to pushing or shoving me but there is that one day he threw my head into a brick wall. After that he would lay into me three or four times a week I don't remember very well. He turned me as his sex slave. Abusing me was his daily bread. It's funny that my elder brothers failed to protect me" I looked at Sihle "I'm sorry Nandi I wish I could turn..." Mpilo said I cut him. "Mpilo you are two years older than me there was no way you were going to save me" "Why didn't you come back home? Sihle asked "When ever I would try to run away he would remind me where to because my mother sold me and he wasn't lying he would force to make love with me" I said I never thought I will see this day Sihle crying whistle brushing my back. "That man got the nerves to grief for you and pretended like everything was ok between you two. I'm going to break his neck trust me" Mpilo said I

looked at him. He grinded his tooth. I've been in and out abusive relationships. I can tell when a person is really angry. "Mpilo don't do that" "What did he do? Sihle asked "He barinded his tooth" I said that while I was shacking this is the position I never wished to find myself in. "I won't hurt you dadawethu I can manage my anger just relax" Mpilo said. And bought me closer for a hug. A hug from a brother how I never imagined that _____

MBUSO ZULU Did I have to meet with that women inside the house. Now my relationship ended before it's started. I looked at Kwanda as she drove off. She didn't even give me a chance to apologize. If Mpilo wasn't that strong trust me I was going to kill that women. I hate her with all my heart. My relationship with my uncles was always strong now that their long evil sister she's here. They've forgotten about their nephew. I got in side the house. I walked to the dinning area it is depressing everyone's eyes were red including Sihle. Nandi she's sitting between Sihle and Mpilo. I wish I can

strike her and teach her how to live with people. Because she's rich she thinks that the world owns her. She can do whatever she feels like. "Nandi why are you still here? I asked everyone looked at me. Nandi panicked. Mpilo held her wrist. He gave me a death stare. "Nandi I asked you a question" I shouted. Her phone rang. She looked at it "Why don't you answer your boyfriend? "I don't have time for this I'm going home" Nandi said she got up and looked at me while walking to the kitchen. Aunt Dineo followed her. Mpilo walked up to me. He punched me on my face I tried to fight him but I was giving him more reason to punch me again. Philani he's scared of him so what makes me think I can fight him only Sihle can stand him. He is really strong. He roughly grabbed me to the wall and pinned me against the wall. "Don't give me the reason to hate you Junior" Mpilo said. "Uncle Sihle please do something" I begged. he's the one who once stopped him when he was fighting with the one of the king's body guards the king himself

received few punched "You are now a man Mbuso fight like a man Zulu" Mpilo said. How will I fight him when he is this strong "Bafo let the boy go" Sihle said. "You want to join him brother come join your nephew" Mpilo said. He strangled me.

_____ NANDI ZWANE Bad timing I told Martin before he bought me here that I will be fine. He insisted that he cannot leave me alone in the state I was. "Sihle stay out of this" Mpilo shouted. I heard him from the kitchen. I looked at Dineo she looked me. We listened carefully "If Vincent taught him to beat women then you must beat me first" Mpilo said. I don't want to get myself in a crossfire. But in case like this I won't nurse the cramps. I rushed to the kitchen. Mpilo was strangling Mbuso on the wall. Sihle just stood there and folded his arms like he didn't know what to do "Mpilo let him go" "Dineo and Nandi stay out of this" Sihle said "Mpilo please" I begged he looked at me. Then he let him go. Mbuso sat down he is indeed my son when I'm defeated I sit down. I wanted to go to him

but the hatred writen in his face towards me "Next time you disrespect my sister like that I will break your neck like I'm going to break your father" Mpilo said and walked away. Sihle shook his head. As much as I want to erase my past and start over my life but I can't. Mpilo looked at Mbuso "If you you feel like a grown man in this house find your way out of the Mchunu's house" Mpilo said "Mpilo thats unnecessary I will talk to him" Sihle said I walked away from them. TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

48 NANDIPHA Mpilo didn't allow me to go home yesterday I didn't want to argue with him after what I saw I'm scared of him sure. As I as I was walking admiring this garden. My phone started ringing. I checked its an unknown number. "Nandipha Zwane hello" Silent "Hello it's any body their? Let's hope it's not one of the boring insurance call centres. "Nana"my heart became filled with joy. What a wonderful morning hearing my father's voice bought a smile on my face. I sat on the wood chair

that is on the garden. "Daddy is that you? I didn't know what to say or do I was overwhelmed with joy. Daddy missed me "Who else will call you Nana beside daddy's Sthe" Dad said. What was I thinking asking him that question I could hear his voice.

"Why did you left me alone? "Nana I'm fine and you will be fine that's a promise from daddy" "But you left me without saying anything" "I'm not pleased on what you did but at the end of the day you are my daughter" Dad said what kind of a daughter I'm I? I'm ungrateful my father wants nothing from me but the best look what did I do now I chased him away from me. My mother must be turning on her grave. "I'm sorry dad" I sniffed "Nana I've forgiven you it will be selfish of me not to forgive my own child I need you to remember this The word sorry loses its magic when you use it too often especially for the same mistake. The first rule of saying 'I'm sorry' is to rectify the mistake and ensure that you never repeat it. You need to go to the root of the problem amend it and ensure that there will be no

more future incidents of the same type" Dad said if he was the leader of our our country. I'm sure his leadership was going to be strong and determined by his willingness of loving and forgiving my parents were admired by many. I need to learn from them. "I will keep all your teachings in mind dad When are you coming back? "After a year or two" Dad replied "But babah" he chuckled "It's not funny dad" "Okay Nana I've to go" Dad said "Don't do that dad" "Each and every year I used to celebrate our anniversary by having dinner with your mother but this will be the first year I'm gonna celebrate it alone" Dad said. I never realised that my father was hurting that much It was selfish of me to never been there for him I was always thinking about myself and I alone. Pain is a pesky part of being human I've learned it feels like a stab wound to the heart something I wish we could all do without in our lives here. Pain is a sudden hurt that can't be escaped like I escaped my fake marriage. But then I learned that because of pain I can feel the beauty

tenderness and freedom of healing. I wish I saw my father's pain and be there for him as he was always there for me. Pain feels like a fast stab wound to the heart. But then healing feels like the wind against your face when you are spreading your wings and flying through the air. "Dad I may not have wings growing out of my backs to come there and tell you that everything's gonna be alright mum would've wanted us to be stronger and be happy" he chuckled my mother used to say healing is the closest thing that will give us that wind against our faces. "Thanks Nana I needed to hear those words from you take care of yourself and your cousin" Dad said he then hunged up I got up and walked back to the house their were eating breakfast in silent.

"Good morning" "Good morning Nandi" they said I sat next to Dineo I'm going back home this afternoon I hate this tension between my brothers and Mbuso Mbuso onced said he has a tight relationship with his uncle. My phone beeped it was a WhatsApp message from the unknown numbers. I

read the message "Nana have a relationship with the Mchunu's and your son" I responded 'okay' I looked at Mbuso he gave me a detailed look. I cleared my throat. They looked at me "My father called me Sponsored Mbuso onced said he has a tight relationship with his uncle. My phone beeped it was a WhatsApp message from the unknown numbers. I read the message "Nana have a relationship with the Mchunu's and your son" I responded 'okay' I looked at Mbuso he gave me a detailed look. I cleared my throat. They looked at me "My father called me he's fine" "That's good I was getting worried about him" Sihle said Mbuso got up and take his laptop bag what was on the chair. "I'm off to work" "Have a great day" Mpilo and Sihle said at the same time. He walked out Dineo looked at me "How are you feeling today? Dineo asked "I'm feeling better" I replied. Sihle whispered something to Mpilo " I didn't know that men do gossip" they laugh "My husbands do gossip" Dineo said with a fake smile she's only work 3 days

a week wherever she's working "We are not gossiping" Sihle said To be rejected by Mbuso doesn't mean I should also reject myself or that I should think of myself as a lesser. It doesn't mean that nobody will ever love me anymore. Remember that I was rejected multiple times by people I saw future with them. Mbuso he's my son my veins through him. He cannot run away from that he's hurting I understand and it only hurt so much because I do want to build a relationship with him but he's pushing me away. If it wasn't for Martin's advise I would be sinking in alcohol by now. But a friend whom we became friends overnight he's there to help me. A friend whom I hardly know helped me I was surprised to see him at the hospital that day when he walks in and he was surprised to he didn't accept the patient to be me. He's a doctor for public hospitals around KZN and Gauteng to tell the truth I'm blessed to have people who cares me. I might think I'm alone but God keep me bringing amazing people in my life. I find myself smiling

alone. "Share the smoothies with us girl power"
Dineo said "You guys are amazing" they smiled
"ncooo" Dineo said "How old are you Nandi? Sihle
asked while smiling "I'm 30 years plus" they laughed
"Okay then I'm 45...." I laughed at myself. "Truth to
be told my sister you look like you are on your
middle 20s" Sihle said "Yet I thought I'm getting
riddles when you asked me" "You look good for a 45
years old if you were to tell me that you are 45 I
was going to say you are lying" Mpilo said "Girl
power she's 30 years old and I must admit we miss
her on that stage" Dineo said "Which stage now"
Mpilo asked we laughed at him "Forget it sis Dee I
won't go back there" "But you are empowering
young women and children who lost hope hance
why you are called girl power" Sihle said I didn't
know why my stage name was girl power until
today _____ PALISA ZWANE Peace
calmness and good relations are essential at the
workplace. I'm at peace when I'm here than I am at
my flat or when I'm alone I nearly hated my cousin

Nandi once saved me through depression after my father's death she was always there she was supposed to be married by now. But she chose me over her ex-fiance the stupid fiance who cheated on her with her best friend what kind of friend is that. She never cared about that but me. To think about it Nandi was pregnant and her moods were all over. If I knew that she was not herself I should've reacted the way I did. I should go back to live with her and uncle Sthembiso we are family we need to be there for one another that's what her mother said to me when I first moved in to Gauteng. "World to miss P Zwane" Mbuso said when he threw a piece of paper at my face. I rubbed my eyes and looked at him "What you were saying? He laughed at me. Nandi was going to say this idiot "I was about to say something" Mbuso said. I realized that something was off about him "Okay I'm all ears" "Ummm" he stopped talking when he Kwanda made her way "Any message for me Pali? Kwanda asked I checked on my workbook

"The health and safety officer would like to meet with you and Miss Zwane around 13:00" " Okay I will be there I don't think Nandi will make it I will ask her PA" Kwanda said and she walked away.

Mbuso followed her _____ MBUSO

ZULU If I was not Mpilo's nephew I was going to be lying on the hospital bed by now. He said he was teaching me a lesson that next time I think of laying my hands on a woman who's powerless and fragile like Nandipha I must think twice I ran after Kwanda.

She opened the lift and entered in the elevator I entered too. She rolled her eyes then sigh. "Please Kwanda give me a chance" "I don't wanna be cought on a cross fire that I was in yesterday"

Kwanda said "I'm sorry Kwanda I didn't mean for that to happen" "You were going to beat your ex girlfriend in front of me and your family" Kwanda

said "About that Kwanda I'm sorry" the lift doors opened "Whatever Mbuso" Kwanda said she

walked out and rushed to her office she locked. this is all Nandi's fault she's the biggest mistake that

ever made in my life. If I didn't need the experience trust me I would've long quited this job. I walked to my office. I sit down I need to draw up the plan for the building of a new mall and I need to do present it to the Same women who I don't wanna see myself in the same room with. TO BE CONTINUED
Unedited

49 NANDIPHA [WEEK LATER] My sick leave has ended that means I'm going back to that environment I never liked I need to report back to work the cramps are no longer that much. I never thought I would be living in this house alone. I took an apple and my new car keys and walked out to my new car bought by my father Speaking of my father hasn't called me since that day. The contract he called me with are not going through. I slowly drive to the gate and used the remote control to open the gate. I slowly drive out and closed the gate using the remote I drove off I turned on the music umoya wami uyavum I can forget my password but

not my pain. It's so hard to forget pain but it's even harder to remember sweetness. I have no scar to show for happiness. I've learned so little from peace. I arrive at ZCCL. I took out my access card and scan it on the gate. I drive in the parking lot. I parked my car next to Kwanda's car. She got out of the and I got out of my car. She looked at me. "Morning Kwanda" "Hello Nandi" Kwanda said with a low tone she opened her boot and took her handbag and the laptop bag I can tell she's trying to avoid me. I walked away from her. I got in to the lift I punched the floor number. My phone rang it's funny and amazing how crazy I feel when my phone vibrates and I'm begging it to be Martin calling this time I checked my phone indeed it's him "Yesterday is history tomorrow is a mystery today is a gift of God which is why we call it the present" Martin said he didn't wait for me to greet him "Life can only be understood backwards but it must be lived forwards" I said with a smile on my face. "How did you sleep? Martin asked. I was wondering if he had

forgotten that part "You don't wanna know" Martin chuckled "I do wanna know" "Just because one small positive thought in this morning changed my whole day" "This means I'm part of the positive thoughts" Martin said he has the ability to make me smile even though I don't see the reason to the elevator opened I walked to the reception no body "I get over yourself Mr" "The spaces between your fingers are meant to be filled with mine" Martin said I don't have any space on my fingers that needs to be filled "I don't understand what you are trying to say Martin" "One of the best days you will understand" Martin said. I balanced my phone with my shoulder and looked at my fingers trying to figure out what he's he talking about. "I bet you are questioning yourself what I'm I talking about" Martin said while he was laughing "You are an idiot. you know that? " I'll be yours forever just tell me when to start" Dr Tremblay said here we go again. I laughed he joined me this guy "You want your ex wife to rearrange my beautiful face" I said while

laughing too "why do you always bring her in our conversations? Martin asked "I didn't know that you will find it offensive" "I'm not offended. Nandi If I got a penny for every time I thought and dreamed about you I would be rich" Martin said "Can we talk about this some other time" I said as I saw Palisa Sihle Mpilo and Mbuso coming out of the elevator they were laughing "Okay I will wait for your call than" Martin said "Bye Martin have a wonderful day" "You too" They approached the reception. Kwanda came she was using the stairs. "You should've used lift Kwanda" Palisa asked. Before her eyes saw me. She jumped up on me "Mzala" Palisa said it's sad because I never told her about my past even my aunt's. "Cuz" "I missed you" Palisa said Sponsored we broke the hug "Then why didn't you visit me then? "I thought you needed a space" Palisa said I looked at Kwanda who was stealing a glance at Mbuso. I side smiled "Okay cuz we will catch up later on start working" I said and walked out of the reception desk Mpilo was talking to

Mbuso I don't know about what but they kept on nodding "Sihle" "Dadewethu" Sihle said "What brings you here? "I don't know how to say this but you need to be strong" Sihle said my mood dropped from 10 to 0 " Let's go to my office" he followed me

_____ MBUSO ZULU The sorrow we feel when we lose a loved one is the price we pay to have had them in our lives. The uninvited guests visited my family I can't believe that Phumza she's gone who will call me mzikulu ka gogo (my grandson) now she's gone. I'm trying to be strong for myself but it's hard. I looked at Kwanda who was stealing a glance at me while she's talking to Palisa. "Look Junior we all shuttered by her death" Mpilo said I'm just hoping the HR department agree to give me a week leave. Sihle came back he looked at us "How did it go? Mpilo asked " She acted strong but I could tell she's shuttered" Sihle said "Uncles I will see you later on" " Nandi said you can take a your leave she will fill up for you" Sihle said wow just like that she's crazy sure. "I hear you Sihle but

can I at least go up there and pack my stuff" the both nodded. I went to the lift and pressed the floor number that I'm going to. I got to the management offices. The CEO's office was closed. I attempted to pass it and went to my office but there is this strong feeling that tells me to go inside her office. I didn't knock I just entered. Her face was full of tears yet I thought she would be happy. "Mama" she took a box of tissues and wiped out her tears "My... My... Deep" Nandi said she didn't even finish her sentence she broke down. I never thought that I will be the one who's comforting the same woman who neglected me. But at this point we need one another I walked up to her and hugged her from the back. "My grandmother was always so proud of me and She always had so many nice things to say about you" she continued crying. _____

PHILANI MCUNU My mother died this morning around 4:30 I still can't believe that she's gone I couldn't believe it when I received a call from the hospital telling me that she's passed on. I mean she

was so sure that today she's getting discharged someone knocked at the door I slowly walked to open the door. To my surprised it's Ernest "Pops" he hugged me he lost weight "Son I heard I couldn't believe until I went to the hospital she's gone my wife she's gone" Ernest Said. TO BE CONTINUED
Unedited

50 NANDIPHA I must not afraid of my fears. They're not here to scare me anymore. They're here to let me know that something is worth it. Fear is temporary and regret is forever. He hugged me from the back. I couldn't believe it myself but here he is comforting me. As much as I wanted Phumza to suffer and as much as I wanted her to face me and tell me why did she hate me that much. Now she's gone with the answers I took a tissue and wiped my face. The number one skill I can ever acquire is the ability to use my mind to create possibilities for my life and to resolve problems. This is very important because without the control

of my mind I follow other people's minds and actions and not mine. Then I fall and we fail. He is hugging me from the back. I didn't know what to do. I'm scared he might attack me at the same time I'm happy that he is the one who is comforting me. I held his shoulder. "I talked to her two days ago she said she was fine to me" Mbuso said. I just nodded I didn't know what to say to him. I could see that he is hurting. I'm scared that I might say something that will make him angry. In the last few days I've seen his mad side. "Sorry for your loss" "I wish I was there to save her" Mbuso said I sniffed save who the devil never. I remembered that he once said he is the only grandson to his grandmother she loved him and he loved her too. I'm cruel right? "I'm... S" words failed to "Mama go home take a day off" Mbuso said Sponsored take a day off" Mbuso said "I can't.. " words failed again. I cried. It's funny because Phumza she's the same woman who never cared and support me. Who sold me who lied to me about my father. I should be rejoicing by now but

here I'm crying for the same woman. "I understand you can't but please walk me out to the parking lot my uncles are waiting" Mbuso said I nodded. He helped me to get up. He took a tissue and wiped out those tears on my face. We walked to the lift. My knees were shacking. My phone started raining. I thought I left it in the office. Mbuso had it on him. "Stepdad Martin" Mbuso said this guy he's joking at times like this "He will call again" "You know I would like us to rebuild our relationship as mother and son" Mbuso said. My eyes popped. Did I heard him or I'm just imagining things "I... He cuts me the lift stopped "Phumza's deaths is an eye opener and a blessing in disguise" Mbuso said whilst we walked to the reception. Kwanda was still at the reception. Mbuso looked at me. "I'm sorry for my behavior the other day" "It's okay Mbuso it's all in the past" he held my hand and kissed it. "Let's go before Sihle or Mpilo come to drag me out" we both laughing. And exited using the stairs to the parking lot. As we were approaching mpilo's car I heard them saying

'ncooo' "Both your brothers are crazy" I laughed. We walked to them they looked at us. I looked at them straight in their eyes "I hope you two didn't do something that I wouldn't do" Sihle said "I wouldn't blame them their were helping each other's starvation" Mpilo said "See I told you that your brothers are crazy" Mbuso said Mpilo bought me closer to him for a hug Sihle and Mbuso joined We broke the hug. "Miss Zwane you need to go back to work" Mbuso said "Bye guys drive safe" "Pass by our house later" Mbuso said " I will" my phone ringed right on his pocket. He looked at me and smile "Stepdad Martin he's calling again" Mbuso said. His grandmother just passed on. He's here cracking jokes "He will call me back" we laughed. "Have a great day ma'am" Sihle said They got in the car and said they goodbye. And drove off. Mbuso was the one who is driving. I decided to use the stairs besides the elevator. I pray to God that he keeps our relationship blessed. I got to the reception. Kwanda was still there she was helping

Palisa. I walked up to them. "Kwanda!! She looked at me and said nothing " A word please" " Whatever you want to say Nandi say it next to your cousin" Kwanda said " Okay I'm sorry that you had to experience what you have experience the other day" she nodded. "I'm asking you to be there for him give him a chance to prove his love to you" "That won't help Nandi. It will be always be you" Kwanda said " I don't accept you to understand my relationship with him or his uncles. But the guy love you and I can see that you love him too" " When did you realise that? Kwanda asked "Mbuso he's" I kept quiet "I know you more than anyone in this building you are Kwanda Dlovu when you are into someone you are into him. Mbuso he's going through a rough time his grandmother just passed on this morning I would appreciate it if you support him" as I mentioned the passing of his grandmother I saw tears from her eyes "Is he okay? Palisa asked she is sobbing "He's trying cuz but I would appreciate it if we keep him in our mind and prayers" "I didn't

know that" Kwanda exclaimed " All I'm asking is that you need to be there for him" " You such a great ex girlfriend" Palisa said. It's a pity that they don't know the roots of our relationship. It comes to mind that Mbuso took my phone. I will collect it later on

_____ NURRITED Vincent Zulu just received the breaking News of his mother in-law' passing. He couldn't believe it. He was hopping for Phumza that he could talk to Nandi for him.

Nosipho walked up to her husband with a cup of tea. She knelt down "Here you go baba" Nosipho said. Vincent looked at her "Take this shit out of my face Nosi" Vincent shouted. She didn't question him she stood up and attempted to walk away. Vincent got up and roughly pulled her with braids. The cup of hot tea fell on her feet. "Where do you think you are going? Vincent asked "Aww baba I burned myself" "I'm the man in this house you need to obey my rules" Vincent said. Nosipho swing down " I'm sorry Daddy" she is apologizing for something she didn't do "Is that how do you apologies to your

husband? " No" " Do the right thing I will join you now" "Ok" she said Vincent let her go. She ran to the bedroom and took off her dress bra and panties. She waited for her husband to please himself as he always does Nosipho got married to Vincent 3 years after Nandi's disappearance. She learned to love her abusive husband. Whenever her husband was not around she would take all the blame to his son. It took years for her to conceive. By the year she did she gave birth to beautiful twins Nonjabulo and Jabulile. Vincent walked in to the room. He looked at his wife. "You always giving me the reason to be mad at you" "Nosipho I'm sorry sweetie" she said Vincent smiled "MaZulu you are loved by me" Vincent said. TO BE CONTINUED

Unedited

51 MBUSO Sometimes we don't realize the blessings we have until we no longer have them. Appreciate all the blessings in your life take none for granted. The universe has made us to meet

under the circumstances of love. We both couldn't control how we felt for each other. It was wrong of me to blame Nandi without getting from the roots of the story. I mean she was 15 years when she had me. How was she going to take care of a child while she was child herself. Her phone rang again. It's been raining the hole day. I don't remember how It ended up in my hand. Aunt Dee looked at me. We have been drinking Corona extra 1 glass calls another one "Girl power she's going to eat you alive" Dee said "Don't even mention that. She's going to be like this is my phone Mbuso that's my privacy" Sihle said trying to act like her sister I completely forgotten about that day we laughed funny enough we supposed to be mourning for my grandma but we are here laughing "Aunt Dee we are in this together" "I'm out of here" Dineo said "Mbuso let me remind you something" Sihle said he's drunk sure " Ok Malume" " Your grandmother she was coward she chose to die in her mid 70s" Sihle said. He must never drink again "At least she

could still see yours was 103 years old her vision was poor" we laughed. I love my relationship with my uncles I nearly ruined our relationship I acquire a higher level of consciousness that helps me find my true purpose and resolve my family problems by letting go of negative programming raising my level of self-esteem becoming more assertive and creating more love trust Sponsored trust and enjoyment in my life. Nandi budge in without knocking. I pushed her phone to aunt Dee and pushed it back to me we ended up playing with it "Okey kids. Sihle get some toys for this two I..." Nandi said she didn't finish her sentence. "Idiots" Mpilo and Silhe said. They looked at Nandi "I didn't say that guy's they did" Nandi said while she walked to the kitchen. " She's going to take a sjmbok Mbuso I swear" Dee said. "Or a Sharp object" Sihle said. Nandi came back with a glass of milk "Corona extra? Sihle offered "I no longer drink alcohol" Nandi said we looked her she laughed "Looked at you guys I'm taking a break from alcohol" she added

"I should also take a break too" Dee said "My doctor suggested that I should take a break for two weeks" Nandi said "You need to refer me to that Dr Tremblay of yours" Sihle said "And all thanks to your stupidity accident that made me meet Martin" Nandi said Sihle and Mpilo looked at Dee "Don't look at me that my husbands she's telling the truth" Dineo said she recently call t both of them her husbands. _____ NURRITED Vincent looked at his wife. Who was cooking. "Nosi I think you should go help the Mchunu's during this difficult time" Vincent said. Nosipho just nodded. She doesn't feel safe around her husband but when they are around people Vincent won't touch her. They pretended like a happy couples around people and their children. He looked at her "Nosipho I'm talking to you" "You were thinking what should I say? "What was that Nosi? He asked while walking up to her she moved from the stove "What was that? Each step he was taking Nosipho was taking a step backwards "Let me remind you dear wifey you

have no where to go" "I can't take this anymore Vincent" she said while crying "You you just realized that now? Vincent asked she shook her head she fell Vincent started punching and kicking her. Her eyes were dried up. You could tell she's use to this. "You better kill me Zulu" _____ NANDI ZWANE I wish my father was here to experience this who would've thought that one day I will be sitting and laughing with the Mchunu's. My life is finally healing from the past. Martin statement is buzzing on my brain 'The spaces between your fingers are meant to be filled with mine' giving it a try won't hurt right? TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

52 NANDIPHA People can drink like the is no the need to slow down. I never thought I will see this day. Sihle was so drunk. I thought I was the only one who tried to escape the pain through alcohol at this point Sihle Mpilo Mbuso and Dineo they beat the record. I'm on call with Dr Martin Tremblay. "As long as you won't hurt me" "I'll love and Charish you

and keep you happy. That's my promise to you my dear sweetheart that no matter where life takes us I'll be by your side giving you the love you deserve and respecting you loving you. I pledge to you my undying love and unwavering loyalty. I will always be yours just allow me to heal you those scares to wipe away those tears. Let me carry all your burdens" Martin said this is too deep I closed my eyes and sigh I opened them again then I smiled I'm speechless "I love you too Dr love" He chuckled. I'm sure he had been waiting for this day to happen "I promise you won't regret" Martin said "Let's hope you keep all those promises" wow not so long I had given up in love. I bounced back into dating without thinking twice I'm glad I'm just proud that I told him about my past he knows me very well and I know him too they won't be any surprises along the way. The full impact of the toxic spill is still unfolding spilled water can not be undone "Are you still with me mon amour" (my love) Martin said I just hope I'm glad that my parents taught me few

different languages and different cultures. "I'm still here" "When are you laying her to her final place? Martin asked I told him about the passing of Phumza and the bond I'm trying to rebuild with my brothers and the lost time with Mbuso it's funny because I can tell him everything even though we he's call away but he's supportive "In two days time" "Okay sorry I won't be there for you" Martin said what I like about him he's a good listener and advisor too "No problem I won't be attending her funeral" "Why? Martin asked "That family holds bad memories I don't wanna find myself in a creepy situation" "You need to be there you need to bury those bad memories" I rolled my eyes he's just talking. Phumza had put me through a lot as a child. "I understand but Some stressful experiences such as chronic childhood abuse are so traumatic the memories hide like a shadow in the brain and can't be consciously accessed. Eventually suppressed memories can cause debilitating psychological problems. Remember that you said you want to

build that mother and son relationship and make it stronger be there for him get to know him well what happened between you and his father must not hold your happiness Try to make him understand why did you left him and he was always in your mind" Martin said Remind me again it's I'm now involved with a doctor health routine will be my daily meal. "Beside my team will be going there they will represent their CEO" he chuckled he always does that. "You have to go there to find peace" he added I don't want to go there I don't wanna face Ernest and Vincent my father he's not here to protect me In my own now

_____ PHILANI MCUNU News flies sure our former neighbours came to pay their respects and our relatives too I don't know who told them none of them were close to Phumza she had no friends it was always me Mpilo and Ernest then her favourite grandson Mbuso. She chased her younger sister "Knock Knock" "Ngiyeza" (coming) I'm tired sure I walked to the door and open it's my aunt

Phumza's younger sister she's 29 years old Mbuso he's year older than her. Their mother my grandmother died on a process of giving birth to her Phumza never liked her because of that on the other hand Phumza she's the one who raised her Sponsored she's very close with Mpilo and Mbuso. her name is Ntombizodwa we call her Zodwa "Zodwa!!! She hugged me and started crying "Phumza we had to be there for each other now she's gone she left me alone" Zodwa said no matter how much someone treated you but your relationship with that person tells a story. "I'm sorry" That's all I can say to her. I'm in denial that someone I loved so much and who was with me my entire life has left this world forever. I am having a hard time understanding this she gave birth to me. "Where is Mpilo and Mbuso? Zodwa asked their relationship is too strong. Mpilo was the one who was taking financial before he was retracted earlier this year. "They both at Gauteng with Sihle they will be here tomorrow morning" we broke the hug. And

walked in back to the house Ernest was the one who was sitting on the mattress. He looked at Zodwa. "Sibali" (brother in law) Zodwa said "Zodwa! Ernest muttered he still can't believe that his wife is gone. Either do I? I'm too old to believe in such sentimentalities as clean slates and starting all over "I'm so sad that she's gone please accept my deepest condolences" Zodwa said while she walking to sit on the mattress. "I will sit here if you don't mind" Zodwa added. Ernest nodded then got up and sat on the chair. Zodwa looked at me and Ernest. I've been explaining to everyone who comes here what happened to Phumza "She was fine the day before her death she was happy that she was going to be discharged yesterday the same day she passed on doctors said that she woke up and went to the restroom around 2 a.m" I kept quiet and Zodwa shuffled away "Carry on" Zodwa said "They didn't suspect that She could hurt herself because she was happy after 2 hours her bed was still empty the asked one of nurses to go and checked her she

finds Phumza's lifelessly body hanging on the basement of the hospital" I said Zodwa started crying. "Why would she do that? She asked. While she was crying. "She couldn't accept the rejection from her children and husband" "Phumza never feared anything We were scared of her she was a strong woman. Who feared by many" Zodwa said she's still crying. Whistle reassuring the numbers also make plain why this one specific type of loss is so feared so painful and so stigmatized.

_____ NOSIPHO ZULU I looked at him taking a sip of coffee I'm angry because he ruined my life and my future Ukuthwala was a form of abduction that involves kidnapping a girl or a young woman by a man and his family with the intention of compelling the girl or young woman's family to endorse marriage negotiations I was only 22 years I didn't know anything about love sex. I'm an orphan my parents died when I was 7 years my uncles carried this abducted marriage he made it pity clear that he doesn't want to see me in my father's

house. Vincent he's taking advantage of I have no where to go. He always reminds me that his first wife was better than me. Indeed she was besides her beauty she managed to escape this home cell. He looked at me I faked a smile "Why are you looking at? Vincent asked "Looking at my handsome husband" that's what he wants. In order to make him angry. I'm at peace when the children are here or we are at the Mchunu's. His mother died after our marriage on our 5th year anniversary. We've been married for 27 years now. If it wasn't for my children I would have been escaped too. But where to with what because I hardly have a silver coin or brown coin. He's the one who receives children support grant. Mbuso's mother played her card very well I don't know how. He put placed the mug on the tea table. Here we go again. He got up where he was standing He walked up to me he he started slapping me with out a valid reason followed by kicking me then it increased he shoved me to the wall. He then lay to me. He stopped "Don't ever

stare me like that" Vincent said He tuned me as his sex slave. He is abusing. _____ MBUSO ZULU Nandi was lying on the couch while her head was on my lap. She was telling me why did she left me. My father used to say Nandi was a good wife he never bad mouth her. Tears streamed from her eyes as she was telling me. "I'm sorry Mbuso I had no choice but to leave" Nandi said "I didn't know that you you had to go through that all alone" "I don't accept you to forgive me what I did was unforgivable I was supposed to carry you through the journey as a mother I'm an evil mother" Nandi said. I wiped off her tears with my hand "That son of a..." She cuts me "He is your father Mbuso he was always there for you. Keep the relationship you have with him strong as it is" Nandi said "But he robbed me my Mama Mama" "Your mama escaped that toxic environment I'd sometimes think about a 3 days baby boy I left behind but I couldn't tell anyone" She said this means she never abounded me willingly Nandi would dose of while someone's

is talking to her. At first I thought it was because of her mother's passing. Now explained it explains the statement '12 failed relationships including' had holes she wanted to say including her faked husband. All blame is a waste of time. It's not whether you win or lose it's how you place the blame. "Sorry that I won't be able attend the funeral" Nandi said understandable if I was in the same position as her I wouldn't even cry for the same person who bought scars in my life. A mother should protect her children Especially a girl child. I believe Women and girls are wonderful They are graceful They have compassion and concern for fellow beings they are care takers of family and society They should be appreciated admired respected what my family put her through was wrong they need to suffer. More than she did. "What time are you leaving? Nandi asked. To end gender-based violence and the abduction of young girls and women we as men should fight and need to break the culture of silence. I'm taking a stand I

will be protecting her my siblings and any other woman from people like my father "18:30" "Okey" "Okay" She has suffered a lot she deserves a break. We have rich and diverse culture but the partiality and bias towards women is still a shame on our society. TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

53 NANDIPHA People who disturb me from my sleep. They should be blocked in my phone. I answered my phone without checking the caller ID "Hello" yawning. I fluttered my eyelids "still sleeping bye this time" Dr Tremblay said. " What time is it? I asked while yawning he chuckled I don't know why he finds everything as a joke. "It's 7 am south African time" Martin said "Why didn't you call me 1 hour ago? "I didn't know that you were still on your bed" Martin said. He's right he normally call me around this time "My apologies" Martin said for what I don't know. No matter how much he loves me there is only a certain number of times most people like him who will tolerate taking the blame

for something that genuinely wasn't their fault. "I'm sorry Martin I" he cuts me "I can guarantee you that your team is wondering" Martin said. I got off from the bed and walked out to the bathroom to run the hot water. "I will call you later on" Martin added. I'm grateful that he is part of my life. Time is precious although I often don't think there's enough of it time is something I shouldn't take for granted. "Thanks for being a gentleman" "Bye talk soon" Martin said I closed the tab and I took off my sleeping wear I checked the temperature with my elbow. The water were not that hot. "Bye I love you" I said that while entering the bathtub. I'm sure there are things that can't be cured by a good bath but I can't think of one. I got out of the bath and sat on the edge of the bathtub and lotioned my body I wrapped my slim body with a towel and walked out to my room. I hate what my father did to me. I never imagined myself leaving alone in this house it's lonely and depressing at the same time. I take out a formal dress from the wardrobe.

_____ MBUSO ZULU We arrived safely last night around 22:00. Since I was the one who was driving mpilo's car all the way from Gauteng to KZN we only had two stops to petrol station. I was dead tired. Sihle's driving license got suspended. "Mbuso I'm your grandmother like it or not" Zodwa said We chuckled. We can't drip on teats the whole day what will we do tomorrow laughter at times like this are needed "The last time I checked Zodwa I'm a year older than you" "Why are you always fighting about being older than each other? Mpilo asked "But I'm older than her" "But either way she's your grandmother" Sihle said Mr know it all "Mbuso mzikulu ka gogo" (Mbuso my grandson) Zodwa said clearly I can't believe that Phumza she's gone she was going to call me by now just to tell me that I'm the only person that making her smile. "Aunt Dee should join us to deal with her husbands and mother in-law" "Leave my wife out of this" Sihle said someone knocked on the door everyone looked at me "What? Getting up and went to attend

the door. I wasn't even shocked to see my father and his family. "Mbuso" Nonjabulo and Jabulile said giving me a hug. "Sorry for your loss son" Vincent said. "Come in" that's all I could we walked back where everyone was sitting. They greetings. Mpilo looked at Vincent. The tsunami is about to explode. But I trust him he won't do anything. Unless he gives him the reason to _____ NOSIPHO ZULU Nonjabulo and Jabulile asked to see their brother before they go to school "Good morning" Sihle's wife greeted Sponsored we walked back where everyone was sitting. They greetings. Mpilo looked at Vincent. The tsunami is about to explode. But I trust him he won't do anything. Unless he gives him the reason to _____ NOSIPHO ZULU Nonjabulo and Jabulile asked to see their brother before they go to school "Good morning" Sihle's wife greeted I don't remember her name. she was joining Zodwa on the mattress some people are lucky to get married to people their love unlike me who is trapped in this so called marriage of mine.

"Morning Dineo" everyone said as a group singing a chore. I remembered her name she's pretty though. She looked at Mbuso they both laughed everyone looked at Mbuso then Dineo. They continued laughing. "That's enough Mbuso and Dineo" Sihle said. It's true without laughter the world would be a sad place. "Sometimes crying or laughing are the only options left and laughing feels better right now" Mbuso said. "There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor" Dineo said. Some people are full of life out there. Unlike me Nosipho I will never wear that smile she's wearing right now. She sees relaxed and happy. Vincent cleared his throat. I looked him. "Nonjabulo and Jabulile let's get going before the lock the school gates" Vincent said while the twins were next to their brother. "But dad" Nonjabulo said "Okay I will take them to school" Mbuso said getting up the twins did the same "I will be back fam aunt Dee don't miss me too much" Mbuso said. Whilst walking with his sisters. Vincent. Dineo laughed

walked out too. I sigh of a relief. "Are you alright? Mpilo asked "I'm fine thanks" Mpilo he's the most feared person in this area just like his mother. But he's not too much of a talker and he's not violently too he's just Mpilo Mchunu. _____

NANDI ZWANE I was not that very late I have to address the team that will be going to the Mchunu's today to support Mbuso during this difficult time.

My phone started ringing. Martin he's the one who's calling "My love" "mon amour" (my love)

Martin said "I hope I'm not disturbing you?" "Not at all I was about to go and address the team that will be going to KZN later on today" "You are not joining them? He asked again "Yeah I don't want what

happened the last time to happen again" "You have to go there" Martin said " I'm not going there and that's final" I said he sigh " Let's do like this since we are items this means we are a team right?

Martin asked I nodded forgetting that he's on the line. I laughed "Why are you laughing? Martin said "I'm not laughing at what you said I'm laughing at

myself" I know he will ask why "Laughing at yourself why? Martin asked I smiled "I kinda've forgotten that you're on the line I nodded thinking that you are right here next to me" "Well join your team tomorrow after the service I will come pick you up there then you will see this Canadian man who is making you nod and laugh like that" Martin said "Aren't you working tomorrow? " I once told you that I also do house visits if needed. So tomorrow I will be at Hluhluwe I'm pretty sure that it's near Eshowe" Martin said. "You need to make peace with your past in order to heal from your past" Martin said. How I want to see him when he's not a doctor just my boyfriend "Okay then I will join them" I said without thinking about twice I can be a idiot sometimes "That's what I wanted to hear" Martin said "Okay then let me go before I change my mind" "Have a great day ahead of you je t'aime" (I love you) Martin said "You too" "Me too what? Martin asked I'm sure he thinks that I didn't hear that he loves me "You must have a great day ahead

of you too and I love you too" he chuckled "You full of surprises you know that? "Hence why they call me girl power" The world sure would be a different place if we lacked the ability to love. TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

54 NANDIPHA I believes new car is better because it lasts longer. Either way round the worst thing about the new car. It will stay around to disappoint you whereas a trip to KZN is over. It evaporates. It has the good sense to go away and I'm left with nothing but a wonderful memory. I packed my car outside the yard. I'm sure the service is about to go to the graveyard. My team took they journey yesterday. I wasn't sure about coming but since I will have my first date with Martin as couple. I had to woke up around 4am and take this journey alone. I never drove this long distance before this was the first and the last time. I will never do this to myself. Seems like the service is going to the cemetery. Cars were full. Someone opened my car. "What the?

Then others 3 ladies entered on the back passenger seat since who the woman took the front passenger seat. "Sawubona" (hello) they all said "Hello" I wanted to asked them what brings them to my car. But I figured out it will be rude of me to ask that. I started my car and follow the other bus "Death shall not be proud" the woman exclaimed. I decided to call Martin. My phone is connected to Bluetooth. It rings he answered "My love are you still driving me? He asked before I could say anything. Or maybe he's shock I never called him he's the one who calls me. "Yeah but to the cemetery" "Atleast I was starting to get worried" Martin said. Worry is a thin stream of fear trickling through the mind. The cemetery is not that far. I stopped next to the bus. Those women got out "I'm fine what time are we meeting? "I'm already at my patient's house Sponsored soon as I'm done I will be there" Martin said "Okey honey we will talk" I said. I unlocked all doors from my side. "Bye" I hunged up after saying that. I tried to call my father his phone is not going

through. Out of the suddenly my heart started beating so fast. I got out of the car. Trying to get some fresh air. I'm not that far from where they are laying her. I steady my breath and try to calm the panic but no I'm failing to do so. I could no longer control my hands they were shaking in an odd trembling rhythm. Tears just streamed uninvited as always. I burst out crying this is crazy. Phumza couse me pain. Why I'm I crying for her? I joined others who were standing. My team were bid far from where I was standing The priest prayed and required the family to throw the soil on her grave. I burst out crying again. On of the women hold me. Dineo took me to the family tent. I couldn't hold my tears I'm sure people are wondering who I'm I to this people. Dineo brushed my back. I was also required to throw soil on her grave. I did as the priest asked me to do. The priest prayed again then the poured the rest of the soil to fill up her grave. That's it she's gone with all the answers that I needed. I will never find those answers ever again

Mbuso suggested that I must be on a family car he will drive my car. It is very emotional in this family car. I was sitting in between Philani and a girl I don't know her name. I think she's her girl friend. Philani held my hand. I looked at him "I'm sorry" he said I nodded repeatedly We got to the Mchunu's we got out of the car. Sihle gave me a hug. "I didn't know that you coming" Sihle said "I wasn't going to come but here I am" we washed our hands and walked to the table that was set for the family. I sat next to Philani and Mpilo. Mbuso was not here yet. And I left my phone in my car. After sometime he showed up. With my phone ringing on his hand. "Dr stepdad he's calling" Mbuso said. While handing me my phone. I smiled a little then take my phone.

_____ NOSIPHO ZULU I didn't join them to the graveyard. I stayed behind with the neighbours. Busy gossiping and talking about the woman who just left the world. "The are back" Thando said. I got up and walked to the family table. Already I'm in trouble for not going to joining them I sat down

next to Vincent. He faked a smile while his eyes were focused on a lady who was busy with her phone. Dineo and Zodwa were dishing up for everyone. "Where is Keitumetsi Dineo" "she's in the car" Dineo answered I don't know what's the beef between my daughters and Sihle's child. The only thing I know with my daughters touch one touch two. Twins are full of surprises _____

MBUSO ZULU I won't lie I'm happy that she decided to come. She ended up the call. She looked at this side than walked to Mpilo's car I'm sure she saw. Keitumetsi she knocked on the window. Keitumesti opened the car "She will join us Sihle" It's like I'm predicting that. They walked out of the car and made their way to us. Keitumetsi sat down Nandi looked my father. "I...I...." Nandi said. "Girl Power are you okay" Dee asked "I... Mmmm... Sihle can I borrow me your wife for 5 minutes" Nandi said "Okay dadawethu" Sihle said TO BE CONTINUED
UNEDITED

55 MBUSO ZULU You can't cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water. Staring is rude. I looked at my father who was looking at Nandi as she walked away with aunt Dineo. We ate in silence. "Who's that Sihle? Zodwa asked. We all looked at her. Ernest cleared his throat. I've forgotten that he's here. "Guys I asked a question" Zodwa said. "That's Nandi" her eyes winded "Mbuso stop it I'm serious" Zodwa said. I looked at her "Oh my world you are serious" Zodwa said aunt Dee came she asked for Nandi's car keys then whispered something to Sihle he nodded. "Is she alright? I asked. Dineo smiled "She look bid scared but since Dr Tremblay he's in his way she will be fine" Dee said. "Being scared doesn't require a doctor" Philani said. Dineo looked at him "Mbuso she will be fine trust me" Dineo said. Wearing her smile "Okey if you say so" I and Mpilo said. Dineo walked away. We continued eating our food in silent take it's place. I looked at my colleagues were they were sitting in cycle. It seems like they are

discussing something and I'm sure it's not work related. I excused myself. And walked up to them "Gents" "Atleast God answered our prayer" Lucky said. They looked at me when Nandi said my the team will come to support me I didn't believe her but here we are "Okay out with it" "Please talk to boss boss lady for us" Lwazi said the last time I checked I'm his biggest enemy "Regarding?" "After tears party" Lucky said "Don't get me involved guys I'm sorry my hands are tied" "Please!!! Lwazi bagged I never thought I will see this day "No I can't" I said that walking away I pulled the chair and sitted. Aunt Dineo was back. Before I could say something I heard the gents whistling. We looked at them. Boom Nandi changed to another dress that tightened her with a matching box heels and a long wig. "Bozza" the Gents said she faked a smile. "My one and only sister boss" Lwando said "We are girl powering KZN this weekend" Lwando added "Sorry to dispoint you guys I'm not going to do that" Nandi said walking to us "She's beautiful" Zodwa said.

Nandi sat next to Philani she looked at Dineo "Don't even ask you look stunning" Dineo said "Thanks sister let my day be bright then" Nandi said with a smile "Going somewhere" Sihle asked I'm glad I don't have a brother and I'm not a girl too "My doctor he's here we are going out" Nandi said with confidence "And thanks to you and your stupid accident" I said Lucky and Lwando Lwazi walked to us. Nandi gazed at them "What did I do now my team? Nandi asked "We are leaving we were... Lucky said and kept quiet "Thanks for your support guys Lwazi I will transfer 2K on your account go have some funny and take care of yourselves" Nandi said how did she know! "Thanks" They all said and walked away. "How did you know that there were going to ask for money? "Mbuso ZCCL it's not just a company we are a family" Nandi said while she was looking at Philani "P... Nandi said "Staring is rude". Nandi added I looked my father and Ernest they are the ones that are looking at her. "I'm sorry if I made you feel uncomfortable" Zodwa said I

wasn't even aware that she was looking at her too
"It's okay. PSihleMpilo We will be in touch over the
phone later on today" Nandi said. Then she looked
at me "Mbuso should I trust you with my baby?
Nandi asked I nodded. She threw her car keys to
me. I thought she was talking about Keitumetsi "I
will drive back to Gauteng on Thursday"

"Meanwhile I will be using my father's car. Don't get
me wrong I will never drive long distance this was
my first and my last time" Nandi said getting up as
she saw a Silver Hyundai Tucson. Few meters away
from the house. She wore her perfect smile. "Guys
no introduction in this" Zodwa said Nandi looked at
her "Oh sorry my bad I'm Nandipha Zwane and you
are? "Ntombizodwa Mdluli" Nandi laughed. We
looked at her she sat down again "Mdluli as in
Phumza's relative? Nandi asked "I'm her younger
sister" Zodwa said "I thought you are P's girlfriend"
we laughed beside my father and grandfather my
grandfather he's not a fan of crowd "And she was
surrogate mother God must bless her for carrying me

and kept me safe in her" Nandi said and kept quiet. while looking at my father. Vincent he's bit scary if he's the one looking at you the way he's starting at Nandi you can run for your life. "And I thought you are Mbuso or Mpilo's..." Zodwa didn't finish her sentence we laughed atleast the is a positive thoughts about this day. Nandi got up and looked at my father who is staring at her "Fake ex husband of mine it was nice meeting you again" Nandi said than. She walk two steps she turned and looked at us again "P.... Philani let's start on a clean chapter" Nandi said Philani nodded then smiled the last time I saw this smile was the day I received a job interview call "Brothers and Mbuso don't worry about me I'm a big girl I got this" Nandi said I'm sure she noticed how concern Mpilo and Sihle are protective brothers are needed but not like this. "You are going back to Gauteng or you will come back? Mpilo asked he loves being around his sister no lies who wouldn't be she's amazing full of love and energy and life "I'm going back to Gauteng

tomorrow I will spend a night with my aunt's" Nandi said "Okay be safe" Mpilo said. "Trust me I'm more safer with my doctor" "Bring some chocolate" Keitumetsi said. Finally she said something "Take as many pictures as you can" My crazy aunt Dee said "Greet Dr stepdad for me" She laughed Phumza's death brought us together. I'm hoping that Dr Tremblay keeps her happy. "Okay I will send your greetings to him Sponsored I will take as many pictures as I can and I have chocolates are on my boot for my favorite niece" Nandi said while walking away "She's amazing" Zodwa exclaimed "And funny too" Nosipho added. My father looked at her. I looked at Nandi as she walked Dr Tremblay got out of the car they met half way for a hug and kiss she deserves to be happy. "Skwiza you said Dr Tremblay and Nandi their aren't dating look at them now" (sister in law) Mpilo said with a smile aunt Dee turned and looked at them she smiled. My father got up and walked inside the tent. That serves him well "Finally our girl power she's back" Keitumetsi

muttared. We looked at her she shrugged her shoulders. "I'm telling the truth" she added Nandi and Dr Tremblay got in the car. They drove off Sihle looked at me. "As for Dr stepdad? Sihle asked. "Is there anything wrong with that? "Guys she's beautiful everything about her is perfect" Zodwa said Ernest cleared his throat "Mbuso can you set up a meeting with her please? Ernest asked "Mbuso won't do that Nandi was here why didn't you tell her "Sihle said he never liked him. My father came back he looked like hell He looked at his wife (Nosipho) she got up. And says her goodbye "Kids let's go home" Vincent said. Nonjabulo look at me "Mbuso won't you come with us? She asked "Sorry sis not today maybe tomorrow" _____

NOSIPHO ZULU I'm saying my little prayer that Mbuso doesn't say he will bring the kids later. I smell trouble. "Nonjabulo let's go sis" the twins loved their brother "I will drive them later on mom" Mbuso said. Oh my God why have you foseken me? Don't you see I'm in trouble already? I said a little

prayer "See you then" I'm very disappointed. We exited the Mchunu's yard The is nothing I can do about my life I'm stucked in this marriage I will kiss it in my dream or coffin. Nandi she seems like a peaceful person I'm sure her boyfriend he's contributing into happiness. If I wasn't in prison I would wanted to meet Mbuso's mother just to give me some tips. After 20 minutes of walking. We got home. He unlocked the house. We entered and he locked the door. I walked to our bed room he followed me "What was that about? Vincent asked "I don't know what are you talking about vin..." I didn't finish my sentence when the hot slap land on my face followed by kicking oh nkosi yami ungilahelani "It is funny when seeing my wife kissing anotherther man? Vincent asked "Nooo" I was crying. What I was supposed to do? "You stated that she's funny too you were enjoying that show aren't you? Vincent asked while beating me up. "Take off all your clothe" Vincent said. I took off my dress followed by my undergarments he undressed

himself. He pushed me to bed and started kissing me from my neck to moving to my breast he moved his hand to my cookie. While kissing me. He groaned. _____ NANDI ZWANE Martin

booked the whole restaurant just for two of us.

"What is it that makes you feel like you love me? I asked him I'm sure the wine was taking its place.

"I'd always loved a woman with a nice smile like the one I'm looking at right now and your smile says a lot. it Let me know that you comfortable and enjoying yourself" Martin said in deed I'm

comfortable and safe around him. He held my hand

"Sense of humor is important too because nothing is better than a woman who is funny and also

appreciates a good joke.The best and most

beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even heard but must be felt with the heart. Life

without love is like a tree without blossoms or fruit.

The best thing to hold onto in life is each other. Is

better to win the battle knowing that you are loved

then lost never being loved at all. "Dr Tremblay

added. We are officially dating now and this is our first date as couples. Who doesn't love to be told that they are loved? Surely that's not me "I love you too. I knew it the minute I met your eyes I felt your them staring at me I tried to avoid them but I failed. I'm sorry it took so long for me to catch up. I just got stuck on my past but now I will be focusing on loving you. I love you Dr Martin Tremblay. Babe you make me feel special when we have our conversations through telephonically loved protected and taken care of. You make me a better person and I don't ever want to live my life without you being loved by you. Thank you for being there for me. I love Martin" The background softly instrument started. He got up and made me to get up too. We held each other's hands. We started the free styles before the song started "I wanna love you and treat you right I wanna love you every day and every night We'll be together with a roof right over our heads We'll share the shelter of my single bed We'll share the same room yeah! - for Jah provide

the bread Is this love - is this love - is this love Is this love that I'm feelin'? Is this love - is this love - is this love Is this love that I'm feelin'? I wanna know - wanna know - wanna know now! I got to know - got to know - got to know now? he bought me closer to his chest I looked at him than closed my eyes our lips met. TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

56 NANDIPHA Love affection devotion all mean a deep and enduring emotional. To say I'm happy would be understandment This is a clean start on a relationship. No secrets that are buried inside me. After our romantic date Martin decided to drive me to my father's house. I'm hoping for my aunt's to be as welcoming like the last time. He was focused on the road. I looked at him he smiled. No matter what's on my mind he always take his time to listen to me. When I called him after the funeral I didn't know what to do i was bit scared for my life meeting Vincent's eyes staring at me like that I bought me back to my struggles but. My doctor said

I should kill him with a smile and kindness at the same time. I'm not that strong but today I was strong or it's because my brothers were there? I don't know I still don't believe that I smiled like that. We stopped 3 blocks from my house "You're a great listener I'm lucky to have you" "I'm the luckiest man. Your Smile makes me melt" Martin said I smiled " Don't do that" "What did I do now? Martin asked " You are making me blush" "I'm I !? He asked as he kissed me from my lips to neck making me moan. He stopped. I looked at him "What happened? I asked jumping to the back passenger seat. He jumped too. He unzipped my dress then he kissed me making me lay down . And started kissing me moving down to my neck making me moan he moved to my breast. Unexpected Veins and all popping. This is not happening. "Oh no ba... you are.... get inside me" I moaned. He stopped and looked at me he smiled and he lean for kiss "I'm sorry mon amour I must get going"(my love) he said while moving back to drive'seat. This

man he's living me like this. I need him right now? I looked at him he looked me. "I know Mom amour but this is not the time or place" (my love) he has a valid reason I fixed my weave. I asked him to zip my dress he did and kissed my neck. We just started the relationship what is the rush? "How do I look?" "You look like Nandi" he said. We laugh Martin he's crazy sure. I know that I look like Nandi. "What about my hair? I asked he looked at me then nodded "Are you serious?" "I'm dead serious like Covit 19 when it strikes" Martin said this man he's crazy how would he compare himself like a serious diseases. Oh boom serious diseases indeed "Okay my love. Thanks for..." He cuts me by kissing me "I love you" he said "I love you too" I got out of the car I took my purse and closed the door. He gave me the bottle of whiskey. I bit him a farewell as he drove off. I find myself smiling. I ended up walking to my father's house. The gate wasn't close locked if dad find it like this I swear uncle Themba and my aunts will explain why. I walked in the yard and

knocked on the door my uncle opened for me. He smiled that's the first I'm his greatest enemy he believes that my mother cheated on my father. His name is Themba Paul Zwane he is the third born after my father "Nandipha" Uncle Themba said he looked like he is surprised to see me. He let me in "unjani babumcani" (how are you uncle) "Konke kumoshekile Nandi" (everything is a mess) Themba said "What do you mean uncle"? "Sibulawa yindlala" (we are starving) Themba said I got up and walked to the kitchen I checked indeed there was no food I'm now wondering why didn't they call as they always do or maybe my father blocked them but usually if they don't get hold of him they call me or Palisa. I walked back to him "Where is aunt Sarah and Christina? "They went for job hunting" Themba said. I checked the time it's 15:38. "I need a list I will do online Shopping" Tremblay said 'Kill your enemies with smile and kindness. Whenever you are confronted with an opponent. Conquer him with love. that's what I did at the Mchunu house

and I'm still doing it now. Speak of the devil Sarah and Christina walked in their look tired. "Guess who's here" Christina said as she walked in the both screamed and hugged me I heard sniffings "It's all well now aunties" we broke the hug. My father used to help them financial I'm sure I opened the chapter of where he doesn't want any of us to depend on him. He wants us to hustle like everybody does "You didn't tell us that you are coming" Sarah said "I was at a friend's funeral. I need a list for everything you guys will need" "Okay working on it" Sarah said meanwhile I'm still waiting for the list I will go take a shower then I will take it from there. _____ NOSIPHO ZULU

Vincent needs the answers from the wrong source.

How would I know his ex wife and son's relationship. How would I know her boyfriend.

Mbuso's mother she's beautiful no lies she can date who ever she wants to get involved with. "You should know why did she go with another man in my presence? Vincent shouted throwing at things at

me. He climbed into bed "I'm your husband you need to treat me like your husband not your friend" Vincent muttered "Zulu please" he slapped me across "Sipho" He inserted his two fingers on my cookie trying to make it moisture. he pulled my skirt up followed. He was deep inside me. He got ontop of me. He was groaning as he pump in and out. He collapsed on me. He rasted for few minutes. What did I do in this world have my parents sinned so much that I get this kind of a punishment? He brushed my hair. "I love you you Nosi please don't cheat on me like your sister did" Vincent said. It's this what they call love? What kind of love is this. He looked at me. "I love you too Zulu" this is what he want me to say. He got off the bed and warn his clothes. "I'm not going to let her go" Vincent said. "What will you do? "Right now Mbuso he's her weakness" Vincent said what he's he going to do "I hear you" he looked at me. I don't think Mbuso's mother can tolerate this I mean no women deserve my life. "The is a woman that I know she will help

me" Vincent said. How will I warn Mbuso about this. Mbuso deserves to bond with his mother "I can't believe that Nandi choose to betray me" Vincent said. "Baba you need some tea? He nodded. This means health relationships needs password where can I find the password. Between me and this blue walls if I walk out of this marriage alive it will be God's grace _____ MBUSO ZULU

Zodwa took the skyy vodkas from Nandi's car. This is all Keitumesti's fault. The vodka called a case of beers. Keitumesti was having fun with my sisters thanks to Nandi what ever she said to Keitumes worked "Girl power will kill you Mbuso. She trusted you with her car" Dineo said " It's all Tumie's fault" "Says the person who gave me the go ahead" Keitumesti said. While eating her chocolates "The last time I checked she's taking a break from alcohol" Sihle said. My started ringing it's a video call from Nandi. "Mama" "Hello Mbuso. How is everyone? Nandi asked "We are doing fine" Zodwa said "Okay I see I was just checking on you guys"

Nandi said "How was your date?" "Uhm. Where is Mpilo? Nandi ask I displayed my phone on a position where she can see everyone. "Hey brothers" Nandi said "Dadewethu" (sister) uncles said "How did your date go with Dr Tremblay? Dineo asked. "We will talk sis Dee" Nandi said Sponsored two women joined her "Nandi let's see what do we have here" one of the women said. She looked at them. "Aunties I will join you now" Nandi said "Yummy who is our son in law" the same woman said she covered her face with her hands then she sighed softly "Aunt Sarah you won open the bottle" Nandi said they walked away Sihle and I laughed "Don't laugh guys" Nandi said while laughing Keitumesti displayed the vodka bottle "Oh not you too" Nandi exclaimed "Don't look at me look at Keitumesti" "I was checking on you guys I have to go" Nandi said "Rushing somewhere? Zodwa asked "We are having I and my auntis we having a min braai" Nandi said "Okay then enjoy" "Dadewethu where is Dr Tremblay"? Sihle asked

"Sihle Martin has a house" Nandi said I looked at Philani he cleared his jaws "P..." Nandi said Why does she keeps on calling him P "Can we meet tomorrow before I leave" Nandi said "I don't see any problem with that" Philani said "Can I tag along? Zodwa asked Silent "Send me the details where will we meet tomorrow before 2pm" Nandi said "Okay " She ended up the video. NOSIPHPO He is still angry about Mbuso's mother behavior. He doesn't wanna accept that he's rejected "Why? Nandi she's fragile" Vincent said yet she defeated him. It's a pity because now my thing is going to pay for that. He kissed me while squeezing my butt. I tried fighting him off but he wasn't having it. I pulled away from the kiss. "Nosipho don't try me" Vincent said He slapped me "Don't Nosipho I'm the man here" Vincent yell "I'm sorry" From what I know if someone force somebody to sleep with that person without her consent it's called rape. He sighed and looked down. "Apology accepted" Vincent said "I just...I love you" Vincent added.

Maybe I can't define the words love "I loved that women Nosi with all my heart I can't believe that she's doing that to me" Vincent said. Maybe the are 2 definition of love He sighed again "Just one give daddy a kiss" I did kiss he kissed me back with a slow passionate kiss. He groaned inside my mouth and squeezed my butt. I moaned as well giving him the sertification he just kept kissing me he went and left wet kisses on my neck he inserted a tip of his tongue inside. Seriously if I had power to fight him I was going to fight him. My cookie is dry and paining at the same time "Ahhh I...Ohhh" He got to my belly button and circled his tongue. It felt so disgusting I closed my eyes blocking my thoughts I feel his nibbling on my tight he squeezed the other one with his hand while eating the other one. Then he came back to kissing. "You are so dry" Vincent said. His voice is now deep I shuffled away "Oh I.. I'm sorry" I think he enjoys when I keep on saying that 'I'm sorry' He shook his head. TO BE CONTINUED UNEDITED

57 MBUSO Don't think there are no second chances. Life always offers you a second chance... It's called tomorrow. Sometimes in life you're not always given a second chance but if you do take advantage of it and go out with a bang! We are waiting for Nandi. Indeed she believes in second chances. She's not only beautiful but she has a heart of gold. A good-hearted person has a sense of humor that lifts others up and doesn't tear them down. 2.

Generosity is a way of life. In big ways (donating to charity) and small ways (picking up coffee for another) these people are glad to share their resources. "This is unlike her. She never late" Sihle said. He's consent this is the same brother who left home after her sister got married. He had no power to prevent that from happening. "Sihle be patient. Maybe she got held up or she lost track of time" Mpilo said. According to them they all want to protect her. They think they failed her and that's not true her life was not meant to be around us the past years Our journey of life is going the way it

was predicted by our creator. "We are talking about girl power here. Maybe she's still figuring out what should she wear" Dineo said Sihle he's blessed to have a wife who cares for his family he must take this as a blessing. The restaurant filled up by silent as Nandi entered. I'm sure people follow her from social media. This mother of mine she's beautiful no lies. I don't blame Dr Tremblay for picking the flower that belongs to other races. Nandi she's beautiful on everything she wears. "Finally someone decided to come" Sihle said with a smile siblings love is the best bond ever. I fell in love with my mother. I love this woman I loved her before I met her. My uncles used to tell me stories about her. "Hello to you too Sihle" Nandi said while Sihle pulled out a chair for her. He is used to this. "Consider yourself lucky. Because if you started dating on our fathers presence you were going to feel the heat" Sihle exclaimed. Out of the blue "Don't even mention that Sihle. He was going to belt me until P stops him" Nandi said wearing her

beautiful smile ever. "On that case I was going to help him" Philani said. This people have forgotten that we didn't greet her. "Sihle and Philani tell me here did you too swipe heart? Nandi asked. People don't change they reveal who they really are. I don't know Sihle that much but 3 years is enough to study someone. Sihle he's peace of shit you don't wanna mess up with. Then Mpilo he's a shit not peace of shit he is shit he doesn't hide that. "Maybe sometimes people did not actually change. Maybe you just never knew who they really were" Sihle said he's telling the truth. That's what I like about him he tells the truth and he doesn't hide how he feels about someone. "Well said Sihle. But that's not what bought us here" Nandi said while checking her watch on her wrist. She shook her head. Time is too slow for those who wait too swift for those who fear too long for those who grieve too short for those who rejoice but for those who love time is eternity. "Brothers we can't catch the lost time we had lost but we can make this work" Nandi said her

brothers nodded. "Lost time is never found again" Sihle said "True Sihle what's important right now is to build that family bond it will never be the same like it was before I was sold believe me I was angry for everyone my life was not as beautiful as I look I'm wearing this expensive clothes and driving expensive cars Sponsored I'm wearing this expensive clothes and driving expensive cars but I never had happy life. I might be gone for long periods but the morning I left home I only with my body and my sprite was left behind the only thing that I tried all those years was to travel back to get it but I couldn't. I was all alone my relationships never worked. Yes my parents were there for me but the couldn't see what I was going through. My mother tried to talk to me but I kept on lying to her. I kept on telling myself that I was fine. You were always in my heart. Especially Junior I could hear him crying I sometimes cried when I reflect about him. I couldn't sometimes tell my father that I wish my son takes after him. He couldn't understand

what I was trying to say he would just smile. No words can describe how so I feel but I'm sorry brothers Mbuso and everyone in this table" Nandi said I went to sit next to her. I brushed her back she held my hand and smiled at me I smiled back. For every mother her son is the center of all her preoccupations and worries but also the anchor that gives her a sense of ultimate connection. In the presence of her son a mother feels proud for having raised and helped him become a man. She was not in my life when I was growing up but I was in her heart. I must be honest with my heart I'm attracted to Nandi. I suppress this attraction and it fades through puberty and I develop an aversion to thinking about my Nandi's sexually. However it is a normal variation of sexual attraction that some retain and continue to have it as adults.

"Dadewethu the water has spilt as you said let's make this work. It sadness me that your parents are not here I'd like to thank them especially your mother but since she's on the other side I can't do

that. And your dad he's in the other country they did a wonderful job raising you as a their on daughter not everyone could do that but the Zwane's did and I appreciate them. No words can describe how I appreciate them but I appreciate them especially their heart" Philani said. Nature's beauty is a gift that cultivates appreciation and gratitude. _____ NOSIPHO ZULU

Vincent is mentally and physically abusive and had a sexual addiction problem. I thought his behaviour would change after his mother's death and for a very short time it did. Before I gave birth to our twins twice he again threatened to kill me if I let Mbuso go to his uncles. After I gave birth his mental abuse of manipulation questioning my fidelity and stalking me escalated. He became sexual addicted was ignited and he began a series of affairs. Vincent and my uncle robbed me my life It was like walking on eggshells but I learned to love him along the way. He walked in I'm waiting for him to please himself as he always does. "Why did you let Nandi

go? Vincent asked while taking his belt. "Zulu I didn't know that I was supposed to stop her" naked truth how was I supposed to stop that women and how was I going to do that? Vincent he's crazy seriously he needs some help if his son doesn't help him no one will he started belted me so hard I'm sure this time I lost partial hearing in one ear. Crying and screaming won't help it will make the metter worse. He laid me on bed then he got on top of me after the beating. I'm in pain he wants to add on that. This is not life. I'm sniffing as he pump in and out. Who if I don't die this week I will consider myself as 1 of the strongest woman in the world. This is my life I cannot run away from it.

_____ NANDIPHA I can do anything that would bring my father to me. This is his wishes I need to fullfil them. 'bond with your brothers and son' he means well. I need them on the other side Mbuso became a crying baby he hasn't move since he sat next to me. I looked at him "umuhle yazi Mama? (you beautiful you know that) Mbuso asked

what kind of a question is that. "Should I take that as a compliment or a question?" "Okay let me start again" Mbuso said. Zodwa laughed "You are out of your mind Mbuso" Zodwa said I must admit she's more closely with Mpilo and Mbuso "Mama umuhle"(mum you beautiful) Mbuso said we laughed at him. My parents loved people who make me laugh. Sometimes crying or laughing are the only options left and laughing feels better right now. There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor. My phone started ringing I checked it's Martin calling. "Can I take this" they nodded I smiled. I stood up and sit on the next table not far from my brothers and Mbuso "Bonjour mon amour" (hello my love) Martin said "Bongour Martin" (hello) I'm grateful that my parents taught me different languages and cultures. Im thankful for so many things to the lord but never said thank you to him for everything he have done for me. I love my parents so much mom and dad. Philani said that earlier on no words can

describe how grateful I am. my dear parents I believe that God gave my mom a crown of being a great person in this world. "Love are you still there" Martin said "Yes I am" "I will be there in 2 hours time. Please be ready" Martin said. He offered to drive me back to Johannesburg I won't say no to that. "Okay I will be waiting" "Bye I love you" Martin said "I love you too" he hugged up I went back to sit with the family feud. They looked at me I shrug my shoulder "What is bonja? Philani asked. "Not bonja bonjour means hello" we laughed. "What language is that mama? Mbuso asked. "Franch" their eyes widened " Will your father allow that? Philani asked "Well my grandfather likes to see his daughter happy. I suggest you do the same" Mbuso said he's taking this whole thing easy than I expected TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

58 NANDIPHA We had a wonderful day. It's a pity that I'm leaving in 30 minutes time. Mbuso he's been sitting next to me. Philani hasn't changed he's

still the same protective and loving brother. I judged him. I mean I judged all my brothers. "What time are you leaving? Mbuso asked "In 30 minutes time" "I wish you could stay" Philani said I wish I could stay but I can't "I wish I could but tomorrow I have to report to work" I can't remember all the times I told myself to hold on to these moments as they pass saying goodbye it's hard. Mbuso wiped my tears I didn't even realize that I was crying. "I didn't mean to" all I wanted to say was I'm sorry then I remembered that my father said the word sorry losses it's magic. "So that's it you are leaving" Philani said. As if I'm going to another country "P I will be around the corner and I promise each and every chance I get we can meet and catch up" "Hopefully you get that chance" Philani said. To think how really precious is the time I've spend with my family. Time flies hence why we should respect it and keep it. Mbuso looked at me. "What is it Mbuso? "I need your help" Mbuso said. "What kind of help do you need me to do? "I need you to talk to

her" Mbuso said I got lost for moment until I remembered that he was talking about Kwanda. I smiled "Kwanda loves you Mbuso without any doubt she's just playing a game that Evey girls play just never give up on her" "What game is that? Mbuso asked I looked at sis Dee "The game she's playing it's called hard to get and it boosts a her ego because it tells her that she is wanted" "It makes her feel attractive and wanted. This is especially so for every girl. Girls like Kwanda like playing hard to get makes them feel more powerful and that they are at the stronger end of the game" Dee added. Brothers whistle and Zodwa keeps on saying "wow" the is no surprise on what we just said it's true. My phone beeped it's a message from Martin "I'm waiting outside" I looked at my brothers tears just streamed uninvited this time Mpilo is the one who wiped them. I do faked a smile. Part of me wants to stay but my heart want me to go back home. "Guys I have to leave I wish we can have this moment again" they nodded I got up and looked at

everyone on this table only one person who couldn't join because of her age she's not allowed Keitumesti my beautiful neice. "Take care of yourself" Philani said "I will P. Just promise me that you will take care of yourselves" they nodded. Mbuso got up and hold my hand. If he was not my son I was going to make sure that I keep him for dears life. Mpilo got up too he asked Mbuso to let go of my hand then he gave me a warm hug. The love of a brother is not romantic but more powerful than romance not always friendly but more supportive than friendship. I love my brothers we are given a second chance to have a bond again. To be there for each other again "Being your little sister gives me the right to annoy you and nag you from time to time and being my older brother gives you the responsibility to tolerate me no matter what. I Love you'll brother's" "I can start now being a older brother by telling your boyfriend to give us time" Philani said. "You wouldn't dare do that P" we laughed. Mbuso walked me out. I still can't believe

that I found my long lost son. I can't believe that I'm somebody's mother life can surprise you at times. Mind me he is holding my hand. Martin is few meters away as soon as he saw me he got out of the car and leaned over his car pretending like he doesn't see me. I smiled a little looking at Mbuso. I'm just saying a small prayer that he doesn't throw one of his stuns. We walked to Martin. Still he pretended like he doesn't see us "Babe I'm here" he looked at us with a smile on his face. "Looked you" Martin said Sponsored not always friendly but more supportive than friendship. I love my brothers we are given a second chance to have a bond again. To be there for each other again "Being your little sister gives me the right to annoy you and nag you from time to time and being my older brother gives you the responsibility to tolerate me no matter what. I Love you'll brother's" "I can start now being a older brother by telling your boyfriend to give us time" Philani said. "You wouldn't dare do that P" we laughed. Mbuso walked me out. I still can't believe

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streamed from my eyes as they always do whenever I'm happy tears do visit my eyes or whatever emotional their also do. "Don't even mention it Mama. I'm blessed to have you in my life" Mbuso said he then looked at Martin "Dr Tremblay please take care of my mother just do that for me. I'm her only son and she's my mother" Mbuso said did he say " my mother or I'm imagining things "I promise I will Mbuso" Martin said. They shake their hands. Two man that I love the most they seem like they are friends and I like this.

Mbuso walked away. Martin pulled me closer to him for a hug then a kiss. We got in a car he looked at me _____ NOSIPHO ZULU My body is itching. I have to start preparing for supper.

Vincent is watching a movie alone. I walked to him I knee down before him. "Baba should I get you something to eat or drink? "Tea" Vincent said. I went to do him a strong coffee as he requested. I walked to him and knee down again "Here is your tea" he didn't fight me. He won't since the twins are

here. He doesn't allow me to talk with anyone freely and he sometimes throw and break things at me. He sometimes calls me a bitch or spat on me even hit me. I remember this one occassion I was bedridden for 2 days from this and had make excuses to the Mchunu's about how I was injured. He pulled a knife and stabbed my bedding threatened me with objects I sometimes believe that it was my fault and felt like I'm the one in this rollercoaster that I couldn't get off. I spend everyday of my life crying hoping this shall pass. If it wasn't for my children I'd long gone. TO BE CONTINUED UNEDITED

59 NANDIPHA Martin is a good man. I still don't understand why did his ex wife divorced him. Last night we got home very late. I asked him to spend a night. He decided to sleep on the couch. I sat on the coffee table. He opened his eyes to find me staring at him "Staring it's rude love" Martin said while pulling me to sleep in his chest. He kissed my

forehead. "I love you" he said each and every chance he gets he sing his song "I love you too" I kissed him the kiss escalated into kissing his hands ran to my thighs. "Mmmm" I moaned between his lips I swear if I let this man go that will be the end of Nandi Zwane. And started kissing me moving down to my neck making me moan he moved to my breast. Unexpected Veins and all popping. This is not happening. This guy has a magic touch I can't compare him with one of my ex's. He stopped kissing me and looked at me. I closed my eyes and I was breathing heavily. "Why did you stop?" I asked I sighed. "We can't we shouldn't be doing this" Martin said he can't just do that to me again "Why?" My voice was just low and hoarse. "Because I love you and loving you means I should respect you enough to wait" Martin said. Not every man will utter those words. I opened my eyes the whole sight of my eyes turned him on but he had to ignore the feeling. I understand that he doesn't wanna rush me into anything. "What if I want this?" "Baby

I...."Martin said I stopped him with by kissing him He is hesitating but in just a matter of seconds it pleasure heated him. He made me lie on my back on top of the couch. He started by leaving wet kisses on my neck He went to my ear and nibbled it few times. He inserted his tongue inside.

"Ahhh....babah....ahhhh....aah sweet" "Are you sure about this?" Martin asked I nodded repeatedly with my eyes shut. My hands tightly hold him around his neck. "Baby I don't want you to regret this open your eyes and tell me you want this and you are sure about this" Martin said "Goshhh my... Yes I'm sure I want this....please I'm sure babah" He gently kissed me His other hand is my butt moving his hands to my breast He played with my nipple while kissing me I moaned inside his mouth that slight vibration of my moan. He moved from my lips and went back to my neck He then made me sit. And took of my night dress. I'm now left naked. He stopped to and looked at me. He smiled and looked away. "Wow" Martin utter "What is it?" "When they

say African girl magic they mean all this" Martin said laughed. "mon amour" (my love) "Ahmm yeah" "I love you and I respect you and what I'm about to do I mean what we are about to do will mean a lot to me it will mean our spirit will connecting I won't be just doing this for fun we will be connecting our love for each other to stay strong. Therefore I need you to be sure that you are ready to be emotionally connected with me? Martin asked. I smiled and nodded. He kissed my neck down to my abdomen to my thighs he added the pleasure by sucking my tights I moan I never moaned like this before no someone once made me moan but not like this. He trailed kissed down from thigh to my abdomen and down to my coochie. He blew air wow I'm not letting this man go never. I keep moaning and holding his head tightly. He inserted his fingers and play them like he's playing a guitar. He muffed the life me by making sure his tongue fuck me in the middle of it all. "Ohhh....bab...yeesss yesss...ahhh" He kept on blowing air into my vagina My body is

shacking with the enjoyment. I held his head tight so that he doesn't stop "Ahhhh mama.. baby...stop ohhh pl...oh yes right there. Deeper please deeper" He tried moving but I held him tight. I want him to stop? No I enjoy this. This is so good. "Man... I will com...I'm about to com. Please stooooop ahh ah yes" His tongue was working it's magi it's so nice I feel my juicy coming this didn't stop him from working his magic me up with his mouth. "Mmmm baby you taste so good I can eat you all day and everyday I won't get tired" Martin said. Damn my legs are trembling. He kissed my thighs and took off his own clothes. I closed my eyes not wanting to see his rock. I don't know where did I get the idea of closing my eyes during moments like this. He laid on top of me and kissed me making me taste my juicy. I feel his rock brushing my wet coochie he is just teasing we won't get along if he keeps on doing this I wanted him inside. "I need you inside" He chuckled and continued teasing me...arggg this white guy though. "I love you" Martin whispered

this time his eyes are closed. Without warning he went in he is just teasing we won't get along if he keeps on doing this I wanted him inside. "I need you inside" He chuckled and continued teasing me...arggg this white guy though. "I love you" Martin whispered this time his eyes are closed. Without warning he went in I feel him on my womb. "Ahhh....oh no mmmm stop" He stopped and looked at me. Why is he stopping? This is the end of Nandipha Zwane "Why are you stopping?" He laughed a little. "But you said I should stop" Martin said "You are too big be gentle" He nodded and kissed me passionately then he started moving at first slowly and then faster very fast. My screams moans and his groans filled the whole house luckily my father he's not around. Damn this guy can move. He is going in and out up and down and round and round. "Ohhh yes...yes you got it. Deeper don't stop deeper" He went deeper "Ahhhhhh....you.. are....Ohhhh fuck you so good" With that being said he moved faster. My parents

won't like the idea of this. First rule you don't sleep with your boyfriend under your parents roof because he will disrespect you That's what my mother taught me. Is just one day won't hurt.

"I....ohhh baby I love you yes yess... Mb.... Ehhhh.... Dr.. " He stopped moving I reopened my eyes he looked at me with a smile we are both tried to catch our breath. I'm just hoping he didn't hear the error I was about to sell my soul and call my boy's name

"Did you say you love me or it's good sex talking?" Martin asked. I shut my eyes with my hands shit he heard that. I'm legit smiling. Smile doesn't cost a panny. He moved slowly very slowly. To the carpet.

"I love you" Martin said everyday song "I love you too" _____ NOSIPHO ZULU I always thought love was just something that eat away your sanity that will left me with an inferiority complex and filled you with jealousy. And bitterness. No one ever taught me about love. And now I know the truth. Love is an illusion. Nothing more than that. Anyway it has nothing to do with me. So many

people get hung up on love while life passes them by. I'm busy preparing for my girls to get ready for school. I heard a knock I went to open. It's Mbuso the girls told me that Mbuso will be take them to school. "Morning Mbuso" I glanced at the floor trying to avoid eye contact with him. Knowing Mbuso very well he won't hesitate to make me looked him. "Good morning Ma" Mbuso said he made his way in I kept myself busy. Trying to avoid him. "Where are the girls? Mbuso asked I can feel his eyes looking at me "The will join you now. Anything to drink? He looked at me and walked to the kitchen. Mbuso believes that I dislike him I like this boy like own son. I'm only avoiding to be questioned by him. He came back with a mug of coffee he sat down. "Ma are you alright? Mbuso asked "Yes why? "Can you please looked at me" Mbuso he's infuriating sometimes "Why? "You are shaking hence why I'm concerned Nosipho" Mbuso said. He only calls me by my name when he's angry besides that I'm Ma to him. "It's just that I just had

an argument with Nonjabulo" Naked lie I still don't understand why do I protect Vincent "Nonjabulo won't make you shake like that" Mbuso said Vincent walked in he had his hands on the pocket he looked at his son. "Junior Zulu" Vincent said "Morning dad" Mbuso greeted Vincent while he was sipping coffee. "Your uncles doesn't have sugar at the Mchunu's house" Vincent said jokingly this is how a father and son bond should be they laughed. They twins came. They ran to Mbuso. "I hope you guys are ready? Mbuso said while taking a high five to each of them. They say that no matter how old you become when you are with your siblings you revert back to childhood. I must admit Mbuso like his sisters and they likes him to. Mbuso looked at me I turned and keep myself busy since my face is swollen. "Ma are you okay? Mbuso asked I nodded and continued keeping myself busy. _____ NANDI

ZWANE After our first morning session. We took an innocent shower together then Martin decided to drive me to work. We first stopped at pharmacy for

morning after pills. We got to the ZCCL building. He stopped at the gate. He leaned over for a kiss we kissed. And I bid him goodbye. He waited for me to get in the building. He's the first guy who's treating me like a queen. _____ PHILANI MCUNU

I must admit yesterday was the best day ever. I never thought I would share the same table with my sister. She was happy. The Zwanes taught her well. Mpilo's phone rings he took it from the table. I feel sorry for him. All his buddies will be gone. It will be j me him Keitumesti Sihle and his wife and uncle Ernest. Zodwa they will be leaving to places and Mbuso went to his house too. He answered it "MaZwane" he smiled and walked away from us. Sihle looked at his wife. "What was that" Dineo asked "I don't have any idea. But he's talking to girl power's cousin" Sihle said. Dineo's eyes winded "You mean...oh my world Mr Zwane will kill him before Girl power does" Dineo said. They both laughed. I don't know why they keep on calling her girl power. TO BE CONTINUED

60 NANDIPHA [MONTH LATER] It's so hard to forget pain but it's even harder to remember sweetness. I have no scar to show for happiness. I learned so little from peace. If I want to be happy I do not need to dwell in the past. I do not need to worry about the future focus on living fully in the present.

Mbuso kept my car he says I must use my father's car or I must join the queue at taxi rank. I do wanna get him a car but it would sound like I'm buying him or something. Besides I no longer get monthly allowance and cloth allowance. My father stopped doing that right away after he finds out that I didn't tell them about me having a son. And that's was part for disciplining his Nana. I hate Monday's especially if I have to have to attend meetings with one of the obstinate client. "Mr Zwane left the construction company with you? Jacob asked I looked at him. Is there something wrong with that "Yes. Is the any problem with that? He looked at all the board members "It's just that ZCCL it's a big company. It needs people like your parents or Mr

Smith who have more experience than you" Jacob said I looked at Kwanda and Mrs Smith they shook their head. "What are you trying to say Mr Van Buren? "What I'm trying to say is that you can't do it all Miss Zwane. Being a CEO and personal event is not possible undertaking. Winning professionally and personally means creating long term goals rather than focusing dancing career You need set realistic expectations for yourself and your dancing and singing career. CEO position is a huge you'll end up feeling guilty and unmotivated plus bored" Mr Van Buren said. Honestly speaking I'm flirts about this but I've hostility about this. Something is off about him. I trust my instinctive. "If you are expecting me to step down as a CEO. I'm sorry to disappoint you Sponsored my father trust me with ZCCL" he looked at me "That means I'm pulling my account" Jacob said. When a client leaves its called churn and it's really bad for the business. Churn not only represents a client leaving but it can be incredibly costly to replace that business. I know

that It's important to minimize client churn and therefore I need to be able to keep him but I don't trust this man my father will have to forgive me. My guts tells me to let him go and I trust my guts. "If that makes you happy I can't stop you" I said that walking away. _____ NOSIPHO ZULU He looked at me while he was sipping his coffee. This morning my daughter overhead Vincent yelling at me. This will affect them Vincent needs to overlook his actions. And yet as I pours my heart into in my personal journal I reflects that the past year has only been one of misery. I cannot remember when last I laughed or had fun with my daughters. I spends my life behind this halls hiding the cuts my broken life And hiding from the abuse from the person who's proudly telling people out there that he's a living husband. "MaZulu I'm talking to you" Vincent said. "I'm sorry ba... " He pulled me with my hair roughly. I need to cut my hair. I don't know why. "Vincent why are you doing this? I never questioned him "Who are you talking to when I'm

away? Vincent asked whistle he e pulling my hair.

"Kill me Vee" I no longer have tears to cry anymore I'm dead inside and emotionally what is the use of crying when I no longer have tears. _____

NWABISA Sthembiso and I we had good thing going until Elizabeth come into our lives. Ruined

everything. He got married to her and loved her

without thinking twice. I learned to let him go but

letting him go and seeing him happy made me got

jealously I had to pay someone to kill Elizabeth and

made it seems like a accident hoping that

Sthembiso will come running after me but I thought

wrong. My next move is to take all his daughter's

shares and all his beneficiaries plus since he's away

no one is protecting Nandi she's broken it will be

easy for me to bury her alive I and Jacob we are

working together. Since Jacob failed to get her in his

bed. Jacobs walked in Nwabisa's office. He didn't

even knock he just entered. He pulled out the chair

and sat down. "Nwabisa why did you make me do

this? Me Van Buren asked "Because I want to

destroy Sthembiso's daughter" Nwabisa said " What did she do to you. She's not her mother she's an innocent soil? "Sthembiso chose her mother over me and now he chose his daughter over me again. I want to destroy him and his family. I want him to come running for help" Nwabisa said.

_____ MBUSO ZULU I got to the reception. "Sorry sir you can't see her without an appointment" Palisa said. To a white tall man I didn't see his face. "Miss Zwane I'm off to lunch" I said the man tuned. It's Dr Tremblay I walked to them. "Oh I'm sorry" the last time I checked he was at Harrismith "I want to surprise her" Dr Tremblay said. He stopped when Kwanda came running "Palisa you need to talk to your cousin she can't let Mr Van Buren go" Kwanda said "She did what? I asked "Mr Van Buren pulled out his account because Nandi doesn't want to step down as a CEO"Kwanda said. Mr Van Buren must go to hell "Oh shame" Palisa said she ran upstairs using stairs "Doc follow me" TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

61 NANDIPHA Make the best out of a difficult situation. I have to turned something negative into a positive. So Jacob meant because I'm a woman I can't be a CEO that's what he meant. Something e off about Jacob. I'm not offended but I think I should ask the team and other clients to rate my leadership and my service. Than I will take it from there. I won't forgive myself if ZCCL shutdown because of me. This is the same company which paid my varsity fees it bought my first car. Palisa walked in she sat down "Mzala" Palisa said "Cuz" "How are you doing? Palisa asked. I and Palisa we do fight like any cousins do but at the end of the day we care for one other. "I'm fine cuz" I said while creating the survey link. "You don't seem fine to me" Palisa said. "I'm fine. Tell why are you here? "I heard that you lost a client" Palisa said "I'm fine sis Van Buren must go hang himself with his account not that he's the only client that we can work with. "Uncle Sthe won't be pleased when he finds out about this" Palisa said. "He have to forgive me on

this." "Trust me he was going to do the same I'm proud of you" Mbuso said. Whilst walking in. "At least someone is in my side" I said he took the apple that is on my desk he looked at it. "They say apple keeps the doctor away. Do you agree Mama? Mbuso asked Palisa looked at me. This confuse many people our bond is perfect than I accepted. "I agree Mbuso" smiling "I disagree" Mbuso said. While smiling " What are you on about Mbuso? He pulled out the chair he looked at me. "Let's see what will Dr Tremblay say about this" Mbuso said. "We can't call him right now" He looked at me and say nothing "Guys what is going on? Palisa asked. Mbuso got up and looked at me "Aren't you going to lunch? He asked. I checked the time it's almost lunch time. "You are taking me out? He laughed than walked to the door. "I'm not going to do that but someone special to you will take you to lunch" Mbuso said he's a happy soul I nearly ruined his happiness. "Guess who's here? Mbuso shouted. Boom Martin walked in. Despite the fact that my

chest felt like it might explode. Slowly he walked to me he nuzzled my shoulder with his chin as if he was studying my reaction. "Haibo mama aren't you going to give daddy a hug" Mbuso said I didn't mean to laugh but I laughed whistle getting up to give daddy a hug. "Bonjour mon amour" (hello my love) Martin said with his low husky voice. I smiled we broke the hug. "Hi..." words didn't wanna come failed to say I'm happy it will be understatement I'm beyond happy. Palisa looked at me "What a surprise? Mbuso said. I tapped him in his shoulder. He takes a glass and pure water that was on the hug "I suggest you drink this" Mbuso said. He offered Martin a chair to sit on. What a gentleman. No lies Vincent and his wife did a wonderful job raising him. "You too you are trying to send me to an early grave" they looked at each other and laugh. This has lifted up my mood especially their bond "Aren't I'm going to get a memo? Palisa asked. Oh silly me how can I forget my one and only cousin. "Sorry cuz this cought me" I said "Ok Palisa meet Dr Tremblay

your cousin's boyfriend. And Dr Tremblay meet Palisa Nandi's cousin" Mbuso said Martin and Palisa did a handshake. "It's nice to finally meeting you. I heard a lot about you" Martin said slowly kissing Palisa's palm "I hope everything their told you about me it's all good" Palisa said she pulled her hand away. I'm very selfish my cousin she's not herself. Sometimes she's in her thought. "Don't overrate yourself Miss Zwane. I heard bad things about you" Martin said We laughed. What did I do to deserve this blessing in my life. Thank God for bringing such people in my life. "I'm I? Palisa asked we continue laughing. A good laugh is a mighty good thing a rather too scarce a good thing. A good laugh is sunshine in the house. A smile is a curve that sets everything straight. "You are overrating yourself Palisa the doctor just examined you" Mbuso said. Palisa's phone started ringing she picked it up. "MP" Palisa said. Mbuso smiled Palisa get up and walked out. I looked at Mbuso "Who is MP? " I rether go enjoy my lunch break than being

questioned" Mbuso said getting up and kissed my cheek than left. I looked at Martin he smiled "Why didn't you tell me that you are coming? "Let's go somewhere then I will answer you"

_____ NOSIPHO ZULU What I'm about I'm about to do it's unforgivable. Whoever had planned the shower room to be so tiny he is rich by now. I'm a prisoner in this house there is no use for me to live all I need is to die. I believe Vincent will take care of my daughters. I looked at the rope I'm about to use. I climbed on the chair. I heard foot steps before I could hang myself Oh God help me. Vincent walked in. "What are you doing" Vincent asks I glanced at him without saying a word he can see what I'm about to do "I asked you a question" Vincent said "I'm ending this Vincent I'm tired of this life" he turned on the shower water. I glanced at the shower water streaming. He looked at me He strode towards the running shower water. He roughly pulled me by my leg to down and splash me with the warm water. He started scrubbing my

body with his fingernails vigorous Sponsored He strode towards the running shower water. He roughly pulled me by my leg to down and splash me with the walm water. He started scrabbing my body with his fingernails vigorous violently scrabbing my skin. I closed my eyes with tears on them. "God help me" he stopped and looked at me "I want to thrash you senseless MaZulu" He frowned. What I was I trying to do was to escape from the enemy. But he cought me. What is the use for me to live while my life ended long ago. Trying to escape from this. How will I reach to the free world. He glared at me over his shoulder. He took me to our bed room. My coochie is going to to feel the heat today. "Are you crazy? He whited at my face "You have rocks on your brain. Where is your brain? Vincent asked his voice is deep I can tell he's mad frustrations animosity seethed in his voice "What did you expect Vincent? It's all your fault you abducted me and made me your prisoner" "If only you knew how badly I'm going to eat you up" Vincent said. This

man doesn't have a heart. His fists were clenching and unclenching. He seems to be fighting his some inner demon that want to break free. He wasn't lifting his eyes. I stared at him. _____

NOSIPHO ZWANE After working hours We drove straight to my house. Martin turned my house into a restaurant. This is our night I have to forget about what happened today and focus on my happiness and my boyfriend. The information was never stored in longterm memory but this will be stored. Attention is a major factor in maintaining something in short-term memory but also in storing information in long-term memory. A distraction causes me to lose attention the thought is not stored and it is lost from short-term memory. The is no use to store what Van Buren said to me earlier no use to Martin looked at me he made me to open my mouth and he shoved in the sausage in my mouth. This guy though "Mmmm" he looked at me. He took a 5 days leave just to be with me. Happiness comes and go. If I let the happiness slide

I won't be able to find this happiness again. "Nandi I want to be with you. I want us to stick together forever" Martin said. He kissed me. "You are the best boyfriend ever you know that? How many guys did I tell them this? Clearly many so I'm not surprised "I have a surprise for you" Martin said. He seems to be surprising me today firstly he came unannounced then he prepared a romantic dinner in my house without telling me. "I will be working around Gauteng permanently" Martin said. My eyes winded. "I'm telling you the truth. I want us to work" He added TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

62 NANDIPHA When love is real it is spiritual and it can be evoked between two among a few or through many but ultimately it extends to embrace all humanity. Love between two is a portal for love without limits. I signed my soul to this man. The moment I let our spirits to be connected. He makes me forget all my sarrows and troubles. I and Dr stepdad we are having our first shower together.

What did I do to deserve this man. I wish someone can just pinch me maybe this dream could go away. He washed my hair is incredibly relaxing. After the work stress. The slight scalp massage and felt his fingers in my hair is the next best thing to a back rub after a long stressful day. That spot on my back I never reached finally it will get washed properly this time. I never thought that one day I will share a shower with someone. This is confusing me being naked together in the bright light and a tiny space it frightened me this is all new to me. But I will quickly begin to break down barriers. I trust Martin with my insecurities and that increases the trust our relationship overall. "Thank you my citizen" Water conservation! It's like a buy one get one free sale! I might spot an odd mole or growth that could have become cancer. He makes mohawk's with the shampoo in my hair is so much more fun. He picked up a soap after I dropped it so there is no need to buy soap on a rope. Yes that is a legitimate product. He find all of his ticklish spots. That made me

chuckled "Martin stop it" "Stop what now? Martin asked while continuing to ticklish me. This is the best brainstorming ever happens in the my dating experience. I felt his kiss on my back of my neck is way better when I was standing under the warmer water of a shower too. "I will get out of bed earlier because I'll want to beat this to that first spot under the hot water" Martin said I turned and kissed him back. The good thing this time he's the one who turned me put the pleasure on. "Let's take our session to the bedroom" Martin suggested I nod and pulled the towel. We got out of shower. As soon we got to the room he closed the door and picked me up. I laughed he put me against the wall and kissed me he moved me from the wall and placed me on the bed. "You are so sexy mon amour! you drive the me crazy" Martin said. Though my eyes were shutting down and I opened them again. "Have you seen yourself babah? He came on top of mehe let go of the towel. He smiled He explores my body with his tongue from my neck to my breast.

"Ouch standwa sam...they are painful" (my love) he brushed my wet hair "I'm sorry" Martin said. He sucked on my breast gently and he moved down to my coochie he moved his tongue in circular movements. "Ahhh baby stop...aahhaaa stop teasing I want you inside" I'm desperately need him inside. "Mmm...are you sure? Martin asked. I nod When it comes to this moment he doesn't have to ask. "I want you...I...ohhh baby" His fingers were thinking my clits while he squeezed my boobs "Your wish is my command mon amour" Martin said (my love) he got in between my legs directed his bulge on my coochie. He circled it around I shut my eyes as he moved in circles. "Doc.... Martin" "Ahmmm" "Please" "Please what amour? Martin said (love) "Insert it inside already stop teasing me" He kissed her as he directed the shaft deep inside me. "Mmmm" I moaned inside between his lips. He started pumping he pumped up and down slowly. We kissed and pouring our emotions I reopen my eyes and looked at him and he looked at

me our eyes are communicating. He increased his speed "Haaaaa...oww.... mommy...yes yes baby I...I love you" "I love you too....Argghhh shit!!! Ahh baby Sponsored I....I'm coming in amour" (love) Dr Tremblay said I parted my legs around his neck and I'm sure that he got his perfect view of my coochie he went deeper and deeper faster with his scrotum hitting my ass. "Oww love..mmmmh yes I'm... loving this I'm also coming baby" he went in deeper and deeper "A....ahhh for viens amour release those juices...I.....let me me see that beauty mon amour" (come love) (my love) Martin said. As he was moving faster I released all my juicy. He picks me up and we kissed he were still buried inside me He hitted each and every corner of my coochie My arms around his neck holding on to it for dears life he went in and out in out and squeezed my butt at the same time. "Ahhhhh.....ohhh yessss...yess baby it's all you yours...I love the way you do me"I shut my eyes as he is getting closer I came again and he followed. "Ahhhhhh fuck baby....you....ohhh shit!!!!"

I'm fucken tired. We laid there catching our breathes. "Bonjour" (hello)Martin said I smiled I'm still out of breath. "Bonjour mon amour" (hello my love) he kissed me passionately the kiss is mixed with sweat. "je t'aime Mis Zwane" (I love you) Martin said "Then give it to me again" he laughed and kissed me. He gets up and looked at me "I love you not only for who you are but for what I am when I am with you Martin. I love you not only for what you have made of yourself but for what you are making of me. I love you for the part of me that you bring out" I said he kissed me again. Did I turned my parents house into a porn house

_____ NOSIPHO ZULU I cry even harder thinking of how it could have been of how I thought it would be. For the first time I wanted to give up in life because suddenly everything is too much and there is no solution in sight. People smile but not that much and frowned but rarely cried. My story is different. I lost my hopes long time ago.

_____ NWABISA SABELA I want to

ruin that girl's life. Jacob looked at me "What's our next move? He asked "We must come up with something" "Let's put the company's reputation on social media" Jacob suggested "No we can't afford Sthembiso coming back here to save his Precious daughter" "What about we kidnapped her just to scare her of she will sign everything to us" Van Buren said TO BE CONTINUED unedited

63 NANDIPHA The beauty of a morning glory is that of its patient wait for the sun to rise in the morning! The beauty of a morning glory is that of its patient wait for the sun to bloom in the morning. "Thanks for breakfast my doc! I said he is clearing the table. Shouldn't I be the one who is doing that? Here I thought my father was the only man who's was this gentleman to my mother. Martin comes back He looked at me. He knelt down with one knee. My eyes winds "Baby what are you doing? "Remember when I said The spaces between your fingers are meant to be filled with mine? Martin asked I nod

multiple times "I can't imagine growing old with anyone else nor do I want to. I know you're the only one I want to share the rest of my life with. The story of our love is only beginning. Let's write our own happy ending. I know my life will never be complete without you beside me to share it. When I look into my heart I see only you. If you can look deep into your heart and only see me then we should spend the rest of our lives together. I promise that I will always cherish you and love you" Martin said. With all been said he take out a jewelry box from his pocket he opened it. Wow I can't believe this "Money can't buy love Sponsored but I paid for this ring with money and you're going to accept it under the condition that you have to stay with me forever" Martin said. I glanced down tears streamed uninvited. I don't know what to say or what should I do "Oh my God ahhhhh" he puts his hand on my chi and make me look at him. "You do not have to say anything. Wear this ring for yes or close the box for no" Martin said I'm getting older

each year and after Kb knelt down before me just like this and he broke my heart I never thought this will happen again. I wiped my tears. I took the box from him I looked at him. "Martin I love you. I want to grow old together with you" I kept quiet. He looked at me. I deserve to be happy for once in my life. I just find myself and my son. "I'm flirty but I need sometime to talk to Mbuso and my family before I make big decision" "Fair enough" Martin said. I feel bad already. Martin he's been here for me. "I will keep the ring then after I talk to my family I will put it on" "Will you do that? Martin asked "Only 3 days to go Martin and I promise you that I will be yours" Philani and Sihle suggested that we need to dig up the grave that their buried my clothes that I left at the river. _____

NWABISA SABELA My phone started ringing. It's Jacob "Advocate Sabela speaking" "I was wondering about the kidnaping thing" Jacob said "We don't have to rush. You just dropped the bomb of she must step down don't you think you will be the first

suspect" "You didn't give me a chance to finish my sentence" Van Buren said "Okay talk then" "As I was saying we need to play our card well. I will go back to Miss Zwane and apologize to her and ask her to take my account back so that I will watch each and every move" Van Buren said "Good thinking than from there we strike" "I want ZCCL shares on my side I will do everything in my power to get those shares" Van Buren said. I kinda've promised him that he will get 50% and I will get 50% the is no shares he will getting here. _____

NOSIPHO ZULU I gave him his coffee with some scones. "Thanks" Vincent said "You need anything else? "I want you to talk to her this weekend" Vincent said. I never thought I would see this see the father of my children humble like this. I nod "I will try baba" The only thing that I will try is to escape this weekend. He smiled

_____ NANDI ZWANE Let me be grateful for people who make me happy they are the charming gardeners who make our souls

blossom. We made our way to reception. While he was holding my laptop bag. Palisa and Kwanda were busy gossiping about something. We walked to them. "Ekuseni Ekuseni" (good mornings) they looked at me and smile. "Morning mzala! Looked at yourself you are glowing" Palisa said "Morning to you too Miss Zwane" Martin said "Oh I'm sorry doc. I'm just pleased to see my cousin like this" Palisa said. Martin looked at me. "Okay then I've patients waiting for my magic touch" Dr Tremblay said. "Just blow Nandi one more kiss before you go" Mbuso said walking to us. Me and Martin we looked at each other and laugh "Morning Mr Zulu. I've done that before you got here" Martin said. He kissed me on the cheek I smiled and he exist. Left me hanging there. "Earth to Nandipha Zwane" Palisa shouted. How does Martin do this? " Uhm... You were saying? "Let's get back to work than later on we will talk about this" Palisa said "Any massages for me? She nodded "Mr J Van Buren called he wants to meet up with you and your PA" Palisa said "Did he

give you the details? Mbuso asked "He said 13:30 at your office" Palisa said. "Okay then I will join the meeting" Mbuso said walking he didn't wait for my response. "And then? Kwanda asked I shrug my shoulders "You and Mbuso love and care for each other. why don't you make it work? Palisa asked. I wish I can just shout and tell everyone that Mbuso he's my son. But to think that I was dating him it's embarrassing at the same time. "Is there any problem with that caring for one another? You won't understand mzala and no one will understand" Positive feelings come from being honest about me being myself and accepting my personality and physical characteristics warts and all and from belonging to a family that once hurts me without realizing that. Speaking about personality and physical characteristics I have the confession to make about the abortion. TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

64 NANDIPHA Corinthians 13:4. Love is patient and is kind; love doesn't envy. Love doesn't brag. is not proud doesn't behave itself inappropriately doesn't seek its own way. Martin must be patient with me very soon I will be his. Patience is not the ability to wait but the ability to keep a good attitude while waiting. One minute of patience With love and patience nothing is impossible. Martin Tremblay loves me unconditionally he cares about me. Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish. My father might've left the country but it feels like he's here with me my mother might be gone but I feel like she's here with me. Martin listen to me like my parents does. I share everything with him. I glanced at the ring. "Father I need you to bless your Nana" I heard footsteps I closed the box and placed in on my hand bag. Mbuso and Lwazi made their way in. They sat down It's slipped my mind that we are meeting with Van Buren. "It's now time" Mbuso exclaimed I looked at them. "Is Mr

Van Buren here? " Not yet" Lwazi said. I sighed softly why didn't he asked the meeting with the board members this is unprofessional "Let's hope he will be here" Mbuso Said. "This is totally unexceptionable he's the one who set the time" "Let's be patient and wait for him" Mbuso said "So you will patiently waiting for him in my office?. " Where else should we do that? Mbuso asked how can you ask a question with a question. "You can't just sit and do nothing" "Just ask us to help you with whatever you want us to help you" Mbuso said " What a way to ask to help boss" Lwazi said "Okay you got me guys. I'm creating a survey link for the clients and employees to rate my leadership. If my leadership is poor I'll proudly step down as a CEO." " Why are you doubting yourself? Mbuso asked. Fear can also clutter your mind and prevent it from effectively processing information. If you have ever experienced the feeling of dread in regard to a situation that you've never dealt with before then you're aware of the fact that fear can stop you in

your tracks. Fear can prevent me from being able to accomplish what should or needs to be performed while also being able to manipulate my brain in the process. If I allow fear to penetrate my mind to the point that it's preventing me from doing something that move me closer to my goals then it should be clear that fear is an important kind of mental clutter that I need to eliminate from my life. Jacob Van Buren walked in like he's entering his own house. I looked at him he pull out the chair and sit on it. "Good day everyone" Jacob greeted "Afternoon Mr Van Buren" Lwazi greeted back. "Thanks for agreeing to meet up with me" Jacob said if it wasn't for Mbuso I wouldn't agreed "Well it was a short no.." Mbuso cut me "What brings you here Mr Van Buren? Mbuso asked "Straight to the point. I would like to apologise for my behavior the other day that got out of hand I should've been acted in a menner way I don't know what gotten to me" Jacob said. "You as an client you have the right to make demands on how ZCCL should please you as an

accountant. Not to make demands how should one choose their careers. We are pleased about her work and I believe other clients are pleased too. You insulted her I don't know what is your relationship with her but that was very low of you. And it was personal you won't allow me to come in to your house and demand you to step down as a father I never heard of such a thing in my life" Mbuso said I didn't expect this "Miss Zwane is up to you boss weather you except his apologe or not you've got my support but I will give you a free advice. If you're running around dealing with petty details you may not actually be working toward the end goal. Don't waste your time treating the symptoms while ignoring the disease. Realize that you cannot please everybody and you don't need to please everybody either. It's OK to want to put your best foot forward in communication but you don't want to be desperate for the approval of other people" Mbuso added. What I am thinking right now is what will show up in my world in the future.

"Thank y'all. Like our project and generic manager said. You can make demands regarding your account how should we handle your account that's what you should accept from ZCCL company" "And I believe ZCCL is dealing with building and civil construction not career choices. I'd understand if you were complaining about ZCCL did not bring it's quality as it promised to the Van Buren buildings or our plumber didn't do their job But I can unsure you ZCCL delivers as the client request" Mbuso said Sponsored poor Lwazi he has to write everything down "That's what brings me here to apologise to miss Zwane and her team. You guys are doing a great job. I didn't mean those words or to pull out my account" Van Buren said "This is unexceptionable Mr Van Buren you come here and demand what you think it's right for your selfishness then the next thing you expect us to just fold our arms and forgive you. Why because Mr Zwane isn't here Ms Zwane she's a woman? Mbuso asked. Van Buren look at me. "Well this meeting is done. Let's

reschedule and do this professional board members should be included in this meeting" Mbuso said. Van Buren clenched his jaw. He has meet his type for once. He stood up and look at us with his redness face "Thanks for giving me time I will ask my PA to set up a meeting with your board members you will hear from my team soon" Van Buren getting up and he walks out. I looked at Mbuso he gave me a side smile.

NOSIPHO ZULU

Unfortunately when the mind is cluttered I'm not capable of focusing on the important aspects of my life that allow me to move forward and accomplish my goals. I have to plan ahead how will I escape this home prison. "MaZulu I'm going out behave yourself" Vincent said. He taking the keys and exited. I heard him locking the door. Who I'm I a prisoner? He always does this it's a habit to him this needs to come to an end. Vincent won't change. I won't be surprised if he force my children to get married one day I need to smart about this. I've to

my own best friend or my worst enemy. It is likely that I have all experienced a taste of both. I'm married and I'm unhappy. He is violent and doesn't treat me right and he doesn't treat my family right either only if he feels like treating me like one. He sometimes got nasty and nastier. Every day things just gets worse. When things got pretty bad I managed and coped day by day by trying to ignore the pain. PHILANI MCUNU I've to get up after experiencing personal failure in the past as we all have our capable of doing it again! "Mpilo how do I make her feel safe with us? "All Nandi needs is us to show her that we didn't have powers to save her we need to be there for her I've learned that she can be a snobby sometimes and I don't blame her Phumza Ernest and Vincent they've put her through that and we cannot change that. We need to be patients with her and be there for her" Mpilo said. I never imagined that one day I will wake up and find myself with him all alone. "Okay fair enough. Tell me what's going on between you and her cousin?"

He chuckled "The morning we got the breaking news we were to Mbuso's working place to break the sad news to Nandi and we met this young woman who seems to be carrying all the problems all to herself even though she was hiding that but I could see that she needed to talk to someone. We exchanged contact while we were still waiting for Mbuso on the office" Mpilo said " And then? "I asked Mbuso why does the girl feel lonely? He explained that she onced got kidnapped by your sisters ex boyfriend who nearly raped her" Mpilo said. Seems like Nandi she's attracting all the scumb bag man out there "I find myself being I fell for her" Mpilo added "Wee Mpilo Mchunu what about Zama? "Zama and I break up year ago remember? "Remember what happened between Nandi and Mbuso? "This is different Phila and their had no control on that and it can happen to anyone" Mpilo said MBUSO ZULU Remember that it's all about you. At the end of the day it's easy to attend to everybody's needs except ourselves. Sure

it's good to be selfless but not at the expense of our own lives. I made a promise to myself that I will protect Nandi and any other woman or a child that's need to be protected from being abused. I made my way to the reception. Kwanda was helping Palisa. "Ladies ladies" " Mbuso!!! Palisa said. Kwanda she's still playing her games I will let her be as soon as she's done I will be patiently waiting for her. "I'm going to get some coffee should I get you anything?" "Coffee and red chocolate cake please" Palisa said. I looked at Kwanda "Kwanda should I get you anything?" "No thank you" Kwanda said "Okay fine then" I left them. Before I could reach to the elevator I heard Kwanda calling me "Mbuso! I turned and looked at her "That's me" "I've meaning to ask you something" "Okay" "Do you still love her? Kwanda asked. "I bag my pardon" "You seem to be very close to Nandi and Palisa you no longer interested in me" Kwanda said "Life taught me that this journey called life is not guaranty. Throughout this journey of life we tend to meet many people

along the way. Each one has a purpose in our life. No one we meet is ever a coincidence" "Can we give it a try" Kwanda said I looked at her "Please Mbuso" she begged I smiled a little "Okay then let's give it a try hopefully it will work this time" I bought her closer for a hug. Falling in love is the development of strong feelings of attachment and love usually towards another person. The term is metaphorical emphasising that the process like the physical act of falling is sudden uncontrollable and leaves the lover in a vulnerable state Nandi once said 'fall ill' or 'fall into a trap' so I will fall into trap of being in love. Hopefully my father has buried that I will get married to a stranger one day. TO BE CONTINUED
Uedited

65 NANDIPHA My mother taught me to remain true to myself and my vision for the long haul. In doing so I demonstrate clarity of vision and strength of mind. Stand behind the choices I made and don't give in to the pressures on my own journey. My

phone started ringing. Unknown number. Who could it be. I ignored it. It ringed again. This time it was a video call. I answered. "Nana" My eyes winded in suprise reaction what a blessed day? I never thought that he will call me so soon. But why I'm I lying to myself. This is my father he cares a lot for his Nana "Babam" he chuckled "How are you doing my child? Dad asked. He seems happy wherever he is "I'm doing good just that I miss you" "I miss you too Nana I wish things didn't turn out the way they are right now but bare in mind that it has passed. Remember this is your father I've always secretly hated the fact that you are growing up because I know that every passing moment brings me one step closer to the day when I will have to give your hand to another man. Daddy loves you sweetheart" Dad said. I smiled and nod tears dropped. If he knew that time has arrived. Martin means well about marring me. "What is it Nana? Dad asked concerns parent. I've pushed him away from me. I wish I could turn back the clock and live

my normal life. "I'm sorry dad I wish I could undo my deeds" "It's okay Nana I've forgiven you long ago what kind of a father I'd would be to be angry for my one and only Nana. I always thought I would help you grow up into being the woman that I wanted you to be. However being your father taught me so many things and made me the man that I am today. I love you." Dad said. I'm happy that he called me and I hope he will give me his blessings "Father! "Yes Nana" Dad responded "when are you coming back? I don't know how should I tell him " Maybe after a year" "That's mean you won't give my hand to another man's hand" "Are you inviting me to your wedding or you are trying to tell me that someone proposed" My father said. "He proposed and it's sad because I haven't said yes yet but soon I will have to respond him" "Do I know the guy? My father asked sipping his juice. "I think you do. He is there for me and he makes me happy" "So why haven't you said yes? My father asked "I want to be with him Dad Martin

makes me feels like a queen he's there for me and he has always been there for me" "So what are you waiting for? He asked "I don't know maybe I'm waiting for your blessings" "Seeing that smile on your face when you say his name makes me happy and want to meet with Martin guy" hey said " You have already met him. But by then we were not dating" "When did dad met the mistry Martin? Dad asked. Oh my gosh how will I explained this. "Do you remember Dr Tremblay? "Dr Tremblay from Harrismith? Dad asked. I nod "The only one" "Nana I thought you said he's your friend didn't you? My father asked "We were friends by then" "If the guy makes you happy I'm happy and as you grow older I want you to fly out like a free bird. Go forth and pursue all your dreams. Live life to the fullest and make sure that your happiness is the first paority to none. And while you are at it just remember that every time you need a hug or a place to call your own daddy will be always there for you and I give you my blessings so long he bought a smile on your

face I'm happy too" He said. I really need his hug. Wait did he give me his blessings? "Dad did you say I have your blessings? "Yes Nana" I screamed. He chuckled "I love you dad" "I love you too Nana. That's my contact number save them whenever you feel like you you wanna talk to daddy don't hesitate to call me" my father says I'm blessed to have him to my life and I am not ashamed to say that no man I ever met was my father's equal and I never loved any other man as much I love him. "Dad Without your wisdom and guidance I'd be lost by now thanks for being there for me" "A man's daughter is his heart. Just with feet walking out in the world. A father's tears and fears are unseen Sponsored his love is unexpressed but his care and protection remain as a pillar of strength throughout our lives. A good father will leave his imprint on his daughter for the rest of her life be well MaZwane. Anyway how is everything and everyone? Dad asked "Everyone is fine I'm getting along with my brothers weand Mbuso we have our bond. Phumza passed

on few weeks ago" "My condolences I'm deeply sorry. I'm happy to hear that you and Zulu are getting along and the the business? Dad asked. I exehal "Nana!!! "It's well just that one client pulled out his account" I said "I'm sorry to hear that what happened? "Van Buren had the audacity to tell me that I should step down as a CEO because I'm not like my mother and I should focus on my dancing career" "That's why I received a CEO satisfaction survey link via email? Dad asked. I nodded the link was sent to everyone including the general workers. "It's that bad? He asked again "No the is nothing wrong with how I work he's just a bullie. He came back and apologize. Guess who was my spoke person? "Palisa I'm sure" Dad said "No Mbuso was and he turned back him back and I'm grateful that he was there because I was not going to be able to turn him away" "ZCCL doesn't need The Van Buren account our construction doesn't depend on his account he must shove his account. You and Zulu makes a great team I'm proud of you too make me

proud Nana " my father said. He's up to something I know my dad very well when he says 'make me proud' he is planning something. "Dad can you call me later. I have to go somewhere" "Okay Nana greet your fiance for me and everyone else"

MBUSO ZULU I'm not afraid of the challenges I face along the way. Not every obstacle has the potential to hurt me. It's all about perspective. Recognize the wall in front of me as an opportunity to grow. Kwanda entered in my office. She looked at me. I shrug my shoulders she smiled. "Thanks for giving us a chance" Kwanda said "Thank you for giving me a second chance" she checked "Love affection devotion all mean a deep and enduring emotional regard usually for another person" I got up and made my way to her then learn for kiss. "I love you Mr Zulu" Kwanda said "I love you too" I leaned over for kiss. I feel her presence so close to my chest my hands ran to her butt. My hands came to the rest of her hips. "You are here for this aren't you? I whispered "You got me there is

no point of lying" Kwanda said. "I see" she did not move but I still feel her breath in my ear. A strange pulsing began within my body. I stepped back and she exhaled sharply "I'm leaving" she said she glanced down "I'm sorry about that love" "I understand this is not the place nor the time"

NANDIPHA LATER ON. Martin picked me up he's just a gentle man. I'm sure by the time we get married I will gain weight. I looked at him as he is focused on the road. I take out the jewelry box on my handbag "Yes I will marry you" He remained focused on the road. People make mistakes and I've probably made a few more than others but unfortunately mine are also a bit more public. That's the way it is. You've just got to get on with life. After all it's not a rehearsal. There are a lot more tabloids in South Africa reporters it report other things in your life some of which are true and some of which are exaggerated and untrue. There have been stories where people claim to have seen me in one place and I wasn't even in that city then. The Aussie press

is more judgmental and moralistic. Finally we got home. Being in love is like going overseas I knew it was there and no doubt it was very interesting and some people went there but I never would. I'd spend all my life without ever going to overseas but it wouldn't matter because there was all the rest of the world to visit. I visited love 12 times and now I'm retiring from visiting love. I'm in love he smiled and looked at me. "What you were saying? Martin asked. He's pretending or what? "Yes I will marry you" he took the box from me. He takes the box from me "I'm now filling the missing finger that needed to be filled with mine" Martin said placing the ring on my fourth finger on the left hand. Tears dropped he wipe them with a kiss. "Bonjour fiancé (hello fiancée) Martin said "sawubona ngoduso yami" (Hello my fiancée) "And what does ngoduso mean? Martin asked I laughed " Now you are laughing at me" Martin said pretending like he's sad "it means my fiancée" We chuckled. TO BE

CONTINUED Unedited

66 NANDIPHA Sometimes I've to kind of die inside in order to rise from my own ashes and believe in myself and love myself to become a new person. The redug ceremony has been carried we buried an animal on that grave. Hopefully my life will change for better. Vincent is always with the Mcunu's doesn't he have his own house. Everyone seems to enjoy their food. I haven't touched mine and I don't think I will. "Girl power why aren't you eating?" dineo asked "Sorry I'm not hungry" I said faking a smile. With this two men staring at me. "Okay let's do like this. Mama let's share my food if you get sick I will get sick too" Mbuso said. Wherever in life it's okay. It's better to acknowledge where I find myself than be in denial. Accept my place for what it is "Guys you need to calm down I ate before I got here" "Okay suit yourself" Mbuso frowned I wasn't fighting. Mpilo got up "That's my call" Mpilo said when he saw a car that was the the gate. Judging yourself can only bring you down. As you reinforce your mindset with positivity your sense of self will

change for the better along the way. "Is that my cousin? I asked. Seeing Palisa getting out of that car she hugged Mpilo. "Oh guys did I miss something? "Asazi"(we don't know) Mbuso and Sihle said. I looked at them. Dineo just bust out laughing I did accept this from her "What is it that you know Sihle and Mbuso? "Don't look at me dadewethu" (my sister) Sihle said "Sihle you such....." Dineo said she stopped talking when Palisa and Mpilo made their way to us. I looked at Sihle I bet he wants to laugh but he's holding it. "Sanibonani" (Hello) Palisa greeted before she sits down. "Yebo" They greeted back. I looked at her then Mpilo "Cuz... Mpilo... Did I miss something? " Mzala you didn't miss anything" Palisa said "And what is going on? She looked at me "Nandipha stop skepticaling her" Mpilo said. I blinked multiple times. "I beg my pardon? "You heard me" Mpilo said. "Mzala can we talk about this some other time? Palisa said. "Why not now Palisa? Before she answered my phone ringed. I checked it's a video call from my dad "Babam" "Nana how

are you doing" it's me or is the camera. My father look happy "Everything is going well thanks for asking. And your side? Being grateful to the people who make us happy brings the best to you they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom "I'm fine Nana. Sorry for not being in touch after our last conversation" he said. "I've been busy I didn't even notice that" he chuckled I joined him "Tell me something that I don't know" dad said. I looked at Palisa she is shaking. I smiled "Well I'm officially someone's" he smiled a little. I didn't even get to finish my sentence he smiled and makes a heads move dance "Congratulations are in order Nana. Can I see the off market finger? Dad said. Martin suggested that I should put the ring slide the ring on the chain and wear it on my neck like a pendant. until to surprise my brothers and Mbuso. I don't know how will their react about this but I don't care as long as I have my father's blessings I'm good. Placing the ring on the necklace it's a great and safe solution to wearing the ring especially

when I'm involved in work or activities where it may get in the way. It is close to my heart as a pendant.

"Nana!! I came back to reality " Father" "Show dad that your ring" Dad said. I held the chain and looked at him. Dineo screamed before I took it out

"Wooooow" Dineo screamed. "Nana I'm waiting" Dad commended. I took out to show it off. " I'm happy for you" Dad said. "Why isn't on your finger? Dad asked " To keep it safe and closed to my heart" "But you are hiding it. Why? Dad asked "I was never aware" pure lie I applied for a free boring lecture. "A ring is presented as an engagement gift by a partner to their prospective spouse when they propose marriage or directly after a marriage proposal is accepted. If you are not sure about this guy it's still early to say no" Dad said "I'm definitely sure about this dad I'm getting married to him" I looked at Vincent and Ernest their are always here. Especially Vincent he's not a close family member. This kind of ceremony require only closed family members. "Thanks Dad I appreciate all your support

and you are the only person who can endure my madness" he smiled " I love you Dad" "Just as our Father in Heaven demonstrates unconditional love fathers on earth need to display this as well.

Unconditional love requires that a daughter knows no matter how badly she messes up her father will be there Sponsored not to ridicule and demean but to forgive" Dad said "You are the best father that any daughter can ask for. Your love and guidance made me who I'm today and I will always appreciate that" he smiled. I looked at everyone around this table. I excused myself and walked 5 meters away from them. _____ MBUSO ZULU

She deserves to be happy. Celebrate small accomplishments. I must say Mr Zwane he's a good leader and a good example of being a father to a girl child. He deserves an award for being a leader mentor and a father too. His guidance are to be kept if it was possible to change your parents I swear I would've change to the Zwanes not because they are rich but because of their humenity. I

looked at Palisa and Mpilo I find myself laughing at them. "Mbuso what is it" Sihle asked. "Pali you want your cousin to chew us? " You have no idea how I feel right now luckily there was no sharp objects near her" Palisa said "I doubt she was going to hurt you" "She was not going to but MP had to explain which flight did Nana miss" Palisa said "She was going to find out sooner or later" Mpilo said. Palisa looked at him. We do so many things without thinking about thinking twice. These things become our daily routines the mundane and boring. Yes we need to try something new. It can be something as little as taking a different route to work or something or dating a girl who's humble like Palisa. But to be honest Mpilo took the wrong route the Zwanes are practically family. Nandi needs to explain to her family what is going on she can't play hide and seek forever. "Palisa you know how to calm your cousin down" Dineo said "It's easy to calm her down since we need to celebrate her engagement MP should buy a champagne and we turned whatever it is to a

min celebration then she will be girl powering us"
Palisa said we laughed "Doubt she will" " Huh ahh
Mbuso are we talking about the same person here?
Palisa asked "Okay min celebration it is" Philani
said. Mpilo and Philani had always wanted to see
their little sister dancing "Let's bring it on Phila"
Mpilo said "With who's money? Sihle asked "You
Mpilo Philani and Mbuso you will contbrute" Dineo
said "I don't mind doing that" " Me Palisa Zodwa
and sis Nosipho if she doesn't mind we will cook"
Dineo asked she looked at Nosipho "I will speak to
my husband" Nosipho said. Does she need to report
everything to him "Dad are you against that? He
looked at me "I ..." He said then got up and walked
away from us. I looked at my stepmother "Ma! She
shruggle her shoulders "I will talk to him" "Please
don't Mbuso" Nosipho said She was bid shaking
"Ma are you okay? She looked at me and walked
away too "Aunt can you talk to her? " I will try
Mbuso" Dineo said tell her to laugh she won't try
she will laugh. Ask her to help you she will try. I'm

starting to believe what Nandi said about my father. Abusive husband. I need to investigate on this matter. NANDIPHA I'm getting married! I'm getting married! I'm getting! It's been ringing a bell since I spoke to my father. I find it very hard to believe it feels like inexplicably anxious to be engaged I feel like I'm not alone anymore. My life will definitely change for good this time even positive soon I will be someone's wife. I will be called 'Mrs Tremblay' it feels like a dream. Excitement kicked in I don't know why because I said 'yes' 3 days ago. Or its because I heard my father's voice. I and Philani took a walk viewing the place. He didn't change that much he still cares. "Aren't you tired? Philani asked. "I'm very tired" "Let me carry you on my back" Philani said. "You want your girlfriend to broke up with you" he chuckled "I wish I have one" Phila said. "P..." "I've always wanted missed this" "I missed you too...." his phone started ringing. He looked at it and put it back in his pocket. "We have to go home" Phila said.

Their house is not that far we walked. TO BE
CONTINUED

67 NWABISA SABELA This is taking long than I
accepted. I looked at him "Tell me something
new.Any progress? "We need to get rid of her
boyfriend Mbuso the boy he's smarter" Van Buren
said. "Let's continue with our original plan. We
abduct her and torture he until she signed her
shares over" He nod if he that he's getting 3 percent
from Nandi's shares she has her 50 % that belonged
to her mother and 5 % that was originally hers that
wealth was meant to be mine until Elizabeth Zwane
stole my happiness. I managed to kill that women
hopping that Sthe and I we were going to work.
Instead of things working out he chose her over me.
Nothing stands my way and succeed

NANDI ZWANE We got to the
Mchunu's. The were playing old school music. Why
don't they ask me to borrow them my phone.
"Congratulations" their shouted. I covers face with

my hands. I thought Mbuso didn't like the idea of me getting married. He removed my hands from my face then hugged me "Guys you didn't have to do this" "You deserved this it's nothing serious just a small celebration party" Mbuso said. Life is too short not to celebrate nice moments. When one door shuts and another opens it can bring a lot of promise along. Sure I might be nervous about this but it's my time to take stock of what I had left behind and claim my life back. I want to live my life to the fullest. "Thank you guys" "I'm happy for you mzala. You are the best cousin anyone could ask for. I believe that aunt Elizabeth she's proud of you" Palisa said. "With heartfelt congratulations on your engagement" Philani said "I'm smiling just thinking about your smile in the proposal photo. I love seeing you this happy" Sihle said. I chuckled which proposal pictures now " You resigned the dating pool thanks you for officially taking yourself out of it. Congratulations" Mbuso said. We laughed. He gave his father a weird look. With this boring music

I was going to turn on this celebration party to get
downs "You said yes? I can't believe it Nandi" Mpilo
said. I looked at him confused what is he trying to
say "Now just sit down and try not to mess this up"
Mpilo said pulling out the chair for me

"Congratulations" he added. Wow he's charming
"Thank you guys for throwing such an extraordinary
surprise party! It was truly unexpected. It mean so
much that everyone pulled together and you
worked so hard to make this happen in such a short
time" "Let's toast family" Dineo shouted she's Such
a happy soul. Mbuso popped the Champaign.

"Woohoo congratulations" they said beside Ernest
Vincent and Mbuso's step mother. I'm sure she
does wanna join but her husband he's a piece of
ass. My phone ringed. It's Martin "Hey fiance" "Hi
fiancee" Martin said "Missing me already?" "I miss
you citizen" Martin said I worn my smile on. "How
are you? Martin asked "Is this really happening I'm
going to be your wife soon? I asked everyone's were
on me. Kietumetsi look at me then smiled. She

wasn't here earlier "You better believe it why do you have any doubt?" Martin asked "It's unbelievable" I said with tears streamed down from my eyes to my cheeks "I understand it's normal to feel anxious after the proposal Sponsored why do you have any doubt?" Martin asked "It's unbelievable" I said with tears streamed down from my eyes to my cheeks "I understand it's normal to feel anxious after the proposal it doesn't necessarily mean there's anything wrong with the me or our relationship If you feel inexplicably anxious about this you're not alone. I'm here for you I know it can bring on anxiety" Martin said "I know that you are here for me and you believe in me" "And I want you to believe in yourself too. You are a smart woman I ever known. I was checking on you mon amour I should get back to work" (my love) Martin said. With all being said what I like about him each and every chance that he gets he checks on me no matter what "Ngiyakuthanda Sthandwa sami" (I love you my love) he chuckled "Iyathanda too my

love" Martin said. I'm sure he's trying to say Ngiyakuthanda Nam but he tried though. I don't know what's hard on him to speak isiZulu he works with people he should've picked up some words. "I give up Martin" I chuckled "Hey we don't give up on each other wena remember we are a team" (you) Martin said "The isiZulu language although not overly difficult to learn has a complex linguistic make up. I won't give up on you honey you are getting there and I will be there for you. I believe it will take us less than a year before you comfortably conversational in Zulu" "You think so? Martin asked. For a person who works with different cultures it will be easier for him to do that "You getting there don't sweat" I said. Ernest and Vincent their eyes were glued on me. Sihle changed the music. I think he played this song on purpose. (Hey shiShiShiShi) "My resident I have to go" "Okay bye I love you" Martin said. "Love you too" I hunged up. "Volume DJ" he looked at me. I took a glass of Brut Rose vanilla. I got up with my glass "Ah Hai o shota ka

bokae ko tlatse. Ha o shota ka bokae ko tlatse. Ha o shota ka bokae ko tlatse. Eh kere o shota ka bokae ko tlatse" I sang along while doing the get downs "The queen of groove" Mbuso shouted "O shots ka bokae ko tlatse" "I've always wanted to experience this" Mpilo and Philani said. "Ah Hai Maan do you hear this song though? I kept on dancing TO BE CONTINUED UNEDITED

68 NOSIPHO Life isn't always easy. Yet we make life more challenging with negative thought. The influence of negative thoughts is far reaching. There's no part of that life that escapes. It affects me mentally Sponsored emotionally and physically. It limits my ability to achieve and to enjoy life. There are reasons why pessimists are so miserable. The min cerebrating invitation few people came uninvited. Luckily Nandi she's welcoming she's a happy soul and a blessing to the Mchunu's brothers they are happy. It's sad because it gets already getting dark and that means I'm going to be a

punching bag. Everyone settled down. The girl who was introduced as Nandi's cousin and Dineo they were having their conversation on the car. This time Nandi sat opposite Vincent. She glanced over him with her hypnotic eyes. "I'm guys I'm going back to the hotel" Nandi said. Mpilo put down the glass and stirred restlessly "You are not going to spend a night here? Mpilo questioned his sister his eyes were shuttered as if her thoughts is far away. "We talked about this I can't sleep here" Nandi said. "I don't see anything wrong spending a night with us" Mpilo said his brows unexpectedly furrowed I'm sure he's trying to give his sister an frighten "Maybe I didn't make myself clear. When I said we can do this work without any of you pleasuring me or telling me what to do. No one owns me and no one makes decisions for me" she said. Nothing could be clear than that. "It's okay dadawethu I will escort you" Sihle said "Thanks Sihle" Nandi said in torrent of words. "No I will take her to the hotel" Mbuso said. This boy loves his mother if I didn't know better I'd

say they are having a thing for one another. "Sorry Sisi I didn't mean to upset you. It's just that I enjoy having you around" Mpilo said. In reaction she rolled her fabulous eyes of hers. The unexpected gestures made the brothers laughed at her. At least they are people who dwell on their mistakes and apologize. "You still do that? Phila asked. "I understand Mpilo if you enjoy having me around you should pay me a visit before I say I do to that man you and Sihle bought into my life" Nandi said. "I'm taking that as credit" Sihle said "Sihle and Mpilo you sold my sister again" Philani said jokingly "Don't look at me I didn't know that she came to see us that day. She didn't even come to see me" Mpilo said "And she just ran off my ward and disappeared for an hour" Sihle said "Truth to be told Martin approached me like really men do" Nandi said and she's stating the fact really men go for a girl they don't abduct a girl. Silent filled the table for a moment. She looked at me me. I felt my stomach muscles bunch in apprehension. Mbuso

looked at her "Mbuso's mother right? She asked "Step mother" she chuckled "You might be his step mother but I consider you as his mother you raised him as your own child and you never turned your back on him" Nandi said. I looked Mbuso he smiled I was expecting a bombshell from him. But no he just smiled "Thank you for being there for him no words can describe how grateful I am" Nandi said. She never talked to me before. For a moment I smiled and felt ashamed of myself. I used to treat her son badly blaming him for his father's actions "Haibo mama you are making my mother cry" Mbuso said with a smile on his face. I didn't even realise that I'm crying "I think we should meet one day just me and you" Nandi said referring to me. I looked at Vincent he clenched his jaw "Uhm... That will be great but..." She interrupted me "I'm a good judge of character I can see through your eyes that you want to you want to talk to me. Unfortunately not today I need to get to my suite and rest" Nandi said.

Vincent smiled it slipped my mind that he asked me

to talk to her. He such an peace of ass the is noway I could ask her to give him a second chance to this toxic environment called relationship. This could be my key for my freedom. Her phone started ringing. Mbuso looked at it like a jelouse boyfriend. "Here we go again she's messing this up. Who's Chris?" Mbuso asked. She smiled "Just give me my phone" Nandi said. Mbuso gave her the phone. She answered it. "Aunt Christina! Like she wanted to prove a point "Don't worry you got your neice she got your back" Nandi said. I never owned a cellphone in my entire life I don't know how does it operates "We will be there in an hour" she added than hung up. She looked at Mbuso "That was my aunt she needs my help I have to go" Nandi said "I'm sorry Mama" "You have to be sorry Mbuso this is my personal cellphone. Nandi frowned She slid off the corner of the table and hot up. The fact that Vincent couldn't move his eyes from her. I could tell this irritated him further. He will get a reason to atteck me because Nandi doesn't give a denm she's

highlighting that her and Vincent are enemies "I apologize on his behalf" Zodwa said. She gave her a brief nod. "It's okay are you still driving me or I must request a ubar? Nandi asked. The last time I checked she borrowed her the car month ago. "I will drive you Mama" _____

STHEMBISO ZWANE Leaving my daughter behind was the hardest decision I ever made. Yes I was mad for the choices that she does most of the time. And I needed her to have a family reunion with her siblings and son. Luckily I managed to get a new attorney. "You are signing your shares to Mbuso Zulu? He asked "Yes" "45%? He asked again "I'm signing all my shares to him" I believe on Mbuso he's business minded he just needs someone to guide him and that's what my wife would wanted me to do. "It seems like you are taking your early retirement from Zwanes construction company limited? He asked I nod. TO BE CONTINUED

Unedited

69 NANDIPHA I sometimes can be so hard on myself. The downside of taking responsibility for my actions and I'm punishing myself too much for mistakes in learning and growing. I have to accept my humanness 'the fact that I'm not perfect' I should learn to love and forgive myself. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. The fearful are caught as often as the bold With every twist and turn of the road the speed is on 220 km/h. If we make it alive will be God's grace. "Mbuso slow down" "Sorry" He sneered "What's wrong with you? I questioned him. He prob at Mpilo and Palisa who were cheerful at the back passenger seat "Mpilo have you noticed Nosipho's behaviour lately? "Yeah she's acting awkward lately" Mpilo said. "Who's Nosipho? "Mrs Zulu" Mpilo said. I've noticed something about that that women. Whenever she wants to talk or respond to someone she first look at Vincent. "First she was bruised. Today she was shacking when we asked her to help us" Mpilo added "And when was

that? Mbuso questioned. "Week ago" Mpilo asked. I feel sorry for her. People can change but not Vincent Zulu he is a proud man arrogant peace of man. I still see that on him. By the way he looked at me it's like I'm digitising him I'm sure if Sihle Mpilo and Mbuso were not they he was going to remind me that he's my husband. One of the obstacles to recognizing chronic mistreatment in relationships is that most abusive men like Vincent their don't seem like abusers. They have many good qualities including times of warmth and humor especially in around people. Vincent think the world of him. He thinks he have a successful work life and have no problems with alcohol. He may simply not fit anyone's image of a cruel or intimidating person. I think this woman feels her relationship spinning out of control Sponsored it is unlikely to occur to her that her husband is an abuser. "Drop us on the next stop" Palisa said disturbing me from my thoughts. "No he's dropping us on the driveway" "Or we don't have a driverway in our house? I questioned

Palisa. I didn't ask her to date my brother. "Mzala you know uncle Paul" Palisa said. My uncle and Vincent same WhatsApp group. Hence why my father suggested that I don't visit the family without him. He's still overprotective even he's in the other country. "Uncle Themba must go hang himself" I bellowed. Uncle Themba never liked me the only time he was nice to me he's was starving to death. "How many uncles do you have? Mbuso questioned. "I have two uncles uncle Sthe and uncle Paul he doesn't like his first name " Palisa replied. "He prefers his second name Themba" I added on her statement. "Mzala you know your uncle" Palisa shrieked "I said I don't care cuz. On the third house on your side" I yelled.though I'm are eager to remove my bad habits I don't need to pressure myself. just stick with my plan and do the best I can every day. "Mbuso let's drop Pali here then we will drop Nandi on the driveway" Mpilo sneered. I don't care how he feels about this if this will make his girlfriend better than so be it. "It's fine MP surely

Nandi will explain to our uncle who are you guys" Palisa grumbled. I glanced over her. Relationships with family can be complicated. It may be difficult to be open and honest but keep your communication respectful so as not to escalate the situation. We reached our destination. "Mbuso I need to meet with your mother I don't know how but she needs someone to talk to" "How because you are leaving tomorrow? Mbuso questioned "Mbuso make a plan it doesn't matter when I'm leaving but my guts doesn't allow me to leave KZN without talking to her" I trust my my heart "Nosipho she's my father's personal bag whenever she is my father he's there" Mbuso bellowed. I don't know whether he's warning me or what. I don't care if it means I should die helping a sister out so be it. My mother helped many girls and women who were abused in their relationships she was a hero to many example Kwanda and Lwado were abused by their step mother she helped them out from CP to GP if she did it why wouldn't I? _____

PHILANI MCUNU I never thought that my sister she's talented. How is this possible? Being beautiful having a great life and talented at the same time. No ways she must've done something. But it doesn't matter as long as it works for her. "Phila I must get going" Ernest said. I thought he was muted he didn't say or comment when Nandi was here he just stared at her. "Ok pops" I wish Mpilo can give him a chance I won't mention Nandi because she made it clear that her father is Mr Zwane and I don't blame her for that. Because Ernest was the one who dragged her to Vincent he didn't even care when she asked to attend our fathers fenural service that's how cruel Phumza and Ernest put her through. "I miss her already" Keitumetsi muttared "If you promise daddy that you will behave yourself. Maybe you can pay her a visit for the whole week" Sihle said. "I promise dad I will behave myself and I can help mommy with the house activities" Keitumetsi said "Okay keep your promises than" Dineo said. Keitumetsi gazed at the watch that

Nandi gave her that day her identity was revealed "Time is very important. But Once you lost the time it will never ever come back to again. So make use of this time for a better living and be productive by having a good time management strategy"

Keitumetsi muttered. The very same speech that Nandi gave her. I will never forget that day. It will be always a mark in my heart. _____

NOSIPHO ZULU Nonjabulo and Jubulile decided to go do netball practice that's what keeps them busy over the weekend. He puts down the mug of coffee. He looked at me then got up from where he where he was sitting. "God have mercy on me" he roughly grabbed my hair. "Zulu I'm sorry" for what I don't know. He giggled a mock giggle "You are not sorry enough Siphon" Vincent said. He let go of my hair and started beating and kicking me "Zulu forgive me I will do anything..." Mbuso separated him. When did he get in here "That's enough dad" Mbuso shouted. Vincent looked his son "Just because you slept with my wife it doesn't give you makes you a

man Junior" Vincent said. Mbuso helped me to get up from the floor "Don't play that card with me Vincent you are not a man that claim you are. You can't even approach a woman. Yes I slept with my own mother because I approached the women and I mentioned how I feel about her than abducting young girls and force them to love me the next time you think to play that card with me just remember that I didn't buy her I approached her" Mbuso said. "You have grow some balls huh? Vincent asked "Ma go to my car" Mbuso said I looked at Vincent. He shook his head disbelief "Junior you are not yourself right now Nandi poisoned you against me" Vincent said. This is my ticket to my freedom. Mbuso he's a humble soul when he gets angry he lost the respect he has towards that person. "At first I didn't wanna believe it until now" Mbuso bellowed. He than gently grabbed my hand. We walked to the girls room "Take the necessary documents" Mbuso commanded. Just like that I'm sure Vincent he's

burning fire. I will be grateful if we get out of here.

TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

70 NOSIPHO ZULU I thought God was not hearing my prayers. One does not become enlightened by imagining figures of light but by making the darkness conscious. We walked out of the room.

Vincent he's pissed. Surely his ancestor (evil mother) turned her back on him he looked at me then Mbuso "Mbuso what do you think you are doing? Vincent questioned. "Father don't make it hard as it is" Mbuso responded. He wasn't showing any signs of fighting him "If you dare get out out of that door with my wife I'm coming for you MJ"

Vincent said. Threatening people is what he does but when Nandi she's around he mute like he's not around "Father don't make it hard as it is" Mbuso said. When he shows any signs of disrespect probably he is challenged. "MJ Zulu you don't have to do this" Vincent bagged I never thought I will see this day. Mbuso looked at me "Should I leave you

with this man or you coming with me? Mbuso asked
If I let this opportunity slide I will stuck here "I'm
sorry Zulu" "Mbuso you are sleeping with her aren't
you? Vincent accused his son. Mbuso looked at me.
It slipped my mind that Mbuso was involved with
his mother. Until he mentioned that earlier. I
thought that day noone payed attention on what
Nandi said. Since they were focused on her. He
never mentioned that before. "Father I care about
you as much as I care about both my mothers the is
nothing that I hate than men who abused women
and children. If we as men don't protect them who
will do that? If I turned of a blind eye on this
because I'm your son that's means I support gender
based violence against women and others. I'm the
new generation that will stand up against woman
and children abuse women needs to be gracefuller
and cherished They are compassion and concern
for fellow beings they are care takers of family and
society They should be appreciated admired
respected. Nandi was right man like you will never

changed." Mbuso shrieked. He grabbed my hands gentle. We existed. He packed my bags on the boot then we got in the car. He drove in silent. I'm sure that we are going to pick up the girls. Before we could reach to the park I see my twins holding each others hands. With their backpacks on their backs. Mbuso stopped the car I'm sure he saw them too. He looked at me. "When did the abuse start? He asked. Will I be rude if I say from the beggning? "It's been 27 years. It got worse after your grandmother's death. He blamed me for not taking a good care of his mother. It escalated when he lost everything. Almost everything that seemed to go wrong with his life he could make sure that you and the kids you not around and I would pay for things I did not do that my body was the price for each and every wrong move that happens in his life" I said "And what wrong move happened to him today? He questioned. "Your mother happened to talk to me. I'm not allowed to talk to her or anyone for that matter" "Nandi was right that I must make a plan to

save her" Mbuso whispered I'm sure he didn't want to say that out. The twins came running. They not letting go of each other's hands. I'm sure they recognised this car "I feel sorry for them but what can I say it's what it is" Mbuso said. He got out of the car and meet his little sisters half way. They hugged him siblings love is the best bond ever. They made their way my girls greeted me. Mbuso drove off. By the time we reach to the Mchunu's house it is already getting dark. Mbuso didn't even knock he just banged the door that's how pissed he was. "Hai Maan Mbuso" Sihle said "This is not the flat that you took from Nandi" Mpilo exclaimed. We entered. Who is this Nandi firstly it was the car now a flat she's building her relationship with her son. We entered without knocking too. "What happened" Philani questioned "Mpilo Nandi was right" Mbuso said. Mpilo got up from the chair. He looked at me "Did he hurt you? Mpilo questioned "Almost" "How are you feeling right now" he questioned again. I didn't mean to cry but I ended

up crying. Mbuso bought me for hug I cried in his shoulder. "At least Mbuso got their in time" Mbuso helped me to sit down. Dineo gave me a glass of water. I looked at her she's also crying. "People like Vincent deserves dead sentence" Zodwa said.

"Where is he? Sihle questioned while the kids were suprised. Nonjabulo hugged her sister. This is why I dislike breaking down on their presence. Dineo took them to her room. I guess Keitumetsi she's there playing games on her cellphone. "In his house"

Mbuso replied after a long silent. He took his phone pressed it. He placed it on his ear "Mama I took your advice and I cought him in action" Mbuso said "Just one cheek punch but I'm fine" Mbuso said.

Sihle whispered something to Mpilo "Okay I will ask her and get back to you" he added. He looked at me

"If Nandi offer you a job in Jo'burg would you grab the opportunity? Mbuso questioned. I never

worked before this could be a great start. And I never visited Jo'burg before not alone Durban

which is an hour drive from here. I noddod without

thinking twice. I'm I making the right decision?
"She's willing to do that" Mbuso said "I appreciate that mama. I'm sure Sihle won't mind" Mbuso added. While glancing over Sihle he then hand up the phone. "Sihle I will be dropping aunt Dee and MamNosipho with the kids to king Shaka international airport first thing in the morning before Vincent gets here" Mbuso said. "I think I should swipe with Dineo" Sihle said. This means I and my girls we will be on a flight for the first time. It was even hard to alone visit the beauty of king Shaka international airport for the first time

NANDIPHA ZWANE NEXT

DAY. Thats why I dislike getting drunk driving faraway from home. Now the hangover is acting up. Carrying around the weight of something in that past that has hurt me can be incredibly tiring emotionally. By forgiving these circumstances and letting go of the hurt caused by the situations allows me to be able to strengthen my own psyche. I'm glad that Mbuso took my advice. Hopefully he

didn't get hurt. There is a knock at the door. I walked to get it. It's one of the hotel managers. I just can't believe that my father asked me not to spend a night with his sisters and brother. "Ms Zwane your driver is waiting for you" she squeaked. For some reason people will hate you without knowing who you are. "Greeting links humanity" she rolled her eyes "I'm sorry good morning" she greeted. Such behaviour are not expected especially when you dealing with different clients everyday. I "Okay tell him I'm coming" I'm glad that Martin suggested that I must use the flight since I'm not used to travel with buses and taxis that was low to suggest that but I appreciate his commitment in my life.

Hopefully Palisa Dineo and Mrs Zulu with the kids are ready. For some reason I feel like Martin and my father got the same brain. I hurried out of the hotel dragging my luggage and got in the cab. We exchanged greetings. Aunt Christina she wanted my choice since she was going to date night last night. I don't know why did Palisa told them that I'm here.

It was hard to convince the aunties and uncle Themba about sleeping in a hotel. Uncle Themba believes that I missuse his brother's money. I sent Palisa and Dineo the WhatsApp. We drove in silent within 25 minutes we got to the airport I got of the car and met with my brothers Mbuso Sponsored Palisa sis Dee Mbuso's step mother Keitumetsi Zodwa and the twins. Did Sihle allowed Mbuso to take overload? Probably my car it's slipped my mind it's no longer mine it's Mbuso's car. I no longer have a car. We officially changed the ownership of my car and flat to his name. I think he got jelouse when I gave Mpilo the car. "Morning" I greeted but still hooked how did they get here "Good morning to you too" they both greeted me back. Sihle looked at me something is not right here Philani and Sihle must've swapped hearts Sihle cared a lot about me "It's everything okay girl power? Sihle asked. "How did you get here? "Mbuso hired a taxi" Zodwa said. Understandably. I looked at Mrs Zulu "Are you ready for new beginning? I questioned she nod. I

haven't figured out what position should I offer her. But Martin suggested that she must help around the house. "Okay then are we ready? What I'm I asking. I want to be next to the man who owns my entire heart "Do you have to go sis? Mpilo ask what a cry baby. "I wish I can stay but I've got the company to run and the man who owns my entire heart he's patiently waiting for me" they chuckled. Did I say a joke or something that leads them to laugh "The man who what? Philani asked. I said that loud and clear moos "What happened to no one owns me? Mbuso questioned. "I will hit you Mbuso" we laugh. "What do we call that? Sihle asked while laughing "We call this goodbyes" Dee said. "We will join you later" Mbuso said. He looked at me then bought me and his step mother for a hug. "Take care of each other okey" Mbuso added whitsle he hugged me and Mrs Zulu. I don't know her name yet. Mbu mentioned it yesterday. Life is so unpredictable at times. One minute everything is going exactly as planned and then out of the blue

your whole world crashes down. All it takes is a flick of a button and my world was turned upside down. Luckily someone picked me up. We boarded to our flight. It takes approximately 1h 41m to get from King Shaka International Airport to Johannesburg a mini bus is already waiting us the same mini bus that that bought me and Palisa on Friday. I can't believe that Martin did all of this without hesitation. God took away my mother and bought Martin into my life. We hitted the road in silent until Dee decided to break the silent " Girl are you sure that Dr Tremblay he's won't invoice us? Dee asked "I didn't ask him to pay for our trip he volunteered to do that and he's not complaining" we first dropped off Palisa then. The drive looked at me "Ms Zwane what is our next stop? He questioned. I looked at Dineo "Let's go straight to your house" Dee whispered "Straight to my house" My past has defined me destroyed deterred me and defeated me. It has weaknesed me. But my future will be in the book of history a women who abundant her son

and years later she got under her son's sheets how embracing is that? Hopefully Martin will bring light in my life. We got home finding Martin waiting for us on the driveway. Offloaded our bags than payed the drive. We made our way in the house.

"Welcome ladies and girls" Martin said. Dee looked me "Thank you" I and Dineo said at the same time.

"Uhhh Martin meet Mbuso's mother and her little sisters guys meet my fiance Martin Tremblay" I

introduced "Nice to meet you Mrs Zulu" Martin said

"It's my pleasure to meet you" Mrs zulu said. Dineo

stretched her hand to Martin "It's my pleasure to

meet you too Dr Tremblay" Dee said laughing "It's

been a long time Mrs Mchunu" Martin said "Indeed

and worse I had to find out that you pinned your

mark" Dee said "Hey mom what a way to say

congratulations" Keitumetsi said making us laugh.

Hours Later We Settled down. Dined with the Zulu

family. "Aunt it's my room still available? Keitumetsi

asked "Of course baby" she kissed her mother then

me and ran to her room. "Aren't she going to school

tomorrow? "She is" Dee replied "Let me show you your room Mrs Zulu" to be honest this surname makes my stomach bramble. But I need to get used to it since Mbuso he's using that surname. "You will use this room unfortunately I don't have the twins bed" "It's fine their can share a bed they used to it" she said "No Mrs.... She cute me "I'm Nosipho Nkosi got married to Mr Zulu" she corrected me. We haven't talked yet she needs to rest first then tomorrow we can get to know each other "Oh sorry my bed. I was saying I've got extra rooms the won't be any need for them to share a bed I know twins shares almost everything but the will have to sleep on the separate room for couples of days until we find twins bed" she smiled "Thank you" Nosi said. I walked back to the dinning area. The twins were playing with Martin. I guess Dee she's washing the dishes. I leaned over the door frame and looked at them. "Uncle Martin and Nonjabulo you are cheating" the girl said I assume her name is Jabulile "Jabulile you lost" Martin said. I cleared my throat.

He looked at me and gave me a side smile I smiled too. Martin he's a good man. Mbuso said I shouldn't mess this up at first I thought he was joking but now it rings a bell I'm going to be someone's wife all I need to let go of games and try not to mess this thing up. TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

71 NANDIPHA I turned and looked the other side. He wrapped his arm around my waist very tightly. Who said I was going anywhere? I pretended to be in a deep sleep. He kissed me. He means business. "I know you are awake" Martin whispered then kissed my neck. I legitimately want to get off this bed it's too late the veins and the juice didn't take long to visit. I turned and face the roof. "My citizen" with a fake sleepy voice. He chuckled. I attempted to get off he gently kissed my neck while taking off my night dress. "Are you mad at me? Martin asked. What makes him think that. To be honest with myself I miss Mbuso. He sucked my breasts making sure to bite the nipple a little he always does this.

He stopped sucking my breasts. And looked at me. I know he's trying to figure out what's wrong with me. I thought I was over that boy I thought I was moving on and accepting that I slept with my own bloodyson. "Sthandwa saka" (trying to say my love) Martin said. I know he's trying to make me smile but I'm not in the mood. I closed my eyes he's turning me on he has the ability to that without touching me but looking at me. His fingers unexpectedly went inside my coochie his fingers were thinkling my clits. "Mmmmmm ahh baby please" "Talk to me Nandi!" Martin squeaked. How can I talk him when he is doing this to me? I slowly opened my eyes. "Do you have second thoughts about us getting married? Martin asked. I hate doing this right now I hate myself right now. I shake my head. He continued thinkling my clits "Oooh no...n baby we are gett... that is soooo good. Get inside me already" this is my everyday song. He stopped and again unexpectedly his rock just went in it was so so hard and painful at the same time.

"Right there" With tears "It's in now now talk to me" Martin groaned. How can I talk to him when he's doing this. I closed my eyes how can I tell him that I'm still attracted to Mbuso. He doesn't move nor kisses me "Talk to me Mon amor" (my love Martin said. I remained silent. He takes it all out. I open my eyes and shut them again "Please take me to my world" He gently put it back "Aha mama!!! You...you are hurting me Martin" I'm such a snob why do I call my mother. "Are you having second thoughts about us getting married? Martin asked. I open my eye and look at him. He started moving slowly shaking his waist in a circle movement it feels so good. The moisture of my pussy is making the pleasure greater. "Let's communicate as couples" Martin said. He moved in circle movement. Turning me on. One of my ex boyfriend once said I'm a porn star I believe that now "Ahh....ye...yes citiz...." "Are you having second thoughts? He asked "No baby I want us to get married" "Good" That's all he say pump in faster I feel like my abdomen would torn

up. "Haaaa ahhh Mat...oh citizen lam...you are in too deep" "Ahhh...ahhh....ahhh" Martin groaned "You are in too deep" "You need to learn to communicate with me. And let me know if I did something wrong" Martin said. Oh my fiance thinks that he done something wrong. He kept on pumping harder "Mmmm ahhh....I.....I'm sorry baby" "Sorry for? Martin questioned. He hate it when I say sorry. He wants me to justify my mistakes not always apologizing. The pleasure makes me cry how can tell him what's wrong with me. He's in too deep. "Why are you crying baby? Martin asked. He gently squeezed my ass. He moved in circle movement. I didn't see this coming. He sucks my breasts making sure to bite the nipple a little. He turned me on. He likes biting my nipples "Because...ohhhh....ah baby because...you....yes yes" "Okay ohhh...I ..." All my failed relationship he come highly recommend. I salute him "I love you Nandi I want us to work. I want you to be my wife friend and family. Don't doubt my love for you"

Martin said. He made me kneel down. ass up friend and family. Don't doubt my love for you" Martin said. He made me kneel down. ass up chest down doggy style. "Ahhhh I....Ohhh baby... Martin!" I'm so tired. I feel tired. He picks me up and walks with me to the wall he pinned me against it. He is still buried inside me "I love you" Martin said "I....I love you too" He hit each and every corner there on my coochie. Kisses my neck his one hand playing with my breast. "I'm....Ohhhh shit. I want you inside me" "No!! Ahhhh yes no....oohhh okay Nandi...Mon amor...mmm!! I....I'm also coming in" Martin said "I will meet you halfway" I drives him crazy whenever sing my song. "Remind me to get you the after pill" Martin whisperers. He then walked with me back to the bed. We lay in our bed trying to catch our breaths. "You drive me crazy" Martin whispered again. I smiled and rested my head on his chest. "I love you" "I love you more than you love me" Martin said kissing my forehead. He reached my phone and put it away again. "It's 6 am already we

should prepare ourselves to go to our work place"
Martin said _____ NOSIPHO ZULU This
is a dream don't wake me up I'm free from the
hungry Vincent. I'm free from the toxic relationship.
I'm scared this might be a dream. Vincent might
come in and disturb me from my sleep. Though a
part of me miss him. I can't believe this. I looked at
myself in mirror. I giggled seeing the happy me
Wonder how long I've been waiting for this
moment. If this is a dream please wake me up.
Nonjabulo walked in running without knocking.
"Mommy" Nonjabulo said "Morning baby" I
greeted. She smiled. "Please wake me up mom"
Nonjabulo said. This feels like dream. "Why baby? I
asked looking myself at the mirror seeing this
broken woman. "I never thought that one day I will
wake up in a different environment. Without
hearing dad shouting at you" Nonjabulo said "I'm
glad we managed to walk away" Nonjabulo added.
Letting go is hard but there comes a time when I
accepted the fate Sometimes it's best to just walk

away count your loss say a prayer and move on with life. I turned and hugged her. "Sorry love that you had to experience that" "We'd turned a blind eye on that. Hence why we were always out we didn't want to be his victims. I'm sorry Mom" Nonjabulo said. She's crying. I thought they liked to go to practice. The abuse effected my children without noticing that. I was focused on the bustard old man who thought he got me in his palm. "Sorry baby" She's literally crying. I pray to God to bless Mbuso and his family especially his mother.

_____ MBUSO ZULU Time and forgiveness has a way of healing the pain and hurt. I've managed to forgive Nandi and maybe when times goes on I will forgive my father. To think he's my father makes my blood boils. "Earth to MJ Zulu" Sihle said. Only Vincent calls me that. Mpilo calls me Junior only when I pissed him off. "You were saying?" "Don't you miss Kwanda? Sihle asked " I don't know what is going on between me and her. One minute I want her so badly the next minute I'm

pushing her away. At first I was blaming Nandi for this but now it's really getting to me. I'm scared I might lose her" "Maybe you moved on so fast after your break up" Philani said. Mpilo and Sihle looked at each other. I looked at them "guys you not helping" "Have you talked to Kwanda about this?" Sihle asked. "I tried but she thinks that me and Nandi we still together" "Tell her the truth then" Philani suggested. I believe that truth sets people free but this is hard. We had no control on how we felt about each other but coming out in public and tell people that I slept with my own mother I will be pushing the girl away. "I can't do that malume" (uncle) Sihle whispered to Mpilo and Mpilo shook his head. "Sihle let's get going. You not helping me" "Visit mens clinic Mbuso the is nothing we can do. Or ask Nandi's fiance to help you" Mpilo said. I'm not even that close to that guy yes he's friendly I don't want to be a burden to him and Nandi. Already Nandi gave me her new car which was her birthday gift from Mr Zwane and her apartment

what more do I need from her. "Let's go now"
"Don't crash with me Mbuso" Sihle said jokingly
"Said the man who almost killed me" Mpilo said
"Why aren't you coming with us" I asked Mpilo
"And who will look after Philani? Mpilo asked.
Philani he's the older brother he's the one who
should look after them. I nod "Let him look after
Phila. They will take his girlfriend while he's still
looking after Philani" Sihle said. We tend to forget
that Philani Mpilo and I we come a long way. Sihle
just came back 3 years ago and he was hardly
home. "Relax Mpilo Palisa she's very focused on her
work she doesn't have time for dating game only
have time to be the face of ZCCL and making sure
that she's there for her cousin" he look at me "You
are saying that I got between the cousins? Mpilo
asked. He won't mind to break up with her. This is
my uncle letting a girl go it's easy to him. "They will
be alright" _____ NANDI ZWANE

After our morning session we went to went to take
shower. We walked to the living room we find

Nosipho ready setting up the table. "Good morning" she greeted as soon as she sees us. I looked at Martin he checked the time on his watch "You up so early" Martin said "I'm used to" Nosipho said. This is a bad habit she needs to rest "You need to get enough sleep" she looked at me "I'm sorry" Nosipho said. I looked at Martin. "You don't have to be sorry. Enough sleep is important because it enables your body to repair and be fit and ready for another day. Getting adequate rest may also help prevent excess weight gain heart disease and increased illness duration" Martin said. I need to remind myself now and again that I will be getting married to doctor health standard will be our daily routine. "I will keep that in mind thank you" Nosipho said. I haven't seen her smile nor laugh. "Citizen lami" Martin looked at me. "My residency" He responded. Not so long Mbuso was my my citizen now I'm calling someone else that. I don't know what is going on with me I'm distancing myself from Martin. It started before our morning glory session. Oh my word what if I'm

pregnant again. No that can't be. Martin makes sure that I take morning after pill. "I will see you later" he looked at me "Are you alright? Martin asked. I nod he kissed me on the cheek "Talk to me" Martin said "I'm fine" "I've been a doctor for more than 13 years now I can tell if one is not telling me the truth come with it my love" Martin said. Pulling out the chair and help me to sit. "We love connecting with other people because it makes us happy. Good communication is the key when it comes to positive social interaction" Martin said. I looked at him "I feel..." I stopped talking and looked at him than Nosipho. "Can we talk about this later. Right now I want to talk with Nosi" he nod then kissed me on my forehead. "See you later than" Martin said and walked to take his car keys. It sadness me that I'll have to drive myself today. Specially I will be using my father's car. "Mon amour I will call the drive to come pick you up"(my love) Martin said. He doesn't want me to drive my father's car he says I'm disrespecting my father. I had to convince him to

stay with me. "Thanks love" he walks out. I looked at Nosipho again she was dampening a duster from the TV stand with fabric softener and wiping it over the screen. She used a clean cloth to prevent smearing and applied a tiny amount of liquid on the cloth. "Nosipho come join me" she stopped and walks to me she sits down next to me. "You don't have to do all the house chores alone" she nodded repeatedly "Don't be scared you safe now" she nodded again "How did you sleep? "Like a baby. I don't know when was the last time I slept like that" Nosipho said. "I'm glad you had y wonderful night. When did he start to abuse you? "Maybe after a week after our marriage" Nosipho responded "Why didn't you go back home? I questioned she looked at me. "I had no where to go. He would Sometimes remind me that I have no one to protect me and nowhere to go" Nosipho replied. To think about it Vincent used to remind me that Phumza sold me like a mug of nuts whenever I tried to run. I feel her pain. "Did you ever tried to get some help before

and fail? "He never allowed me to go out of the house unless he's coming with me and I was not allowed to talk to anyone besides the kids or he gives me the go ahead whenever I needed to comment" Nosipho said. UNEDITED

72 NOSIPHO ZULU Later on. The rose is a rose from the time it is a seed to the time it dies. Within it at all times it contains its whole potential. It seems to be constantly in the process of change yet at each state at each moment it is perfectly all right as it is. I'm sitting on the couch watching TV with Nonjabulo and Jubulie. Dineo she's busy preparing for lunch. "Mom. I wanna go to school" Jabulile said I looked at them. I want them to go to school as much as they want "Look at me children your brother will make a plan" "Let's hope he does" Nonjabulo said. "Sorry mom that we failed to protect you" Jabulile said. How they were going to protect me? I failed to protect myself "You guys needs to heal and you need help I will talk to Mbuso and Nandi" Martin

said. I didn't see him walking in. He takes his clinical equipment. The one that nurses and doctors use to check the reposition of the chest piece to hear different frequency ranges. "We failed to protect our mother" Jabulile said. I looked at her "It's not your fault Jabu" I said and bought them for a hug. I still can't believe that I'm out of prison I'm a free women. Dineo she is wearing a black jean with a black Adidas t-shirt. I never thought a married woman to be on a jean or trouser a woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man. But here she is wearing it and it looks good on her. "Oh doc I didn't know that you are back" Dineo said. "I'm not back I forget my littmann and theromotore" Dr Tremblay said. He looked at her "Dee I'm worried about Nandi did she talk? Dr Tremblay asked "No! Is there anything she needs to talk to me about? Dineo questioned "She's not herself lately" Dr Tremblay said. "Did you too had a fight? Dineo questioned sitting down on a uphlstered chair that was next to the TV stand. "Not that I know of" Dr

Tremblay said "I will try to talk to her if that's fine with you" Dineo said " I will appreciate that Mrs Mchunu" Dr Tremblay said. "Should I get you anything to eat? Dineo asked "I'm hitting back to the hospital" Dr Tremblay said walking out

NANDIPHA In a phone call with my father. Lecturing me about me about me being disconnected with Martin. "It's scary to put yourself out there and not know how the other person will respond. That's why it's so much sweeter when those very emotions are received and accepted with care. An emotional connection is a feeling of alignment and intimacy between you and and him that goes beyond just physical attraction Sponsored having fun together surface level conversations or even intellectual similarities. Mbuso he's your son you have to be connected with him but not sexually connected Instead it feels like you're connecting deeper and it feel secure connecting that deeply" Dad said "How dad" "You need to spend your time with this Dr Tremblay guy

like you were with Mbuso. You need to understand that you no longer getting younger" Dad shrieked. My father he's a good listener and a good advisor too. I'm blessed to have him and Martin in my life "Thanks Dad I knew that I can count you. And thank you for having so much faith in me" "Anything for my Nana" Dad said. He just said I'm no longer getting younger but here he is still calling me Nana "Don't push him away. Are you sure that you want to go through this? Because it's not too late to walk away" Dad said. "I want to get married to him too badly" "Alright just don't mess it up" Dad said. Did he have to sound like Mbuso 'don't mess it up' "I won't Dad" the network connection cut us short. I take my files and laptop and walk out of the office. I will work at the comfort of my own home. I need something stronger than a coffee. Something that will make me to forget about being attracted to Mbuso. When I got to the reception Kwanda was the one who was handling the reception. This what we do here we are one family. I sent my new driver

and sms to come get me. "Unjani Kwanda" (hello Kwanda) I greeted her she just looked at me and said nothing. I made my way to her. "Is there anything I have done? She shook her head "So why are you being so cold on me? she looked at me and said nothing. I looked at her she blinked her eyes "Clearly there is something you want to say come on spit it out" I commented "Nandi with all due respect we at work here" Kwanda said. I know that "Spit it out" She moved from the reception desk to a corner. I followed her "Do you still love him? Kwanda asked "Still love who? She clenched her fists nervously "Nandi you've been an mosquito in my ears since grade 11 and you still continuing with being that mosquito" Kwanda said. "I don't know what is this about. But you need to remember your place around her" "Just because you are my boss's daughter or a CEO that doesn't give you the right to mistreat me" kwanda shouted "In what way I'm I mistreating you? "You think all the love dove you doing with Mbuso is funny? "You listen to me very

carefully. My relationship with Mbuso and his uncles doesn't concern you kwanda" before I knew it a hot slap come in contact with my cheek I looked at her. She's not worth it fighting her back I will be giving my enemies the satisfaction of not being a good leader. But fighting with my team. I walked to the bathroom I washed my face and walked out. I find Palisa back to her working station she was with Kwanda and Lwando Kwanda's brother they looked at me. Palisa shook her head. As I walk out of the building. PHILANI Vincent walked in without knocking. I could see that he didn't expect the defeat. "Philani you need to ask Mbuso to bring my family back" Vincent said "Why don't you do that for yourself? Mpilo asked "I tried reaching to him but he's shutting me out" Vincent said "What did you expect him to do? Mpilo asked "I know that I'm... He didn't finish his sentence when Mpilo got up from the chair punched him across his face. He punched him back. If he knew better he wouldn't have done that. _____ MBUSO ZULU

When we got to Sihle's house there was no sign of anyone. Then we decided to go to Nandi's house. We find them at Nandi's house. I was expecting that they were going to my apartment or Sihle's house. Dineo dished up for everyone. "So Nandi she went to work?" "Yes" Dineo answered. Nandi walked in she was so down. She sat down next to Sihle. "Hey guys" Nandi greeted. We greeted her back "How was work?" Dee asked "it was..." She was interrupted by the knock at the door. "I will get that" Dee said. Indeed she walked to get the door. She came back with Palisa Kwanda and Lwando. Nandi's face expression "Sanibonani" (hello) they greeted. We greeted back they sat down. Nandi got up "I will be in the study room" Nandi said "Nandi can we talk" Kwanda said. Nandi looked at her "What do you want from the mosquitoes house Kwanda?" Nandi asked. Lwando and Palisa looked at her "Kwanda did you say that?" Lwando asked she looked at him "She's now muted. With all due respect I want her out of my house" Nandi said

"What happened? "Ask your girlfriend Mbuso"
Nandi said walking away. "Kwanda please leave"
Palisa said. She also walked to the same direction
where Nandi went. Silent took over the room "I'm
sorry Mbuso I didn't mean to slap her" Kwanda said.
I looked at her "You did what? "I didn't mean to"
She sobbed. "Where did the incident take place?
"At the reception and she better pray that her job is
still on the line" Lwando said. "Kwanda please
leave" TO BE CONTINUED Unedited.

73 NANDIPHA This is getting out of hand. I never
thought my relationship with Mbuso was going to
hurt someone. I don't want to be the reason for
their breakup. Mbuso love Kwanda. It took courage
for Kwanda to act like that. She knows very well not
to mess with me. My phone beeped it has a missed
call. It rejects all the unknown numbers. My father
did that. I don't know why. Palisa walks in "Mzala
I'm sorry about Mbuso's behaviour" Palisa said "It's
okay cuz. I deserve it" " No she shouldn't have acted

that way. She was supposed to sit you and your nephew down and find out what was going" Palisa said I looked at her "Nephew? Confused "Yeah MP told me that you guys are cousins from aunt Elizabeth's side"Palisa replied. I never thought that Mpilo can lie he seems innocent. But who I'm I fooling the same Mpilo who nearly killed my son "Yeah" "Come on now let's go and join everyone" Palisa commanded "No I want to be alone" She looks at me while getting up "You and Kwanda needs to fix this. Only teenagers who fight over a boy. What can you do now. Asikwazi ukuvakasha kwakho uphinde usishiye silenga nje. What can you do now you are going out there and get this " (we we can't come here to see you in your house left us hanging there) Palisa said " I just want to be alone mzala" (cousin) knowing my cousin very well she doesn't take no for an answer. She looked me "Well you can't be alone right now you have have visitors. Kwanda she's not worth it.Choose your battles wisely mzala. Remember after all life isn't measured

by how many times you stood up and fight. This not a winning battles but a jealous battle. I'm happy that you turned away and chose to look into a better direction. Life is too short to spend it on worrying about people like Kwanda. Fight only the most most most important battle let the rest go. Come on now dad's one and little princess. Palisa said. I look at her smiling "But hai mzala stop sulking get up right now and go out there" Palisa commanded. She's such a sweet cousin Indeed some of the battles are not worth it. Some of them I rather not think about as you remember the pain and the sorrow. I don't have time to worry about what just happened I will just let it slide. We made our way back to the dinning room Kwanda and Lwando were still here. I faked a smile. Kwanda looked at me. "I'm really disappointed in you too" Lwando said. I looked at him. "You were fighting over a boy" Lwando muttered Palisa interrupted him "The same boy who happened to be Nandi's nephew" Palisa added on Lwando's statement.

Sihle cough I know that coughed him. "MamElizabeth she must be turning on her grave" Lwando said. Pointing at my mother's picture "I'm sorry Nandi I don't know what gotten to me." Kwanda said I looked at her "So this is it? Whenever you and Mbuso have a fallout I will be your pinching bag? I asked. Palisa looked at me "Well let's do like this from now on Kwanda whenever you see me just pretend like I'm not there. What ever you want talk to me just pass by my personal assistant Priscilla or Palisa. Even if the inspector need my signature ask them let me know" She nod " Same applies to you Mbuso. You can speak to me only if it's work related and family matters. Either then that just pretend... " Mbuso cut me. "Don't even think about it. That won't happen" Mbuso disagreed. I sigh softly. I'm I making the right decision? "Mzala you can't be serious. You don't mean that are you? Palisa asked. "Cuz I'm dead serious about this. I don't want to be the reason for their relationship not working. I won't forgive myself if... " Mbuso cut me again. The

number one skill I can ever acquire is the ability to use my mind to create possibilities for my life Sponsored and to resolve problems. This is very important because without the control of my mind I follow other people's minds and actions and not mine. Then I fall and fail to get up again. "You didn't have a fight with me. I wasn't even there when the incident took place. Why I'm I getting punished again? Why is this happening to me? I was punished since I was a baby for some reason and still going to get punished for someone's stupidity I'm not going to let that happen" Mbuso argued. He looked at his girlfriend "Kwanda I'm sorry to put you in this creepy position. I didn't notice that my relationship with Nandi was effecting you. You should've talked to me. Maybe I was going to lie low. But what did you do was to cross the border without a passport. It doesn't work like that Kwanda. You should've talk to me before you shit up" Mbuso grambred. I can tell that he's getting angrier. Nosipho looked at him. "Junior a word please" Nosipho said. That's the only

name we named him. I don't know who named him Mbuso "Ma! Mbuso said. And kept quiet. "Okay I understand son" Nosipho said. Mbuso looked at Sihle "You can join us Sihle" Nosipho said. They got up and walked to the sitting room it's NWABISA Our plans is not working. We tried calling Nandi but it seems like she doesn't answer the unknown numbers. What kind of a leader is that. Jacob walks in "I've been following the girl. Her fiance he's a senior doctor at the hospital" Jacob said "I believe he's new in area?" "Very true. Nandi she wants those new guys for herself" Jacob said "What's our next step?" "One of the senior doctor her husband is involved in a car accident. And this Dr Tremblay guy will be filling for her. And he won't be able to drive her to work tomorrow morning" Jacob said. Music to my ears. "She's just like her mother" "He will knock off then after a couple of minutes he will receive a duty call" Jacob added MBUSO I didn't even get a chance to ask the living arrangement for my family. Kwanda didn't have to lay her hand on

my mother. She went too far this is my mother we are talking about. "Mbuso you don't have to choose between them. Just give your mom the space that she's she needs. I know it hurts but it's for the best" Nosipho said "Best for who huh? My father mistreat her she left me with him. Now I'm blessed with a second chance and now my girlfriend she's blowing that. She's sucking my happiness" Shouting Nosipho looked at them. I can tell she's scared of me right now. "I'm sorry Ma. All I'm saying is that I want the mother's love. I never had one before I just find it and I won't let it go away. Because of a jealous girlfriend. If she wants out she's free to go. Nandi she's my mother. A mother's love is nutritional. It is the fruit that feeds our soul. "I understand. Your mother wants you in her life. I see what she's trying to do. She doesn't want you to break up with the girl" Nosipho said. I looked at them. Nandi was playing with Keitumesti and the twins she's great mother ever. If she's willing to do that just for her son sake. I've always knew that a mother can

securifise for their children. A mother's love is the tie that binds and her bond can never be broken. A mother's love is branded in our hearts even when her words aren't spoken. Her fiance walked in Nandi smiled he kissed her. Keitumesti ran to him. We looked at them "I'm letting Kwanda go I'm not turning back on this. This mold that was shaped and fashioned by God has endured the test of time. This mold is taped and recorded by women rang out like a heavenly chime. No one can separate that shape and fashion of mold. I don't need her" I said and looked at everyone. Dr Tremblay's phone ringed he picks it up and answer. We couldn't hear what there were saying. He moved from them I walk back to the dinning room. Sihle and my step mom followed me. "Mzala I should be going" Palisa said "Okay cuz thanks for being here for me. I'm blessed to have you in my life" Nandi said. Indeed she's surrounded by people who love and care for her "Don't mention it that's why we cousins" Palisa said. "I will drop you off your house" Lwando said. Sometimes I mixed his

name with Nandi's PA they are friends Lwazi and Lwando that's two different names and definition. Kwanda Lwando and Palisa got up "Goodbye everyone" Lwando said. They walked away. Nandi looked at me "aren't you walking your girlfriend out? Nandi asked. Before I could answer her. Dr Tremblay joined us "Bonjour Mbuso Mrs Zulu and Mr Mchunu" (hello) he should've said guys. "My apologies guys I won't join you for supper tonight" Dr Tremblay said. Nandi looked at him she blinked her eyes multiple times "Why? Why?" Nandi asks "I'm sorry mon amour this was a call from the hospital one of the senior doctor has an emergency I need to go and fill up for her" (my love) Dr Tremblay said "So she's her? Nandi asks "Nandipha! Sihle warned her "Ok Doc you can go back to work" Nandi said "You not mad at me right? Dr Tremblay asked "I knew what I was getting myself into. I will be waiting for you" Nandi said. Dr Tremblay kissed her again "Let me walk you out" Nandi said they're

not afraid to show their love. TO BE CONTINUED

Unedited

74 NANDIPHA Why does the morning have to start so soon? I need more time to dream about the man who gives me weak knees every single day. I wake up in a cold bed Martin he's not next to me. Oh my goodness I forgot that he's was working a double shift. It feels strange to woke up and find myself all alone in this bed. I know he just moved in with me but I'm used to wake up next to him. So when the sun rises without Martin the light does not shine as brightly. I am incomplete without Martin next to me. I miss him. With out him on my side this morning the smile does not appears on my face. I rise off bed walked to the bathroom. I took a quick shower and walked back to my room. I started debating with myself what should I wear. Danm you Martin. Usually he's the one who helps me. Since I don't know what should I put on I will wear a Jean and a white shirt it will be a little bit formal I take

my bag and cellphone include some of the documents that I was supposed to work on them yesterday until Kwanda ruined my day. Kwanda was one of the girls in highschool who believed I think highly of myself. When I started dating I was in grade 11 Senzo was every girls crush at school and he was the new learner repeating grade 11 he had no friend so I became his friend before we started dating after few months when we were dating until I messed up. Me dating Senzo made many girls to hate me. I walked to the dinning room I find Mbuso Sihle and his wife and daughter eating their breakfast. They decided to sleepover. Since Keitumesti didn't want to leave last night. "Good morning family" I greeted them. "morning Nandi" they greeted back "Dadewethu thanks for your hospitality" (my sister) "You welcome and thanks for spending a night here it means a lot and it shows that I'm not alone in this world" Keitumesti got up she's ready to leave for school. It's sad because sis Dee and Keitumesti are going back to their place "I

will see you later guys" Keitumesti said "Buy girly" sis Dee said. Mbuso got up too. He looked at me. "Mama don't you want a lift? Mbuso asked. "No my driver will be here now" "But I'm offering you a free ride" Mbuso said. "No Mbuso I will be fine" " You can't push me away because of Kwanda" Mbuso said. I'm not even there. "Still my answer is no. Beside you need to drop off Keitumesti then go to your apartment to change" he looked at me. Before he could answer my phone beeped. I checked it my driver he's here "I'm sorry guys I got to go" "And your breakfast? Dee asked. "Thanks sister in law I will get something on my way to the office" I said walking out. Find my driver waiting for me. I got in the car. We exchanged greetings. He hit the road. There is a strange red car that is following us. I noticed that because each and every turn we take it turn too I think he noticed that too. "I'm driving straight to the police station" my driver said "Why? "When I was waiting for you I saw this car and now it's following us" Driver said. My heart

started breathing heavily I was slowly drifting into panic attack. I took my phone dialled my dad's numbers he wasn't picking up I tried Martin it took me to voicemail. I guess he's still working. I closed my eyes for a moment. We stopped at the robot instead of the car to stop it continued moving this is not a busy road. I sighed in relief thinking it's gonna pass but it stopped right in front of us. Since there was no car in front of us. God please don't let this happen to us A tall man was wearing police uniform got out of the same car that is following us. "Call the police" I said. He took his phone and dialled the emergency number it ringed. The man knocked on the window he seems young maybe in his early 30s I'm not opening this window he continued knocking I slowly slid the window down. "Hello" he greeted "Hello officer" "I'm Andrew" He said then smiled. I looked at my driver he's bit scared he even peed on himself. I nodded. "What's your name? He asked. Even a 10 years old kid can tell a really police and the fake one. He's fake I need to be smart. I'm girl

power I need to be smart on this one. "Nandi" I answered faking a smile "Okay Miss Zwane you will slowly get out of the car and get inside that car no funny business or else I will kill you" I didn't tell him my surname he means business. I can even tell he's not a South African his English says it all. "Are you charging her for something? My driver asked. "Just shut up cow boy" Andrew said. Tears were now streaming down my cheeks. "Please don't hurt me" I begged "If you comply trust me I won't hurt you so stop with the talking and begging do as I say" Andrew commanded "Should I contact my lawyer? I'm just saying I never saved our family lawyer's contact. I'm playing with his mind. My phone started ringing. I checked it's Martin. Only a matter of time. "Sorry can I take this? He looked at me. Now the robot light is green. He roughly take my phone from me. The drivers phone started ringing too. This man took out something like a paper spray. He sprayed it to my driver. Poor man "Now work with me" Andrew said. Immediately after

saying that his face changed it became cold and dark. I didn't say anything Sponsored it became cold and dark. I didn't say anything I opened the door and slowly got out of the car. I walk to his car opened and settled in. He drives off. "At least let me call my father or cousins" I begged "Shut up" he shouted. I kept quiet instantly. I just sobbed silently where is my father? Martin... Mbuso.... Brothers.... I hope their will notice that I'm missing. Before it's too late "Stop crying" Andrew said. When he said that he was soft I see that he's actually not a bad person altogether he is doing his job I just cried even more. "Hey Obinrin arewa Okay.. stop crying please" (beautiful woman) Andrew said. I did suspect that he was not a south African. He stopped at this beautiful house he placed access card at the monitor the gate opened the he drive in. "Why are we here? What am I doing here? Please I'm begging you let me go my father will give you any amount of money that you want" He stops the car at the drive way and squeezed my cheek. "I'm sorry for what I'm

about to do this is how I live I don't like what I'm doing but I need the money to take care of my mom. You're a beautiful young girl you don't deserve this" Andrew said "My father and my fiance can give you the double your payment" I said in tears. He sighband came to open my side of the door he looked at me and indicated that I should come out I got out of the car he picked me up it alerts that I'm being kidnapped "Put me down" I screamed. He entered to the house. He put me down. What? I rubbed my eyes and looked at her our family lawyer she was sitting on the couch she got up and clapped her hands. "Well done Andrew you brought her. You see this?" the lawyer said with a smile. No!!!! "No!!! Please let me go I...oh my God no!!!!" Crying. She smiled. "Sthembiso's Nana you made it to my doorstep" she said she looked at Andrew "Consider this your bonus Andrew" she said indicating him to leave. I looked at this woman. She looked at me Andrew walked out "Well well well" She said. "What is this? Why I'm I here?" "Good

question Nandi" she said and whistle. To my surprise Jacob walks in he just slapped me hard that I fall down. "Mama" _____ MBUSO I got to my office. Before I could sit down Kwanda walked in. "Mbuso please hear me out" Kwanda said I looked at her "I didn't know that she's your aunt" kwanda said "When did you find out before or after slapping her? "I didn't know. You never mentioned that even my own brother never told me" Kwanda said "Where was Palisa when that happen? I asked because I know very well that Palisa was going to prevent that before it gets there "Priscilla asked her to print out some documents. I don't when Lwando got to the floor but after Nandi ran to the bathroom Lwando was shouting at me that's when Palisa made her way" Kwanda said. "And you are proud of what you did? "No" she sobbed "Now what you can do for me is to use the same door you used when you enter to get out" " Mbuso!!! "I said get out Kwanda" I shouted.she walks out _____ NOSIPHO I'm cleaning the sitting room. Dr Tremblay

walks in "Good morning Mrs Zulu" he greeted.
"Morning sir" "Is Mr Mchunu already gone? Dr Tremblay asked. He is bit shaking "No he's still here. Mrs Mchunu she's still helping me" he nodded and called out Sihle. Formalities in this house "Mr Mchunu!!!! Dr Tremblay called. Sihle came running "Mr Mchunu. Nandi got abducted her driver he's at the police station as we speak we need to go there now" Dr Tremblay said "How do you know that? Sihle asked. "I don't have all the answers. I got her missed call when I called her back she didn't pick up her then I tried to call her driver he didn't pick up too. After 30 minutes I received a call from the unknown number when I picked the drive couldn't speak or he just said they took her" Dr Tremblay said. "Let's go then. Nosipho tell Dineo to call Mbuso" Sihle said "Lock all the doors don't open for anyone if Nandi comes back let us know" Dr Tremblay said. This is Vincent's work NANDI My hands were tied since I was trying to fight them. Jacob takes a chair and sat. "You should've taken

my advice Nandi" Jacob said "Fuck you" Crying "You are not fit to run the company" Jacob said "You better kill me Jacob Van Buren" before I knew it he started kicking me and punching me "Please let me go" I cried. "Enough" the woman said "You want to know why you here? The women asked. I nodded "Your mother took everything from me. Now it's a pay back time" She said. There are power is of two kinds. One is obtained by the fear of punishment and the other by acts of love. Power based on love is a thousand times more effective and permanent than the one derived from fear of punishment. I'm getting punished because of love if it means I should die for what my parents build on so let it be. I'm not going to step down. I rather die. "She did well she should've left you with nothing" she started beating me. I chuckled. That got her angrier "I will kill you" She said "You better be" I don't know where do I find the courage to answer her. I should be bagging them for my life. TO BE CONTINUED

Unedited

75 NANDIPHA LATER ON Helplessness is such a rotten feeling. There's nothing I can do about it. Being helpless is like being paralyzed. It's sickness. The cure calls for a monumental effort to stand up and start walking somewhere anywhere. But that can take long She bought with 4 men. She untied me and gave me a faint look. I looked at her. If my mother had children I was going to question myself does this woman have a child? But that's not the case she's evil. "Help yourselves gentlemen" Nwabisa said. She sat on a chair. They raped me each of them helped themselves. despite my wounds and the dirt on my body. What have I done in this world to deserve such punishment. "No!!! No matter how hard I screamed they continued raping me. For the first time after 30 years I feel so weak woozy and stupid. I feel very small and helpless. I normally read and hear about girls and women who are being kidnapped and raped I never thought it one day it could be me. "Babah!!!!" I screamed "Mum" I still find it strange why do I still call her

whenever I'm in danger "Thanks gentlemen. Good job" Nwabisa said. She smiled. I sobbed I've experienced trauma before but this is on the other level. Those men exited Jacob entered. "Where is mommy and daddy to help their princess? Nwabisa asked. People keep on describing me as a little princess. "We need to move her I don't trust those men" Jacob said "Maybe she came to her senses" Nwabisa said. "Go to hell both of you" "Shut up or I will cut off your head and throw it at the river" Jacob said "You better do that before my father find you" he got mad he punched me on my stomach like he was punching a man. I cought then cried. He tied hands and feet tightly to torture me. I might not a victim. No matter what Ive been through I'm still going to stay positive and believe that someone will save me. I've been challenged hurt betrayed Sponsored beaten and discouraged but nothing has defeated me like this before. I still I need to stay strong for 3 men in my life and my niece then my cousin. MBUSO I made my way to the reception.

Palisa Kwanda and Priscilla were busy with some documents. Nandi came with strategy of helping each other in order to complete our daily tasks and it's working. I walked to them. I don't know how will I break the news to Palisa. She seems happy. "Any messages for Nandi? They both looked shocked "Mbuso where is my cousin? Palisa asked. "I don't know but" I stopped talking. Because I realized that she deserves to know before she finds out from Mpilo "Aunt let's forget about work today and let's go home" "It's barely 12pm Mbuso" Palisa said. "No she can't be knocking off now Mr Zulu we still working" Priscilla said. "I understand but we have a family matter that's require her attention" "Mbuso where is Nandi? Palisa asked "Sihle called they suspect that she's been kidnapped" " Huh" Priscilla and Palisa said. Kwanda she kept herself busy "Let's get going Palisa" "Oh" She said taking her stuff "Don't cry cry friend everything will be okay" Priscilla said. I didn't notice that she's crying PHILANI Uncle Ernest walked in. I'm sure he still

can't believe that Phumza she's gone. He's always here. To be honest the year we are in was against my family. It first took my grandmother followed by Phumza. Mpilo made his way. He looked defeated. "Bafo girl power she's missing" Mpilo said. This girl power name is growing "What do you mean she's missing?" "Stop asking me questions call Zama's brother since he was struggling to get the transport money to go to Gauteng maybe he will drive me to" Mpilo said what did Nandi think giving him the car. "Mpilo we hardly know Nandi" he looked at me. Why is everything about her "Brother my sister she got kidnapped and you are telling me that shit" Mpilo said. Ernest looked him. "Nandi has the ability to disappear we..." Ernest said Mpilo cuts him. "Shut the shit up Ernest. Oh you want me to remind you that you know nothing about her? Mpilo questioned. Ernest looked at him "Nandi she's my daughter I have the right to know" Ernest said Mpilo cut him "I hate to be the one to remind you this. You remember that you sold your brothers

daughter to Vincent Zulu and by then you had no child? Mpilo asked. Before he stormed out.

NOSIPHO I never thought I will see Sihle so defeated. He is beyond angry. His wife doesn't know what to say to him. I heard a knock. I walk to attend it It's Mbuso and mpilo's girlfriend I've forgotten her name but what I know she's Nandi's cousin. I let them in. To be honest with myself. I feel like I'm born again. "Sanibonani" (hello) the girl greeted. I closed the door and walked back were everyone were. "Any update? Mbuso asked. This boy loves his mother I can tell after he got the call he packed everything and drag his aunt with "Not yet" Sihle replied "How did this happen? His aunt asked "Palisa your cousin was in her way to..." She cut him "Any suspect yet? She asked "For now it's Mbuso's father" Sihle said. "Who's handling her case? Palisa asked "We didn't get his name" Dr Tremblay said. Finally he said something. Since he got here he hasn't eaten anything nor bath. Dr Tremblay got up "I'm going to find her" He added

he seems like he is losing his mind. "How? Sihle asked "I'm offering R500000 reward on someone who has the information" Dr Tremblay said. The craggy lines that made up the character in his face now seemed like scars of defeat inflicted on him this time. This man loves his fiancée. "You will be putting her life in danger" Mbuso said. Palisa's phone started ringing. She looked at it then everyone "It's unknown number" Palisa said "Answer it" Sihle and Dr Tremblay said. She took the call. "Palisa Zwane hello" she said "Uncle Sthe" for the first time I see her tears "She's.." Palisa broke down. I can tell she loves her cousin. Mbuso takes the phone from her "Mkhulu" Mbuso said "I won't lie to you and say things are well. Nandi got abducted" Mbuso said. I can tell he's also broken "The kidnapping case is opened" Mbuso said he looked at Sihle "We all here at your house" Mbuso said "He's about to offer a ransom reward" "Okay I will tell him" Mbuso added. Then hang up. And looked at his stepdad "That was Mr Zwane he says

you can offer the ransom reward after 12 hours of her disappearance. He will call again" Mbuso said Dr Tremblay nod NWABISA He walked in to my office. I looked at him and nodded indicating him to take a sit. Nandi she's giving me a tough time. I thought asking people to rape her she would've signed by now. Ronaldo he's my last hope "Advocate Sabela what I'm I doing here" Ronaldo said "Your sisters won the Case and I told you that one day you will have to pay now it's a pay back time" "I can do anything for you advo" Ronaldo said "Right I have a nice meat for you I want you to deal with it until it sings my name" I said he nods If my plans succeed I'm getting rid of that girl the is no way I'm letting her go. TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

76 NANDIPHA NEXT DAY. While researchers still aren't sure what exactly causes dreaming it's a relief to know that remembering my dream is a common healthy thing. It doesn't mean I'm not sleeping well and it definitely doesn't mean I'm becoming crazy. I

feel dirty and empty my eye of a tornado must feel moving dully along in the middle of the surrounding hullabaloo. I looked at the symbol on my fourth left finger. Will Martin continue look at me as his fiancée or he will see me as a dirty woman who was raped by unknown four men at the same time.

"Martin please find me" Crying while looking at my ring. I will understand if he says he wants nothing to do with me. MBUSO I looked at Dr Tremblay he was silently feeling helplessly. He hasn't eaten anything nor drink. He said he will eat with his fiancée "I will be back after before my lunch" "I'm giving away R500000 to someone who has the useful information" Dr Tremblay said. We all looked at him. He threw his phone against the wall. "I can't help it because my fiancée she's out there hoping that that I will come to rescue her yet I feel helplessly" Dr Tremblay said. He has a redness skin It seems like he's losing his mind. Palisa walked to him "Dr Tremblay look at me. We are talking about Nandipha Zwane here the strong woman I ever

met" Palisa said. "She's out there waiting for me to help her I can't help it Palisa" Dr Tremblay said. Palisa looked at me. "Why would your father wants to hurt her? Palisa asked the room went silent. We head a knock on the door. "I don't think he's responsible for that" I said walking to attend the door. I opened uncles looked at me. I made a space for them to enter. NANDIPHA I lied on the floor. I silently prayed "Dear lord Sponsored thank you for this day and thank you for the gift of life. I'm grateful that this worldwide problem has finally come face to face with me. Now I believe that human trafficking is really. I ask that you give me the knowledge courage compassion and the strength to fight to fight them lead the holy Spirit to rescue me in Jesus name I pray amen" I heard the door opening. I never felt so helplessness like this. I feel guilty because Mbuso offered me a ride and I turned down his offer maybe none of this should've happened. I heard Nwabisa's voice. "I want you to rape her until she sings my name" Nwabisa said

"Advocate Sabela I'm not a rapist. I thought you wanted me to..." He didn't finish his sentence because I rose up as he was speaking. I blinked multiple times. Is this Ronald my Ronald my ex boyfriend. Is he working with them. He looked at me surprisedly. "Advocate Sabela what is this? Ronald asked "Rona.... "She didn't finish her sentence as well. He beat her against the wall. He took out his gun and beat her on the head. Then he came to me and untie me. Thanks God for answering my prayer. "Are you okay? Ronald asked I didn't respond. He's the last person to ask me that he broke up without thinking that I'm okey. My breath was coming in gasp mouth. He trained his gaze on me until I focused on him. "Are you alright? Ronald questioned. He was my boyfriend before I met with Mbuso. My lips were parted "I'm.... They bought you to..." I stopped. He let out a long breath "I was asked to come deal with someone" Ronald answered. My heart plod a relief. It didn't last long my gaze darted bouncing like a tennis ball of the

metal walls. I quickly gasped a breath that it's increasing it speedy. I tried to push myself into a sitting position. "I can't . . . I can't" Crying. He gripped my shoulder and helped me to stand up. He lifted me up as stinky as I was he didn't even care. We got to his car he put me down as weak as I was everything is spinning up side down. My last meal 2 days ago. Ronald finally opened the door for me. I entered without him inviting me in. He moved to his side. Then he drove off. "I'm taking you to the hospital" Ronald said. "Please "He is driving faster as he could MBUSO I ended up not going back to the office. I was helping aunt Dee setting up the table. "Do you think she disappeared again?" "Mbuso girl power she is happy with the fact you Palisa Keitumesti and Dr Tremblay you are part of her life. I don't think she will do something to ruin that. You guys means a lot to that women she reader die for your love guys" Dee said. Let me be honest with myself Sihle got herself a diamond he will be dumb to let it go. Dr Tremblay's phone

ringed. He walked out. "Mbuso if Kwanda she's responsible for kidnapping my cousin I will make sure that I kill her myself" Palisa said "I don't think she would do that what about her ex boyfriend the one who once kidnapped you? Philani and Mpilo's looked at me and Sihle with the question mark eyes. I once told Mpilo that Palisa was once kidnapped but I never mentioned that she was kidnapped by one of Nandi's ex boyfriend "Mzwandile he's in jail how can he harm her? She questioned. "Maybe he has people out here loo..." I was cut by Dr Tremblay "Thank you sir I'm in my way" Dr Tremblay said "Please ask him not to leave I want to thank him in person" Dr Tremblay said with a smile on his face. I guess this are the good news. He hung up. And searched for something "Has anyone seen my car keys? Dr Tremblay asked Sihle took them from his pocket. "This was the police station Nandi she has been found but she's in a critical condition for now" Dr Tremblay said TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

77 MBUSO What a beautiful testament to the resilience of the human spirit. We all carry the weight of every triumph and tragedy that befalls us. Our experience can't always be condensed to ink as it is a walking breathing tale of perseverance. We walked to the hospital reception desk. Palisa volunteered to come with us. Philani "Mrs Khune which ward have they kept Nandi Zwane? Martin asked. "You mean your fiance right? The receptionist said smiling he nodded. "B109" The receptionist said "And where is the man who bought her here? Martin asked. The receptionist pointed the man who was sleeping on sitting on the waiting area. Palisa shook her head. "I'm going to kill him before uncle Sthe gets to him" Palisa said. Mr Zwane boarded 18 hours the estimated hours for him to land at here is 18 to 20 hours. Palisa made her way to him. "MaZwane" Mpilo tried to stop her she didn't even bother to listen to him. "Thanks Lord. Dr Tremblay we need you. One of your patient he's giving me a gray hair" one of the

nurses said. Sihle and I looked at each other then follow Mpilo and Palisa. We made our way to them "You... You..." Palisa said pointing at the poor man "Palisa I" The man said Palisa slapped him on his cheek "Ronald why would you abduct Nandi? Palisa questioned. "You know very well that I care about Nandi and I won't hurt her" the man said. Palisa lost it . This is going to be a hospital war. Sihle and Mpilo looked at me then whispered to one another. Sihle nod Mpilo looked at me. "We are not getting involved on this matter" Mpilo whispered to me. Mpilo he's a peaceful person who doesn't say much and he's not violently he listened to both stories before he react on something. Palisa looked at the man "You care about Nandi? Tell me you are kidding right? You are the very same guy who broke her hurt. The very same Ronald who failed to support my cousin while she was grieving for her mother's death you were not there for her as her boyfriend. The only thing that you did was to break her heart into peace she was on a process of

healing and you come here and looked at me and tell me that shit of you care about Nandi" Palisa said "Trust me Palisa I have my own reasons why did I break up with your cousin not that I didn't love her or she cheated on me no that's not the reason. But I had to do that not because I've found someone better than her. But Nandi deserved a someone who will cherish and love her. And clearly that person was not me. Nandi deserved someone who will stay no matter how passionately she will display her love and how fearlessly she will show him her emotions. She deserve someone who is not afraid of the way she love them. Thereby I had to set her free. I repeat Palisa I care for your cousin I won't hurt her or wish to abduct her" Ronald said. Nobody cares how much someone cared about someone until they know show how much they really care. This guy cares for Nandi regardless that he broke up with her. "So you are trying to tell me that Nandi got abducted and you came from no where to rescue her what a coincidence Ronny" Palisa said. I

agree I've known her for a short time but I never seen this side of hers I've always known that Nandi and Palisa always cared for each other but this is beyond. "To be honest with you Ms P Zwane. I was asked to hurt and torture someone. When I walked in that room to find Nandi lying on a floor. I couldn't help it but to make sure that I save her against the lion den" Ronald said Palisa clapped her hands. Mpilo grabbed her to the other side. Thanks Lord he chose to come with us. Dr Tremblay made his way to us this time he was wearing a white coat with a Stethoscope around his neck Calibration date stickers Catheter Pulse oximeter. Glucometer including appropriate strips and lancet. We looked at him. "Nandi she's critical but stable" Dr Tremblay said. When did he went to where she is? "Will she be alright? Ronald asked. Dr Tremblay gave him a smile. "Let's hope she will. Thanks for saving her I owe you one" Dr Tremblay said. "Dr Tremblay you are needed" one of the nurses called. He is bit pissed. He looked at us "I wish she was not

admitted here" Dr Tremblay uttered. Sihle smiled "Go saves lives doctor" Sihle said "I'm not the one who said they other doctors must call in sick. Okay enough about me complaining. Only 3 hours before visiting hours is up to you weather you go home or wait here to see her" Dr Tremblay said. I looked at Sihle "We will go home doc we can't sit here for 3 hours" Sihle said. Dr Tremblay was called again. He ran to the direction where he was called. Sihle and I looked each other "He doesn't wanna go there" Sihle said "He's comited on saving lives and he signed the doctors pledge with commitment" I added. _____ KWANDA I was helping Priscilla handling the reception. This desk is untired Palisa makes sure that it's kept clean all the time. I miss her she's my only friend who doesn't judge me. She understands how I wear. What I did to Nandi was not meant to happen. My brother Lwando once mentioned that Nandi and Mbuso are related I didn't keep that in mind. I thought they were playing me. Palisa mentioned that after the damage

was done. I'm lucky because I still have my job. Who does that Nandi she's my boss besides that her mother helped me and my brother when we were kicked out by my stepfather. The Zwanes played a huge role in our lives. They on paid for my institution fees and hired me after I graduated. I am where I am because of her parents. If I knew how to apologise I was going to do that. My stupidity got me here Mbuso doesn't want to talk to me he even blocked me on his WhatsApp. Not that I blame him but he needs to understand that I didn't do that in purpose. I miss him this past two days not seeing him or receiving a good mornings and nights massage from him doesn't sit me well.

_____ STHEMBISO I knocked. "I'm coming" Eomen's voice. This is not Palisa's voice or Dineo's voice. She opened the door and blocked the way. I'm very sure that she's a visitor. "Hello sir how may I help you? She asked "How may you help me? She looked at me as I questioned her. "Rremogolo" (grandpa)Keitumesti shouted in excitement. "Hey

little one" She hugged me. " You may come in sir" the woman said. I'm sure Nandi decided to hire someone to help her around the house. I made my way in Keitumesti is holding my hand. Philani is sitting on a couch his eyes were glued on TV screen. With the remote besides him "Uncle Philani guess who's here? Keitumesti asked. He moved his eyes from the screen and looked at me. He got up. "Mr Zwane" Philani said "Mr Mchunu" We exchanged greetings and I joined him. "What are we watching? "He's watching wrestling" Keitumesti said. The same woman who opened the door for me made her way in she knee down. I looked at Philani he shrugged his shoulders. "Can I get you anything to drink sir? She offered. " Please stand up ma'am" She did "Don't even do that" she nodded she is bit shaking. "Don't worry about me I know my way to the kitchen" I said I could see that she is uncomfortable. The truth is that our finest moments are most likely to occur when we are feeling deeply uncomfortable unhappy Sponsored

or unfulfilled. I want people to be comfortable around me so long they don't hurt my daughter and niece that's all that matters in my life right now.

"Sorry ma'am if I made you to feel uncomfortable I'm Mr Zwane Nandipha's father" I extended my hand to her for a handshake she did the same. "I'm Nosipho Zulu" "Nosipho Zulu as Mbuso?" "I'm Mbuso's stepmother" Nosipho said. "Oh I see thanks for the warm welcome Mrs Zulu" she faked a smile "And I'm sorry for my behavior" Nosipho said. "It's okay no harm done Mrs Zulu" She nodded then walked away. Keitumesti looked at me "You were rude grandpa" Keitumesti said "In what way little one?" "When you asked her to stand up" Keitumesti said. I didn't even realize that "Sorry Tumie" "It's ok let me go alert mom that you are here" Keitumesti said. She ran to the kitchen. "Any progress on my daughter's condition?" "I'm not sure but Sihle called they will be here soon" Philani said. "And what's Mrs Zulu's story?" "She's staying here. Do expect to see her acting weird. She was on a abusive marriage

for years" Philani said. Nandi only mentioned that she's leaving with her fiance she never mentioned anything about this new arrangement "She needs help" he nodded "Mbuso was and your son in law mentioned something about her and the kids to visit the therapist" Philani said. Mbuso Mpilo Sihle and Palisa made their way. "Uhm uncle Sthe! Palisa said. With a low tone clearly she feels guilty about something. "Not even a warm welcome hug" she smiled then steal a glance at Mpilo "Palisa are you in trouble or something? "Uhhh no uncle Sthe" Palisa said "What's the matter child? She looked at Mpilo and Mbuso then she sat next to me. "MP you need to tell him" Palisa said. Mpilo shook his head. "Should I be worried" "No" they all said then sit down "Palisa nearly killed someone" Sihle said. She looked at him "What? "She attacked the guy who saved Nandi" Mpilo said "Guys how many times should I tell you that Ronald he's behind my cousin's abduction" Palisa said "Palisa did you say Ronald? "Yes all the guys that were involved with Nandi are

obsessed to get back with her. Especially that now that she's engaged they will be busy stalking her" Palisa said. Mbuso cut her "Aunt Palisa you need to calm down okay. He didn't do that when I asked him how did he find her and how did he know about the kidnaping? Apparently he was asked by the kidnappers to mistreat someone but they didn't mention how was he going to do that and he was not told that he needs to mistreat someone he thought he was going to torture the person. When he walked in that room. That's when the abductor asked her to rape Nandi he didn't except that when he was telling the abductor that he cannot do what they asked him to do that's when Nandi lifted her face I think that's when she recognized his voice. And that's when the poor guy fought with the abductor and hitted her with the gun then untied Nandi and took her straight to the hospital before he calls the police" Mbuso said. Palisa shook her head "Well Mbuso he sold you a story. The Ronald I know he wouldn't mind to keep Nandi in his house

for days" Palisa said. I looked at her. "Pali you don't confront people like that it's dangerous. And we need to look both sides of the stories I don't think he was doing that attentional Ronald cares for your cousin he broke up with her because of his mental breakdown. He didn't want to hurt her" Palisa cut me "Uncle Sthe you are the last person to tell me that he cares about her. You and I we watched Nandi sank into depression after that break up" Palisa said. I bought her closer for a hug "Okay Sisi it's okay it's all well I understand what you are trying to say" Keitumesti Dineo and the twins which I assume they are Mbuso's sibling. "Aunt Palisa the last time I checked I was sitting here" Keitumesti said. Palisa laughed "Oh we have another Nana in the house" Palisa said while moving for her "You and aunt Nandi you had your quality time now it's my term" Keitumesti said. We laughed "Good luck with that one Tumie enjoy it while it last Nana will be back" Palisa said. "Okey girls it's enough now. Rre you are welcome" (father) Dee said " Thanks you

ngwetsi" (daughter-in-law) she smiled and looked at Sihle "Sihle how did it go? Dineo asked "We didn't see her but Dr Tremblay said she's will be fine. We just waiting for visiting hours to go back there" Sihle said. "And where is Martin? Dineo asked "He's on duty" Mbuso answered "He's not on a good state to work" Dineo said. "I guess he wanted to be next to my mama" Mbuso said. We laughed "I don't blame him if I had a chance like that I was going to grab the opportunity with both my hands" Palisa said. Life without love is like a tree without blossoms or fruit. "I can't wait to see that Dr Tremblay guy" Mbuso looked at his uncle's "Well you've met him before I met him" Mbuso said. I'm aware of that I need to get to know him "Meet up with different people everyday but we don't know their characters " "Okay you met her at Harrismith Thebe Hospital remember? Dineo ask I will just nod giving them the satisfaction. . Mbuso's phone beeped. He looked at it "That was Dr Tremblay Nandi she's awake" Mbuso said _____

NANDIPHA The cure calls for a monumental effort to stand up and start walking somewhere anywhere. But that can take long. I looked at Martin who is sleeping next to me. This is not a hotel but a hospital babah this is a hospital "I'm sorry love that you had to go through that alone" Martin said "Four men raped Martin" I cried. "I'm sorry mon amor. I want you to know I love you. I'm truly sorry for all I'm sorry it took us so long to come and save you. You're the only person who truly loves me unconditionally" Martin said. I feel dirty as I am. I'm wounded I can't believe that Martin he's willing I'm scared they might come back to finish what they've started. "Martin please take me home" I onced said I can forget my password but not my wounds I have new scares. Feeling helpless loveless and defeated at the same time. "Martin you don't have to stay in this relationship feeling sorry for me. I was raped by unknown four man" he looked at me "I'm not going anywhere mon amour we are getting married. You didn't choose to be mistreated. I'm sorry that I

wasn't there to save you" Martin is talking to me but I'm blown to rewind what happened to me. "Nooo! "It's okay Nandi you safe now" Martin whisperers. He mad me lie on his chest "No one is will ever hurt you again" Martin said. "Where is the man who bought me here? "He will be back during visitors hours" Martin said. As much as I hate him as I hate myself right now I want to thank him for saving me. He risked his life to save me. "Martin I need to sign all my mother's shares that she left for me to my uncle and Auntis including Palisa" "Mr Zwane will be here anytime soon I'm sure you will discuss that with him" Martin said. What did I do to deserve humble guy like him. Many would've jumped for this opportunity and say 'I will help you baby' But here he is showing me love. I don't know how many times have I bath today but I still feel dirty "I need a bath" "You just did few hours ago" Martin said "I feel dirty" he looked at me and helped me to get up. TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

78 NANDIPHA Later on. I'm facing up with tears on my face streaming down to my cheeks. Helplessness is such a rotten feeling. There's nothing I can do about it. Being helpless is like being paralyzed. It's sort of a sickness. The cure calls for a monumental effort to stand up and start walking somewhere anywhere. And erase all that has happened to me. I don't deserve to be happy. Happiness only visit me like sessions of the year. All the necessary test are done. Rape kit was taken "Fresh roses and cappuccino for my beautiful woman who owns my heart" Martin said. When did he get back I didn't head him walking in "Why? Thank you Mr Tremblay. I really needed this so much" He laid next to me at the same time. I didn't expect that. Martin will lose his license. He gets to comfortable at work more especially I'm his patient right now this doesn't look good. He wiped out my tears "You really need help Nandi. You know sometimes it's okay to share your pain with someone" Martin said. It's easy for him to say this since he's not the one who was in that

room. He's not the one who was tortured by Van Buren and Nwabisa. He's not the one who was raped. "Hey... Hey Nandi I will be with you each step of the way. Stop feeling guilty you didn't choose to go through that. There's no such thing as feeling helplessly. You are stronger than you think stop blaming yourself and be that strong woman who escaped from the abusive marriage. Now escape that loneliness feeling you have" Martin comandad. I nod I survived many things and that didn't stop me from going forward "I hate the fact that I'm helpless and I feel dirty. Each time I close my eyes I see those idiot punching me and raping me" He make me my head to lie on his chest. Only my parents were going to do that especially when I feel defeated like this. He wrapped on his arms. Is the best feeling ever if we could stay like this for the rest of our lives I'd be in a happy place. We will be the power couples that Dineo says we are. "You are the best thing that has happened to me" Thinking about it I said the same thing to all my boyfriends besides Vincent I was not

going to say such thing to that man. I hate him with all my heart and uncle Ernest too. "I love you sithanda saka" (my love) Martin said. "Sithandwa sam" I corrected him. I laughed with tears buried on the verge of my eyes. We stayed at the same position. I heard footsteps but I didn't move though feeling loved and safe at the same time "Come on you too get a room" Sihle said the last time I checked this is a private ward he can't just just barge in like that. Martin let me go of me. He slid off the bed. I looked at Sihle. "Where are you going Martin?" "I'm on duty remember?" Martin questioned I nod. He wasn't aware that he is on duty all along? "Mzala!! Palisa said. She can be a crying baby sometimes. She attacked me with hugs. My body arches. "Aww.... Palisa you hurting me". I'm in excruciating pain Those idiots made sure beat the hell of me. They are evil trapped on human form. I'm I could've died. On a professes of being beaten up and sleeping on a cold floor being weaken by the cold water. To be honest with myself

I don't know how I'm feeling but I know I hate myself right now. I'm dirty. My father walked in followed by Mbuso and mpilo. Nccoo Mpilo came "Nana" dad muttered "Babam" he looked at me. I couldn't help it but cried. "I'm sorry Nana" dad said. He brushed my hair. "They nearly killed me dad" everyone looked at me. "I was beaten up and tortured daddy They reminded me that you aren't there to help me. I hate myself I dislike being me. Why... Why " (crying) "Nana looked at me" Dad commanded I looked at him "May I? Dad pleaded. he indicated that he wants to join me. I made a space for him he lied next to me. Another lecture on the way. "I need you to stay strong. Remember that girl who bought happiness in our lives? Dad asked I nodded "She managed to escape pain and became a role model to many girls. And most of those girls followed her deeds even though some of her deeds were disgracing their parents but that girl never disgraced us because she is strong and she became girl power because she was empowering those

young girl and I'm proud to call her my daughter. Many won't understand why do I still treat you like a baby. To me you will be always my Nana. I'm saying all this I want you to remember that you are Elizabeth and Sthembiso Blessing Zwane's daughter who is the strongest women in the world and in the family. Don't let what happened to you hold your happiness. I mean be yourself be Nandipha Nana Zwane whose always edgar to try something different who's ready to face each and every challenge coming her way. Nothing stands on her way I mean nothing at all. I want you to move on like you did before. We're all going to be hurt in different ways. At the end of the day It is something we have to go through in order to have your heart and your mentality prepared for your forever and defeat. You need to continue living your life trying to avoid you came across this. Keep on moving and empowering those young girls. I'm afraid the way you keep on doing things and especially when something bad happened to you. You become

someone I don't know. you'd feel lonely and helplessly right now I'm afraid you might hurt yourself when you like this. Just think about it Nana. That you are strong more than you think remember that. Sometimes no matter how better rich or successful you are there would come a time that you will feel lonely and you won't understand why? Dad said. tear streamed. Everyone went 'ncooooo' "I'm scared dad" he nodded with tears streaming "It's okay to be scared my child I'm also scared to lose you" Dad said I looked at him. Then Mbuso as he sip on my cappuccino. He did that on purpose just to provoke me. I don't have the energy to attend his madness right now "Advocate Sabela and Jacob Van Buren did this to me" That grabbed my father's and Mbuso's attention My father rosed up from the bed he looked at me "Nana what did you just say? Dad questioned. "They forced me to sign off my shares to them" He remained staring at me with those I need details eyes. "I didn't do that even after I was raped O was not going to do such things"

my father he's losing it he clench his jaw. Thanks Lord he's not violently " Sihle who's holding her case again? My father asked "Detective Zondi something like that" Sihle answered. He wasn't even sure. "Zondo" I corrected him. "Nwabisa and her friend their going to regret for what they've put my daughter through" Dad uttered. Martin made his way with Ronald. I smiled a little "Bonsoir les bonnes personnes" (hello good people" Martin said. my father checked his watch. "Sorry to interrupt famille Zwane you have a visitor" (family) Martin said. How professional? And how dramatic too?. My father steal a glance at me. He smiled a little "Mon futur gendre" (my future son in-law) my father said and offered a handshake. I normally head that father become hard on their sons in law my father he's turning that around. "Merci d'être là pour elle" (thanks for being there for her) dad said "You welcome son" My father said. I looked at Ronald. My father and Martin walked out wow they now best friends? "Thanks for saving me" he nod he

scared of my father I think my father noticed that. "As long as you fine that's all matters" Ronald said. Palisa looked at him "Cuz what happened? She looked at me. I know my cousin when she's guilty of something. Right now she is. "I'm sorry Ronny I shouldn't have said what I said earlier I was out of line" Ronald nodded. "It's okay Palisa you were trying to protecting your cousin. Trust me I was going to do that" Ronald said "What happened earlier? Everyone looked at me. "I questioned you guys" Mbuso and Sihle looked at each other Mpilo nod "Palisa accused the man of being responsible for your kidnapping" Mbuso said "Oh" that's all I can say. "I'm sorry I was totally wrong" Palisa said. Ronald nodded I looked at him he looked at me too "How are you doing? We both questioned each other. We laugh "Sorry you go first" Ronald said "I don't know I'm still trying to find myself I'm scared that I left the part of me in that room" "The Nandi I know she's strong and she will try harder to find that missing part. The Nandi I know she goes after

what she wants and that Nandi doesn't allow to be defeated that easily" Ronald said. Tears streamed uninvitedly have wiped them off. My son and his jelouse just removed the pillow behind my head he sat down and balanced my head with his thighs. I smiled and looked at Ronald if I'd have to choose between him and Martin I'd choose Martin over him. If he can be involved with people who did this to me how many people woman and girls will he be asked to hurt them. No Nandi we don't do this Martin love you he won't hurt you "You risked your life saving me and that I respect you. And that I appreciate it" he nodded "I did what I was supposed to do Nandi. Anyone was going to do that" Ronald said. He kissed me on my forehead and left just like that. I was ready to return the kiss Wow he's unbelievable right now. Palisa pinched. me "Uyaphambana? (Are you out of your mind? Palisa asked "Cuz don't please don't" I looked at her "Mzala don't give me that attude look. Get rid of what ever feelings you still have for him. Your fiance

he's here" Palisa said. I thought no one noticed me. I'm doomed right now "Cuz!! "Hai don't do that to yourself" Palisa said. I nod "I'm sorry" "Don't ever do that" Mbuso said "Wena I want cappuccino" "Does this hospital offer delicious cappuccino like that? Mbuso asked. Everyone laughed. This laughter will fed away. My father walks in "Where is my doctor dad? "He has the surgery to attend to" Dad said "Sorry Nana I will come see you tomorrow I have to go somewhere" dad said. "That somewhere doesn't have a name? "I'm going to search for those two idiot who did this to you. They must pray that I don't get there before the police does" Dad said I know my father when he's mad but like this I'm afraid he will hurt them. "Dad!!! He exited "Palisa.... Mbuso stop him please" "I'm joining him" Sihle said he exited Mpilo follow him too. No this is not happening NOSIPHO I'm scared of not finding that missing piece. I don't know what it is I don't know how to find it and where to even start looking but I know its missing. I have most of the things I need

Sponsored I don't know how to find it and where to even start looking but I know its missing. I have most of the things I need I've cleaned this room from the day I got here I'm searching for it but its just not no where to be found. They say what's meant for you will find yours. But what if it doesn't? I thought being out of Vincent's life was going to fill out that missing peace. Loneliness isn't just an emotion it's a constant struggle to keep my chin held up to not give in to the emptiness of life to not surrender my soul to the darkness to not let go those happy moments to be devastated yet be alive. "Vincent let go of meeee" "Nosi !! You are safe here" Dineo said she is holding my hand "I'm sorry you were saying? She looked at me "Don't apologise you need to let it go of being scared. You can't leave in fear. And you can't let the past to hold on you move on Nosi do it for yourself and focus on your health" Dineo said "When will this end. I keep on seeing Vincent pushing me punching me shouting and kicking me" She bought me for a hug.

"I'm sorry Nosi. Everything will be okay" TO BE
CONTINUED Unedited

79 STHEMBISO How can Nwabisa put my daughter through that. I thought she loved me. Nana she's my one and only daughter. I learnt to be someone's father because of her. She's the gift of my family hence why I and my wife we didn't change her name Nandipha which refers to (we were given). However being her father taught me so many things and made me the man that I am today. As her father I've always secretly hated the fact that she was growing up because I knew that every passing moment brings me one step closer to the day when I will have to give her hand to another man. Tremblay he's a good guy. He seems to be a good guy. When Nana was a teenager she used to pretend she'd been loose in store and she can have anything she wanted I and the Mchunu's boys we reached my destination. We walked to the entrance to meet them ready to leave. "Going somewhere?"

In reaction Nwabisa just opened her mouth wider. They looked at each other. "Why? "I am deeply sorry that I hurt her. I know these words alone can't make things right. I want you to know how much I regret what I was angry that you choose her over me. I love you with all my heart and I will do whatever I can to make it up to you" Nwabisa said she kept quiet. "I don't believe this Nwabisa! You can't make a me to choose you over my own daughter. You beaten her up you've killed her inside. I've seen my daughter Nandi swimming in to depression but this time around you made sure that she drowned Nwabisa why? "I don't expect to be forgiven for what I've done. I just want you to know that she didn't deserve what I've put her through I am really sorry" Nwabisa said sulkingly "Don't tell me you are sorry Nwabisa. I gave you my heart and you had to heal it but you break it. While I had done all of the hard work to ensure that those little pieces were neatly being placed back together you managed to knock all that progress to the ground. I

will never understand what happened because I don't think you even do understand what have you done. You don't hurt people you love especially when you love a man you should learn to love him with his children. I hate the fact that right now I trusted you more than anyone in the world. While there were many cracks in my heart before I got to you you managed to shatter the remaining pieces. A part of me wonders if somewhere deep down you hated me? Maybe I was loving you and you didn't love me as you claim all you wanted from me was my assert I and my wife we worked hard for. I just can't believe that you went all the way to destroy me you had to lead me down a path. You made sure that you destroyed me and my daughter. I can't even look at you right now and I don't think I will ever do" I spat on the ground. Van Buren punches me I punches him back. "You son of a" Mpilo punched the hell from him they kept on returning the punch on each others face until Mpilo managed to throw few punches on his stomach he groaned in

pain before he fell on the ground. I looked at Sihle indicating him to stop his brother. He joined his brother. "Sthe they will kill him" Nwabisa said.

"Why didn't you tell him that he will kill my daughter? All I hope is that you figure out your own shit before you destroy yourself or worse

Sponsored another person again. I can't tell you that I don't hate you because I still fully do. I still cringe when I think about you. I still want to punch you in the throat when I remember all of the words you said and how you let me down extremely hard.

I wish your parents named you Saddness instead of Happiness" I can't even look at her right now. I hate her "Sihle!! Mpilo!" Sihle looked at me then he

stopped "Mpilo won't let him go until he's satisfied"

Sihle say _____ NANDIPHA I'm

destroyed. My fears define me this time I'm

destroyed I'm deterred and I'm defeated. My fears

has weaknesed me. Palisa and Mbuso are still here.

I closed my eyes. Trying to pickup all the broken

peaces this time it will be hard to place them

altogether. Here they are to rape me again this is not happening again. "Noo! Mommy... Ma...Babah...." (Screaming) "Mzala no one will hurt you. Mbuso do something" I can hear her but she's far I can't reach to her. "Mama!! You are safe now" I don't understand why don't Mbuso and Palisa Why are they shouting instead of helping me out. I need help I "They are here to finish what they have started help me Mbuso Daddy!!!" Screaming in fear. I felt Martin's warmth touch. I slowly opened my eyes. I looked at him then Mbuso. I'm still dizzy. "Where is Palisa? "Ssssh calm down Nandipha no one will hurt you ever again. Citizen! I'm here now your resident is here. Relax yourself no one will hurt you" Martin says he held me closely. I layed down still holding him he laid down next to me. Martin help me to sit up straight again "Here is what you will do now. Slowly breath in" Martin said. I did "Slowly breath out" Martin commanded. Which I did too. "Slowly breath in and out" Martin said. I did and I heavily sigh "Good. Now I want you to close

your eyes and let the pain out erase the those people in your mind" Martin said. He can't command to do that. Each time I close my eyes the reality kicks in. I look at him he held my hand and makes me lie down. "I will be right by your side" Martin said. I closed my eyes. "I don't see anything. I only see the darkness" "Take your own time. Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. There are darkneses in life and there are lights and you are one of the lights the light of all lights. Martin said holding my hand tightly. The scars were about to fade away. now I'm back to square one my mother she's not here to take me through the journey anymore. Scars are a natural part of the healing process. Most will fade although they never completely disappear. TO. BE
CONTINUED Unedited

80 NANDIPHA LATER Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls the most massive characters are seared with scars. "Don't open your eyes tell those

people how you feel" Martin said. I sigh I won't speak. I'm at the same room where I was tortured. the room was is fire. I had no words all want is to scream I feel like I will collapse on the spot before I get burnt What is happening? "Somebody help... No...." screaming I see my mother blocking this man trying to help. Why didn't she stop them before? Why now? When I already have the scars "Mum there are here to get me please help me please mum please" she hugged me. "Shhh... No one will get to you it's okay now let all the tears out Nandipha" She gave me the mother's hug "Mum they raped me. They've killed me" Crying "I'm sorry Nana I wasn't there to help you when you needed me. I was blocked to help you baby. Your father and to open your eyes. I had to make your father leave not that I didn't want him to be there for you but to protect him from that women. I want you to forgive yourself. Not everyone is out vthere to hurt you. You need to move on in life. Yes you got raped but you need to erase that movie playing in your head.

And pull yourself together my slender Given. Don't push Martin away he is a good man and he is what you've been needing all those years. You need to continue living your life trying to avoid the words 'I'm destroyed'. I'm now at peace Nana stop hurting now be my slender Given the strong given gift from God. People will call you spoilt brat but you are the strong spoilt women I ever known I have faith in you you will get through this you will you will beat this. No one will understand how strong you are beside those who are closed to you" My mother said. No word is coming out I'm losing my voice now. "And Nana don't sign your shares to anyone you don't give away the gift from me remember? She asked I nod. My mother believed in herself "All I want you to do now Given just don't give up be strong for your son your father and Martin if you stay strong they will be strong too but if you will dwell on defeat and loneliness they'll all fall apart Nana you are their weakness right now. I need you to stay strong for them I need you to help that

women in your house. Helping people it's in our
vain don't question yourself how? I didn't raise a
coward. I raised a woman the whole girl power for
that matter. You have the ability to make people
feel happy use that ability. And stay strong" my
mother said the room went smokey. "Please don't
leave me I'm scared" screaming MBUSO This
woman has been through a lot. She's been abused
emotional physical and mental. She need a break
from all of this. We looked at her worried the last
word we heard was 'somebody help' if she pull this
up without hurting herself. I will consider her strong
as a rock. We look at her as she moved then fastly
rose up "Mama don't leave me mahhhh!!!" Nandi
screamed opening her eyes "You stopped talking
what's wrong? I'm getting worried about her. Dr
Tremblay said she's ready to go home they've took
the rape kit. At first when she said four men raped
her I thought she was making a mistake. Then she
kept on saying that. Some people are heatless I
know I can be heatless but I can't watch someone

mistreating somebody else. "Right now I'm not your fiance I'm your Dr. I'm referring you to someone who will help you" Dr Tremblay says. She gave him a determined look "How many times should I tell you that I don't want to speak to a stranger. I don't want to tell strangers my problems" Nandi shouted "Okay breath Nandi. The person I'm referring you to is Mrs Tremblay" Dr Tremblay said. Nandi gave him the determined look again "I'm not meeting with your ex wife" Nandi said. She looked cute though I wanted to laugh but on this condition I can't. "Cuz just follow instructions once in your life" Palisa said "Right now I'm not your fiance I repeat you are my patient right now you are not going to meet with Nidia you will be meeting with psychotherapist Ashley Tremblay" Dr Tremblay said. She moved her head "Ms Zwane I'm not asking you I'm telling you. You are being discharged Mbuso will take you home I will join you later" Dr Tremblay said. He looked at me "Miss Zwane and Mr Zulu please go wait for her in the waiting area she will join you in a minute" Dr

Tremblay commanded. We nodded and walked out to my car "Mbuso do you think she will be fine?" Palisa asked "I don't think so I know so" "Aunt let's stay positive. Nandi she's a strong woman" "Yeah she is I just can't believe that advocate Sabela watched people doing that to Nandi" Palisa said. I see Dr Tremblay wheeling Nandi with a wheelchair she is laughing what ever Dr Tremblay is telling her it might tickling her. I sigh then opened the car for her "They highjacked me I took a week leave" Dr Tremblay said "I believe you Martin" Nandi said. Palisa and I looked each other. "Look at yourself you are so cute" I said we laughed "He's not my fiance right now he's my doctor" Nandi said laughing Dr Tremblay helped her to the car. He kissed her forehead "Life always offers you a second chances. It's called tomorrow. Sometimes in life you're not always given a second chace but if you do Sponsored but if you do take advantage of it and go out with a bang" Dr Tremblay said "I never got that chance each time I get that chance someone

blocked it and that someone is the devil himself"
Nandi said _____ NOSIPHO I keep on
seeing hit whenever I close my eyes. Nonjabulo and
Jubulile were helping Keitumetsi with her school
work. Philani was watching a movie. I was sitting
with Dineo playing cards. She shuffled them
repeatedly. Mr Zwane Sihle and Mpilo walked in.
She threw the cards and runs to Sihle "Sphe! What
happened? Dineo asks Philani made his way to "I'm
fine Dineo" Sihle said. She looked at her brother in-
law "I will get some ice and the first aid kit" Dineo
said running to one of the rooms "Mpilo you also
need anger management classes"Philani said yeah
he does. This is getting out of control this is not
Eshowe where he can do as he pleased. Philani he's
not the Philani I know he's no longer active. I'm sure
his mother's death played a role in him "If the police
didn't arrive on time I was ready to kill that busted"
Mpilo said sitting down "What happened? Philani
asked. Mpilo looked at him "Philani if you really
wanted to know you should've came with us" Mpilo

said his hand are trembling "Okay Mpilo breath" Mr Zwane said. He did "Now calm down he didn't mean any harm" Mr Zwane said. "Anything to drink? They all looked at me "Orange juice will do" Mr Zwane said. I don't understand this man he knows how to treat people he has humanity in him "Anything sis" Philani said. Guests are served they don't demand. I walked to the kitchen and open the fridge get the orange juice. I placed the 7 glasses on the tray and and walked back to the sitting room. Luckily I didn't break anything this time. I kept on breaking things lately I'm sure if I was working my bosses could've deducted my salary or worse lose the job Dineo is nursing Mpilo. She feels welcome in this house. I wish I can do too. I placed the tray on the coffee table. And poured juice for everyone and give each of them beside Mpilo and Dee "Thank you Mrs Zulu" Mr Zwane says "You welcome" he smiled. Palisa walked in followed by Mbuso who was helping Nandi. "Mbuso I can walk myself" Nandi said "Dr Zulu be gentle with her" Palisa said. We

looked at them. "Get lost cuz" Nandi said. Mr Zwane makes her a space for Nandi to sit on. "Thanks babah" Nandi said. "Anything for my Nana" Mr Zwane ask. She gave him a smile that made him smile too "I will be Nana till when dad? Nandi questioned. "Till I die Nana" Mr Zwane said "So slander Given name died too? Nandi asked. "Nana I miss her as you do. If she was here right now we could've all visited her favourite restaurant just to cheer her slander Given" Mr Zwane said "We can still do that dad" Nandi said. Mr Zwane smiled "Okay then everyone get ready" Mr Zwane said. I'm not going anywhere I don't want to be a burden. I'm afraid to be a package. Conquering the worst fears is absolutely possible with the right strategies mind-set and help. I've got this "Mrs Mchunu and Mrs Zulu get the kids ready we leaving in 30 minutes. No body will cook today" Mr Zwane add. Everybody has different fears so there's no one-size-fits-all example of how to challenging themselves to face

their fears. Nandi she has all the support she needs she will get over it. TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

81 NANDIPHA MONTH L A T E R Today is Nwabisa's second appearance before court. That woman had the nerve to deny everything she was granted bail on conditions. My heart plodded hardly I'm feeling a little nervous at that moment I don't know why? Martin stopped the car in-front of court he opened the door for me oh my goodness the reporters are already at the door with camera's and mics followed by lot of questions. Did I have to be an artist in the first place? It was just a hobby I never wanted or wished to be girl power. My father and I walked through the mist then into the court room where it seemed most of the people are here already to show their support my ex boyfriends colleagues and my family including Ashley Martin's mother I'm really blessed. My heart started beating up and down like a tennis ball as I saw Ernest with his friend Vincent as they walking in dressed up

they set on the front row where my father Ashley Martin she's my psychotherapist Mbuso Palisa and Ronald are sitted. Mbuso got up walked to his father Ernest he whispered something to them. He nod and smiled. I want to show this two what I'm made of. I looked at people as they entering in the court room. Who could have thought. My case had so many people to show their support. My fans came in numbers. It seems like almost the whole Johannesburg and Cape town wanted to be here and show me they gratitude and support at the same time. The judge entered the courtroom. The court clerk announced. "All rise. court is now in session. The honourable Judge Kyla presiding" Everyone rosed "You may all be seated. We are here gathered here for a case of Ms Nandipha Zwane she's a victim of being kidnapped and raped" the Judge said. He looked at me then Nwabisa. "Would the prosecutors like to make an opening statement? The Judge questioned "Yes your Honor" She answered. The judge allowed her to speak

"Your honor a month ago Ms Zwane was driven to work by her driver before they could reach to their destination they started to suspect that there was a car behind them and it was following them. They tried to call their loved ones but they couldn't reach them because the network connection was bad. The moment they tried to call the police for help it was already late because the abductor was already there wearing a fake police officer's uniform. He asked Ms Zwane to get out of the car she refused. He had to take action before he abducted Ms Zwane. And he took her to Ms Sabela's house where she was asked to sign over her shares to Ms Sabela and Mr Van Buren. Ms Zwane was beaten by Ms Sabela and she was tortured and raped by four men she watched those men raping her. Thank you Sponsored and raped by four men she watched those men raping her. Thank you your honor" The Prosecutors her statement has some holes. The Judge looked at Nwabisa and her lawyer. "Does the defendant have an opening Statement? The Judge

questioned "Your honor I stand firm and speak for my client she is the victim's family lawyer for years how can she hurt her own client" her lawyer questioned. The prosecutor looked at me. A tall white young man got up and made his way next to me he looked at me. He is wearing lawyers gown the last time I checked I told my father and Martin that I will represent myself. "The very same woman who asked the victim's father to choose between your client and my client" He was cut by Nwabisa's lawyer "Objection speculation" "Withdrawn I will rephrase. What I said is the truth" My unknown lawyer said "What I was trying to say is the same woman you are protecting today is the woman who goes around and sleep with everymen who's doing business with her father now she claims that she's been raped by four men in one day she's just claiming and she's trying to pin it on my client. How can you survive anxiety of four man in a month? Thank you" her lawyer said. Thanks Lord for this unknown lawyer I was going to run out of this room

"Let's here from Ms Zwane" the prosecutor said. She's the one who has my statement or maybe they've bribed her. "Your honor My client won't be speak until the suspect tells her side of the story on how did my client ended up in her house" My unknown lawyer said wonders shall never end. I didn't expect this. "Do you think the defendant has all the information that everyone wants to know? The Judge asked "We do not have all the information right now due to some circumstances they will be ready on the next appearance your honor" Her lawyer said. Oh well. Oh wow how professional? "We are not proceeding until my client's first demands are met. Do you see now people advocate Sabela here want's to turn my client like a liar. We have women and children out there who being kidnapped and raped each and every second and they are not safe with people like Ms Sabela walking around freely. We can't take that risk" My mistry lawyer said. I smiled a little "Let's take a break while the defendant and her lawyer

are fixing this. The case will proceed 30 minutes" The man said. After my mistry lawyer refused without the solid information from Nwabisa. I walked out of the box to the small room. Martin made his way in then my mistry lawyer followed. "Prosecutor Luther Tremblay" He introduced himself. Did he say Tremblay? I looked at Martin he nodded in confirmation "Luther he's the third born after me" Martin said. "And I'm not as sweet as my family I'm a peace of shit" Luther said. At least he said that himself. "Don't be scary I've got this" Luther added "Luther you can't just come here and say that I don't remember calling you or telling you anything about this case" Martin said. I smell jelouse here "This is not about you brother but our bride we need to work together on this matter" Luther said. Martin nod. So he doesn't have the information either? Anything that's human is mentionable and anything that is mentionable can be more manageable. When we can talk about our feelings they become less overwhelming less

upsetting and less scary. The people we trust with that important talk can help us know that we are not alone. "So she needs to write the the statment again? Martin asked Luther shook his head. "I've got this brother" Luther said then left us hanging with a question mark. _____ NOSIPHO I'm at peace Nandi's mother in-law and Mr Zwane are helping me and my children to get over what we've went through. Finally my children are going to school Mbuso he's the one who's paying for their school fees. And I'm also working as a tea laid at ZCCL. I'm so blessed I'm going to serve Vincent with the divorce papers I want nothing from him. I'm just praying and hoping that he doesn't take my children away from me. No I refuse that man holding my happiness I'm at peace. Now I can think of my life and myself riding on my dream car or unlocking the door of my new house. TO BE CONTINUED Unedited ee

82 NANDIPHA Pending case again. I'm doomed I want to reclaim my life. I keep glancing out through the window. Ashley she's the one who's driving me this time. Mbuso is behind us. She looks at me then smiled. I can't believe that she gave birth to five boys. "Make your first impression strong and firm enough to serve as a basis for subsequent ones" Ashley said. Communicating with this woman it's hard sometimes because she only throw her therapist theories at my face. "I will try to build up a large structure upon a poor foundation. And each time I revive an impression I will deepen on it but if I can only a dim impression to begin with the deepened impressions will not include details omitted in the first one." I answered she looked at me smiling "That's my girl" Ashley said squeezing my cheek I smiled "Thanks for being there for me I really appreciate it" she smile and focus on the road. To be honest with myself Martin he's no longer happy with me. I'm no longer myself too. "Ma! "Yes baby" Ashley said "Do you think Martin

will continue marrying me? She gave me a datemine smile "Why are you having second thoughts? Ashley questioned "I lost myself along the way of being raped all I'm trying is to find myself. I'm no longer sexually connected with him" "Love is not only about sex Nandi. Martin he's a doctor he understands what you are going through. I'm here to help you" Ashley said "You can't help me with this matter" She stopped the car on the pavement of my house she looks at me then held my arm. Everytime she does this she makes me miss my mother even more. My mother she was kind loving and caring and also humble like her. "A good amount of problems with a relationship can be sorted out easily by tacking the key issues that usually bring forth these problems.However when these key issues are not addressed and dealt with then the occurrence of stress becomes a norm and this is a rather unpleasant and potentially damaging situation to be in" Ashley said I nodded repeatedly. "You are a strong woman and that strong woman

deserves a strong man beside her and that man is Martin. You too support each other. Each and every relationships has ups and downs. Both parties should be made aware of the fact that it is almost always impossible to change another person overnight or even over a long period of time. Accepting this is the first step in managing the relationship without adding stress to the combination. And you did that now it's his time to work toward coping with the existing situation instead of trying to force a change will be a lot easier and certainly less stressful. Changing oneself is definitely more doable that attempting to change someone else. Sometimes as people we are not naturally mind readers and we expect the other party to be able to feel read and understand everything the partner is going through Sponsored without actually having assistance of verbal communication would be very unreasonable indeed. When this is a common practice the party that is at a disadvantage because he in unable to

read the relationship signs he will become very stressed out when discontent and quarrels start. Therefore you need to practice to communicate with him" Ashley said. Sometime the practice of writing down thoughts about the relationship will help to put things in a better perspective. Indeed I need to communicate with my partner.

_____ NWABISA I got into my house. I Jacob and Andrew the abductor man we don't appear on court on the same day. I've ruined my career with cruelty. I've paid the prosecutor to twist her statement. Since she said she will represent herself. But my plans failed. Tremblay never lost a case I'm in deep shit. My next appearance before court will be in two weeks time. My lawyer entered. "Nwabisa is there anything you are not telling me? He asked I looked at him "No why? "We both know Luther Tremblay he doesn't represent his clients without a solid evidence. For him to be there he already has the evidence. Now tell me everything" my lawyer commanded. I will have to

get rid of him. I'm a breadwinner my father won't survive if I get arrested. "I've told you everything. Nandi didn't like the idea that I was involved with her father" she nodded "She told me straight in my face that no one will replace her mother and she will make sure of that that's why she pinned me with this rape and kidnapped case" "I believe you advocate Sabela I never doubt your prosecution don't make me do that now" He said. I don't imagine myself imprisonment. That will be hell of experience I've send so many people in there some are innocent and some were not. _____

NANDIPHA (AN HOUR LATER) We are having dinner with my family Nosipho and her children and the Tremblays. "Flis how did you find out about the court case? Son Alex asked his son "I'm one of Nandi's followers on social media. I came across the pending of the case. Where mom and Martin reacted and commented. I did my own findings I've already spoken to the abductor and some of Nwabisa's security guards" Luther said we all looked

at him "Did you have to ambush us like that? "My apologies about that. I couldn't just sit and looked at that prosecutor for nothing trying to make Nandi look like she kidnapped herself" Luther said. Now that he mentioned it the prosecutor was just throwing me under the bus "What are those findings you talking about? Martin questioned "I can't discuss that with you brother but have faith in me. I have the solid evidence on this case" Luther said. I looked at my father he nod "So you were stalking on Nandi? Martin asked. Coming up with solutions rather than focusing on the problem may also be another route to take when it comes to addressing anger issues. If the individual is occupied with finding a solution then there is less likelihood of the mind dwelling on the negativity of the problem which contributes to the anger. "I will never do that. As I said I did my research and believe me when I say I have a strong case against Ms Sabela and Van Buren" Luther said. "As long as we win the case son" my father utters We all nod

"Are you a lawyer? Mbuso asked "No I'm a prosecutor but on this case I will represent Ms Zwane as her lawyer" Luther answered. People sometimes say that the world would have been a wonderful place if it was not for people on it. Well the earth is created for people and we are now here with a lot of people. Not so long I was all alone trembling on my past sorrows than I came face to face with those sorrows after I intimated foreplay with my son. Now I'm facing another sorrow. I felt someone's hand drying off my tears. I blinked. "It's okay Mama everything will be fine" Mbuso said. "What was your father doing there? I questioned. Nosipho and Philani looked at me. They were not there "I was also surprised too" Mbuso answered. Sihle shook his head "Excuse me" Nosipho said getting up then left. The first lesson I've learned from Ashley is that I must always put myself health and well-being first. Nothing is more important than being stress free and keeping on dwelling on my

past that will torn me apart. TO BE CONTINUED
Unedited.

83 MBUSO Once someone's hurt you it's harder to relax around them harder to think of them as safe to love. I spent two hours thinking about Luther being a prosecutor and he stated that he never lost a case with van Buren case taught me not to trust anyone around my mother. Anyway with that two hours I came across this article on google while trying to understand this Luther guy. Prosecutor is a lawyer that works for a prosecutors office which is essentially government law firm whose only client is the State and the State pays the prosecutors office to uphold it's laws. A lawyer is a person who is licensed to practice law. So the is nothing dodge about him for now. I'm just protecting my mother. A man will treat his girlfriend how he treats his mother right? Nandi she's teaching me how how to treat a woman and she's not even aware of that. I'm meeting up with my father and grandfather in 30

minutes. And I've to convince my step mother to come with me. That will be hard I will figure something out. For now I'm meeting with Mr Zwane best grandfather ever at his office. I knocked "In" Nandi invited me in "Mbuso is everything okay? Nandi questioned constantly "He's part of this meeting Nana" Mr Zwane said. She looked at me I shrugged "What is this all about babah" Nandi asked. Mr Zwane instructed me to sit down I pull out the chair and sat on it "Now that you all here I would like to thank you both for taking care of this company. While I was away" Mr Zwane said. Nandi and I looked at each other "Nana this company never belonged to me" Mr Zwane said. Nandi's eyes widened "Father" Nandi said. he cuts her "Nana let me finish then you will ask questions after I'm done talking" Mr Zwane ordered Nandi nodded repeatedly "As I was saying this company belonged to your mother. My 45 percentage of shares I was keeping them for you Nana" Mr Zwane said. What I'm I doing here again? "I'm giving my company

portion to Mr Zulu here" Mr Zwane said. While he handed me the white A4 envelope. "Dad you can't do that" Nandi said. Mr Zwane cut her "Don't mention your cousins name or your aunts this company doesn't belong to me I know and I believe if mommy was here she would've wanted me to do this" Mr Zwane said "But Mr Zwane you" he cuts me too "Don't worry about me. I'm sure Nana told you that I owe a hotel" Mr Zwane said I nodded. "I sincerely wish you continued success in all your future endeavors remember to be there for each other" Mr Zwane says "Dad is everything okay? Nandi questioned with tears on her face "Yes Nana. Believe me when I say I have a New company running at Kansas City. Which needs my fully attention. After your wedding day I'm going back at Kansas City" Mr Zwane said. "Thanks dad I don't have much to say" Nandi said. I don't know what to say either. Mr Zwane looked me "I will guide you each step of the way. Remember I'm the one who interviewed you you mentioned that you want be

your own boss this is a new start. Don't be afraid of challenges you face along the way. Not every obstacle has the potential to hurt you. It's all about perspective. Recognize the wall in front of you as an opportunity to grow. "I can't expect the offer" I handed him the envelope. This man and Nandi are a blessing I don't want people to think that I'm taking advantage of their kindness. First Nandi gave me her car and the apartment then they helped my step mother with a job not to mention that Mr Zwane he's the reason why my siblings are at school right now. "Judging yourself can only bring you down. As you reinforce your mindset with positivity your sense of self will change for the better along the way. Take this opportunity and grow from it" Mr Zwane said "Mbuso he insist grab this opportunity with both warm hands" Nandi said "Can I think about it? "Take as much time as you want Mbuso. Sometimes in life Sponsored you have to make decisions that are best for you not for everyone else. Not for anyone but just you" Mr

Zwane said. "Okay dad can I go now? Nandi asked "Where to? "To visit my psychologist" Nandi said "Meaning that she's her mother in-law. Nana I didn't buy this grey hair I'm old" Mr Zwane said we chuckled. "Dad please. Mbuso talk to him please" Nandi begged. Mr Zwane smiled and looked at me "Mbuso what do you say? Mr Zwane asked. "How will you get there? "I will catch a taxi" Nandi responded "Are you willing to take that risk? "That being said there are people who are natural risk takers as well as people who are very risk adverse. Therefore neither type of risk personality in and of itself provides an advantage over the other when it comes to risk management. A risk taker can just as easily overreach themselves as a risk adverse person can under reach themselves" Mr Zwane said. "Who is Mr Zwane? "I get that a lot son. I'm a life coach beside being me" Mr Zwane said "Dad... Mbuso please" Nandi begged "My answer is no Nana. Ashley was at your house yesterday why didn't she mentioned that she wants to see you" Mr

Zwane said "I'm old enough to make...." Nandi said I cut her "I will drive you there" "Nana your safety comes my priority" Mr Zwane said "I understand dad" Nandi said. How I wish Vincent can meet me and my sisters half way like this man does.

_____ NOSIPHO Palisa is showing me how to use a computer. I must admit it's easy than I thought. I'm typing a document it's just a draft "You must always remember to save the document you are working on. In case you experience power failure the document will be saved" Palisa said. I must say I like this company because we are allowed to do multiple tasks as long as it won't affect my work. Mbuso and Nandi walks to us "Always name your document when you save" Palisa said. Each time says something I'm doing it "Well well well we have a great teacher here" Nandi said "Don't start mzala" Palisa said "I hope she's doing great though" Mbuso said "Believe me Mbuso when I say your mother she's a fast learner" Palisa said. Everyone calls me Mbuso's mother. Mr Zwane

suggested that I must apply for adult night school. How will that work? When my daughters are doing their school work I will be doing mine it's going to be hard "Thanks aunt can I steal her for an hour" Mbuso said. "Yeah sure" Palisa said. I reached my cellphone on the desk. I first cellphone. No wonder where Mbuso and his mother are taking me to. We got to his car he opened the door for me and Nandi. We headed the road. Nandi is on her phone busy blushing. Mbuso steal a glance at her through the mirror. He shook his head and smiled. "Mbuso drop me at Sibza's club" Nandi said "Huh" Mbuso responded "You heard me drop me at Sibza's club I will find Martin there" Nandi said rolling her fabulous eyes "Okay lucky we are going there" Mbuso said. What I'm I going to do at the club? He drives in silent until we reached our destination. He found a spot for his car. He opened the door for us. We got in to the club. When people saw Nandi they immediately started shouting her stage name "Girl power" "My crush" "Girl Power" She looked waved

her hand until she's spotted on Ashley and Martin. This people were saying their crush and her fiance he's here. She walked to them. I looked at Mbuso "What I'm I doing here? "My father wants to talk to you. Don't worry I will be here" Mbuso said. We walked to an empty table. I heard his voice calling Mbuso on the other table. He was with Mr Mchunu I sigh in relief We walked to them. Mbuso pulled a chair for me. I sitted I'm getting to use on this lifestyle. "Where are my girls? Vincent asked. This man will never change. "Daddy we talked about this" Mbuso said TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

84 NANDIPHA I don't know how do I feel right now. The fact that I'm going to meet Martin's house doesn't sound well. Every human countenance shows its past history to one who knows how to look for it. Maybe my father was right. We got to this big house surly my house is big but not this big. I sigh his mother looked at me. It seems like I just applied for a lecture right now. "Make your first

impression strong and firm enough to serve as a basis for subsequent ones" Ashley said. "Welcome to the Tremblays mention" Ashley added. I must admit she wants me next to her. "Nandi you are not just my patient or daughter in law. You are my daughter that I never had before. You never disrespected me. You take my orders as there are. And you are doing that right don't doubt yourself. And I'm happy that you are there for my son you never complained about his job" Ashley said. Second rule in a relationship is to support my partner especially in times of stress and illness career and other aspirations. "He's been there for especially where I thought life was worth noting. He is there" "Every relationships are completely different. And I believe your relationship with my son is going to be a successful one. You know why? Ashley questioned. "Why? "Because you too love each other. It is after all two different people with two different personalities. You compliment each other in different ways and that works for your

relationship" Ashley said. I nod "Shall we? Ashley asks as soon as she saw her son pulling his car next to us. I nod. She unlocked the doors. I opened and get out of the car. She looked at me. "Next time you wait for me to open the door for you" Ashley said. "I will keep that in mind Ma" I never heard her speak Franch like her son does. Martin walks to us He is holding my hand bag. I'm sure if he was an African race his parents were going to say I have bitwicked their son. NOSIPHO Unfortunately Sponsored career and other aspirations. "He's been there for especially where I thought life was worth noting. He is there" "Every relationships are completely different. And I believe your relationship with my son is going to be a successful one. You know why? Ashley questioned. "Why? "Because you too love each other. It is after all two different people with two different personalities. You compliment each other in different ways and that works for your relationship" Ashley said. I nod "Shall we? Ashley asks as soon as she saw her son pulling his car next

to us. I nod. She unlocked the doors. I opened and get out of the car. She looked at me. "Next time you wait for me to open the door for you" Ashley said. "I will keep that in mind Ma" I never heard her speak Franch like her son does. Martin walks to us He is holding my hand bag. I'm sure if he was an African race his parents were going to say I have bitwicked their son. NOSIPHO Unfortunately I cannot have a brain autopsy and forget about how did this man put me through but I can leave these things in the past and move forward with my future. I can never forget but I can forgive right? He looked at me he's burning anger. "Mbuso this was not a good idea at all" "How long are you planning to keep my girls away from me? Vincent asks. He's he serious right now. "It was not a good idea Ma" Mbuso said. I refuse to let this man control me ever again. I looked at him as he's giving me a death stare "Vincent I will get my lawyer to proceed with the divorce papers" He got choked by his coffee. He look so suprised he never thought that I will say this

words one day. This is the man who would remind me that I have no where to go each and every chance he got. "You can't afford a lawyer Nosi" Vincent said. I didn't mean to laugh but I find myself laughing "You very fun Zulu. Just because you kept me as a prisoner in your house for years that doesn't mean I don't know my rights" I said. To be honest I never knew them before how was I going to know them while I was not allowed to socialise with people. I was not even allowed to watch a TV because it was going to ritive my rights "Nosi I'm still your husband" Vincent said. He wants Nandi to remind him that he's her fake ex husband "Come again my what? My phone starts ringing. I checked it oh my goodness I will lose my job it's Mr Zwane. "Excuse me" I excused my self from them. I answered "Hello" "How things are going there? Mr Zwane asked. So Mbuso told him about this meeting "I don't know" "Mbuso mentioned something about you will be meeting up with your husband" Mr Zwane said. He cared a lot about

other people than himself. And that worries his daughter too much "Oh yeah that. I just told him that I want to divorce him" "It's that your final decision? And you are sure about that? Mr Zwane questioned. I nod as if he can see me "I'm definitely sure" "This is going to be a long journey for it to be finalized. So you need to make sure before we involved the attorney firm" Mr Zwane said. Did he say 'we'? "I never been sure about something than this one" "Okay remember that the kids will be involved in this mess he won't let you go without a fight. But remember this you have much support you need from me and my daughter" Mr Zwane said. I worn my perfect smile ever. MBUSO I'm sure Vincent he's burning fire. I looked at him staring at his wife. Who ever called her bought smile in her face and that made someone's father to wear his serious face as always. Oh my poor father. "Father!! He didn't respond Ernest looked me he doesn't care how his friend feel "Mbuso thanks for your hospitality if you were not here we were going to

spend our night at park station. Since everyone doesn't care about us" Ernest said "They was no ways I was going to let you do that. You came all the way to support my mother without any doubt and that I appreciate much" I know that Ernest came all the way to support Nandi and my father on the other side he's just trouble. Nosi made her walks back. She sat down. "Sorry about that" Nosipho said "Who was calling? Vincent asks he's not serious right now "Since I don't have a lawyer that was my life coach" Nosipho said in confidence. "Mbuso don't worry about collecting the kids it's all taken care of" Nosipho said making my father jelouse. I love my father but deserves this right now "I want to see my kids MaNkosi" Vincent said. Finally I got to know her surname "You will see them but not now they are still exploring the new environment I would like you to give my children time to heal. They will come to you during school holidays" Nosipho said "I'm not going down without a fight" Vincent said "Is this a fight? Nosipho questioned

"Mkhulu let's excuse them" he nodded we got up I looked at Nosipho "I will be in that empty table if you need me just shout" she nod "Father don't be hard on yourself me and my sisters we can even come to pay you a visit this Friday" he looks at me before he nod. I know he wants me to go move TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

86 NANDIPHA He picked me up and carried into his bedroom. The music is playing softly on the room. ☺Brown skin girl .your skin is like pearls best thing in the world never trade you for enyebody else ☺ "Just a second" Martin murmured he set me down on the huge king size bed. He disappeared then came back with bottle of champagne. Are we celebrating something? "And what are we celebrating my love? I asked pressing a damp palms against my thighs as I knelt on his bed. He looked at me "Forget it Nandi we are not going to drink it" Martin say he raced his fingers on my cheeks. My body tremble like a gitter. I'm not prepared for this. I gulped in breath as he

set the bottle on the floor beside the bed and he sank his knee down between my thighs. He then move my fingers to his bottons of his shirt. "Take it off" Martin invited me to take it off shirt. his voice is dropping. "And I will show you" he added. I followed his instructions I don't think I will ever satisfy him as I used to satisfy him before. It's been a month since we had our special intimate. My heart skirted in my chest as he lean over for a kiss oh my gosh he arched my neck he's showing no mercy. Martin he's full of surprises. His teeth nipped my bottom lip demanding to enter at the same time. He slid his arms down over my back over to my butt and thighs he then brought them back up sliding my dress to close over my rounded curves of my bare bottom "My.... Citizen" My voice is breaking. he lifted his head and gazed at me "We can stop if you are not ready to" Martin said "Take me to your world" I said sedutive. He lifts me I'm straddling him. I shivered as he settle against his hard rock my brain is shutting down completely. I

just want him inside me "Nandi I want you to be sure about this" Martin said. "Just let Nandi do what she's capable of" He must let me take a full control. I moved my hands to his belt and yanked it open. He swift intake of a breath as I undid the button of his pants and I slides the zipper down. I reached into his rock. "My citizen you need to be ready for me" Martin groaned. I'm now his heart just like that? "Just shut up" He drown himself in. He sat back and braced his arms on his bed and glued at me as I lift my dress and brought the aroused I look at his hard rock I closed my eyes saying a little prayer how long should I hold on that four men who raped me? I need to reclaim the old Nandi. I moved my hand on his rock I rubbed it whilst my eyes were fluttering open. The memory of those men visited. I will deal with that after my incounter "Relax I won't hurt you" Martin said. The fact that I was raped and I'm still holding to that I love this man and right now I'm falling deeply in love with him again. Being raped is a soul destroyer tenderness of a gesture. I

took a deep breath refusing to go there. I reached down. He took inch by inch I'm in control. I let out the sigh of pleasure. He gives me a strained look. "Are you alright? Martin questioned I nodded. He looked at me with a heavy lidded desire that made me more horny. I closed my eyes. And I start to move rotating my hips allowing him deep inside me. The song is still playing softly. "Brown skin girl .your skin is like pearls best thing in the world never trade you for enyebody else " He held my chin with his fingers "Look at me my heart I want to see this fabulous eyes of yours" Martin said. People keep on saying that my eyes are fabulous. I opened them I let the heat and focus on his gaze as I rode him. This will be experiment of a life time "Mar...tin take me to your world" the thick of his muscles of his biceps flexed against the bed. "You so good" Martin said his voice was bit out "Make me feel so good too" I whispered. I rode him harder and faster until his groan became short. I just want him to be happy and be part of me. I pressed him down

to hard. The more he groaned was the more I took him again and again. The pleasure taking over "Nandi! Martin groaned "Shut up" I sank my fingers in his rock. He finally ragged his breath and pushed me to the other side. So I can't be in control for once in life time "Don't ever lose control like that" he growled. So I lost control maybe if it was a car I was going to crash with him. I bit my lower lip dropping a gaze to his dark curl hair. He tip up my chin to look at him "Are you sure about this? Martin questioned then he slid his fingers under the straps of my dress and pushed it off my shoulders with a deliberate movement. "Let's play then" Martin said. I've been waiting for this moment. He moved his hands to my thighs and urged me to in my knees. He putted my hands over my head he yanked my dress off leaving me with a lacy bra. He set his arm on my chest and pushed me sending me back. He picked up the bottle of champagne I've forgotten about it. He straddled the bottle in my hand. He tipped the bottle upside down and spilled the liquid

over me. I lie on my back and enjoy the moisture that is all over body . He licked my body with his tongue. He is final in. He started moving slowly shaking his waist in a circle movement it felt so good. The moisture of my coochie is making the pleasure even more. "I love you Nandi and I want you to know that I'm not going anywhere. I want you to be my wife friend and family. Don't doubt my love for you" Martin said. He makes me kneel down ass up chest down doggy style. "Ahhhh I....Ohhh baby... Martin!" I'm so tired at the same time it feels good. "I love you" Martin uttered "I....I love you too" He was hitting each and every corner there is to my vagina Sponsored kissing my neck my lips. "No!! Ahhhh yes no....oooohh okay Nandi...Mon amor...mmm!! " Martin said.(my love) "Mahhhh" This drivers him to the crazy. "Remind me again to get you the after pill" He whispered that into my ear. He then walked with me back to the bed We laid there trying to catch our breaths. "You drive me crazy mon amor" (my love) Martin whispered again.

I smiled and rested my head on his chest. "I love you" "I love you more than I love myself" Martin said. How could someone love someone else more than he loves himself. He kissed my forehead.

"Standwa saka" (my love) Martin said making me laugh. Not that he can't say the word 'sami' just that he enjoy seeing me laughing. _____

PALISA ZWANE We sit silently in the car. We only ask for an hour lunch it seems it will be more than that. I steal a glance at Mpilo's uncle. He is quite I'm sure he wants to be out of here. Kwanda cleared her throat. I looked at her "My friend will Mbuso ever forgive me? Kwanda questioned. I swallowed "We just known him for few months Kwanda we both don't know him that much" she look at me and nod "I wish I knew that he is related with Nandi" Kwanda said. "Yeah that's true but you made the wrong mistake by slapping Nandi and you are still getting punished for that we both know that Nandi doesn't forgive that easily and you are lucky because she didn't stab you or suspend you at

work" I said. Mr Mchunu cleared his throat.

"Remind me again Nandi and hate. When she hate with all her heart and when she loves she loves with all her heart and soul to. I never thought that one day I will be on the other hand of her" Kwanda said. Truth to be told Nandi she has a good heart like her parents just that they don't want anyone to take their kindness for granted. Mbuso made his way. He opened the door and gets in. Did he left that man alone with his mother? I looked at him as he sit next to his grandfather. "Grandpa I think now it's time for you to leave I hope the money that I gave this morning it will be enough" Mbuso said "It will be enough Mbuso. And thanks again for your kindness and hospitality" Mr Mchunu said "You are my grandfather and Vincent he's my father I cannot runaway from that I won't let you guys sleep on the street while I have an apartment to take you guys in and I will do anything in my power to be there for my family and loved ones" Mbuso said. "Kwanda and Palisa can you drive my mother back to the

office while I drive my father and my grandfather to bus station? Mbuso asks. Kwanda and I look at each other and we both nodded. "I'll pass at Pep store and get her a new phone" Mbuso said. "We are meeting with the inspector in 2 hours from now" Kwanda said. I guess she wants to hear how will he responds her "I will be at the office before you know it" Mbuso said. He look at his grandfather "You ready? Mbuso asked. Mr Mchunu look at us "You too keep it up" Mr Mchunu said. We looked at each other "Aunt be safe" Mbuso said. I nod they got out. I looked at Kwanda before we sat up straight "Don't worry he will come around"

Happiness however is to be found in service. Not if we seek happiness in service and serve in order to be happy but if we serve others for the sake of serving we find the only happiness that will endure and satisfy. Mbuso's mother made her way into Kwanda's car. "Where is Lwando? "He's gone that means you will drive Pali" Kwanda said. Aunt Elizabeth death got people scared. I was expecting

Nandi to be this scared. "Urite mamzo? (Are you alright mam) I asked she nodded. TO BE

CONTINUED Unedited

87 NANDIPHA Later On. Family is the first essential cell of human society. A happy family is but an earlier heaven. We have our little conversation with my future in-laws. The conversation was more about the wedding. Luther joined us this time around "Plutonium wedding package for 100 to 150 max. It will include the venue setup foodlights and soundinvitation and souvenir emcee full photo and video coverage Sponsored flower setup and entourage package" Ashley said. Whilst looking at the catalogue this is the sixth catalogue comparing the service "The cost of the package? Martin and Alex his father questioned "Booking will cost 55K" Ashley said "Mum I want the full package cost" Martin half shouted at his mother. "R500 00" Ashley said. Martin looked at his father then his little brother they both nodded "Perfect" Martin said.

Excuse me? Don't I have a word on this matter? This reminds me how my father made me an CEO he knew very well that I didn't wanna work for a high position but still he made me to. I feel sorry for Mbuso he will accept those shares and he won't know what hit him. I smiled "I've noticed one thing about our bride son. She make us smile. It seems so natural talent to make people around her happy. I'm sure she has a good heart that has full of love" Alex said. He just met me and now he noticed something about me. In-laws suppose to be giving me a ill treatment right? But this one is way too welcoming and friendly. Maybe when times goes they will change. "Indeed dad she's famous and has loving heart and soothing words. She's well known by her fans her family and friends and right now I want her to be known by everyone in my family too I want all my brothers to meet this beautiful flower I picked up on the Zwanes garden" Martin said kissing my palm. "Bienvenue Nandi" (welcome) His parents and Luther said. His other brothers are at

Canada. "Thanks" The door swung open a young white woman walked in she's beautiful with a blond long hair like she just walked out of the magazine. Suddenly everyone's facial expressions changed. Did I miss something? "Bonjour family" woman said. They all seem fidgety. "Okay we no longer knock in this house?" Luther questioned. She looked at him. "I didn't say you must stare at me. Just turn back use the same door you entered with to exit yourself and knock" Luther said. She looked at Martin he raised both his hands. "Mari" (husband) that came as a whisper. Is she what I think she is. She's his ex wife. I don't want to be caught in a cross fire that's the last thing I want. "Don't Mari me just do as he says" Martin said. So she was hoping that he will defend her. She drag her feet out. Martin looked me "Ngabe uzizwa kanjani? (Are you alright) Martin asked. I just nod. No explanation for what just happened I'm holding my laughter the one lesson that my mother taught me when it comes to first date with my in-law I must be myself

as I am just that I should not be louder and I must be polite as I can be with my words as well as my actions. The door bell rings. They all looked at Martin he shrugged. "I will get that" Luther said getting up What's all with the drama? "When will the wedding take place? Ashley said. Martin looked at me. "In two weeks time" Martin said. What happened to 2 months time what's the rush. Luther came back with Martins ex wife. He sit down. She pulled out a chair and sit too. The tension in room I don't wish to be here anymore. Maybe it was a bad idea coming here. Luther cleared his throat. We looked at him. "Martin! our bride has something on her eye can you remove that please" Luther said. "Oh look at me" Martin said. I turned and looked at him. Instead of him removing whatever was on my eye he kiss me. What? Me and my stupidity erotic throughness that made me kiss him back and want him all over my slim body again. "I feel you son" Alex said. I pulled away the kiss. Why are they doing this? Martin cleared his throat. "As I was saying

she's herself and understand that my job has crazy hours and demands" Martin said. What happened to Martin that I know who doesn't want to see other people sad because clearly the one who's next to me. He's not my doctor. "I hope the fire doesn't burn that love you have for each other. What do you think Ashley? Alex asks "Indeed I like the electronic spark they have" Ashley said. Like really now. Luther just laughed he's the one who started this and he's enjoying. "Ummm" poor woman said. Then she stands up and walk to the stairs. "Nadia where do you think you are going? Luther questioned. She turned and she gives us imploring look "To my room of course" Nadia said. "You don't have a room in this house. Infact who invited you this is house" Martin roared. My heart pounded in my chest. Is this my Martin? "Uhm... I ..." Words failed. He bought me closer and hugged me. "I'm sorry sthandwa sami or should I say standwa saka?(My love) Martin murmured.

MBUSO The pain of regret can

result in refocusing and taking corrective action or pursuing a new path. I shouldn't have trusted my father when he asked me to meet with his wife. I thought I was doing the right thing by both of them. I got to my office. I find Kwanda searching on my files "What are you spying on those files? She stopped and looked at me. "The inspector disapproved the site" Kwanda said. "What brings you in my office? "I'm looking for the previous site plan that's need to be drawn again" Kwanda said. I clap my hands twice taking a sit. "The last time I checked you were appointed as an health and safety supervisor to ensure the precautionary measures that are taken by the employer are implemented and carried out at the workplace. Your responsible is to enforce the necessary control measures necessary in interest of workplace health and safety" I hate the fact that I love her and I'm scared to keep her too. They is no women in this world that I can love like I loved Nandi. Each time I looked at Nandi I see the very

same woman I was involved with. When I got to Gauteng. She's the first and last women who made me feel like a man. "Mbuso I know that you want nothing to do with me. But this isn't about you. This is about work" Kwanda said. I shake my head "Just get out" she looks at me. "Why do you hate me that much? Kwanda questioned. I look at her "Why Mbuso? Kwanda whispered "You want know why? She nod and sit down. Who invited her to sit? "You are not the person I thought you were. Who in the world beat her boss? "Mbuso I've apologies and I'm getting punished for what I did the least you can do is to work with me as a team and stop being cold towards me. Emsebenzini kufuneka sishiye iiyantlukwano zethu kanye xa singena esangweni" (At work we have to let go of our differences as soon as entered at the gate) Kwanda said. That is clear enough the is no need for her to say it in xhaosa "I will keep that in mind next time" I said "Leave Kwanda" I added. It's all my father's fault I was fine until he fucked up. NANDIPHA Next day. I

slept over at his family's house. Nidia did too that mad me mad I don't know why because she used a guest room. Martin firstly drove me home to change my dress. Then he was driving me to work in silently. "I'll say this again Nandi stop being mad at me I didn't invite that women over" Martin said. I kept quiet as he stop at the ZCCL building. I look at him then opened the door and get out. I take my handbag and slammed the door. Martin slammed the staring. I gets to the reception Pricilla is the one who was handling the reception. "Good morning Mrs Keena" "Morning boss lady. Mr Zwane said you must be at his office as soon as you gets here" Pricilla said my heart skipped as I remembered that I didn't inform him about the sleeping arrangements at the Tremblays. I walked to the lift and punched the floor number. Suspicion always haunts the guilty mind. I get to his office without knocking. He is with Mbuso they were having a coffee with sandwich. "Good morning good people" I greeted "Morning mama" Mbuso greeted me back

and pulled out a chair for me to sit on. I seated my father just gave me a determined look. "Babah I'm sorry" I'm I applying for early in the morning lecture "Nana. The first rule of saying you are sorry is to rectify the mistake you did and you ensure that you'll never repeat the same mistake. Don't make me to regret allowing Martin to stay with us" my father said. Let's hope he doesn't suggest that Martin should move out he can't travel everyday from Pretoria to here my phone started ringing. I checked it's Martin I rejected his call. "Tell me now why didn't you come home last night? My father asks "We lost track of time" "And you lost your phone too? To inform me that you won't be coming home" dad said. I'm a grown woman for heaven's sake and a mother to a 30 years old man. I looked at Mbuso he gave me he look at me that makes me to do something that I still regret even today. I got up "Excuse me" Without love there would be no music. There would be no family no society no passion. There would also be no war. How can I put the love

I have for this boy as my son. "Nana!!" My father shouted. He banged his desk as I walk to the door "Sorry Nana" how disrespecting is that? He's my father I should be always obey his rules. TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

88 NANDIPHA I kneel and caress the corner of my mother's grave. I sigh with longing sobbed. "I miss you each and every passing day. I still can't believe that you are gone to soon. You were only my friend you were going to guide me to the right path. Some of the thing I cannot communicate with dad Palisa or Dineo my sister in law. It saddens me that you never met my son whom I fell in love with I loved. I'm still attracted to him" I cried "Looked at me I'm even crying. I feel like I'm talking to you right now" Ever has it been that love knows not its own depth until the hour of separation "I'm not sure if I should carry on marrying Martin. I love him mom but I don't want to be the reason for his ex wife tears" Why isn't she answering me. "Mommy please talk

to me. Guide me to the right path. What should I do mommy? I feel the smoothness of the marble beneath I guess she's hearing me. NWABISA My defendant walked in. He doesn't seem so pleased. He looked at me. "Nwabisa I cannot be your representative anymore" my lawyer said. I looked at him "You lied to me. The state has a strong case against you and Jacob. You are a lawyer for heaven's sake you know the rules. You as suspect you were not allowed to be in contact with the prosecutor hence why Tremblay will be representing that girl" my lawyer said. I won't go down without a fight. "If you dare walk away from me. I'm not going to be the only one who will be losing my career" "Is that a threats? He asks I looked at him "It's a warning" "Watch me as I walk out" he said walking out. I'm doomed. I know very well that Sthembiso won't let the case to be cold. I need to get rid of Sthembiso and the witnesses permanently. I took Sthembiso's picture "Let the game beggin" as I kissed the picture.

_____ STHEMBISO Did I say something to push her away? Did I have to be hard on her? I will never forgive myself if something happened to my daughter. I shouldn't have shouted her. She's been gone for almost 3 hours since she walked out of my office. She left her phone at my desk. I walked to the reception. "Palisa no sign of your cousin" "No I haven't seen her today" Palisa said. "Where is Mbuso?" "I guess in his office. He's been busy on drawing a plan for the past 3 hours" I like how the boy is passionate about his job. There's nothing called a perfect parent But I give myself a credit I'm a great father. To be a good father it requires that fathers defer many of their own needs and desires in favor of the needs of their daughter. Mbuso walks to us "Palisa I need 5 copies of this" Mbuso said handing Palisa a file. I look at him. "Mr Zwane are you alright? Mbuso questioned. "Nandi hasn't come back" "Have you tried calling her? Palisa asked. "She left her phone on my office" Mbuso looked at me "Have you tried calling the Tremblays?"

Mbuso questioned. They are the ones I've been communicating with. How is this possible? Why didn't God take me instead of my wife. "She's not there" _____ NOSIPHO There was no need for me to take a day off. I can't believe Vincent embarrassed me. Life is sometimes tough. Sponsored it takes time to get for it to be a fairy tale. I look at the new cellphone that Mbuso bought for me to replace the phone that his father damaged. I tried to stop him but he insisted. I learnt as I get older the rules that made me broken. I must be bold enough to grain straighten like a brave women does. NANDIPHA She was always there for me. No matter now that she's gone no women will love me unconditionally and takes my retaliation with a smile. I'm sure everyone is worried sick about me. I walked in to the reception. "Let's all calm down she will be back" Palisa said. "Her life is in danger Pali" my father said. "Well she's right father" I said. They turned and looked at me. I walk to them "Where have you been nana? "I was with my

mother" they look at me like I'm a mad woman. "I needed to talk to her since no body will understand what I'm going through" my father walks to me he hugged me. "Nana don't you ever do that" Dad said "I promise I won't do that. But going there bought a smile joyful and peace it also bought comfort and our memory alive and strong" "Thats good let's go home Nana" Dad suggested. He let go of me "I need my stuff dad" I said as I looked at Mbuso. Why I'm I still have a strong feeling with this boy they need to be burnt and buried right away. TO BE CONTINUED UNEDITED

88 MBUSO I got to Sihle's house. I knocked he opened the door for he looked at me then incited me in. "What do I owe the pleasure to be visited by you Zulu" Sihle said. He's full of jokes. I'm having crisis and he's joking. I look at him "I'm concerned about her" he look at me "You concerned about who? Sihle questioned. Mpilo and Philani left after the court day we can't be all here who will be

protecting Zodwa. We are aware that she's involved with someone but Vincent's situation taught us a great lesson that will not be forgotten. Women needs to be protected at anytime. We can't risk that. "Your sister man" "What did she get herself to this time? Sihle asks "She's pushing me away" "Pushing you away how? Sihle questioned. "I've noticed that she has stopped communicating with me. She's avoiding me lately and to top that the is no affection between us any more. All of the warmth suddenly disappeared. I think she feel different with around me" "I don't know her that well but I understand where you both coming from. You too come a long way together you caused each other pains and and struggles. You both have scars with memories that can not be erased and I'm glad that you both find the way to sort out your differences" Sihle said "I know what I did was not supposed to happen" "Life has its ups and downs. When you are up Sponsored enjoy the scenery. When you are down touch the soul of your being

and feel the beauty" Sihle said. I looked at him what happened to my cheeky uncle. "sawubona ungubani wenzeni kumalume wam" (Hey who are you what have you done to my uncle) "What's wrong? Sihle asked "My uncle whom I know will never say a wise word" he chuckled "Well you are not the only one who's being motivated by Mr Zwane" Sihle said. I guess everyone who is in that man's life is blessed. "You think she hate me? "As I said I don't know her that well. But Nandi love and cares a lot about you. She's strong. She's been through a lot" Sihle said "Yeah she's the one of the strongest women I've ever met. She became someone's wife at the age of 15. Her dreams were shutted on top of that she become a mother. She's strong like the strongest decisions takes. Shes herself and she shine amongst her enemies" "I'm glad that you've managed to forgive her after everything. If I was in her shoes I was going to do what she did" "Yeah I thought you were not going to forgive her after terminating your unborn child" Sihle said. "Yea.... Wait what did you

say? "Forget I said something Mbuso" Sihle said.
"How can you do this to me Sihle? How could Nandi do this to me? You are telling me that your sister hate me that much that she killed my baby? I questioned. He looks at me. "You know what I hate you and your sister" I picked my car keys and walk away _____ NWABISA No I can't lose my career just like that. The hit man walked in. He looked at me. He sat down without saying anything. "How mach are we talking about? He questioned. Music to my ears Sthembiso he's on my life insurance "100K" He looks at me "Go hang yourself. We are talking about the richest man here. It won't be easy getting rid of him" Hit man says "How much do you want? Than" "Half metre" He says. What the life insurance will only pay a million "Okey" "Deal then. I will be watching him this week at golf field" He said _____ NANDIPHA My phone has been ringing non stop. The feelings I have for Mbuso they seems not fade or go away. They continue to grow stronger each day I look at

him. And again life without Martin is something I can't even imagine my life without him. My phone started ringing again My father and Nosipho look at me "Can't you just answer it" Dad said "I don't want to talk to him" they look at the. Nosipho gets up "I'm going to check the twins" Nosipho said. My father nod and looked at her as she walks away. "Babah" my phone started ringing again. I don't understand why I'm I still angry at Martin he didn't invite his ex wife and his family didn't too she just trouble she's the one who divorced Martin because her husband is working crazy hours. My phone rings again. I answered without checking the caller ID "Nandi Zwane speaking how may I...." He cut me "Dadawethu I'm sorry" (my sister) Sihle said. The last time he said that he was involved in a car accident "Sorry for what Sihle? "He knows" Sihle said. "Who knows and what is it that he knows? "About the abortion" Sihle said Nothing could be clear than this my heart started going up and down like a tannis ball. "Sihle what have you done"

Mbuso walked in uninvitedly. I let go of my phone it falls on my thighs. I look at him then my father. I look at Mbuso without blinking "Nana what have you done? Dad asked. He knows me very well that whenever I'm in trouble I just look at the person without blinking and I'm caught. "I'm.... I'm..." Word failed "You what Nandi? Mbuso questioned. I can tell he is disgusted by me. "Why Nandi? He questioned again. I can't believe this Sihle threw me under the bus. Nosipho came back "Mbuso what's wrong? Nosipho asks "Can I talk to Nandipha Mchunu" Mbuso ordered. Nosipho looked at him. The last time I checked I'm not Mchunu I'm Zwane "No dad don't.... Don't leave me alone with him" Dad look at me "You can't talk to her right now Junior Zulu" Nosipho said "Why mom? Mbuso asks "You will talk to her when you are calm" Nosipho said "Why do you hate me Nandi what have I done to done to you? Mbuso asks I looked at him "I can explain Mbuso" "You turned my uncle against me Nandi. You are...." Mbuso said. Nosipho cut him

"That's enough Zulu just go home you need to rest you will come back tomorrow when you are calm" Nosipho says "Well I hate you Nandi" Mbuso says my heart hurts it feels like someone just stab it with a knife. TO BE CONTINUED Unedited

90 NANDIPHA I'm heartbroken and disappointment too. How could Sihle betray me like that? My heart it's been played stabbed burned and broken Sponsored but somehow still works. I wish I could make make Mbuso understand my reasons. I'm going to kill Sihle I swear. I rise of bed and walked to the dinning area. Lucky my father he's still up with Nosipho. If I was walking from the storeroom I was going to say they were flirting or something. But in this case my father he's helping her with computer skills. With him she won't go wrong even if she chooses to take computer classes she will pass He's a good teacher no lie. I wonder why didn't he became a teacher or a lecture. I lean on the door look at them. "It is very important when designing a

cell that you choose the appropriate size and type of font" Dad said. He's patiently too. "I will keep that in mind" Nosipho said. She typed whatever she was trying on a laptop. "Pali taught me to save and name what I'm I working on" Nosipho said. She looks at my father he nod. "She taught you well. How will you name this Marge you are working on" Dad said. If I didn't knew better I was going to say their in love "It's ZCCL invoice" Nosi said "Why is that? Dad asks. Not that he doesn't know why he just want to make sure that she understands what she's doing. "It's an invoice" Nosi said "Yes it's an invoice why do you name it ZCCL invoice? Dad asks. She bite her nails "Let me change the name than" Nosipho suggested. I wish she asked me first before agreeing taking lessons with him they won't change anything until she answered him. "I didn't say you must change the name just give me the clarity of why do you want to name it ZCCL invoice that all I asked" Dad said. This is Sthembiso Zwane the man who taught me to drive he didn't have a nice spot

for me. He wanted me to do the right to do the right thing. I even regretted why did I ask him. He was taking none of it. I ended up walking away leaving the car on the field he did leave it too. Chances for this woman are slim to turn back. "I don't know Mr Zwane" Nosipho said. I walked to them. And pretended like I didn't head anything. "What are we doing here? I asked as I looked at the laptop. "Uhm we are working on invoice" She nod "Nana help your sister here" Dad says I want to pay Sihle a visit before it's too late "What seems to be a problem? "I named the Marge ZCCL invoice now I have to explain why" Nosipho says I looked at my father he winked at me indicating that I should only give her clue. "Oh I see. Why do you get an receipt when you went shopping? "To have the reco...." She pause it seems like she got the right answer. "I know understand. This Marge document indicates the client and ZCCL the term of invoice indicates money is owed by the client or the company" Nosi said "That's right" Dad says. I look at him. "Babah

please land me your car" he looks at me and shook his "Where to? Dad asks checking the time "To Sihle's house. I want him to look at me and tell me why did he sell my soil" "You will do that tomorrow" Dad says. I dislike people who makes decisions for me. I look at him "I'm not giving you my car Nana" Dad says. Why can't Martin come back already. "Father please" I begged. What is the secret of happiness. Where can I find myself one. Happiness only visits me and fade away within a blink of eye. Happiness where are you hiding yourself? What have I done to this world to deserve Saddness life? Where should I find myself happiness? Why me? I felt someone's fingers on my cheeks clearly I'm crying. I closed my eyes and come back to reality. It's Martin he's finally back. I smiled a little and looked at my father. "Dad why do you still treat me like that fifteenth years old girl? "Because you behave like one" Dad reply. I look at Martin "My only citizen please land me your car" "I will take you wherever you want to go my residency" Martin

says. My father smiled. Clearly this is his plan.
"Good than let's go" "Go wash your face you will find me waiting here for you" I got up and went to the bathroom to wash my face. I know I'm being selfish right now. Martin need to rest but here I'm making demands. I walked back where everyone gathered. This time my beloved cousin is also back. She was forced to move back with us after my abduction. "Sawubona Palisa" (Hello) She looks at me. "Sorry uncle I lost track of time" Palisa said. Knowing my father very well he needs all the details where have she been. Why didn't she call "Honey let's go" Martin says getting up We gets to his car. And he drove off without saying anything to me. Why I'm I blaming him? No I'm not. I've been pushing the poor man away. We got Sihle's house. Mbuso's car was parked Infront of the door. And Kwanda's car was parked next to Dineo's car. Martin looks at me. "Let's stop fighting my love" Martin said. Who said we are fighting. "We are not fighting honey. I got jelouse to learn that your wife will

sleep over to your house last night. It kicks in to my mind that she is used that" he looks at me. He held my hand "Believe me when I say the last time I saw her was after our divorce was finalized. And she never bought my kids" he stopped talking. Some women are toxic why deny a child to see her father. Now it kicks in my mind why his family were so mean to her "I'm sorry baby to..." What he cut me off by an unexpected kiss. "No I'm sorry I should've allowed that women spend a night" I nod and got off the car. I walked to Sihle's door. "Sihle! Avule lomnyango" (open this door) I'm sure his neighbours head this Mbuso is the one who opened the door for me. "May I" he let me in. I'm sure he's Fixing things with his girlfriend. The surprise of my life Nolithando was also here my ex best friend who cheated with my ex fiance. I look at her she look me getting up "Did the protection order expired? Nolitha asked she must be joking this is my brother's house. Mbuso sit down "Kwanda take your friend out of this house before I show her the

expired protection order" Kwanda smiled she's been waiting to see this day me saying a simple word to her "I'm not going anywhere" Nolitha says Did I heard her right? She's not going anywhere in who's house? "Kwanda!!" She looks at me and nod "Nolitha Let's leave" Kwanda says "No she must leave she find me here" Nolitha says "Guys sit down please" final my brother said something. "Sihle I'm not sitting down with this girl she must find her way out now" "And if I don't? The neives on this girl. "Hello girly this is my house and Nandi she's my sister in law that makes this house hers that means she didn't violeted the prohibition order so find your way out" Dineo says. Nolitha look at the "Remember to send my love to KB" she pushed me and left. "With pleasure" Dee chuckled joined her. "Bathathe girl power" Dee said. I looked at Sihle. Mbuso looked at me hatred written in his face. "You are here to collect your car and apartment keys? Mbuso questioned. "You know what Mbuso you can burn the car and the apartment if that will make

you happy" "Than what do you want Nandipha? Mbuso asked. This boy makes me feel weaker maybe Sihle did the right thing to tell him so that the feelings I have will brush off. "Well J Zulu I'm here to make this clear I hate you both with your uncles" "Dadawethu you don't mean that" (my sister) Sihle said. "I mean it Sihle. I'm better off without out you guys. Yes my life had ups and downs before you guys came back to my life but it was not this bad. You guys came back to my life to destroy my happiness like Phumza did I don't know what was I thinking to allow any of you in my life" honestly I need them in my life but the love I have for Mbuso it must fade away. Everyone looked at me. "Kwanda we please join your friend I will come pick you up on my way home" Mbuso said. She got up and walked to the door. "See you then"Kwanda said. "Uncle Sihle and aunt Dee please excuse us" Mbuso ordered. They looked at me. I nod they got up "Don't hastate to shout if he tries to hurt you" Sihle said. If they knew what I'm capable of they

should not leave me with him. I'm not in pain like the last time he attacked me. I will forget that he's my son if he tries to lay his hand on me. He will also get me the prohibition order. "I'm a big girl Sihle I got this" they walk to their room Mbuso watched them until they disappeared he gets up and take a step towards me looking at me. "Look at me Nandi and tell me again that you hate me" Mbuso said. I take a step backwards "I hate you" he take a step towards me as I'm taking a step backwards "Oh really? Mbuso asks "Then why are you taking a step backwards if you do hate me? He asks "Okey let me be honest with you Mbuso. The feelings I have for you doesn't fade or go away.They continue to grow stronger each time I look at you. Life without you is something I can't describe or run away from the fact is that I love you. I'm still attracted by you. From within my soul it's you I miss you each passing day I miss what we had before" he cuts me by a kissing me and me my stupidly instead of pulling off the kiss I kissed him back. Oh my goodness I'm I

doing the right thing. Clearly I'm not. "Mhm...."

Mbuso groaned in my mouth. I pulled away the kiss.

"Mbuso...." He cuts me "I feel the same way mama and I hate the fact that you killed my child without consulting me first" Mbuso said. "I know what I did was wrong. I was going through the most during that pregnancy and you wanted nothing to do with me. It changed the person I was to someone I was not" "Why didn't you call or text me then? Mbuso asks. Did he forgot that he blocked me that time. I moved a distance away from him. "Mbuso you blocked me you wanted nothing to do with me" He nod "I blocked you because I hated the fact that I love you" Mbuso said. "Can we get rid of the love we have for each other? He nod "I'm trying mama each and everytime I look at you and my Dr stepdad. I try to convince myself that the love will fade away but that's a lie it doesn't it's growing"

Mbuso says I look at him sitting down on a carpet

Mbuso joined "Did you fix things with my daughter in law or you are thinking of taking the woman that

your father choose for you? I know very well that he wants nothing to do with the woman he never met before. "I was about to fix things with Kwanda" Mbuso said. "That's great news. Why can't we start over again and be a mother and son" he looked at me. "We need help" Mbuso said I shake my head "The help that we need is to spend more time with our partners and spend less time together" He smiled. He stands up and help me to get up to. He checked the time on his watch that was on his wrist "Okay then can I drive you home? Mbuso asked. I sigh in relief from the heroen the is hope after the pain. "Sorry J we need to distance ourselves from each other" "But I'm taking you home njena your safety comes first" Mbuso said "Don't worry your father he's here" his eyes winded "What? He ask "Martin he's waiting for me outside" He smiled and hugged me. I foresee the new bond. We broke the hug. "Goodbye Mbuso" "Goodbye mama and congratulations on your new journey" Mbuso said I laughed. Indeed it's a new journey "I hate you" "I

love you too mama" We chuckled. Whisle there's life there is hope. Hope is not a dream but a way of making dreams become reality. When we've lost hope I have lost everything. And when I think all that I lost is when all the dire and bleak kicks in that there is always hope. And the is hope that I will be happy after all.

91 NANDIPHA THE FOLLOWING DAY. I wish I can only lie in bed and quite my job. Work can be tiring at times. Martin left early today he will be performing two surgeries today since he failed to perform one yesterday. He was supposed to take double shift but since I was not taking his calls he decidedly other wise. I dragged myself to the bathroom to treat my body with a warm bath it feels like the height of luxury. I hope it will help to unwind a long night. Martin loves me unconditionally he cares a lot about me he's always here for me. He deserves better than me treating him other wise. I walked back to my room. I

lotioned and dress up. I looked at myself at the mirror. I visualize myself as I want to be. The woman I'm looking at right now she's been in 12 failed relationships and the feelings faded away. They burnt overnight. This one seems to be toxic why? I'm going to be somebody's wife after the court day. I walked to the dining area I find Palisa sitting alone. She's ready to start her day as always. "Sawubona mzala wakhe" (Good morning cousin) She looks at me and smile "Hey dear" She greeted back. "Where is everyone?" "The kids just left Sponsored uncle Sthe and mamzo are preparing for a breakfast" Palisa said. My eyes winded. "Those two seems to be getting along" "From how I see it. It seems like Mbuso's mother she's going to be your mother too" Palisa said. I hit her shoulder. She chuckled. "They won't do that" She gave me a serious look and cross her fingers. My father won't do that he won't risks that after what Nwabisa did to me. I walk to the kitchen they are preparing a breakfast my father is doing sandwiches and

Nosipho she's busy with something on the stove. My father believes on a team work. I walk back to the dinning room. "They is nothing going on with those two" She looks at me "I believe you. But what's done in the dark will come to the light." Palisa said. We laugh "Whatever cuz" We continued laughing. "Morning girls" Dad said walking to us. I look at Palisa "Good morning father" I greeted. Palisa laughed I joined her. "Did I miss something? Dad ask "Palisa let's request an uber we will grab something on our way" My father look at me. "The breakfast is ready Nana. And we are working at the same company" Dad said. I'm not going to ask him he's old and he knows what he's doing. The last thing that I don't want is Vincent coming here to reclaim for what belongs to him. MBUSO I dropped the kids to school. Sihle was right we need to get them the school transport. What if Mr Zwane and I get delay one-day who will collect them from school. We cannot always rely on Mr Tremblay he works different hours he saves lives and people like

him in our community are appreciated. Driving to the office. I'm hoping that the won't be awkwardness between me and Nandi. Our connection isn't normal she's my mother yes we supposed to have a mother and son relationship. But our feelings towards one another are messing with our mind. I got to the office and the reception was empty. This can't be be happening. It's already past 8 Palisa she's not here and Pricilla she's not here too. When we say unprofessional we say something like this. Now I have to sit behind this desk and do their work. I'm thinking of taking Mr Zwane's offer he trusts me with his proxy he believes in me. I've always wanted to have a company that is owned by myself. In life we always have two choices the first one is commitment and the second one is fear PHILANI I still can't believe that Phumza she's gone. It's almost 2 and half month since she passed on. Did she have to take a easy way out? She was supposed to face the music. I have to pickup the broken peaces. Her children

want nothing to do with their father. Ernest he's trying to be there for them. But it seems like Mr Zwane won my brothers. He has a good heart he's a good man no lie. But he should encourage the boys and Nandi to give Ernest a second chance. The sorrow I still feel like losing a mother is the price I pay daily especially if I have to be a bigger brother to a sister who barely call me or communicate with me. Now that she's getting married it will be hard for Ernest to do right by her. I feel lonely sometimes.

NANDIPHA We got to the office. "At least the the Zwanes and Mrs Zulu decided to bless us with their presence. Welcome to ZCCL" Mbuso said. I can't lose Martin because of the stupid feelings that they seem not to feed away. He's a good listener like my mother use to. He cares about other people wellbeing than himself. Preventing the strong passion I/ we have for one another it needs to be denied it won't be easy but the lesser time we spend with each other and invest that time to our partners and work we will beat the demon that's

messing with our mind. "Earth to boss lady" Mbuso shouted. From his future ceo to mama and now I'm his boss lady what must I expect to be called next. 'Gogo' I smiled and looked at them. "I will be in my office" "Boss lady there is no need for awkwardness between us" Mbuso said. I nod. My father look at me. Knowing my father very well he doesn't need a scientist rocket to figure out something. "Did I miss something Nana? My father asked. I feel a sharp pain on my abdomen. I'm sure that time of the month had come. I hate this mother nature guest. Here I was planning to call it a night with Martin she just visited me unannounced. "I think I have a visitor I have to go" "I've been here for 30 minutes I didn't see anyone walking in looking for you" Mbuso said. "I will see you guys mother nature need me to attend her" I said running up to the stairs. "Take care mzala. I will get you some wine" Palisa shout laughing I don't know why. NOSIPHO Palisa laughed at her cousin. "Who is mother nature? Mbuso asked. I looked at him then Mr Zwane. "It's mother

nature" Palisa said "Pali get my Nana a glass of wine please" Mr Zwane said laughing at Mbuso. Mr Zwane he's an amazing man he knows how to treat others. I thought that rich people only cared for themselves but I thought wrong this man and her daughter they know what is life. "At work? Mbuso asked. "Knowing my cousin very well. She will cancel all the plans for today. So that she can drift away her visitor by a glass of wine" Palisa said laughing Sthembiso just joined his neice. "That's Nana for you. Mis P Zwane! Please ask Lwazi to move all her meetings to me" Sthembiso said. Mbuso he's still lost "Consider it done Mr Zwane"Palisa said. What I like about this family is that the is time to laugh and joke but in the workplace they know their professionalism. Being Nana and Pali ends right away their becomes Ms Zwanes. "Is that necessary? Mbuso asked. Why don't they tell him. Sthembiso nod than left. "Is that time of her month. It seems like she's on her P. Pain" I said. "Oh I'm sorry guys. You were supposed

to say that from the beginning instead of making me feel like a fool" Mbuso said. I have to go to my working station before I lose my job. "See you guys" "Okay aunt" Palisa said she's been bragging about aunt thing from our way home to here. "What happened to you calling me mamzo or Mbuso's mother? She just laughed. Now I'm confused "Is there anything wrong with that mom? Mbuso asked "No but why suddenly? Unedited

92 NANDIPHA WEEK LATER. Justice consists not in being neutral between right and wrong but in finding out the right and upholding it wherever found against the wrong. Luther laugh joke and smile but right now his a peace of shit as he describe himself. Poor Nwabisa had to find herself another lawyer I don't know what happened with the previous one. "State witnesses 3 tell us what you know and what happened" The Judge said He took a deep breath looks around the court and see everyone staring at him. Then he look at me face

that made me to get so uneasy Martin look at me and winked. Nwabisa look at me. Idiot she thought she was going to get away with all the witnesses that was given today. I swear if she gets away with this I'm going to meet Mr president myself and tell him to change the justice system. Justice must be served "Mr Kekana" Luther said. Looking at him "I'm still shaken scared and traumatized and ashamed after what I did not that I did that willingly knowing very well that was wrong I needed money to feed my family. A woman gave me a job to rape Ms Zwane until she sang her name I don't know why we were asked to do that "The man said "Where is the evidence? Young man where is the proof that everything you saying is true? Nwabisa's lawyer ask "I believe that the rape kit was taken and my DNA were found " The said "Like I was asking where is that evidence? The lawyer ask "Objection Asked and he will answer" Luther said "Sustained" The Judge said "Withdrawn" "She paid me R20 000. Today I stand here and regret what I did. I curse and hate

the day I met Ms Sabela" the man said crying believe me it takes time to see tears in man when you see them just know that he's hurting the Judge hit the mallet on the desk and looked around then faced the defendant. Than looked at the prosecutor gave him a nod "Do we have another witnesses? The state prosecutor asked. "Yes Sponsored Asked and he will answer" Luther said "Sustained" The Judge said "Withdrawn" "She paid me R20 000. Today I stand here and regret what I did. I curse and hate the day I met Ms Sabela" the man said crying believe me it takes time to see tears in man when you see them just know that he's hurting the Judge hit the mallet on the desk and looked around then faced the defendant. Than looked at the prosecutor gave him a nod "Do we have another witnesses? The state prosecutor asked. "Yes your Honor" Luther says "Proceed" Jury said "Ms Sabela has forgotten that her house has cameras and she forgot to remove them" Luther says while he gave the prosecutor the flash drive. "Are you still denying

the truth. And I have one of the testify bank statement which shows that Ms Sabela transferred him 20 thousands rand for job well done" Luther says. Where did he get all the information. I'm sure he's been working on his own investigation well since he has all the links that will send this idiot to jail for a long time. Jury played the video clip. It shows everything how I was tortured it doesn't have the sound but it has the clear details of a story. At the end of the day the justice must be served. "Ms Sabela watched those men raping the poor women. You folded your legs and sip your expensive whiskey while the woman was pleading for mercy. Where is Ubuntu in that? And yet she stand here and tell everyone that she won't harm Ms Zwane. Is that not you on the video clip? Luther asked.(humanity) Pointing at the video clip that is played before the court. "Objection speculation" her lawyer said "Defend her is that not Ms Nwabisa Zwane? Luther asked. This kind of a job need people who doesn't have a heart to forgive. I looked at my

father who covered his face with his hands. "You are still not guilty? Luther asked "The video was edited that's not me" Nwabisa shouted. "Are you hearing yourself right now Ms Sabela? Luther asked. The neives on this woman. "Ms Sabela was given the chance of redemption? And she failed to redeem her innocence it. My client asked for to be set free multiple times. To think a woman watched another go through that it's not humanity and she's dangerous to the society. This woman should be locked forever" Luther said. "With evidence provided before me from the defendant's side and the prosecutors. It is clear that victim didn't plan that to happen to her she was kidnapped and raped. This on it's own shows how Ms Nwabisa Sabela and her lawyer lied before the court and waisted the state resources and time I therefore find the suspect Nwabisa Sabela guilty of assault attempted murder and abuse along side fraud that took place with misleading the court with tempered evidence. The suspect faces a chance to serve a

minimum of 25 years in jail to a maximum of 35 years in jail. She will appear for sentencing on the 26th of next month the court is adjourned" the Judge said. And at least I'm getting married next week. "All rise" Jury said. Everyone got up and the Judge left the bench. I swear she will be depressed she didn't get up on that chair for a long time. My father look her he than shakes his head. Luther walks to me and hugged me. "Thank you brother" Tears streamed. We walked out of the court. The media is here. "Ms Zwane how do you feel after ms Sabela was find guilty? The journalist ask. Luther helped me out of the medias crew he tries very hard to prevent them to ask me so many questions. We walked to the Tremblay family car. Martin hugged me so tight and kissed me on the cheek. "Thanks for being here for me" He kisses me again. My father and Mbuso walk to us. My father's eyes are bloody red. "Father" He just hugged me tightly. Me and Mbuso we are distancing ourselves from one another. And it seems working the feelings I

have for him the are disappearing slowly. At first Martin was questioning why I told him the truth. Atleast we won't get to marriage with secret. What did I do to deserve a understanding man like him. I can't compare him with anyone he is himself. "Nana all you need to do right now is to go plan for your wedding that will take place on the 20th" My father said. NWABISA I just cried the cop take me to the holding cell. How I never seen myself on a holding cell. Even on my dreams at night. How did Mr Tremblay get the footage. I knew that he is smart but I never thought he was this smarter. "I'm sorry dad" this will kill my father. How did everything go this wrong. All I can do is lie on this floor and hope to drift away to sleep before I fall apart. "I'm sorry dad" (crying) "Lady just shut up" the woman said. UNEDITED.

93 NANDIPHA The most important thing in the world is family and love. My in-laws are here. Mbuso and his girlfriend also joined us. we are

having our justice served celebration. I trust my father with celebrating each and every success. Nothing is better than eating good food and relaxing with a family. We joined our hands around each other and pray. "Bless us O God. Bless our food and our drinks. Since you redeemed us so dearly and delivered us from evil as you gave us a share in this food so may you give us a share in eternal life Amen" Dad prayed. "Amen" we all Said. Luckily my father didn't ask to be alone. Usually when he's down he goes to the park and spend time alone there. But he can hide his emotions. We eat and have our own chat and laughter. "Thanks for the invite Mr Zwane" Alex said. "You welcome Mr Tremblay" Dad said they hands shake. "We are joined by the love and blossom of Nana and Martin" Dad added. I looked at Martin he gave me a side smile. He's such a good man. I must say he's my mother's remembrance in a form of a male body. He has the ability to make me smile even when I'm at my worst. "I love you" I whispered in his ear he

gave me a nod. Luther looked at his father then my father. He cleared his throat "père voulez-vous dire quelque chose à la mariée et au marié avant qu'ils ne se coupent? (fathers do you want to say something to the bride and groom before they cut each other) Luther asked. Alex and my father nodded. I'm crossing my fingers that my father does not say anything. Alex looked around the the table he smiled. "Martin and Nandi I believe you both grown and you both parents. I would like you two to love and appreciate each other" Alex said. Palisa look at me. "Be involved in your childrens lives. Be committed to each other. Martin I'm not looking for another divorce we are looking forward to have a daughter that we don't have in Nandi please take a good care of her. In life love can be fleeting. Committing yourselves to each other shows that your love is strong and much more than a simple emotion" Alex added. Martin hold my palm. I guess secrets have their own way to come out Palisa and Kwanda have just found out that I'm someone's

mother. I'm sure the question is where is Nandipha's child? "Nana with all being said. You need to have time for each other I know that both have a busy schedules you and Martin probably do not get enough time together. I suggest you too to feel special moments and time for each other that will make your marriage last. Quality time it's important. You need to spend quality time together to be able to nurture your relationship and allow it to grow. The number one weapon is communication in a relationship and in marriage our words should be used to build each other up and to share our feelings Sponsored and to share our feelings needs and dreams with our partner. communication allows good thoughts and feelings to flow between a couple. With the right skills bickering hurt feelings and resentment will go way down" Dad said. I thought he was not going to stop talking. I trust my father with long speech. "Thanks you fathers we would've been getting married without your guidance and support. Father and Mr

Zwane you two are playing a big role in my life" Martin said. "Okay enough motivation and inspiration or whatever we are calling this. Now we have to leave. Again thanks for inviting us in your house Mr Zwane and Nandi" Ashley said. "It was my pleasure for having you" Dad said. He looked at me "I keep myself busy with the things I do. But every time I pause everytime I think about Lizzy she was going to be happy seeing her precious Given saying I do to a man who will take my daughter away from me" Dad said. At first I wanted to cry but after his jelouse sentence we laughed. "Uxolo khokhozala" (Father in law) Martin said. We look at him and laughed "Say that again" Mbuso said. Finally he decided to say something. "Say what son? Martin asked. "Uxolo khokh yintoni?(sorry for inconvenience) Martin said. We laughed. I thought the was going to be a cold blood line between two after I told him about the kiss and the lously feelings I had for Mbuso. I excused myself from the dinner table. I need to consult a doctor this days I urge to

pee a lot and I'm experiencing constipation. I got to the bathroom. They said communication is the key to a relationship but they are things I should keep to myself. As soon as I was done I washed my hands and walked back where everyone was. "I'm sorry about that" "It's okay Nandi we were about to leave. We thought we are not welcomed in your house" Luther said. Why would he thinks that "I'm sorry Mr Tremblay" he nod and smiled "Don't mind him. Indeed we were about to leave but not without giving our bride a warm hug" Ashley said. They treat me like a teenage girl. And my father on the other side he's acting. weird I know he treat me like a child but this time around he's worse than before. He even monitors my working schedule and also monitoring the food I'm eating. Not alone that. I'm not allowed to carry heavy stuff. Why is that. I guess I will ask him when times goes on. Tremblays bid us a farewell. It was good having them around. I wish they can only treat me like a grown woman not a child. We walked back to the dinning room.

Kwanda and Nosipho were not in the room. I guess they are clearing up. Sihle and Dee decided to take the kids out. Palisa looked at me. "What is it Palisa?" "Nothing the question is do you have a child?" Palisa asked. Martin cough. Mbuso cleared his throat than my father gave me a nod. "Mzala you won't understand" She look at me. Where can I start? "Nana if you are not ready it's ok. But bare in mind that the truth hd as its own way out" Dad said. Like the truth about him and Nosipho something fishy about them. But that is none of my business. The truth always finds it's way out even years and years and years later. The truth always prevails. no pleasure she will find out soon. "Yes mzala I have a child. I will tell you more details some other time now I'm tired I need to rest" "Uncle Sthe did you allowed her to hide her child?" Palisa asked. This girl though "Pali she didn't hide him willingly but she had to do that. You already met him but it's not yet official just give her time she will tell you when she's ready" Dad said. No pleasure needed "I've already

met the boy? Palisa asked. A boy someone who is four years older than her. "Excuse me" "Good night Nana" Dad said while I rush to my room. I just need time to come out to light and that time is not now. Maybe after I get married I will have to make it official that I'm Mbuso's mother. Martin joined me after couple of minutes. He kissed me and brought me into his warm embrace. until I dozed off. THE NEXT DAY. I'm not well. I feel sick. I have a dizzy spell. I feel a little dizzy. I think I caught flu or something. It's not contagious. I've had better days. My head is spinning. "Martin.... Martin" He rise and mumble "Please get me water" He just got off the bed and walked out. He came back with a glass of water. I drank still I'm feeling the same. He looked at me. "Is there anything I should know? Martin asked. "Not exactly" He nod "I'm sick" He cuts me "No you are not my citizen" Martin said. I'm telling him that I'm not feeling well he's telling me bull-shit. "Just get me pain killers" I just want him to tell

me that everything will be fine as he always does.

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94 NANDIPHA I'm I catching flu or something. I don't know which is which. I looked at myself at the mirror. He is zipping my dress. He looked at me and he shakes his head then smiled. He's acting weird lately. "Why are you acting so wired? He looked at me and he nuzzled on my shoulder with his chin. He looked me through the mirror. "How are you feeling? Martin asked. Question with a question "I'm feeling better" it's funny because he doesn't even give me the pain killers I asked for well he's a doctor he knows what to prescribe medications to his patients. "Well that's great" Martin said. "I asked you a question and you didn't answer me" He kissed me on my neck "On the Champaign intimacy did you take emergency contraception? Martin asked. Come to think about it I didn't. That day I had a lot going on. I visited my mother's graveyard and spend hours there. "No why? "You are pregnant Nandi"

Martin said. I shook my head. "No I'm not. I was in my period not so long" He smile "You were not on your fully menstruation you were experiencing implantation bleeding" Martin said "What is implantation bleeding?" "Implantation bleeding is light bleeding or spotting that you had after fertilization. You need to hear this before you get made at me. After ovulation and at the moment an egg is successfully fertilized by a sperm in a fallopian tube the embryo starts dividing and growing" Martin said. He than look at me. He always made sure that I was taking them what happened that day. "Remember that you experienced cramping and you had light and short-lived? Martin asked. "I'm not pregnant I had my menstruation and stop acting weird. This is my body I know my body very well and I was going to notice my body changes" I shouted and walked out of the room. He might be my partner and a doctor but I know my body very well. I got to the dinning room. Everyone is eating their food. My father is not around. I love breakfast

and breakfast loves me too. Well I think it does.
"Good morning good people" their greeted back.
Seems like Mbuso spend a night here with his
girlfriend. My house is a hotel now. This needs to
stop. My father joins us he sat next to me. "Nana I
was about to send a searching part" Dad said. I
dished myself and my father. We are having fried
eggs rashers of bacon & tomato. Served with chips
& toast. He look at me "Are you alright Nana? Dad
asked obviously he was going to sing this is his song.
"I'm fine dad" "You don't seem fine to me. Where is
Martin? Dad ask "Somewhere in the house" He nod
and started eating his food. He looked at me then
he looked at the juice. "Oh sorry dad I will get
coffee" I got up. Before I walk to the kitchen Martin
made his way. "Make it two" Martin said. Before he
sat down. I walk to the kitchen and made two black
coffee and walk back to the dinning room. "Here
you go" I looked at Martin "Here you go" I said he
smiled. Sitting down. I'm trying to convince myself
that I'm not pregnant yes I'm not pregnant. "I'm

sorry about earlier" I said Martin nod "Dineo called she wants to meet up with you during lunch time" Martin said. I looked at him "What did you tell her?" "The reason why we are here right now it's because you don't take instructions from anyone. You always fight people who are trying to be there for you. Stop fighting with me and take my instructions for once in your life. Now I'm not asking you to meet her you are going to meet her. She will come pick you up" Martin said. I nod this guy though "Martin he's telling you the truth Nana Sihle messed up and he's trying to be there for you stop pushing him away. And atleast the is someone who can stand you beside Lizzy" Dad said. Atleast my mind is not messing up with me. Martin he's sweet like mom was. MamElizabeth and she was more than a mother to me many won't understand how wonderful she was she was the hero and she's still a hero under her grave. She would say 'now take me as your friend not your mother' We ate then I cleared the table. I walked back to find everyone

ready to start their day. "I'm running late I hope you will squeeze your self in dad or Mbuso's car "

Martin said whisle kissing my cheek. He than left.

"Okay bye" I said I'm sure he didn't hear me. "Let's get going guys" dad said. _____

PHILANI Mpilo look at me. I know he's still angry that we couldn't go to Gauteng. "Is your step father invited to the wedding? Mpilo asked. He now believes everything that Nandi said about Ernest killing my father. She was just 15 years old. The is no way she was going to see what she claims she heard or saw. "I'm not sure. But what I know is that Mbuso said he will see what can he do" "If he's not invited he's not. He must just expect that his wife or should I say his sister in law played him" Mpilo said. "He's still your father Mpilo" he spat on the ground. "Fanafuthi he's dead thats the only father I know" Mpilo said. This guy he's stubborn. And I cannot change his mind. Mpilo and Sihle were supposed to be tweens their stubbornity and hetred it can bury their enemies. "Why don't you give him a second

chance? "I won't do that and I'm not willing to do that" "What happened to you. You use to respect me and obey my commands" "That was before I learnt that you don't care about our sister" Mpilo said "You know I love her and I do care about her" "Well you have funny way of showing of showing that" Mpilo said. Nandi might be our sister but I'm concerned on which muti is she using. How is it possible one to break up with someone the next thing she's getting married. _____

NANDI Finding a true friend feels like a gift that keeps on giving even when they are thousands of miles away. Through stressful classes figuring out a career Sponsored figuring out a career and inevitable heart break. Martin is that friend beside being my fiance. Presentation is hard the client is expecting us to deliver. "Why should we trust you with our money? He asked. My father looked at Mbuso. "Well ZCCL is one of the Southern Africa's largest construction company with quality building materials and associated products reported 19

percent growth in operating profit climb to R549 million for the year to end June up from R461m as compared with 2016. The operating profit would have been up by 33 percent to R612m if the black economic empowerment (BEE) transaction is excluded from the figure" Mbuso said said. The client lookat me he than smiled. "Do you have anything to add on Ms Zwane? He asked. Is he Challenging me? "We are continuing with expanding the company and we are planning to add 9 new branch in the five years and we believe we will give back to the country by hiring the youth on the process of building those five branches" everyone looked at me. This was new to my father's ears but he smiled. "The company managed to grow revenue during the period increasing it by 13 percent to R8.7 billion up from R7.7bn in the past 10 years the market conditions remained challenging. I don't see the reason why you should not trust is with your money" I added. He looked at me. "Wow how old are you again? He asked "I'm 30

years old" "Wow Mr Zwane you have a strong team. They are young and they know their stories keep up the good work guys I will keep in touch" he said. We shake hands with him he exists Mbuso walked him out. Jacob opened our eyes. Each and every presentation that will be conducted we do our own reaserch and the PI do his job then we take it from there. My father looked at me. "And you" dad said. "What? "The expanding idea? Dad asked "It was not part of the presentation it just came to my mind when I was talking" "It's not a bad idea. The only thing you need to do is to work on your plan find out how will you do that. And remember your budget" dad said. I nodded. "I'm proud of you. It's lunch already maybe Dineo he's waiting" Dad said. To think think about it Martin he was the first one to tell me that I'm pregnant on the previous pregnancy. He might be right maybe I'm pregnant. "Oh my goodness" I ran out. No it can't be.

UNEDITED

95 NANDIPHA Life was meant to be lived freely not with full of unrealistic expectations. If you desire/expect something make sure that you work hard enough to turn that into a reality sooner or later all by yourself. Never expect anything anything from anyone I rushed to my office. I find Dineo waiting for me. I look at her shakingly. She stands up and hug me tightly. "It's okay girl power" Dee said "I'm not pregnant" she broke the hug "The is only one way to find out" Dee said "That's a pregnancy test" she nod "You ready? She asked I nod. We exist the building. She drove off to her house. Here I was expecting to go somewhere like a restaurant. We got off the car. And entered in her house. Sihle is busy with some documents. He put them down soon as he saw us. He got up and kissed his wife he then hugged me. "Dadawethu" (my sister) Sihle said. I can see that he is doubting. "Sihle" he smiled I look at Dineo. She gives me a brown take away bag. "Go to the bathroom and try this out everything you need is here" Dineo said. I

walk to the the bathroom. I opened the package has two clearblue Pregnancy Test that has a weeks Indicator and a clear small container. The first lesson that my mother taught me was 'everytime you have sex you must make sure that you use protection' is that simple to me? This shit doesn't have to happen I'm not pregnant. I glance at the pregnancy test. I can't believe what I'm seeing right now. I'm 3 weeks pregnant. This is nothing but carelessness. It's irresponsible. It's unforgivable I won't forgive him for doing this to me. I threw them away. I washed my face then hands. I walk back to Sihle's sitting room. Dineo is not around. Sihle look at me. I look at the other side. This room went quiet all sound from the outside world is locked out and any sound produced inside is stopped cold. "Are you alright? Sihle ask "Yeah" Dineo comes back. She is holding a tray with 3 glasses of orange juice. I look at her as she put down the tray. She look at me. I nod indicating that I'm pregnant. She cover her mother with her hand

"I hate him" Sihle look at us cluelessly "No you don't mean that you just shocked. Never say those words again. The worst expression in the world is of hatred" Dee said giving me the juice. I take a sip "Why would he do that to me? I asked. She looked at Sihle. "Girl Power we need to go somewhere" Dee said. That somewhere doesn't have a name. "Let's get going" Dee said. "She doesn't wanna go Dineo" Sihle said. She look at him "Okay let's go then" I'm just hoping she's not taking me to the hospital. We got to her car. She drive straight to nearby suburbs. We got to a building that was written beauty spa in bold. "Hello I'm Dineo Mchunu I believe Mr Tremblay has a booking for today" Dee said to the receptionist. She checked her diary and look at us. "Mrs Mcuhnu and Ms Zwane? She asked we nod. She takes the phone and called. "Hi can I speak to Dr Tremblay please" "Alright Dr Tremblay I'm calling from sea beauty spa" she look at us "Yes sir. I promise we will take a good care" she said then hung up. She looked us

and smiled "Okay ladies you can follow me" she said. We followed her. She introduced us to the ladies who are going to do their job. It was said we are taking a full body massage. I love Martin right now. This doesn't change the fact that he impregnated me. They gave us a non alcoholic wine. "A full-body massage usually includes your arms legs Sponsored hands and feet your neck and back your stomach and buttocks I hope you don't have a problem with that" The lady said. Dee and I looked each other. We both nod _____ MBUSO What a day. Dr Tremblay's plan is working on my favour. The feelings I had for my mother are burning slowly I'm hoping that sooner they will varnished. It's very funny because I can talk to him about my love life more than I open up to my uncles and father. He is the father figure right now. I gave Palisa the energy drink she asked for. "Thanks Mbuso how much I'm I owning you" I looked at her. "Do you wanna know that? She nod "I will send you the invoice" she chuckled. At least I bought a smile

on her face. Why don't Nandi tell her the truth already? "Ok I will be waiting. Remember to CC your uncle the invoice" Palisa said. I looked around "I don't remember him having an email address" we laughed "Then post it on my timeline and mention him" Palisa said. "That too he doesn't have"

"Sawubona Mr Zulu uvelaphi? (hey Mr Zulu where are you from) Palisa asked "Does he has a facebook account? She nodded and laugh. "I can't believe this" "You better believe it" Palisa said. She looked at me "I can't wait to knock off" she didn't answer me. Kwanda made her way. Palisa look at her

"Palisa what have I done know? Kwanda asked.

"You know my cousin more than I know her right? Palisa asked. Kwanda nodded "Yeah why? Kwanda asked. "Did you see her pregnant? Palisa asked.

"We are talking about your cousin here everything is possible with that women" Kwanda said "Yeah right. The question is why is she hidding him? Palisa asked "Well aunt maybe his father didn't want Nandi to raise his son we know how father's are

when it comes to their sons" I said she nodded.

Pure lie. _____ NANDIPHA LATER ON!

They say life without love is like a tree without blossoms or fruits. This thing is upside down. Life without blessings is like a tree without blossom.

Children are blessing. Passages of Scripture make it clear that children are a blessing from God. I knew the passage when I was four years old "Behold children are a heritage from the Lord the fruit of the womb a reward" I'm rewarded. Dineo looked at me I smiled. "Hello where is the sulking Nandi? Dee ask "Thank you for being there for me" she nodded.

"How is it going with the wedding plan? Dee asked "So far so good" she nod "We had a great day" Dee said. Indeed we have. "I missed this" walking inside the house. To my surprise my fiance is waiting for me. My emotions are mixed. I don't know should I be happy or mad at him. I walk to him and I look at him. "You impregnated me? He looked at me. "Why Martin. Why did do that? "We didn't plan for this to happen amor we were both careless" I cut him with

a kiss. "Mmm" he pulled out the kiss "We have a visitor. I turned and look at sis Dee. "I'm sorry" "It's okay" Dee said "You will pay for doing this to me" we laughed. UNEDITED

96 NANDIPHA FEW DAYS. Tears of joy laughter and countless emotions that's what weddings are made of. A wedding is not just about us getting married. It's about vows of love and spending a lifetime together the happiness on everyone's face uniting families and having all our friends beside us wishing us all the best. I can't wait to walk down the aisle to my soulmate. The hunt is over! I am excited few hours to go. We are not allowed to see each other until I walk to the aisle. Martin he's with his family I'm with my family. We call and text each other. text came through. From Martin 'I will be here counting down to how you will change your name officially to Tremblay. We are doing this only few hours left then you will be mine forever' Martins text said 'Knowing that 12 hours from now I'm going

to be totally yours. You gives me joy. You made my world I love you I replied. Aunties walked in with a bottle of champagne. This is written Martin he has a soft Aunt Sarah jumped in to my bed "Nana you made us proud" Sarah said. I smiled "Atleast this time I didn't have a competition" they laughed. "Yeah konje wake wathembisana umshado no Kabelo" (After all you were engaged to be married with Kabelo) Christina said. "Yeah I did. and I'm glad it didn't work" They gave me a weird look. "What? Who in the world could condemn a girl because she was grieving for her loved ones? "Yiqiniso akakaze akuthande" (Of course he never liked you) Sarah said. "Kumele ayo esihogweni" (he must go to hell) aunt Christina added. We laughed. Nosipho Palisa Dineo Kwanda Pricilla and Zodwa walk in. I and my aunties continued laughing "He must do what? "Kumele aye esihogweni. Ikakhulukazi akaze angithengele elula ubhiya.(He must go to hell. Especially he never bought me a simple beer) Aunt Christina said. "Futhi wayephula inhliziyo yakho"

(And he broke your heart) Aunt Sarah added. Palisa looked at me. "Yini wayibona kwasekuqaleni kuluya mfana"(What did you see in the beginning in that boy) Christina said. "I was blinded by love I committed myself to him without knowing that he was a shit. I become a fool Sponsored a idiotic and stupid. He sent me to a limit were realized I've loved the wrong person. After breaking up with him it took almost a year to find love again" "Yeah we thought you'd never make it. We thought it was the end of you"Sarah said. "Well you didn't experience anything aunties. KB didn't have the love that bought scars in me. The was this guy I loved with all my heart I gave it all to our love only to find out I'm related to him" I said. Aunties laughed. I and others we didn't laugh. They looked at me "You serious? Sarah asked. "I'm denm serious aunt" "Angifisi ukuba nguwe njengamanje" (I don't want to be you right now) Christina said. We laughed "We both know that you are my competitor in the family" we laughed. "You are telling the truth ngisho ikhabethe

lakho lizobe lingenalutho kungekudala" (even your closet will be empty soon" Sarah said. "She's lying" Christina said. "Oh my lovely sister I'm I lying" Sarah said provokingly. Silence fell over the room. The room became cold we all Both aunties look at each other. Palisa looked at me. Why I'm I always the one to turn off the heat between this two when they are drunk. I'm not even sure that they are pretending to be good aunties or they are bringing me closer so that their brother can support them financially. Aunt Christina is very angry. "It's okay aunties the is no need for all of this. Aunt Christina you were wrong to go to my room without letting me know but I'm not angry at either of you. You can both have those clothes I don't know how will you divide them" I said. Christina hugged me. She just said her sister she's lying. "When I'm I going back to wear my favourite dress? Christina asked. "I call that disrespectful entering into someone's room and take their belongings without their consent and we call that stealing too" Palisa said. Is she alright.

When Christina said she must jump she doesn't ask why. She will only ask how high "Masithandaze kungabikho noyedwa umuntu wesoka lakho lakudala ozongena engamenywe."(Let's pray that not one of your ex-boyfriends will come in uninvited) Sarah said. At least she bought some life in this room. "If that person wants to see me naked he will do that" we laughed. My cell phone started ringing. It's Martin I moved away from the crew I answer it "You impregnated me" Martin said I laughed "At least you find that as a joke" "What are you doing preggie? Martin asked. "Say that one more I swear I will pull the wedding off" "You won't do that" Martin said "Try me" he chuckled "How is my champion doing? Martin asked. I bet he's hoping for a boy. I brushed my tummy "She's fine" "Girls are out of stock my citizen" Martin said "Okay then. What are you doing? "I'm drinking beer with my brothers" "It's not fair. You are having fun and I'm not" he chuckled "I'm glad you find that funny" "I'm sorry love. At the back of the closet you will find

something waiting for you" Martin said. I walked to the closest I find a Sutter Home Fre Brut non-alcoholic champagne. Wow "Thank you mon amor. Why don't we sneak out and have our own bridal shower" he laughed "You missed me already? Martin asked Of course "Badly" "Sorry baby only few hours" Martin said "Won't you help me out" "My father looked the door for me" Martin said "Why would he do that? "Because he believes I do what you are asking me to do" He said. "I guess I will have to help myself" "How? Martin asked "With the Sutter Home Fre Brut" he chuckled "Okay then enjoy and take care of yourself" "I will. I love you" "I love you more than I love myself" Martin said. "That's not possible" "Believe me it is possible" Martin said. "Bye then" "I'm the one who called you" Martin said "Okay sorry my residency" "Nothing truly ever made sense until you came into my life. I'm much more me when I'm with you. I love you Nandipha" Martin said. He hung up.

_____ MBUSO We had our celebration with

my uncles and colleagues my grandfather made it I've spoken to Mr Zwane he doesn't have a problem. As long as he won't hurt my mother he's welcome. "I can't believe that she's finally getting married" Col 1 said "She deserves happiness after all" Col 2 said. Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort. There is only one happiness in life to love and be loved. "Mbuso boy we must make sure that we have tight security because some of her ex boyfriends are dangerous" Lucky said. Lwando look at him. "You don't worry about that she was dating detective back in high school so I'm sure he will do anything to protect his ex girlfriend" Lwando said. To much information alcohol is kicking in. "Your friends are forward" Mpilo whispered "That was high school man I'm sure it was not even that seriously they were playing" con 3 said. He's telling the truth she doesn't even consider him as her ex the are friends.

NANDIPHA The history of the custom is rooted not necessarily for the provision of goods for the

upcoming matrimonial home but to provide goods and financial assistance to ensure the wedding will take place. My bridal shower is carried out on the pool. I'm sure Dineos cousin charged her for looking after the kids. We were having our night. My team joined us. Palisa played a music "It's your last day of freedom mzala enjoy it" Palisa shouted "I'm carrying a precious diamond. I won't afford to lose it" everyone laughed. "nono ngowami buleli nchazo yenu mama no tata wami abazali bami mam u nono ngowami buleli nchazo yenu" "Next" Dineo said "Sista Bethina O'right In the meantime Oh shit It's happening tonight in the place to be Hibiri" "It's my last day of freedom guys" TO BE CONTINUED UNEDITED

97 NANDIPHA Not only I stole his heart now I will be stealing his last name. Imagine Nandipha Tremblay or Mrs Tremblay how is that sounds. Life is unpredictable not 30 years ago I was Miss Mchunu to so called Mrs Zulu to Ms Zwane now I will be

officially Mrs Tremblay. A life without challenge a life without hardship a life without purpose seems pale and pointless. With all the challenge I've been through perseverance and gumption. With hardship come resilience and resolve. With purpose come strength and understanding. Challenges and problems are important parts of life that gave me experiences. That may me learn and helped me to become wiser and stronger. Problems made me grow and shaped me. The biggest problem people have is that we hope for a life without problems. Regardless of the result value the experience and personal growth. I can't ignore the fact that I'm attractive people. I cannot help wanting to touch those people. Or wanting them to touch me back. This end today I will have to report each and every move to my husband. I'm no longer I we are we. I just can't escape the feeling that I'm somehow missing out. I want to experience everything and everyone before it's too late what a suffocating feeling it is to imagine running out of time. Maybe

it's a quarter life crisis but I am slowly realizing that I was young once and now I'm battling on this marriage to keep me satisfied. I just don't know if it's going to cut it and that's not fair. Martin has seen me at my absolute worst Sponsored but I am slowly realizing that I was young once and now I'm battling on this marriage to keep me satisfied. I just don't know if it's going to cut it and that's not fair. Martin has seen me at my absolute worst which someone might think is comforting wrong. My past haunts me. I could never reinvent myself and still feel like my marriage will be authentic. My past is always my past. Even if I forget it it remembers me. I turned it like this my past can't hurt me anymore not unless I let it. I looked at myself one more time in the mirror I look beautiful not only did I look beautiful and I feel beautiful. "You look so" Dee said and kept quiet "She's look stunning" Zodwa said. "Thank you guys" "No...no... Nandi you will ruin the make up" Zodwa said. "Zodwa redo the make up" Dee ordered. Is this a dream can anyone wake me

up. MBUSO I am not someone who is ashamed of what I did with my own mother. I'm actually really proud. I know I made a lot of mistakes but they turn in to be my life lessons. I walked to sitting room.

"Son" What the hell? Who invented him? Why is he here? But I'm glad we are not yet at the wedding venue. I turned and looked at him. "Father! "Won't you atleast welcome me" Vincent demanded. I trust him with making ademand. He wants to be respected but he doesn't want to respect others. He already made his way in how should I welcome him. When he already made himself comfortable in my house? "What are you doing here? He clenched his Jew "Do I need explain the reason why I came to Jo'burg to see my son and daughters" Vincent said. It's a valid reason. "Why today? He looked at me "I don't blame you for sleeping with her" Vincent said "You came all the way from KZN to tell me that?" "Son why are you letting your mothers coming between us? Vincent asked. "I'm not doing that. I love you dad. You are the only father I have but you

can't just budge in my house like this" "Uhlala endlini enkulu ebizayo" (You live in a big expensive house) Vincent said "What do you want? "The money you transferred me was not enough" Vincent said. Wow this man. He insulted me on top of that I'm taking care of him. Maybe Mpilo was right about sending this man money is the wrong idea. I thought I was taking a good care of my father the father who said he doesn't want to see me in his house. What else does he want from me. He said I must not step my foot in his house. But he want my money. "How much do you want? "3k" "You must be joking right? I'm taking care of my sisters school fees. what more do you want from me? He chuckled "I didn't ask you to take them from me. All I want from you is to stay away from Nandi she's poison" Vincent said "No you just stay away from my mothers" He look at me I checked the time. "You are delaying me dad" "Where are you going? Not that he doesn't know where I'm I going I'm sure Ernest told him. That is why he is here. "I will be

right back just have the house all by yourself"

"What will I eat? Vincent asked. Just a wow I cannot let this guy ruin my mother's wedding day. "You will figure something out" walking out. UNEDITED

98 NANDIPHA This is really happening. The instruments started playing it was the musical instruments as my father is walking me down the aisle holding my hand ☹️ Have you ever loved somebody so much It makes you cry? Have you ever needed somethin' so bad. You can't sleep at night? Have you ever tried to find the words. But they don't come out right? Have you ever? Have you ever? There he is standing right there waiting for me with his brother and step son. "You can still call the wedding off" Dad said making me smile I shook my head. "Okay stop it dad" I smile. He kissed my forehead and handed me over to Martin. Martin hold both my hands. "I love you" he whispered "I love you too" I whispered too with a smile on my face. The programme started with a short prayer.

"Romans 12: 9-21. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly" He preached "So they are no longer two but one. Therefore what God has joined together let man not separate" he added. We closed our eyes he prayed again. "Is there anyone who believes that these two shall not marry? He asked. I'm literally holding in my breath. I think I will kill someone who would stop this wedding. "Speak now or forever hold your peace" He added. I closed my eyes say a little prayer. "No wedding will be carried" a woman's voice said. O Lord please help me. I opened my eyes. I look at her. What brings this woman here? Who invited her? Clearly the Tremblays didn't. She's here to ruin our day. I looked at Martin. He is sweaty in just 30 seconds. His palms are forming fists. "Calm down" he looked at me and smiled then looked at his ex wife he clenched his jaw. "Nidia what is it? Martin asked. I looked at him. She better not answer him. "I... Martin" I cut her. "Just shut up" everyone is ready for the show.

Ashley stands up. She takes a mic "Good people we can have the refreshments while my children are trying to sort out this miss understanding" Ashley said. A miss understanding? She walk to us "This situation to be handled with extreme care" Ashley said. "How? "Let's move away from the mass" Ashley suggested. She's the one who left him who filled a divorce she must let him go. She got a chance and she blew it away. Things I break like glass and it never gets back to it shape ever again. But hearts and promises can be put back together but will never really be whole. We walk to a room. Martin is holding my hand for a dears life who said I will run I'm not a coward. I sit down and he sits next to me. "Don't worry we are getting married no matter what"Martin said. Are we allowed to be in the same room before we say I do. Ashley Luther Nidia Sponsored Nidia Palisa Dee Dad and Alex walk in. Martin got up. As they walk in he walked to Nidia. "Why are you here? Martin roared with uncontrollable fury. The mounting exasperation

tightened his throat. enraged words seared my heart raging like a bull. His temple throbbed as he was filled with rage flushed with anger. his once calm demeanor suddenly exploded. I never seen him like this. "She's not worth it" I said he looked at me she did the same too. "What do you know about me girly. Beside I'm here for my husband" Nidia said. Everyone shakes their heads. I got up and walk up to her Dee stopped me. Why? "Nidia I'm not Martin nor my mother that have a soft spots for your nonsense. Everyone here is waiting to know why should the wedding stop? Luther asked. "I just want to" she said and kept quiet. "You just wanted what Nidia? Martin roared with uncontrollable fury again. He could no longer control his hands they are shaking in an odd trembling rhythm. God have mercy on this situation. "Can I talk to you alone" she said. "Nidia what do you want? Martin roared. Immediately she shuffle away from him. She walk out running I was going to do the same. Luther just laughed. "What was that? Alex question. I'm sure

everyone was shocked to experience the angry side of Martin. He looked at me. "We are processing without any hesitation" Martin said. I nod. Nosipho walk in. She is sweating like she has seen a ghost. "Nosi what is it? Dad asked. "Esinye isilonda vele weza ungamenyiwe"(Another wound just came uninvited) Nosipho said. The is no body else who could make the poor women shake like this it's Vincent. I refused no one will ruin my day. I'm getting married no matter what. I walk out of the room. My father shouted my name. I've always dreamt of getting married one day. So to let people who never had dream to ruin mine never. At the venue door Mbuso is trying to chase his father. Lucky they were not around our guests. Sihle was holding Mpilo I'm sure he's ready to atteck him Philani was sitting with his so called stepfather uncle. He recently changed he is no longer that caring brother he was before. He could help me to carry house chores and fetching water from the river. He's not the same 'P' I know. I walked closer

to them. "Dad why do you always looking for trouble? Mbuso asked. Clung to his arm and he ushered his dark eyes. I opened my mouth but no scream came. I steady my breath and try to calm the panic. Why is everyone does not want to see me happy? "Mbuso can I speak to your father? He looked at me "Please" he gave me a determined look. "Mama I can handle him. Don't worry please" Mbuso said calmly. I nod. Vincent raised his hand he want to slap Mbuso but I block him. "Not on my watch Vincent" he smiled is he insane. My heart is throbbing in my ears loud and irregular but I barely hear it as for my eyes are clouded with tears. "Next time you do that you will meet your greatest ancestor Tina Zulu" I said. I know very well that he loved his mother and he wanted everyone to respect her. He look at me. He clung to his arm. "The is nothing you can do Vincent. I was never meant to be your wife or whatever you call it. My destiny was meant to be with that man over there" I said that showing him Martin who is standing with

my father. I'm sure one between them had to stop one from approaching us. Because others are standing distance away from them. "Really man don't rape nor force a girl to marry them" he looked at his son. I'm definitely sure he was holding his laughed since he covered his mouth with his hand. This boy this is his father for heaven sake. "MaZulu" Vincent said with a law tone. Ma what he is kidding me right. "Thank you Vincent for showing me that I am a woman. I'm sure if it wasn't for you. I shouldn't have experienced the labour pains" I said. He losen his tie and walked out. Mbuso looked at me he than bust into laughter. Luther and Mbuso same WhatsApp group. I look at everyone they are worried about me and want to know what happened. Mbuso he's laughed making me to laugh too. "Okay then we may proceed" Martin said. Just what he wants. "We may proceed" Unedited

99 NANDIPHA True love doesn't have a happy ending because true love never ends. What the

American public wants in the theater is a tragedy with a happy ending. We are being played with those movies. Kuyadlalwa ngathi. My father suggested that we use our house as a venue and it's perfect view. I sometimes wonder who is my father? Enough about my talented father. The music instruments started "Are we good? K'dala ndilindile To say how much I love you I got this message for you Ndithi "I do Ng'yavuma I" K'dala Ndilindile Ntliziyo yami yonke I got this message for you Ndithi " I do Ng'yavuma I" my father handed me to Martin again. The programme started again and this time around everything went accordingly. "The couple has asked to say their own vows and we will start with Miss Nandi" the priest said. I looked at him then everyone my father give me a nod. "You came into my life when I already lost hope in life and you become my hope of life. I will take your love to give me hope give me joy and make you a better man. I promise to listen to hear and to always consider your feelings and thoughts

as we travel together on this journey. I vow to love honor and cherish you forsaking all others as a faithful wife as long as we both shall live. I

sometimes call you my residency because you have the tittle deed of my heart in you. Many call you Dr Tremblay but I call you my doctor because you healed the scares that I had in me. You make me feel secured loved and wanted. Not only that but you also made me grow emotionally and mentally. You believe in me more than I believed in myself and for that I thank you. I love you and I promise to love you for the rest of our our lives indeed only death will do us apart. "Dr Tremblay your turn" the priest said "I love you with my whole heart with a passion that can't be expressed in words only in kisses glances and years of adventure by your side. I promise to be your honest faithful and loving husband for the rest of my days. I pledge to honor you love you and cherish you as my wife today and every day. Today I say "I do" but to me that means "I will". I will take your hand and stand by your side

in the good and the bad. I dedicate myself to your happiness success and smile. I will love you forever. Nandipha you are my every dream come true and I can't wait for the reality we get to build together. My parents are my witnesses you changed my life girl power" Martin said I looked at his parents they nodded "You changed me for better. I discovered the other side of myself and I thank you for that I now can call and spend time with my family I thank you for that. I promise to put you ahead of all others to be by your side through thick and thin through good times and bad for me. I love you Nandipha you are my ride to die" Martin said. I'm in tears I quickly wiped them off. We put on the rings. "With that said Nandipha Zwane do you take Martin Tremblay to your lawfully wedded husband? The priest asked "I do" "Martin Tremblay do you take Nandipha Zwane to be your lawfully wedding wife? "I do" Martin replied "With the anointing invested in me by the Lord Sponsored I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss

your bride" the priest said. I thought this part was never gonna come. We kissed and he was holding onto me for dear life. Everyone was cheering and throwing rose petals on us. It is indeed a beautiful moment. I thought this only happened on TV. It's really happening to me right now. I'm his and his mine "We missed you" I whispered. "I miss you too" Martin said brushing my tummy. Those who didn't know that I'm pregnant they will know. "Let's find our way to the bedroom" "Yeah why not we need to go and change" Martin said. We walked in to the house then we rushed to our bedroom.

Immediately when we got there he pushed me to the wall and kissed me. We stumbled until we got to the bed and take off our clothes. We waste no time with foreplay we both missed each other. I ride on him like never before this baby is turning me to something else. We poured out our emotions. "Say you love me" Martin said "I love you too babe" as he flipped me over and I laid on my back I allowed him to take full control over my body and

indeed he pleased me. I'm in tears. Tears of pleasure mixed with tears of joy. We reached our destination and we laid down trying to catch our breath. "Mrs Tremblay" Martin said wearing his smile. "Babe" He kissed me "Our guests are waiting for us. Let's shower before they get worried and call the search crew" Martin says How I just wish we could stay like this all day. We take an innocent shower and changed and went back to the venue. "Finally Mr and Mrs Tremblay decide to grace us with their presence. It is time for the bride and groom to have their first dance as Mr and Mrs Tremblay" Dad said. Everyone stands up and watched us. I held his hands and we stand in the middle of the venue. We I laid my head on his chest the song started I Wanna love you and treat you right I wanna love you Every day and every night We'll be together With a roof right over our heads We'll share the shelter Of my single bed We'll share the same room yeah For Jah provide the bread Is this love is this love is this love is this love that I'm

feelin'? Is this love is this love is this love is this love
that I'm feelin' ? It feels so good. I love this guy. I
can't compare my previous unsuccessful
relationships with this kind of love. Yes Mbuso
showed me love I never experienced before but this
love is kind of love I've always wanted. ?Wanna love
you and treat you rightI wanna love you Everyday
and every night. We'll be together. With a roof right
over our heads. We'll share the shelter Of my single
bed We'll share the same room yeah For Jah
provide the bread Is this love is this love is this love
is this love that I'm feelin'? Is this love is this love is
this love is this love that I'm feelin'?? People joins
us on the dance floor and we all dance just having
fun. We swip partners and I'm now dancing with my
father "Congratulations Nana" Dad said "Thank you
so much dad" "No abortion to be carried this time"
Dad said. He's been telling me this since I broke the
news. He laughed when I told him what did I say to
Vincent. "It's my turn grandpa" Mbuso said. My
father laughed even more. "Congratulations mama"

Mbuso said. "Thanks son" He smiled. I guess this was new to him. "I'm sorry about my father's behaviour" Mbuso said. Why he's always apologizing for something he did not do. I nod and danced with my brother Sihle. "What's wrong with your brother?" "Which one?" He asks "Philani he's acting weird" "Don't worry about him. I'm sure he missed his mother" Sihle said. We danced. Mpilo ask to dance with me. "Congratulations Mrs Tremblay and congratulations on your pregnancy" Mpilo said. I'm bearly a month pregnant but people already know. "Thanks. And when are you getting married?" "Won't you get mad if I have to marry your cousin?" Mpilo asks "Let me see. My brother marring my cousin. How is the sound of that?" He stop dancing "As long as she's happy I'm happy" He hugged me. "I love you sis" Mpilo said. "I love you too brother" The dancing continued and it is fun. "Thank you we may all be sittle down for a while" My father said. He is the MC. He appointed himself. Apparently Dee and Palisa wanted to hire one of

the musician that I get along with but no Daddy got his daughter he will do anything for his Nana and he's doing a great job I must admit. Let me be grateful for people who make me happy they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom. I'm really blessed. "Nana I've always secretly hated the fact that you are growing up because I know that every passing moment brings me one step closer to this day where I'm giving your hand to another man. As I raised my glass to toast my daughter Nandipha Nana Zwane now Tremblay I need her to get to use to the fact that she's no longer Zwane. She has always dreamed of this day since she was a young girl and now her dream has come true complete with her very own Prince Charming. Mr & Mrs Tremblay I wish you much love and happiness in your new life together" Dad said. He looked at Ernest he shrugge his shoulders shake his head. he better do. I don't want hear any word from him. "Son I know you will take good care of Nana. She's a feisty one that's for sure. But she's

also loving and caring and I know the two of you will be very happy together. It is with great joy that I welcome you to my family on this special day. My daughter is a lot of things to me. She's beautiful smart and headstrong. She's always know what she want and how to get it. When she met you she told me that she'd met the a male friend after couple of weeks she told me she is going to marry her male friend. And she was right here she just got married and congratulations once again Mr & Mrs Tremblay take good care of each other. I wish you lots of joy and happiness and love on this special occasions. Lots of love and happiness to you both on this exciting and joyful journey." Dad said. He handed the mic over to my in-laws. Ashley whispered to Alex. He walks to stage "I and my wife we would like to say best wishes to you son and our daughter in-law as you start your life together. We love you both. My wonderful son and my lovely daughter-in-law we as Tremblay family we would like to say this once again congratulations on your new journey.

What a beautiful sight to see you both becoming husband and wife. We never lost a son but we gained a wonderful daughter. You both are loved so much by us. May today be the day you wished for and may your future together hold love and happiness because you both are truly special. I do say this again I wish you two the best. As a parent we are happy to see that our son is so happy with you. You two are a perfect couple. You have real love and chemistry. We are very lucky that our son has chosen a wife like you" Alex said. I'm tired if I can be excused for 30 minutes it will be nice. "I'm tired" I whispered to Martin "I know preggie" He whispered too I laughed. My father looked at us "Come on you too behave we still here" Dad said everyone laugh "Okay let's settle down. Luther and Mbuso anything? Dad ask they both nodded. Luther took the mic he looked at me and Martin. "Nandi welcome to the family. Every time I look at you two my heart leaps up with joy and admiration. May each new day you share be more beautiful than

ever" Luther said. Martin smiled. He gave the mic to Mbuso. Please don't mess this up son. I can't afford to deal with my family right now. I don't have all the answers to answer them right now. Martin held my hands. Mbuso looked at us he smile. TO BE CONTINUED UNEDITED

100 NANDIPHA We caughted our breath facing up. He bought me to his chest. We missed each other. "If you carry joy in your heart you can heal me at any moment" "Mrs Tremblay" Martin whisperers. Luther gives the mic to Mbuso. Please don't mess this up son. I can't afford to deal with my family right now. I don't have all the answers to answer them right now. Martin held my hands. Every muscle in my body scream at me to flee I remain froze. My breath quicke I used every muscle in my body to stifle a whimper. Part of me want to get out of here Sponsored yet I knew that I can't come get out. This is not the time to flee but to enjoy this moment. Today it's my day. Come on Nandi focus. I

closed my eyes. "The most warm and hearty wishes to a very special couple. May your marriage be like a beautiful night sky full of shining stars of love and joy! Congratulations on the start of something amazing. Much love joy success health and happiness to you both on this happy occasion" Mbuso said. It's short and sweet. Yet I was scared that he might reveal that he's my son. Everyone who wanted to give their speech only Philani failed to do that. And I don't care. "Thank you very much for the wonderful and heartfelt speeches good people remain where you are seated lunch will be served. And thank you for making this happen. Everyone please help yourselves" Dad said. Indeed we had servers to serve everyone. This was not the part of the plan. But with my father you will never know. "What would you like to eat Mr and Mrs Tremblay? He asked "Fruit salad please" I said. "Same here" Martin said. He nodded he went to dish up for us he came with our food. "Thank you" Martin thanked him we eat "Did you enjoy your

day? Martin asks "Yes I did my love and you? "If you did I did too and I'm glad you're happy and that makes me happy" Martin said. We ate and we dance again. It is a beautiful moment "I almost forgot a very important part of the day" Dad said smiling a proudly father. "Nana come throw the bouquet please"Dad ordered "Oh year that part" I said everyone laugh. I stands up and all the single ladies are standing behind me. I threw the bouquet and turn around. Palisa catched the bouquet. Wow "No I can't let all my girls go" Dad said. We all laugh at him and Palisa ran away with the bouquet. Making us laugh even more. Martin took out the thigh band and he threw it. Mbuso catched it and quickly threw it at Mpilo. We laugh at him and we went to the dance floor. TWO HOURS LATER. The wedding ended and people started leaving. We went to our room and chilled for a while. " My parents bought us something as our wedding gift" Martin said getting up and went to the closet he came with two jewellery boxes. I look at him. No it's

not what I'm thinking. He only gave me one box I open it. My eyes winded. "This one is coming from me special let's go to the garage to see your new baby" Martin says we walk to the garage he opened it. Oh my goodness my dream car Mercedes-Benz S-Class Sedan. I feel my bowels loosen as my bladder reacted freely to the excitement. I fail to scream. I only open my mouth to find that simple but words they deserted me. MBUSO Immediately when I opened the door I'm welcomed with bottles of alcohol. I rushed to the dinning room it is empty I checked each and every room the was no sign of my father. Heart began to hammer against my chest. Ernest and Zodwa walks in. "What's wrong Mbuso? Zodwa ask "My father he's" I eish I didn't check the cottage room. I rush out to the cottage room. It's not locked I push the door and walk in. My breath quick and I uses every muscle in my body to stifle a whimper. his body is hanging up there. I climbed the chair and untie him. "Dad" I laid him on the ground. I checked his pulse. I holded my fingertips

to his wrist. Thank God he's alive. "How could you do this to me. How could you? (Crying) "He need a medical attention Zodwa said. "Bring my car closer please" She looks at the. "I can't Mbuso" She say. I know very well that she can't drive. UNEDITED

101 MBUSO Cloudy day I ended up shoving my hands pocket so that I could just warm them up for just few minutes. I shove to my jacket down to my knees. In spite of the nurse's questioning me about my father's attempt what lead him to the suicidal thought. I don't know all I know is that he's greedy. He got admitted to a little ER room that's a relief. At least the is a vast improvement over the past 8 hours at the hospital. I spent those hours praying and crying on a gurney in a public hallway where people in the waiting room and those filing in and the hospital's synagogue plainly saw me. Zodwa glowering next to me the whole time adding more pleasure to my mind. I know she's very supportive but she needs to rest I will be fine. I'm still wearing

the wedding suit and she's wearing a summer dress. I asked for a blanket that's after some discussion among the staff so that she could warm herself. How could he do this to me? I live in my own world so when I get stuck in life I restart it. I don't abort it. Hence why I say I live in my own world I was supposed to be the one taking the easy way out after I learnt that I had a foreplay with my mother. But the truth is people don't commit suicide because they're weak. They commit suicide because they have no reason to be strong. I looked at Zodwa. I can tell that she needs some rest. Mama once said she's a good judge of character. I guess I take that from her. Because I'm a good judge of character too. "Can't you go home I just want to be alone" she looks at me. "I don't know this place" Zodwa said. "Don't worry I will call aunt Dee" she looked at me. _____ PHILANI I walked to the sitting room. Sihle and his wife were playing like school kids. Well I can't complain is their house. I can't wait to catch the afternoon bus. Just

to be in my room. "Good morning" she stopped and look at each other for a while then we exchanged greetings. "Let me go prepare breakfast for everyone" Dineo said. "Are you sure that you don't need my help? Sihle asked. She laughed and left. Sihle looked at me. "Phila what's wrong with you? Sihle asks. I looked at him "There is nothing wrong with me Sihle" I replied Mpilo joined us. "You are not yourself. Even Nandi noticed that I had to come up with a lie" Sihle muttered. I can't help the fact that I don't trust this Nandi girl. Yes she's my sister but something is off about her. There is no way a person can be liked by thousands of people. "Earth to Philani" Mpilo called my name but I'm still trying to figure out. I know she's an artist but even famous people have enemies. Who is she that she's loved like that. Especially the love from the foster family and the in-laws. She's must've consulted a witch doctor before she left Gingindlovu that's where we were located 18 years ago before we were removed from that place. "Philani Mchunu" Sihle shouted my

name like he is shouting someone who just who's 10 metres away from him. I draft away my thoughts. I looked at them Sihle shake his head. "Mpilo told me what's eating you brother and I'm with him on this one. Nandi she was the first person to wake up and the last person sleep. She's telling the truth our father was happy he wouldn't think about harming himself" Sihle said. "She was fifteen years old Sihle there could be no way she could put two and two together and come up with an answer" They give me a determin look that can even kill a person. "A fifteen years old can make decisions" Sihle said. "You can't compare the oldest youth to the moredest youth" "If we believed her the morning dad was declared dead maybe we wouldn't be here. She knew the was something fishy hence why she was not allowed to attend dad's funeral because she was going embarrassed them Infront of everyone and that one we are sure of" Sihle said. "Nandi beated and accused Phumza of witchcraft that morning. We should've asked

ourselves that morning. Because we all know that no one was going to beat that women and she said nothing guilty was eating her. So if you still need more reasons why do I believe her just give her a call she will take you take you through" Mpilo said. Doneo walk to us. "Can I steal him? She ask NANDIPHA This phrase and the way I used it allowed me to go from a life mostly dominated by fear and worries to one characterized by joy Sponsored gratitude and peace of mind. I just can't wait for the trial to end I want to go to my honeymoon just to spend two weeks with my husband. He's no longer Martin but my husband. And I'm no longer Ms Zwane I'm Mrs Tremblay. My phone started ringing. "Hello" still more things to be taken care of. We need to change my name to Tremblay and my signature too. When feeling grateful one cannot simultaneously have feelings of anger frustration worry or fear. Gratitude banishes negative thoughts and feelings. "Hey girl power" Dineo said. "How are you sister" smiling she's my

sister in law and a friend at the same time. I never thought I could trust a female friend after what Nolitha did to me. But I guess not everyone is here to hurt me right? "I'm fine can I speak to Mrs Zulu? I look at Nosipho and handed her the phone. "Hey" She said walking out. UNEDITED.

102 NANDIPHA Whoever came with the motto of life is a journey indeed life is a journey filled with lessons hardships heartaches joys celebrations and special moments that will ultimately lead us to our destination our purpose in life. The road will not always be smooth in fact throughout our travels we will encounter many challenges. I'm traveling to a new journey Mrs Tremblay how is that sound. MamTrembly I can't believe that I'm finally someone's wife and a human being growing up inside me. The thought of becoming a mother scares me but what can I say it is what it is. I'm carrying a precious diamond inside me. The feelings of that bought a massive smile on my face. My

mood lifted up. I've always known that one day my life will change but I didn't accept the changes to be so soon all my entire life I want to be called mom one day. It's almost 12 pm and Nosipho she's not yet back I'm sure she's safe I trust Dee. I'm sure they went to do shopping. I will be accompanying my brothers to bus station. My husband and his father in-law went out dad mentioned that they will be meeting with my father in law. I just can't wait to see the house that the Tremblays bought us as a wedding gift. Why did they choose to buy us a house though? I guess I will never know. They say that no matter how old a person become when I'm are with my brothers I revert back to childhood. Sometimes my hope bloomed inside me when I'm around them even though one of them is bitter. I looked at my aunties Palisa and the kids. "Guys I will be right back" "You want to spin your car already? Keitumetsi ask "Yes baby you wanna join me" She shakes her head. "Bye aunt see you later" Keitumetsi said. I love this girl she reminds me of

myself when I was in her age. I bid them farewell. I drive off. With my first car my parents said 'The car you are driving says a lot about me. From the make and model to the state of the interior the car reflects several aspects of my attitude practically and the way I approach life.' Now I understand what is the meaning of that. I got to Sihle's house. I'm crossing my fingers that they are ready. The gate is wide open. My father consider me as an strong women. Becouse of I rather walk alone in darkness than follow the sounds of the darkness. My heart got broken multiple times and I'm still standing. People tried to get rid of me but I'm still kicking and I walked through hell and I'm still like an angel. Mpilo welcomes me. I walk in. Sihle he's not around. This will require me to take his house keys with. "You're ready to go? I ask he nod "Ingabe usukulungele ukuhamba? (Are you ready to go) I asked he nodded. "Uphi uncane Zodwa? (Where is aunt) "Sizomlanda kwa Mbuso" (We will collect her at Mbuso's house) Mpilo said. NOSIPHO I had to

cook up a lie in order to come here. I didn't wanna ruin Nandi's day. Mbuso walked me to little ER room. I look at him. He ushered his dark eyes shut. I tried not to breath but I know it is impossible. He is still the father of my daughters but yet he's the same man who used to mistreat me. I've accepted that its time too move on. But I'm still holding onto my past I'm also holding onto the pain of my past. Heart will never be practical until they are made unbreakable. Why didn't they let him die he doesn't deserve a second chance. I take fee small steps backward. Mbuso look at me. "Mom please don't leave me alone here please" He fails to control himself he is crying his hands are shaking in an odd trembling rhythm. I walk to him and bought him for a hug. "It's okay I won't leave" "I can't lose him. I just can't" Mbuso said "I need him my sisters needs their father. How can he do this to us? Mbuso said. Where is the strong Mbuso I know right now. "Uh huh Mbuso don't do this" he's letting him to get to his head. Vincent like an attention. I'm sure he's

listening right now and he's enjoying this season. I'm not going to allow him to play with my emotions. He needs to except the defeat. He lost the battle. NANDIPHA We drive to Mbuso's apartment. Mpilo got out of the car. I look at Philani why he's he so cold towards me. "P" " Ahm" he responded "Ngabe sinempi engingayazi ngayo? (Did we have a fight that I'm not aware of) he shake his head. Mpilo and Zodwa make their way. Zodwa is wheeling her luggage. Mpilo put it on the car boot. They entered in the car. "Sanibonani" (Hello) Zodwa greeted. Philani look at her. "How are you feeling aunt" Philani asked. He failed to ask me that question what's wrong with him? "I'm still shaken. What? Mpilo cut her. "I'm sorry that you had experienced that. But you should've let that busted die" Mpilo said. What he's he talking about. I drive off "Mpilo don't say that. You didn't see how terrified Mbuso was he cried in public hallway people felt his pain so did I? Zodwa said. This grapped my attention. "What happened? They all

look at me. "Vincent attempted suicide" Mpilo said. If a person is tired of living they should let them die. Mpilo he's right. As I'm driving I saw Ernest walking. I stopped beside him Mpilo look at me. My parents taught me no matter what happened in my life I must always remember that I'm not in my own. They helped many people and that didn't make the world better but it made Them better people. The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful to be honorable to be compassionate to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well. "Why are you stopping? Mpilo ask. He knows very well why. Volunteering your time money Sponsored or energy to help others doesn't just make the world better it also makes you better. Studies or should I say Google indicate that the very act of giving back to the community boosts your happiness health and sense of wellbeing. "Isn't he your mother's boyfriend or what ever you call it" He faked a smile. Ernest look at us. Zodwa open the door for him to get in. He is dead tired.

"Sanibonani" Ernest greeted. Philani greeted back. Why is Philani acting so weird. I expected this from Mpilo and Sihle. "P you haven't answered me" he look at me. "Who are you? Philani asked "Pardon" "Who are you? He repeated. Not that I didn't heard him. I gasped and look at him through the mirror "What do you want to know about me?" "Everything" Philani said. "There is nothing interesting about my life. I'm Nandi Zwane. I'm a mixed Xhosa and Zulu. I have a one son whom I had a intimacy foreplay with. I just got married to my charming Dr Tremblay." I looked at him through the mirror. He shake his head. He said I must tell him about myself. I continued driving. "I'm a graduate student at Bachelor's Degree Economics office administrator Engineering law. Plus sounds engineering degree. I'm a CEO at ZCCL company" Mpilo stop me. "Should I continue or must I also tell you how many men I was involved with how many ripped off my heart? everyone shakes their heads. "Bafo I'm warning you now" Mpilo said "I said she must t..." Philani said

Mpilo cut him "Just save it Philani" Mpilo said.
"myeke abe njalo uma kumenza azizwe engcono"(Let him be that way if it makes her feel better) I'm trying to hard to be in theirs lives not that I need them but to be there like any sibling would be. I don't owe them anything and they don't owe me anything too. But if he continue doing this. I will be gladly take my own route. "What time is your bus living? I didn't want ask. I wanted to ask Mpilo about the driving lessons I don't wanna sound pushy. "2 pm" Zodwa reply. I clear my throat "When will I see you again Zodwa? She smiled "I don't know but soon" Zodwa said "Okay I hope I'm not fussing" she laugh at least I see the side I wanted to see. "You are not. Truth to be told you are amazing I was hoping that you will hate me like my sister did" Zodwa said. "I with hatred we don't get along we are worst enemies. Poison isn't always something we eat or drink it can be an emotion. And hate is one of them eating us up inside and causing destruction. I won't benefit anything from hating

you. I want you to remember this not everyone is like Phumza she had her selfishness to dislike you. Holding on that anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else you are the one who gets burned" P cleared his throat.

"Today I want you to ask yourself simple questions don't answer me just question and answer yourself" She nod "Does hate have a place in my life? Do you harbor any feelings of hatred toward yourself or anyone else? If you do I implore you to address this negative feeling before it becomes something much more dangerous. Hate when left unchecked will drain your spirit tarnish your soul and darken your days" She's busy saying wow. "Wow. You and your father always have something to change someone's life" Zodwa said. "Well babe stick with me you will find peace of mind" We all laugh including Philani and Ernest. Some of the words I was saying I directed to them. We reached our destination. They got out of the car. "Stay strong sis" Mpilo said "I will

take care of yourself" He hug me Zodwa hug me to and we said our goodbyes. UNEDITED

103 PHILANI When you left unchecked will drain your spirit tarnish your soul and darken your days. Those words are playing in my head. It's been 2 hours since Nandi said those words. She meant well after all. It will be a long day before we reach home. She has a good heart after all. For her to allow Ernest in her car was very big of her. I'm sure he's happy he just can't show his emotions. But he's trying to be there for his children. Mpilo look me. And he shakes his head. MBUSO I looked at my step mother. "Mom I'm sorry I made you stay in the same room with the person who mistreat you" "Apology accepted Mbuso! You need to rest you will come back later on" Nosipho said "What if he decides to wake up and try to harm himself again" she smile "Your father wants attention and that is what you are giving him right now. He will do anything in his power to turn you against your

mother and if you continue doing this he will succeed" Nosipho said. She has a point. "You think he is awake?" "Absolutely yes" Nosipho reply This means he's hearing this conversation "What do we do now?" "We need to deal with his emotional blackmail or whatever he calls this. Let's go" Nosipho said. We walk out of the room "The specialist are here for him. You need to lie low. This is not about becoming cold and uncaring. I know you care about him and I'm not saying you should stop caring. All I'm trying to say is stay inside your head and taking care of your feelings. You can care about someone else's feelings but you cannot take care of their feelings" Nosipho say If she said this words few months ago I was going to say that she doesn't want to see me around my father.

NANDIPHA Finally Sponsored but you cannot take care of their feelings" Nosipho say If she said this words few months ago I was going to say that she doesn't want to see me around my father.

NANDIPHA Finally we gathered together at the

lounge waiting for Nosipho is not among us my aunts are still here who will look after uncle Themba? I steal a glance at my husband. I wish he could just take me to my world. I'm proud of myself marrying someone who loves me unconditionally disputes all I've been through but he loves me with the burden on my shoulders. I love the way he carries himself the way he spoke and how friendly he is. "Stop it Nandi" Martin whisper when he realised that I'm undressing him with my eyes. "What did I do now? I whisper laughing "Let's just say you are on your own small world" Martin said "Well husband you are over exaggerating" "I'm I? Martin ask He has the kind of looks that makes me want him side me. It turned my imagination in another world as he said. Remember when I met him I had lost faith and hope in love. But he came through he showed me the other world of love that I always dreamt of. Love is something people use to shove time or something they tend to use it for their own personal purposes. I've experienced that before.

But with kind of this love I'm happy. I came to reality when I heard Mbuso's voice. I look at him he look like a mess. He's still wearing yesterday clothes but with a jacket on. He set between to his sisters. Keitumetsi is sitting on his thighs "I love you guys" Mbuso said to his sisters. Keitumetsi look at him "Did anyone died? Keitumetsi asked Mbuso shake his head. I was going to ask that too "Tumi my favourite cousin it is important to remind you guys how much I love you when I'm still alive because life is too short. Hence I say I love everyone in this room. Remember life is too short. Our time here on this planet is limited. Focus on what brings you joy not brings you stress. I love you Keitumetsi Mchunu" Mbuso said. Keitumetsi she's ready in tears. "I love you too cuz" Keitumetsi said. "Are you alright? Of course he's not. His eyes were bloody red. Nosipho she seems fine. "I'll be fine" Mbuso reply "You look like mess your girlfriend won't even recognise you" Palisa said. "Hai mzala" "Let me run a bath for you then I will get you something to eat

in your room" I said he nod "I don't have the appite. I just need to sleep" Mbuso said. Lucky he has some of his clothes here. I must say this is no longer my house but a family house. I'm aware it's a gift from my parents but it's too big for me. I run warm water and went back to the lounge. "You can go freshen up" He got up. Martin and my father keeps on nodding. Best friend I sit down. "Are you aware that you are a wonderful mother" Martin whisper "I'm not aware of that" "Well you are" Martin say. I looked at Nosipho "How is he?" "Tsk tsk Mbuso should've let him die. Why save a person who want to die willingly" Nosipho said I laughed. Palisa and Aunties look at me "What happened? Dad ask. I didn't tell them it was not my place to "Apparently Vincent attempted suicide" "I don't see anything funny with that" Palisa said "He's lucky that his son found him I was going to watch him until he takes his last breath. Then give him an award by a round of applause" Nosipho said. I laugh even more. I don't blame her though she has every right to feel

like this. My father look at me then her "Nana..
Nono.... You too won't enter in heaven" Dad said.
So we have nono now? I now believe Palisa this too
are hiding something deep "I reader go to hell. I
hate that man with all my heart" Nosipho said. Let
me excuse myself before the lecture start. In this
house we don't use the big emotion words 'hate' it's
a foreign language in my father's ears. "Excuse me"
my father look at me "Black or with milk? "Black
strong coffee" Dad said. "Hubby! "With milk please"
Martin said I walk to the kitchen. I make two coffees
for both my favourite men. I walk back to the
lounge. "Black strong coffee for my favourite
father" he smiled. "And this goes to my hubby the
only man who owns my entire heart" Smiling. He
smiled back. Why can't he steal me for few minutes.
He look at me. "I will be in my room" I said. This
could be my ticket to have a moment with my
husband. This pregnancy it's turning me to
something else. TO BE CONTINUED UNEDITED

104 MARTIN I walked into our room. My beautiful wife she's waiting for me. She is on her bra and underwear. She's smile as I got in. Shouldn't she be worried about Mbuso? "I'm worried about Mbuso" Pretending like I'm busy. "He will be fine" Nandi said. The next two weeks I will lose weight sure. Especially it will be just a two of us. "I never seen him like that before" "He's just shocked. He will come around" Nandi said. I look at her and smile "What happened? "How I'm I suppose to know. I wasn't there" She half shouted. Oh my goodness did I have to make pregnate? If we are doing this everyday. How much more in our honeymoon especially it will just me and her. She got up and take few steps to me. "Femme" (wifey) the sound of that. This time I manage to choose a flower that stays closely to my heart. The one thing I like about her is that she communicate with me. That's the very important thing in a relationship. Nadia and I never worked from the word go. I was unhappy with her. She used to complain about my working

hours and my family. She sent my children to her brother in New York when they were 2 years old and I let her be. Because I wanted her to be happy then she followed by divorcing me. Three years later when she took them away from me. Everything happens in a short space of time. I loved her in a way that I ended up fighting with my parents and siblings. I wanted nothing to do with my family. It took years for us to rebuild our relationship. And all thanks to Nandi. She doesn't know yet that she is the reason for the family reunion. Her telling me her story made me realise that family is important. Hence why my parents and brothers like her. I've given up in love until I met Nandi. I fell deeply in love with Nandi from the first day. At first I debated with my heart. She kissed me briefly on my lips then unbuttoned my shirt. I guess she was long waiting for this moment. With Nandi you won't know. She won't mind giving me silent treatment. I lifted her up and took her back to our luxury bed. She laughed as I made her dream come true. "Tell your husband

what is it that you need" She smile. I went down to her my thighs kissing them for dear. She keeps on getting up and going back down. Oh my goodness "Make me feel good baby" Nandi I pull down her underwear. She crossed her legs hiding her coochie. With my wife you won't predict "What's the matter? She then parted her legs again my breath escalated immediately when my eyes met her coochie "Beau" (Beautiful) She closed her eyes as my tongue was touching her. "You are tickling me mon mari" (hubby) I brushed her clit while licking it she moan "Ahhh I....Ohhh Mart Ahhh" I stopped I know she doesn't want me to stop. But I want her to take over. MBUSO I can't go to my apartment tonight. The memories are reflecting on my mind. I'm not ready to loose both my parents. I'm grateful that I'm welcome here anytime. I could've gone to Sihle's house but I just wanted to be surrounded by my sisters cousin and both my mother's NOSIPHO I was slicing the onion. If I was given a chance to talk to him alone I was going to strangled

him to death. Why did he save him. He doesn't deserve to be given a second chance of life. He has hurt many souls. "Easy" Sthembiso said. I stopped slicing the onion "The poor onion didn't do anything" Sthembiso said wrapping his arms around me. I smile "Sthe stop it" he kissed my neck. "Nono" everytime he calls nono my heart leaps for joy. "Did you have to call me that Infront of everyone? He continued kissing my neck. I feel bad already. Nandi was looking out for me and my children. I find myself falling deeply in love with him. It all started during the counseling lessons he was helping me with. He did a good job I applause him. I know Mrs Tremblay senior she was helping me and my daughters too but this man here he needs to be credited. "I can call you that until the whole world see how much I love you" Sthembiso said. "Your sisters are here. Palisa she's suspecting that we are dating" "Leave them to me I can handle them" Sthembiso said "Usisi Nandi yena?(What about sister Nandi) "Okay nono I respect your consent"

Sthembiso said. smiling and feel special. This is a mess. Mpilo he's dating Palisa now this. I don't think she will love the idea of me dating her father. He let go of me "Can I help you" Sthembiso said. I nod. "Yeah sure" I guess he heard footsteps. "How are you feeling? Sthembiso asked. We acting like school kids trying to hide their relationship. This guy can act I'm telling you. "If I was given a chance I was going to strangled him until his last breath" "Than how were you going to explain that to your children? Sthembiso "I was going to cross that bridge later after I killed him" He laugh "Nono get rid of that hatred" Sthembiso said NANDIPHA He let me took over. I'm game on "Ahh I...fuck baby where....Ahhh" He groan I'm massaging his balls and going deeper with my mouth on his rock he held my head and pushed me in further I gagge and my saliva caused moisture to his dick much to his enjoyment. "Ohhh fuck....yes L'amour....Ahhh fuck" (love) He groane. I continue to suck his balls while doing a hand job. I feel him tensing up he hold on to

me very tightly. "Stop.....stop....stop.... awww"
Sham my husband. He is shaking he finally got a
little energy he got up walked to the bed and
pulled me and made me lie on my back and face up.
He kissed me "Wow baby...I...wow you Mmm" he
took off my bra. He continued kissing from my neck
my lips and then he went down to my breasts. He
went down and circled his tongue on my belly
button my lips and then he went down to my
breasts. He went down and circled his tongue on
my belly button it feels so perfect. He sucked on my
thighs focused on both of them. I closed my eyes
enjoying the pleasure that comes with it. I wish to
meet the person who suggested that during
foreplay intimacy people like me should close their
eyes. I'm sure the person is rich by now. I heard his
breaths on my coochie I breathed heavily. His
tongue landed on my clit he sucked muffled licked
coochie for dear life. "Ohhh baby
I....ohwww...this....oh baby it's so good. I...
Ohhh....honey" I rose up he gently put me back

down. I vibrated as he was nibbling on my clit and fucked me. I released his mindblowing orgasm. I'm sure he's proud of himself right now. He came up and kissed me let me taste his lips. I kissed him back As we were kissing his dick brushed my clit the moist made it even more nicer. "Martin my only citizen...I....I need you inside" "Your wish is my command my queen" Martin said. He did as I asked him to do. Each time he penetrates me it feels like I'm doing it for the first time. I hold him tight on his shoulders as he pushed deep inside. "Hhhhaaa I.... love you babah" He pumped in he moved in circles and put my leg on his shoulder I literally feel him on my womb. That's the only nightmare I don't like during foreplay intimate "Ahhhh.....mon amour tu es...." (.my love you are...) Martin said. He pumped I moaned and he groaned. We reached our destination. "Wifey" Martin said. "Husband" "How is my champion doing there" Martin said. His hand was brushing my tiny tummy "Who says I'm carrying a boy? "Mbuso's Dr stepdad said" Martin said. I

laughed. Looked each other and we passionately kiss. "Where were you all along? Martin asked "I was busy fooling around" "We no longer fooling around" Martin said. I nod and smiled he kissed my forehead and got up and went to get a towel from the cabinet he wiped me off and wiped himself then he came and laid next to me. "When will we move out of here? "When we come back from the honeymoon" Martin replied. Is it a must for me for Nwabisa's sentencing? This is a curse. UNEDITED

105 NOSIPHO NEXT DAY. We gathered on the table having a great breakfast prepared by Palisa. good breakfast make people smile and health. A famous author once said. I never felt something so strong like this. That's me I never felt something so strong like this. I have no idea how did I end up feeling this way and why because he's my boss. Feelings cannot be explained but they only show. I never got a chance to be in love with someone. I have no slightest clue about what relationships are like and

I'm afraid to be in love yet I'm deeply in love. I looked at him then I quickly shuffled my eyes away from him. Come on Nosipho you can do better than this. Mbuso joined us he's looking better than yesterday. We exchanged greetings with him he sat down. "Where is Nandi? Mbuso asked. "She went out with a boyfriend" Keitumetsi said. Making us laugh. It was said that she's in the bathroom she will join us shortly. Where does she get the idea of boyfriend from? "Cuz you let her go with him? Mbuso asked. "Yeah I can't stand on a way of love. If people love each other let them be. We stand in their way it won't get us anywhere" Keitumetsi said. This kid she's something else. "Preach little one" Sthembiso said. "Tell me here what about people who are hiding their relationship? Sthembiso asked. He's out of order now. "Well if people love each other there is no need to hide the relationship. When you keep something secret it usually means you are afraid of someone finding out or are embarrassed or ashamed about it or both. This can

make them feel like their are unworthy of being their public" Keitumetsi said. How would he question a kid though? He smiled "You are the best high five" Sthembiso said "Palisa are you seeing someone? Sthembiso ask. She look at me and Mbuso. "Tumi eat Sihle he will be here anytime soon" "Don't worry their still have an hour to go" Mbuso said. "Tumi where do you see yourself in 10 years from now? Palisa asked changing the subject "I have dreams like everyone else. I want to study hard and I will make sure that I pass this time around. I want to become an virtualization engineer" Keitumetsi said. "What does virtualisation engineer do? Sthembiso asked. He knows the answer he wants to make sure that she's sure about her future. I've known this man for a short period. "A virtualization engineer manages data storage server resources and other virtual computing platforms. They also perform a variety of functions like data migration virtual machine set up and training Sponsored virtual machine set up and

training troubleshooting end-user problems and designing assessment tools for storage and visualization applications" Keitumetsi said. He nod. Palisa opened her mouth wider like she's surprise of something "Uncle Sthe I'm going back to school I won't watch Tumi win your heart like this" Palisa said. She hasn't answered the question wow this girl. "You can go back aunt. Education is the key for the future" Keitumetsi said. Rolling her eyes. "Nonjabulo and Jubulile where do you see yourselves in the next 10 years? Palisa asked. "You haven't answered me Palisa" Sthembiso said. She cough Mbuso laughed at her. "Aunt are you seeing someone? Mbuso asked. Hippocrat "Well dear uncle I will tell you will meet him when time goes our relationship is still new and complicated at the moment" Palisa said he nod and look at Keitumetsi. "Little one did you heard that? She will tell me when times goes" Sthembiso said. "Maybe her boyfriend he's..." She kept quiet and laugh we ended up laughing. "She's ashamed of her

boyfriend" Keitumetsi added. This girl she's also a Hippocrat like her cousin. "I'm not Tumi" Palisa said. "Grandpa want to meet him" Keitumetsi said.

PHILANI Mpilo helped Zodwa. She's going back to her place. Who's paying for her rent because Mpilo he's no longer working. He was the only one who was taking care of her financial. Until he lost his job year ago. Zodwa sat next to me. "Philani I'm now leaving" Zodwa said "Hamba kahle Mamncane" (go well aunt) "We will keep in touch" Zodwa said. She walked out Mpilo followed her. He's angry at me not only him my uncle too. NANDIPHA The worst things I dislike about pregnancy is to experience nauseous and vomiting. I looked at my face on the mirror. I look fine yes I'm fine. My life is meant not to be happy let me stay positive because I don't know what's tomorrow hold for the future. I walk to the dinning room. Everyone was enjoying their food. I sat between Martin and Nosipho. Mbuso dad and Martin they hasn't touched their food. "Good morning good people" "Good morning to

you too Nandi auntmama cuz" everyone said beside my father "Father! "I'm not a gospel fan so I won't start singing chore today" dad said. "Okay morning babah" "Morning Nana how are you feeling today" Dad said "I'm well thanks and yourself" "I'm good Nana" Dad said smiling. "Mbuso how are you feeling this morning" he smiles "I'm good and I'm thinking about transferring him to KZN" Mbuso said. "That's a great idea" Nosi said. She really hate him. Mbuso's phone rings. He picks it up. "Uncle Luther! Mbuso got up and went to the balcony. I looked at Nosipho. "Why don't you finish him off" I whispered she laughed. "Sis Nandi stop it" Nosi said laughing I ended up laughing too. My father looked at me "Dad you want some coffee? He nod. He like his coffee made by his Nana. My mother would let do himself whenever I was not around. He want his coffee done by his Nana. I walk to the kitchen Nosipho followed me. I look at her we laughed. "What do you mean I should finish him off? Nosipho asked "He already started. Just serve him with the

divorce papers. I don't see him handling the stress" she laughed "That will kill him" Nosipho said. My father cleared his throat. We are cough "What will kill who? My father said. Nosipho and I look at each other. "Nana....Nono...." We laughed at him. "The divorce papers will serve him" "Nana have mercy on the poor man" Dad said laughing "Dad is the anything going on between you two? I asked they looked at me. My father cough. He looked at her "Dad I'm no longer a child" Nosi cleared her throat "The is nothing going on sister Nandi" Nosi said. I'm a good judge of character I can see that the is something going on between them. As long as my father he's happy I'm happy. I am grateful for all the sacrifices he made for me. He's the selfless person he deserves to be happy. My mother would've wanted him to move on. I will wait for him to tell me. "Okay forget I asked something" I said. Adding the sweetener on his coffee "I'm going to join others" Dad said and left. MBUSO Luther and I we became friends. At first I didn't trust him. But he's a

good listener and advisor too. He's the one who suggested that I should transfer my father back to KZN. He will attend the cancellation at KZN.

Vincent needs to understand that I'm here to work.

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106 MBUSO LATER ON My father was always there for me I was his best friend and son at the same time. That's changed after he learnt that my mother is alive. Our relationship was still stable after that but I had to learn that he's abusing my stepmother. I dislike people who over power kids and women. But since he's my father and I and the twins we are his family we have to stick by him. I can't just turn my back on him. My family they're my life and everything else comes second best before them. Office phone rings. I picked it up. "ZCCL company hello Mr Zulu the project manager speaking how may I assist you today?" "How professional project manager" Nosipho said. "Someone is looking for you" she added. "Does the person have an

appointment? "He doesn't sir. He's here on a personal matter not work related" Nosipho said. I must admit she's doing great. And all thanks to Nandi coming up with the strategy of a team work. People are improving. I mean even the cleaners are happy because they are gaining more experience than sweeping and mopping this building. "Mr Zulu are you still there? She asked. "Yes mom" "Should I send him in? She asked again "Don't.... I will attend him just now" I getting up. Who wants to see me in a personal matter. I'm working half day. In 30 minutes time I need to go and see my father before the they take him. I'm using stairs instead of the lift the lift . Lift promotes laziness. And stairs are faste. Luther is the best friend ever. He came all the way from Pretoria to see me. "Uncle Luther" he laughed he doesn't want me to call him uncle he says I'm making him old "Like seriously now" Luther said. "My grandmother and my mother of taught me to respect elders" "I'm month older than you not a year" Luther said we laugh. This guy he's crazy. But

in the court room he's different. "You look better than someone who almost lost his father" Luther said. "You should've seen me yesterday. You were going to deny me" he laughed. He came all the way to laugh at me I join him. "When are you knocking off? Luther ask. I checked the time "The old man will be leaving in 23 minutes" "Thats good because I want to meet this weird old man" Luther said. My stepmother just laughed. "He's indeed weird" Nosipho said. Truth to be said she's glowing. Show's that she's in a better world without stress and anxiety coursed by my father. "Guys stop talking about my father as if I'm not around" "Let's go because I have a get well card for him" Luther said. Palisa came running I don't know from where but she seems happy. "Aunt I'm back and thanks for filling for me" Palisa said. "You welcome and how did you go? Nosipho ask "Guess who will be in class on Monday? Palisa said I looked at her "Tell me that you are lying" Nosi said "Well I'm not by next week when I knock off I'm going to attend night classes"

Palisa said. I can tell that she's happy. "You knock off by 16:30 how will you do that? Nosi asked "I need to talk to my bosses hopefully they will understand. Because my first class starts at 16:00 my classes ends at 19:00" Palisa said. "Both your bosses will understand. And they will be proud of you" she gave me a determined smile. "Thanks Mbuso" Pali said. "Luther you won't mind to wait for me I'm going to get my stuff then we will leave" he nod PHILANI I watched the video of her dancing celebrating her engagement. I'm sure that she was making Vincent and my uncle jelouse judging on how she kept on singing a kere o shota ka bokae ko tlatse whisle stealing a glanced at them. She didn't care about other people that day she was happy. Truth to be said. She has a hidden talents that we as her really family never knew about. Uncle Ernest walks in. He grabbed the chair and sit down. "Is that the mini engagement party video clip? Uncle Ernest askq. I nod and gave him the phone. He watched and smiled. "She's a happy soul. She didn't deserve

what I did to her. She has every right to hate me and I don't blame her for that I bought that for myself. She begged me that day not to take her to Zulu's family but what did I do I allowed greediness to take over me. Since I find out that she's my daughter I can't close my eyes because each time I close my eyes I see that little girl screaming for mercy to her uncle" Ernest says crying what is it about men don't cry. Men are human beings too they get emotional hormone. Men get upset and sad and depressed they feel insecure about themselves their bodies their abilities and they are allowed to feel pain and frustration and loss. They can cry too. They can be emotional too. "No amount of guilt can change how I failed my brother children Sponsored children nephews and my mother" Ernest said. I don't know what should I do. "Philani don't push her away from you. She needs her brothers by her side. You are lucky because her father he's welcoming and caring" Ernest said. "He's not her father" He shakes his head "Mr Zwane is

Nandipha's father. He knows what's good for her. And I must say I spoke to him before the wedding took place he said I must not give up on her she will come around" Ernest said. "She's pushing you away" "The girl has been through a lot from the age of 15 . Don't be blinded by her smile and laughter or her expansive cars the girl had to become someone's wife by force. She had to become a mother at the age of 15. She was abused physical emotional mental and sexually. I don't blame her for pushing me away. She had to stay with strangers and learnt to love them at the age of 15. And I'm the one who put her through that. Let's be grateful that she's alive and happy" Ernest said "I don't know but I feel like she used muti to be loved by everyone" "There are no herbs that were used. God blessed her. And you are the last person to treat her like that. She was not only your little sister. But your friend remember you and her used to help each other with everything" Ernest said. Maybe I'm being jealous of her relationship with Mpilo and Mbuso.

Because the past 30 years we were friends beside being family then she came everyone is giving her the attention. MBUSO The is nothing I hate like things not going accordingly. Vincent will be moved tomorrow morning. The nurse says he's awake and his blood pressure is stable. I looked at him through the window indeed he's awake. The guard that was looking after him not to harm himself again he is charging with him. I can't hear what they are talking about. I looked at Luther he gave me a nod what games he's he playing. "Enter Mbuso. Don't say anything and see what will happen" Luther said. He thinks this is a court room where he makes sure that he plays his card well in order to win or to prosecute suspects. "And do what after doing that?" "Just do as I say" Luther says I open the door and walks in. "Here enteres your son" The guard says with excitement. I look at him hoping to see reaction from him. But nothing I walk to him and sit on the chair. "Dad how are you? He didn't say anything. I look at the guard. He shrugged his

shoulders "He was fine not a seconds ago" The poor man said. I saw him he was fine. Maybe my stepmother she's right. He is playing with my emotions. I stand up and walk out of the room.

NANDIPHA I and my husband had a wonderful picnic day. And a shopping day too. He took a month leave. Well he deserves it. He's been working hard. Without taking a leaves. Days and nights shifts. Being on call doctor and doing house visits. He deserves a break. "Aren't you tired? Martin ask walking to parking lot "Don't even ask if I can get home and take a shower then sleep I will be fine"

"Okay this time I'm driving" Martin said. When we left home in the morning. He let me drive and we had an agreement that I will drive my own car without pleasure. "But we" "You said you are tired. I will drive you dear wife" Martin said. What is it with the dear wife dear uncle Sthe? Safa ngobo dear.

"Okay then" He smile opening the car for me I got in. He got in and diver off. I sleep right away. Grabbing a quick nap this time can contribute in

making my brain more effective and productive. The better I sleep is the better I stay calm lately. I retired from dancing and drinking alcohol. This dude got me. Hence why my father like him. "l'amour se réveille" (Love wake up) I dislike people who disturb me from my beauty sleep. "Nand" He called "What?" "We are here we have reached our destination for the day. Let's get inside" Martin said. I rubbed my eyes. "The trip wasn't that long" "It was dear. You sleep too much we were stuck on traffic for an hour. And I pass by Fisher ways" Martin said. He is not bluffing he's holding the the Fisher ways bag. I got off the car. And made our way to the house "I will steal you on your sleep and take you to Canada" Martin said. I laughed "How is that possible? He laughed. We got in the house. Funny enough my aunties are still here. Sihle and his wife are here too. I guess Keitumetsi decided to come back here after school. "Good people" "Evening Nandi" Everyone greeted this time my special father did join the team. We exchanged greetings. And sat

down. While still having our conversation we heard a knock. "It's Mbuso" I say everyone look at me. I don't know why. But I can feel my father husband and Mbuso miles away from me. "How do you know is him? Palisa asked. While getting up. "My breast has reported" Nosipho laughed "Not days ago your knees were weaker because your husband was here what is the next report. From knees and numb to breast" Nosi said laughing. I don't know where does this thing of feeling them via my body coming from. Palisa came back. Indeed it was Mbuso he is unbalanced "What happened" Nosipho aske helping Mbuso to sit down. "Your husband happened" Mbuso says His voice is slurred "Easy Mbuso don't let him get to you" Luther said. "I hate him Luther I hate that man" Mbuso says. We all look at Luther my poor brother in law have to explain what happened "We visited his father" He said than laughed this guy though "Luther soit sérieux pour une fois dans ta vie. (Luther be serious for once in your life) Martin said. "That busted was awake

when we got there we watched him talking and laughing with the guard immediately when Mbuso entered the room the man pretended like he's still delusory Mbuso got mad we ended up going to the club he had few drinks and shots" Luther said. "I knew it" Nosipho said "We left his car at the club" Luther said. Sihle looked at me. "Thanks Luther for taking care of him I really appreciate that" "Anything for my sister in law" Luther said. I look at Mbuso he's fast asleep. "Sihle take him to his room" he look at me "Nosipho why don't you borrow me your husband for a day? Sihle ask "Fake husband" I and Nosipho said. UNEDITED

107 NANDIPHA MONTH LATER. The past 2week I and my husband had a peaceful honeymoon. I wish we can just go back no work stress only me and him. But what will I say we need our jobs in order to survive. We moved to our new home last week. I must say it's tiring sometimes especially with the wife duties. And the morning sicknesses not alone

the sensitivity to smells tastes of food
nauseavomiting and crying without any explanation.
But I can't complain because Martin help around we
are a team. My in-laws visited us for the weekend.
We get along very well with my in-laws. According
to a research Sponsored vomiting and crying
without any explanation. But I can't complain
because Martin help around we are a team. My in-
laws visited us for the weekend. We get along very
well with my in-laws. According to a research it is
said that around 60 percent of marriages suffer
from tension with mother-in-laws that is normally
between the woman and her husband's mother. I
can describe her as my mother friend sister and a
good listener I guess everyone in this family is a
good listener. Ashley she's my number one fan she's
carring like all mothers does. I guess it was only
Phumza who didn't have the mother's love in her
heart. She did well by taking the easy way out.
Dineo was going to cry Everyday but I doubt Sihle
was not going to allow that Ashley she's the one

who looks after me as a mother she calls me everyday make sure that I'm not stressed. I've realized that every family has different dynamics going for it. There are also various cultural differences that can influence the relationship with this important member of the family. She looks at me. I and Ashley we tackle the dishes that we used on breakfast. "What kind of delivery do we want?" Ashley asked. I'm now scared the question just buzz in my heart. Honestly I'm scared of pain I can't handle a heart broken. How I'm I going to handle the pain. "I don't know" She looked at me. Everytime when I say I don't know people looked me with the judging eyes. I might be the richest Sthembiso Blessing Zwane's daughter. That doesn't mean I know everything. "Come on baby you should decide" Ashley said. It's still early to say I'm only a month pregnant and 3 weeks still a long way to go. I'm scared I've been warned after terminating my previous pregnancy. That it might happen I don't carry the full term. "What if I lose my baby" She

looks at me. "I'm scared I might miscarry" "We all have mistakes and the man above everything he's forgiving he gave you the second chance to be a mother again and I believe you will be a great mother to my grand child. You had an abortion but that doesn't affect your chances of becoming a mother again and having normal pregnancies in the future. But there's a very small risk to your fertility and future pregnancies if you develop a womb infection during the procedure that's not treated promptly" Ashley said. "I don't know I'm scared I might lose my baby. This is nothing I've ever touched that turned out to be successful. I always messes up. This woman you are looking at she's a mess I'm a mess" Crying has become a good habit. She hugged me. How can one person have multiple problems alone. I killed my innocent child not so long ago. Now I'm pregnant again doctors warned me about the risks. I can't help the feeling of losing this baby. I don't trust myself with myself. "Nandi remember this you are strong woman. Don't let

anything deafet you not now not ever" Ashley said. She's a caring mother in law. I repeat she's like a mother to me "Thanks" the name said it all mother in law. It carries a heavy load of mother. Yes indeed she's a mother. "Will you be able to go to work like this? Ashley asked. I'm not sick it's just that I don't trust myself with myself. I might say I'm happy at the moment. But I know this happiness is for temporary. I never broke up with a man they break up with me. That's what I know. I never had a successful relationship what will make this one work. Hence why I'm saying I can't be trusted. When I love I love with all my heart at the end it will be torn apart like piece of paper that needs to be recycled. Feeling as though something has walked through me and left me numb shaking. I'm not strong as people describes me. All I want is to be in a small and to crawl into Martin's lap I ran to my room. I heard her and Martin calling my name. I slid down the door bringing my knees up to my chest. Martin and my father can tororrated this grumpy me.

What if I'm blessed with a baby girl what will I teach her. She will need a mother guidelines and I don't have that. I remember this boy who once said to me I should learn how to swim I learnt to do that but at the of the day I slept with my son. He's the one who advised me to learn to swim which means I should learn to let it go. I'm trying to let everything to go but I can't. "Nandi I'm sorry baby" Ashley said knocking at the door. Why? Apologizing doesn't mean she's wrong. It means that she values our relationship. "Mom you did nothing wrong I just want to be alone" I said "Okay baby" Ashley said. "Nandi I want you to stay strong. And believe in yourself. And always remember that I love you. I thank you for loving me back. Thank you so much Nandi for being the selfless person that you are. You have taught me so much and shaped me into the person that I am today. I love you so much" Martin said I'm sure he's trying to cheer me up. "Just go away" I shouted. "You are not going to work?" Martin asked he won't stop until I open this door "I

will but not now" NOSIPHO I look at him as he is working on his laptop. He seems very focused I'm sure he doesn't need destrubution. I took few steps backwards. "Where are you going? Sthmbiso asked. "Ahm" He got up and walk to me. Vincent was sent back to KZN he hasn't signed the divorce papers yet I don't know what's delaying him. "Nono are you alright? Sthembiso ask. He looked me in the eyes. We talked about this. But this guy here he doesn't even care about will our relationship affect others. "Nothing should I get you a coffee" I know very well that I don't stand a chance when it comes to that. "Don't worry I will do that myself can I make you one? Sthembiso asked. The only person who can make a tea or coffee for him it's Nandi. I looked at him. We shared a kiss. I never thought this could be me one-day. Feelings cannot be explained but they only can be show. I never got a chance to be loved by someone before. I have no slightest clue about what relationships is like and I'm afraid to be in love in the meantime I'm deeply in love with my boss.

We continued kissing then I shuffled my the kiss away from him. "I think the time is now" Sthembiso said. I'm not ready what if it backfires? what if he change along the way? Vincent's situation taught me not to trust anyone with my own life. UNEDITED

108 MBUSO Later on. We had a meeting with the team we will be installing storm water pipes than we will build a footbridge built. Beside the school river. The river we will be working on it is not safe for children. Almost everyone travel cross that everyday it's hard for them during flood. Children get drowned on that river. The same river we will be working on is connecting the link between two separated areas and it is next to school. Many children gets drowned on the very same river.

"Guys with this project I want you to do your best. Think about your cousin child niece nephew grandparents friends and family who cross this dam daily. Think about the heavy floods and think about people who crossing here daily" Nandi said we all

nod. She looked me giving me the platform to speak with my team I nod. Usually Mr Zwane he's the one who is giving us hope and instructions "Thanks sister boss for joining us today. We will start with the battered piles to piles hammered into the water at a inclined angle to give the ability to carry lateral loads" I said. "In this dam the past few days ago the tragic death of 5 years-old girl was flushed by the water. We don't want that to happen again. Our company can't prevent that from happening but we can save our community by installing the storm water drainage and the mini bridge" I added. They nodded. The girl was trying to cross a river that was in flood she was in her way home from school. It's sad waiting for your child from school the next thing you receive a call from the cops informing you that your child was washed away. "Anything to add? I asked "Going once going twice" I add. Being around Luther you will turn up being crazy the dude loves to play "And forever hold your breath" I said making them laugh. We can't work with sad faces after all.

"Okay then let's start working" I said. Nandi's cellphone ringed she walked away. "We can do this without any delay. We are the best team ever" they nod. They applaud. Nandi came back. "Guys I'm sorry I will join you some other time" Nandi said the team mumbled. "I'm sorry guys it's an emergency" Nandi said "kwenzenjani? (What happened) I asked. "Where is Sihle? Nandi asked. I guess aunt Dee was the one who called. Her and my uncle had a misunderstanding. Which leads aunt Dee to go to her cousin's house. She left Keitumetsi with Sihle. That drives Sihle crazy. He went to KZN with his daughter "He mentioned that he's going to KZN. this morning" I replied. "He can't do..." She kept her mouth shut. MARTIN Sister Naidoo entered in my office. When I was about leave. Duty calls I must say. "Dr Tremblay we have the emergency a mother her labor is taking too long Sponsored she was in her way home from school. It's sad waiting for your child from school the next thing you receive a call from the cops informing you that your child was

washed away. "Anything to add? I asked "Going once going twice" I add. Being around Luther you will turn up being crazy the dude loves to play "And forever hold your breath" I said making them laugh. We can't work with sad faces after all. "Okay then let's start working" I said. Nandi's cellphone ringed she walked away. "We can do this without any delay. We are the best team ever" they nod. They applause. Nandi came back. "Guys I'm sorry I will join you some other time"Nandi said the team mumbled. "I'm sorry guys it's an emergency" Nandi said "kwenzenjani? (What happened) I asked. "Where is Sihle? Nandi asked. I guess aunt Dee was the one who called. Her and my uncle had a misunderstanding. Which leads aunt Dee to go to her cousin's house. She left Keitumetsi with Sihle. That drives Sihle crazy. He went to KZN with his daughter "He mentioned that he's going to KZN. this morning" I replied. "He can't do..." She kept her mouth shut. MARTIN Sister Naidoo entered in my office. When I was about leave. Duty calls I must

say. "Dr Tremblay we have the emergency a mother her labor is taking too long The mother she's not tolerating the labor well and it arises that the baby is in a malposition" Sister Naidoo said. This called an unplanned cesarean it self. Even a first year medicine student can tell. "How old is she? "43 years Dr" Sister Naidoo said. That's it "Get her the anesthesia prepare the room for her and all the instruments remember to get the warmer ready for the baby" I said she nodded and rushed out. Being a doctor is a noble life. We doctors saves livse and we also help the peoples who sick. Our services should be valuable service to the suffering humanity. We get threatened by patients at times but we are driven to help them. My decision to be a doctor I am today it was driven largely by my grandfather he wanted to be a doctor but that never happened he became a nurse. I prepared myself for the surgery. I'm praying to God that the mother and the child make it alive. I put on surgical gown with bouffant and a cap to cover my hair and face mask latex

gloves and clog they like rubber theatre shoes. I rushed to the surgery. Everything is in order. I look her file her low blood pressure is lower than 90 mm Hg systolic. I look at the nurse she shook her head. No no I need to save the mother and the baby. "We need to perform a rapidly to manage her low blood pressure" She nod. NOSIPHO I made my way to his office. He is busy with some files. I grabbed the chair and sit down. He look at me and smiled. "How may I assist you Nono? Sthembiso ask. I love this man but I'm scared I might get hurt. "Don't you need some help? I ask and smiled nervously. I looked into his eyes and then I shuffle my eyes away slowly. "I'm storing this weekly data you can help me with that? Sthembiso said. I like his professionalism around here. I kept on playing withth my braids. While he was is showing me what to do. "Sort the files out and I will store the data myself" Sthembiso said. I'm sure he realized that I'm not paying attention on what he is saying. I bited

my lip nervously. Oh my goodness what I'm doing.

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109 NOSIPHO He's focused on storing this week data. I shot a short glance at him. He look at me. I darted my eyes away when as he look at me. He take a bottle of still water that are on the table.

"Do you have plans for this weekend? Sthembiso ask. He sip his water I mirrored at him. This is too much now. He is trying to avoid me. But with me and my eyes. "I don't have any yet" I said and I lightly touched his arm. He look at me I looked at him. I lean for a kiss. "Arg come on guys find a room" Nandi said while she was walking in.

Sthembiso cleared his throat Nandi sat down. "Nana what are you doing here? Sthembiso ask "Should I do an appointment to see my father now? Nandi asked. She chuckled he joined her this two can make one feel small "I didn't say that Nana" Sthe said. They continued laughing. Hope bloomed inside me happiness cheered this room. I will take his love

to give me hopejoy and make me a better woman. I feel someone tapping my shoulder I shuffled my heard and come back to earth right away. "As I was telling you Dad. If that person keep on dwelling on their past it means their are not happy with their presence life" Nandi said. I look at him what is she talking about. I bited my lip nervously. Nandi look at me. Nandi asked him to excuse us. "Come with it Nosi stop being sneaky now. I know you are inlove with my dad and he is inlove with you too" Nandi said. Can the earth just open up a whole and swallow me already. "I don't know what you are talking about" I said she gave me a determined look "You can fool them all but I know someone who's interested in someone and that person is you. Don't hold back your happiness you need to move on from the past you need to focus on the future" Nandi said "I do love him but I'm scared that he might" she cuts me. "But how long will you be forever holding onto that? I mean when will you try something newsomething different. You won't

always come across abusive relationships. You need to move on with your life. We're all going to be hurt in different ways. At the end of the day it is something we have to go through in order to have your heart and your mentality prepared for your forever and your happiness. Yes Vincent abused you you need to move on. Be in a relationship with my father he is a good man and he is what you need. You know what an abusive relationship is like if it happens that he is also abusive man you will see right away. You will see the signs and leave right away. Don't keep searching for those signs but they will appear without you digging deeper leave your life. Try to avoid what Vincent put you through? Stop saying that you are scared try something new try to leave your life without holding it. Your past is your past it doesn't define who you are everyone has their past and they've moved on" Nandi said. "Sorry Nandi it just happened. You took me in with love and I find..." She cut me again. "That doesn't matter. The question is do you love my father?"

Nandi asked. I looked at her. And I nod "I do but how will I do this? What about the twins this won't be fair on them. It won't be fair on you and Mbuso you guys are like family" She took her father's water and drink like she won't need water again. "What about the twins? What about us? We are not holding your happiness. If you are afraid that he might hurt the twins you are wrong. When it comes to kids he cares. Have you noticed his friendship with Keitumetsi that's my father for you he communicate with her like they are in the same age that's my father for you. Sometimes in life Sponsored if it happens that he is also abusive man you will see right away. You will see the signs and leave right away. Don't keep searching for those signs but they will appear without you digging deeper leave your life. Try to avoid what Vincent put you through? Stop saying that you are scared try something new try to leave your life without holding it. Your past is your past it doesn't define who you are everyone has their past and they've

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you that when we met Keitumetsi she was just a child who bullies other children at school. She got suspended Sihle and Dineo they were ready to give up on their own child when I was told that she's suspended because her parents failed to represent her I felt so bad. I don't know how did my father pulled the string. But what I know is that my father and Keitumetsi left me here going to get us some lunch they come back with good news that she's giving back to school and as you can see she's improving. He's good with children" Nandi say. Her mood swings are normal today. No sulking Nandi today her pregnancy is giving her hell of a time. I don't know how does her husband handle the moody her. She won't mind to be emotional right here. She got up and open sthe's safe she took out something like a purse and she closed it. "Here I have two tickets for Cape Town music festival. I was supposed to go there for a weekend away but my brother Sihle decided to take Keitumetsi away. Since is Thursday today you got only tomorrow to

prepare yourself" Nandi said. Her and Dr Tremblay are always on weekends away. But last weekend they didn't go anywhere since her in-laws visited them. I thought doctors don't have weeks leave their schedule is crazy. "I can't afford this Nandi" "It's all been paid Nosi. The only thing you can do is to speak with Palisa to look after the twins and spend your weekend with your man" Nandi said. "Mbuso is taking the twins to Vincent tomorrow I'm free but" she cuts me "You do not have to pay anything everything is paid upfront. The only thing you can do is to prepare yourself for the unexpectedly because with my father you won't predict" Nandi said. Her cellphone ringed. "Sorry I have to take this" Nandi said. "Hey sis Dee" she said "Okay I'm on my way" she added. And ended the call. She look at me "Sorry sis I have to go" Nandi said getting up "Bye we will catch up some other time" she said while walking out. She's telling the truth I have to make the decisions that are best for me and everyone else will follow. NANDIPHA This

thing of Sihle taking the child away from her mother it doesn't sit me well. He can't separate the mother and the child. I don't know what happened between them. I walk to the reception. If there was the other way to exit this building without passing at the reception I was going to use it. I'm not in the mood to face everyone not today. "There she is" Mbuso exclaimed. "I'm knocking off guys" I said that punching the floor that I'm going to. Mbuso made walked to me. He is so worried. "How are you doing mama. Are you alright? Mbuso asked. "How will I be alright Mbuso. While my brother took the child away from her mother. Now I have to convince my father and husband to go to KZN. How can he do this" the lift door opened I walked in Mbuso followed me in. "With my uncles you won't know. When they made their minds on something you won't change them" Mbuso said. "Do you have any idea what happened between them? "Sihle suspect that aunt Dee she's having an affair with one of her colleague" Mbuso said. "Did he at least ask her

about that? "I don't know" Mbuso said. MARTIN I look at her and the baby. Sister Naidoo and Dr Kathy nodded and smiled. The operation was successfully. Both mother and daughter are health. Delivering a breech baby safely to a happy mother makes me happy. "You did a wonderful job Dr Tremblay" sister Naidoo said "This hospital is blessed to have you around" Dr Kathy said. "No need to thank me this it's our job to save lives" "But you save them" Dr Kathy said. Why is she putting 'you' instead of 'we' "Dr why don't you open your own surgery you good at this you good at your work" Dr Kathy said. People always say that not that I need money and power the only thing I can do is to give back to the community. Hence why I'm working for public hospital. "We all doing our job" I said. NANDIPHA We got to Sihle's house. Mbuso look at me. He insisted to come with me. I look at her eyes were buffed. She hug me very tightly. "It's okay sis" "I can't.... I can't..... "She says crying on my shoulder "It's okay Dee everything it's gonna be

alright" We broke the hug. I look at Mbuso "Aunt he will bring her back" Mbuso said. "I want my child that's all what I want" Dineo said "Mbuso did he say when will he bring the kid back? He look at me "Not anytime soon" Mbuso reply. I just don't understand why not either of my brothers take after Fanafuthi. "What made Sihle to behave like that? "He came to my workplace the other day. Thabo was on my office on that day we were doing claims with the bank. We had the conversation about marriage and relationships I don't know what did Sihle heard that lead him to think I'm having an affair with Thabo" Dineo said. Colleagues do communicate with random things everytime "Are you sure that he didn't touch you before uncle Sihle walked in? Mbuso asked "He asked about my relationship status that's when my husband walk in with frustration" Dineo said. "Is that's all? "Yes that all" Dineo said. Mbuso and I look at each other "Come on guys you know me I cannot cheat on him. Sihle was not around for almost 3 years and I didn't cheat

on him what makes him think I can cheat on him now? Dineo asked. Sihle he's an idiot a girl waited for him. He only visited her on weekends during the day he was busy nursing his mother. "Look at me Dee" She did. I placed my arms on her arms she smiled "Tomorrow I'm heading to KZN I will make sure that I bring your daughter back" I said. Mbuso look at me "Mama you don't want to get involved in their marriage problems" Mbuso say "I'm going there Keitumetsi supposed to be in class with her class mate friends and school mates" "Okay you can tag along since I'm taking my sisters to Vincent tomorrow you can tag along" Mbuso said. "I'm coming with" Dineo said. MARTIN What a long day. I took my brief case. Before I could go out the healthcare Manager walked in. "Dr Tremblay I'm glad I find you here" She said I nod "I received a call from Thebe Public Hospital" She add. I put my brief on my desk. "They are out of surgeons doctors. And you are assigned to be there for the next four days" She said and walked out. Not Harrismith again. How

I'm I going to tell Nandi this? I hate to see her sad. I can't afford to handle another divorce because of my working schedule I just can't lose Nandi. I don't want my job to get between us. I chatted my this is not happening. I slid out the chair and histrying to figure out how will I tell her that I won't be available this weekend. She already has suprise for me this weekend. This transformation doesn't necessarily mean there's anything wrong with our relationship. Loving Nandi instead of falling in love with her simply illustrates how feelings of love evolve over the course of a relationship. Beautiful is a woman who has a distinctive personality she can laugh at anything including herself and she is specially kind and caring to others. She is a woman who above all else knows the value of having fun and not taking life too seriously. UNEDITED

110 NANDIPHA LATER ON. Martin walked in he looked so drowsy. He put his brief case of the counter. And kissed me "Bonjour comment était ta

ournée" (hi how was your day) Martin greeted. I smiled "Kwakuwusuku nje olupholile"(It was just a cool day) I said. He look at me. "What I'm going to say right now is that I love you. I will do anything to do with you. Nothing can torn us apart even death itself won't do that" Martin said I looked at him. "For this weekend unfortunately I won't make it" Martin said. I smiled this will work on my favour. I'm going to KZN he looked at me confusedly "What is it? Martin ask "Nothing my love I was also going to cancel our plans for this weekend" "Okay" Martin said "Sihle and Dineo they are having some problems" I don't know how should I say this. Martin can put words in my mouth. I shuffled my face to the other side. Denm you Siphesihle Mchunu. "I'm listening" Martin said. "Dineo and Sihle are having challenges in their marriage so." He cuts me "So you are a their marriage canceller now? He asked I looked at him. I didn't say that. suprisingly he just laughed at me. Hello where is the exhausted man who just got in here? "I didn't say

that" I joined him laughing "That's what I wanted to see from your face" Martin says "What a coincidence. Okay mon amore just be there for them they need you. But I will be away for the next few days" Martin said. "How many days are we talking about? I asked "Four days I'm assigned to Thebe Public Hospital" Martin said. What I like about my marriage is because we have a room for each other we communicate in order let things fall apart. This is the kind of a relationship I've always wanted to be in. Life is too short to be anything but happy. So kiss slowly love deeply forgive quickly. Take chances and never have regrets. "Mama" Martin said. Trying to emulate Mbuso's voice I laughed. "Mama are you alright? He added still trying to emulate Mbuso's voice. I laughed so hard. Martin he's crazy. "Arrête de chatouiller ma fille Martin" (Stop tickling my daughter Martin) Alex said making his way to us. "What did I do now? Martin ask He looked at me "Dr stepdad please take care of my Mama" Martin said. His father joined us. What

gotten into my husband today. NIRRITED Vincent is performing a ritual at his house with the help of a powerful hearler. He wants to claim his wives back. He was asked to steam and call his clan names. He did as he was told. The healer started to vibtated and made a harsh shrill creaking sounds "Bhebhe Makhedama Soyengwase Nina bakaBhebhe kaMthendeka" Vincent praised as the women's body was vibrating and groaning in pain. "Yebo ngiyavuma"(Yes I agree) the women said. "Kumanje izelamani ziyalwa zodwa. manje okusele yindodana yakho ukuthi izobuyela kuwe kunokuthi umama wayo eze egijima ngemuva kwakho" (Right now the siblings are fighting each other. now all thats left is for your son to come back to you than for his mother to come running after you) The woman said. Indeed Philani he's against his sister. "How long will it take for that to happen? Vincent asked getting out of the blankets "Ngeke kube lula nakancane" (It won't be easy at all" the women said "I don't care I need Sipho and Nandi back" Vincent

said "Umhlatshelo wegazi"(Blood sacrifice) she said groaning "Khumbula ukuthi unyaka nonyaka kuzodingeka uzidele nabathandekayo bakho" (Remember that every year you will have to make sacrifices for your loved ones) the women said "I'm willing to do anything" Vincent said. Does he know what he's getting himself to? Clearly he's not. "Amawele azoba ngumhlatshelo wakho" (Twins will be your sacrifice) she added. He shook his head "Is there anyway you can do this without hurting them? Vincent asked. She mumbled with the foreign language that he didn't understand "UNonjabulo unalo ikusasa eliqhakazile phambi kwakhe "(Nonjabulo has a bright future ahead of her) "Futhi uJabulile ngolunye uhlangothi uyintombazane enhle kakhulu elandela ezinyathelweni zikayise. Yikuphi phakathi kwalaba ababili okungaba umhlatshelo wethu? (And Jabulile on the other hand she is a very beautiful girl who follows in her father's footsteps. Which of the two would be our sacrifice)She added. He loves his

children but he's a cold busted father who is greedy and hungry for power. He swallowed. And Think about his daughters. "UNonjabulo uzoba ngu(Nonjabulo she will be) Vincent said. "Already the sister and her brother are not getting along that works in our favour now we need to destroy the mother and her son we have to claim your son back" the women said. Vincent he's the reason why Philani hate Nandi. He tried to control the hate he has towards her sister but the cold busted Vincent Zulu he's being a coward using muti to fight his battle. "Not with my babies" Vincent said. He doesn't want hurt his daughters yet he's hurting other men's children "We only have the latter N and J you need to choose" she said. Sometimes in life we have to make sacrifices in order to get what we want. But hurting other people is none of the sacrifices NANDIPHA I laid peaceful on his chest. He kissed my forehead. I smile Dineo and Sihle loved each other what happened. This is witch craft itself "I could stay here forever with you. No- one else

exists right now beside this" I said. Since he's going to Harrismith he will accompany me to the Mchunu's I smell jelouse here. "I just want to wrap my arms around you Sponsored and let the world drift away. Everything else will follow" Martin said. "Than wrap them around me Sthandwa Sam" (my love) he did as I said. "Why don't we book a hotel room for the next four days" Martin suggested. Good suggestion. MBUSO Now I'm forced to spend a night here. I called him. He answered. "Mbuso" "Why did you take the child with you? I asked. He is insane he cannot separate a mother from her child "Because she's my child Mbuso" Sihle replied "I'm aware she's your daughter but did you think of aunt Dee? "She can go to her boyfriend" Sihle said "This will affect the child Sihle" "You think I will let another man raise my child. Not when I'm still alive" Sihle said. Separated from a parent the child will feel fear abandonment loss the end of her world tiny and limited as it is. She will need to be held her only mother's touch and love. I'm saying this from

experience. They were time I felt like the world was turning against me my earth was tiny and it was limited. I could sometimes lock myself in my room. Until Zodwa and aunt Zama Mpilo's ex girlfriend try to talk some sense into my head. "That won't happen aunt loves you. Keitumetsi needs both her parents especially her mother to comfort her with a hug security by the loving gaze that will never has" I said. He hung up I'm the one who called him. Aunt Dee locked herself in her room. She's been crying after Nandi left and that's 2 hours ago. UNEDITED

112 MBUSO I and my sisters got here an hour ago. Nandi and aunt Dee are not here yet. Nonjabulo and Jabulile their are napping on my car. I'm bit worried about Nonjabulo she's acting awkward. She refused to be dropped at Vincent's house. I think she's on her menarche which we called first menstruation. Sparks and my uncles are playing chase. Sparks and Sihle are sitting across each other Sihle has many pawns so far he is leading the game.

I don't know how to play it but I can tell that Sparks has already given up. He looked at Sihle and move his pawn. They looked at each other Sihle shook his head. I looked at the gate I saw Nandi and aunt Dee getting of the car. Finally they're here. Nandi waved at Dr Tremblay he drove off. They made their way to us. Aunt Dee's eyes says it is all that she's sad. Remember that eyes are mirror to the heart. "Hello good people" Nandi greeted. We greeted her back. She looked at the chess board more like she's reading the pawns. "Do you need some help?" Nandi asked Sparks. "He will kill you madam" Sparks said. "Let's see than" Nandi said with confidence. She believes in herself. Sparks made a space for her to sit down. They were focused on the game. "My father taught me that the queen has more freedom in life. And on the chess board queen is the most powerful piece. On the other hand the king that has more value because if you lose the king you lose the game has relatively much less power. Check mate brother" Nandi said taking the King pawn from

Sihle. That was quick Sihle smiled. "Dadawethu you killed me" (my sister) Sihle said. We laughed. Funny enough aunt Dee and Nandi didn't laugh "I didn't kill you Sihle I'm about to kill you" Nandi said. Sihle looked at her more like he was reading her. Than he looked at his wife. Aunt Dee didn't move her eyes from him. "Forget it Dineo my daughter she's not going anywhere" Sihle said. She didn't say anything but he's already telling her that. "I'm not here to fight with you Sphe I just want my child" Dineo said. With a quavering voice. "Keitumetsi she will go where ever I go" Sihle said. Nandi looked at him she than looked at everyone. "Sometimes taking your own child from from her mother without her mother's permission is a crime we call it parental kidnapping" Nandi said. Sihle looked at her "I didn't kidnapped her" Sihle said. Nandi cut him. "Sihle this is not a social visit. I had to cancel my plans to come here. I believe when you got married you made vows and on those vows you said through thick and thin you will be there for this woman only death can

torn you apart. This is not about you and sis Dee anymore it's about your child have you think how does the child feel about this? Nandi asked. Sihle just looked her. Hello we have a guest here. My family with drama though. "Siphesihle please don't do this to Keitumetsi she doesn't deserve this. She deserve both her parents love please brother" Nandi said. This time she was calm "I'm.... sorry girl power I..." Sihle said. His words were breaking. He looked at his wife and he got up. "Please excuse me" Sihle said. Mpilo and Philani are bid confused. I'm sure Sihle didn't tell them what's going on. "Powerful words madam" Sparks said. Nandi faked a smile. "Powerful words from girl power" Nandi said. "Now I see where did you get that name" Mpilo said. Yeah right she got the power to twist her words to make people rethink their own reactions and realised that their were wrong. "I'm sorry about all this guys" Nandi said. "You don't have to be sorry. We were not going to know that Sihle took the child away from sis Dee I cannot justify his

behaviour but I do apologize on his behalf" Mpilo said. Family time offers many benefits Sponsored including building confidence creating a stronger emotional bond between each family members.

NIRRID Vincent looked at the family album. He's all alone in his house. Waiting for his girls to arrive. "Son we had a special bond together. If I knew things were going to turn this way I was not going to allow you to go to work. Siphoshe's gone no one is taking care of me. This house is cold without you guys especially Nosipho and the kids" Vincent said while glancing at Mbuso's picture. He turned to his girls picture. The healer's words played a rhythm in his head 'Twins will be your sacrifice. 'We only have the latter N and J you need to choose' "Who will be the sacrifice between those letters N and J. Nonjabulo she's smart like her brother this makes it easier for me to see that she will be a snack just like him" He said that NANDIPHA I'm playing against this guy. He asked to play against me. I moved my King pawn forward to E4. He looked at me and frown. He

moved his king backwards and take my pawn. This is going to be hard it's either I win or he win. We keep on playing to draw he looked at me I looked at him. "Draw" "Draw" he said. We laughed. "Good player hey? He asked. "I'm trying" I said. "You know what you are doing. Who is your couch? He asked. "Well I don't have one I'm not a chess fan. But I and my parents we used to play board games whenever we had our spare time" I said. He nod. Philani clasps his hands behind his back more like he is bored. I looked at Mpilo. "Mpilo how is life? He looked at me. "Life is life it has ups and downs but I'm still hanging there. And and on your side as a the bride? Mpilo asked. "Beside being treated like a child it's good. Wonke umuntu ungiphatha njengengane okubandakanya uMbuso noPalisa futhi lokho kuyangicasula" (Everyone treats me like a child including Mbuso and Palisa and that upsets me) I said Mbuso laughed NOSIPHO We spend a day relaxing on the beach. We laid on the towel like mounds of undone beef on the griddle. He looked

at me and smile. "What did Nana feed you?" Sthembiso asked. "Well she didn't feed me anything. She spoke sense in my head" "I'm glad she did" Sthembiso said. "Angikaze ngicabange ukuthi ngizobona lolu suku" (I never thought I would see this day) he nodded and brought me closer "This only the beginning Nono" Sthembiso said. Each time he calls me Nono I smile. He kissed me. "I love you and never doubt my love for you" he added. I never thought that true love does exist I only watched in on TV and read about true love on magazine. God is showing me his great mercy and grace. NANDIPHA Mbuso can be an idiot sometimes. He says he won't stop treating me like a child until my father stops calling me Nana. Sihle he's not back yet. "Where did Sihle go?" "I'm sure he went to fetch Keitumetsi at Zama's house" Mbuso replied. "Is it too far and who is this Zama?" I asked. Before I was forced to get married I had a school friend named Zama. But I don't think it's her. People were forcefully removed from where I was born people built their homes

in different places. And if it was her one of my brothers should've told me. "He will...." Mbuso said he was cut by Keitumetsi "Mommy"she called while running to us. Dee smiled. This is my sister in law who's always wearing her smile. "My baby" Dee said. She got up and hug her daughter. "I missed you mom" Keitumetsi said. "It's okay baby this won't happen again" Dineo said. She broke the hug and looked at her mother "You lost weight in such a short space of time"Keitumetsi said. "I will be fine" Dineo said. "I hope you are taking me back home" Keitumetsi said. Dee nodded repeatedly. "On one condition Dineo" Sihle said. We all looked at him. "Which is? I asked. I'm not Dineo he said Dineo "I will be staying with her and you are moving out of my house" Sihle said. "I understand that you need a break I will give you that" Dee said. "We are getting divorced" Sihle said. Just like that she looked at him tears streamed. "Sphe....S...." Dee said. She's breathing space. She made a sad expression and she clench her hands into fists. "Excuse me" Dee

said. She walked away. Keitumetsi followed her. Helplessness is such a rotten feeling. Being helpless is like being paralyzed. It's a sickness. The cure calls for a monumental effort to stand up and start walking somewhere anywhere. "Sihle did you have to do that? I asked he nodded "You are not going to fight for her? Mbuso asked. In life fight for what you love "I'm not going to stand on her way" Sihle said. Mbuso looked at me. "Mama speak to your wicked brother. I'm going to check on my aunt" Mbuso said. He walked away Mpilo followed him. How I'm I going to do this? He made his mind. I'm caught on this I don't know him that well UNEDITED

113 NANDIPHA Philani and his friend left. How I'm I going to do this? I'm shocked and denial like I'm the one who just got dumped. It feels like I'm dreaming. Each and every relationship has troubles Sihle loved Dineo their were a perfect couple I've ever met. I can't believe this. I look at Sihle. "Hlala phansi"(sit down) He clenched his jaw than sit

down. "Is divorce the right answer brother? "I don't know dadewethu. The only thing I know is that I love her" Sihle said. "What really happened. What made you to think that divorce is the only way out? "I love Dineo but I feel like she's trapped on our marriage" Sihle said "Have you talk to her about how you feel? I asked he gasped "She is very attractive good sense of humor she's a good woman loving and caring. I went to her workplace the other day and find her having a normal conversation with her colleague whom I suspect she's having an affair with"Sihle said. Suspecting and not getting to the roots of your suspension it can destroy anyone's relationship. "You are not sure about that yet so why are you doing this? "The main problem in my marriage is that I'm no longer feeling that spark anymore I want to feel like I'm a man I want to get into something exciting and new again. I'm sorry to disrespect you like this sisi but it is what it is not that I don't respect you but it's how I feel. I love her way too much to divorce her will lead her to

another man's arm's but I really want that spark. I feel like I'm starting to fall out of love" Sihle said. This is too much. This is not about Dee flirting with her colleague. It's about the lack of communication. They need a serious marriage counseling who will help them through this phase. "I can tell that you hurting you mentioned that you love her very much and you are attracted by her. You being a coward right now" he looked at me "Communication is what keeps relationships alive. If there are things that you are not content with in bed with her then Sponsored you need to speak to one another instead of fleeing. Understand that I'm your little sister and she's my friend and sister in law at the same time. You are having some sexual dissatisfaction and you lack of communicate with her about that. Talk to her talk to her in bed tell her what you want. Ask her what does she want meet each other's demands. Instead of running away from something that sounds like it is really good. I'm not saying you should stay but work it out. At

this moment you are getting annoyed with her but not revealing the true sources of your unhappiness and not thinking that she has some issues like you do" he looked at me more like he was searching for an answer he scratched his head. "Can you please call her" Sihle asked. I looked at him. "Are you sure about this? I asked. He nod. I got up and walked to the house. Mpilo and Mbuso were trying to comfort her and Keitumesti. "Sis Dee Sihle would like to talk to you" she look at me "He already made up his mind. He's dumping me" Dineo said. "I know but you have to listen what he has to say" she only looked at me "I will be right on your side" she got up. NURRITED Vincent was looking forward to see his daughters. But their were taking longer than he expected. Mbuso blocked him Nonjabulo she's not answering her phone. The color quickly drained from his face. A cold wave embalmed him as the hairs rose on the back of his neck and his mouth ran dry. "I have to do this" he said NANDIPHA We walked back to Sihle he got up and hug Dineo. I let

them shared the emotional moment. I sat down and glanced at them. "I can't lose you" Sihle said "I'm not willing to lose you either" Dineo said. This two love each other but the devil is playing a role in their relationship. "I'm sorry" Sihle said. I got up and excuse myself. I went were everyone was gethered. Mbuso look at me before as I sit down. "And then? Mbuso asked "They will be fine Mbuso" "I told you this before your brothers are crazy" Mbuso said. We laughed "Is Nonjabulo and Jabulile gone already?" "The are still here. Nonjabulo refused to be taken to Vincent's house" Mbuso said. "Did she say why?" "She didn't say anything to me I'm hoping you could talk to her and ask her why" Mbuso said. I sighed. Philani and his friend got in. "I'm not promising you anything but I will talk to her" "And I want you to talk to my girlfriend too" Mpilo said. I couldn't hold it I just laugh "And what did she do? I asked laughing. I know he's trying to bring some light in this room "She got married to Dr stepdad and she doesn't check on me anymore" Mpilo said. We

laugh "Okay I will talk to her" I said. My stomach start to rumbling my appite has increased lately. And the longer I ignore this feeling I get dizzy.

"Mpilo I'm hungry" "Zodwa didn't cook this afternoon" Philani said. Who said I want his food "Don't worry P I can order something to eat" I said. I was going to cook but since I'm not welcome here I'm not going to do that. Mbuso got up and walked out. Without saying anything "Nandi the is no need to order this is your house you are welcome to do anything" Mpilo said. The twins walked in.

Nonjabulo hugged me very tightly and cried. Will I survive today. "It's okay baby. Everything is going to be okay" I said brushing her back. "Aunt please take us home" Nonjabulo said. "What happened? "I don't wanna go there" Nonjabulo said. "Okay no one will take you there baby. No one" she cried.

Love birds walked in holding each others hands Keitumetsi run to hugged them both we laughed.

Humanity has unquestionably one really effective weapon laughter. A good laugh heals a lot of hurts.

Sihle looked at me. "Thanks dadawethu"(my sister) Sihle said. "Next time you do that trust me I will kill you" "I will help you aunt"Keitumetsi said. "Where is Mbuso? I ask "He said he's going to get you something to eat" Jabulile replied. A caring son to a mother. UNEDITED

114 MBUSO Later on. I laughed at Nandi whenever she cry without any reason. While I'm waiting for my order I decided to do a research of pregnancy. It says pregnancy women faces a high risk of developing mental illnesses like depression and anxiety during pregnancy I understand now. Enough about my mother and her pregnancy. Philani completely changed to something else. I know Nandi has her own mistakes like everyone else But that doesn't give Philani to behave in such manner.How can he be so rude towards his sister. On my way back home I saw Zodwa walking with Zama. I stopped in front of them I ringed the hotter. Philani recently changed. He was the carring uncle

son and a brother to his siblings. They got in. We exchanged greetings. I hitted the road. I will need to book the B&B I won't spend a night there with my sisters. We are going to be a burden to Philani. Since his own sister she's a burden how much more with my sisters. NOSIPHO Nandi had everything planned as she says the other day. We are the hotel room. He remind me on the first day I saw him how I made myself a fool. I threw a pillow at him he did the same I we ended up playing a pillow growing game. As grown as we are but we are playing like school kids. I sat down he did the same. We both gasped. I look at him I leaned in for the kiss I gently pressed my lips against his. We shared our feelings for a moment. MBUSO We got home and I made my way in. Zama and Zodwa jump for Spark. Nandi didn't wait for me to give her the food she took the takeaway bag from me and shared with aunt Dineo Keitumetsi and the twins. "Thank you Mbuso you are the best" Nandi said. I looked at Philani "Ngeke ulambe ebusweni bami mama" (you will not be

hungry in my face) I said. "Le ngane yayikulungele ukubulala imetetus"(this baby was ready to kill me) Nandi said. Her body is working overtime to make a fully formed human so it's not a bad thing for her appetite prompts her to eat more. When the mother is hungry Sponsored so it's not a bad thing for her appetite prompts her to eat more. When the mother is hungry reflecting lowered blood sugar levels in the mother and fetus "I think you have forgotten something" Nandi said. "What is that? She looked at me. "Ice cream" Dee and Nandi said. "Uncle Sihle" he looked at me. And raised his hands. "You bought them here take care of them especially the one who is expecting" Sihle said. "Dr stepdad should've given me his credit card" I said. We laughed. NIRRITED Vincent decided to take a nap while on the couch. He find himself running and fearing for his life. The is a man who was chasing him the man was holding a axe. He tried to find way to run away and hide from a man. But unfortunately he couldn't. He met face to face with the ghost. "My

house is not a playing ground Zulu. I told you before you forcefully married my daughter that I don't have a daughter that will be married by you" The man said. He looked at the man and he recognised that it was Fanafuthi. "I thought you have learnt a lesson after losing everything you had worked hard for" Fanafuthi said. Vincent looked at him. He felt like he was seeing a ghost. Yes he was seeing a ghost. The man strangled him. "Enough Mchunu. Not today my husband he's at the vacation. We don't want to ruin that do we? The woman asked. "Ok highness Zwane what do you suggest? The man asked "When it comes to my husband and my daughter I fight. But since Zulu decided to play God with your son towards my daughter I want him to be exposed. He must go right now and undo the spell on your son" the woman said. The woman looked at him. "Go Zulu before I make sure that everyone sees the really Vincent Zulu you are" the woman said.. Vincent quickly arises from the couch he walked out of the house. He met the healer before

he leaves his yard. Have you ever managed to gain control over your dream narrative? This is how Vincent was feeling. The healer started groaning and praying. Vincent fell on the ground. "I'm not going to stop by you what have I started. I've worked hard to get here. I want your daughter's power" the healer whispered. Vincent couldn't hear her "She has a special gift Zulu I need your go ahead to mix her blood with mine" The healer said. NANDIPHA I enjoy being around Mpilo Sihle Mbuso Dineo and the kids. But unfortunately I have to leave. Zodwa finally walked in with a woman I believe she's in her 40s. "Thanks Zodwa for welcoming our guests" Mpilo said. "I'm sorry I was not aware that we had visitors" Zodwa said. The woman sat down. Mpilo clenched his jaw. Mbuso look at me and the twins "Uncles I and my sisters we will join mama" Mbuso said. "What happened Mbuso? Sihle asked. "I don't want my sisters to be burdens to Philani like mama does" Mbuso said. Sihle looked at him "Did he say that? Sihle asked

"Not in word but his actions says it all" Mbuso said. This is what I dislike. He was very close with his uncles I got in between them. UNEDITED

115 NANDIPHA Mbuso had a tightly relationship with his uncles I got in between them. I look at Mbuso. Philani's behaviour and reactions says that I'm not welcome here. But Mbuso needs to learn that people change when times goes. "What did he say or do that made you think like girl power she's not welcome here? Sihle asked. "I've been watching him since aunt Dee and mama got here. He's acting weird" Mbuso said I cut him "Mbuso the is no need to do that. I'm fine. This journey called life has many chapters people change along the way some hate you without a solid reason" I said he looked at me. "Change is a good thing. But this kind of a change no this is not my uncle. Something went wrong. I think he needs some help" Mbuso said. We look at him. "He doesn't need help he is showing us that he is Phumza's son" Mpilo said. "Yeah that's true he is

Grandmother's son and the same woman he was taking care of when she was sick. While we were all in Gauteng. He has her last memories. Don't you think that he misses her? Don't you think that he is still holding in to her? Uncles he needs help" Mbuso said. Now that he mentioned that I feel bad. I know the pain of losing someone who was close to you. "The is no such Mbuso. I'm always here with him. Philani he's just a bully. I can't even recognize him anymore" Mpilo said "Accepting that someone close to you he/she's gone forever is the most difficult things to do and face" I said. "Going through grief can be hard. He needs you guys as his brothers and nephew and even a close friend to be there for him" I added they look at each other. The woman look at me like she was reading me or something. "Don't give up on him be there for him I mean you were always there for each other don't stop now. You must never shut each other down. It's OK to be silent while he sobs just give him a reassuring gentle touch to let him know that you

are there for him. We deal with the lose of our loved ones differently" I said. Silent took over the room. "Stop avoiding him he's still grieving for someone who left the void in his life you are confusing him when you avoid him he might feels like he has no one. Grief can make one feel scared and alone. Shutting him down is not a good thing. You are sending him into depression we don't want to lose him or do we? I asked. They shook their heads. The woman who came with Zodwa remain silent looking at me. "Kukhona okuthile ngawe ufana no" ?(There is something about you. You are like) the women said. Mpilo cut her "Zama not today we are in the middle of a serious conversation. Maybe some other time" Mpilo said. She got up Zodwa followed her. That was cold of Mpilo "Mpilo" me and Dineo shouted. "We are busy we don't have time for her" Mpilo said. He let his head propped up with his hand "As I was telling you guys you have many memories of Phumza that can be used to our advantage to help him once

someone is gone there will be no more new memories unless someone shares them with us" I said. I just wish he can talk to me. And let me know where did I go wrong. VINCENT I'm paralyzed on the spot the menacing aura is holding me in a tightening grip. What is happening with me? I slowly opened my eyes. I looked at her she smiled. "Welcome back Zulu" the healer said. "What are you doing here. You can't just show up" I said. "Good question Zulu. Do you still need your wives back? She asked. I sighed and remembered the dream. I've came face to face with the ghost. Mchunu nearly killed me. How I'm I going to help the brothers out of the curse. Yes I agree I need my wives back to my life but why did I agree to torn apart the siblings. "I had a dream" "Tell me about it" she said. She wrinkled her nose. I explained to her "It's just guilt playing it's role Zulu don't allow that to happen" the healer said. "We need to carry on with our plan. Make sure that your dearest daughter she's her" she said. I hate the fact that I

have to hurt Nonjabulo. She has dreams ahead of her. NANDIPHA. Martin was supposed to be here 2 hours ago. It's getting dark now and there is no sign of him. I walked where Philani Zodwa zodwa's friend and his friend were sitting. "Zodwa I'm sorry for Mpilo's behaviour" she nod "There is no need to apologize the guy hate me" the woman said. "You talk too much he doesn't hate you. He dumped you just let him go you need to get that to your head" Zodwa. Letting go of someone you love is easy but accepting that you are dumped that's another story. I looked at Philan. He sag slouch down in the seat. His face was also showing the distinct lack of interest. On what I'm about to say. "Can I speak to you please" I said. He gave me a I'm uninterested look. I look at Zodwa she got up and she whispered to her friend she also got up they left. The guy also got up. "Please sit" he looked at me confusedly "I believe you are his close friend beside Sihle and Mpilo" I said he nod "What do you want Nandipha?" Philani asked. "I don't know what did I do to you but

I apologize for what ever I did" I was taught to never apologize on something I never did. Here I'm I am doing that "Kungani ungahlalanga endaweni ecashile lapho ubucashe khona? (Why didn't you stay in a secret place where you hided yourself) Philani asked. "Why do you hate me P? He clenched his jaw "I hate you because you were messing with my nephew and because everyone sees you as an angel and that you poisoned my brothers against me" Philani said. "What happened to you Sponsored what happened to my brother who was my best friend who used to help me with everything? "I grieved for 30 years. I'd accepted that I was never going to meet you" Philani said. I look at him he clenched his fists. "I'm deeply sorry" He slapped me before I could finish my sentence. I got up "Philani!!! His friend shouted. "Next time you do that P we are going to have a serious problem" I said. I feel my heart pounding in my ears I tried to scream but I failed and ran back to the house. I sit down trying to catch my breath. "What happened"

Mbuso ask. I shook my head "Please drive me to the Zwanes Martin will find me there" I said. "Nandi you are not telling us what happened" Sihle said. My heart is throbbing in my ears loud and irregular but I barely heard it for my mind is clouded with anger. "What exactly happened? Mbuso ask. I shake my head tears stream down to my cheeks "Please drive me there please" "Nandi you are not telling us what "What exactly happened? Mbuso asked. I rubbed my eyes. "That's not my brother P never laid his hand on me" I said "He did what? Mbuso ask "Cha Cha that's not Philani" Zodwa said. (no... no) Sihle got up. "Brother he's not worth it" I said then cried. On Mbuso's arm. "That's not my brother" (crying) "You son of a..." Sihle said. I don't know when did Philani walk in to meet the angry Sihle but the guy managed to stop Sihle. "Ungakhathazeki Sihle ngizolinda uMyeni wami ukude nalapha "(Don't worry Sihle I'll wait for my Husband far away from here) I said getting up. Mbuso did the same. He looked at the kids "Sisters let's get going before my

Zulu demon takes over" Mbuso said. Like seriously now the Zulu demon. UNEDITED

116 NANDIPHA I lied down on my hotel suite bed listening to sad music to align and intensify my mood. Mbuso instead to drive me here at the hotel instead of driving me to my family's house. Since Keitumetsi refused to be in the same room with his uncle. "Did they get you to trade Your heroes for ghosts Hot ashes for trees Hot air for a cool breeze Cold comfort for change Did you exchange A walk-on part in the war For a leading role in a cage?" I'm shedding the tears of broken. How can Philani do this. I swear that's not my brother he never laid his hand on me never. I feel the warmth hands of Martin. "That's not Philani" He laid me on his chest "I refuse that's not my brother" I cried on his chest he let me be. NOSIPHO I enjoyed my day no lie. We booked 2 different hotel room. "It was great spending time together" I said. He look at me and smiled. I'm crossing my fingers that he doesn't

asked me which part that was great. "None I should get going" Sthembiso said. I don't want him to go honesty I'm scared. I want him to be next to me. "Can you please stay with me" His eyes winded "Are you sure about this? Sthembiso asked. I nod "This day is getting greater and greater" Sthembiso said. "In which way does it gets better" I aak looking at him and invited him to my bed me I kissed him he gently kissed me on my neck I bit my lower lip with my arms around his neck. "Ahmmm" I let him sit on the edge of the bed then I placed my knees on side of his hips to straddle his lap. I use my hands on his shoulders to propel myself up. Is this love make me such things. The past few weeks I made a promise with myself that no matter what my circumstances there's a good chance for my life to be normal again. I must not let my past hold my happiness. I don't know know where did the Idea of hand job coming from I used my two hands. He stop me "Nono are you sure about this? Sthembiso asked. I wrap my hands around his shaft. VINCENT After the

my healer left I'm all alone by myself but I'm hearing voices of a woman and a man. "Time is ticking Zulu my children are fighting in their own" the man said I struggle to breathe as I heard his voice "Zulu man up don't let that women she's not helping you she only wants to destroy your child and you will be making things worse if you carry out the secrifise you will be signing up your dead" The woman's voice said. "You will be hearing this voices until you do the right thing Zulu" Fear became a tangible living force that crept over me like some hungry beast Sponsored immobilizing me my brain holding me captive. "What do you want from me" I asked with fear. The giggled NANDIPHA Martin keep on brushing my back. "Can you get me grilled chicken please" "We will get it first thing in the morning" Martin said "Now Martin" I shout "Huh" Martin said. "You heard me I said now" "It's already 22:30 citizen" Martin said "You promised me that we are on this together" "Yes we are l'amour" (love) Martin said "Please Martin" I sit up straight and look

at him "Okay I will see what can I get" Martin said. He walk out. Trust the one who could see three things in you sorrow behind your smile love behind your anger and meaning behind your silence and that person right now is Martin. PHILANI I ask Sparks to stay over I don't trust my brothers they might atteck me. Dead silence filled our house. "Madam your food was delicious" Sparks said. "Thanks you" Dineo said. We continued eating in silent. Mpilo checked his Phone. "Zodwa you are going back to your house tomorrow" Mpilo said. "Mpilo I'm still enjoying being here" Zodwa said "You not safe here anymore" Sihle said. Zodwa look at her friend why is she here this time? "Okay then" Zodwa said she got up and went to Phumza's room. Dineo's phone rings. She picked it up. "Our Dr Tremblay or should I say Dr stepdad" Dineo said she than laughed. "Your bed doc lie on it" Dineo said "Sure no problem I will ask Zodwa to join us" Dineo said. Sihle look at her and smile. Sihle and his wife can communicate with eyes. She hugged up the call

and smiled. "Sihle and Mpilo can Zodwa stay for the next few days Martin suggested that we should keep his wife company since he's working" Dee said "Siyazi ukuthi udadewethu akakwazi ukubhekana nengcindezi eyedwa futhi akekho esimweni sokuthi uzophuza manje" (We know that my sister cannot cope with the pressure alone and she's not in a position to drink now) Sihle said. Best brother of the year "Thank you Sphe" Dineo said walking to their room. "Zama you can join Zodwa it's late you can't go home now" Mpilo said. She got up and look at him "Thank you Mpilo"Zama said. She knows very well that he doesn't want her here. She walk to Phumza's room Dead silence filled our the room again. Until Sparks decided to break the silent. "I must say I'm really disappointed in you Philani no matter how angry you are never lay your hands on a woman never" Sparks said. "Well she deserves that" Sparks shook his head "No matter how cross you are don't do that you will get arrested and when you get arrested you won't get the chance to work

on your relationship with that girl" Sparks said "She reminds me of your sister back in Gingindlovu she would take care of you and your brothers. She would force Mpilo and Sihle to talk do you remember her? Sparks asked. He's Idiot right now "Sparks I'm sorry the same girl you are talking about the same girl Philani just slapped" Mpilo said. The sudden shock making his tense he opened his mouth and winded his eyes. "Mpilo you mean I was playing against the ghost? Sparks ask. That's not my sister "No Sparks you were playing against my sister and I must say she gave you a tough time" Mpilo said. Sparks rubbed his eyes "I thought your friend told you" Mpilo said. "Well that's not Nandipha Mchunu" "That's true dear brother she's Nandi Tremblay she got married remember? Mpilo ask. The is no way I'm going to exchange word with him because I might be admitted in hospital now "That doesn't change I hate her you and Sihle including Mbuso himself. Who does he think he is. Just because his mother is rich he's turning his back on

me fuck him and fuck you all" I shouted. Sihle got up. "You know what I hate you too Philani forget about me and my sister I'm done with you" Sihle said and walked away "It was good seeing you again Sparks. Philani you are on your own brother don't ever call me" Mpilo said. UNEDITED.

117 MARTIN I look at her getting out of this bed it's going to be a difficult time. Knowing my beautiful wife very well there is no way she's going to start her day without the morning glory. This is going to be a long journey until she gives birth I swear. This woman loves morning glories. I slowly got out of the bed. "Where do you think you are going? Nandi asked "Ahm" "Ahm isn't an answer" Nandi said "I'm going to the drink water mama" She laughed whenever I call her mama she laugh or smile she says Mbuso was the first person to call her that. "Ok my citizen I will be waiting for you" Nandi said I looked at her "Why should you wait for me? "My best breakfast don't pretend like you don't know

that husband" Nandi said. Such breakfast should be burned for good. I swear I won't make her pregnant again. I walk to drink water. Then I went back to her. She's up admiring her body. Still early days for that. I'm praying that she's not craving for anything. Last night I had to beg the hotel administrative to do griddled chicken. I pick her up she giggled. I put her against the wall and kissed. I have to do what she wants me to do. I move her from the wall to the bed "Best breakfast you said" She giggle. I got on top of her I take off her sleeping wear followed by the under wear. This woman she's can't be confirmed. She won't hesitate to cry without any reason. I sucked her breasts her breast too and bit her breast a little bit "Ouch babah" Nandi said. "I'm sorry" I sucked them gentle then I moved down to her abdomen "ahhh baby take me to my planet" Nandi "Which planet" "The hottest one" Nandi said. Her body trembling like a gutter. "Jupiter" my teeth nipped my bottom lip demanding to enter at the same time. "No Martin stop playing games it's sun

danmit" Nandi Shouted. I will be lucky if I don't get beaten by this beautiful wife of mine. I finger rubbed her clit. While squeezing her butt. "Martin" Nandi said whistle breathing heavily. I got between her legs. She was so wet. She closed her sparkle eyes as I moved in "Martin" "that's my name tell me what should Dr stepdad do for you" "Take me there" Nandi said with a seductive tone. She moved her fingers to remove my gown. My teeth nipped my bottom lip demanding to enter at the same time. I slid my arms down her down to her butt and thighs "My.... Citizen" my voice is breaking. She lifted her head and gazed at me "I love you" I said "Take me to your world then" Nandi said seductively. Breakfast planet now world many names. I lifted her up as she was straddling at me. And laid her back. I did as she wants me to before she sing her every morning song Insert it already Martin. I hitted each and every corner and kissed her neck. "Only one round" I said "Just get deeper and stop telling me that nonsense" Nandi said this

drivers me to the edge. I went deeper. I bumped up and down I collapsed ontop of her. VINCENT Things are getting difficult for me. If I don't hear voices I see strange things. I made myself a cup of tea since my wife left I have to prepare food for myself and do laundry myself. I walked to the sitting room I find a woman and a man sitting comfortable on my couch who let them in. I cleared my throat they looked at me. Oh no I refuse Mr Mchunu he's dead. My cup fall down. I'm I dead too? I can't scream. I only open my mouth to find that even words had deserted me. He look at me and got up walked up to me. "Zulu I warned you before I'm still doing that again" He said. The beast holding me captive took control of my entire being. Shadows and echoes play on my senses warping shapes and sounds. He laugh at me and walked to sit down again. "I've been watching over my children and grandson for years. I'm the one who guided my Nandi to leave Zulu. I'm the one who made highness Zwane and Nandi to meet up and know each other. I and

highness Zwane behind Nandi and Mbuso to meet up in such manner and we made sure that she finds herself a charming prince" He said than giggle. I cleanch my first he laugh "You think you can beat me think again Zulu. I was the happiest man in the world happy with my family until you came to my house and ask for my daughter's hand for marriage I refused remember. I refuse because she was not ready to be someone's wife. And you know what happened next? He ask I look at him without saying a word "My own wife betrayed me. She asked my brother to kill me and I never been happy I'm behind Phumza's suicidal" he said. He looked at the women and he bow I've met the ghost face to face. He can't be protecting Nandi she's not his daughter "Highness Zwane" "When it comes to my slender Given my smile fades away. Nandi she's my only daughter and seeing her crying it ripped my heart Zulu. Because Mr Mchunu has already told you what he's capable of how much more would he do your life miserable? The woman said "My sons are

fighting in their own Mpilo and Sihle moved out of the house and left Philani and he is all alone. And thanks to you" Fanafuthi said "Since you are failing to uplift the spell you won't see anything besides us and the way to someone who will help you to uplift the spell" the women said. She then laughed. "The more his son suffers is the more you will suffer" the women said. They disappeared. I immediately rubbed my eyes I can't see anything. I can't see "Please don't do this to me" NANDIPHA LATER ON. Martin decided that I Dee and Zodwa we must do shopping just the 3 of us. But my aunt (Zodwa) here brought her friend. Not that I'm complaining but we will have to include her to every activity we are carrying. Dee and Zodwa tell's me that Philani he's left with his friend the friend who just visited his family he can go anytime. I feel bad this is all my fault. "Okay guys let's get something to eat" I said Dineo just laughed "Girl Power we ate 30 minutes ago" Dee said "Sis Dee don't play that with me. You said it 30 minutes ago" She sigh "Anyway it's your

husband's money spend it as you want" Dee said. Like seriously now? We walked to Nando's I must admit chicken has come my favourite meal lately I ordered for myself since everyone says they're fine. My order is called I took my order sit down and to enjoy my food Dee and Zodwa shook their heads as I eat "Are you sure that you are not carrying more than one child? Zodwa ask "Than I will be forced to give you one child" we laughed atleast her friend joined this time "You think our doctor will agree? Dee asked "He has to not like I will giving away our child to a stranger" we laugh again. I finished up my food. We left the restaurant. "Where are we going from here? "My hair sis Nandi" Zodwa said. We walked to the salon she chooses a hair style she looked at the hairstylist "How much does it cost? Zodwa ask. "R750" The hairstylist said "Don't you have the cheapest hair styles? Zodwa ask "Free hands is cheaper straight back is also. ." I cut her "My budget for you it's R1000 Zodwa" she look at me and chose the hair style. Me and Dee walked

out. "Girl power you are the best" Dee said. I guess this girl power name won't die even though I'm no longer in the artist industry I'm now a mother to a 30 years old man and a wife to my husband so I should behave like one. Zodwa's friend joined us. "Do you mind if I can join you? She said "You can join us" She look at me. She's been stealing a glance since she got here with Dee and Zodwa "Is there anything you want to say? she nod "I'm sorry to make you feel uncomfortable you look like mpilo's little sister who died years ago" She said. She grabbed all my attention. She mentioned something similar yesterday and Mpilo shut her. "How well do you know her? "She was my friend at school before she got married and quiet school after some months we head that she drowned herself" She said. I only had one school friend back then beside my brothers "And you are? How funny is this. I was supposed to asked her yesterday "I'm Zama Gabuza" She said "And I'm Nandi Tremblay" "I'm sorry to compare you with her" Zama said I look at

Dee we laughed at he she got up "Don't apologise Zama I'm Mpilo's little sister the one who was forced to get married to Vincent Zulu" She look at me for a while. " What happened to you. You look young" Zama said "What happened to you Zama? I asked "Well I was supposed to get married with your brother Mpilo but I messed up he broke up with me" she said. But my mind was lost thinking about my brothers Philani needs them he is not himself can't their see that? UNEDITED

118 MBUSO I and the kids and my uncle we are having lunch. I ended up booking the hotel then the B&B since I booked late. My uncles told me that they've moved out of the house. That is a family and they can't just turn their backs on him. He needs them. "But uncles we need to be there for him" They look at me "He made it clear that he hate us" Sihle said. Sihle doesn't care about anyone he worked to hard to get where he is today without his brothers why should he start carring now. "Uncle

Mpilo we can't do this to him. Remember we've been always there for each other. Philani he's not aware that he's dealing with depression Mpilo we had always have each other's back we made it. Why turn our back on him now he needs us I know he made a wrong move by slapping my mother we all do mistakes" Mpilo cuts me "How do you know that he's depressed? Mpilo questioned. "All the signs are there. He wants to be all by himself he lost interest in activities we use to do together" "He might be dangerous on himself? Sihle ask. I nodded repeatedly. "You were a teacher Sihle you know how this things work" "I was a teacher by then. Now I'm an invigilator" Sihle said. After he resigned from teaching 3 years back he became an adult invigilator he goes there during exams time PHILANI My pulse and breathing rate has increased I'm losing my mind. I'm lately feeling nervously restlessly I feel like I'm in danger. Sparks look at me. "Bafo you need your brothers" Sparks said "Bayangizonda selokhu kwabuya udadewabo owalahleka kudala

angisilutho kubo. Angizange ngamukele lokhu kuMpilo nakuMbuso" .(They have hate me since the return of their long-lost sister and I am nothing to them. I did not accept this from Mpilo and Mbuso) "No one hate you Philani just focus on yourself I will be right back" Sparks said. And walked away.

"Phumzaaaa I know you are watching over me" I shouted and break all the glasses on the cabinet. My hands are trembleeling. "Why did you leave me alone" I cried by myself. Fuck Mpilo did he have to leave me alone all by myself? I cannot control my hands are shaking in an odd trembling rhythm

"Bafoooo" MARTIN I walked to the reception "I'm going out for lunch I will be back in an hour" she nodded. Nandi said she has a stinky attude I wasn't aware of that until today "Okay doctor" she said and I focus on the door I smiled and walking away before I could get to my car someone called me "Dr Tremblay" Dr Khumalo called. I turned and look at him "I thought I was dreaming" He said "Why would you dream while walking? We laughed "You still

crazy doc" He said "Oh I'm crazy now? He laugh even more "Is your wife willing to face the crazy you? He asked. If he knew we are soulmate he won't even ask MBUSO Sparks joined us. "Phila has given up guys I never thought I will see him like that" Sparks said. "Yeah he needs help" Mpilo said "We can all help him I can even quit my job to help my uncle" they shook they heards "Mbuso you can't do that. You have bills to pay" Sihle said. My sister's are my first priority. Speaking of my sisters Nonjabulo had a very poor appetite she take only two to three spoons of food and she's full. Last night she said she feels like that there's someone who is following her. I'm facing two people who are acting strange "So what do we do uncle Silhe? "I will go back home and be there for him" Mpilo said "He will be fine" Nonjabulo said while her eyes were shut "Nonjabulo" she didn't respond "My grandmother told me that he will be fine the is only one person who will help and that person he is a close family" Nonjabulo said. She's been peculiar

lately. Aunt Dee Zama Sponsored Zama Zwane and Mama joined us. "I'm sure all the stores are wipe out" Sihle said making space for aunt Dee. We laugh "Hello guys" Nandi said. We greeted her back.

"Tumi baby how are you" Nandi said "I'm fine aunt what did you get me" Keitumesti said. I expected this from her. She gave her a side smile "Nonjabulo and Jabulile how are you babies" Nandi said "We good aunt and yourself? Jabulile asked. "I'm happy to hear that I'm also good. Nonjabulo are you alright? Nandi asked "I wish I can say that aunt but I'm scared I see I myself inside that water"

Nonjabulo said with tears on her eyes. "Baby come sit next to me" Nandi said. Nonjabulo moved from where she was sitting to sit next to her. "Must I call mommy? Nandi ask "I'm not sick I have weird vision and I can't take them anymore I'm losing myself"

Nonjabulo said. She closed her eyes and opened them again. She chattered her teeth in I can see that she's scared of something. Nandi held her tightly

"Okay baby don't worry nobody will hurt you"

Nandi said. Nonjabulo pointed at the door "What is it baby" Nandi ask "A frog" Nonjabulo replied. We look the direction where she's pointing we couldn't see anything it's all on her eyes "Nonjabulo the is no frog over there" I frowned Nandi asked me to calm down. "I think her ancestors are trying to communicate with her" Nandi said. I raised my eyebrows the is no way my sister can be a sangoma no ways. Nonjabulo laughed this girl "Someone told me that you you are not just her slander Given but a queen that needs to be reminded how strong you are" Nonjabulo said. Nandi smiled "So you will remind me that? Nandi asked she nodded "Can you do me a favor aunt? Nonjabulo asked "Can you please help mommy to change her name? Nonjabulo asked. Nandi nodded. She can't agree on that VINCENT I'm paralyzed to the spot where those ghost left me the menacing aura is holding me in a tightening grip. Loneliness became a tangible living force that crept over me like some hungry beast immobilizing me. My brain is holding me captive.

I'm feeling nervously restlessly and dread helplessly and all alone. I'm alone I can't do anything for myself I lost my vision the only thing I can see it's a white goat Mr Mchunu and his highness. In time like this I need my son I pushed him away he was the only one who was not going to give up on me.

"What did I do. Forgive me son" UNEDITED

119 NANDIPHA 3 MONTHS LATER! My morning routine is the hardest thing to carry I'm becoming lazy. my two children were here yesterday they left my house dirty like a pigsty those children are 30 years old men Luther and Mbuso. I'm preparing myself to go to work. Martin he's working night shift. Waking up alone in that queens bed isn't easy I miss our morning glories. Why did he agreed to be on a night shift. How funny it is wanted nothing to do with the office work not so long but now I'm enjoying my job thanks to my father for not giving up on me and believing in me when I did not. I got to work and I'm the second one to arrive. I went to

the bathroom first this pregnancy is making me huge I'm big like a pregnant cow. See me pregnant again kill me don't hesitate to just pull the trigger and shoot me. I walked to my office. Find Mbuso sitting on my chair like he is on his office. He finally came to his senses he accepted the offer from my father. He owns 40% of the company he was supposed to be owning 45 but he gave Palisa 5 % of his shares and I added her with 5% of my shares that makes Palisa a 10% shareholder. I looked at him and bit my lower lip. "I think you are sitting on the wrong chair and wrong office Mr Zulu" he look at me and laugh. I folded my arms. Pretending to be bored "Yeah I know" Mbuso said "Oh you know and you still sitting on my chair" he looked at me and shook his head. He look around "Bengihla ngifuna ukuba ingane ecasulayo kumama angikaze ngilithole ithuba" (I always wanted to be an annoying child to mom I never got a chance) Mbuso said. I cut him by laughing. I was not going to survive sure. It gets worse when he's with Luther because I'm feeling

the heat. "Mbuso I am not in a mood today. You and your uncle need to go and clean up the dirt you left in my house " he laughed "Sorry for that next time I promise I will leave your house clean and spotless" Mbuso said. "Now Mbuso" he look at me and laugh "Tell me where can I sell you Mbuso? He laughed even more "Why would you sell the best son ever" Mbuso said. He got me I laughing and sit on the couch "See that will help you. Just relax and let me do my job with peace when I'm done here I will be out of your way" Mbuso said. His job in my office? He's crazy sure. "Don't you have your own office? "Mrs Tremblay I'm doing your job here I want you to relax yourself" Mbuso said I enjoy working with him. He won't disappoint me he knows what he's doing. He wants to be next to me.

PHILANI Things are no longer the same. I'm feeling helplessly each day. I was escaping the feeling of loneliness by using drugs. I believed that drugs are for pain relief due to its ability to depress the central nervous system. By slowing down the brain

and nervous system Sponsored cannabis delivered the certain amount of relief in my body. But my brothers and their sister bought me here at rehabilitation center. I began to attend the the therapy but it doesn't help I'm still feeling lonely at helpless. My Physical Rehabilitation therapy promised me I might be released this week. Hopefully I will be out of here. Nandi should've stayed wherever she was now my brothers had locked me up in this huge building were we eat 3 times a day . I hate that woman with all my heart. I'm feeling though but something has walked through me and left me numb shaking NOSIPHO My daughter she's not herself anymore. She has lost weight. She has a very poor appetite. Only Nandi can make her eat. She does not sleep in her room anymore. She moved to the cottage. How does this ancestors work? Why did they chose her why my daughter? I have many questions that seeks to be answered. But nobody is willing to answer me. Where I thought things are going well boom on my

face my daughter she changed from hero to odd. How does this things work. Clearly I'm not meant to be happy. VINCENT It's hard to be blind. I'm trying to learn do do things myself. This is not life no human being should live like this. My life had blissful blossom. Things happen I lost everything including my children. I no longer care about Nosipho or Nandi I just need my children back I want to next to them. NANDIPHA I looked at him. Hormones are released and the entire emotional world is turned upside down. I'm happily in love with my husband and I miss him. Does he feels the same about me. I wish he does I love Martin and I hope we have everlasting joy and happiness. After all my failed relationships I can't lose him. My phone started ringing. "Sis Nandi I need your help is Nonjabulo" Nosi said. I looked at Mbuso who was busy on his laptop. "Where are you? "Ho....." She didn't finish her sentence. I heard Nonjabulo on the background "Mommy help me I can't see" I ended the call. I got up Mbuso looked at me "And then?

Mbuso asked "Nonjabulo she's not feeling well"
"Let's get going" Mbuso said. Just like that we have
to Knock out. TO BE CONTINUED

120 MBUSO How does this ancestors work.
Nonjabulo supposed to be in the class by this time
but here she is. I tried to calm her down but I'm
failing. "Don't tell me everything will be fine brother
I want my vision back" Nonjabulo shouted. Nandi
look at her. "It's okay baby. Tell me here did your
grandmother pay you a visit today? Nandi ask she
nod "Yes aunt they did. It was her and my
grandfather they were very upset that mom
abounded them and their house" Nonjabulo said.
Nandi nod and look at my stepmother shading
tears. Seeing Nonjabulo like this really breaks my
heart. She has a bright future ahead of her. Can't
the ancestors wait for her to study first? "That's all?
Nandi ask. Nonjabulo shakes her head "Even gogo
Tina was standing in a corner of her old house
whipping tears. Mkhulu Mchunu and highness

Zwane looked her and said nothing" Nonjabulo said. Each time she mention highness Zwane Nandi and Mr Zwane they smile at each other. "What happened then? Nandi ask "My grandmother said Philani he's not himself. Someone needs to uplift the spell in order for him to come to his senses. And that someone who will uplift the spell is Vincent Zulu. I'm required to help him to do that then everything will be back to normal" Nonjabulo said. We look at each other "Philani needs go back home. He doesn't belong there" Nonjabulo add. "Okay what should we do? Nandi ask. She's patiently with the whole situation. What did I expected her husband is a doctor Sponsored her mother in-law she's a physical therapy patiently and health is their daily routines "Brother take me home please. I just need my vision back "Now? I raised my eyebrows she can't even see me she lost her vision. My sister she's suffering. She's too young to be facing this. "No yesterday Mbuso of course now" Nonjabulo shouted in frustration. I looked at everyone. "Okay

don't worry Nonjabulo we will catch a bus tomorrow morning" Nosipho said. "What if tomorrow never come mom what will happen with uncle Philani? Nonjabulo ask. We look at each other silent filled the room with silent. I dislike driving late especially a long distance. My car will start vcomplaining straight. Each and every week Gauteng to KZN. Kzn to Gauteng. "Okay let's prepare ourselves for the journey" I said after a long silent I look at my mother "Mama I will be in touch. I will send you the details of the new construction site please don't disappoint me" "I won't disappoint you Mr Zulu. I've got this" Nandi said. "Why formality? "It's still working hours and we are taking about work" Nandi said. My mother she's crazy sure "I will contact the facility were P he's kept" Nandi add. She's the one who recommended that Philani should attend rehab PHILANI Life is something else. One moment I'm happy the next moment I'm sad. Phumza did it what will stop me from doing it too. I look at the bunch of pills the have been giving me I

was not taking my medication. But today I'm going to swallow them. "Mr P Mchunu" I turn and look at my therapist. With both my hands on my back "What are you hiding on your back? she ask "Me hiding something" I said with a smile on my face "I believe you you never gave me the reason to doubt you. I have a great news for you" She said. "All my ears" "Come to my office" She invited me and walk away. My inmate he's outside. Enjoy the sun. I hide my medication under the pillow. When we talk about wrong timing we are taking about this. I walk to my therapy's office. She look at me and smiled "Take a sit" She said "Thanks" Taking a sit "You have a carrying sister I must say. She called 30 minutes ago" She said. Is this the good news she wanted to tell me? "You are free to go home it wasn't a good decision to make but she insured that you will stay away from drugs and I will be monitoring you from your house" She added. What does that woman think she is she she has a say in my life. "You are going home you should be happy" "I'm happy I'm

just surprised" Faking a smile "The are forms that needed to be filled and signed" She said and handed me the form VINCENT My stomach is rumbling can the earth open up and swallow me already. I've suffered enough. Mbuso hasn't bothered to visit me. I'm sure he doesn't know that I lost my vision. Who will tell him since I don't have visitors. Clearly I've lost hope I'm not going to get my vision back. I will die alone. I feel this two ghost eyes looking at me. It's sad because I can only see them and feel their presence. "How is my friend doing today? Mchunu ask laughing. "You all alone I'm sorry babah we will be keeping you company today" Highness Zwane said mokingly. Who made them God? The don't have the ability to do this the're dead and the are not my ancestors. "Mchunu just look at him. He thinks that the is light at the end of the tunnel no babah not for you" The laughed. I will kill them I swear in my mother's grave. UNEDITED

122 NANDIPHA LATER ON. I've found a friend who will never let me down. Despite all my unsuccessful relationships I've been waiting to give the right man to have my ribs and heart. My office phone rings "Zwane construction company limited Nandipha Tremblay speaking how may I assist you? "Mrs Tremblay you are needed at the reception" The woman said clearly it's not Palisa or one of my staff members. Palisa was going to say mzala the stuff calls me sister boss or girl power. "Okay I'm coming" "What took you so long to respond" She says. With stinky attitude. She will swallow her attitude in this building I decided to use the stairs not the lift. Luther and Mbuso says people who uses lift are lazy beside that stairs are faster than the lift not my words but theirs. This two boys wants to see me with a grey hair. Luther even said the grey hair is not for sale he wants to see atleast a single grey hair. I heard a loud voice "Just take me to her office" The woman shouts "Angiyena uNandi ngizokushaya" (I'm not Nandi I will beat) Palisa said

Kwanda laughed. Who's applying to be beaten by my cousin now "What did she say? The woman said clearly she doesn't know IsiZulu. Who could it be I don't remember stepping in someone's toes. "There she is" Nadia said My stomach churn my eyes I winded my hyponic eyes did I send her to divorce Martin? No I didn't do that. Why is she following me. I walk to her I look at her "What brings you here Nadia? I have my own stress to worry myself. Not her stupidity "Notre mari ne vous a-t-il pas appris comment nous accueillons les invités dans notre famille? (Didn't our husband teach you how we welcome guests into our family) Nadia asks. Nieves in this woman "Ne joue pas cette carte avec moi" (Don't play that card with me) "Heaven Nevaeh" Nadia called. Two white girls twins walked to us "What games are you playing woman? "Angels this is aunt Nandi she will take care of you guys until dad comes back" Nidia said the girls nodded "Hello Aunt" girls says. "See you next week angels enjoy" Nadia says rushing out. I look at Palisa and Kwanda.

What just happened? Did she dumped her kids like that? NOSIPHO Nonjabulo requested that Vincent should slaughter the goat at the Mchunu's yard. "How do you accept me to do that while I can't see. I'm blind Nonjabulo" Vincent said "I don't care daddy just do as I say" Nonjabulo say. Nonjabulo and Mbuso won't mind telling a person where to get off. "Let me help him" Mbuso offend "Hawu Mbuso angidlali lana umsizile ukuthakatheni uPhilani? (Oh Mbuso I'm not playing here you helped him bewitch Philani) Nonjabulo asked "Let's give him a space we will come back when he's done" Nonjabulo said. We walked away from him. We joined Philani he's deep thoughts "Bambela malume Philani uzobuyela kwabathandekayo bakho kungekudala" (Hang in there uncle Philani you will be back to your loved ones soon) Nonjabulo said I'm exhausted I didn't get time to rest MARTIN Nandi called me she sounds very upset over the phone. I got to the reception. Mbuso's girlfriend she's the one who is handling the reception. "Hi" I greeted

her rushing to the stairs She was fine this morning. I'm the one who bought her here. I entered her office without knocking she's sitting with two kids eating hot wings "Why I'm here? "Heaven Sponsored Nevaeh daddy he's here" Nandi said. What? Shock become a tangible living force that crept over me like a mouse when it comes across a cheese my brain hold me captive. I'm I dreaming. I'm I seeing daughters? They've grown the last time I saw them the were two years old "Baby's go give dad a hug" Nandi said they got up and hugged me. My heart just froze and my stomach turned icy "Whats going on here citizen? "Martin you need to talk to your ex wife this is unacceptable this is my workplace she cannot just come here and shout at my staff members telling them what to do. I'm..." Nandi said and kept quiet "Tante calme-toi ne la laisse pas monter dans ta tête comme ça" (Aunt calm down don't let her get in your head like this) Twin 1 said "My apologies Nevaeh I didn't mean to"Nandi said. She smiled and look at her sister

"Excusons-les" (let's excuse them) Neven said
"Don't worry baby I will use the other office" Nandi
said getting out. What gotten to Nidia why did she
decide to bring the kids here? I understand my
wife's frustration she's at work not at the hotel.
Why didn't Nidia take the kids to my parents house?
Why now. VINCENT I'm in excruciating if my own
children are the one doing this to me how much will
the society treat me. My own child calling me a
witch how much more will the community do? I
placed knee on the goat throat. I'm not going to do
this I give up "Just kill me Mchunu and your
highness UNEDITED

123 MARTIN This is unbelievable Nidia she's crazy.
She wants to destroy me. She want to suck my
happiness. She's the one who walked out of the
marriage like nothing happen what does she wants
now? She took the kids away from me why is she
bringing them now? What game is she's trying to
play. I'm sitting between Heaven and Nevaeh. I

have to many questions that seeks answers. "You didn't know about us? The girl ask. To be truthful I can't detamine them "I did but Nidia never gave me a chance to be in your lives" she look at her twin sister "Why do you allow her to bully you? Why did you allowed her to take us away? Do you have any idea what we've been through while our father he's alive? She asks to many questions at the same time. Which one should I answer first? "I'm sorry Heaven and Nevaeh" what will I say to them they seek answers "Did you hate us like she does? The other girl asked "I never hated you. I've always wanted to be in part of your lives. I've always wanted to see you guys grow. But your mother never gave me that chance to" "Well she's not our mother. Our mother died" She said look at her "Heaven stop It" "Nous sommes définitivement abandonnés" (We are permanently abandoned) Heaven said. My children feel like I've abandoned them that's not true. "I'm sorry that you feel that way. I'm sorry that you feel like an orphan it was never my attention to let you

go. I had an agreement with your mother that you are visiting your grandmother and uncle just for a week. Week turned to another weeks. Weeks gave birth to year and year gave birth to years" I look at them their eyes are shading tears "I'm sorry" I know my apology doesn't give them the answers they are looking for I'm also clueless. Nandi walks in. I look at her "My apologies I forgot this things" Nandi said taking her laptop and some files on the desk. She takes few steps to walk out. Heaven and Nevaeh stopped her "Please don't leave" They said. She turn look at us "Martin don't wear that serious look of yours you are scaring my friends" Nandi said. I smile "Just look at him" Nandi said the kids laughed "Elle a acheté la vie dans cette pièce " (She bought life in this room) Nevaeh said laughing. "Why didn't she became our mother" Nevaeh added "Elle serait une mère formidable" (She would be a great mother) Heaven said she's telling the truth. "I'm busy with work I will join you later" Nandi said they nodded she walks out MBUSO We look at him he's

struggling to slaughter the goat I feel sorry for him.
"Why can't I go and help him? "Why can't you
Mbuso? Nonjabulo asked when did she became this
wicked this is our father we are talking about
"Mbuso the same man you want to help he wanted
to the brothers to turn against their sister. He
almost destroyed this family not to mention your
relationship with your girlfriend. You want to help
him go and help him go I'm not stopping you to do
that" Nonjabulo said I exhale. I know my
relationship with Kwanda is sinking NANDIPHA I
dislike people who disrespect me. She can't just
come here and do as she's pleased. Children are gift
from God. Children are vital to the nation's present
and its future. She should've taken the kids to
Ashley and tell her to bring them to me later on.
Not to budge in my workplace and tell my
employees what to do. This is not a family company
its my company my parents build it for me and my
children. Martin walks in I look at him he pull the
chair and sits "Thank you Mama" Martin said I smile

"It's okay Mbuso" he laugh "I'm Mbuso now?
Martin ask we laugh "You behave like him right
now" "On a serious note thanks my love for walking
in that room and make things easier" Martin said
"You welcome Martin you were in a creepy space"
"That's why I love you" Martin said "What do you
love about me? "You kind beautiful welcoming sexy
and many more" Martin said we laugh "I'm taking
them to my mother do you wanna join me? Martin
asked "Why don't you invite your parents over for
dinner? That's not me who asking but jealousy did
asked "You will prepare the dinner? Martin asked I
nod VINCENT Finally Mchunu decided to show up
with his highness. "Zulu you still have the long way
to go do your task" Mchunu said I will kill him "How
do you accept me to do that while I can't see"
"Don't worry my friend I will instruct you what to
do" His highness said "Just do that" I shout they
laugh "Be gentle Zulu when you talk with a woman
you don't have to shout just ask and it shall be
given" she said "Please" NOSIPHO Nonjabulo is

praying for Philani. He acted strangely where we were all required to pray I didn't shut my eye. There is something about Philani each time Nonjabulo says a word he seems like an inner demon wants to break free from him. He lifted his eyes. "I break all curses that have been made over the Mchunu's family I erase all spells that have been cast in his life spells that are working so hard spiritually to destroy him by making him act in ways that are not good. I destroy all kinds of invisible barriers that pose a limitation in this family pursuit I command the blessing and favors of God into his life and his family Amen" Nonjabulo prayed. "Amen" We all said. Everyone opened their eyes. "Bafo everything is going to be well" Sihle said. I can see that he's worried about him everyone's worried. When Nandi mentioned that he's not himself Sihle and Mbuso

said he needs attention. Look now they are shading tears even though they are trying to hide their emotions but they can't stop tears from coming out. NANDIPHA LATER ON. We gathered together for supper. We haven't introduced twins to my in-laws. Nadia just left them with nothing. We are forced to go to the shops tomorrow morning. "Girls don't you have school work to do" Keitumetsi look at me "Books books books" Keitumetsi Sings "I know baby it's books books books but at the end of the day they will help you" Jabulile cleared the table "Consider this as a goodnight" Jabu says "Goodnight baby" I and Martin said "I love this couple you know" Keitumetsi said getting up "We love you too Keitu" We said she walk upstairs. We laughed. "I'm not the only one who will make sure that you get a grey hair" Luther said "Luther don't do that to my daughter" Ashley said. Their call me they daughter. Luther look at me and Martin he cleared his throat. Introduction time. I'm not good at this. They say fake it until you make it. "Okey everyone meet

Heaven and Nevaeh Tremblay" My in-laws eyes winded. Luther look at his brother. Silent filled the house only the flickering lights they filled up this silent house. The absolutely no silverware. We remain silent. Luther looked at us "You can't be serious" Luther said. We look at him "I wish I wasn't serious brother" Martin said "Which one is Heaven between them sister? Luther ask. They confuse Martin "She's sitting next to you" he look at her then he look at Nevaeh "How do you know that? Luther questione me "Twins may appear to be cut from the same cloth but their genes reveal a different pattern" Everyone look at me "Where is your mother children? Ashley ask "That one just dumped us as she always does" Nevaeh said "Where did she dumped you? Luther ask "At aunt's work" Heaven said looking at me "Nandi why didn't you give me a call right away? Luther ask "Even if she wanted to mom didn't give her a chance to do that she just dumped us there and rushed out without explaining us. That's what she does" Nevaeh

said. "Why would she do that? Alex ask "Les gars ne la laissent pas t'atteindre. Tu mourras comme notre grand-mère" (Guys don't let her get to you. You will die like our grandmother) Nevaeh said. She's been warning us not to let her get to our heads. My in-laws looked at each other and shakes their heads. This kids are selling their mother like that. "We will talk family" Luther said getting up he walks out. I don't wanna wish what's going on in Luther's head right now. He was busy with the custody arrangements for them thing is that he didn't have the link that will lead him to Nadia. I feel sorry for her now. She didn't use her brain she might kiss her kids goodbye. UNEDITED

124 NANDIPHA I'm playing with the twins. My house is a mess. Heaven splashes her sister with water she ran to hide herself at the back of the couch is much fun though. Martin walks in with Keitumetsi and Jabulile. His eyebrows curve upwards. His wrinkles form in the forehead and his

whites of the eyes become visible through eye widening. "What happened here" Martin ask Heaven laugh "It seems like the cyclone just passed here few minutes ago" Keitumetsi said we laugh. I love her energy she reminds me of myself. "And why is she hiding herself? Martin ask "Come out Heaven the is no use to hide" She laugh and came to me "Aunt you are my favorite mommy" Nevaeh whisper I smile "Daddy you will be the one to clean this mess" She added we laugh I look at Keitumetsi and Jabulile I walk up to them "Girls what was your best moment at school today? "School was fine" Jabu said she misses her sister this is all new to her "Tell me here what made you laugh today.?" "Nothing much but" Keitumetsi said pointing the mess we made "You wanna join? Nevaeh ask Keitumetsi nod the is nothing I love like seeing kids making friends. Friendships help kids to develop important life skills like getting along with other people and sorting out conflicts and problems. Children with these skills are less likely to have

social and emotional difficulties later in life. "Okay babies you can use a play room. But Jabu and Keitumetsi make sure that your school work is up to date. We will catch 6:25 flight "Music to my ears"Jabu said waking away. "Yeah playroom" heaven said they walk to playroom. At first I was against the idea of playroom but Ashley and his son here instead PHILANI A wonderful sunny day. We gathered in a table everyone is enjoying their food. Nonjabulo start to rub her eyes and shakes her head. "Mbuso.... Mom my sight is back"Nonjabulo Shout in excitement. "You mean you can see me right now? Nosipho ask she nods "How many fingers do I have? Mbuso ask "Five brother" She answers "I'm sorry sis that you had to go through that" Mbuso said "It's okay I will leave" Nonjabulo said looking at me "Uncle Philani how are you feeling? Nonjabulo asks everyone look at me. Was I sick? No why can't I remember. I feel something around my neck I touches is to feel it with my hand. "That will help you" Nonjabulo said "What is this?"

They look at me "It's a neck band" Nonjabulo said the question who put me this against my will "It's called Isiyacte. Don't remove that. It will come out on its own once it has done its job" Nonjabulo said. Mbuso smiled "Uncle P" Mbuso said only one person who calls me that "Mbuso... Sihle.... Where is my sister? They look at each other I'm to get worried "Where is Nandipha guys? I ask again. She was here dancing we were celebrating her engagement "She will be here tomorrow" Mpilo said with tears now I'm convinced that something has happened "Did something happen to her? "She was supposed to be here but we left her with the kids" Nosipho said is it me or she's look different "Who's kids? "Jabu and Keitumetsi? They are too many holes here Jabulile and Nonjabulo they never been separated this kids are always together and the fight on their own like every siblings does but they love each other they always together.

NANDIPHA NEXT MORNING Jabulile and Keitumetsi are ready to go I don't blame them they missed

their parents two days it feels like 2 weeks I can relate to that. I walk to our room "Honey we are ready" he look at me through the mirror "Did you tell your new friends that you are leaving? Martin asked I sigh "I told them yesterday but I promise them that it will be only one day" "They like you" Martin said "Yes they do? "Thank you for making them feel welcome. That's why I love you. Don't ask me what is it that I love about you. Because you are you are that woman who transformed my imperfections into perfections just by the touch of your love. I Love you my dearest wife.You fill all the emptiness in my heart. I'm so thankful to have you in my life. I love you very much and I know that you love me too" Martin said "You are making my knees feel weak right now" He walks to me and kiss me "Let's get going before they become weaker than now" Martin said this man owns my entire heart. He turned my turned my pain to life. He makes me forget all my sorrows and pain. MBUSO Uncle Philani doesn't believe that he slapped his

sister. He kept on asking us what happened last night. We don't have all the answers because it was him Sponsored just by the touch of your love. I Love you my dearest wife. You fill all the emptiness in my heart. I'm so thankful to have you in my life. I love you very much and I know that you love me too"

Martin said "You are making my knees feel weak right now" He walks to me and kiss me "Let's get going before they become weaker than now"

Martin said this man owns my entire heart. He turned my turned my pain to life. He makes me forget all my sorrows and pain. MBUSO Uncle Philani doesn't believe that he slapped his sister. He kept on asking us what happened last night. We don't have all the answers because it was him her and Sparks that day. We called Sparks he's in his way he will explain to him what happened. "Sihle... Mpilo why didn't you beat me up? Philani ask "Sparks stopped me" Sihle said "You should've beaten him to he was there and he let me" Philani said UNEDITED

125 NOSIPHO The Mchunu's brothers are very welcoming as always. Vincent nearly ripped this family apart. "It's hot in here I will sit outside and wait for my guest" Dineo said walking out. We waiting for Sparks to explain to his friend what happened. I don't think Sthembiso knows about this. He won't allow his Nana to come here "I'm joining my sister in law" Philani said indeed it's hot here. Everyone walks out to join them I don't feel joining them maybe if Vincent was not sitting under the same tree I was going to join them. Mbuso made it clear that he won't take him home. He was willing to help him what changed? "Have you heard it's rude to sit alone? Mbuso ask. Joined the crew He's telling the truth. He doesn't want to put it straight it's rude to stay behind someone's house while the owner is sitting outside the house. Zodwa and Zama walks to us. I look at my daughter she smiles. She look better than yesterday. I'm praying that everything goes back to normal.

"Sanibonani"(Hello) Zodwa greeted "Sawubona

Zondwa" (Hello) We greeted her back. I checked my phone he hasn't called me since we got here.

"Who's your guests Dineo" Sihle ask jealousy husband "A friend" Dee answer with a smile "Who do you know around here beside everyone who's here? Sihle ask. She look at Mbuso if they don't laugh I don't know "She mean a boyfriend" Mbuso said "Tell him Mbuso" Dee said. They laugh. Zodwa look at me. "Sis Nosi you look different" Zodwa said. "Atleast someone mentioned that" Philani said "Different how? "Ukube bengingazi kangcono bengizosho ukuthi unesoka" (If I didn't know better I would say you have a boyfriend) Zodwa said. I steal a glance at sis Dee she winks at me "Why would you say that? "Ngoba uyakhanya" (Because you are glowing) Zodwa said. I'm crossing my fingers that Dineo doesn't spill the beans on the ground. "Well what will I say. I'm finally happy I work for my children I'm free to talk to anyone without asking for the permission" "Yes sister you are living your life without being scared" Dee said

NANDIPHA We arrive at King Shaka international airport. It took approximately 1h 40m to get from Johannesburg Airport to KZN. "Babies can I get you something to eat or drink? They shakes their heads. We walk to catch a cab. Family is loving and supporting one another even when it's not easy to do so. It's the best to who you are so that you may inspire your family. We got the to the cab it will take us straight to the Mchunu's. I don't know what will happen today. I need to stay positive. I'm just hoping Philani he's back to his old self. MBUSO Finally speaks explained to Philani what happened. He still doesn't believe that he slapped Nandi and made her feel unwelcome. My grandfather he's also here. We don't want him to blame us tomorrow if things aren't going well to us I still can't believe that my father made Philani to hate his own sister. The only thing that my uncle remembered is the engagement party. How his sister danced that day. "Spaks njengomngani wami bekufanele ungishaye ngize ngibuyele ezingqondwenis" (Spaks as my

friend should have beaten me until I came to my senses) Philani said this is the Philani I know. I no longer have a father. He's not my father he's the vision of him. I just wish he doesn't get his eye sight back. He deserves what ever happening to him right now. Aunt Dee's phone rings she picks it up "Girl" Dee said getting up "Just give me 5 minutes I will be there" Dee said we look at her. She ended up the call. "Okay family I will see you soon" Dee said "Can't we see your mistry friend of yours" Sihle said. My uncle he's jelouse. She looks at me "Malume let her go and meet her friend" laughing "Aunt just go before that Zwane girl come to drag you out" "Mbuso aunt's confidentiality" Dee said "Oh Aunt it's slipped my mind that you and aunt Palisa you are..." She looks at me and laugh "Palisa will kill you" Dee said walking away. Mpilo got up "Sis Dee I'm coming with" Mpilo said walking to her. The is no turning back if aunt Palisa gets mad at me its slipped my mind that she mentioned something about meeting with her mother. She will meet with Mpilo before

she goes back to Johannesburg. FEW MINUTES LATER They come back with her. "Cha MaZwane you will go to your mother later on" (No Ms Zwane) Mpilo said they sit down. "Sanibonani"(Hello) Palisa greeted we greeted her back. Palisa darted her eyes away when Mpilo looks at her. "Okay MaZwane just 30 minutes of your time then you will go" Mpilo said. Did he hijack her plans? She's nervously looks at him. "Mbuso you betrayed me" Palisa said still looking at Mpilo. I'm just praying Zama doesn't course a drama. "Sorry aunt it's slipped my mind" A Mercedes-Benz stops at the gate it has a taxi logo. "Uncle Philani you better prepare an apology letter before we bury you" "Huh" Philani said "Ulapha nesisu sakhe eskulu.(She't here with her big belly) aunt Dee and Palisa laugh "I want you to say that to her" Palisa said laughing Mpilo smiles. Mama Sponsored Keitumetsi and Jabulile walks to us "My darlings" Nandi greeted Palisa she's still laughing. She sits opposite me "Cuz what is it? Nandi asks "I was telling my boss what happened on Wednesday

at work" Palisa said "Maybe next time your boss will check on his employees when he's away" Nandi said she looks at Philani "P unjani kodwa"Nandi ask "I'm sorry Nandi I don't know what gotten to my head" Philani said Nandi asks to swipe sits with Sparks. She held his hand "It's okay Mntase it's not your fault someone who's evil did that" Nandi said and looks at me "Mbuso give me one reason why is your father still alive? Nandi ask I look around "Do I have to answer? "No you don't have to answer me"Nandi said getting up "Where is Nonjabulo? Nandi asked "She's sleeping" Nosipho said. Nandi walks to Vincent. "Sis Dee and aunt Nosi she won't hesitate to stab him" Palisa said NANDIPHA I walk to Vincent he's sitting on the ground "Give me one reason not to kill you Vincent? "Just ask your father and his highness to bring back my eye sight" Vincent said "I asked you a question. Give me one reason why shouldn't I kill you? "If dead is the only way to be at peace let it be" Vincent said. I didn't mean to laugh I never thought I will see this day Vincent giving up. I

left him sitting there and walk back where everyone is. This table is tense who died now "Don't worry MP I got this. I'm a administrator a Zwane construction company limited" Palisa said. Who's asking her "Okay miss Zwane how do you feel about long distance relationship? Zama asked. Palisa smile "You know my cousin tougt me to love endlessly. Whether I and Mp we are together or far apart our relationship will continue to grow and change as life goes. And besides he never gave me a reason to doubt his love for me" Palisa said "There is also a possibility of your partner to develop an intimate relationship or falling in love with someone else because you are at Gauteng he's here" Zama said "Well I don't believe in what ifs. I will cross that bridge when I get there thanks sister for warning me" Palisa said. She look at me I smile at her "Why is she interested in knowing her? "Mzala I got this" Palisa said "You got this cuz but you are not here to be questioned about your life" "Thanks sis. Zodwa please show your friend her way out" Mpilo said

"The is no need for that I will leave" Palisa said
"Uncle P do you have anything to say to Nandi?
Mbuso ask "Can I speak to him alone? I need to
come clean to my family. Palisa she's been a true
cousin she deserves to know who I am. I look at her
"Mzala please don't leave yet the is something I
want to talk to you about" she nods and walks to
Mpilo's car with Dineo UNEDITED

126 NOSIPHO Zodwa looks as her friend she shakes
her heard. friends who don't know they place needs
to be shut out of our lives. "Mnge you were out of
order you are luck Palisa managed to calm mpilo
down. How can you do that? You and Mpilo didn't
work out just accept the rejection you need to
move on. Just be glad that he still allows you to
come here" Zodwa said rejection hurts. But it's
impossible to avoid it altogether. In fact She doesn't
want to accept it people who become too afraid of
rejection might hold back from going after
something they want. Sure they avoid rejection but

they're also 100% guaranteed to miss out on what they want but won't try for. Mpilo just look at her "Zodwa you hardly know that girl and you are choosing sides" Zama said "I'm not choosing side here you were wrong my friend if my sister was still alive you were not going to do that believe me" Zodwa said it rings a bell that Phumza she's gone we knows very well that women was going to throw her out. "So often people take rejection lightly when they start analyzing how they could have been a different person Sponsored but they're also 100% guaranteed to miss out on what they want but won't try for. Mpilo just look at her "Zodwa you hardly know that girl and you are choosing sides" Zama said "I'm not choosing side here you were wrong my friend if my sister was still alive you were not going to do that believe me" Zodwa said it rings a bell that Phumza she's gone we knows very well that women was going to throw her out. "So often people take rejection lightly when they start analyzing how they could have been a different

person when that's really not the case at all. Everyone who has been rejected has also at one time rejected someone else. Rejection will ultimately lead you to the place you were meant to be." Keitumetsi said this kid though she's something else. But I don't blame her Nandi and Sthembiso are the ones giving her the platform to intervene in old people's matter. If I didn't know better I was going to say her parents didn't teach her. "Tumi why are you sticking your nose at elders matters? Sihle asked. She look at him "Why? Because I'm 13 it doesn't mean I shouldn't raise my opinion. Aunt allow me to do that why don't you as my father. And what I'm telling her it's the plain unadorned facts without concealment" Keitumetsi said "Go to your room" Sihle said we normal shut our kids in some of the conversations not that we are rude but they need to know their place. She got up. Mbuso called her. "Uncle she's telling the truth she have to voice her opinion. Who knows maybe her opinion might help. Example you see aunt Palisa she's

furthering her studies because of Tumi's voice why are you shutting the child out. The only thing that she needs is us to support her and she needs to know what standards apply during such conventions and what will happen if she pushes the boundaries" Mbuso said we learn everyday. I need to start to include my girl's to some of the conversation. "I hear you Mbuso I will try to hear my princess's voice" Sihle said. Sihle he's getting old no lie nobody was going tell him what to do. Even his mother wouldn't do that. I won't lie 3 years to know someone's character it's enough. Palisa entered holding her cellphone. "Mr Zulu the client from EPD LTD wants to talk to you" Palisa said giving him the phone. Mbuso excused himself. Palisa tries to walk out. Mpilo block her way "MaZwane can we talk? Mpilo begged. Truth to be told Palisa and Mpilo can work they have the same level of attitude "We will talk MP after I'm done with sis Dee" Mpilo nod she walks out. Sihle laugh "How will you handle her attitude. This is the same

girl you almost chew the poor guy almost the poor man at the hospital" Sihle said "She knows her story like our sister does infact the Zwanes have humanity" Mpilo said "So Tumi help me here what do I do from here? Zama ask This needs expect not a child "What you can do from here is to allow yourself time to process your hurt feelings. Examine your own role in why did you get rejected. Don't beat yourself up about the role you played in your relationship to be rejected though just work it out without stressing yourself. My aunt once said we do not grow stronger when everything is working for us but when we are forced to cope with the unexpected or the undesirable. In this way rejection helps us by showing us just how strong we are" Keitumetsi said we looked at each other surely we didn't expect this "If you haven't heard her clearly you need help my friend"Zodwa said. MARTIN What I love about the kids is that they have energy and they bring light on the house. "Dad we want to go to school like other children" Twin one said. It

didn't take me long to determine Jabu and Nonjabulo. But I'm failing to determine my own girls. "What grade you were doing? "Grade 8" She said "When was the last time you attended class? "Two months ago" she said. I open my mouth wider "ahhh" I know Nandi will get mad especially about me meeting with that women. But she needs to explain further why my children are out of school. "Since grandmother left we don't have a suitable home. She left us where ever she feels like. I wouldn't be surprised if a week that she promised us turned to a year. That's what she does she dump us everywhere. We don't have a home" She said. This can't be happening I'm still alive. Even if I was dead I'm sure my family were going to take care of them. I'm sure child custody will do. Nidia can turn a person to a monster. I never told her that I can't take care of my children. Each and every month I make sure that I send her children allowance. What will I do is to get their compliments documents.

NANDIPHA The only thing that he remembered is

the engagement party that they threw for me. "Don't you remember what happened next? He shook his head "Okay we are not in a rush we will get there" "We? Philani asked I nodded "Yes P we are in this together. You are my brother you are not alone in this" "Will your husband allow you to help me?" Philani asked "My husband and I we are a team. We support one another that's the whole point of getting married. My family it's his and his family it's mine. This means you are his family too" he nodded and closed his eyes looking like he was in deep thought I might not be a psychotherapist or a comforter but I attended therapy so I know how it works. He banged the table. "P.... Philani! He rubbed his eyes with his hands. "Thanks for being there for me. I've been told that you never give up on me" Philani said "Life taught me not to give up only to follow what the heart says" he looked at me "I should be the one who's taking care of my little sister" Philani said "You can still do that" "I can start by calling your husband and tell him that he will see you next

week" Philani said I laugh my brother he's back. Sometimes in life we must not give up in people that we love. "You can't do that" "I can sis I just want to be next to you" Philani said. "Let's do like this when I take maternity leave I will come and spend the first two weeks with you and Mpilo then I will go to my in-laws" He laugh did I say a joke "What if your deliver in that two weeks? Philani ask it rings a bell that I gave birth to my first born to a premature child. "Then you will help me" His eyes winded "Then I will have to be trained to be a midwife just to help you give birth" Philani said "That won't happen" "The won't be anything wrong me helping my sister to give birth" Philan said I chuckle "You will need a cancelling after that because you will experience trauma symptoms of seeing your sister giving birth" "It doesn't matter Nana ka babaZwane" (Mr Zwane's Nana) Philani "You won't be able to satisfy your girlfriend becouse" he looks at me we laughed "I'm serious"

laughing. Does he have a girlfriend though. We continued laughing UNEDITED

127 NANDIPHA Philani and I decided to take a walk. He's holding my hand. "Aren't you tired? Philani ask "No" "I'm your brother don't be scared to talk to me" Philani said "Let's find a spot and rest" "Let me carry you on my back" Philani said he want give people a panic atteck especially Palisa. "You want your girlfriend to kill me? "Sorry to tell you this Nandi I don't have one" Philani said. "Than your ex girlfriend" "I don't believe she will becouse she's marriage and our relationship didn't last I didn't want to keep her. What is the use to have a girlfriend knowing very well that she won't be happy? Philani ask the are many different ways to make a girl happy what he's he talking about "Meaning" He stop walking and look at me "I never talked to anyone about this. What I'm about to tell you. Please don't judge me or tell anyone" Philani said I'm the last person to judge someone "I'm not

sexual attracted" Philani said that caught me. I didn't expect this "Meaning you are asexually? He nod "I don't feel attracted to anyone regardless of people's appearance except the very few times when I've developed a strong emotional bond for her and I shared a lot of common interests but when it kicks in that I not interested in intimacy" Philani said. Being asexually it's not a choice. People might judge but no one wakes up in the morning and announce that he/she's asexually. The world seems to assume that everyone feels sexual attraction need help or they can be cured. People think there is something wrong with asexual people. There is absolutely nothing wrong with them. So asexual people might worry that there's something wrong with themselves too. Asexuality isn't a medical concern. "Nandipha" Philani shout "Uhm" "Konke kulungile? (It's everything okay) Philani ask I nod "You think there is something wrong with me? Philani ask "Asexuality is completely normal. It's a healthy sexual orientation just like being gay or

being straight and you can still have normal relationships" "So you mean I'm gay? Philani ask "No I didn't say that it can be confusing you trying to figure out what's wrong with you it can crack your brain especially since sex is so prevalent in our culture. It may be difficult. Don't question yourself P" He look at me "Do you think it's cureble? Philani ask "Don't do that to yourself you didn't choose to being asexuality it doesn't needs specialist or to be fixed" He nod we continue walking MBUSO Palisa keeps on checking her phone. Zama look at her. She cleared her throat. "Palisa" Zama said. We look at her "I'm sorry about my behaviour earlier" Zama said I respect people who apologies their wrongs "No harm done" Palisa said she's still on her phone isn't this rude? "Palisa are you okay? Dee ask "I just don't understand why didn't Nandi kill this girl" Palisa said. "Come again" Mpilo said she didn't answer I'm sure she didn't want to say that out. "Palisa" she look at me "What's wrong? "Nolithando tagged Nandi she posted a picture of my cousin I'm

not sure if she's aware of this" Palisa said. Aunt Dee checked on her phone. "Nolithando was her best friend she's the girl who got her protection order? Palisa nod. Now I remember the girl who came with Kwanda to Uncle Sihle's house "Oh my goodness she needs girl power's attention" Dee said "No she needs make over" Palisa said. "What did she posted? "She posted Nandi's naked pictures" Dee said. Nandi and Philani entered the gate. "Can't you delete that so that she cannot see that" Nosipho said "I will report her account and try to make sure that Nandi doesn't see this" Palisa said. If you don't know what to post then don't post anything. Nandi sit down she takes a glass of water that belonged to my grandfather. She fastly drinks like she won't drink water again "Mzala you can't do that" Palisa said. "Sorry mzala I was thirsty" Nandi said. We look at Palisa "Cuz please land me your phone" Palisa said she knows very that reaching Nandi's cellphone is not easy "Why? Nandi ask "I'm out of airtime I want to inform my mother that I won't make it

today" Palisa said. Nandi punch numbers on her phone "I just transferred R100 airtime" Nandi why didn't she come with another story VINCENT Why don't Mbuso take me to my house and than leaving me sitting alone here at least if I was in my house I was going to lie down on my bed and let the pain drift away. I have no one to talk to I'm blind in my own. Nobody have asked me how I'm I doing. "God just take me" Crying NOSIPHO I keep on checking my phone hoping that Sthembiso will call me. This is not easy at all not everyone is too understanding like Nandi Sponsored Palisa and Dineo they are the only one who knows about my involvement with Sthembiso "Just call the guy" Palisa suggested she's just trying to dodge the bullet. "I will call him don't worry Pali" She smiled "That's my girl" Dee said. They will explain to Mbuso I swear "So we have another step in father? Mbuso ask "It's just a good friend of her" Palisa said laughing she knows very well that she can't cook up a simple lie "Now it makes sense the glow" Mbuso said they just trying

to avoid Nandi. Hiding the truth it can generate guilt. "Palisa what's troubling you? Nandi ask come on Pali don't mess this up "I.. Uhm... Eish guys I can't" Palisa said "I think she has a visitor" everyone looked at me "Yeah Mather nature just called" Palisa said excusing herself. Secrecy is the practice of hiding certain information this will kill Nandi "Mbuso do mind taking me to the hotel? Nandi ask "How much do you have mama? Mbuso ask laughing "Please Mbuso" Nandi bagged "You said you want a talk to me and Palisa" Mbuso said "Can't we do that some other time? Nandi ask "What did you want to talk to us about? Mbuso ask "I think it's now time to come out to the light" Nandi said "Which light? Mbuso ask "Palisa she's the only cousin I have she needs to the truth. Revealing who I am won't harm me but it will set me free"Nandi said I like her confidence especially how she deal with such things "Mama you can't do that" "The truth finds it's way out even it takes years and years and years later it will come out to bite us now it's

time to tell her. Infact to tell my family" Nandi said "Can't you talk to Mr Zwane first? Mbuso UNEDITED 128 NANDIPHA I'm very loyal to people in my life. Loyalty is probably my biggest virtue. I give it to the fullest and also expect the same from the people I give it to. I show utmost care and love to people that matter in my life. I will do anything in my power to keep them happy. My father husband son cousin and my niece I can do anything just for them. Even if it means I should die. "Mama please just do that for me and I promise I won't ask you anything" Mbuso said. Now I'm cought between a rock and a stone "Mbuso look at me. You and Palisa you mean everything to me. Please let me do this without feeling guilty" He got up "Mama please" Mbuso said kneeling down "Okay then I will tell her when you are ready then" "Thanks you I owe you a foot massage" Mbuso said getting up. "You can start now son" he smiles. I never called him son but I did in my wedding day. Palisa comes back. "How are

you feeling? I ask Palisa "I will be fine" Palisa said "Aunt should I get you a wine" Mbuso said. "Maybe tomorrow" Palisa said "Okay as long as you will report to work on Monday" Mbuso said she looks at me "Yes boss" Palisa said "Palisa I've been meaning to ask. How do you find your bosses? Sihle ask I thought he was muted "Don't even ask Sihle. Mbuso is weighing the company and you can't go to his office without a pen and paper" Palisa said we laugh "If you don't believe me ask mamzo" Palisa said "Mrs Zulu is this true? Sihle ask "Little bit" Nosipho said Mbuso smile "But apart of taking notes of each and every meeting you have with him is too much. And I don't know why I'm I suppose to do that I'm a tea lady" Nosipho said. We laugh but she can write how many clients want coffee or tea "Mbuso you are doing it right. It's important to take notes more especially in meetings. It is drives communication helps with memory retention and fosters the skills needed for successful relationships with clients and coworkers so aunt Palisa stop

making my cousin a bad person" Keitumetsi said I like this kid she reminds me of myself when I was at her age. Palisa and Keitumetsi like each other to. The compete with everything hence why Palisa find the courage to continue with her studies "Tell her cuz" Mbuso said Palisa laugh "When you are reading or listening taking notes helps you concentrate" Mpilo said "No guy why are you ganging on my cousin? My phone rings I checked its a video call from Martin I answer "Hubby" "How are you? Martin asked "I'm well and yourself" "Trying the twins wants to talk to you" Martin said. He's down "Girls tante Nandi elle est en ligne" (aunt Nandi she's on the line) Martin said they scream this kids are hiding something there is something fishy about their mother "Mommy" Heaven said I smile "Babies" "When are you coming back? Nevaeh asked VINCENT I got up try to walk using my stick. I can't use my steps I'm only familiar with my house. Maybe someone will help me to get home.

NWABISA Prisoner's daily life takes place according

to a daily schedule. We wakeu rollcalls morning exercises times for meals Sponsored times for meals times for escorting the prisoners to work and school and times for studying and working as well as the times prescribed for sports events telephone calls and walks. Everything is going according to the schedule did I have to love Sthembiso Blessing Zwane that much I had to miss up like this. Love is a link of weakness. Love made me to be greedy. I'm praying that he finds the my letter I loved him I still do but my love for him hurt many people. I killed his wife people are arrested because of my love for him. I've hurt his daughter Dear Sthembiso When you get this letter bare in mind that I'm gone. I'm sorry for all the pain I've coursed you and your family. I know sorry alone does not have a weight of what I did. The love I have for you pushed me that far where I had to hurt people around you especially your wife she was a wonderful soil I played God role in her life. I wish I didn't do that but I did I'm deeply sorry I know my sorry won't bring

her back. I signed the letter I climbed the chair jump from the height and noose around my neck with a rope. I feel unconsciousness. I feel my spirit living my body this is it the pain I'm feeling now it can not be completed to a pain I've caused him. NANDIPHA I tend to overlook the first instances of misbehavior. However if the person is persistent with it then I give him/her a piece of my mind and avoid them entirely. It is actually hard for someone to piss me off to the point that I don't want to associate with people like Nolitha she posted the pictures just to spite on me. She's the reason why I dislike female friends I think Dee she's lucky because she's my sister in law beside that I don't need a friend. I know Zama was my friend growing up Nolitha opened my eyes to not have a female friends I reader associate with my family However if such a point were to reach then I would never forgive her even if it was the last thing for me to do on earth before dying I won't do that I reader. After speaking with Martin and the kids. Someone sent me the my naked

pictures the only person who had them was Nolitha. She didn't have the rights to link them. I scroll down on the phonebook searching for KB's contact. I believe I didn't delete them. Here they are. I try calling him it takes me straight to voicemail. I try again it rings. Did he ever loved me. He answered "My heart" KB said he must be kidding right "Don't my heart me. Please chain your dog if she doesn't know what to post on social media she must find a different way to keep herself busy" "I'm not following" KB said "Did you ever loved me?" "You know I did" KB said I cut him "You know nothing about love KB you choose to shit up with my friend who knows everything about me. Now she's exposing me on social media. People now knows the inner surface of me. You killed me Kabelo" Crying "I don't know what you are talking about but I'm sorry for what I've done to you" KB said "I hate the fact that I once loved you. I hate the fact that you were my world. I hate you I hate you Kabelo" I can't believe that I'm saying this my parents use to

remind me that the word hate must be a foreign language to me "I'm sorry Nandipha I never meant to hurt you. I don't know what gotten to me but that doesn't justify what I did to you but I'm deeply sorry Nandi and congratulations are in order for your marriage and pregnancy" KB said it takes a courage for a man to say sorry. I let go of my phone "Sorry mama kuzo ndlula"(Mom it shall pass) Mbuso said hugging me from the back. I don't know why did my mother have to left me in this cruel world. "Mommy" (crying) "Excuse me" MBUSO Palisa and aunt Dee followed Nandi. I'm not someone who is ashamed of what I did. Especially with my own mother. I'm actually really proud that because I my eyes got opened. I know I made a lot of mistakes but they turn in to be my life lessons. Not that I'm ashamed of the truth to come out but the company status is at stake. Nandi's phone rings "It's her father" Sihle said he won't answer m he's scared of Nandi "Bring it here" My step mother said. She can handle Nandi "Nandi's phone Nosi speaking

how can I help you" Nosipho said and she laugh
"Yeah something happen but she will be fine" she
added "The is nothing to worry yourself about
Palisa she's here" Nosi said. "You want girl power
to kill me with her phone" Nosi said laughing she
ended the call she exale. "That's was easy" "Let's
hope he doesn't come across those pictures"
Nosipho said. "Palisa managed to block her" "Than
how did she find out? Ernest asks "She was going to
find out. The post only reached 190 reactions and
100 comments from people who believe that sis
Nandi won't sell her body like that" Zodwa said "Did
you see the post? Mpilo ask she nod. Aunt Dee walk
to us we look at her "How is she? "She's sleeping"
Dee said uncles look at each other "In which room"
Sihle ask "Our room Sphe thats the only room she's
familiar with" Dee said he nods. Palisa walk to us
too she sit down "Thanks guys for welcoming me.
I'm sorry I have to go" Palisa said. And why is she
apologizing "Sis Dee and sis Nosipho can you guys
take care of my cousin please? Palisa ask "You don't

have to worry Palisa she's at the good hands no one will harm her" she look at me "My cousin she's fragile right now and she won't hesitate to get to Jo'burg right now. Please make sure she doesn't leave like that don't be deceived by her smile I know she can fool people with her smile" Palisa said "Okay aunt we will make sure of that anything else?" "I'm a call away just for her and my best friend Tumi" Palisa said getting up "I will drive you home" Mpilo said getting up its true the are people who cares for other people than themselves. Nandi and Palisa can die for each other not alone Mr Zwane he makes sure that her girls are always fine. "Guys Mpilo he's dating his own cousin? Sparks ask people can surprise you they were muted "She's Nandi's cousin not ours" Sihle said "Mchunu's what's your story? Zama ask "Dating cousin is not a sin how ever if two people are connected to each other we won't stop their love for one another. So if Palisa and Mpilo love each other let it be" Philani said that's my uncle he's back "Your mother was not going to

allow this to happen" Zama said "Zama Phumza was a human being just like us she was not God" my grandfather said. "Seems like everyone was scared of Palisa and Nandi" Sihle said we laugh "Kumelwe ngivume ukuthi akaseyona intombazane eyake yaba umngane wami. Konke ngaye kusha. She's kind and loving"(I have to admit that she is no longer the girl I used to be. Everything about him is new) Zama said people change along the way. UNEDITED

129 NANDIPHA I'm the first one to wake up I'm happy that I bought my toiletry bag with. Sleeping here was not part of my plan. Why didn't they chaise me I don't like being a burden especially where people have to sleep on the other room. Someone's baby wants chocolate cake and apple sometimes I urge to eat food I used to like. Since everyone is still sleeping I will just walk to the store I saw in the corner to get myself chocolate and apple then I will ask Mbuso to get me some cake later on he will think that I'm taking his kindness for

granted. He's so supportive. I did law and some of the tort it's waist of lawsuit but what did Nolitha she sued for publishing private facts about me even if that facts are truffer all life isn't measured by how many times you get up and fight. This not a winning battles but a jealous battle. Life is too short to spend it on worrying about people like Nolitha. I entered the store most of the shops open around 8 it's barely 7 but it's open. "Hi can I get 4 lunch bars and 1 apple please" giving him the money the smell of chips got me thinking "How much are your chips?" "Small R20 medium R25 extra medium R30" He said I cut him before he went further "Give me two extra large" He shouted the order then look at me "Are you going to eat all that? He ask "Yes" He look at me for 5 to 6 minutes "I'm kidding I'm going to share with my family" He laugh giving me my chocolate and apple "I never seen you before do you leave around? He asks "I'm from Johannesburg" "Ok I see. So what brings you to Eshowe than? He ask do I have to answer that? "My brothers leaves

around" "Oh I see how many brothers? He asks to many questions are there part of shop assistant? "Cha Cha Thabo let my sister go she's married" I turn and look at him. It's Philani's friend. He walk to me. P told me that he's scared of me he thinks I'm a ghost. Probably I consider myself as ghost to because I'd rather come face to face with a killer than being stabbed in the back by pretenders. I also dislike uncleanliness both physically and spiritually. So I'm a ghost. "Sparks" Shop assistant said "Bread and 6 eggs please" Sparks said putting the money on the counter "How are you doing sis" Sparks said "I'm good thanks and yourself? "I'm good. And what are we waiting for? Sparks ask "I'm waiting for my order" I look at him and laugh "Aren't you scared of ghost? I ask laughing. Sometimes laughter is the madicine of heal the scars "Don't even ask" Sparks said taking his stuff I lough even more he joins me "You look better than yesterday" He said "Yesterday is the past I'm ready for the future" He look at me "You always have something to say" Sparks said I

nod "Listening is at the core of good conversation"
"Here is your order ma'am don't forget to visit again" Shop assistant said giving me my order. "I will visit again hopefully my jelouse brother won't be around" we laugh "I won't be but Phila will"
Sparks said as we existed "Are you a social worker or something? Sparks ask I shake my head "Why are you asking that? "You friendly Sponsored smart and you always say something that builds" Sparks said "Shutting up and listen to what someone is saying you will always have something to say. You won't stress over what to talk about next but you will search for words to answer him/her" MARTIN My girls prepared a breakfast for me. I still can't believe that they are here with me. Nidia destroyed me. Did she have to do that? I tend to overlook the first instances of misbehavior. However if the person is persistent with that then I give them a piece of my mind and avoid such things entirely. But with Nidia I failed decimal. It is actually hard for me to be pissed off. That's how she got the void to destroy me

MBUSO Sihle disturbed me from my sleep "Uncle Sihle why are you doing this? "Girl Power she's not here" Sihle said I rise of the bed "What do you mean she's not here? "Seems like she left without telling us" Sihle said "That can't be have you tried calling her? "She left her phone" Sihle replied I laugh at him "Why are you laughing? Sihle ask "Sihle are we talking about Nandi Zwane here? "No we are talking about Nandi Tremblay" Mpilo said "Calm down guys mama she's didn't go anywhere" "You know her better than us" Mpilo said "Where is uncle Philani? "Dee and Philani went to search for her" Sihle said. Aunt Dee just wanted to be out of Uncle Sihle for once. VINCENT I did accept everyone to turn against me but not my son. I admit I've missed up and I can't turn back the clock and do right by my children. The kindness of stranger is proverbial a woman who leads me home yesterday if it wasnt for her I should've slept on the street. Blindness is enveloping. It's beyond belief to step outside and see so little just a milky haze. Being indoors it's

smothering dark. I can't shed a mood of loneliness with a brisk to walk down the street because I might trip and fall or break something. Nor will I will see a passing person on the street. Yesterday I heard people admiring Nosi with her beauty and glow how I wish I can see her and my children their body language as well as their smiles. Their lost respect in me my own daughter called me a witch. I'm striped with ambiguities I'm like a prisoner. I'm doomed. Why can't they kill me already. NANDIPHA Sparks he's fun. Instead of going back to my brothers we took the other route to his grandmother's house. "I'm sure your brothers are worried about you" Sparks said "And I left my phone" "Power girl you should visit me again" His grandmother said "Chadlovukazi igama lakhe ngu girl power" (No queen her name is girl power) Sparks corrected her "Does she only have a English name? Gogo ask "I do a African name actually my name is Nandipha Tremblay" "Phakathi kwabazali bakho ngubani onebala elimhlophe nisho ngoba ungu Power girl

Tremblay? (Among your parents who is white I'm saying this because you are a power girl Tremblay) Gogo said "Both my parents are black race and I'm married to a white man" I've been saying my goodbye to this old woman I think 10 times. She keeps on bringing topic after each topic "Take care of yourself and the baby" Gogo said "Thanks for the tea" She adds it's her house "I should be the one to thank you" "You made the best tea power girl I'm sure your husband make sure that you are the only one who make him tea or coffee" Gogo said. Best coffees are made by a machine. I make normal coffee/ tea that anyone can do. But my father doesn't believe that and here is this woman adding the pressure. "Okay gogo I will see you some other time" "Don't be a stranger" Gogo said. She just met me and she's hoping to see me again. UNEDITED

130 NANDIPHA We head back to the store me and Sparks grandmother we ate all the chips forgetting that I bought them for my family. We bought

another Chip and walk back to the Mchunu's. "You said you don't stay around who is looking after your grandmother?" "My cousin and aunt are the ones who are looking after her" Sparks said. The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful to be honorable and to be compassionate to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well. People who takes good care of your loved ones are a blessing appreciate them. "Why did you introduced me as girl power?" "If I'm scared of ghosts what about her" Sparks "We have millions of people who have the same name as me" "I don't think she remembered you" Sparks said while we walk VINCENT Being blind its a helpless reassur. Being blind is omission not commission and I'd better learn how to fall. My ears need schooling to locate. I search for the bathroom. Being blind exasperating incongruities arise but also the convenience of this new excuse for shedding social obligations not desired. I need to educate my ears to snatches of conversation from invisible voices

because everything becomes eavesdropping. My vision is gone. But I can hear daylight and tree crowns and running water swirling Sponsored swirling seething leaves against the skyblue heavens which remind me that I'm 85 years I might die at anytime. NOSIPHO Brothers are worried about their sister. Mbuso and Dee are very relaxed. "Okay husbands let's do like this. If she's aren't here the next 30 minutes we will call her father" Dee said. I can't wait to go back home. I miss him already. Yes I spoke to him yesterday with Nandi's phone. He was checking on his Nana and obviously and everyone. Hearing his voice made me wish I could fly right away. But that was me seeing myself next to my heart. "Aunt Nandi" Keitumesti shouted running to her. She's with Sparks holding each other's arms. Sparks he's asking for trouble already "Isn't she married? Mpilo ask he already got the wrong message. How much more from a protecting son. I look at Mbuso he look at them. "She's married" Mbuso reply Dee come on you know Nandi done we

all do come with a plan. "Phila talk to your friend and I will talk to my sister" Sihle said. Holding hands is something many of us do largely without even really thinking about it. I don't see anything wrong with it. "Good morning good people" Nandi said sitting down next to her son. "Morning Nandi" "You got us worried girl power" Dee said "I'm sorry guys Baby shall come wanted few things" Nandi said "Why didn't you ask me to go and get those things for you? Mbuso ask "I was going to but since you were snoring and saying this is your house I got scared" Nandi said making us laugh "What was he saying? "He was snoring saying this is his house" We continue laughing "On a serious note mama where have you been? Mbuso ask party pooper. Nonjabulo and Jabulile went to visit their friend Keitumesti decided to stay behind since she doesn't have any friends here. "Mbuso I went to the store to buy chocolates and apple" Nandi said putting her stuff on the chair. "The shop is 5 minutes walk Nandi" Mbuso said. I never heard him calling his mother by

the her name. "Mbuso calm down" Dee said "I woke up craving for chocolate apple and a cake. I decided to take a bath hoping you will be awake after that but you were still sleeping I decided to go and get the apple and a chocolate" Nandi explained "Dadewethu you should've let us know we were worried about you" Philani said she smiles me "I'm sorry guys for leaving without letting you know. But I was in safe hands with Gogo Dlovu" Nandi said. Safe hands with Gogo who that old woman doesn't want visitors at her house expect her family and church mate "That's the main question how did you end up getting in her house? Mbuso ask is he asking her that "Well someone got jelouse of a shop assistant who was helping me" Nandi said we look at her "You mean grumpy shop assistant? I ask Thabo he's always grumpy "He was friendly to me we even exchanged numbers" Nandi giving her neice a chocolate "Uyahlanya yini? (Are you insane) Mpilo ask if they keep on asking this pregnant women questions she will leave them naked Mbuso

should know that already "I'm not crazy brother you guys said you were worried I apologized. But you keep on asking me unnecessary questions" Nandi said "I'm sorry Mama" Mbuso said "You should be Mbuso your sister wants cake please get that for me? Nandi ask "I'm not going anywhere if you are carrying a girl. I have enough sisters already" Mbuso said "Okay Mbuso your brother wants cake" Nandi begged Mbuso got up he went in to the house "How are you feeling today? Dee asked "I'm good sister just missing my husband" Nandi said When someone cares about you they have this way of making you feel like a better version of yourself. I thought I was alone but here I am "Aren't he supposed to be here with you? Dee ask "He was supposed to" she was cut by Mbuso "Tell him to quit his job" Mbuso suggested he is the one who once said we need people like Dr Tremblay and police officers without them our country is doomed. "You can call him son and tell him that yourself"Nandi said Keitumesti laugh she didn't say

a joke "Uncle Mpilo and Zodwa let's go and leave Tumi with this oldies" Mbuso said Nandi's phone rings in Mbuso's pocket this boy loves his mother. He gives her the phone. She check and answer "Babam" Nandi said "I'm good thanks Dad" she add "I beg my pardon" Nandi said "Dad listen to me you didn't kill mom and why would you kill her" she asked NANDIPHA I'm speaking with my father. He's telling me that he killed my mother. The is no way dad can do that "Nwabisa commited suicide" Dad said "I beg my pardon" "Nwabisa took the easy way out" dad said "Mbuso forget about the cake" He look at me "Okay where are you?" "At the house with detactive Zondo" dad said he hangs up. "Guys I'm sorry I have to go" " Why what happened? Philani ask "My father needs me" "Is he okay? Nosi ask "I don't think he will he need me by his side right now" Why would he thinks he killed my mother. They were involved in car accident that's the fact Unedited

131 NANDIPHA Guilt is a powerful emotion. It can hold us in bondage isolate us and alter how we look at the world. I'm aware that my father didn't kill my mother. He wouldn't even kill a fly. I failed to get an early flight since it's Sunday I will catch the late flight. I'm in video call with my father he tells me that Nwabisa committed suicide and she left a suicidal note I wish I was the one who finds her lifelessly body hanging I was going to beat the lifeless body until I'm certified. "I know you're having such a hard time right now I'm sorry that you're hurting so much and I'm far" "Nana you don't have to be sorry I brought Nwabisa in our lives. I wish I didn't meet that woman she steal Lizzy from us" Dad said "Mommy she's gone remember that she would've wanted us to be happy and let go all the pain" "Resentment has a way of robbing us of our happiness and of chipping away little by little and chipping away our health. Do you see that this seems to be happening to me Nana? Dad ask "We should not let resentment rob us our happiness we

need stay strong and focus remember it was just me and you before everyone came along? "It was me and you before Tremblay steal the only Zwane flower" Dad said "So what do you suggest? Should I let him go? He chuckles that's my father he's my hero. He taught me about giving about helping old people and children about always telling the truth about humility. I don't like seeing him sad. "Dad you always have a special place in my heart because you always showed me love even when I was not behaving well. You always respected my feelings. Yes I agree Tremblay picked up your only Nana but you have a special place in my heart" He smile "I know Nana I just wish we should've stayed at Cape Town than coming here maybe Lizzy was going to be part of us" Dad said Mbuso cut him "How was I going to meet my mama than? Mbuso said dad laugh. My father respects me everyone and each member of my family. He maintains cordial relations with our relatives friends and neighbours. "Mbuso you were going to meet her in your

dreams" Dad "How was I supposed to meet my aunt" Keitumesti said his new best friend "Little Princesses I don't see you show yourself" Dad said Keitumesti laugh and and ask Mpilo to sit where she was sitting "We do not know what the future holds for us Sponsored friends and neighbours. "Mbuso you were going to meet her in your dreams" Dad "How was I supposed to meet my aunt" Keitumesti said his new best friend "Little Princesses I don't see you show yourself" Dad said Keitumesti laugh and and ask Mpilo to sit where she was sitting "We do not know what the future holds for us but we know what happened in the past if we would predict that the future we were going to behave similarly especially with the depression times and times when the stock goes up. It was written that we were going to meet in such manner" Dad said I look at Mbuso I smile "That's it dad you didn't know what the future was holding for us. Let's move on and forget about. That ill girlfriend of yours who committed suicide. Don't beat yourself about it you

didn't ask her to kill mommy nor to hurt me. You won't do that many people can be a witness of what I'm saying right now" He kept quiet. "Babu Zwane" (Mr Zwane) He smiles "Mrs Tremblay" Dad said "We miss you" "You and who? Dad ask he knows very well that Nosi miss him "Me and my baby" He chuckles "Than come home Nana" "I will be back babah" "You coming to me or your husband? Dad ask making me laugh "If it means I should let my husband go and keep my dad by my side so be it" "You want daddy to remind you something? Dad ask. Who ever came with the video call plan made it easier for me. It feels like I see him "Nana" dad said "Remind me me dad" Lecture on the way "On your wedding vows you said the special part till death do you apart" "Did I say that" "Yes" everyone said my father laugh. "You heard that" Dad said laughing "Even Baby q shall come head that" He laughed even more "Zithini Izithakazelo za kaTremblay? (What are Tremblay's clans names) Dad asked "I don't know I only knows Zwanes and Mchunus"

"Okay then if you say them both without stopping you are getting back your shopping allowance" Dad said "Dad I can't" Nosi just laugh she knows very well that the is no I can't with my father "Nana I'm waiting" Dad said should I cry that's how he will let this slid "Nana I don't mind waiting keep that in mind" Dad said. He's telling the truth "Dad you know that our clan name is long I will end up boring everyone here" "Ok keep them shot" Dad said "Please dad" "Should I add another two surnames? Dad ask "No dad" "I'm waiting" Dad said VINCENT I'm the kind of person who hates feeling inept. At times like this I feel like a failure at adapting. Especially when I misplace something for the umpteenth time I find myself berating myself for not being better at being blind. I feel constant pressure not to stumble this is tough since I'm clumsy person and helpless. Nosipho should come back she's my wife she has to look after me I can't do anything. Years ago I used to hear people saying. Blind people depend on their other senses like

touch smell sound and taste. Why can't I depend on that especially to sense people who are staring at me. MBUSO She finally said those clans names. It wasn't easy but she did. Uncles smiled "So when is Nana getting her shopping allowance? Nandi ask "Bye Nana see you soon" Mr Zwane said "Babah remember that promise is a credit" Nandi said "26th of every months if you miss up this time around I will make sure that you won't get anything from me and I will make sure that your husband and son does the same" Mr Zwane said "I promise dad. I will try to be more careful of what I'm doing" Nandi said "That's my girl. Look Nana I have to go I'm meeting with your father in-law" Mr Zwane said. It's about time "Bye dad I love" Nandi said "I love you too Nana or should I say Mrs Tremblay? Mr Zwane ask "Anything that will leave a mark to you dad" Nandi said. They are friends they know how to cheer one another. If you don't know the roots of their relationship you would think Mr Zwane he's heading for his daughter. Not every father care's for

another man's child but he did and he still doing that. Hence why he's so blessed people like him need to be blessed. He raised a stranger as his own daughter now he's leaving with a stranger with her children. He's not complaining. After Nandi moved out from that house I suggest to take my stepmother and sisters he said that house is too big for and Palisa alone. Since his daughter said it's a family home it means they should stay as long as MamNosi wants. And he's treating us as his family. This county need people like him and my stepfather too people who have the spirit of Ubuntu (Humanity) If everyone in society needs to play a part regardless of how small one may think it is. We all everyone have to role to play of humanity the world could be in a better place. "Earth to Mbuso Zulu" Nandi said. I came back to earth when she called the first name. The is no need for that "Mama you were saying? "Where were you? Keitumetsi ask "Sorry guys" they all nodded "Sister you are an amazing person. Full of life love and kindness"

Philani said I must say my both my uncles enjoys to be in her life "You are saying that because I said your clan name" Nandi said "Our clans names dadawethu" (my sister) Philani said "And I doubt Mbuso can praise the Mchunu's" Mpilo said "Place your offer Mpilo and I will surprise you" "Just like my grandfather did" Keitumetsi said "Get lost Mbuso" Mpilo said we laugh "Mama you are taking the trip with us?" "Cha Mbuso I came with Jabu and Keitumetsi that means I'm leaving with them and Palisa too" Nandi said "Palisa came alone" "I know I didn't know that she was coming here I wouldn't allow her to come alone. And besides I dislike sitting on the car for long hours" Nandi said "Aunt just admit that you miss your plus one 6 hours will take long" Keitumetsi said "That plus one guy must relax we are enjoying the moment with our sister" Sihle said. Aunt Dee and Nandi look at each other "Says my favourite brother who made sure that I meet my soulmate. Thanks Sihle and Mpilo you too deserve a thropy" Nandi said "Worse part that I no longer

spend time with my sister in law thanks guys for that you too deserve an award" Dee said "Shame sis Dee my brothers robbed you your friend" Philani said "Not only my friend we miss girl power on that stage" Dee said. I've been wondering did Dr Tremblay stop her to sing and dance "Mama" "Yeah" she responded "Did dad stop you to entertain us? "No he didn't I decided to be someone's mother that's all" Nandi said KWANDA I'm meeting with Nolithando. I want her to explain to me what gotten to her head. She can be sued for definition of character. She walks in the mass went crazy. What did she was wrong Nandi she's loved by many. She builded her name. Why did she do that "What does she wants here"The woman said others take video as she walks to me. What did she thinks posting provocative photos "People like her need to be burnt" A drunk guy said. Truth to be said she didn't have the right to post Nandi's picture. "Guys let her be she's not worth it" KB said. He is her boyfriend why is he saying that she's not worth it.

Nolitha look at him she cried "It's okay Nolitha" she walks up to him "My friend hate me because of you KB people hate me because of you KB you sold me the world I turned against my friend" Nolitha said crying. People are cruel they are capturing video "Sorry Nolitha I didn't ask you to betray her. You knew very well that I was engaged with her you came running to my room. I never loved you Nolitha you ruined my life" Kabelo said "Guys let's sort this out" I said seems like I'm adding the fuel "You bought this for yourself Nolitha. How can you trust a man who was your best friend's fiance? Lwando said. My brother with big mouth. Did he have to say that NANDIPHA I received a call from my cousin "Cuz" "Mzala login on your Twitter" Palisa said "What's going on? "Just login" Palisa said ending up the call. I login. Sibza's club posted a video and it's trending. We live on a wicked world where everything is posted in social media. Social media is a disaster. "I didn't invite you to my room girly. You came into my life just to ruin my happiness yet I lost

that peace that was meant for me. Someone pick it up and he's taking care of that peace. I have wounds because of you. You drained my love and energy Nolithando. You won't fit on girl power's shoes no matter how many times you try to fit in you won't fit. I was happy be you came into my life" Kabelo said. Why can't someone stop this madness. I searched for KB's contact. Lucky I called him yesterday. Now I have to beg him to stop this madness. He's drunk chances of him hurting her are very high for Nolitha and Kwanda to get hurt. Palisa video calls me. Before I could call him "Mzala how was the show? Palisa ask "I enjoyed it" "I almost called Kwanda to stop that madness" Palisa said "I feel sorry for her" "What for? Did she feels sorry when she provoked you? Palisa ask "But cuz" she cut me "You must change your name again Nandi you are becoming someone that I don't even recognize. You have a soft spot for everyone" Palisa said "You are the last person to say that cuz you are the one who told me to choose my battle wisely"

she laugh "I did but that girl went to far by posting provocative photos" Palisa said UNEDITED

132 NANDIPHA You can't confirm a person. Palisa she's showing me her other side of herself. People change like time. Still on video call with my cousin "Mzala we will talk I have to go" Palisa said "Make sure by 3pm we meet than" "Aren't you going to come here? Palisa ask my father doesn't trust his brother and sisters around me. Why should I trust them. My aunt's never liked me why after my mother's death. My dad made it clear that he cannot babysit them they should work. That's the reason why they're so friendly to me "I can't come today maybe some other time" "Are you still upset at uncle Themba? Palisa ask "Why should I be mad at him? "We all know that he didn't pitch at your wedding" Palisa said I wasn't even there "That's all in the past. Have you heard the sad news? She looks confuse. "Nwabisa died" I pause. "Who's Nwabisa again? Palisa ask "The family lawyer" she laugh

"That's great news if you were not pregnant I was going to get us a champagne to toast and celebrate" Palisa said "Thanks for reminding me that I'm pregnant. I will get myself one" She laugh and end the call. This girl. Mbuso laugh too "I will get myself a non alcoholic champaign" "Do that next to Dr stepdad" Mbuso said. "Mbuso don't do that to my sister please" Sihle said laughing. Everyone is enjoying this MARTIN I'm having fun with the kids having fun together as a family without Nandi is not that much. Heaven decided that we we should do something for Nandi. I like the idea that they are getting along well. My wife she's a congenial person is easy to get along with her just don't step on the wrong side of her. "Papa s'il te plaît ne laisse pas Nidia nous emmener " (Dad please don't allow Nidia to take us) Heaven said. Nandi and Ashley need to sit down with this girls and find out what is going on. They have to much hatred for their mother. Yes they have mentioned that she always dump them but I doubt the is more that need to be known.

"Girls you don't have to worry this is your home" they nod. I want them to feel at home. I want them to be upbeat and positive about heading out the door on their new environment. I want them to look forward to wonderful new experiences. And I also want them to feel welcomed and cherished. "We know dad aunt told us the first day we got here" Heaven said everything with Nandi deserve a five star. What is it about so many failed relationships. They were not meant to be. "Girls we will do this later on let's surprise Mr Zwane" they look at me. They haven't met him. Surely they will love him he likes children KWANDA Lwando managed to get us out of the crew. Everything was beyond control. I look at her. Tears welled from deep inside and coursed down her cheeks. "What did I do to deserve this? Nolitha ask she's still asking. If I was here I was not going to ask men like Kabelo cannot be guaranteed "You know what do we call it? Lwando ask "We call this karma it's happens to you because you caused it with your actions" Lwando said. He's

not helping lucky Palisa she's not here to agree with him "I know I've hurt her but this was not suppose to be like this. I shouldn't have made her to abominate me. When things turn up to be like this I miss our friendship. My life feel like a roller coaster ride" Nolitha said crying I can't comfort her I never comforted anyone. When you are confronted with a big change in your life no matter the nature of the change Sponsored no matter the nature of the change it can be very difficult to accept. "I'm sorry" my brother he's just holding his laughter he knows that I Can't do this. She look at me "Aren't you dating her cousin? Nolitha ask. That doesn't have anything to do with her this. "Yeah I am" "Please you ask him to talk to her for me. Sometimes we don't realize the blessings we have until we no longer have them" Nolitha said. That's impossible. I don't want to get myself in Mbuso's wrong foot. Already the is a red flag on our relationship.

NANDIPHA Later on. Mbuso and Sihle are getting ready to head back to Jo'burg. "Mama why don't

you join us? Mbuso ask "P Sihle Mpilo and Nosi get Mbuso something to play with" We laugh "Why" Mbuso ask "Clearly you need toys and I'm not your toy" "You want me to remind you something?" Mbuso ask laughing. I shook my head "Since I didn't have a mother and son bond I think it's now time" Mbuso said. "You guys had a great bond what more do you want Mbuso? Sihle ask we laugh "Best bond bafo" Mpilo agree with Sihle's madness "Sihle and Mpilo don't do this to my sister and my nephew please" Philani said Mbuso laugh. Please don't add anything son. "Don't blame us we were helping each other's starvation" Mbuso said. my phone rings it works on my favour not to listen to this madness. I answer "Mama" Martin said emulating Mbuso's voice I laughed. "Mbuso" laughing "You know I'm not a fan of pictures but here I'm looking at your pictures you know what does it mean?" Martin ask I nod. He can't see me but I'm nodding. I smile "I bet that you are smiling" Martin said "I'm not smiling" everyone look at me. I excuse myself

"It means that you miss me and you love me too.
My citizen I loved you from the first day I saw you.
My love for you has grown beyond words. I love you
from bottom of my heart" There is nothing as sweet
as being in love I'm loved "That's true mon amour"
(my love) Martin said. Why can't I be home already.
I miss him right now. "You are more than a treasure
to me. I can't find the right words to explain but all I
know is that I love you from the bottom of my heart
I love you. I'm at your house sitting on the very
same couch that we had our first intimacy on"
Martin said "Where are my buddies? "My father
and Mr Zwane took them for a drive. I'm all alone in
this house looking at your pictures" Martin said
"Don't worry few hours left from now I will be all
yours" UNEDITED

133 NANDIPHA It's hard to say goodbye I only had a
day with my brothers. Gladly I spent a night.
"Brothers" Goodbyes are never easy I know that I
will be 5745 km away which is 6 to 7 hours drive to

reach here and see each other again. I'm not good at saying goodbye especially to people who are I love. "I'm going to miss my jealousy brothers" "Is that's how you say goodbye to your husband or in-laws? Philani ask I've been waiting for his crazy comment he's the craziest brother that I know. "Well I say he mustn't miss me too much" Philani and Mpilo look each other. "We know that you won't say goodbye. Don't try to convince us that you can that word" Mpilo said. I can say goodbye but it's not easy to. Zodwa walk to us. "Sis Nandi can you atleast stay little more longer? Zodwa ask "You should visit me" She look at Mpilo and Philani "I will" Zodwa said "She will visit you but she still need to report to Mpilo and Mbuso" Philani said "And her boyfriend" Mpilo add. Philani and Sparks laugh "I will visit you sis Nandi. I still need talk to my nephews and Mbuso then I will let you know" Zodwa said KWANDA Nolitha look at me. We had few drinks just to drift away her pain. We are dropping Kwanda at her flat. It's sad because KB

was the one who was paying her room and she's unemployed. We were working with her before she messed up. And KB was a measure client at ZCCL that's how he met Nandi. Nolitha and Nandi were best friends from high school until she decided to steal Kabelo from her. "What did I do in this world to deserve such painful break-up? Nolitha ask.

"Sorry that it has to end that way. But you need to let him go he wasn't meant to be yours forever he was just in your life for temporary" My brother he's good at comforting a people but on this case. He doesn't want comfort her he hate her. I look at him "Don't lose hope. It didn't work out and yes it sucks. Use this time to focus on yourself and what you want out of a relationship yes your relationship with Kabelo wasn't perfect. There are always flaws in a relationship and things that have to be worked on but that doesn't mean you should beat yourself up. I can not lie to you and say everything will be okay. I don't know because I'm not a predictor that will tell you what will go wrong or smooth with your life"

Lwando said God answered my prayer I was praying that he doesn't say something that will upset her more. She got out of the car. "I will check on you" she nod. Lwando headed the road. He didn't give me a chance to say goodbye. "But I was still talking to her" "I'm not your driver Kwanda. I don't know why are you still keeping this car because you are not driving it. I have plans for too to attend. I was not going to wait for you telling your friend how sorry you are. Are you the one who broke up with her? Lwando ask I shake my head "Did you ask her to betray her friend? Lwando ask again I shake my head again "Stay away from her she's bad news. People will think you helped her posting Nandi's posting provocative photos. Especially that you are dating Mbuso this paint will suit you" Lwando said stopping the car beside the gate. "I will see you tomorrow lock the door" Lwando said. He watched me unlocking the door I got in and lock the door as he suggested. I heard the car leaving. My brother can be over protective that the reason we no longer

stay together I need my own space. He come check on me anytime the is no tomorrow morning. He might come back in 30 minutes. Someone turned on the light behind me. I turn and look at the person. Oh my goodness I want to scream something just walk through me and left me numb shaking. I took few steps away from him. I look at him he's naked. He's my ex boyfriend he has the access to get in my room. I just stand for a couple seconds my stomach churn I close eyes. I'm I dreaming. We broke up before I fell for Mbuso. I opened my eyes again. "You seem suprise what's wrong? Siya ask. "I believe Lwando made it clear that you must not set your foot here" He walks to me "Is there anything wrong visiting my lovely girlfriend"Siya said. He wrapped his arms kissing me. I hold him on his shoulders and look at him on his eyes. I can tell from his eyes that he missed me fighting him won't help. I need to make a plan before my brother gets back. "Mmmm" I tried pulling away the kiss but the pressure take its on place. Plus I have to make a

plan. He must be out of here this is the only way I can get rid of him. He kiss me and remove my clothes his lips are smooth wetting my neck. He place his lips in a circular shape on my neck he suck my soft skin hard for few seconds causing the pleasure more. I'm sure he left a mark. Please don't do it. "Kwanda I'm so..." Siya said. That's the last word I want to hear from him "I've moved on and I need to be loyal to my" he cuts me by lifting me up he walk to the couch kissing me I wrap my legs around his buttocks "Siya please let's not do this" he sat me on the couch let spread me my legs he ride me back and forth. I urge with my heart for a moment my body is trembling rhythm Siya nibble on my clit. He's doing wonders down on me. I release a mindblowing orgasm. "Mbu....I.....mmm" I rose up he hold my waist. "If you're afraid of water don't challenge yourself to dive straight into the deep end of the pool. Chances are that you'll just begin to panic he hold my waist. "If you're afraid of water don't challenge yourself to dive straight into

the deep end of the pool. Chances are that you'll just begin to panic and you'll go straight back to square one" Siya said. There is no way I'm going back to him again. This is a once off. NANDIPHA We arrive at Johannesburg airport. It took us approximately 1h 40m to get from King Shaka International Airport to Johannesburg all I need right now is to lie on my man's warm embrace chest with his arms around me. Our mini bus is ready waiting for us. While life is not always fun it is always a gift. When we accept the truth we can live in gratitude that good thing by good thing and disaster by disaster we are becoming better people by leaving with the truth. I want the world to know that I'm Mbuso's mother. UNEDITED

134 NANDIPHA We got home. My father is playing a board game with the twins. My father he's like mother his love has pillar and it that pillar develop in any child's emotional well being. He has the love that has no price . "No buddies you want me to

have wrinkles" Dad said "Let me see your face"
Heaven said. My father look at her. "You already
have wrinkles grandpa" Nevaeh said laughing. "We
How many? Dad ask we look at them and just
budge in without knocking. Where is Martin and his
father. "We are back" Keitumetsi announce "Look
girls my friend she's back" Dad said getting up to
hug Keitumetsi and Mbuso's sisters "Girls won't you
also give aunt a hug" I said to Tremblay's girls they
got up and hug me Keitumetsi joins us. I don't see
Martin but he's around. My mind wander to him.
We all settle down. "Nonjabulo how are you doing?
Dad ask "I'm fine" Nonjabulo said. The only person
that's in my mind now it's Martin. I know he's here I
got up walk lounge here he is. I was about to call
him. He's sleeping on the very same couch that he
said he was on earlier on . I thought he was joking.
This is the very same couch we had our first
intimacy. I kissed him on his forehead. Why don't he
just wake up and stop being a coward. "My
citizenship I'm back" I whispered he smile and

slowly open his eyes. He's an idiot. "Come here" Martin said with a sleepy tone. Truly speaking many call him Dr Tremblay because he's a doctor sure. But to me he's more than that. He came to my life when I lost hope he restored my life. He made me to look the bright side of life. Life has many rooms is up to you whether you have all the keys for each room. And it only has a second chance. He move his legs making a space for me to sit. "I miss you" He look at me with a judging eyes "You did?" Martin ask "You give meaning to my life so yeah I did. Didn't you?" "More than you missed me my citizen" Martin said. I don't know how much does he missed me but since he said more than I know. I kissed him. "Citizen can't we just am escape to our room?" "Do we still have a room in this house?" Martin ask "Stop being" I shut my mouth "A coward" Martin said laughing "Please" "I will make it to you love" Martin said VINCENT Something just walked in my life and left me numb. It left me shaken my life just shutted before my eyes. Oh

which eyes because I can't see. Maybe if I was born blind I wasn't going to feel lonely. I was supposed to see the darkness I'm seeing right now. Not the brightness side. My life flashed before my eyes.

NANDIPHA We headed back to our house. Heaven and Nevaeh are fastly asleep. We walk to our room. I'm not letting Martin sleep without making love with me. I undressed myself. "Don't you need my help? Martin ask "No I don't" pure lie I want to turn him to the edge that's the hole point. "Your body is working overtime my love let me help you" Martin said. I let him be. He kisses my neck "Why not my lips? "Why your lips? Martin ask walking me to bed. He lied me down and take fully control kissing my body. He got up and walk out of the room. MBUSO I'm talking with Kwanda. Her voice is shake she said she had a few drinks after playing a raflee at Sibza's club. "Why don't you allow me to come pick you up? "Not tonight Mbuso. Nolitha needs me" Kwanda said. Understandable. She was going to jump for the opportunity "Ok see you then"

NANDIPHA He's now rubbing my clit making my body in an odd trembling rhythms. "My...my..." He kissed my thighs "Don't sing girl power" Martin said. I feel his tongue on my coochie tickling me. Pressure cripples me freezing every muscle of my body "Ahhh I....Ohhh citizen Ahhh" I moaning sweat poured down my body. I close my eyes he nuzzle my coochie with his hard rock he insert it finally the car is about to leave. He slowly bounce in and out "Ahhh" Martin groan he went in to deeper deeper and deeper. "Mmm" I moan it feels good he keeps on moving whilst groaning UNEDITED

135 NOSIPHO Home sweet home it's good to be home. Home is sweeter home is where my heart belongs and that home is where I am right now. Dineo served us with a english breakfast. This woman works magic in the kitchen. "Nonjabulo are you sure that you are fit enough to go back to school" she look at me "Mom I will be fine stop worrying yourself" Nonjabulo said. "And do what?"

Keitumesti ask they laugh "And what" Sthembiso said. Where the is Palisa Keitumesti and this man you will feel small not to mention Mbuso and his mother that one on its own it's something else.

"Nothing" Nonjabulo said laughing "Sis Dee thanks for the delicious food" Palisa said "It's okay you welcome Pali" Dee said "Ngwetsi" (daughter in law) Sthe said "Rre" (father) Dineo said "I take it that we will see you again when Nana she's here" Sthe said Dee hardly visit us unless Nandi she's here "I have busy schedules lately" Dee said Palisa clap her hands "We believe you Sis Dee" Palisa said getting up clearing the table. "I'm serious I'm dealing with claims" Dee said "Pali... Nono did you hear that she's dealing with claims" Sthe said "She's dealing with claims when she has to visit you guys but if aunt was here she was going to clear up her schedule" Keitumesti said Sthe smile "Little Princess that's what I like you. You remind me of Nana you tell the truth as it is" Sthe said agreeing with Keitumesti "That's not true" "Prove it" Palisa and

Keitumesti said that rhythm "Palisa let's get ready before Mbuso gets here" PHILANI My Physical Rehabilitation therapy will be visiting me today. That's not necessary. I'm not even aware that I was using drugs and I was at rehabilitation. This doesn't sit me well. I q the one who was there why don't I remember. I don't know who should I hate I hate myself right now more especially that I laid my hand on my sister. I glance at my hands they're dirty. Mpilo can be my witness no matter how cross I am I prefer to exchange words with the person or walk away. "Bafo why didn't you beat me until I come to my senses" (bro) "Sihle was ready to but Sparks and Nandi stopped him" Mpilo said "You should've all teamed up and beat the hell that gotten to me" "Phila stop doing that to yourself Nandi she forgave you" Mpilo said me and hatred we are enemies. I promote my own self-disgust because of what I did. VINCENT Something walked to my life and left me empty why don't I die. Emptiness is part of nothingness. Every muscle of my body is screaming

it needs to flee. I'm feeling a dread crept up from stomach. Those people left me. I no longer see or hear their voices. "Dear God" where do I start to pray. "I know I am not a prayer and I will never be one But I ask you to make things easier for me to take myself since I am stuck in the mud please take me Amen" NANDIPHA Walking to an empty reception. Where is Palisa. she's supposed to be the first one to get here. Life is beautiful life is great. By keeping my journal I begin to realize all the little things I did not truly know and understand about myself. The happy me. No one know the real me and I don't know myself too. My motives often a complete mystery to me. "Look who's handling the reception" Mbuso exclaimed "Preggy herself" Palisa said "I have an employee who is constantly come late every day. She is the receptionist and our admin assistant for our company what can I do with this matter" They look at me "Sorry we late" Mbuso said. Kwanda and her brother walk in. Lwando he's holding his sister's bag he never did that. "Morning

guys" kwanda said. We greeted her back. "I will be in my office" Kwanda said running to the stairs. We look at her brother "Don't ask she's angry at me because I suggested that she must not be hang up with Nolithando" Lwando said. "I'm glad I don't have a brother" Palisa said "Don't you want me to be your brother? Mbuso ask. I got up "The induction will take place in two hours time make sure that you the board room is sorted" "Okay" Palisa said. This is the worst fair of my job. What will I say to those candidates. Conquering my worst fears is absolutely possible with the right strategies Sponsored mind set and help. I've got this I'm girl power. I walk to my office. Preparing myself for this Induction. New employees need to feel comfortable in their new work environment and become as productive as possible over a short period. A little effort from the management and a well-planned induction is essential to reap all the benefits quickly. Induction is not an option it is an investment in every company no matter how small or big should

make this investment. Later on. I walk to the boardroom the candidate were already waiting with Kwanda and two ladies from the HR department. We now waiting for Mbuso and Palisa. "Let's start they will join us" I introduced myself and my team. I ask them to introduce themselves. Now it's time to for the safety procedures. Kwanda got up and write on the white board all the steps. "Always make sure that you are wearing the right clothes. Work clothes should fit you properly. Use the right tools if you need a hammer get a hammer" Kwanda said Mbuso walk in without saying anything. He sat next to me. Kwanda's hands stated trembleeling. Sweat poured down her body she's trying to be strong "Don't be a prankster" Kwanda said and stop talking. She's use to this what's wrong. "Stay alert remember to stay alive" Kwanda said and look at Mbuso fear seem to rise behind her eyes. She shuffled away from him "Is everything alright? Mbuso ask her she ran out. I look at Mbuso he shrugged his shoulders UNEDITED

136 NOSIPHO I'm helping Palisa she's printing out employment agreement leas and I'm stapling them. She was supposed to join the induction meeting. But she failed. I love working here I like this environment I receive skills now and again. Kwanda made her way her makeup is smeared She's squeaky. "Palisa can I ask you something? Kwanda ask Palisa nod "My friend she's in trouble" Kwanda said than keep quiet "This friend of mine cheated on her boyfriend she doesn't know what to do" Kwanda said she's not asking she's talking "So you need my advice? Palisa ask she nod "This is her crisis not yours" Palisa add she's not helping she's rude "You are not the one being unfaithful you are not facilitating this. The alternative would be to say something to her boyfriend and you cannot do that. Palisa she's telling the truth that's not your problem. I know it's isn't easy to keep these things to yourself all I'm saying is that tell your friend to confess to her boyfriend if she loves him if she doesn't she must let him go Sometimes it is the

kindest most productive thing to do and to communicate with our partners" Nandi said making her way to us. One thing I have learned from this woman is that her advices are useful. Kwanda look at her. She open her mouth trying to say something but words had deserted her. She seems very scared she hardly breath "Kwanda konke kulungile? (Kwanda is everything okay) Nandi ask. Kwanda she's running out of breath "Kwanda breath in" Nandi said she did "Breath out" Nandi said again she did. Nandi walk with her to a corner. Palisa look at me "She cheated on your son" Palisa said. "How do you know that? "Someone who is cheating is feeling a lot of guilt right now your daughter in-law she's guilt and she cheated on your son. She's claiming that her friend cheated that friend is her" Palisa "Pali wipe that from your head Kwanda she's a good girl she won't do that" "If Nandi intervin to our conversation uninvited like that believe me she's suspecting something and she will dig deeper" Palisa said. Nandi and kwanda walk to the

bathroom. VINCENT I switch on the stove and I lay a paper. This is taking to long I spill a oil on stove hopefully I will burn in to ashes. NANDIPHA I once said I'm a good judge of character. I've known Kwanda for years I know her like I know myself. She's the one who cheated on Mbuso. "Your friend needs to be honest with herself. She's your friend and she values your honesty. Tell her what you think but don't judge. Yes Sponsored she's being unfair to her partner. Yes she risks wrecking her life getting real with her will help her to figure things out and hopefully get a reality check but give it will her kindly. She opened up to you about this because she trust you and she values your friendship don't lecture her. The last thing she needs is you to tell her that she needs to be truthful with herself. You've been cheated on in the past I have been cheated on in the past we know how does it feels like it hurts cheating can torn her boyfriend are apart. I'm not saying you must tell her boyfriend that she's cheating no that's not your

problem as Palisa said. It's her life and her issues. Try to be open minded about what's happening so that you don't friend who judges her. You don't have to think what she's doing is fun or acceptable but you shouldn't make her feel like she deserves to be stoned. Everyone makes horrible choices this is life it's a journey it has many rooms some are hidden. Life need us to stay strong" She's having an affair that's her brokenness it will come to light one day hopefully it doesn't effect my son "Thanks Nandi" Kwanda said faking a smile "Just be there for your friend" She nod "I'm sorry for walking out like that" Kwanda said. I was hoping that she will open up to me "You welcome" I once said if you want to be on the clean page of my life just keep the 3 men and 2 girls that are in my life happy then we will be fine. She washed her face. We walk back to the boardroom. Mbuso he is giving his welcome speech to the candidate. "Thank you being here with us today. We are very pleased to be able to welcome you with warm hands" Mbuso said. I can tell

Kwanda she's avoiding him. When things turn out to be like this I wish like the earth can open for me and swallow me "Any questions" Mbuso ask "Going once" he add he can be an idiot sometimes "Going twice or forever hold your peace" Mbuso said we laugh sometimes is good to laugh with your employees we making them feel welcome. A girl raise her hand "Over to you ma'am" "Sir Zulu don't you need a PA? She ask "We will discuss that" Kwanda said they said Mr Zulu. "Thanks for bringing this up. I do need one but I will first see among you guys that who fit to be personal assistant" Mbuso said "Are you married? The girl ask again Mbuso look at his fingers "Yes I'm married" Mbuso said why lie about marital status "But I don't see the symbol of love on your finger" Girl said. "Well that symbol is in my heart and her heart" Mbuso said.

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137 KWANDA I feel guilty and dirty at the same time. being dirty is part of my guilt. Mbuso walk in

my office. Oh Kwanda focus play smart you got this.
"Are you ready to go? Mbuso ask "Uhm yeah"
Faking a smile he look me then sit down "What did I
do? Mbuso ask "Mbuso who I'm I to you? He look at
me. "You are my soulmate lover my life partner and
my best friend too always and forever. My ride to
die you are my everything my love" Mbuso said
everyone wants to be loved. If I spill the beans now
I won't find man like him. "How do you explain
flitng with that girl in front of me Mbuso? "I wasn't
aware that I was flirting my heart and I apologise for
that" Mbuso said. Every couple fights but healthy
like this one where we end them with apologizing
and taking partial blame for what has transpired.
This makes me to remind myself why I broke up
with Siya in the first place. Because our relationship
reached to a breaking point because I and you or
Siyabonga we refuse to accept the blame. Mbuso
can apologise for something he did not do. Just to
make me happy. Mbuso he's perfect in his way. He
makes me feel like a queen. Why did I became

tempted like that. "Not that alone Mbuso each and every weekend you are going to KZN. When will we have our own quality time?" "I told you that my uncle was sick but I promise you things will be different from now on" Mbuso said his cousin said 'Your friend needs to be honest with herself' I need to be honest with myself either I let Mbuso go. "I'm sorry" he look at me and got up "Let's get going" Mbuso said. We supposed to go out for dinner tonight. I can't go with him. What if we bump to Siya. "Mbuso can't we have dinner at your house?" "We can go anywhere you want" Mbuso said packing my stuff. I feel like I can droawn myself in a pool and drift away the guilty after what I did with Siya I'm beat myself up with what I did I was supposed to be in control. The forbidden fruit in claiming I'm ashamed and guilty before God. I Love Mbuso with all my heart and my love belongs to him only God can be my witness. We walk to the reception if the was any exit beside passing at the reception I was going to use that. I nearly spilled the

beans next to his mother. Mrs Zulu she's a mother she can put one and two together. Before we could reach the reception desk my brother walk to us. "I can't believe this why Kwanda? Lwando ask I guess that idiot Siya told him "I'm sorry brother" "You sorry Kwanda you are always sorry isn't it? Lwando ask mind me Mbuso walk to the reception desk. That's the other part I like about this guy. He respect my brother even though he's our boss he doesn't use his powers against his juniors. I believe that why Mr Zwane sold him his shares. Lwando look at me I take a 2 steps backwards he just look at me. "I wanted him to leave..." He cut me "You want me to treat you like a child don't you? Lwando shouting his breathing is more noticeable. He fails to control his hands are shaking in an odd trembling rhythm. I shake my head. Nandi walk to us she gently pull him away "Lwando kufuneka wehlise umoya" (calm down) Nandi said walking with him few meters away from everyone. He will tell her I'm doomed Nandi she's very close to Mbuso. I join

Mbuso Palisa and his mother. "Aren't you suppose to be in class friend? I ask Palisa trying to avoid be questioned by Mbuso. "It's Monday" Palisa said she look at Mbuso's mother "Ladies let's get going" Mbuso said "Don't worry Mbuso I will drive them home" Nandi said where is Lwando now I turn and look around he's not here. I'm sure she manage to calm him down. Lwando won't mind to beat me up just like a child. We exited Mbuso steal a glance at me while driving. "What did you do that made your brother angry? Mbuso ask. My heart start to throbs in my ears loud and irregular but I barely hear it I wish I can just stop this car and run away. "I and his girlfriend had a huge fight" pure lie. He nod "I guess we won't cook we will order something" Mbuso said I nod. Silent filled this car no music just Mbuso driving his car. We got to his house and throw ourselves on his couch. "How is your friend? Mbuso ask "Which friend? "Didn't you say that your friend needed you? Mbuso ask question after question "I didn't say that" "Why did you lie to me? Mbuso ask

I'm caught " Uhm" I remember that he called me last night "She will leave she just needed me to be there for her" "Okay shall I order now? Mbuso ask "You can order but I'm tired I need some sleep" I said walking to the bedroom quiet frankly I'm trying to avoid eye contact with him. I changed to my sleeping wear. Mbuso doesn't deserve this he's loyal to me why don't I be loyal too. He walks in he wipes out my tears with his thumb tears exposed me "The food will get cold" Mbuso said I said I need to sleep not to eat "I'm not hungry" "Kwanda what's wrong with you today? You didn't eat during lunch and now you want to sleep without eating" Mbuso said. I sit up straight and played with my braids I lean for a kiss luck for me Siya didn't leave a hickey on my neck. PHILANI We were called by his neighbors. Did we have to be related to him. "He will be okay he only caught up a smoke" one of his neighbor said cops took statement from his neighbors "I suspect that he was cooking or smoking" he said giving his statement "You are

saying that he was leaving alone for how long? cop 1 ask me how should I know. I don't remember anything "6 to 7 month" I estimate from Nandi's engagement party that's the only day I remember "Since you are his next of kin we will be communicating with you. Regarding his health being. He might have forgotten a toxic fumes or a cigarette" He said I'm not his next of kin "We are not related to him" he didn't let me finish my sentence he walks away. MBUSO I'm going to enjoy the stimulation. We continue kissing I stop to kiss her and look at her "Why are you stopping" Kwanda shyly said. I went down to her coochie to teast the delicious of it. I stop and look at her trobbling body I rub her clit with my fingers Palisa and his mother. "Aren't you suppose to be in class friend? I ask Palisa trying to avoid be questioned by Mbuso. "It's Monday" Palisa said she look at Mbuso's mother "Ladies let's get going" Mbuso said "Don't worry Mbuso I will drive them home" Nandi said where is Lwando now I turn and look around he's not here.

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a giant pulse. Her brother was right she's always apologising. She doesn't want to eat I won't force her and I'm not forcing her to. "Make this night memorable baby" Kwanda said I increase the speed I feel the electric new spark. "Babbby" She moan "Soulmate" "I.... love" Kwanda said NANDIPHA Life taught me not to rejoice someone's tears. Kwanda's situation is hard. Lwando must stop being hard on his sister being over protective to your loved ones is a good thing at the same time it is not good because it can affect the ability of love and trust . Enough about Kwanda it's my time now I look at him I'm sure he's dreaming about me. "Citizen" he turn and face the other position. I fix my pillow and brushes my belly staring at my husband "Hey you how are you doing inside there? He turn again and face my side "I'm sorry dad he's tired today let's give him a chance to rest" he smiles I got him. He must take me please right away "I miss him what about you? "I miss him too mommy" I add emulating baby's voice. He chuckled "Boy hang in there I'm not going

to poke you tonight" Martin said brushing my belly too. as for poke "Please honey" he sit up straight and look at me "One of the good day people will find our dead bodies naked and glued on each other's private part I'm telling you" Martin said "We are married Martin that won't suprise them" "Let's have a deal" Martin said "All ears" "We are going to make love now then we will take a break from that okay" I nod "I don't want my champ to be abused by me" Martin said "He's the one who needs you not me" "When did he say that? Martin ask. I cut him by kissing him. He kisses me briefly on my lips then went down kissing every part of my body. He got to my thighs kiss them. I kept on getting up and going back down. He stops He put more pillow behind me making sure that I'm fine. He suck my breast. tarting to form sweat and he buried his head on my chest he entered without warning me the splash sound of upper bodies and the banging bed. He spun his hips and groan we are making love this what we call love this is divine love which drives us

crazy "Martin Ima" (stop) Do I want him to stop no. He stop we both gasps the air he kiss me. He pretend to sleeping I stroke his ear "My citizen" He brought my head on his chest. "Let's get some sleep citizenship" Martin said I love this man with everything that I have my body and soul belongs to him. He loves me and cherish me. I want this again i got on top of him and thrusts looking at him. "You want to finish me" He said complaining but he's helping me to move his hands hold my waist I bounce up and down. It feels like heaven "Ahhhhh" I never cried when it comes to foreplay but tonight I'm crying. He got on top of me I face the ceiling and my knees are weak he lazily enters. He separates my leg and move slowly orgasm came slowly too and the crying that's it I'm done. I agree with him we will take a break. Nudging and kisses become the best of our intimacy. I salute this husband of mine he knows my best interest. We both come to our distanation. Our room is filled with the aftermath smell of foreplay. "No more sex from

now on" He look at me "Girl power's music to my ears" Martin said we laugh. UNEDITED

138 KWANDA I don't know will I overcome I never felt guilty of something like I'm feeling now. I'm showering maybe I will be better after this. The shower feels like a safe place to be to sob. I'm naked and alone shading tears while water splashes my tiny body I feel cinematically vulnerable for a while. I cross my hands and I started crying. "I'm sorry Mbuso" Crying I'm all out of faith this is how I feel I'm cold and I am shamed. "I'm so sorry" Crying NANDIPHA A wonderful day and wonderful morning. Heaven and Nevaeh prepared. To live a full life you have to fill your stomach first. Carbs might be my soulmate. All I want is to start my day with energy and forget about yesterday. "Thanks buddies for a nice food" "Anything for our favorite mother" Nevaeh said Martin smile "I'm heading to work granny will be here soon be here soon" Martin said I cleared the table and tackle the dishes that we

were using. I spoke to Tremblay about me going to spend the first two weeks of my maternity leave with my brothers. He's supporting the idea. I'm sure that my father will support my decision too. I walk to the living room I find my in-laws having conversations with the kids. I'm sure Martin he's already gone. "Good morning good people" "Good morning good daughter" their greet me back. "Goodbye family see you later" I said rushing out. I'm dreading to go to work I'm running late I'm praying that I don't come across the traffic. I need to lead by example being early at all times will encourage my staff to be early. And be at work at all times. I got to ZCCL offices I rush bathroom first this is a habit. I walk to my office. Something fell from my hand bag. I look at it is a flash drive. Who put this on my bag. I can pick it up but it will be hard for me to get up again. "Shit" "You do not use such a language in the office Mama" Mbuso said I look at him he's sitting on my desk looking so handsome as always. Doesn't he have his own office. "Mbuso"

"Morning Mama we will be sharing your office today" Mbuso "You and who?" "Me and my mother": Mbuso said getting up to pick up the flash drive and give it to me. "Where will my PA sit?" "Let's start working he will join us when necessary" Mbuso said "I'm meeting with the Langa manufacturer Construction in 12:00. I have to prepare myself you can use your office or the CFO office" He look at me. "Let's start working Mrs Tremblay" Mbuso said. Why grumpy? Didn't he get a breakfast. I like working with him but when he's like this he's irritating. "Should I get you a coffee?" "No thanks" Mbuso said. Work is work hormones are released and the entire emotional world is turned upside down. I'm happily in love with my job I never wanted to work especially for this company but here I'm working. Lwazi walk in with bunch of papers. My mood drops down. He put them on my desk he sit and start sorting them out. Now makes sense why Mbuso said we are sharing a office we need to sign and file this papers. My mind blow out

to that flash drive how did it ends in my bag. Only one way to find out. I will look into it later. We continue working but my mother mind is on this flesh drive. What does it want in my bag. "Hai marn Mama" He yell snapping me out of my thoughts like I did something wrong. "Huh? Looking at flash drive. I had my bag yesterday it was not there. When is my lunch break for goodness sake. I want to check this out. I look up to face the angry Mbuso. "Why don't you go home because clearly your mind is not here" Mbuso said "Mr Zulu don't you have your own office? "Mrs Tremblay we have lot of work you rather frustrated but we need to get this done today" Mbuso said Palisa was right he can be bossy. "What time is it? "If you sign this document for me and put your initials on section C I will answer you when we are done with this documents" Mbuso said. I look at the the files I need to sign "You can't be serious" This files are more than 20 "You are day dreaming while some of us are working" Mbuso said. I signed where I'm required to. I'm harsh with

myself and I don't feel guilty about being me. If people can stop and think and feed their mind with the confidence I have. I'm sure the seeds of doubt and negativity that leads people to low self-esteem it might reduced. "Fuck" Mbuso said "Where are we again? He look at me. He's the one who said I shouldn't use such language in the office. "Sorry guys" He apologies "What's wrong? "Can I ask you something? Mbuso ask I nod. I hope he doesn't ask me about his girlfriend. He focus on signing this papers. I feel sorry for Lwazi Sponsored Pricilla and Palisa they need to upload this bunch of papers on one drive. I'm talking about 170 files each file have 19 pages. We need to change our system this is irritating and frustrating at the same time it drains the little energy in a person "Can a person cry without any reason? Mbuso ask "Someone who often cries for no apparent reason may feel worried. Crying at inappropriate or inconvenient things might be a sign of loneliness and anxiety. Tears means something that you must keep it in

mind. People that have pseudobulbar affect do have other emotions but express emotions in an inappropriate and magnified manner consequently disrupting their life. Uncontrollable crying can look like crying for no reason but they is a reason" He lift up his head and look at me "So they is a reason? Mbuso ask "Huh? "There is something wrong with Kwanda which I don't know what is it but I have a feeling that it has to do with me" Mbuso said "What makes you think it has to do with you? "This morning I overheard her crying she kept on apologizing for what I don't know. It started last night but I choose to ignore her this morning she grabbed my attention. I stood there hopping that she will say what is it thats eating her" Mbuso said mistakes are always forgivable if she has the courage to admit that she made a mistake. "So you were snooping? Lwazi ask he just nod this two don't get along. "Have you tried to talk to her? "I tried she said she is nothing wrong" Mbuso said we continue working I can see that he's hurting he just

doesn't want to admit it all he needs right now is to be next to his Mama. If I was Kwanda I was going to tell him sadly I'm not her. Lwazi's phone rings he look at me "Boss lady you are meeting with Langa manufacturer Constructions in 20 minutes from now" Lwazi said oh my goodness time flies. I pack my stuff on my bag and the unknown flash drive. "Mr Zulu I think you should join us" he look at me. Maybe the idea will uplift his stress. The client suggested that we meet at the restaurant which works for me and my inborn child. I don't know why they want to meet up with me. "If you want me next to you then let's get going" Mbuso said he gritted his teeth with frustrations. The are things that cannot be undone but they are forgaveble I can be a witness for that. I'm one of those women who abounded their children I left a 3 days baby but he managed to forgive me not that alone I never told my parents about him but I was forgiven. We left the Zwane construction company limited. Mbuso he's the one who's driving. The battle of life is to

fight the uphill and to win it without a struggle were perhaps to win it without honor. We have to pray with our eyes on God for the difficulties we face each day. Difficulties are meant to rouse not discourage. We got to the restaurant the client is patiently waiting for me. He got up we shared a hug and extend his hand with Mbuso we sit down. "I haven't ordered yet I was waiting for you" He said "Let's order then" I feel the empty sensation in my stomach . I'm so hungry I can even eat an elephant. We ordered. "I'm sure you are wondering why I called you here and I'm you bought Mr Zulu with" He said finally the waiter brought our food. I'm enjoying this food. I'm the first one to finish my food. Mbuso hasn't touched his food "Mr Zulu don't you need some help? He look at me "With? Mbuso ask "Don't you know that caring is sharing? His eyes winded "Uwuhlupho Mama" (You a nuisance) Mbuso whispering giving me his food. I eat my food in peace or should I say Mbuso's food. I look at Mbuso he shake his head "I'm happy with your job" The

client said I'm crossing my finger that he doesn't pull out his account. Mbuso and I we look at each other "You guys make a great team and a great job" He said he must just drop the bombshell in our face. "So my directors and I we decided to continue working with you and extend our contract with Zwane construction company limited" He add "I bag my... " He cut me "Mrs Tremblay you heard me LMC would like to work with ZCCL for the next 4 years" He said he lifted Mbuso's appitid he joins me we eat we shared a plate. "Sharing is caring" Mbuso said we laugh "I believe in team work but the good team I'm sharing the table with they lift up my spirit I'm sure your mother she was going to be proud of you" He said truly speaking Individual commitment to a group effort that is what makes a team work a company work. And that company grows "Thank you for believing in us. I know words are not enough but thank you for believing in us and sticking with us. I can ensure you that you won't regret this" Mbuso said hey where is the grumpy

Mbuso. We had a mini celebration with the in alcoholic beverages. Celebrating success is a very powerful motivator for individuals and teams because it reinforces the meaning behind all that hard work and it shows appreciation for the achievements. This in turn boosts our self-esteem and it motivates me to take the next step towards achieving the next goal. After an hour we says our goodbyes We headed back to the office. Palisa she's working with Kwanda. "Ladies amantombazane" (girls) Mbuso said he's he applying to be told where to get off by Palisa "Mzala where did you left my temporary grumpy boss? Palisa ask Kwanda look at Mbuso she her hands starts to shake in an odd trembling rhythm. "Friend are you alright? Palisa ask. People live for with fears and they start to accept and live with that fear as a part of their life. "I'm.... I'm" Kwanda said. Emotions play a major role in our life. Emotions are a part of our happiness. Fear is an unpleasant emotion. Mbuso look at me "I think you should go back to your office guys" Palisa

said she always makes sure that her working station is clean and it doesn't deserve drama. Mbuso walk to the desk he gently grab his girlfriends hand they walk out. She seems scared though. MBUSO We walk to my car. If she's no longer happy in this relationship she must just say I will gladly let her go. Than feeling guilty as I'm feeling guilty for leaving my mad father alone. Philani told me what happened the is a part of me that wants to forgive him and be there for him but at the same time I'm angry at him. That he played with my emotions.

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139 NANDIPHA. I'm driving Palisa and Nosi home. Mbuso just disappeared with his girlfriend. Nosipho she's worried that Mbuso might hurt Kwanda. I didn't tell them anything but Palisa here she's convince that Kwanda cheated. This desire of happiness is good because it leads us through innumerable experiences so that the soul can realize the practical experience the emptiness of all

self-seeking and thus learn wisdom. After running the whole gamut of experience the soul learns at last that happiness is not something that can be found by seeking it but is an inward mental state.

We got home. My father he's busy with his laptop. "Guess who's here" I announce he lift up his "Someone's Nana she's here" Dad said getting up to give each of us a hug. "Nono you seem stress" Dad said "I'm fine" Nono said "According to my understanding when a woman say she's fine the is more to it. Women rather suffer in silence deal with her problems on her own Nono what is it? Dad said "Sis Nandi have you tried calling him? Nosipho ask "Let's give them time I believe they can fix whatever it is like couples" "We can't relax sis Nandi that girl she's in trouble" Nosi said "Well she knew very well before she got herself into another's man's arms she must face the consequences" Palisa said. "Can we talk about this some other time" They nod "Good people I have to go" "Take me to Sihle's house" Nosi said "Ok Nosi I need you to relax

Mbuso won't hurt her" "You seems very relaxed about this" Nosipho said "I'm the one who should be asking you that Nosi. Mbuso he's not his father. Everything we see is shaped by our own perceptions and preconceived ideas. If we look at things from a different point of view it can really open up our minds to new possibilities I will call Sihle and Lwando to go and check on them later on"

MBUSO When we love someone we experience the same positive thoughts and experiences as when we like a person. But we also experience a deep sense of care and commitment towards that person. Being in love includes all the above but also involves feelings of sexual arousal and attraction. I held her chin making her to look at me. She has a red puffy eyes she's been crying. "My love please talk to me let's share those tears together" "Mbu.. "

Kwanda said "Did anything happened when I was away? She nod "What happened talk to me soulmate" "He... I ... No he" Kwanda said "So it has to do with a man" She shuffle her face away. How

will I know what is it that eating her "Mbuso please unlock the door" Kwanda said with a soft feeble "Between you and I no one will go out of this car" "Mbuso please" Kwanda bagged. "Life is like a camera. We just focus on what's important and capture the good times develop from the negatives and if things don't work out just take another shot now let's turn the wheel and capture the bad time of what happened" "I know you love me and never want to see me unhappy which I appreciate that so much. But I'm not the right women for you I'm sorry Mbuso I didn't mean to hurt you nor to...." Kwanda said "Hey look at me we are in this together" "When you do not hear from me please think the best of me and bare in mind that I love you and I want the best for you" Kwanda said she's breaking up with me "If try could just hold me and tell metrytat is going on and let me know whatever it is I'm sure it can be fixed you hear me and we will overcome this pattern" She nod "On Sunday evening my brother drop me at my house I found Siya inside my house...

" She cried come to think about it she said she was at her friend's house "I'm sorry Mbuso I should've told him to go away" She didn't finish her sentence she begin to cry. "Who is this Siya? "Remember when we were working at Durban I told you that I just broke up" I cut her "What are you trying to say skart" "I slept with him" Kwanda shout "I beg my pardon" I heard what she said "I'm sorry baby. I hate myself right now" kwanda said "Sorry for what? "I'm sorry because I had an im incounter with him love I was tempted "Kwanda said "You had what? Not that I didn't hear what she said. I just wanna know why would she do this to me. "Ndalala naye Mbuso yayingezonjongo zam" (I slept with him Mbuso it wasn't not my intention to) Kwanda said crying I hate and love her at the same time. "Look at me and just tell me that you you hate me that's all I want from you" She shake her head. My last relationship taught me to be less judgmental. People will only grow if they want to and if they are ready. I can't force her. And trying is useless. My

last relationship taught me that not everyone has the same heart as I do the world is an interesting place because we are all different. "I hate him my love belongs to you MnuZulu" (Mr Zulu) Kwanda said looking at me finally she got courage to look at me. Yet she cheated with him "I'm sorry Mbuso I will understand if you want nothing to do with me again" Kwanda said. Love is seeing the world in ways you didn't see it before. "You are my love and you are my everything and soulmate. People get tempered every day. Mistakes teach us to clarify what we really want and how we want to live. The word mistake derives meaning only by comparison to what we desire what we see as success. Noticing and admitting our mistakes helps us get in touch with our commitments what we really want to be Sponsored do" "I'm sorry" She said to make things easier for her is to drive her to her house so that she can clear her mind. But I'm scared she might hurt herself I can tell that she's sorry and feeling guilty about this. NANDIPHA (LATER ON) Finally I'm

alone in our room. I connect the flash drive it only has 2 files I open the first one. It's a letter. 'Aunt open the next file only if you strong enough for what you will see. Please don't show it to anyone even our father. Nidia she's nothing but a pain she watched her own daughter getting raped by her male friend whom I believe he killed my grandmother. Nevaeh she was abused aunt. I sometimes still find it difficult to accept that I watched that happen to her I wish I had powers to protect her from that woman and her friend but I could since they sent me to get my sister something to eat. She was sick that day and I believe that she was drugged. Our parents severely neglected us we were emotionally abused and physically hurt by the women who was supposed to love and protect us. The only thing that came to my mind was to capture the evidence and copied it to this drive and I've been keeping this drive with me wherever I go. Please keep it safe and thank you for welcoming us with warm hands. Yours Heaven Tremblay" Tears

just flow. I open the second file it's a video as she stated on the letter I close my eyes saying a little prayer then I play the video. Nevaeh was sleeping a man pulled her with leg. The camera showed nidia sipping a coffee or something. It went back to to Nevaeh "Joseph we don't have the whole day" women's voice said "Don't worry she won't remember anything and her sister and won't be back anytime soon" the man said pulling her skirt up and slid her panties down. What kind of a mother is she Martin have the right to know about this. He's their father something must be done about this. Someone budge in my room I pouse the video. And look at her it's my mother in law. "Dinner is ready" Ashley announce I sighed. I'm tired can't I have dinner in this room? I will see that in my dream "We are your guest ma fille you have to sit at the table with us" (my daughter) I nod "I'd be join you" I place the flash drive where no one can reach it except myself FIVE MINUTES LATER I went down to the dining room. For a second I

forgot the video when my eyes sees the food I'm hungry with immediate effect "Your eyes are puffy citizen what is the matter? Martin ask I ignor him sitting down next to my carrying husband. Getting ready to enjoy this meal. Ashley dishes for everyone. We begin to eat I look at the twins. "I'm in love with this food" I said breaking up the silent that was filling the house "You are not in love with my son now? Ashley question laughing "I didn't say that" We continue eating. "Heaven please help me with with the dishes" She got up and help me. "Heaven I got your" She cut me "My massage I'm sorry for putting that on your bag. The thing is that this thing is killing me in side each time I look at my sister I began to feel sorry for her I wish I could do something I was helpless aunt I had to be there for her" She said crying I hug her "Baby such things do happen to people that we love and our hands are tied it's not your fault that it happened to her and you didn't choose that to happen" "We are a mistake our lives was not meant to be" Heaven said

we broke the hug I am a huge fan of children. I love children with all my heart I believe I take after my father. I hate to see children broken "Baby look at me. You see this woman you are looking at she's familiar with what happened to your sister" Her eyes wide I'm not surprised many people think that my life was blissful they don't think that I've been through the most growing up. We wash the dishes and tickle them where they belong. "Washing six dishes doesn't take the whole year" Martin said Heaven look at me "Uhm I was having a little chat with my baby here she was telling me how she misses school" "Mbuso he's here to see his Mama" Martin said he walking out. "Look at me baby you are braver than you believe you are stronger than you seem and smarter than you think" She nod "You are the best mother you know that? Heaven ask "I wasn't aware of that thanks baby" We share a hug again. We walk back to the dining room. Mbuso he's staring at his phone. "Son you called me and I'm responding to your call what is the matter? I

ask sitting down "I'm sorry to budge in uninvited but I needed a mother" Mbuso said he's becoming clingy lately "Son there is no need to apologise this is your home you are welcome at any time" Martin said "Thank you hubby" "Grandma and Grandpa good night" Nevaeh said "Mommy and Daddy good night" She add "Heaven and Nevaeh meet your brother Mbuso" Martin introduce. "Mbuso meet your sisters Heaven and Nevaeh" He add smiling. How evil is Nadia watching your child being violated like that. Why I'm I surprise Phumza got me married at the young age. What happened to our world if the person who gave birth to a child would do things like that. Mother's are there one to protect their children. "Mommy" Heaven snap disturbing me from my thoughts she wipe my tears. "Please be strong for me and my sister" Heaven said. I nod "Okay baby I will be strong just for you guys" I said they kiss me and walk away. "And be strong for us" Ashley said "I will be strong for my family" "We also leaving guys take care" Ashley said "Aren't you

spending a week with us? We hug and say our goodbyes Martin walk them out. I look at Mbuso "I love her I can't let her go but" Mbuso said "But?" "She cheated on me" Mbuso said "We all do mistakes Junior and we learn after our mistakes. I believe that I'm talking with a man who managed to forgive me if you manage to do that you can do that to her" "I'm willing to forgive her but how do I move on from her. How do I trust her? Mbuso ask Ashley was here she was going to help him accordingly "You can rebuild your relationship after infidelity and have a success with future relationship with her. You too need to trust each other. Cheating shatters trust and the ability to trust and forgiveness is one step you need to rebuild it" "You the best mother you know that? Mbuso question Heaven just said that. "How do I move on from here how do I forgive her why did she cheat on me? Mbuso question "Look at the bright picture here. You told me that she's been crying and apologizing I'm sorry to be the one to say this to you there's no

way that Kwanda can explain how this happened I believe that she doesn't know how that happened because people don't accidentally fall into bed with someone else. Chances are maybe she's unhappy about something in your relationship and chose not to discuss it with you but went outside the relationship to solve things not good. Or that she's been attracted to someone else for some time now and when the opportunity arose to have sex and see how they both felt things didn't work out and she decided to stay with you and plead ignorance. By doing so you don't know if this was a one time thing or if it's been going on for some time. I'm sure if you both had an honest and in depth conversation about her cheating and your relationship she'd open up about why it happened" he seems not to understand he got he's ready to go "Where are you going? "To my house mama" Mbuso respond "You can't go looking like this not on my watch J" "J? Mbuso ask "Junior" Unedited

140 NANDIPHA NEXT DAY Waking up in a tangled mess his wrapping his hands around me and his leg are in between my thighs. I shove him off. "Did I do anything wrong? Martin ask I shake my head. "No honey" We went to bath it's an innocent bath. We dress up and start to pack up the few things that we will need. He look at me "Are you hiding something from me? Martin ask I sit down on my bed. He joins me how I'm I going to do this? I do want tell him it feels like I will be betraying the girls. They trust me and Martin have to know "I know the is something that you not telling me and that thing is destroying you" Martin said be with someone who knows what you need not just a person who wants to be there for the sake of he needs love "Citizen Heaven and Nevaeh need you they feel like you neglected them they need to be shown love" He look at me and lean kissing me "I understand my love I'm working on building a relationship with them" Martin said he's tricking me to tell him the truth. "We will be late for work" "No Nandi what's eating you. You can trust

me I'm a doctor remember? Martin said looking at me "Thanks for reminding me that you are are a doctor my love" Part of me feels like Im not keeping my marriage views. "Nandi look at me" Martin said. Lying to him won't help I'm talking about his kids he has the right to know that his daughter was raped. Where do I start. Showing him that video it will kill him "Can I meet with your ex wife? He just look at me I know very well that he won't allow me to. He hate that woman with all his passion "Now I'm convinced that the is something wrong what is it? Martin ask I hold both his hand "Heaven will have to forgive me" Limitations can be overcome through a realization of truth. When we say this it is taken for granted that every effort will be made on the physical plane. It is necessary to bath exercise and breathe fresh air in order to be well "They've gone through through something that need us to be strong for them and remind them that we love them" We won't get to work if I keep on telling him the riddles It is equally necessary to work hard and

to give the best of which we are capable in service in exchange for that which we receive in the way of supply if we are to be successful. If I were to keep a gardener I would've told him. "Nandi if you want to meet that woman I'm coming with" Martin said.

This won't be easier as I thought. keeping secret in a relationship can cause anxiety depression and problems in our relationship. "Whereas being open with me it will promote trust and honest communication between us. Relationships are damaged by lies and couples separate apart. It's hard to feel emotionally connected to someone when you catch them in a lie or find out that they've kept a secret from you" Martin said I let out a sigh of heavy weight on my shoulder I got up take out my laptop and the flash drive. Heaven trusted me with this. "Citizen I promised Heaven not to show you what I'm about to show you. You are a doctor and you know the protocol's" "I'm not promising you that Nandi" Martin said it's to late to hide this. I sit down connect it to my laptop. He

read the letter. "Let me see the video" Martin said. I open the video for him. His teeth chatter "I'm so sorry Martin" He lie down and he let me lie on his chest. "I'm very sorry" It comes out as a whisper "Did she hate me that much? Martin said trying to hide his tears. Who said men don't cry? This motor of men don't cry is like treating crying like it's the problem. It's treating a symptom like a disease. It's treating the cough without treating what's causing the cough. And sure the cough might go away for now but that doesn't mean you solved whatever caused it. And now Sponsored but that doesn't mean you solved whatever caused it. And now whatever is underneath is getting worse and worse. "Promise me that you won't leave me" Martin said "My heart will be completely empty without you . I love you my citizen only you my heart my life and my soul. Belong to you I want no one but you in my life. You are my everything I meant my vows and that won't change. Martin I'm sticking here with you. I may not be the kind of person you want me

to but I will always be there for you" We lie in this bed. A heavy silence fell upon the room. The only thing I can say is I'm sorry and I will be there for him for the rest of our days that's all "Keep our daughters secret with you. I will give that woman a long rope to hang herself" Martin said I pack the flash drive where I was placing it before. She deserves everything that comes her way.

Tremblay's will win fully children custody We walk to the dining room. Mbuso he's busy with the twins. "Let's do like this I will speak to uncle Luther and organize that" "Uncle Luther he's not the nicest person as you are" Heaven said "I and uncle Luther we love similar things. If he's bad person that means I'm bad person myself. He's one of many who will do anything to protect his family you need to feel free and safe around him" Mbuso said I was about to prepare a breakfast it seems like someone got up before me. I look at my husband. "Let's join them" We walk to them. "Good morning good people" "Good morning Mom" They said. "Mom I

need black strong coffee please" Martin said "Coming right up anything else Mbuso girls? "We good" They said "That chorus" we laugh beside Martin. I walk to the kitchen making coffee for my husband. Multi-tasking is significantly more negative. In other words woman tend to juggle more tasks more frequently even though they find juggling more stressful. I walk back to the dining room. Martin he's not here. "Heaven where is your father? "He disappeared to one of the rooms" She respond. KWANDA I was accepting Mbuso to shout at me he didn't do that. He just drop me at my brother's house as I asked him to. I'm sitting on floor with my arms wrapping around my knees. I'm done with crying not anymore but he will just let me go without getting to the root of what happened I lift up my head to find my brother staring at me I look away. He slid down on the floor and sit next to me. I rested my head on his shoulder. "Kwanda you messed up I know and I believe that you will forgive yourself" Lwando said softly. "Mbuso he's my

everything Lwando Mbuso never rased his hand on me. Why did I ruin that? "What happened exactly how did you find yourself with Siya again? Lwando ask at least someone asks "After you dropped me I got to my house and locked he was already in he switched on the lights and started kissing me. I wanted him out of my house before you... " He cut me "Before I could come back and check on you. How did he had the access to your house? Lwando ask "He had the keys I didn't change the locks" "Why would you do that Kwanda? Lwando ask "Remember that I had to go to Durban? He got up and help me to get up too "Go prepare yourself sis and I will wait for you while preparing a breakfast for both of us" Lwando said. I'm praying that he doesn't move in with me I need my own space not him busy fussing around NANDIPHA Franz Kafka once said 'Productivity is being able to do things that you were never able to do before' Martin instead that only work will keep him busy for the day. He made me promise that I won't meet with

his wife. Focusing on my productive then being of busy. Make my day masterpiece. My imagination is my preview of the coming life attractions. Someday are not a day of the week. They are time to start living the life we've imagined. The best revenge is massive success. The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra. The woman who is cleaning my office walk in. "Boss lady you always early" "Just say get out Nandi" she laugh "Are you aware that I can get fired for disrespecting my boss" She said laughing building a relationship with my junior is the best thing they don't have to be scared of their boss "Okay Mavis I will be at the reception" Working frustration anger and stress cause an important part of my body to shut down thinking engaged part. I'm waiting. "Atleast someone is early today" She look at me "What do you want mzala? Palisa ask "Why so grumpy?" "Because Mbuso decided to come earlier this morning I didn't get a chance to eat my breakfast" Palisa said "Go grab something I cannot stand the

grumpy you how much will someone stand that?

"Why should we suffer we are not the one who

Cheated on him his girlfriend did" Palisa said "What

did he say to you why are you mad? She sit down

"He didn't say anything but I can see that he thinks

that I know what happened" Palisa said. Mbuso was

fine when he left he was not showing any sign of

anger we talked about this yesterday and he

promised me that he will talk to his girlfriend. "Cuz

come down I don't think Mbuso will blame you for

something you did not do" MBUSO The betrayal

hurts right in my gut. It feels like I can scream and

cry and hit anything. It doesn't make sense but the

betrayal is so visceral that I'm questioning

everything while simultaneously screaming "What

did I do to deserve this? This makes me wonder if

she ever loved me or if anything she said was ever

true. I'm from Pick N Pay to get Palisa and my

stepmother something to eat since I fetched them

early today. I could sleep thinking about Kwanda

and her ex I was questioning myself did she told him

that she loves him or something. I had to wake up early and prepare a breakfast for my new family. This year positive and negative things happen to my life. A lot have changed in my life I have someone to talk to and to call a mother. I'm driving my own car and staying in my own house. "Palisa you cannot handle the reception looking like this. I suggest you call a taxi and go home" Nandi said "What's wrong with her? They lift up their head and look at me. My phone rings. I check who's calling. It's uncle Philani I'm phone is shocked to be called by this contact "Uncle Phila" "Junior I have the sad news for you" Philani said without greeting "I'm good thanks and yourself" "Unfortunately I'm not good Vincent he's gone" I steady my breath and try to calm the panic "No not my father he's" he cut me "Unfortunately Vincent he's gone" Philani said I know that things weren't going well between us but he was my father. My life flashed before my eyes. Every muscle in my body scream asking me to flee but I remained frozen. "Hello Mbuso are you still

there" Philani said I slide down and sit right on the spot. "Mr Zulu are you alright" Palisa ask my mom take my phone "P talk to me" Nandi said "Shame I will break the news to her" she add and join me on the floor how is she going to get up "My deepest condolences Mbuso" Nandi said whipping my tears I nod "My father he's gone" "I know and I'm sorry let's get up I will take you and Nosi home" Nandi said addition to my stress how I'm I going to tell my sisters. I know he was a monster. Life is too short to hold grudges against one another. I just realize I didn't have much time with him to tell him how much I love him now he's gone he's no more saying goodbye will be hard like it was hard to forgive him. I need to forgive and tell people that are around me how much I love them I need to forget about the past and focus on the future I know his mistakes were unforgivable. UNEDITED NB 3 MONTHS LATER

141 3 MONTHS LATER NANDIPHA Someone must remind me not to mess up with the Tremblay

especially when it comes to his children the past 3 months I've seen the side of a angry Martin the side of him that I never known. Martin got a primary caregiver for his children and they are home schooling. Nidia haven't come back we were force to involve home affairs social workers and the court to intevine on the matter her children sold her before the judge and it has been confirmed that she's always leaving the children with strangers. My brother in law is something else when it comes to his family he fight with everything he has with all the powers that he has. I just took my Maternity leave yesterday. I'm meeting with all my brothers in an hour. I just can't wait to give birth I miss doing my daily routine without my body choosing for me what to eat how to sleep when to sleep and how to sit "You ready? Ashley said my heart almost stopped I gasps and look at her "Mommy you almost gave me a heart attack" "I'm sorry my daughter I didn't mean to" Ashley said. After two weeks I'm moving in with my in-laws until I give

birth. This first week I'm going to spend it with my brothers at their home. It was suppose to be two weeks but my son and his father they suggested otherwise. They say Mpilo and Philani they won't know what to do if it happen my due date arrive when I'm with them. Only one month left and I will be a mother to a new baby. Mbuso was shuttered with Vincent's death. It took him weeks to get out from his house I had to play a role of mother to him Martin had to step in as a father too and my father on the other side had to play a grandfather role. "Apology accepted mom" I said after a long silent "Let's get going your brothers are patiently waiting for you" Ashley said "This house will be quite without you Heaven and Nevaeh like you and thank for welcoming them in your house thank you for asking them questions about their lives and waiting patiently for their stumbled replies. You are teaching them the currency of conversation You are the best mother to them best sister to my sons best daughter to our family and a wonderful wife to

Martin thanks for coming in our lives Nandi take care of yourself and my grandson" Ashley said she said I'm the best and she's the best too "I will take care of myself and my unborn child" smiling "Look at you Nandi pregnancy suit you" she said Nevaeh enters my room running she hides behind me being a mother comes with love and kindness. Heaven came running too. "Come on sister I know you are here" Heaven said "She's not here baby" She search under the bed and on the wardrobe "Mommy I saw her entering this room" Heaven said showing children your love and support it doesn't require much to provide them material things but be there for them. "Maybe she's in the other room" She look around and walk out Ashley she's holding her laughter Neveah walk out too. Ashely laugh making me to join her. "You are the best mother you know that? Ashley ask. I shrug "I didn't know until they came along" "Thank you for entering their imaginary world thank you for reading for them even though they were sticky. Thank you for for

pretending you couldn't see them whenever they hid in the same place for the tenth time playing hide and go seek you are teaching them that that they are wanted you are showing them the value of play" Martin said walking in why is he here "They are good kids all they want is us to show them that they are loved" "Mom I will take her to Sibza's club my brothers in law are there" Martin said. Ashley nod "I believe you packed everything you will need" Martin said. He's supposed to be on duty "No I didn't pack everything" He look at me "I packed everything that I will need but not you Sponsored even though they were sticky. Thank you for for pretending you couldn't see them whenever they hid in the same place for the tenth time playing hide and go seek you are teaching them that that they are wanted you are showing them the value of play" Martin said walking in why is he here "They are good kids all they want is us to show them that they are loved" "Mom I will take her to Sibza's club my brothers in law are there" Martin said. Ashley

nod "I believe you packed everything you will need"
Martin said. He's supposed to be on duty "No I
didn't pack everything" He look at me "I packed
everything that I will need but not you and I believe
that daddy won't allow me to spend my own
money" We laugh and walk out to his car I share
the hug with my mother in law and said our
goodbyes. He start the ignition. NOSIPHO Walking
at Park with my boyfriend holding each other's
hand. Taking a short walk in a park down a happy
trail. The most important thing is that I'm enjoying
each and every moment with him and I'm getting to
use this life of having my own space and quality
time. I need to respect time because I will never
know when it will be gone. "Nono" He said snapping
me out of my thought "I believe you are thinking
about me" Sthe said "I'm thinking about time" "And
what about time? Sthe ask "The older I get the less I
take time for granted" We stop walking he look at
me straight in the eyes by his look he's turning me
on "Nono I want you to remember this the more we

get older is the more life marches to ever increasingly rapid rate of speed. The older we get the faster time seems to be flying. The is this scripture in the book of James that says life is as a vapour that appears for a little while then vanishes away" Sthe said "James 4:14" "That's the one" Sthe said and lean towards me for a kiss. "And then?" "I just realized something" Sthe said I'm crossing my fingers that he doesn't with the idea of telling Mbuso about us. That boy he's still mourning for his father. People think that I'm a widow well I'm not a widow and I'm not going to mourn for Vincent. Yeah we buried him 3 months ago Nandi didn't even bothered to go to his fenural she make it clear that she doesn't owe him anything. Our neighbors were surprised to see me some didn't believe that it was me well they didn't have any idea of what was going on in that house. People thought I was happy in that house. I was never happy like I'm now. "Let's go before your colleagues think that you are no longer coming" Sthe said I and my colleagues we

are having a mini get together celebration only general workers and labour workers organized this. We are meeting at Sibza's club I don't know do they like that place. People say it's a cool place. We walk to his car. I love spending time with him "And why are we smiling? Sthe ask "Because I love spending time with you" "So do I? When I am with you I feel like I am in heaven I feel like I can spend more time with you I love you Mankosi" Sthe said. He hit the ignition and we left. It's rare to be told that you loved I decided to take a nap just to rest It's been a long day. It's going to be a long day again because my colleagues said that they want to see me dancing that won't happen I will be myself that's all PHILANI Spending two days here at Gauteng it feels like I spent two weeks. We was here to check on Mbuso his father's death didn't sit him well but he assured us that he is fine. I believe that he's fine but we have to check on him. Family has to look after one another "This place doesn't have the spark anymore" Dineo said "The owner need to make

changes maybe it will bounce again" Palisa suggest so I'm here to watch couples. "Everything is perfect fine but there is something that is missing" Sihle add on his wife's complain "Sibza cancel all the entertainments and events that used to happen here every weekend hence why I'm saying he needs to change something. If he could bring back entertainments and events this place will be bounce back like it was before" Palisa said Mbuso and his girlfriend walk to us. Now three parts of couples. Now we are waiting for our sister she decided that she wants come with us "Good day good people" Mbuso greeted "Hello Mbuso" "Is it me or is this place it doesn't have that thing anymore? Mbuso ask before Sihle can answer him the crowd we shouts "Girl power My crush Nandi Girl power" She lighten up this place. "Lokhu bengikusho ukuthi le ndawo idinga umuntu ozosijabulisa sokonke" (this is what I was saying this place needs someone who will entertain us that all) Palisa said. My brother in law walk to us "Did we have to meet up here?"

Mbuso ask "You can ask that again Mbuso" Palisa said. She didn't want to come here but Mpilo tricked her "Hello people" My brother in law greet sitting down. We greet him back. He shake his head Mbuso and Dee laugh at him "Welcome doc you need to get to use this" Mbuso said he didn't say anything. Nandi she's now on stage "Dr Tremblay did you allow her to do that? Palisa ask "This is what she likes I cannot stop her" Dr Tremblay said such man like him are rare to be find he look at Dineo this people can communicate with eyes I noticed that with Sihle and his wife. "Sis Dee are you sure that" he said and keep quiet ☹️ Hope hope hope where are you I need you now I seek you to give me hope ☹️ Nandi sings her voice just added the light can she sing too clearly the is much we don't know about our sister. But her father once mentioned that I don't know why I'm I suprise she has many hidden talents "That rhythm we were missing" Someone Shouts "That was a greeting good people" Nandi said the mass screams 'girl power' "Or should

I say a free style? Nandi ask making everyone laugh "I'm sorry good people to just disappeared in a tiny of air without making an official announcement. I will no longer be able to stand here rolling the tyre again or sing as I use to before my job is very demanding" Nandi said "Since you are here just bless us with your voice and bring the light on this club" Someone shouts can't they see that she's heavily pregnant "I'm tired people can I sing sitting down" Nandi said they give her a chair "This song is delicates to all the broken heart and I want remind you that you are not alone" Nandi said "Is that Nosi? Mpilo ask. We look at her joining the large group of people people. She's really living her life. She made friends in such short space of time Gauteng must be good than KZN. "What is she doing here? Mbuso ask "Oh yeah the generals and labours employees are having something like get together fun" Palisa said "And who will be paying for their bills? Mbuso ask "Don't worry everything is taken care of" Palisa said "Mbuso pay for their bills

since you are a great boss" Sihle said "I'm not going to do that" Mbuso said "Someone was to say ZCCL is not just a company but we are a family" Dee said "Mrs Mchunu are you" Dr Tremblay said she smiles "I'm not sure I need to clear my schedule and visit your office sometime next week" Dee said "And we are now lost" Sihle said "Doctors and patient confidentiality" Dee said NANDIPHA My son and husband needs to be reminded that they are not alone with all the the waves they are going through I'm with them. I hold the mic. The instrumental start I let out heavy breath then I close my eyes ☹️ Hope hope hope Stay with me hope where are you Hope hope you are needed x3 I need you to remind me that Life is a journey Hope hope hope remind me that life is a journey it has full of so much indescribable☹️ I open my eyes and look at everyone and shut them again ☹️It has full of so much Hope hope hope I need you to stick in there with me Hope hope hope x3 Life is a journey it has full of indescribable things and things I think are not

possible. Hope stay with meeee☹️ People scream and applause "Let's remind ourselves that It's okay to fall down and lose our spark. But let's make sure when you get up again rise like a fire" I said getting up I got out of stage and walk where my family was. "Citizen I'm sorry about that" I don't know what pushed me on that stage "What did you do? Martin ask "I don't know but I feel like I did something" "I knew before we got married that you are a artist and you bring hope to many broken soils the is no need to apologise Nandi I'm right behind you whenever you are you got my support"Martin said I smile "That hope you were singing just fall in this room" Someone whisperers I turn and look at her it's Ronald's sister. I got up and we share a hug cold one. "What a light hug" Palisa said we broke the hug and look at her and look at each other again "Look at yourself" We said to each other and laugh "Thanks for that message you just sent you're the best" She said and left. Palisa Palisa Palisa this girl will drive me crazy I sit down again "Cuz don't do

that she didn't do anything she can not suffer for what her brother did and that all in the past we are fine" "I'm not going to apologise mzala" Palisa said the waiter bought two milk shakes she gave me one and Palisa one "We didn't order this Ovayo" Palisa said "That gentleman over there did" the waiter said pointing at KB he's crazy he is smelleng trouble sure "Give me that tray Ovayo" Palisa command the waiter give him the tray. She no longer work here she can't do that " Palisa" "You need to get something in your head Nandi you are married you need to respect that" She said taking the drinks away. Will Mpilo survive here? Sihle laugh "Mpilo you got your type this time" Sihle said "They deserve one another" Mbuso add to Sihle's madness "Let's order guys" not that I'm hungry or something I want to break the tension in this table. Palisa just drop a bombshell. My phone beeped I check it's a notification from the bank Martin just transferred me R10k. I look at him and smile "I hope that will be enough for a week" Martin said "More

than enough daddy" He smile "I should get going take care" Martin said "Aren't you going to come with me? He smile getting up "In your dreams love Mrs Mchunu congratulations are in order in advance" Martin said congratulations on what "What happened to patient confidentiality I'm going to sue you doc" Dee said "I didn't say anything" Martin said Mbuso just laugh "Aunt Dee are you pregnant? Mbuso ask in purpose because he is still laughing "I'm not sure guys" Dee said "Girl power please walk me out before Dee sue me" Martin said making my brothers laugh. The tension is gone Palisa came back she seems very pissed "Sorry about that guys" Palisa said "You should be sorry Palisa we don't do that" Martin help me to get up.

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142 MBUSO The past 3 months were hard for me. I had a lot to take in. I had to accept that my father he's gone. I had to accept that my girlfriend slept with another man. I had to accept that I will call

another man dad. But I managed to pull through. Everyone was supportive during that difficult time. "Dr Tremblay took his wife with clearly he doesn't trust you guys" Sihle said I heard them laughing "I was going to do that too Nandi has to show her husband some respect she can't accept something from her ex fiance especially when her husband he is around" Palisa add on Sihle's madness. My mother said 'Let's remind ourselves that It's okay to fall down and lose our spark. But let's make sure when you get up again rise like a fire' "Earth to Mbuso Zulu" Palisa called snapping me from my thoughts "Aunt" "Let's order before she comes back" Palisa said and we were supposed to order 30 minutes ago when she said we should order something. "Palisa and Mpilo lunch is on you" "Said the man who is my boss how can you let your employee pay for the bill especially the best admin ever" Palisa said when it comes to my mother aunt Dee and Palisa forget that they will pay for the bill never. "I will pay" Kwanda said looking at Palisa I'm

sure she wants to see her reaction. Knowing Palisa very well she doesn't care "I'm going to check on my cousin" Palisa said getting up Dee got up too they left us "I'm trying Mbuso she doesn't wanna hear me out" Kwanda said "Hey look at me" she look at me "Stop trying just show her how sorry you are and what you did was a mistake surly she will come around The most effective of trying is to focus on acknowledging the needs and feelings of those you've hurt Spend the time to yourself reflecting on what she might need from you" "I hate myself I ruin everything I touchs with my hands I never thought that my friendship with her will turn out like this" "You've wronged me not her remember? She may not want to forgive you immediately as I did" she look at me and nod "What I've learned from her is that when it comes to her loved she doesn't endure blathers she fight with everything she has all she needs from you my soulmate is to give her some space initially Sponsored It's important to respect that stop fussing if you want to eventually win your

friendship back over just do as I tell you she will come around She's not Nandi who forgive easily she's Palisa Zwane and she leaves on her own planet She doesn't just endure blathers especially when it comes to someone who is important to her" Uncles went like 'ncoo' I accept this from them "Are you sure that she won't punch my brother? Philani ask "I cant reveal that to Mpilo but what can will I say is that bayafana" (they are the same) We laugh.

NOSIPHO LATER ON Having a great day with my colleagues. Life seems so beautiful to me thanks to life hope you are with me just don't leave me. Drinks are coming like rain. I lost count of how many drinks I had so far. Will I be able to get home. Sthe will have to forgive me I'm having a great day that's all "Hope where are you" "This song was meant for the heat broken people mamzo"

Lithuania said we laugh "But she meant well the are times where I feel lonely where I feel like everything is a burden to me. And I feel like hope is just a word" Bonga said. He has a point we sometimes we

think there is no hope in our lives NANDIPHA Palisa gave my husband a red flag. We've been sitting on his car forever now. "Citizen we've been in this car forever my brothers are waiting for me" "They have to be patient you are with me now" Martin said smashing his lips on my lips this man can hide his emotions I know he won't say anything about the indicate Palisa dropped kissing his lips they are so juicy he groan between my lips. He knows very well that he will leave me wet why is he doing this now here at this time he pull away the kiss "Why?" "My lunch is over Mrs Tremblay" Martin said Palisa just reminded me that I'm now married sending the red flags on my husband here is Martin being all formal. Did Palisa have to remind me that? Martin will think wherever I'm at the restaurant or club there are people who get me drinks. "So you are leaving?" Martin ask like I'm leaving him for good "Yes but not only for a week" "Yeah just a week" Martin said letting out a sigh. I squeeze my hands to meet his saying goodbye won't be easy "Are you sure that

you want to leave? Martin ask he's making this hard for me. "Citizen we talk about this and we agreed why are you making this hard for me" what the hell I know why he's acting like this KB he's the reason Martin can mix two paint together and bring those colors to life. "Yeah a week" Martin said after a long silent "Are you having second thoughts about me visiting my brothers? "Family is very important go spend a week with your brothers Just promise me that you will behave yourself" Martin said I nod we share a hug I got out of his car and say my goodbye. He left I look at his car until it disappears. I walk back inside the club. I look at the group of ZCCL having they day. I never thought I will see this day Nosi drunk. I pass them and join my brothers and son including his girlfriend. "Wheres sis Dee and Palisa" I ask taking a seat. "They went to check on you" Sihle said "Was I lost? "Here they come" Mbuso said I check the position he was pointing. "Let's get going before I change my mind" "You won't do that" "I will because my husband doesn't

trust me anymore and all thanks to your girlfriend whom she's my cousin" "I apologise on her behalf" Mpilo said I nod TO BE CONTINUED UNEDITED

143 NOSIPHO (EIGHT HOURS LATER) I'm crying uncontrollably and teasing people around me. The feeling of inadequacy is controlling me. "Mamzo you had enough for the day" Lithuania said "Who are you to tell me I had enough? I got up I'm having blurry vision and I'm losing my balance too "Sit down I will call Mr Zulu or a taxi for you" She said making me to sit down "I want to be here" Crying "That's it I'm calling your son" She said. I don't have a son I only have two daughters not a son "It's good to be here" I'm very tired and drowsy at the same time MBUSO This was a great day. I don't choose your family. They are God's gift to me as I am to them. I am blessed to have so many great things in my life family and friends. Having few drinks then we are out of here. Mama uncle Philani and Mpilo left hours ago I'm sure they are home by

now. "Mbuso I believe you will be taking us home" Palisa said "No I'm not doing that" I want to spend time with my girlfriend. Ever since she messed up it's been hard for us to connect. Its still hard for her to look at me. Palisa and aunt Dee are making that hard for her. Well aunt Dee never liked her from the word go. "Please" Palisa said "I believe you have your license with you? She shake her head "I've forgotten it" Palisa said a lady that we work with walk to us. "I'm sorry guys but I need your help right now Mr Zulu" She said "All ears" "Your mother had enough for the day can you please take her home before she she harm herself" Lithuania said "Okay thanks" I said getting up. Sihle shakes his head probably this is unbelievable. I never seen her touch alcohol. This is new to her and to her system. I walk to her she's noisy "This is a great day" Nosipho said I look at her and shake my head "Mommy let's go home" "No no Mbuso don't tease me I'm not your mother remember" Nosi said "Okay Nosi let's go home" "You are his son I'm not going anywhere

with you Zulu" Nosi said crying. I look at the table where we are sitting on "Aunt Dee.... Palisa" I shout their names Palisa got up. Be edgar to try something different and be ready to face each and every challenge coming your way and that will help. "Mamzo let's go home" Palisa said clicking me out of my thoughts "I said I'm not going anywhere. What's wrong with you people. I don't anyone" Nosi said crying "You can cry as you want aunt but I'm taking you home" Palisa said dragging her out. This girl she keeps on showing us the bad side of hers. I know that she's humble and carrying but she has that bad side of hers that doesn't want to be seen.

NANDIPHA Road trips are tiring especially when you have to travel a distance. People say the best way to travel is whether you jump in the car or campervan to hit the road or catch a flight. There's something so alluring about the open road with the freedom and spontaneity that comes with it. It's the way the road snakes endlessly ahead surrounded by stunning scenery and it's the liberation to stop

wherever I asked while discovering hidden gems along the way. I'm so tired all I need right now is a bubble bath and a beauty sleep. The rest will follow the next day. I'm tired tired with nothing tired with everything Sponsored tired with the world's weight. Some flights restrict that say I can't travel after 28 weeks of pregnancy are useless. Is not like I was traveling international. Here it doesn't even take 2 hours to land some restrict need a scoop before they are down. Mpilo and Philani are off loading the bags. This couch is not all comfortably it needs. "Sis should I get you anything to eat? Philani ask placing my hand bag beside me "The only thing that I need is a bath then sleep" "Okay let me run you a warm bath" Philani said walking out. Not everything in life is predictable but for some people can. This fact can sometimes prove to be unbearable for them. I never seen myself being in the same room with my brothers without Mbuso or Dee sometimes I fear that they will turn against me. Sometimes the past is simply a reference point as I move through

life. However this doesn't mean that I should allow the past to define my future. When I focus on the past it can seem like my inner demons shine brighter than they should. I've made all the mistakes I abounded my family Take others for granted and I have done things that I'm not proud of. But that's my past it doesn't define me "Warm bath is calling you madam" Philani said making me laugh "Thank you sir" He laugh. I walk to bath room with my toiletries. Indeed he ran the warm bath for me. I've always known that my brother he's caring and loving. There's nothing like plunging in to a nice warm bath. I feel afresh I feel like I'm alive. Getting out of the bath the only thing that is left is to sleep. Philani showed me where can I sleep. I made it clear that I don't want to sleep in his mother's room. That won't happen. I shut my eyes. I believe and I know that Martin will call to check on me. I will return his calls tomorrow morning. I choose to believe the sun will rise tomorrow NEXT DAY Waking up with hungry is another disaster itself. I rise from my bed

and pray talking to the man above all things and thanking him for the second chance of life. I walk out to find the main door wide open. Did we have a break in. "Maaaa" Screaming Philani come in running using the main door that is open. My hurt almost stopped because of him. Why didn't he close the door? "Are you alright? Mpilo ask standing on the door of his bedroom. That was stupid of me I feel stupid. "Come sit down" Philani said helping me to sit down on the couch. UNEDITED

144 NANDIPHA I really feel stupid I'm stupid who in the world shout like that? Well I thought we had a break in. Philani was just sweeping the yard he forgets to shut the door. Luckily for me Dee and Mbuso aren't here to joke about that. We are having our breakfast just the 3 of us. I'm not enjoying this food. I'm craving for chips and a roasted chicken. Feels like I'm eating this food to please someone or it's like I'm forced to eat. "Are you alright? Philani ask looking at Mpilo Mpilo just nod.

"Dadewethu!" (My sister) Philani call "Brother!"
"How is your food"? Philani ask I'm the one who prepared the food I'm the one who should be asking that. "Shouldn't I be the one to ask you that"? "We enjoyed your food but it seems like you don't like the food sis what is it"? Mpilo ask "I need chips" I said getting up I'm going to get myself what this baby needs. I need bit of excise. Walking to the store won't kill me. Nothing about pregnancy has a neutral middle ground. Everything is extreme. From pregnancy cravings to decisions about diapering and the standpoint will always be extreme. It feels like food aren't just food anymore either hormones and emotions behind food and I teast food way differently. I took the money. He will have to forgive me to come with R200 note this early in morning. I will take a card for in case he accept it. "Brothers I will be right back" They look at me with a judging eyes "Where to? Philani ask sounds more like my father "I'm going to get myself chips" They look at me Mpilo stands up. "Sit down and relax I will get

that for you is a bit distance" Mpilo said I let out a sigh "Walking is good cardio exercise for me Mpilo thanks for caring but it will provide me and my baby in good health body I'm recommended to do aerobic exercise like walking at a brisk pace for aerobic benefit" I know that my brothers love me cares a lot for me and they want to fit in all the void they missed in my life. Without love there would be no music. There would be no family no society no passion. There would also be no war. That's how important the word love coming from. "Okay let me join you for the walking exercise of yours" Mpilo said We walk like couples he is holding my hand and busy asking me aren't I'm tired. "Tell me here what does your cousin like? Mpilo ask "What are you asking Mpilo? "As your cousin what can you get for her? "Palisa she's a simple person" "What does she like that's what I ask you Nandi" "She likes to listen to music" my cousin she she's simple as long as you don't step in her mood you will get along with her. "So you mean I can get her music as a gift? Mpilo

ask "You were not specifically Mpilo" "Okay girl power what can I get for my girlfriend? Mpilo ask "When it comes to gifts for your girlfriend you can't go wrong with jewelry brother always keep that in mind Let me be more specifically with you you can't go wrong with Kendra Scott jewelry. We women tend to love the popular brand because their pieces are timeless stylish and good quality earrings in particular are praised for being lightweight with just the right amount of bling without looking gaudy" He stops and look at me like I spoke a foreign language with him. "And that popular brands come out expensive aren't they? "When it comes the love of your heart you forget about the costs Mpilo I believe you once steal something from your mother and gave it to your girlfriend? He laugh "That's very true they was this necklace my father bought for her with his first salary" Mpilo said we laugh "That's it he bought her a jewelry as a gift" we continue walking KWANDA The pain of regret can result in refocusing and taking corrective action or pursuing

a new path. My relationship with Mbuso is no longer the same it has a red flag one more mistake this time he won't even want us to try Sponsored I believe you once steal something from your mother and gave it to your girlfriend? He laugh "That's very true they was this necklace my father bought for her with his first salary" Mpilo said we laugh "That's it he bought her a jewelry as a gift" we continue walking KWANDA The pain of regret can result in refocusing and taking corrective action or pursuing a new path. My relationship with Mbuso is no longer the same it has a red flag one more mistake this time he won't even want us to try I'm feeling isolated and I'm feeling distanced from him at the same time I want to be with him. This needs a specialist the qualified one he is trying to be there for me. I look at him he smile and bought me to his chest. So that I can hear his heart beat. "What are you hearing soulmate? Mbuso ask did he have to ask "The is a clock sounds" "What does it say? Mbuso ask "It goes like tik...tik....tik...tik" he laugh I

join him "You right my heart throbbing like tik...tik....tik right now" Mbuso said "Why is it throbbing? "The is something about this relationship it doesn't have the spark from the start tell me here is their somewhere I'm failing to comply? Mbuso ask "I think we should visit someone who is qualified for relationship cancellations" "Forget about it I don't want to share my relationship status with strangers" Mbuso said what's wrong with people who need help but they don't want to be helped "We will talk to my mother hopefully she will help us" Mbuso said his mother I don't see myself telling his mother my problems "I don't feel comfortable with that" "What do you suggest? Mbuso ask I rather talk to Nandi she can lead me to the right path "Let's wait for Nandi" "You said you don't feel comfortable with her" Mbuso said "Nandi not Nosi" "Yeah Nandi then" Mbuso said NOSIPHO Headache is killing me my heart rate is very fast. I walk to join Sthembiso Palisa and Dineo where they are sitting. "If I die don't lie to

people saying that I didn't get sick headache is killing me" they laugh Sthe stands up and went to the kitchen. "Nosi don't ever do that" Dee said laughing what have I done now "I just got here I done nothing wrong" They laugh like I just crack a joke. Sthe walk back to us holding a cup of coffee "This will help you" He said giving me a black coffee "No I need pain killers" "Just drink the coffee Nono if it doesn't work we will get you water" Sthe said laughing. "What are you laughing at" I ask taking few sip of my coffee "How did you get here last night? Dee ask and I don't know how did I get here "How did I get here Sthe? I know that he's the one who fetch me but how and when I don't know "You denied your son aunt I'm sure he questioned himself if you are not his mother who is his mother" Palisa said I look at Dee she nod Sthe just shake his head. "What did I say exactly? "You told Mbuso that he must not call you mommy because you are not his mother and he's Vincent's son who never likes you" Palisa said making my headache to be worse

"Don't even get yourself drunk like that first rule of having fun with friends don't mix drinks" Sthe said. I did mix I was drinking everything that comes my way NANDIPHA We're waiting for my order sitting down on the bench. Ernest enter he doesn't see us that's works for me. "Mr Mchunu I hope you are here to pay for your outstanding balance You Zama and Zodwa think that I'm running a charity case this is a business" he said I look at Mpilo he pretends like he's busy with his phone "Thabo I'm sorry about that" Ernest said he cut him "Mr Mchunu let's not fight just do the right thing" He said "I will pay you month end Thabo that I promise I never disappoint you when it comes to that" Ernest said "I don't know nothing Mr Mchunu" he shout "The is no need to shout Thabo how much does the man and Zodwa owns you? He look at me "My apologies I've waited for him and those two girls to pay me two months back" he said "How much does he owns you? He opens his book "He owns me R394" he said "And Zodwa? R270" He said I got up Luckily he

does accept card. "Nandi where are you going?
Mpilo ask "Your money in total is R664 right? He
shakes his head "Zama" I cut him "I will pay for this
two in Future if Zodwa doesn't have money to pay
don't give her anything even a R1 sweet don't give
her" he scan my card I punches the pin I look at this
man Infront of me. "Thanks sis Nandi" Thabo said
giving me my card "Thanks Nandipha" Ernest said I
just look at him his lips are dry "When was the last
time you had a proper meal? He look at Mpilo than
me again "A week ago" Ernest said that comes out
in a whisper. Mbuso said he's taking care of him and
Zodwa financial how is this possible "You were here
to make credit again? He nod "Get yourself
something to eat for now I will ask P to come to
your house later on" I said giving him that R200
note that I had with me. "I can't accept this Nandi"
Ernest said his hands are shaking "Uncle Ernest I
insist take it" he look at Mpilo "Your son he's
already taking care of me" he didn't finish his
sentence he balance himself with the store counter

and slide down to sit. Mpilo walks out "Uncle Ernest are you alright? "Water please" he said "Can I have a glass of water please" he disappears and came with water "Here" he takes the glass with his shaking hands "Mpilo!!! He didn't respond "Thank you" Ernest said I gave Thabo the glass "Can you go home? He nod lowering his head "Get yourself something to eat later on Philani will get you grocery" "Extra large chips" that's my order. In life no matter how a person hurt you never stop showing them your kindness. TO BE CONTINUED UNEDITED

145 NANDIPHA I just hate their behaviour. I don't hate Ernest but his deeds. People can frustrate hurt and anger at the same time but the vast majority is to think deeper that you hate the person or the behaviour. They are people who proclaim their hatred and simply attempting it to express they frustration and they erroneously believe they will be protect by that hate from pain. That's all a lie

constant change fear and uncertainty it has become an increasingly common behavior. Hatred it can steal people's happiness and you can stuck in a defensive narrow and unhelpful posture. Hatred can affect your own life. Walking back home alone Mpilo left me busy with his uncle. I can't control people's behavior nor do I want to be a burden to them. But his behaviour was uncalled for. I got to Mchunu's house. Philani he's sitting alone under the tree. I put my chips on his lap. "Where is Mpilo? I ask him taking a seat. He look at me more like he is confuse "I should be asking you that little sis" Philani said "Well he left me while I was waiting for my order" "He's not here" Philani said getting up "Please call him" NOSIPHO People say that they like alcohol because they get drunk and make them feel in a different world different world chasing Mbuso away like that. I can't believe that I told Mbuso that he's not my son. What gotten to me Mbuso helped me when I couldn't help myself out. Mbuso he's making sure that my children are going to school

everyday I can't afford my kids school fees he's the one who is taking care of his sisters. Why did I betrayed his wishes he said that he's not yet ready to tell the world that he's Nandi's son. Well me and my stupidly big mouth already sent the message. "Dee who bought me here? "Super women did" Dee said laughing. "Pali and Dee why didn't you stop me" they look at each other "You where enjoying yourself sis Nosi" Dee said "I need to apologize to Mbuso" "Guys don't get me wrong if my mother get drunk one day and tell me that I'm not her daughter I won't give her the chance to apologize she will show me who is my mother" Palisa said "You mentioned drunk on your statement that means she will be controlled by whatever she will be drinking" Sthe said "No uncle alcohol doesn't have a problem it doesn't talk I'm the one who is in control and the message I'm sending it's purposely to the victim" Palisa said Dee cut her "Super women just keep that information for another day sis Nosi I suggest you call Mbuso and apologies" Dee said so

she's the super woman who bought me home "I'm not super woman" Palisa said "I will go to his house" What pushed me to say such things what is it with reference of life. Not everyone is meant to have a well life let me state facts now rich people get richer and the poor people get poorer on this planet not everything is due to any kind of structured inequality but simply due to thoughts of poverty perpetuating themselves and thoughts of riches perpetuating themselves. We prefer to adopt a victim mindset than to take control of our thoughts and focus continually on wealth and solutions. It is so much easier to blame alcohol than to accept responsibility. "I hate myself right now I feel like my body can leave my soul I hate alcohol" everyone look at me "Nono" Sthe said "I hate myself Sthe I wish like the earth can take me from here to another planet" "You were not in yourself control you were drunk Mbuso will understand" Dee said "Dineo we are not talking about the same boy here" "We are talking about the same Mbuso here" Dee

said "Sometimes self-hatred pops up when you aren't in a good place like now you need to rest Sponsored you need to rest I will talk to Mbuso guys you don't need to worry about this I will talk to him" Sthe said MBUSO Actions speak louder than words right. The positive things I tend to do for myself it can leave a lasting impression in someone's life like my girlfriend. We need to change the world not by pointing the finger but by changing ourselves. This isn't about her cheating and stuff this has been happening even before that. Nonjabulo once said that my father was behind that but he's gone now and I did everything that I was needed to be do. Even the happiest relationships go through troubled periods. Life is so full of change and uncertainties and these can certainly put relationships to the test I wish this blows of "Kwanda I love you" she nod she needs to be reminded by me how much I love her this phase shall pass that I believe not everything is permanent in life "Kwanda I love you" I said walking up to her "I love you more than

anything babe" Kwanda said it feels like the time it's not going I need this to be fixed by my only parent not anyone else. NANDIPHA Mpilo came back with Zodwa telling her that she must stop taking credit because that will get her into trouble. "That man was angry Zodwa if you have nothing at your house just come back home" Mpilo said "And how will she see her boyfriend? Philani ask "Well that boyfriend for nothing he will have to wait" Mpilo said "I'm sorry Mpilo if I got you into trouble" Zodwa said "Mpilo she heard you if she didn't then she's in her own why did you left Nandi at the shop alone? Philani ask I didn't tell him what happened "Because she was with Ernest" Mpilo said "Mpilo for how long will you hate the man for something he did years ago? Philani ask I don't benefit anything from hating someone sometimes a poison is not always something that we eat or drink it can be an emotion. "I hate him with all my heart" Mpilo said hate is one of the poison that eat people up inside and causing destruction. "Holding on a anger is like

grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else at the end you will be the one who gets burn by all the hatred brother I know that you are angry" "I'm not angry Nandipha I hate that man" Mpilo said "Hate will left you unchecked it will drain your spirit tarnish your soul and darken your days I know what he did was wrong but you guys you are his family you need to be there for him I believe you don't want what happened to Mbuso and Vincent to happen to you Mpilo" "He's not my father" Mpilo said "I didn't say he's your father sometimes in life we need to be there for one another not becouse we are doing each other favour but to remind ourselves that life is too short" "Wow little sis I love you" Philani said "I love you too guys" TO BE CONTINUED UNEDITED

146 NANDIPHA Mpilo and Philani went to mall to get few things for Ernest. In life the road ends and we have to take another route I'm greatful that I was raised by a really family the family that knew

the true meaning of life. Life is to fulfill your purpose in life and accomplish your goals. What I mean by this is everyone has a purpose and that purpose is living. None of us will be here if we all didn't have a purpose. Zodwa keeps on shooting glance at me. "Aunt what is it"? "Can I trust you"? Zodwa ask I nod usual when a person ask this kind of a question that person she/is in trouble. "You are my aunt Zodwa we are here for each other I'm not a good listener but I will try to help you where I can" she nod "So my boyfriend he's" Zodwa said and kept quiet I hold both her hands. "Come now talk to me I won't bite you Zodwa you need to trust me". "My boyfriend want a break". "Did he say why he wants a break"? Mathematics is teaching us to get to the root of the broblem before we solve problems. That's the subject I didn't want to see but I was required to focus on it more than any subject. "He finds out that I'm on a pregnancy control" Zodwa said after a long silence. "So you aren't ready to become a mother"? "I would like to

be a mother one day but not while I'm still depending on Mbuso and Mpilo I want to be my own woman I want to build myself before I become a mother" Zodwa said "You are taking responsibility of yourself Zodwa In this matter it varies from situation to situation don't get me wrong aunt but when a guy wants to take a break it's generally for one of three reasons he's genuinely confused about his feelings for you and where he wants the relationship to go he feels a need to reassert control over his life or the relationship or he's breaking up the bond that links you together" She look at me and nod "Making the right decision is no small matter as you're risking flipping your entire life upside down. So you're facing a real dilemma you need to rethink the entire way in which you communicate with him and make him understand that you are not ready to or go with something as radical like this". She let the pain out. Letting out your tears it means you are letting the pain out to bury the pain inside you it will terrify you like my

cousin Palisa I don't know who lied to her that people who cries are people who are weaker now she's fighting tears from coming out not just tears she fight anything that comes her way. That is not health at all she doesn't see who she hurts anymore. I look at her I noticed her breath "Can I get you water?" "No thanks my sister was right I'm a failure nothing that I touched comes out successful" With that woman no one was ever right before before her "Don't tell me about Phumza Zodwa that women she was going to make you believe that you are a failure you know why"? "I'm a failure sis Nandi I failed my matric twice now I'm going to fail my relationship I'm putting myself before my relationship what kind of a person I am"? Zodwa ask crying "It's a great thing that you are scared of failure Zodwa but what ever your sister told you about you is not true we all come from failure and being a failure It doesn't allow you to try new things to take on new challenges or to expose yourself to new situations it doesn't have to. You can conquer

the fear of failure easily when you understand better what causes it and how it affects you aunt don't allow Phumza's words to suck you" She shakes her head "I love him" She crying in my hands "That doesn't matter much in the long run anyway give him the time he need focus on building yourself as you said" "How sis Nandi how? She ask crying. "The word 'let's take a break' It's so much like saying let's take different route than doing this the painfully way' It's like clinging to flotsam after a shipwreck in the middle of the ocean Sponsored knowing you'll likely drown but being unable to give up. Except in the case of the relationship instead of sinking slowly into a watery grave you just get sad for a while and then date someone else" she got up and look at me more she's shock I know my last statement is scary. People believe that after break up they need time to heal yeah sometimes you need to heal but when it comes to your happiness don't hold it back. "Sis Nandi that won't happen" Zodwa said "What won't happen Zodwa? "I can't imagine myself with

someone else" Zodwa said "We all say that I've been in and out of good and bad relationship but here I am with Martin Date someone who is proud to be your boyfriend. Someone who doesn't think they're settling someone who doesn't think they can do better and keeps an eye out in case another girl comes along date someone who is as thankful as you are for every hug every kiss and every moment he gets to spend with you someone who will respect your decision" she sat down again "Do you mind telling me about your good and bad relationships? Zodwa ask I nod My soul was once in pain thankful to my tears. They are in pain no more. Letting your tears flow like a river heal all the pain. NOSIPHO Sthe keeps on stealing glance at Dineo "Ngwetsi is the anything I should know? (Daughter in law" Sthe ask "Rre I'm not sure I will have all the answers during the week" Dee said "We both know the best way to find is a home pregnancy test then you will do further tests after that" Sthe suggest he got to attend the door. He came back followed by

Mbuso and Kwanda. I need to apologise for my behavior how I'm I going to say this. They take a seat Dee and Mbuso just laugh got us question ourselves "Super woman" Mbuso and Dee said laughing "Uncle Sthe what should I do with this two? Palisa ask "Grandpa remind me not to mess up with Palisa she's a bully dozer" Mbuso said he didn't even greet us we laugh "And who did she atteck this time I hope is not one of Nana's old flames? Sthe ask "Uhm" Palisa said "Pali the speed of the car is to risky the car you are driving it will crush and when it crush this time Nana won't be there to rescue you she has a baby on the way and I'm old to play a hero Pali be carefull on who you step on their toe niece just be careful" Sthe said "uncle Nandi she needs to be reminded that she's someone's wife she cannot accept drinks her blast from the past"Palisa said "And who was that? Sthe ask "Kabelo" Kwanda said "And Martin was there" Palisa said "Think before you act the heat of the moment let it go" Sthembiso said Palisa cut him

"Uncle Sthe you just talking you don't know what is happening with my life no one will understand beside Nandi being there for her is because I want to keep her closer to me Nandi risked her life just for me" Palisa said "Pali come sit next to me" Sthembiso orders she got up instead of going to him she ran out "Aunt" Mbuso shouts following her. I never seen her crying I wish I was strong like her. Mbuso and Palisa came back holding each others hands like couples character is she inviting Kwanda to slap her like she did to Nandi. They take a seat again "Sorry about that guys uncle Sthe I'm ready to talk to someone I really need help I'm sorry that it took me this long to respond the reason is that each time I shut my eyes I see him uncle pointing my head and Nana's head with that gun he wanted to finish us" Palisa said "Don't worry Pali I will book you a session with the therapist or even Mrs Tremblay if you don't mind" Sthe said "I prepare my cousin she's good with this is just that she doesn't notice that helping people it's in her" Palisa said

Mbuso nod and smile "I'm proud of you aunt"
Mbuso said NANDIPHA I told Zodwa about all my failed relationships . "This means I will meet him one day? Zodwa ask "Meet who? "My ride to die the only thing I should do is to focus on myself get my life on the go" Zodwa said "If you would like to go back to school I'm here I can help you" "I would like that but" I cut her "But what Zodwa education is the key of the bright future and don't tell me about the fees I can take care of that" TO BE CONTINUED UNEDITED

147 NANDIPHA FEW DAYS LATER Going back home I'm happy but it's been a short week spending time with my brothers and Zodwa it was fun it was a peaceful week though. Mpilo he's driving me there. Zodwa she's coming with me she need a break from everything. Sometimes life offers us options we don't want choose the only thing we have to do is to choose wisely or loose. The greatest lesson in life is to know that even fools are right sometimes. I

realize that life is a risks. It's acknowledging the past but looking forward. It's taking a chance that we will make mistakes but believing that we all deserve to be forgiven. We got home. Martin suggested that I don't go to his parents house his mother will move in with us. Martin welcome me by a kiss that made Luther and Mbuso swoon. We look at them. "You too need to close your eyes" Martin said we laugh "Next time you get yourselves a room" Mbuso said "My apologies Mbuso" Martin said leading us to join Mbuso Luther Kwanda Dee Palisa and Sihle. We exchanged greetings "Where are my children? "I just got here ask Dee and Palisa" Martin said I look at Palisa and Dineo "Just relex cuz" Palisa said stealing glance at Mpilo "Cuz" she look at me "Hmm" Palisa respond knowing her very she did something wrong and she's guilty about whatever it is "What have you done? "Nothing cuz" Palisa said getting up "Sit down Palisa I'm still talking to you" "I didn't do anything mzala I just wanted closure that's all" Palisa said what is she talking about "Palisa talk"

Dee and Mbuso got up and walk away "I visited him I just wanted to let him know that how much I hate him and how proud I am that you too didn't work out" Palisa said What's wrong with the hate of one another "Okey I want you to calm down and tell me what who is that person" "I went to sun city prison" Palisa said and kept quiet "No you didn't? She nodded repeatedly she wants to see me dead or give before time. "Palisa what have you done?" "Uncle Sthe and Mbuso already gave me the lecture I'm not ready for another one from you I just need your help cuz you are the only person who can help me" Palisa said "Help you how?" "I still see myself in that dumped room" Palisa said how selfish I'm more focused on myself and forget my own cousin. "I'm sorry Palisa I didnt see that you were hurting I should be there for you as you always do I can't take back the clock but I'm sorry cuz" she nodded repeatedly "I know you are a wonderful person you need help" "Hence why I'm here I need to claim my life I'm tired of fighting everyone" Palisa said. "Okay

let's go to my study" I sometimes don't understand this people I'm not a therapist. I believe Ashley can help her she managed to help me. We got to study we sit down. I didn't even get a chance to speak with Martin about Zodwa. "Mzala I'm trying and fighting my feelings and emotions I use lot of willpower that I can feel better. But that's not working I feel less control I do things and regret later I'm very angry at the world I'm angry at everyone" Palisa said "Let them out" she look at me confusely "You should let that anger out cuz don't vent your anger. You will hurt yourself" she look at me still We all lapse into these moments. It doesn't have to remain so. Break the cycle by doing something fresh as soon as you recognize yourself plunging into this nasty state "I'm unable to cry" Palisa said the is no such she seems to forget that she's my own cousin "Then punch a pillow or yell don't do this Palisa let them out it doesn't mean that you are weaker behind tears" To Judge yourself can only bring you down. As you reinforce your

mindset with positivity your sense of self will change for the better along the way. She finally let them out "Don't be afraid to let them out is just me and you in this room" She just shed out those tears NOSIPHO I miss my kids they visited Keitumetsi and Tremblay's girls. Well Keitumetsi she's leaving at the Tremblay mansion since Sihle he's tutoring them. I walk in his room without knocking I'm tired of sneaking like a teenager. But I'm not ready to tell announce my relationship people will think I'm taking advantage of him since he's rich but the naked truth is that I love him. He got up as I enter He kiss me and walk me to his bed he look at me and smile "What have I done? Sthembiso ask I blush He unbutton his shirt I take a seat on his bed this crazy idea flush my mind that I want to surprise him I'm going to give him a actually blow job I went down on my knees he frowned and smiled at the same time. "Are you ready for this" he nod I've never done this before hopefully I will do my best I unbuckled his belt unzipped the trouser and his

manhood sprung out it is so huge and hard. Probably harder than that dead fake husband of mine his manhood leak the precum. I swirl my tongue around the tip making sure that I lick the precum very smooth I in focus on him "Ahh I...fuck Nono where....Ahhh" Sthembiso groan I massage his balls and going deeper with my mouth on his rock he hold my head and pushed me in further I gagge my saliva causing the moisture to his rock "Ohhhyes Nono ka Sthe.... I...Ahhh" He said groaning. I suck his balls while doing a hand job he hold on me tight. "Nono you..... Ahhh yes.. please..stop!" Sthe said I'm not going to stop I'm not going to stop he release his precum moisture I stop he pull me and make me to lie in my back and face up. "Wow you keep on suprising me lately" Sthe said He kiss me and take off my dress followed by my undergarments while kissing me he went from my neck to my lips he went down to my breasts. He gently suck my breast. "Which one you were feeding Jabu? Sthe ask "Both" he stop and

look at me and smile "Then I will be smart like them" Sthe said he ask about Jabu not Nonjabulo then why did he put them on his stement? He suck my breasts squeezing them and suck them again. He went down there leaving wet kisses all over me he circled his tongue on my belly button it feels good and ticklish at the same time he suck my thighs focusing on them. No lie I enjoy the pleasure. I feel his breaths on my coockie I let out the heavily breath. His tongue land on my clit he suck muff and lick. "Ohhh babah I....ohwww...this....oh BabZwane it's so good. I love you... Ohhh" I rose up he hold my waist and put me back down. Feeling the urge coming. My body is vibrating as he nibble in my clit with his tongue his finger also doing wonders on me. I release a mindblowing orgasm. He come up and kiss me with the same lips. As we were kissing his dick brushed my clit the pleasure was more noticeable. "Mmmm BabuZwane... are to much now" "Mmm....mmm I'm I to much allow me to be more to much Nono" Sthe said He slowly enter I

hold him tight on his shoulders as he push deeper
"Hhhhaaa Sthe Ahhh I...Oh My love I.....This is so
good" He start to pump in he move in circles and
parted my leg on his shoulder I feel him on my
womb. "You are so sweet" Sthe said He pump I
moan and he groan. We reach our destination and
catches our breath. We share a passionate kiss.
"Wow...that was a good ride Nono" Sthe said
indeed it was good I thought he was going to say
the opposite side with the Zwanes you won't know
they tell you where did you go wrong right away not
tomorrow or some other time. Him Palisa and sis
Nandi the always ready to complain he kiss my
forehead and got up and went to get a towel from
the bathroom he wipe me off and wipe himself too
then he came and lie next to me. "I'm required to
leave for a month I hope you will behave yourself"
Sthe said "Where to? He just kisses me and make
me lie to his chest. NANDIPHA LATER We joined the
family feud for lunch Palisa's eyes were shading
tears. I will let her be she's been keeping them for

long time. Mpilo look at me "She will be fine guys"
"I'm fine" Palisa said that the main reason she has
anger she wants to please everyone around her and
forget about herself. "Cuz I need your help" Palisa
said "Again? Mbuso ask Palisa nod "I need to be
alone I'm going to my flat" Palisa said "So where do
I fit there? I know I sound rude but I need to know
wht "You know that I'm uncle Sthe's little girl since
you left I need to report each and every move "If
you can come clean with him believe me he will
stop fussing" she has to let him know that she's
dating Mpilo that's all and I believe that my father
knows he just want her to tell him "I can't do
that"Palisa said making Mbuso Martin Luther and
Dineo laugh "Mama she can't do that" Mbuso said
laughing "I doubt that she wants to be alone" Dee
said I didn't even think about that "Okay cuz I will
cover up for you" she smile "Nandi you have
improved yourself Zodwa he's going back to KZN"
Sihle said UNEDITED

148 NANDIPHA Palisa look at me and smile. Always respect other people's feelings. "What is it mzala? She smile and look at Martin "Come with it Palisa I trust you" Martin said "Doc take all her qualifications and throw them away" Palisa said "Why should he do that? "Uncle Sthe and aunt Lizzy waisted their money and your time too you should've became more than you are you should've obtain counseling or psychology licensure mzala look how discipline and change people's lives" Palisa said I smile a little I get that a lot "I get that a lot Pali but I'm not a professional I'm just Nandi the daughter of a life couches couple "You are doing counseling batter than the CEO that you are" Palisa said making everybody in this room to nod "You mean that I'm a bad leader? "I didn't say that you are good at it but you are more good at helping people like your mother use to" Palisa said I nod "Mam Lizzy was a mother to many" Kwanda said Palisa look at her and smile kwanda smiles too "Kwanda I'm sorry I should've not acted that way

that was never my battle to fight" Palisa said that made Mbuso to wear his huge smile "Apology accepted I'm sorry too Palisa I wish I had the power to do things differently" kwanda said "Apology accepted but trust denied" Palisa said laughing poor Kwanda just nod "Mzala"! She looks at Dineo "Matight" Dee said "You will get me arrested let me excuse myself before you expose me further" laughing I'm the one who came up with matight name Kwanda she likes to wear things that tight her and exposes her body "Cuz and sis Dee don't start" Palisa said getting up "Where are you going now?" "I'm leaving before you and sis Dee get me into trouble" Palisa said "You already in trouble Palisa when you promised Mr Zwane that you will go back home in time" Dee said "Oh that don't worry about that my favorite cousin got her father in palm" Palisa said Mbuso smile "Thanks for reminding me of something Palisa I promised him that I will behave and be loyal to him" She look at me "Mzala" she said I won't stop her even my father won't do

that our happiness comes his first priority than everything he allow us to do our own mistakes and learn from them that my father. "Just go before I change my mind" she takes her bag. "Good people I will see you tomorrow" Palisa said "When was the last time you went to your flat? Mbuso ask "Just drive me there and I will tell you" Palisa said is she avoiding my brother "I'm taking a break today MP will take you wherever you want" Mbuso said "Don't worry I will request a taxi" Palisa said "Let me help you to request that taxi of yours" Mpilo said taking her phone from her a man is a heir to a wonderful and illimitable power but until he becomes aware of that and consciously identifies himself with that they lie dormant and unexpressed and they might just as well not exist at all as far as their use to man in his unawakened state is concerned "Well MaZwane your taxi is patiently waiting you" Mpilo said Sponsored is concerned "Well MaZwane your taxi is patiently waiting you" Mpilo said among my brothers the only person who

changed is Sihle. "Why do you always trick me"
Palisa said "Let's just go before your taxi leave"
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goodbye. however men can become awakened to
the great truth that they is a spiritual being when
theyhe learns the little petty self and finite
personality are not their real self at all but merely a
mask to the real man is when he realizes that the
spiritual ego is a true divine spark of or branch or
twig of the eternal logos. "Mommy" twins shout
snapping me out of my mind I guess my in-laws are
here "Babies" they all hug me 2 pairs of twins and
my lovely niece. Jabulile she seems happy today
she's the only child who's always wearing her
serious face. "Jabu what happened? She look at and
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a boyfriend" Keitumesti whisperers making me
laugh this girl she always think about boyfriend and
middling her nose in people's business and that
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books" she look at me "Now? She ask "No Tumi

next year" she look at me "Of course now Miss Mchunu" She look at her mother and Mbuso "Mama why now? Mbuso ask "I want to see her books then I will be sat....." I didn't get to finish my sentence my back pain strikes "Guys I would love to sit and enjoy ourselves but I'm I need to rest" "Are you alright? Zodwa ask I've forgotten about her "Mbuso you will show her your room you will use a guest room" he didn't say he will be sleeping here. "We will go with her" Mbuso said "Mbuso Zodwa came to me that means she's" this pain is getting stronger I got up and and I just fell without slipping into. "Arg" I let out my tears this pain is unbearable is getting worse "Are you okay let me help you up" Martin said my vision is blur due to tears. "Okey Luther bring her bag Mbuso bring the car closely" Martin ordered everyone starts to panic from back pain to cramps it feels like I've just peed on myself. This happened to me before "What is happening? "Your water just broke" Dee said "I'm going to give birth my mother she's not here why? I Shout like I'm

losing my mind this is not funny anymore this is painful. "Zodwa you had my baby's bag" Why I'm being bossy now "Luther has it" Zodwa said "I will carry her" Martin said he has to "I know doc just make sure that she's fine I will follow you" Sihle said "Sihle don't call Palisa and Mpilo please awww" My husband just carried me to the car and I'm crying in pain. All I'm thinking is how I'm I going to do this I'm going to give birth. My mother she's not here Honestly I'm scared I need someone to remind me that I can do it and that person she's gone. I gave birth before but I didn't experience this kind of a pain I feel so scared "Come on wifey be strong for us and our baby" Martin said "I'm in pain and I need to get this baby of yours out of me" He laughed at me and continued driving. "Drive a bit faster Martin" shouting My legs are feeling numb and the pain is becoming unbearable. We arrive at the hospital and he put me on a wheelchair and take me to the ward. NOSIPHO We remain on his bed. He can't just leave I know it will be a month. "What if I don't

want you to leave? " Than I will stay" Sthe said "Stay then" "I need to check on my business Nono if Kansas was nearby I was going to stay" Sthe said TO BE CONTINUED UNEDITED

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shouting My legs are feeling numb and the pain is becoming unbearable. We arrive at the hospital and he put me on a wheelchair and take me to the ward. NOSIPHO We remain on his bed. He can't just leave I know it will be a month. "What if I don't want you to leave? " Than I will stay" Sthe said "Stay then" "I need to check on my business Nono if Kansas was nearby I was going to stay" Sthe said TO BE CONTINUED UNEDITED

149 NANDIPHA I'm in excruciating pain. I keep on shading sweat and keeping on twisting and turning nothing is helping It feels like I'm making this pain worse. Im experiencing a very painful labour pains. I swear I'm never ever going to have a baby again never Dr William just gave up on me. He couldn't bare to be slapped by me. So Martin his my doctor why would he allow people to assist me he promised me that we are in this together. I keep on listening to Martin and his female friends telling me stories. He enters he look at me and fucus on his

work. Wow how professional is that I'm now alone he doesn't have any pain he doesn't care about me but his job I swear if I make it alive I'm going to kill him that's a promise. "2 cm" Martin said my eyes just pop out he's been telling me the same shit. This pain is unbearable why can't he give me something to stop the pain at least or inject me or something that will make this pain to go away. "No.... just do something I want this thing of yours out now help me please" Crying all my eyeballs out. I can't take it anymore. He hold my hand "Mrs Tremblay you still far please bare with me" Martin said did he just say I must bare with him I must bare this unbearable pain Or why don't he just take me to his warm embrace at least tell me that everything is going to be alright than telling me to bare with him. This situation is depressing me I swear I'm lossing my mind and it makes me cry even more he's suppose to be telling me 'its going to be okay' "Ouch awwww mommy" Screaming this is painful. My knees are shaking. He check my blood pressure MBUSO Trials

of life determine where we stand tomorrow. This whole situation is hard. I came here to see my mom welcome her back plus I was hoping to talk to her about my leaking relationship boom everything just went upside down. Zodwa was just telling me that she will be staying with Nandi for a while since her relationship is going down. "No she can't give up now" Nonjabulo said we look at her Dr Tremblay didn't allow us to go with them unless we were willing to sit in the waiting room until tomorrow even worse until visiting hours. "Oh Jesus our beloved King through the hands of your loving Mother marry who carried you in her womb and she trusted the Lord as we are right now I consecrate aunt Nandi and the baby to you place them under your protection shadow make sure that she doesn't give up I permit that they will be fine like you and your mother were in grace and virtue before God and angels Amen" Nonjabulo prayed without warning us "Sis are you okay? "If you could just stop worrying I will be alright" Nonjabulo said

and left the room. When she's like this she seems to forget that I'm her brother and I'm older than her

"This whole situation is hard for me" Dee said "Let's get going" Sihle said "Hai I'm not going anywhere"

Dee said pregnancy is making people crazy "You shouldn't stress yourself Nandi she's in good hands"

Sihle said we must never let hard times break us. We need to be strengthened by the adverse circumstances we are and facing we need to allow ourselves to gain from these experiences. "Mbuso please show me your room" Zodwa said why do I always have to give away my room firstly I had to give Sihle my room in my grandmother's house now I have give my room again to Zodwa. No this need to be fixed. Yes I have my own place but there are times where I feel to be my mother's child. "Mbuso please" Zodwa beg "Heaven can you please show Zodwa my room" "She can use the guest room"

Luther said "But Nandi said" he cuts me "Pains were playing with her mind nothing she was saying that was making sense" Luther said "She was in pain

after or before giving me the instructions" "She wanted your attention that's all" Luther said Sponsored nothing she was saying that was making sense" Luther said "She was in pain after or before giving me the instructions" "She wanted your attention that's all" Luther said Somehow he's right she was not going to ask me that while everyone was here and those pain were playing their role in her Nandi she's tough but she's scared of pain that's all I know. NANDIPHA 7 HOURS LATER I'm in excruciating pain this pain is unbearable. I pray that my uterus will work perfectly and in order my cervix must remain supple and open with each painful contraction I'm giving the string a yank I was hoping that I will share the burden with this man but no he's very focus on his job "Come on Mrs Tremblay what ever you do just think about us this baby twins and Mbuso" Martin said feels like I can just give him a hot slap I don't have time to think I'm in pain. "Okay Mrs Tremblay I will count from three to one and each time I count I want you to

push" Martin said where are those grannies who once helped me to give birth to a cute little boy it was so easy than now. He count from three and I pushed this so painful with each push I'm loosing so much energy and I can't take it anymore. I'm exhausted and I have lost all the strength that I have with me. "Come on Nandi you can do mucher than this we are getting there" Martin instruct me I followe the instructions with the little energy that I have left with. "Push harder" Martin said "Mommy" Will I ever adjust the fact that my mother she's gone? I close my legs "Do not try me women just open this" Martin shouts "Just shut up" he's irritating me "Just work with me here" Martin shout again "Doc she's giving up Mrs Tremblay Dr Tremblay do something" The nurse said I can't take this anymore I'm done I'm giving up "Come on citizen I'm sorry for Shouting at you please work with me breath in" Martin said "I can't I'm...." Words failed to come out "Sister Naidoo prepare the surgery for me" I heard him shouting I lost

strength my knees and stumble I'm fucked and I'm going to disappoint him and for that I'm sorry. Heaven and Earth feels much thinner cloud of witnesses have never seemed closer but yet I see them closer. TO BE CONTINUED UNEDITED

150 NANDIPHA NEXT DAY The pain I'm feeling excruciating. I can't feel my legs I have a massive headache. I open my eyes all I see is blur I close my eyes again I'm dead I left Mbuso behind again he won't forgive me this time. Where is my mother? She's the only person I want to meet up with. "She's awake" I'm hearing her voice but it's bit to far. "Dr Tremblay she's awake" She shout why is she shouting I'm at peace I want to hear my mother's voice calling me 'Slender Given'. "Mon amour peux-tu me voir? (My love can you see me) He ask. I'm I still alive? I slowly open my eyes only to meet his eyes staring at me a smile form from his face "Thank you" Martin whisper. "Where I'm I? Whispered "At the hospital" Marin said I look

around me indeed I'm at the hospital bed I rose up but my body is daniying me to. "Relax you will hurt yourself" Martin said helping me to sit up straight he put pillows behind me making sure that I'm comfortable. I look and touch my abdomen Its painful. What happened to me. Where is my baby "Citizen my baby where is my baby? He just smile and exit the room. What did I do? Judging by his smile I bought a new life to this world. I Count my blessings with my family not years I count my life with smiles not tears. "The hours of labour and delivery are very important the contractions you had a successful surgery you bought a charming prince in this world congratulations mommy and thank you for a wonderful gift citizen" Martin said walking in holding a baby a boy again "He's health just like his mama" Martin said giving me my baby. Tears just flow amusement and joviality that's all in me When I cry because I'm sad tears makes me feel better. But when I cry because I am happy that makes me neurotransmitter feel that much happier.

he's so adorable and cute "We made it" crying
"Thank you my love" Martin said. I can't get enough
staring at my baby he's cute and adorable though
he's mixed race. He look so much like his father. He
cried in my arms. This is going to be a disaster.
"Feed him" Martin said. I did as he say. Joy comes
with love the is nothing compared to the joy that
comes after when a mother is holding her baby in
her arms. All I wanted was to hear his cry. I gave
birth to a coloured little Dr Tremblay. He look so
much like his doctor I dislike to be betrayed like
this. He cried hard "Askis baby askis" "Check his
dipper" Martin said MBUSO Waking up with good
news in the morning made my mood rise. There are
times in life when our heart just opens up and tears
roll down just for happiness. I couldn't have asked
for anything more than this. Winning the battle is
the proudest moment of our life. Thanks to my
mother I can tell that everyone is happy. Door bell
rings. Sinoir Mrs and Mr Tremblay they look at me
and Luther. "I will get that" Luther said getting up.

Having something to do is a purpose every day it makes life meaningful sunshine moonshine flowers a gentle breeze trees animals that's nature everything in this world is natural so both happiness and joyfulness are part of nature. I'm very sure that she's disappointed and happy at the same time. She was hoping for a girl well I don't blame her she's the only girl among 3 boys and her first born is a boy. Luther came back with his brother. "Mom your first born he's here" Luther announce Sponsored increasing his mother's happiness. She got up and hug his son tightly Ashley love her children sometimes I can't believe that she has five son. "Maman Mbuso devrait être celle qui fait ça" (Mom Mbuso should be the one who is doing this) Alain said what ever he said made the Tremblay twins laugh and look at me. "Welcome uncle Alain" I don't know what did he say but I head my name was included he walks slowly to Keitumetsi "Won't you give me a welcome hug" He whispering but we heard him she got up and kiss him on his cheeks

she's herself hence why everyone likes her. "If I were you I was going to focus on my books before hurricane comes back" she laugh and look at me "Mbuso jelouse doesn't suit you" Keitumetsi said laughing "Oh wait you called her hurricane I want to tell her" Keitumetsi said we laugh Nandi she's a good influencer to many children I never heard aunt Dee wanting to check her daughter's books she's always focus on fashion and uncle Sihle. "For your information my books are up to date" Keitumesti said "Okay Tumi since she's not here can I see your books" she got up and walk away "Heaven Nevaeh Nonjabulo and Jabu I also want to see your books tomorrow" they look at me I'm sure they're insulting me. "I'm the older brother is my duty to take care of my sisters" "Okay big brother" Nevaeh said Keitumetsi came back I check her books. I'm impressed by her school work than before. "I'm Alain Tremblay" introduce himself to his neices I must say I have the same impression that my mother had I met him a week before my mother's

wedding day but yet we get along like we knew each other for years "It's nice to meet you I'm Heaven Tremblay and she's Nevaeh Tremblay" Heaven said he look at me and Luther "Nandi and Martin will explain" Luther said PALISA Sometimes struggles is exactly what we need in our life. If we were to go through our life without any obstacles we would be crippled. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. Give every opportunity a chance so I leave no room for regrets. We received good news Nandi gave birth to a boy. Mpilo and I we had a great day together he kissed me leaving the teeniest on my smiling lips "Penny for your thoughts" Mpilo said "Hmmmm" he look at me "What's wrong" Mpilo ask "I'm scared to be rejected MP" " Relax flower you are really something MaZwane to me" Mpilo said he's fascinating I smile "How on earth you were single for long time? Mpilo ask "Because I didn't have time for boys" he look at me "I was waiting for the right person and I think you are that right person to carry

my love" he smiles love can make people do crazy things who would've thought that one day I will be in a relationship with someone especially in the same room with a guy that's was not my style. I guess nobody wants to die single. "I've met lot of wrong people we didn't work out hopefully this will work together we will carry each other's love burden and build home together" Mpilo said my relationships never last hopefully this one will last. "Let's get ready to go" Mpilo said leaping on my stomach. "Get ready on in my stomach? He kiss my stomach we've been lying and cuddling kissing it's so hard to wake up mind me it's already 11am we haven't have a breakfast nor bath. He lean over and draws me into a steamy kiss. "We better get ready" "Aw" Mpilo said he makes me smilelaugh and he let me see the world differently. "Okay MP you got me all I want is to be with you since we don't get to see each other everyday let's spend this day together" Nandi must forgive me for today. My cousin tougt me that I should be prepared to get hurt by love.

Getting hurt is one of the things that make me nervous about being in love it's hard to trust people believe me . He looks at me with his sweet vulnerable if I didn't know better I going to say aunt Lizzy had an affair with Mpilo's father. Mpilo and Nandi look bit alike. "Nandi will forgive us for today" Mpilo said. TO BE CONTINUED UNEDITED

151 NANDIPHA Life is a series of ups-and-downs I just got up where I had fallen where I failed to be a mother to my first born I've always got a chance to get up one more time than I've fallen meaning got multiple chances in life from abounding my son to termination of his baby now I got a chance to be a mother again. The past should be a learning experience not an everlasting punishment what's done is done constantly going over the ordeals my previously faced it will only be a burden in my life. I got a chance to be a mother again after so many mistakes. During labor pains I almost gave up. I felt throwing my hands and giving up and say the word I

give up in full without being scared but the man above all things have plans for me life is unfair sometimes but that's no reason to give up on it. The baby just cry. I lift him up and start to breastfeed him "Sorry baby" as I breastfeed him. Trouble enter at my ward Mbuso and Luther are trouble when they are together but I must say hearing them laughing hurried away my worries "Mommy" Luther said making me smile the baby cry again "You see you made my baby to cry" "Bring him here" Mbuso said sitting down "I don't trust you" he chuckle I keep on trying to calm him down "Come on mommy why don't you trust me? Mbuso ask taking the baby from me he just calm down like he was not crying always turn a negative situation into a positive situation. "Big brother has a magic touch for his little brother" Mbuso said making me feel jealous positive energy is attracted to positive energy. "When one door of happiness closes another opens but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one that has been opened for for

you" Dad said walking in with a smile on his face. Our creator remembered me that I'm a woman not a girl. "Thanks dad for your wise words than this too who are mocking me" We laugh "Congratulations and welcome to the parenting world Nana" Dad said bringing the energy to this room I'm blessed to have a family who cares about me my life is complete. "Thanks again I can't believe that I'm a mother to a new born" tears flow this is unbelievable my life just changed in a short space of time. "I'm proud of you Nana" Dad said he was meant to be on flight to check on how is his business that is based on kears City "Aren't you supposed to on your flight? "I was supposed to but I cancelled the trip for next week" Dad said "Why next week? "I had to reschedule for next because I want to welcome my grandson in this world" Dad said I'm so grateful for new little blessing I didn't planned for this but it happened and I'm greatful and I don't retreat for this. "Little Blessing" Everyone look at me "This is not a little blessing we

are blessed and thank you again for the gift you bought me his name is Langaletu Rayaume Blessing Trembley" Martin said walking in. My father look at me as far as I know Rayaume means kingdom in english. "Why Blessing? Dad ask looking at me Sponsored looking at me Blessing is his middle name hence why I said little blessing "Because life gives and take the only chance that we get is to give thanks and take nothing for granted so we are being blessed with Blessing this name it doesn't mean we've it all it means we appreciate it what everthat's coming in our family" They look at me "Hello Langaletu Rayaume Blessing Trembley welcome to the world I've been waiting for you" Mbuso said puting him on a hospital baby cot I look at him his peaceful asleep this is my chance to have a peaceful nap too but I can't since I have visitors NOSIPHO I count all my blessings instead of my problems. Life could end at any second so I enjoy what I have I no longer dwell on what I don't have my life is just simply compared

to my past. PALISA Love just came to me where I did not expect it warmest hands around me he's been telling me endless stories and sharing jokes to be truthful I'm enjoying each and every moment with him I wish he would just stay with me forever.

"Have you ever wore a heel? Mpilo ask "No I'm not a fan" "Why? Mpilo ask "Because heels were invented by a woman who had been kissed on the forehead so I never been kissed on my forehead before" he laugh and kiss my forehead "Can you sing? Mpilo ask again I shake my head uncle Sthe and Nana are the only ones who are blessed with the voice to sing in my family. "I'm a bad singer and you? "What about me? Mpilo ask we have many people like uncle Sthe who wants clear picture of everything "MP can you sing? He just laugh at me "The first time I sang at church choir half of the church members never stepped their foot at church again" Mpilo said he's funny and crazy too "That means you are a bad singer" We laugh. I wish my book of life can be written in pencil there are few

chapters I would like to erase not so long I was a shy lost puppy to a ready to fight for my family's battles now I'm trying to find that little Palisa my father left q. MBUSO Picturing my mother's happiness after everything that happened to her my heart just leaps for joy and her happiness motivate me to make my relationship goal to trust and communicate with my partner that's the key of a successful relationship. I need to commit myself to my relationship. Lethu he's adorable baby. Dr Trembley did his homework I was hoping for fancy english or french baby names he just beat me by giving his son a zulu name and surprise me by translating my name into french to my little brother. I am thankful for the difficult people in my life.they have shown me exactly who I don't want to be. And grateful to be part of the family tree. TO BE CONTINUED UNEDITED

152 NANDIPHA YEAR LATER My life changed in a shot space of time. I'm not a fan of happily ever after but here I am happier than before. I'm living

my life like everyone else yes life has ups and downs the only thing we need to do is to keep on praying and God shall answer. I look at Mbuso feeding his brother Langaletu and food they don't get along. "You see this will make you stronger" Mbuso said tricking my baby to eat coming clean to Palisa and Kwanda to accept that Mbuso he's my son My father and I had to make them understand why I didn't tell everyone about this. I've decided to stay in closer contact with family whom I deeply care. I used to be more self-centered and neglected to stay in touch with my brothers. I now communicate with uncle Ernest more often I don't want him feel like he doesn't have a family yes I might not consider him as my father but the truth is that he impregnated Phumza and I was born. This has brought me so much closer to those I cherish. Forgiveness is a big fan for me I can honestly say that used be bad at forgiving others and myself too. I was equally hard on others whom I perceived had wronged me as well as on myself for all my past

mistakes. I spent a lot of time learning to forgive myself and others and this has freed me from so much anger and resentment. "Mama" Lethu said he calls almost everyone Mama than his dad papa like his sisters does "Look up there" Mbuso said pointing up Lethu open his mouth Mbuso shove the spoon Mbuso wants to kill my child One thing that I have learned is that managing my time was not a habit to me I did not realize how much I was wasting in a typical day on frivolous things like spending time clubbing and spinning my slim body like a spinning wheel watching boring TV commercials. I'm now more aware of how I spend the most precious time is whether I'm doing my job or spending time with my family. "I believe he's full now" he look at me "Aren't you taking Zodwa to school? Mbuso ask I completely forgot that Zodwa she's suppose to be in class today she's doing a first year medicine student believe me when I say that made Martin to sponsored her since they will be talking the same language. "Oops I've forgotten

where is she? "She's somewhere in the house"
Mbuso said we sometimes pay more focus on ourselves than people around us Zodwa never felt like she had a family she kept on blaming herself for being born since her mother died giving birth to her. Nobody paid attention on how she was feeling the only thing they were aware is that she was always wearing her smile. Enough about my aunt. My life is at peace people who are meant to be in my life are with me those who were in my life to destroy me some of them are gone while some of them are weighting in my life. Dee gave birth to a boy. So I have a nephew while Palisa she has a bun in the oven. Hopefully she come with a girl. "I'm ready" Zodwa said with a smile "Look at you you are making me proud" Mbuso said "And I'm proud of myself thank you sis Nandi" Zodwa said "You welcome aunt" the more people appreciate your work and time is the more you receive blessings
NOSIPHO Life is unpredictable I'm now married to Sthembiso Blessing Zwane I'm Mrs Zwane no longer

Mrs Zulu Sponsored it was a tough decision but I had to put my happiness first. Nonjabulo she's hardly home because of her calling she has many clients and she's planning to turn her father's house to a church. She's too young to make such decisions but what will I say I have to support her like everyone else. And I'm proud of her that she's still going to school. PALISA I visited Mpilo and his brother. His brother he's welcoming and caring at the same time. His family has a small number of family members but blessed with friendly smart family members. "Don't you want want a foot massage? Philani ask "I won't say no" he laugh "MaZwane the question was don't you want a foot massage the only thing that you have to say is yes or no" Mpilo said "Yes Phila" he lift my legs to his lap and shake his head "What's wrong Phila? "Do you know the gender of your child yet? Philani ask well 25 weeks pregnant approaching my third trimester and my baby is getting bigger each day uncle Sthe he understands very fast he accepted

and blessed my relationship with Mpilo I was accepting a lecture from him but since his girls happiness comes the first priority he let me be. I still can't believe that Nandi he's not his daughter because their father and daughter relationship is so tight how they communicate and collaborate you'd swear they are not a father and daughter. I don't want to check on my baby's gender I want it to be a surprise like Nandi did she was against everything no baby shower was carried. "MaZwane! Mpilo snap "What do you want MP" he look at me and shuffle away from me "I need some fresh air" Mpilo said getting up we are sitting under the shade of the house which fresh air does he want? "Why don't you take me home if I'm boring you" "Palisa you and your baby you are making me mad" Mpilo said wow me and my baby. I look at him "Say that again and see if I won't punch you on your face" "What's what I'm talking about Pali" Mpilo said I don't know when did I got up "Okay mbali yenhliziyoyami masingalwi" (the flower of my heart let's not fight)

Mpilo said bringing me to hug him. MBUSO Yeah life can be so challenging but we have to hold to it I and Kwanda we are taking things slowly we are not rushing to married or to be parents yet but good news is that we are more connected than before and thanks to my mother for that. NANDIPHA After dropping Zodwa at medicine University I decided to drive to the nearest shopping centre to get myself and my kids some clothing. "That will suit you perfectly" I turn and look at the person who is talking to me to my surprise is Nolitha she's a shop assistant judging by her uniform. "Hey" "Hello.... Hi" Nolitha said I've moved on and I've already forgotten about what she did to me. "How are you doing?" "I'm really trying" she said "Look I'm sorry" she add "It doesn't matter anymore what is done is done" she look at me "You still have a good heart as ever" Nolithando said A mere theory of life that remains but a theory is about as useful to a man as a gilt-edged menu is to a starving sailor on a raft in mid ocean. It is irritating but not stimulating. No

rule for higher living will help a person in the slightest until that person reaches out and appropriate it for ourselves until we make it practical in our daily life until that seed of theory in our mind blossom into a thousand flowers of thought and word and act. So in life love accept and leave your life to the fullest than looking for what people are doing. Set your goals but remember some of the goals are not meant to be reached but to do what you love. I'm Nandipha Tremblay that was my story. Endings are powerful to get the ending wrong and your growth could be stunted by lingering baggage that saps our energy and attention a properly executed ending however provides closure and cleanliness readying we attack the new with refreshed vigor. I hope you enjoyed my journey and thanks to be part of it. THE END

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