

LOVE & FATE



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PROLOGUE

MJ

MJ



Nomvelo : how is work ?

I look at her

Me : work is fine

Nomvelo : still no regrets about moving to Durban ?

My sister and I get along very well

But she sometimes forgets that we're twins

And she's not older than me

Me : none

Nomvelo : I see , I'll be going
back home

She had come for a business
summit this side

Me : when ?

Nomvelo : tomorrow

Me : I won't be able to see you
off

Nomvelo : Plans ?

Me : going to the Cele Kingdom

Nomvelo : you're still supplying
them ?

I nod

Nomvelo : must be making
good money

Me : yeah , but that king is full
of shit . I'm glad he's stepping
down , and his son will be taking
over

She laughs

Nomvelo : how so ?

Me : he oppresses his people

Nomvelo : well they're royals

Me : still , those people have rights and all

Nomvelo : it's his kingdom , he surely doesn't know that

Me : that's nonsense

Nomvelo : you're just doing
business , focus on making
money

Me : yeah , that's what I've
been doing the last five months

Nomvelo : keep it like that

She gets up

Nomvelo : I will see you when
you come that side

Me : take care

I get up and we hug

Nomvelo : I love you

Me : I love you too

We pull out and she walks out

I turn back to my chair

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Sage

SAGE



Makhulu : your mother called

I sigh , because I know it's not
good news

Me : I am going there , she
really has no reason to be on
my case

She smiles

Makhulu : don't be so upset ,
maybe she will buy you clothes
this time

Me : she won't , why would she
spend her money on me ?

I know the only reason she
wants me to come , is so I can
clean her house

Since that rich stingy husband
of hers won't hire a maid

So when it gets too dirty , she
always calls me to go clean for
her

I've already packed my plastic
of clothes

My poor grandmother is taking
her last money , to give me as
taxi fare

Knowing very well that her
daughter won't refund it back

She doesn't even care about
her own mother

I was 5 when she left me

My father had only been buried
for a few days

She said I reminded her of him ,
she left me with her mother

Months later she was married
to some old white man who
died

After him , she met the current
husband

They have two daughters

Of course they're the golden daughters , I'm just not part of their family

My mother has never wanted me

She doesn't care that we're suffering

She loves her rich husband
daughters more than she loves
me

It's painful , I don't want to lie

I'm 20 today , and I feel like a
curse of some kind

I dropped out of school in grade
5

We pay school fees here at the village

And my grandmother couldn't afford

I was forced to drop out

I work at the village field , just to make ends meet

I'll be free this weekend , that's
why she knew to call me

I don't even know why my
grandmother bothers herself
with my mother

And she keeps telling her about
our lives

That woman doesn't care about
me or her mother

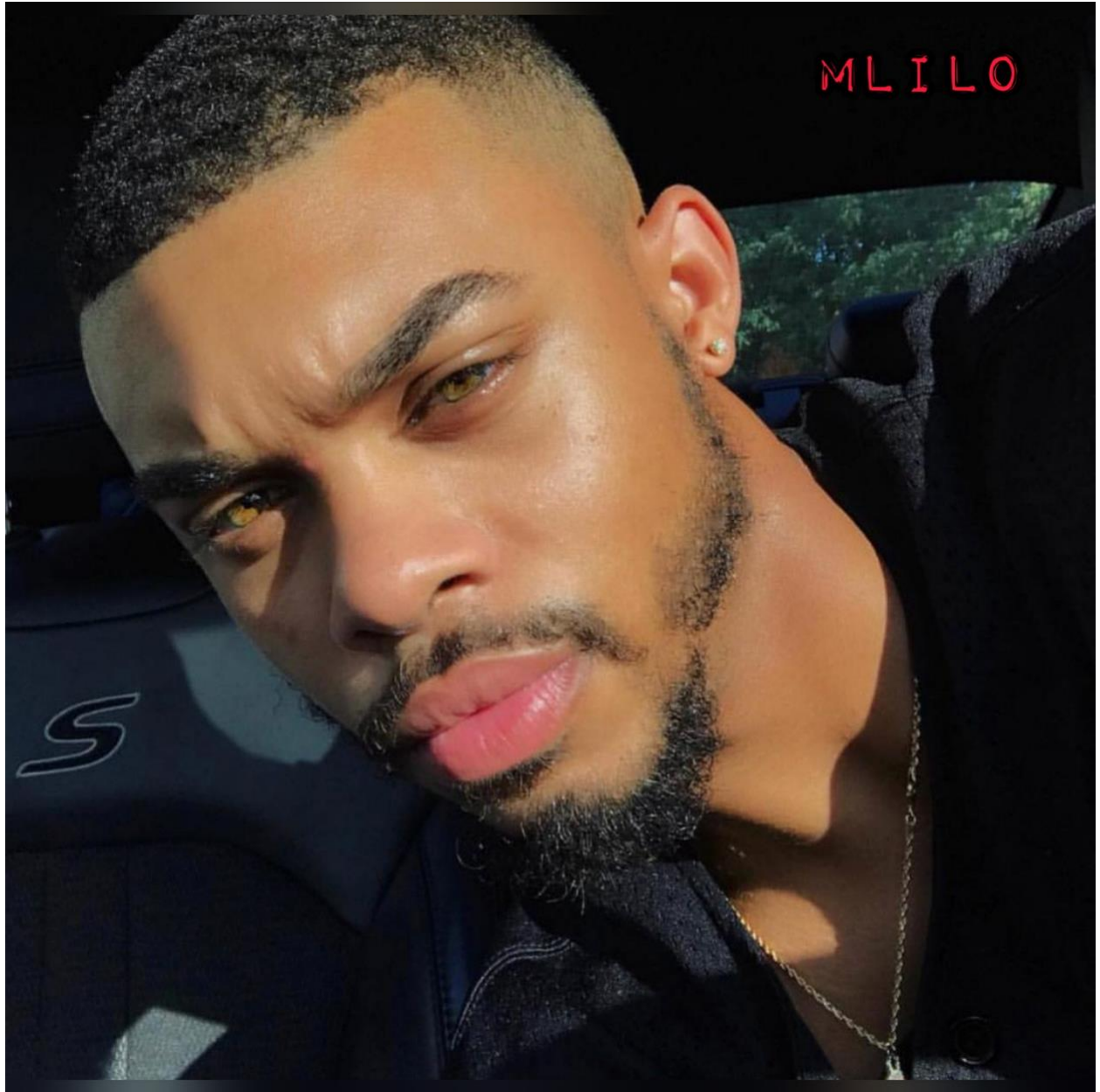
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Mlilo



Buntu : I'm going to the
plantation , do you want to
come with ?

I look at him

Buntu : I mean , do you want to
come with ?

Me : no

Buntu : you're home yet so sour

I chuckle

Me : let's stop right there

Buntu : you not angry about

He shrugs

Me : about what ?

Buntu : the throne ?

Me : I don't care about that , I
never said I want to be king

He laughs

Buntu : okay , let me leave you

Me : I'm ...I'm going to leave
later on

Buntu : to your house ?

Me : no , to Durban . I'll be back
on Sunday or Monday

Buntu : alright , I'll tell father

Me : thanks , I don't want to
face him

I get up walking out

My brother and I get well very fine

He's the youngest , yet he's the crown prince . Beats me how my father got to decide that

According to royalty , that's my seat because it's my birth right as the first prince

But my father just does what he
fucking wants

I'm not moping over it , I won't
even fight Buntu because I
don't want anything to do with
the throne

I get into my car driving to my
house

I don't live at the palace

I have my own house

When you're my age , you feel
the need to have your own
space

That was just it for me

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INSERT 01

Sage

Makhulu : take care of yourself

Me : I will

We hug

Me : let me go , I hope I'll find a taxi and get to Durban before it dawns

I'm really scared of the city

I'm your ordinary village girl , I
know nothing about city lights

I'm not even clued up about a
lot of things

So I hate even going to that
place

They always make me feel like
an idiot

Because I don't know most things like them

We live in a mud house , we don't have electricity just a small solar we use for lights

We still draw water by the village river

Life is just plain for me , there are no standards

Makhulu : okay , don't forget
your food

I was up early , and I cooked to
have food along the way

It's a three hour drive from the
village to Durban

Me : take care , I'll see you on
Sunday

I have to be back on Sunday ,
because Monday I have to be
on the field

Makhulu : okay bye

I walk out , and take the long
walk

It's even rare to find a taxi
around here

I could walk until I reach the
main road before I find one

The sun is scorching hot

My poor sensitive skin is feeling
the insane heat

I keep walking , turning back
trying to see if there's no taxi
coming

But there's nothing

I guess I have some more
walking to do

And I'm still far from the main
road

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MJ

King Cele : these look good

Me : they always look good

He scoffs

This old man has attitude for days , and it's fucking annoying

If I didn't want his money , I wouldn't be here

But he always gives my people trouble , which is why I decided to come myself today

King Cele : from now on , you'll be dealing with my son prince Buntu . He's the next king in line , he will be crowned in the coming weeks

That was just unnecessary information for me

I didn't need to know it at all

Me : okay

King Cele : come in for a drink

Me : no , I have to drive back to
Durban

King Cele : you can spend the
night here in my kingdom

If I didn't know better , I would
say he wants to have me
assassinated tonight

Me : business duties

He sighs

King Cele : suit yourself Phakade

He turns to walk away , I head
to my car . This man is annoying
, and he thinks he's all that

I get in and drive off

Heading for the main road , I
notice a figure by the side of the
road

I slow down , and notice it's a
woman

Well a young woman , she's
even younger than me that
much I can tell

I stop next to her , and wind the
window down

Me : sawubona (hello)

She lifts her eyes , but she says
nothing

Me : where are you going ?

Her : Durban

Me : where in Durban ? It's a
big city

Her : Umhlanga rocks

Me : okay , I'm going to Ballito .
Let me give you a lift , I'll drop
you off where you are going

She's hesitant , and I can't
blame her

These days women cannot trust
anyone

Me : what's your name ?

Her : Sage

Strange

Like what sane Zulu person names their child Sage ? She doesn't even look mixed

Me : I'm Mvelo Phakade , you can just call me MJ . Please introduce yourself

She smiles , and this woman is
beautiful

Even in her state , I am not blind
to her beauty

Her : Sage Shozi

Me : MaShozi , please get in the
car . I have a feeling I'm going to
marry you

She laughs

And it's just the sweetest sound
I've heard all day

Me : come on

She gets up , and picks her
plastic . I can tell it's clothes
inside

I open the door for her

Sage : I don't mind sitting in the back.

Me : ah my wife , this seat is going to be yours . So you better get used to it

I swear , that was a blush I saw there

She gets in and closes the door

I wind the window up , and
drive

Me : you can put your things in
the back

She places the plastic , and
that's when I notice the lunch
box

The aroma from there

Me : what's in there ?

She looks at me

Sage : where ?

Me : the lunch box

Sage : it's food

Me : are you going to eat that ?
Cause I am hungry

Sage : it was supposed to be my
food on the road , a 3 hours
journey is too long

Me : I know , there's a garage
not far . They have wimpy and
spur , I really don't like their
food . But if you don't mind
burger's or ribs even chicken , I
can eat what you have . We'll

stop at the garage and get you
food and snacks

Sage : you really want to eat
this ?

Why does she say this ?

Me : yeah , and it's smells good
. Who cooked ?

Sage : I did

Me : then I'm definitely eating ,
I want to know if my 19 cows to
marry you will be worth it . I'll
be paying full dowry , it can't go
to waste . I'm a Zulu man , I live
on home cooked meals not
takeaways

She laughs and hands me the
lunch box

I flash her a side smile , I'm
going to enjoy this food

Pity I am driving , but I'm eating
either way

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Mlilo

It's peaceful being out of the
village for a bit

If I could stay a bit longer here ,
I would do it

But I know my lion father would
devour me if I miss the
crowning of Buntu as king

So I'll have to head back to the
village after the weekend

Whether I like it or not

But I'm also not fighting with
my brother

So I'll be there , just to support
him

Because I know he would do the
same for me

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INSERT 02

Sage

I can't believe he ate all the
food

He didn't even leave anything

And now we're at the garage

I'm even uncomfortable , not
only the by people

But the food as well , I've never
ate anything like this

Like the most classy food we
can say we eat at the village , is
just chicken that's fried

This looks fancy somehow , and
to people who are used to it

Well , it's just basic food

MJ : you're from the village ?

I nod

He's not eating , I'm the only
one eating

I still can't believe even now ,
that such a handsome man
dressed in a suit you can tell it's
very expensive spoke to me

Let me in his car , and even ate
my food that was cooked from
a wood stove

MJ : what are you going to do in
Durban ?

Me : to see my mother

MJ : okay

He's not from the village

Unless if he's from royal

Me : are you from the royal
family ?

He smiles

MJ : no

I just nod

MJ : why you asking ?

Me : we don't have your kind in
the village

He chuckles

MJ : my kind ?

Me : likethe clean expensive
kind

MJ : you're clean

Oh well

Is he mocking me ?

MJ : what kind of clean do you mean ?

Me : the kind from city people ,
if you can see my mother and
her kids you'll

Me and my big mouth

I keep quite and continue eating

MJ : I'm still listening

Me : it doesn't matter

MJ : we should get to know
each other while we can

Me : I don't know you

He chuckles

MJ : I'm from Joburg , that's
where home is . I'm 26 , and I'm

into farming . I have tons of farms , around Durban mostly . That's what I do , I supply fruits and vegetables . That's what I do to the kingdom , I'm not related to them . I hate those people , especially that arrogant king

I laugh

He's not lying there , the king is something else

And he's very feared

MJ : I have no kids , you're still
to bare my children . I'm not
married yet , because I'm still
yet to marry you

Me : you're strange

MJ : how so ?

Me : how do you just meet
someone and say you'll marry
them ?

MJ : it's called love at first sight

I don't know what that is

MJ : did I leave anything behind
?

I shake my head

MJ : then I'm listening

Me : I'm 20 , I live with my grandmother . I'm not that educated , and I work at the village field . I dropped out at school in grade 5 , school fees increase with each grade . And my grandmother couldn't afford it anymore

I go back to being quite

MJ : that can't be all , you were speaking about your mother and siblings

Me : half siblings , my own father died . They just live lavish in the city , and they don't care about us .

MJ : but you're visiting ?

Me : no , she wants me to go be her maid . I'm going to clean her house , I'm going back to the village on Sunday

He goes quite , I don't know what's the meaning of that

I continue eating , until I'm done

And he pays the bill

We leave going to the garage ,
and he tells me to pick snacks

And I don't even know most of
them

I just take whatever , and I don't
even know if I'll be able to eat
all of them

We walk back to the car , and
he drives

MJ : but how do I get a hold of
you ? Do you have a phone ?

Me : no I don't

MJ : ah MaShozi ! Then I have
to see you before you leave , so
we can fix that . I want to
continue conversations even

when you're not this side , even
for this weekend . We should
talk

I just nod

I don't know how we're going to
fix that phone problem

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MJ

I look at her

I'm parked outside this mansion

And what she told me annoyed
me

Like , my mother can move the
world for me and my siblings

I don't understand how does a
mother choose a man over her
own child

It just makes me sick to my stomach

Me : I'll be here tomorrow around 15:00 , please come out and check me

Sage : if I can get away , but she mostly watches me when I clean

Me : make a plan please , I'll
stick for an hour or so

Sage : okay , I'll try

Me : thank you

She fiddles with her fingers

I lean my hand over and hold
her hand

I tilt her chin with my hand , we
face each other

Me : please be my girlfriend

She smiles

Me : I'm serious , I want to
marry you

Sage : you're strange

I chuckle

Me : I know , you already hinted

Sage : what does it mean being
your girlfriend ?

Me : you're so innocent , and
it's cute .

Sage : that's a compliment ?

We laugh

Me : just give me a chance , and you'll figure it out along the way what being my girlfriend means . I'm more focused on marrying you , than dating

Sage : but don't you have a city girlfriend ?

She's not gullible after all

Me : I don't , I work a lot .
Relationships require time , and
that's something I'll have to
make for you . I promise I'll
come see you as often as I can
in the village

Sage : okay

Me : okay ?

Sage : I'll be your girlfriend

I smile

Me : you have to behave , you can't have another guy take you as his girlfriend

She giggles

Sage : I think I understand that part

Me : and now , I want to kiss you . Can I do that ?

Sage : I don'tI've never kissed anyone

Me : it's okay , I'll teach you

I peck her soft lips a few times , before capturing her lips into mine

She doesn't kiss me back for a while , until she gets the hang of it slowly

And she places her hand on my arm , kissing me back

My dick , with its own mind doesn't help but get hard

I'll fucking ignore this shit

Because I want this kiss to last

I place my hand on her thigh ,
and she's wearing a long dress
but it's closer to skin

After a while she pulls out
catching her breath

She's blushing as hell

Me : you're beautiful , I've
never seen such beauty

She giggles

Sage : II feel funny

I chuckle

Me : it's love

She laughs

Sage : meaning I love you ?

Me : you most definitely do

She places her hands on her
face , I laugh

Me : the good thing is I love you
as well , so we love each other

She squints her eyes

I'm so going to enjoy this relationship

Me : I'll see you tomorrow okay ?

Sage : okay

She says with a nod

I lean over for another kiss ,
before we part ways

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INSERT 03

Sage

I woke up very early today

I slept outside by the cottage ,
they never allow me to sleep in
their fancy house

I wasn't even allowed to call my
grandmother

Just to tell her I'm here and that
I'm okay , I arrived here safe

But it doesn't matter

I don't have a phone , so yes I
asked them to borrow me one
just to call

I'll clean today , and tomorrow
I'll be leaving

I'm just in a less sour mood
because of MJ , just thinking
about him I'm all smiles

I don't know though , maybe
I'm crazy

How can some strange guy I
met yesterday be making me
smile like this ?

I really hope I'll be able to go
out and see him

I can't believe I have a boyfriend

Okay !

Never mind that , he might just
change his mind

But lord !

I got my first kiss

Yes !

My first kiss

And couldn't be more happy , it
was just the best feeling ever

I'm wondering if he felt what I
felt on that kiss

I sigh

What if he doesn't come back
and I never see him again ?

Now that would just be sad

I continue hanging the curtains

I've already done the windows ,
and the blankets

I am tired , but I have to push
and get done

So I can leave tomorrow

I can't leave my grandmother
alone for too long

My mother wouldn't care to
just have me around here

For as long as she wants

Just as long as her house is
clean

After all I'm just useless to her

She doesn't care that I hold a
job

Just the fact that I'm not
educated , that's all she cares
about nothing else

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MJ

She laughs

Nomvelo : you met some
strange girl and you want to
marry her ? Mvelo I thought
something was wrong with you ,
but now I most definitely know

Me : she's not strange , that's
your future sister in-law

Nomvelo : my brother , what happened to you ?

Me : mxm , I think love at first sight just hit me very hard

She burst out laughing

Nomvelo : you caught the bug

Me : very bad

I'm parked outside the house

And it's almost 16:00 , she
hasn't come out

And I'm not leaving here
without seeing her

I barely slept just thinking about
her , and that kiss

Nomvelo : your father will be pleased

Me : why would he be ?

Nomvelo : she's from the village , he will definitely approve because she's not some gold digger . And the way you have described her , I think she's a lovely person

Me : mhm , she's my reason to come back to Joburg . Just so she can meet the parents

Nomvelo : Ohhhmy dear brother

We laugh

Me : listen , I need to go see my wife . We'll talk

Nomvelo : yhoh ! Greet her for
me

Me : bye

I drop the call

I look at the time , and it seems
like I'll wait out here forever

I walk out of the car , and ring
the gate monitor

Strangely it just opens , without
anyone answering

I walk inside , and knock at the
door

Some Barbie opens the door ,
too much make up

The fake hair and all its just too
much

Her : oh hi handsome

Me : is Sage here ?

She smiles

Her : I ...

Me : please call her for me

Her : how do you even know
our maid ?

Maid ?

I'm sure she's one of the
favourite sisters

Some guy comes behind her

He looks at me.

Her : hi Daddy

Him : who is this ?

Me : my name is MJ , I'm
looking for Sage

Him : mhm ...what is she to you
?

The fuck is it to him ?

Me : she's my girlfriend

The girl laughs

Her : that dirty village thing ?

She must have lied to you , and
said she lives here . She's only a
maid

Me : actually , I know exactly
where my girlfriend is from .
She didn't tell me any lies

Him : Faith go call your sister

Oh ! So he can acknowledge her like that ?

Him : I'm going out

He passes through , and she walks back clearly annoyed of course

After a while she comes , and
she looks so tired

She's shocked seeing me

I take her hand closing the door

We walk to my car outside the
gate

Me : I missed you

Sage : you were brave to walk in there , I'm sorry they were just on my case

I can tell she's worn out

These people have no shame

Me : give me a hug

I pull her into my arms , and we hug

Me : I love you so much

Sage : and I love you

We pull out of the hug

Me : I got you something

Sage : what ?

I hand her the plastic

She takes it and looks inside ,
taking the phone

Sage : it's a phone ?

I nod

Sage : Mphazima , I wouldn't
even know how to

Now I'm not crazy for seriously
seeing marriage here

I'm going to be called by my
clan names , it'll definitely be
worth every penny

Me : I'll teach you , all you just
need to know it's receiving my
calls and answering them

She laughs

Me : the rest you'll just learn

Sage : thank you

She hugs me , I give her a side
kiss

Me : no need to thank me , it's
for the both of us . This way I'll
get to talk to you , everyday

Sage : I thought you won't come
back

Me : why not ?

She shrugs

Me : believe me when I say , I
love you

She smiles

I just wish we had more time
with each other

Tomorrow she's leaving already

And I would have loved to
spend more time with her

But this is only the beginning

And I guess we'll get that time
together as time goes on

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INSERT 04

Sage

Faith : he's going to use you ,
sleep with you and discard you
like trash . Men like that , date
girls like me . You're just
wasting your time with him , he
will take this village mentality
out of you . He will be your
biggest lesson about men

She's been on my case since MJ left , and I got in the house just to finish what I've been doing

Faith : if I dare see that handsome man again , trust me I'm going to snatch him right under your village nose . But then , at least I told you

She laughs

Faith : have some dignity
though , don't ever bring men
into my mother's house

Voice : what men ?

I tremble at the sound of her
voice

Mom : Faith what are you
talking about ?

Faith : your village whore had a man here

She says walking away

I look down not knowing what's going to grace me

Mom : how dare you disrespect my house like that ?

Me : I

And she slaps me

I hold my cheek feeling the
burning sensation

Mom : go finish your duty , I
want you out of my house
tomorrow morning . Is this what
you're doing in the village ,
subjecting your grandmother to

such behaviour ? You're useless
for nothing , busy chasing men

She clicks her tongue waking
away

I walk outside to get the
blankets , and my tears flow

It just hurts the way she hates
me

And how she doesn't treat me
like her child

It hurts

I take the blankets walking
inside

I go the room where I have the
curtains in , I still need to fold
them

I turn hearing the bathroom
door open

And I scream seeing Keith
walking out naked

I rush for the door , why is he
bathing in here ?

And he knows I'm in here
working

Keith : why are you running away ?

I feel him grabbing my arm

Keith : what don't you know here ? You're no longer the little naïve Sage , you have boyfriends now . So you know what dick is , and that guy who was here is not a boy he's a man . You must be very open down there

I try to wiggle myself from his hold , but he's too strong for me

Keith : scream , and I will kill you and your pathetic mother

This man !

Keith : and she hates you , she won't believe shit you tell her .

I'll play victim , that I've been sleeping with you because you seduced me . And then used my one weakness , not resisting you . And said , if I stop you'll tell your mother

What the hell?

But it's useless to even scream , my mother would take his side any day

She would never risk loosing the riches all because of me

He's never done this before

He's never harassed me , he's really scaring me today

Keith : come on , she doesn't have to know . And I'll make sure I take care of you , and

your grandmother . I just want a
taste

He's insane

As I feel him dragging me back ,
I lean down biting his arm

He quickly let's go slapping me

I make contact with the door ,
but I grab it open running out

Running down the stairs , I
bump into Hope

Hope : bitch what the hell ?

I don't bother paying her
attention , I open the door
running out

The small gate is opened , I
head for it going out

I keep running , now tears
blurring my eyes

I don't even know where I'm
going

But I can't take chances to stop
, what if he follows me and he
finds me ?

He will hurt me

I'll never set foot in that house
ever again

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MJ

Me : do you have it ?

He takes out the bag

Kenzo : this is all of it

Me : okay , we'll.....

My phone rings , I take it out
and seeing it's my wife to be I
smile

Me : MaShozi

Sage : pleaseplease come
find meI don't know where I
am . It's cold ...I'm scared , I
think ...I think I'm lost I don't
knowII

And she burst into a sob , I
don't even think I understood
anything and everything she
said

Me : Don't drop the call , keep
your phone on . I'll track you ,
and find you . I'm coming

I look at Kenzo

Me : bring the guys tomorrow ,
you'll get paid at my house I
have to deal with something

I run out , getting into my car

I drive out connecting my
tracker to her call

Her sniffs are just getting to me
, it's all I can hear from the
other side

And you can tell she's shivering
just by the way she's crying , it
is cold

I get her location and drive
there , in twice the speed I
should actually make it

My heart sinks just seeing the
many trees , how did she even
get here ?

I see the phone flashing , but it quickly goes off

I guess it's because she's still on the call

I run towards her , she is hugging her knees

She screams a bit , as I approach

Me : I'm sorry ...it's me

I hold her tight as she cries

She has nothing , except the
vest she was wearing and
leggings

It doesn't even seem like she
has shoes on

I pick her up walking to my car

I put her in the passenger seat ,
and jog to my side

I want to hold her in my arms
right now , but I also want to
get her home

So she can calm down and see
that she's safe

The drive to my house is quite

I run her a bath , and take out
my clothes for her while she
baths

I go in the kitchen to make her
something to eat

I just want to know what
happened

That's the only thing on my
mind right now

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Sage

In all my life , except my
grandmother I've never had
anyone treat me so right

And take care of me like he just
did right now

It's shocking

I know he probably has
questions

I guess I'm just scared

This just feels way too good to
be true

What if he turns on me ? I'll be
hurt and all

It doesn't even make sense how
I ran away from Keith

And yet still trusted a stranger
to help me

Boyfriend or not

I really don't know MJ , we just
met yesterday

Me : Keith tried to rape me

Something must be done about
my mouth

It just runs whatever it wants to
, without even thinking first

MJ : your mother's boyfriend ?

I nod , just tearing up

The thought of it all gets to me

I really don't want to think the worst , but what if he had done it ?

I would have never been the same ever again

He says nothing , but gives me a hug

I can't stop my tears

I'm never going back there ,
even my clothes I left there I
don't care

And the little money I had for
transport

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INSERT 05

MJ

I place a kiss on her forehead

She's sleeping so peaceful , I
don't even want to wake her up
. I'll just be quick and back

I walk down , grab my car keys
and walk out heading to my car

I drive out to Umhlanga rocks

Parking in front of their house

And I get out my car , ringing
the gate monitor

Voice : hello ?

Says that annoying voice from
the girl I met yesterday

I don't even remember her
name

Me : is your father home ?

Her : he's not feeling well

Me : I'm here on business , it's rather urgent

I'm surprised she hasn't caught on my voice

Her : okay

The gate opens I walk in

And she's standing by the door

Her : oh boy ! Bad day for you ,
that village girl of yours stole
my father's wallet and she ran
away . She's not here , just turn
and leave

She turns back before she
focuses her attention back to
me.

Her : you can always take my
number I'll

Voice : Faith who's at the door ?

Oh yeah !

That's her name

She just looks like a fake Barbie
doll , everything is too much

But hearing the bastards voice ,
I don't waste time pushing her
aside

I walk in

Keith : what the ...

I draw my gun out , aiming at
his balls I fire three shots right
on his private parts

His little family screams , while
he places his hand on his
bleeding private parts

I so hope I didn't miss

Me : go report me , call the
cops tell them just how I got
into your house and shot you .
After that , tell them how you
tried to rape your own wife's

daughter . You're a fucking disgrace , and if anyone in your family knows what's good for them you all will stay away from Sage . I won't hesitate to be back , and kill all of you . My girlfriend is off limits

They're looking at me in shock

While he falls down on the floor , grunting in pain

Blood just gushing through

Me : dare me , and I'll be back

I walk out , and head outside to
my car

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Sage

I dial his number , and it rings
for a bit

MJ : MaShozi

I sigh

Me : you left me alone in this
house , I don't even know how
to use any of these things

I say just defeated

I don't understand why he left
me in his house alone , that's
just creepy

I woke up , and he was nowhere
to be seen

I should be leaving now , just to
find a taxi to take me back
home

But I left my clothes in that house , and my taxi fare is inside that plastic

I don't know what I'm going to do

MJ : I'm sorry , I had to rush to the office for an important thing . I'm coming now

Me : okay

MJ : should I bring you something to eat ?

Me : I ...I don't know

He chuckles

MJ : are you not hungry ?

Me : just a bit

MJ : okay then , I'm coming . I'm
sorry I left you alone

Me : okay

I drop the call

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MJ

I walk in , and she's sitting on
the edge of the bed

I didn't think she'll wake up so
quick

And she looks like someone
that's ready to just walk out of
here and leave

Me : hey

I stand in front of her

She looks up , I take her hand
getting her up

I place my hands on her waist ,
leaning over giving her a kiss

Me : uhmI'm sorry

Sage : I want to leave

I know she has to leave , but my
heart sinks

Me : why so soon ?

She looks down

Me : mhm , don't do that talk to me

Sage : you see just how dumb I , I'm sure you don't need this . When you can have a smart city girlfriend , not someone who will embarrass you like me . I even had to call you , cause things just look complicated around this house

Me : I'm not embarrassed , and it's not a shame that you don't know how to use those things . I'll teach you , it's not a deal breaker

She sighs

Sage : I have to go anyways , I don't even know how I'm getting back home . My taxi fare

, is inside the clothes plastic . I don't want to go back to that house . I'm sure Keith has lied about me

I am not telling her , how he painted her as a thief who ran away with his wallet

I rub her cheek with my thumb

Me : I'm taking you home

And I won't take no for an answer , I don't mind driving back to the village just for her

Me : but do you want to get you things back ?

She shakes her head

Me : those people won't do anything to you

Sage : no , I'm just sad that my grandmothers money just went down the drain . I would have given her back the money I was supposed to use for transport on Friday , and she could have used that for something else . I won't even tell her what happened , she will be shattered . And I don't want to hurt her

She sighs looking down , I give her a hug

Me : don't worry about this , but can you please not be so quick to walk out on me ?

She pulls out slowly and looks at me

Me : I don't want to loose you , and I mean that

I get a slight smile , I lean over
for a kiss that she gladly
welcomes

I lay her down on the bed ,
getting on top of her

At this point , my dick just feels
like it'll burst

I dry hump against her

I deepen the kiss , moans
involuntary escaping her mouth

I don't think she has an idea of
what she's doing to me

I cup her perfect tits into my
hands rubbing my thumb on her
nipples over my t-shirt that
she's wearing

I slowly pull out of the kiss
looking at her

We lock eyes

Sage : I feel funny

She says after a few seconds , I
chuckle

Me : I know , I feel worse

I press my dick harder against her , she bites her lower lip closing her eyes briefly

Me : want me to help you with that ?

She smiles

Sage : won't it hurt ?

I wouldn't know

Me : just a bit , but I'll kiss it
better

She giggles

I pull my t-shirt off of her , along
with the sweatpants

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INSERT 06

MJ

My clothes follow suit

I get on top of her butt naked

Parting her legs , getting in
between them accommodating
myself better

Me : if I do this , you seriously
have to tell your grandmother
when you get home that
oPhakade are coming to see her

very soon . Like this is serious
for me

She smiles , placing her hands
behind my back

Sage : you're serious ?

Me : more serious

I peck her lips

Sage : okay

She's lying she won't say

I trail down , getting on my
knees lifting her ass up a bit

Burying my face better her
thighs feasting on her coochie

Her moans grace this room , I
grab tight on her thighs

My tongue nibbles on her open
, while I suck on her clit

She tries pushing me off , but I
hold my head intact until I feel
her cum gracing my tongue

I move over , and get in
between her thighs

Capturing her lips into mine

I thrust my dick against her
open , feeling the warmth and
the moist

I position my head to her
entrance

And slowly slide it , and it's a
fucking struggle . Then it dawns
, she's still sealed . She's never
dated , I don't know what I was

thinking . I guess that just
slipped my mind

Her body is tightened , she
keeps trying to move back

I'm just holding her intact

Me : it's okay ...

She clings her arms around me

Sage : ithurts

Me : I know , I'll make it feel
better

I trust in slowly , and as gentle
as I can possibly be

Fuck !

She definitely doesn't have
huge flaps , but they work

This is the one Virgin I'm
keeping in my life , just for the
fact that i graced here first

Me : relax your body , it'll hurt
less

I whisper against her ear

Thrusting in and out of her
slowly , her coochie stretching

bit by bit just to accommodate
me further in

She slowly let loose , and I can
feel her body loosen up a bit
slowly

I slide in further going deep ,
she parts her legs further

My whole body tense up , as I
feel my load coming

I want to pull out , but fuck !

Her flaps have this dick hugged
so perfectly

This feels like home

My kids deserve to grow in here

With that , I just cum inside of
her while I continue to thrust in

She tries locking her legs behind
me , I move back

And hold her legs up to my
chest , getting on my knees
taking deep slowly strokes

She tries to push me back with
her hand , but the deeper I go in

And her walls close in on me

I move back a bit , she falls back flat on the bed having an orgasm

Her hand on her mouth , muffling her screams of pleasure

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Sage

MJ : please wake up

I'm tired , and I'm in pain

I want to sleep

Me : it's painful

MJ : I know , but I went and got you some herbs . They said they help with pain , so let me go run you a bath

Me : okay

MJ : please take this pill

Me : what's it for ?

I ask with a frown

MJ : to prevent a baby , I left
many babies in there

And he says with a smile

I'm like what the hell dude !

But I take the pill anyways

He goes on to run me the bath ,
and he shows me how these
things work

He got me a few change of
clothes

I opt for tracksuit and a hoodie
along with sneakers

It's almost noon , and it's a bit
chilly

MJ : please eat

He hands me the food , after
taking it out of what he called a
food warmer

The food is warm really ,
considering how long he got
here

But we spent most of the day in
bed making love

MJ : when am I going to see you
again ?

Me : I don't know

MJ : I'll come to the village soon

Me : okay

The door bell rings , he gets up attending to it

After a while he walks back in

MJ : please give me 5 minutes , I need to go pay the taxi drivers

I just nod

I don't know what taxi drivers
he's talking about

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MJ

It's a bitter sweet moment ,
now that I have to say goodbye

Me : I'll see you soon

She nods with a smile

Me : this is not goodbye right ?

Sage : yeah

I lean over giving her a kiss

It lasts for a while , eventually
we pull out

Me : take care of yourself for
me

Sage : I will

Me : I love you so much

Sage : I love you too Mphazima

I get out of the car , grabbing
her bag . I got her one so she

can pack the clothes I bought
her

And when I asked her to buy
snacks for herself , she bought
food for her grandmother . That
was sweet

I parked a bit further from her
home

I walk her closer on foot

Sage : drive safe , and call me
when you've arrived

Me : I will

I lean over giving her a brief kiss

Me : I love you

We hug

It lasts for a while before we
pull out

Sage : I love you

I watch her as she goes home ,
and turn back to my car when
she gets inside the house

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Sage

Me : Keith was very inappropriate , I had to run away . And I left my things there

I wanted to keep quite

But this woman knows me better than I know myself

Makhulu : what did your mother say about all of this ?

Me : you know she doesn't care

She sighs

Makhulu : she didn't even call me , to tell me what happened .
What if danger had befallen you
?

Me : it's okay , I'm okay now .
Back home safe

Makhulu : you're never going
back there again

I'll rather be caught dead

Than to go back into that house

I know my mother would never
choose me her child

If Keith leaves , he leaves with
his riches

Because she's just some gloried
house wife , she won't loose all
of that because of me

Makhulu : and where did you
get the clothes ?

Yhoh !

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INSERT 07

A MONTH LATER

Sage

I look at my grandmother and I
have no words

I always thought MJ is playing ,
when he said he's going to
marry me

It's been a month

And I have fallen for him , I love
that man so much

He's the love of my life

He's shown me nothing but love

Every weekend he comes here ,
or I go to Durban to see him

And we get to spend time
together

He spoils me like I'm a child

Now I even love and enjoy the
love making better than the first
time

He's taught me so much

Honestly , I feel so blessed to
have him

I wasn't even planning to tell
Makhulu about him

But as she noticed certain changes , woman was on my case

I didn't say much , just that he's there and yeah we're dating

That was it

He buys me all sorts of gifts , and she's never bothered to ask where they come from

Makhulu : do you know about this ?

I just nod like a 5 year old , even though I always thought he was joking

She sighs

She got a letter today from the Phakade family

Asking for my hand in marriage

Makhulu : do you want to marry
him ?

Me : II do

I say as humble as I can be

Makhulu : oh mntanam (my
child)

She sounds like she's carrying a heavy load

Me : if you don't want me to get married yet , it's fine . I'm sure he can wait

Makhulu : it's not that

She shakes her head

But my heart just breaks , I feel
like she's going to hurt me right
now

Missing the point of just how
much I love MJ

If it means we must continue
dating , and not get married

So be it

Makhulu : I am really sorry , I
hope one day you can forgive us

I frown in confusion not
understanding what she means

She gets up and leaves me
hanging

Like what was that ?

Okay !

I did not expect her reaction

I call MJ

He makes sure that I always
have enough airtime to call him

MJ : MaShozi

Me : I don't think we're going to
get married

MJ : whywhat happened ?

Me : my grandmother doesn't seem happy , and I don't think she's going to agree . Her reaction was just something else

MJ : did you ask her why ?

I shake my head

MJ : sthandwa sam , angikuboni
mina (my love , I don't see you)

Me : I'm sorry

MJ : should I come down there
?

How's that going to help ?

Me : I don't know

He chuckles

MJ : okay , I am coming there .
But for now , please calm down
and don't act out towards your
grandmother

Me : okay fine

MJ : I'll see you soon

Me : I miss you

MJ : I know you do

I laugh

MJ : that's my girl , don't be sad
. I love you

Me : I love you too

I drop the call and sigh defeated

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MJ

I had to go home twice , just to
convince my parents more
especially my father that I want
to get married

That's just how much
convincing it took

And I can't have all of that go
down the drain

I'm sure there's a reason why the grandmother reacted as she did .

And a very good reason , she's an adult after all

And I know she loves MaShozi , there's no way she would want to just hurt her . Even out of spite

But too bad , because I am not
giving up

I will marry MaShozi , no matter
what

I've never loved anyone the way
I love her

I just don't see myself doing this
life thing without her in my life

She gives me a sense of
belonging I've never even felt I
lacked

She's just everything and more

I just can't loose her

Which is why I'll go to that
village

Me : I need you to hold things
for a while

Kenzo : going somewhere ?

Me : yeah , I probably won't be
around for a few days

Kenzo : okay

Me : make sure the guys don't
pocket more than what they

should , last week's taking were very short

Kenzo : I'll talk with them

These taxi drivers can be a lot at times

They steal money , if they happen to do more loads .

Especially those ones for locals

And they think you won't notice
, because they did more loads

They're just a lot of work

But I'm doing my father a
favour , he's the one with the
taxis

They're his problem , but he's
given me this side to oversee . I
could have been a taxi driver

like he is , but I just wasn't interested . And even now , I still am not

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Sage

My grandmother has been
strange

And it's like she's even avoiding
being in the same space as me

I am scared to even ask what's
going on

Because I feel like there's
something happening here

She hasn't said anything about
that letter

It's like she's made up her mind
that it's not happening

I just wish she can talk to me.

But I'm glad MJ is coming

Maybe seeing him will just calm
my nerves

I am scared to be honest

As much as I didn't think he was
serious

I'm actually happy that he
wants to marry me

Too soon maybe yes

But I love him

I know he loves me

And maybe this is my chance at
happiness

I don't think I want to throw it
away just like that

Especially not without even
trying to see how marriage
would treat me

I'm crossing fingers here

And I'm just hoping whatever is
bothering Makhulu she can tell
me

Or at least get over it

I want things to go well

I never thought any man would
see me as worthy to be his wife
, but MJ does

Loosing all of that would really
hurt me

Would I even fall in love ever again ?

I mean , if we don't work out or we loose each other

Then a part of me would have gone with him

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INSERT 08

MJ

We spent the night at the B&B

They even know us here now

Because this is where we spend
time together when I'm around
the village

I slide out of her , bits of my
cum dripping on her thighs

She had to get on
contraceptives , I may be ready
for a child

But I know she's not , I don't
wanna overwhelm her with that
yet

I lean over pecking her lips

Me : I love you

Sage : and I love you

I move back , grabbing a towel

I wipe her clean , and wipe my
dick

I lay down next to her

I bring her over , hugging her
with my one arm

While the other is caressing her nipples

Me : what happened ?

Sage : she was just off after reading that letter , and she asked me if I want to marry you

I smile

Me : what did you say ?

Sage : of course I told her I want to marry you

I place a kiss on he forehead

Sage : I think something is going on , and she's not telling me . I mean , she said something about me forgiving them . I don't even know who's them

Me : mhm

I hold her tight into my arms

Me : it's okay , we'll figure this out together .

Sage : I don't want to loose you

Someone should tell her that I'm not going anywhere

Me : you won't , I assure you .
I'm not going anywhere , no
matter what

She snuggles , laying her head
on my neck

I chuckle placing a kiss on her
forehead . Something that feels
this right , cannot be ruined

We'll just have to find a way

We also can't make conclusions
, without knowing the old
woman's reason for her sour
reaction

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Sage

Spending time with this man
always feels so right

I'm happy he's here

He always makes me feel so
much better , I'm not even
stressed about Makhulu
anymore

Like everything makes sense
with him here

I smile , getting on top of him

I straddle him , he places his
hands on my ass cheeks

I lean over for a kiss , he kisses
me back

I feel his crotch growing

Slowly he slides it inside of me

I move my waist slowly , he
groans as he goes in deeper . I
let out slight moans of pain

I press down on him , moving
my waist in circular motion

He tightens his grip on my waist
, meeting my pace thrusting
underneath

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Cele Kingdom

King Cele : what brings you here
?

The old woman looks down ,
not being able to comprehend
the tone of the king

Of course he's not happy seeing
her here

But because of the past , it's
clear this man still holds a
grudge

And he will never forgive

Even though both her husband
and the king's wife are no
longer alive

Guilt strikes her , thinking of
how her granddaughter was
sacrificed

For things she does not even
know about

This is not fair at all , on the
poor child

Makhulu : I know my late
husband had made you a deal ,
that for entering into your
home he will give our
granddaughter to one of your
son's

King Cele : and that still stands ,
and it's about time . Isn't that
child old enough ? I've let you

two stay in my kingdom for years and years , and she's even working at my field . Quite frankly , I'm taking care of your household because I pay her

She swallows hard

She was hoping for a miracle , that maybe he would say the deal died with those who wronged him

Makhulu : I received a letter ,
from a certain family in Joburg .
Asking for her hand in marriage

King Cele : I hope you told them
it's not going to happen , that
she's not going to be theirs .
She has to fulfil her fate sealed
by your husband , and marry
into this family

She says nothing

King Cele : if you have crossed me , I will make your life very difficult . And I know you know I don't make idle threats . You better have not gave those people false hope

He calls one of his son's

Mlilo walks in

King Cele : this is the first Prince Mlilo , he's the one who will marry your granddaughter

Mlilo looks at his father confused , not having an idea of what he's talking about

Thinking maybe he didn't hear him well , did he just say he'll marry this old woman's

granddaughter ? Who is she
even ?

King Cele : my son Buntu who's
now king , will be back in a few
days and I'll officially step down
. This marriage shall go on , I
hope I make myself clear . It's a
good thing you came here , now
we have settled this matter

He looks at a confused Mlilo

King Cele : take this woman to her home , and prepare yourself for marriage

He gets up and walks out

Makhulu : I am so sorry my son

He looks at her , seeing just how shattered this woman is

He can't help but wonder if his
father did not demand her
granddaughter by force

He's capable , you can't put
anything past him

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Mlilo

I feel like I've just been dealt

I look at this woman

And she looks like she's about
to cry , and I hope she doesn't .
How would I even console her ?

I park inside her yard

Makhulu : thank you my prince

Me : Mlilo will do just fine

Makhulu

Makhulu : my granddaughter
doesn't know anything about
this , she's dying for other
people's sins . And now there's
a family that wants to marry her
, but she can't . Because your
father will terrorise us , if she
doesn't marry you

She sighs

Her voice is pained

Me : but why does he want me to marry her ? I don't believe I even know her

Makhulu : a deal my late husband made with your father , concerning your late mother

The door opens and a beautiful girl walks out , with dreadlocks hanging loose or is it braids ?

She's beautiful okay

I can't take my eyes off of her

I smile

Me : is that her ?

Makhulu : yes

I'm sorry , like I'm very sorry

But she's beautiful , I wouldn't
mind marrying her

I'll need the time to get to know
her better , but this one would
make a perfect wife

It's not like I have a stable
girlfriend

It's just fucks here and there

Me : she's beautiful

She walks over , I open the door
and get out of the car

Me : Nkosazana (princess)

She smiles , and it's a damn
cute smile at that

Me : you can open the door for her

She opens the door for her grandmother and helps her out of the car

Her : where were you ? I was worried

Makhulu : we need to talk

She looks at her confused

I'm guessing she didn't tell her
any of what she just told me ,
she's right she doesn't know

Her : okay

Makhulu : I need to go lie down
, please see that the prince is
well

She nods as her grandmother
walks inside the house

Me : I'm Mlilo

Her : Sage

Me : beautiful name , for a
beautiful woman

She smiles

We're in awkward silence for a bit

Sage : my prince ...

Me : Mlilo will do just fine

Sage : is there anything I can get for you ?

Me : maybe a date with you

Sage : a date ?

Me : yes , and your number as well

Sage : II can't

Me : on ?

Sage : both of them

I sigh

I understand she thinks she's getting married , she doesn't know she's been given to me

Me : okay , I'll see you soon

I get in the car and drive out

I need to have a talk with Buntu , he knows most villagers more than I do

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Sage

My grandmother doesn't look well

She's been sleeping since the prince left

She's awake now , and she looks like she's carrying the whole world's problems on her

shoulders . She doesn't look
good at all

Makhulu : please sit down

She's really scaring me , I have a
feeling this is about the
marriage

I sit down

Makhulu : you can't get married
to the Phakade boy

My heart shatters

Me : but why ?

I ask with tears burning my eyes

Makhulu : because you have to
marry prince Mlilo

Now that's shock !

Makhulu : your grandfather ,
wronged the king . He had an
affair with the kings wife , and
when the king found out he
wanted to have him beheaded .
But your grandfather asked for
mercy , and he offered you to
marry one of the prince's . So
his house can serve the king , to
right his wrong . And they both
agreed on that , I went to the

palace today to ask the king if
the deal still stands . And he
was very adamant it still is ,
that's when he offered his first
son . I am so sorry

I look at her tears streaming
down my face

How can they do this to me ?

Me : your husband is dead !

I don't even know the prince , I
have found love

And they do this to me

Makhulu : I wish

Me : you married a selfish man ,
what was he doing cheating on
you with his own queen ? And
he sacrifice me for his own sins ,

he should have been beheaded
. His stupid life was so not
worth my happiness being
taken away from me ...

Makhulu : Sage please

Me : don't ! In the end he still
died , so what was the point of
sacrificing me ? I hate him , I
hate him so mucheven in
death I hate him . He's an evil
ancestor , and that's why we

live in poverty like this . What a
useless disgusting old man

I get up and run out , with her
calling my name I just can't take
it

After this , MJ won't want
anything to do with me

I call him , sitting down on the
rock

Further by home

MJ : MaShozi

Me : they

I just cry

MJ : what's going on ? You have
to calm down so you can talk to
me

Me : I can't marry you

He goes quite

Me : I am so sorry

I drop the call just crying

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INSERT 09

MJ

I've been calling , and she's not
taking my calls

I know she's hurt , but she can't
shut me out

I don't pay attention a lot to
what people say

I always get my way , one way
or the other

Even in this situation

I had to drive here

It's like she knew her
grandmother was going to say
something like this

I'm parked near her home

I don't want to walk in there , I
just can't

I call in hopes that she will
answer

It's late now

It rings and she doesn't answer

I call again

Sage : Mphazima

Me : mama don't do this to me ,
I asked you to not give up on
me so quickly

Sage : I can't

Me : I'm outside , come here
talk to your man

She sighs

Me : I'm not leaving , and I
don't want to walk in there .
Because I respect your
grandmother , so come

Sage : okay

I drop the call

After a while , I see the door
opening

And she walks out , she rushes
over to the car . It's a bit chilly
outside I open the door for her

And she just bursts into a sob
into my arms

It's breaking me

I let her cry until she calms
down

Sage : they say , my grandfather
slept with the queen . The king
wanted him beheaded , and he
offered me to serve the house

of the king to save himself from being killed . Now I have to marry the first Prince

This is nonsense

Sage : the king is ruthless , he will hurt us if we dare try and not do what he wants . My grandmother is all that I have , I can run away but what about her ? Without that woman I have nothing , I have no one . I

can't just leave her , she had nothing to do with this . Both the queen and my grandfather are dead . This is all their mess

It breaks me hearing her cry like this

Sage : I love you , I want to marry you . This hurts so bad , because I want you , but I have to do this . I have to do this for the sake of my grandmother ,

even if we leave this village .
That man will haunt us , and he
will hurt us

I know that fool won't let this
lay down

I can just kill him , but then
again she might suspect it's me

And that might just ruin my
chances of being with her

I'm not giving up my wife just
like that

This woman is mine

This is the time where it has to
be proven if love can stand the
tests of time

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Sage

I barely slept

I'm sure MJ is done with me

He didn't say much last night

I don't even know what he's
thinking

He hasn't called this morning

And I'm even scared to call him

What if he rejects my calls ? I
won't be able to handle that

But I'm up early , very early

Because of no sleep

Makhulu : I'm so sorry child

Me : I'll marry the prince , I
already told Mvelo the truth .
So he knows we can't get

married , I'm sure he'll tell his family . So you don't have to do that

I grab a bucket

I don't even know what to say to her

I know she's hurting , but this is all her husband's doing

Me : I'm going to the river

I walk out heading to the river

Voice : hi

I turn and look at him

Mlilo : I've been running after
you

Me : I didn't see you

Mlilo : let me help you with that

Me : I'm fine.

He smiles

I can't deny that he's cute

Mlilo : come on , this is new for me too . I didn't even know , my father hasn't even talked to me

. But knowing him , he might just drag me tomorrow and say you're getting married let's go

He laughs , I end up laughing with him

He takes the bucket , and we walk to the river

Mlilo : how old are you ?

Me : I'm 20

Mlilo : I'm 26

So he's the same age as MJ

Me : you know I have a
boyfriend , I'm not even a virgin
anymore

He clears his throat

Me : I don't want to lie to you ,
and don't think you'll get some
village virgin maiden

He chuckles

Mlilo : I have no girlfriend , but
will the boyfriend be a part of
our marriage ?

How can that even happen ?

Me : I told him everything last night , maybe he doesn't want me anymore . I don't know , what you're asking doesn't even make sense

Mlilo : I'm sorry to hear that

Me : yeah me too , because I really love him . But I guess my grandfather sealed my fate with you

Mlilo : I think you're a cool girl ,
if we work together we can
make the marriage work

Me : you think so ?

Mlilo : I know so

I smile

He doesn't look bad himself

We get to the river , and he
draws the water himself

We walk back when he's done ,
he holds the bucket himself

I'm stunned seeing MJ's car

Mlilo : wow that's a beast , I
wanted one pity I was late .
There's only 10 in the world

I don't even know what he's
talking about

He stops next to us

MJ : MaShozi

I smile , there's just a way he
says my surname and I can't
explain it

Me : Mphazima

MJ : I have been calling
Sthandwa sam , I was ready to
bring this whole kingdom down
(my love)

Mlilo clears his throat

Me : this is the prince

MJ : the one that wants my wife

Jesus !

Mlilo : I

MJ : how do you feel about carrying that bucket back to uMakhulu , and I take my wife and leave ?

What ?

Mlilo : what ?

I want to laugh so bad , seeing
the expression on Mlilo's face

I hold my laugh in , this is an
awkward situation

MJ : come on , I'm sure you'll
think of a lie to tell Makhulu . I
just want my wife before I leave

Mlilo : let's hope you're leaving for good , because once I marry her all of this will be done

MJ chuckles

MJ : we'll see about that

Me : I've never lied to Makhulu

He gets out of the car

Me : you're not lying , the
prince is

He says looking at Mlilo

I don't know what to make of
this situation

Mlilo : it's fine you can go

I look at him shocked

Me : what ?

Mlilo : it's your last days with him , so go . He might never see you again

MJ : I don't know about that

Mlilo just walks away

MJ : he will make a good husband

What is happening here ?

He takes my hand we walk to
the car , and he drives off to the
B&B

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INSERT 10

MJ

I place her on the dressing table

Her back turned against the
mirror

I part her legs getting in
between her thighs

She locks me in with her legs
wrapped on my back

I slide my dick in , her flaps
hugging me so tight

I let out a deep groan , thrusting
in

She wraps her arms around my
neck , bringing me closer

We kiss , as I thrust in her taking
deep strokes

Her walls close it , I let her
orgasm before I pull out slowly

I move back bringing her down ,
I turn her around facing the
mirror

I part her legs a bit , sliding in
from behind

I thrust in harder

She lets out screams of pleasure
, placing both her hands on the
mirror

I place my hand on her neck ,
bringing her back

Our bodies pressed together ,
drenched in sweat

I slightly tilt her face as we kiss

Her coochie hugging on my dick
, I shoot up my load inside of
her

We stand still for a few seconds
kissing

I pull back , and place her on
the dressing table

I get in between her thighs ,
brushing my hands over them

Me : what's up ?

She shyly smiles

Sage : nothing

Me : I've never tasted anything
so sweet as you

She laughs

Me : I'll talk to my family , just
to hold on for a bit . But don't
even think for a second that ,

our marriage is not going to
happen

Sage : what do you mean ?

Me : I'm not going anywhere

I hold her hand pecking her lips

Me : let's go shower , and have
lunch together before I drive
back to Durban

Sage : whatever happens , I love
you Mphazima

Me : I know I'm loved MaShozi

I bring her down , we walk to
the bathroom

If she thinks I won't marry her
now , because of her so called
prince . She's sadly mistaken

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Mlilo

He laughs

Me : fuck off !

Buntu : so she has a boyfriend ?

I nod

Buntu : and he took her right in front of you ?

Right now I regret telling him all this nonsense that happened

Me : because he knew exactly who I am , I think he was just protecting his man ego

He shakes his head

Buntu : has father talked to you ?

Me : no

He still hasn't said anything

Buntu : I swear , he's planning this wedding . You'll get married without even knowing

Me : your father is capable

Buntu : but do you love her ?

Me : me and her , we're not yet there . But I do like her

Buntu : what about the boyfriend ?

Me : she did not hide that she loves him

Buntu : this is insane

Me : well , I'm not backing down . I want to marry her , and I will

Buntu : I don't know how you're thinking you'll make this work

Me : I will , I saw her this morning . And we're going to go on a date

Buntu : where is the boyfriend ?

Me : he surely stays in Durban ,
and he left yesterday

Buntu : I'm glad I'm not you
right now

We will work this situation out

After all , it's not like she has a
choice when it comes to me

She can always leave her
boyfriend , it's not the end of
the world

And she will be fine

She won't leave him for nothing
, she'll be having a man on her
side

That counts for shit

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MJ

Nomvelo : what ?

Me : yeah

I just had to burst about this
whole issue

Nomvelo : I'm sorry brother

Me : this is fucked up

Nomvelo : but does she love
you ?

I smile

Me : I have no doubt about her
love for me

Nomvelo : that's sweet

I chuckle

Nomvelo : so what are you going to do now ?

Me : I wish I knew

Nomvelo : this is tough , have you told dad ?

Me : not yet no , I want to come home when I talk to them

Nomvelo : that's probably best

Me : mhm

Nomvelo : my heart goes out
for you , because I know you
love her . And now , it seems
like the odds are against you

I chuckle

Me : don't be like that , I still
love her nothing has changed .
I'm still going to marry that
woman

Nomvelo : but how ?

I sigh

Nomvelo : if this was some
polygamy issue , I would
understand . But in this case ,

it's a woman with two men
wanting her

I laugh

Nomvelo : don't laugh , if it was
two women and one man
obviously they would just share
the men . But the situation is
not the same

Fuck no !

Nomvelo : why are you so quite
?

Me : I we'll talk

Nomvelo : Mvelo

Me : I need to do something
very fast , we'll talk bye

I drop the call

Getting lost deep in thought ,
leaning back against my chair

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Sage

I don't even know why I agreed
to going out with Mlilo

MJ knows , and he just seemed
to brush that off

I don't know what that means

Because according to him , he's
not going anywhere

And on the other hand Mlilo
thinks now that MJ is gone

It means he has a chance with
me

I don't know what this is

I can tell , in their own right
they seem like good guys

But this is just too much for me

It's like I've lost the love of my
life , and I'm stuck with Mlilo
now

That seems to be my reality

I don't know

Things are just awkward
between me and my
grandmother

We barely even talk

I don't know , maybe she's not
happy about what I said about
her evil husband . But I meant
that , and I won't apologize

Me : I'll see you

She just nods

I walk out , and he's parked by
the gate

It's crazy , cause he's just
causing us villagers stares

He opens the door for me

Mlilo : you look beautiful

He says with a smile , I just
shake my head trying so hard
not to smile

Me : I should stay in the back

Mlilo : for what ? That's your
seat now , no woman is allowed
to sit on the passenger seat .

Unless she's the wife or the
owner of the driver

I laugh

Another MJ

Mlilo : I hope you're going to
love what I have planned for us

Me : do tell

He chuckles driving

Mlilo : it's a surprise

I think at this point , I shouldn't
even compare him to MJ

It's best that way , I might just
be disappointed

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INSERT 11

A MONTH LATER

Sage

I don't know if I'll ever have
peace in my life

It's been a month

A whole month , and nothing
has changed

Things just seem to have gotten
intense

MJ is still here , he comes every weekend and I get to spend time with him at the B&B . I haven't gone to Durban much

He told me last weekend , that his family is still waiting for an answer

And they will wait until they get one

Mlilo is still around

We had that first date , and
another one happened a week
after

He's a great guy , I don't want
to lie

I can't say I love him , I like him

But my love for MJ still stands

Honestly , at this point I feel like
I'm hanging a rope for myself

Because both of these guys , are
great guys

In their own way

And I can't dispute that

Mlilo is dragged into this just as
I am

And I feel like it's unfair on him ,
for me to take whatever
frustrations I have for his father
and my grandfather

Because he's been nothing but
a great guy to me

Don't get me started on MJ

This whole situation is just so
unfair on him

He loved me the first day he
saw me

And now , he's just stuck with
an undecided me

I don't know what to do

Honestly if the former king was
to say , I should marry Mlilo
tomorrow

I wouldn't know what to do

Makhulu and I , we're fine

She's apologized enough

And she's all the family I have
left

MJ was supposed to come this week , but he said he's going to Joburg

I miss him , I don't want to lie

I'm startled by my ringing phone

And it's Mlilo

He bought me a phone , when I refused to give him my numbers

And when I told him MJ bought me the phone , he said I was within my rights to refuse with my number

He bought me a phone , because there was no way he was going to call me on another man's phone

Me : Magaye

He chuckles

Beats me why I call him with his
clan name

I be doing the same thing with
MJ , but that one is
understandable . He's
Mveloyenkosi named after his

father , so I can't be calling
Mvelo it just sounds somehow

Right now , I feel so
overwhelmed

It feels like I'm dating these two
guys

Even though , I haven't gotten
there with Mlilo

Mlilo : I'm outside

I'm not surprised

Me : I'm coming

I wait for him to drop the call

He doesn't like it when I drop
the call on him , just a strange
trait that he has

Especially because he's the one
who's always calling me , I
never call him

Me : the prince is outside

I say to my grandmother , she's
in her room

And I only call him prince ,
when I'm talking to Makhulu

Mlilo hates it when I call him
that

Makhulu : oh

I lean against the door saying
nothing

Makhulu : where is that
Phakade boy ?

I feel like a whore right now

Me : he's gone to Joburg

She sighs and sits up looking at me

I hope this is not a lecture coming

Makhulu : you seem to be taken by both these boys , and they want to marry you . What will

happen ? Who do you want ?
And who will you choose ?

Me : your know the king will
force me to marry the prince , I
don't know

Makhulu : what do they say ?

I shrug

Because I don't know

Makhulu : I see , well don't be
back late

Me : I won't

I don't even know if we're
leaving or what

I walk out , and he's parked by
the gate

It can only be him

MJ doesn't part directly at the gate

He opens the door for me , with a smile

Mlilo : thank you for coming without arguments

I slightly chuckle

Mlilo : can we go to my house ?
I promise I'll bring you back on
time

I've never been to his place , I
don't even know it

But he once did mention that
he doesn't stay at the palace

Me : okay

He drives off

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Mlilo

I hate that I have to do this

But this has been dragging

It's me and that MJ of hers

And honestly , I don't even
know if there's a me

I watch her as she downs the
last contents of her juice

Sage : lunch was great , thank
you

Me : can we talk babe ?

I be calling her babe , and I
don't even know what we are to
her

Sage : mhm

Me : listen , I've taken quite a
liking into you . In fact , it's safe
to say I love you

She looks down

I hold her hand , she turns and looks at me

Me : I love you , it's not yet being in love . But I know eventually it'll get there

I take a deep breath

Me : please give me a chance , forget the deal of fate marriage . Whatever you called it , just

give me a chance . A fair chance
to marry you on my own , I
don't want no other but you

She sighs

Me : I'm sorry if I'm coming too
hard

Sage : but you know about MJ

Me : and he knows about me

My situation with Mvelo is one sided

Right now I just want to establish this situation between me and her

Me : I am ready to get to know you better than this , I've appreciated every single time we've spent together . And now

, I'm ready to have that time
with you as a wife . I want to go
to my father , and tell him I
want my wife home now . But
on my terms , and not his . I
love you on my own , I don't
need his interference

I tilt her chin with my fingers

Me : please

I'm begging here , literally
pleading

I lean closer , and she doesn't
move an inch

I swear , if I get a slap or straight
out rejection

I'll fucking stay away

Maybe ...

My lips touch hers , she has
such soft warm lips

I capture her lower lip ,
initiating that first lip suck

And she allows me , and I don't
waste time kissing her . After a
few seconds of hesitation she
finally relaxes and kisses me
back

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INSERT 12

MJ

Nomvelo : dad is here

I get up

Me : I need to make a call

She says nothing sitting down

I walk out , heading out the
kitchen door

I don't know how brave I am ,
for what I'm about to say to my
parents right now

But it has to be done and said

I dial her number

I haven't spoken to her since
this morning

And she didn't sound like
herself

It's like something was
bothering her

But I couldn't talk properly

I miss hearing her voice

And to think I should be there
now , spending time with her

Sage : Mphazima

I smile

Me : MaShozi

Sage : are you okay ?

Me : I should be asking you that

She sighs

Me : you worried me earlier on

Sage : there's something I need
to tell you

Me : I'm listening

Sage : II was with Mlilo
yesterday

This boy is not going anywhere

I'm not an idiot , he's fallen for
my woman

And she feels corned and
pressed she doesn't know what
to do . There's feels from both
sides

Me : and ?

Sage : and we kissed

I'm just okay , it was ought and
bound to happen

I know they've been spending
time together

She tells me

And I just appreciate that
honesty

Sage : please say something

Me : MaShozi , if you were to
choose between me and him .
Who would you choose ?

Sage : Mphazima I love you

I take a deep breath

It's the love that she has for me
, that's my weakness

And will have me looking like a
fool

But I know , as much as she
loves me she still wants him in
her life too . And that's that

Me : I'm about to talk to my family

Sage : he said he wants to tell his father he's ready to marry me , and on his terms not because of the deal that was made . Hehe said he loves me , I didn't say it back though

Yet , she didn't say it back just yet

I rub my eyes

Me : can I call you later
sthandwa sam ? (My love)

Sage : please don't be upset
with me , don't shut me out . At
least let's talk

Me : I can never be upset with
you , and I'm not shutting you

out . I'm going to call you later ,
and we'll talk

She sighs

Me : I love you , don't forget
that

Sage : I love you more

I drop the call walking back
inside

Dad : why make us wait for you
?

Mom and Nomvelo laugh

I sit down

Me : I have a predicament here

Mom : what now ?

Me : the girl I want to marry ,
someone else has fallen for her
. And he also wants to marry
her , as we speak he could be
talking to his father about that .
Some deal was made , between
the father and the grandfather
of the girl . She's caught
between a rock and a hard
place right now . Honestly ,
she's fearing for her life and
that of her grandmother
because they were threatened

if she dares choose me , but
then again I think that would
just be unfair . On her , me and
him

Mom sighs

Mom : aibo Mvelo ! What's this
?

Dad : so what exactly are you
saying ? Because we've been

awaiting a response from those people for over a month now .
And they've just been quite ,
and you asked us to wait a bit

Me : I am not backing down , I
want to marry her and I will

Nomvelo : but how ?

I sigh

I don't think they would get this , but Mlilo and I finally need to have a talk . And if he as much dares love that woman as I do , then we will make her happy and do this

Which is why I'll fly out tonight , and meet with him tomorrow so we can talk

Me : can I just have my family support me ?

Right now , I need them to have
me no matter what

I could take the easy way out ,
and kill the king

But now things have changed ,
there's no way that MaShozi
feels absolutely nothing for
Mlilo now

Dad : I don't know what you want to do , but

He shakes his head

Mom : if you had a plan , or a solution I would understand

Me : what if I say , I'll leave and the next time I come back I'll have it

Mom : well , if it works and
makes you happy then

She shrugs

Nomvelo : matters of the heart ,
seem to just be complications

I chuckle

I'm living that first hand , and I
never thought this could be me

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Mlilo

Yesterday was something else ,
spending time with sage

In the comfort of my home

Having our first kiss , and the
more kisses that followed after
that first one

Sure , it was just kisses

But we've come a long way

From her even refusing me to
touch her hand

She would always say , she feels
like she'll be betraying MJ if she
touches my hand

But we're here now

Dad : what do you mean you
want to send a delegation ?

It's just the three of us

I don't need an audience for
this

I just need him to hear my
intentions

Me : I mean exactly that

He chuckles annoyed

Dad : I'm not spending my money on that girl , she's just a deal . I owe no one

Me : yeah well , you missed the part where I didn't say I'm asking for your money . I just need a delegation I can send

there with a letter , I'll await a
response . And I'll take my own
money , and marry her

He shakes his head

He wanted this , and now that I
want to do things right and my
way

He disapproves , too bad for
him I'm doing this

My phone rings

Me : excuse me

I don't recognise the number

Me : hello ?

Voice : let's meet tomorrow , I'll
be arriving this evening

Shit !

He's coming , and that means
she's gonna go and be with him
. This woman deals us

Fuck !

This love that we have for her ,
is turning grown men into
things we don't know

But MJ better not think he's
going to dictate to me , because
I'm not backing away

I will marry Sage

I recognise his voice , I don't
even know where he got my
number from

Me : where ?

MJ : you know your kingdom ,
better than I do

Me : you're always here

He chuckles

Me : I'll send you the location
tomorrow morning

He drops the call

Right now , I'm curious as to
why he wants to meet

I know it's about Sage , but
what does he want to say

He better not tell me to back off
, because that won't happen

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INSERT 13

MJ

Sage : you're here , and you
didn't call me ?

She sounds hurt

I'm walking to the restaurant to
meet with Mlilo

And I just called to greet her

Me : I'll come see you

Sage : are you angry at me
because of the kiss ?

I smile

Me : I should fuck that boy up ,
when I meet him

She goes quite

Me : I'm not angry at you , I said
I'll come . I love you okay

Sage : I love you too

I drop the call , walking in the
restaurant

And I spot him seated by the
corner

I order a glass of whiskey , as I
pass a waitress and show her
where to bring it

I walk over to the table , and
pull a chair sitting down . I
unbutton my suit jacket

He's having an espresso

Me : mhm , just two minutes
late . Not bad

Mlilo : what ...

The waitress greets and places
the glass next to me

Quick and fast service , I like

Her : can I get you anything else
?

Me : no

She nods with a smile and walks
away

Mlilo : what are you doing
having whiskey so early in the
morning ?

I take a sip

Me : chill your balls down ,
we're not yet brother husband's

He frowns

Mlilo : what ?

Me : when two men share a woman what's it called ?

He shrugs

Me : mhm , we should find a term for it . I mean there's sister wives , women sharing a man . Oh waitthere's polygamy ,

and there's polyandry see
where we are ?

Mlilo : fuck no !

I chuckle with a smile

Me : that's exactly where we
are

Mlilo : she has to marry me

Me : I thought you love her

Mlilo : of course I do , but that
doesn't mean I want to share
her

Me : you've already invaded my
woman , fucking changing spits
with her

He looks down

Me : mhm lift up

He darts his eyes , they meet
mine

Me : that's love , she doesn't do
shit and not tell me . You're
here , and you don't seem to
want to get away

Mlilo : I'm already sending a
delegation there

Me : I've already sent mine , let me break it down to you . Right now , she's caught and will never choose between us . If you think you'll get her alone , then just know it's fear and nothing else . And man , she will cheat through out that marriage with me forever . And I'll fucking marry her , while she's married to you . Because that's

just how I'm here and not going
anywhere

He sighs

Me : here is what's going to
happen , my people have
already gone there . Yours are
going as well , we've cornered
those people . Now the three of
us will meet , and we'll tell her
that we're both marrying her

Mlilo : what ?

Me : mhm , I've been talking a lot . Don't tell me you didn't catch anything I've said along the way

Mlilo : you can't be serious

He chuckles

Mlilo : you want us to both
marry her ?

I sigh

Me : don't make me sound like
a broken record , it's annoying .
Now either we both marry her ,
and we coexist with our wife in
peace . Or she marries me , you
become a pest and she feels sad
for hurting you . And I just
fucking kill you , for being a

bother in my marriage . Trust
me , I would kill you . I don't
even want to lie , she will hate
me but she'll get over it

He leans back

I down the glass of whiskey

Me : now what do you say ?

He goes quite

Me : speak , I have to go see my woman . She's sad , thinking I'm angry at her because she was busy changing spits with you

Mlilo : you don't have to make it sound so disgusting , we kissed

Me : sure

I raise my hand , calling a waiter
over

Me : refill

He takes the glass and walks
away

Mlilo : So , you're drinking this
early so you're brave enough to
say all this ?

I chuckle

Me : brave enough ?

I've been thinking about this
shit , ever since I had a talk with
Nomvelo

And she said , if it was a man in
love with two women it'll be
polygamy

Here is MaShozi with two men ,
the law permits her to marry
them both if she wants

So why can't she ?

The waiter brings my glass

Me : are you thinking ?

Mlilo : what you're asking me is
crazy ...

Me : I didn't ask you anything ,
either you're in or out simple as
that

He sighs

I take the glass , downing it

Mlilo : she will never agree to
this

Me : and it's up to us , to make her see reason . We're both not going anywhere , I don't know about you two . But I'm fucking , grown to be running around in circles

Mlilo : we're business men , what will people say about us ? And my father will never hear this

Fuck him !

Me : you think I give a fuck ?
You're clearly more concerned
about other people will say , not
about having the woman you
claim to love . I don't give a rats
ass about your father , because
if he becomes a problem to me
I'll kill him . He's lucky , even
now I'm just sparing him
because I don't want MaShozi
knowing I have blood on my
hands

He raises his brow

Me : I'm no angel , nor a saint .
And I won't pretend to be one

He shakes his head

I get up

Me : I've laid the cards for you ,
tell me what you say . But if I go

for her , and you come crawling
we'll have problems . You'll kiss
her again , and I won't be nice
as I am now . You can forget
those dates , and you'll
seriously stay away

I take out a few notes

Mlilo : I'll call you

He can suit himself

I walk out of the restaurant ,
and head to my car the slight
walk distance

I text MaShozi that I'm coming

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Mlilo

I have never heard of such

Like what kind of a man is MJ ?

Openly suggesting that we
share one woman

That's fucked up

Duma : you're bothered

I'm in his hut , maybe he can
help me with this

Me : I

I take a sigh , because I can't even bring myself to utter what MJ said

He chuckles

Duma : how will you face your father , if you can't even face me . Imagine the whole of South Africa

Me : what ?

He smiles

Duma : this is what has to
happen , forces are at play .
That boy loves her , he's willing
to keep their love and
happiness as well as her peace
and that's you

Wait

Duma is the royal seer

Me : what do you mean ?

Duma : she loves him , that's her love and happiness . But her grandfather left this world of the living , with that she will grow up and serve the house of the king as a wife . So he sealed that fate , and you're her peace

. She needs the both of you for
balance

Me : f

I hold my tongue , forgetting
where I am I almost swore

Duma : you can always walk
away , the love of that man is
enough her

I'm not walking away

Me : I love her

Duma : then you know what to
do , leave my hut

And he's not kidding

I get up , and walk out putting
on my shoes from the door

To say I am defeated and shocked , would be an understatement

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INSERT 14

MJ

Me : give me a kiss

She shyly looks down

Yeah this is a situation

Me : MaShozi , you can't kiss
me now because you kissed
Mlilo ?

She sighs

Saga : Mphazima , I'm so sorry

Me : for what exactly ?

Sage : the kiss that happened

Me : mhm , we keep it real with each other . Just always 100 , that's why we don't lie to one another . If you enjoyed something , and you have no regrets for . There's no need to be sorry about it

I hold her hand

Sage : well

She laughs

Me : I missed you

Sage : I missed you too

I get up , and pull her slowly
with her one hand

We walk to the bed

I wanted to be with her , so
when we met I asked that we
come over here

I sit down on the bed , she sits
down next to me

I lean over slowly , kissing her
and she welcomes the kiss

Slowly , I push her down the
bed getting on top of her

I part her legs , getting in
between her thighs

I deepen the kiss , it feels good
to finally have her in my arms
again

She has her one leg , raised
behind my back

I slide my hands underneath her T-shirt , rubbing my thumbs on her nipples

She lets out a sweet moan into my mouth

My phone rings

Sage : mhm

She's annoyed , I chuckle
reaching for it

Me : yeah

Mlilo : let's meet

Me : you're dictating to me now
?

Mlilo : you asked to meet me
and I agreed

Me : yes right , I asked

He sighs

Mlilo : I'm sorry , we can meet tomorrow and tell her . I'm asking now

Me : you'll tell her , why did you suddenly change your mind ?

She tries to get away from me ,
I pin her down with my one
hand

Me : uyaphi ? (Where are you
going)

She frowns

Me : you just decided you don't
want to be left out ?

He sighs

Mlilo : I spoke to our royal seer ,
and let's just say that's how
things are supposed to be so it's
fine

I chuckle

Me : tomorrow at 7 , same
place

Mlilo : come with her

I drop the call

Me : I'm sorry about the call , it was important

Sage : we got interrupted , that was annoying

I smile pecking her lips

Me : I know , but we're still here
and we're continuing

She laughs , as I pull her T-shirt
off

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Sage

After taking me home very late
last night

He was there this morning to
pick me up

I'm just glad I've always been an
early bird

Otherwise I would be fighting
with Makhulu

We walk inside this restaurant ,
and I'm just stunned laying my
eyes on Mlilo

I want to turn right now , and
walk away . This looks very
much suspicious

But we walk straight to his table

MJ pulls a chair for me

MJ : don't be kissing each other
in front of me please

I swallow hard , I really do feel like a whore for this

I sit down , MJ sits opposite me

Mlilo : Hi

I nod with a smile

I just feel so small , I feel like I'll get squashed by these two guys

Mlilo : did you tell her ?

MJ : no , you tell her

Now I wonder what's going on ?

What am I supposed to be told
? I hope it's not to say choose

They're okay with each other ,
to an extent of sitting down
together

MJ calls a waiter over , and he orders for once there's no alcohol

I just order a latté

Mlilo : uhm , I think we all saw how things have been the past month . He wants you , and he's determined to marry you . I also want you ...

My palms sweat

Mlilo : I also want to marry you ,
and I won't back down just as
he won't . We're not fighting
over you , but we both want
you

Honestly , spending time with
them Mlilo is much better with
words

He's softer than MJ

When he says something , he tries by all means that he goes through the channels of explaining

Mlilo : I learnt yesterday , that a woman can have two husband's just as a man can have two wives

Waitno !

Mlilo : after speaking to MJ , I was very conflicted . Because I didn't understand how we would be comfortable , having married the same wife . I spoke to Duma , and he in his way explained this . That you love him , and he loves you . But your grandfather also sealed your fate with the royal family ,

when he died with that knowledge that one day you'll be one of us . So your heart choose , but your fate was also chosen . Honestly , you need both to balance . Because you can't choose between

This is nonsense , I've never heard of such a thing

Me : I can't choose , because I don't want to hurt either of you

. But do you seriously look at me , and see a whore ?

MJ frowns at that , and I know he just took offence

Me : I'm not doing this , how can you two even think I'll be okay with that ? Having two husband's

I'm on my feet

I look at him

Me : Mphazima please take me home

Mlilo : I feel like you're angry with me , but he's the one who came up with this . I'm just saying Duma confirmed what he said

MJ : I know nothing about this
Duma of yours , or how
accurate he is . All I know is that
, I'm not going anywhere

He gets up , and it's like I'm
hearing foreign language

He walks to the door , I look at
Mlilo and shake my head
following MJ

I get to the car , and he drives
off

I'm tearing up , I can't even stop
these tears

As soon as he's parked near by
home , I get out of his car saying
nothing and I rush home

I find Makhulu in the kitchen ,
and I just break down

Makhulu : what happened ?

He holds me into her arms

I shake my head , just not
knowing what to make of this .
What do they think of me ?

Me : they both want to marry
me

I pull back from her embrace ,
still crying

Makhulu : what do you mean ?

Me : Makhulu , they don't want
me to choose between them .
They both want to marry me ,
I'll have two husband's

And her expression just finishes
me off

Of course this is nonsense , I
don't know what do they take
me for

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INSERT 15

Sage

I'm feeling somewhat today

I heard what Mlilo said
yesterday

But I just want to hear what my
boyfriend will say

It doesn't make sense for me at
all

I look at him , and he has a look
I cannot comprehend

I asked him to come over

Me : Mphazima

He side smiles

Me : how is it that you can be comfortable with wanting to share me with another man ?
Like is that how degraded I am ?
To an extent of marriage , is this about the kiss ?

He sighs

MJ : you're just seeing this the wrong way MaShozi , it's not like that . But then again sthandwa sam (my love) , I would rather I share you with a husband . A man that married you , and did you right by your family . Imagine cheating on me on our marriage , because you're longing for Mlilo . Next thing , you bring a child I don't know . And as a husband , I'll

just have to swallow and accept that . Because I would have known fully , marrying you that he's in the picture . Let's be honest , you can't say you feel nothing for Mlilo completely

I sigh

I don't even know what I feel for myself right now

Me : feelings are not just a thing
one can be so quick to validate

MJ : still , I would take you
having another husband than to
be cheated on

I can't believe this

Like I thought he'll say
something else

Something like , no two
husband's it's not happening

We just wanted to see your
reaction , if we were to even
suggest such a thing

But no , he's serious

I have never heard of such a
thing , this is just a shock .

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Mlilo

They're looking at me like I'm
crazy

But the fact that Duma told my
father , he's just fine with
whatever

Honestly this man doesn't care
about me

He didn't even question this

Buntu : so who'll be the first
and second husband ?

I frown at that

Buntu : don't get me wrong ,
but isn't that how it's done ?

Me : it doesn't matter

Buntu : no like , you'll both be paying the same amount of money ?

Me : I don't think that matters too , we'll each pay whatever we're charged

He shakes his head

He's going to be a problem

Buntu : I don't get this , and of course your father doesn't care

Me : I love her , doesn't that count ?

Buntu : but she loves another man

Me : and we each have our purposes in her life

Buntu : mhm-mhm , Mlilo !
Have you thought about what
this will do to your reputation ?

Me : yeah well

Buntu : did Duma feed you
something ?

Me : what ?

Buntu : no like , how are you agreeing to such a thing ? It doesn't even make sense , one woman two men . Is the plan to tire her and wear her out ? How will she even handle sex

Me : watch your tongue

He sighs shaking his head , he's done this quite a lot

Now I know , he's not in support

Me : I was just informing you asking , not for anything else

Buntu : well as a brother just know I dispute of this thing , this is just pure madness and nonsense

Me : yeah well

It's not like I need his
permission with his council

They're just as shocked as he is ,
they can't even seem to utter
anything

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MJ

Nomvelo : Mveloyenkosi is
going to disown you

Me : can you calm your tits
down

Nomvelo : whatmust you
always be so disgusting ?

I chuckle

Nomvelo : that's why you want
to share a woman with another
man

I had to tell her

I brought this up , and honestly
I'm the one who started this

MaShozi seems to not be for it

So it's up to Mlilo and I , to
assure her

Because we both want her

Me : I would rather she's with a man that I know , one she's married to . I don't want to be cheated on , and the fact that she's dating me and spending so much time with him means something will happen between them . I would rather it happens , and they're husband a wife

She sighs

Nomvelo : this is unheard of

I chuckle

Me : if only you knew that you gave me this idea , I just gave it time and prepared myself for it

Nomvelo : me ? When did I utter such a thing , because I don't even think I'm capable of saying such

Me : when I was telling you that there's some prince who also wants to marry her , and you said if only it was polygamy . I figured why can't it be polyandry , I mean it's a thing right ? It's allowed , and well it legal so give me a break

She laughs

Nomvelo : no , my brother
something is wrong with you
please you need help

Me : I'm perfectly fine

Nomvelo : how are you going to
share a wife , and get along with
each other ?

Me : we will , he will be her
husband and not mine . And I'll

have no problem with him , if
he treats her right . And doesn't
make her cry for nonsense

She sighs

Nomvelo : you and this prince
are not normal , but I'm all for
supporting you . This won't be
easy , you need to be really
prepared for something like this
. And it'll take a toll on her ,
having to separate her time in

half for two men . I don't know
....I really don't know

All I need is that support , the
rest we'll figure out on our own

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Sage

Mlilo has been calling

I'm ignoring his calls , I don't
want to lie and say otherwise

I don't understand what's
wrong with them

From what I've heard in the
field said by the ladies

Is that men never forgive
cheating

I kissed Mlilo , I'm dating MJ

Instead of being angry or
dumping me , he suggests they
both marry me

Like what's that ?

And how do two grown men
agree to such a thing ?

It doesn't even make sense

The royal delegation came to
bring their letter yesterday

Right now , I don't know what's
what

And my poor grandmother
doesn't know what to do

Unfortunately I can't help her ,
because I also don't know

MJ said he's going back to Durban , and that's good

I need a break , I need to breathe and away from both of them

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INSERT 16

TWO WEEKS LATER

MJ

Mlilo : we're not winning

I chuckle

Me : speak for yourself

I don't even know why I'm back
in this village again

Because she's seriously ignoring
us

No matter how much we try to
reach out

Mlilo : neither of us , have
gotten a response

Me : do you understand that
the pressure is on her and not
us ?

Mlilo : how so ?

Me : how so ? She has to handle
two men , and two homes .
She's only 20 for fucks sake

He smiles

Me : I wasn't making a joke ,
what you smiling about ?

Mlilo : I fear love

Me : mxm !

This idiot !

I get up

Me : I'm going back to the B&B

I turn walking out of the
restaurant

He just called me here because
he's worried , we're running out
of time

I do understand him though

But as for me , I'm not rushing
anywhere so I'll wait

I want to go rest now , but I'm
longing to see her

I just hope she will come and
see me

That I won't drive there for
nothing

She really hasn't been paying us
any attention

She feeds us ignorance

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Sage

I'm tired

I don't want to lie , I am tired

And just drained

I haven't had any rest , it's MJ
and Mlilo

They're just not giving me
peace

Two weeks later , they're still on
their marriage nonsense

Makhulu : what does it mean ?

I just look at her

I don't have energy for anything
as of late

Makhulu : like a woman
marrying two men , what does
it mean ? Do people actually do
such a thing ?

I sigh

She's just depressing me worse

Me : Mphazima , was busy
speaking his English trying to
explain it . But I don't

I shake my head slowly taking a
deep breath

Makhulu : I didn't think the royal family would agree to such

That Duma must be having his signals mixed , or my evil Grandfather is using him

Me : I'm going to sleep

I get up walking to my room

Makhulu : we need to decide now , we can't keep these people waiting any longer . This has gone for far too long now , it's too much

Yhoh !

Not her again

I close the door , and lock

And I almost stumble upon the
bath water I had poured earlier
on

I sigh

The water is cold now , but
maybe that's what I need . Just
a cold bath

I take my clothes off

And just so overwhelmed by
emotions

And the fear of loosing the both
of them

I can't have that

But I also know , it's impossible
to keep them both

Tears stream down my face

How will MJ look at me , if I
spent a night with Mlilo and I
see him the next day ?

Will he be able to touch me ?

And won't it tire me , sleeping
with two men like I'm some
greedy woman

This is a lot

And maybe I'm better off dead

That way , they can move on
and find their own women

Women they can love and who
would love them the same

Yeah

That's the only best solution

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MJ

I guess this was a waste of time
coming here

I've been calling , and she's not
answering her phone

I want to turn back , and leave
cause this is not it

But from where I am , I can see
that there are people

I mean , the door is opened

I get out of the car , and head to
her home

If her grandmother is home ,
she'll just have to forgive me

I walk in the yard

If she's not home , I wouldn't
even know where to say she's
at

I'm startled by the slight
shouting and knocking

It's faint though

I knock at the door , a panicking
come in comes inside

I walk in

And the old woman appears

Makhulu : sawubona ndodana
(hello my son)

Me : molo Makhulu (hi granny)

She looks like she's panicking

Me : igama uMvelo Phakade
(my name is)

I'm not shocked by her
expression , of course she
knows about me

I'm always taking her
granddaughter

Makhulu : you're looking for
Sage ?

Me : uhm yes , is she home ?
I've been calling she's not
answering my calls

She sighs

Makhulu : she went into her
room , that was two hours ago .
She said she's going to lie down
, she hasn't come out . I've been
knocking she's not opening

Mlilo would have said if he was taking her , I mean I just saw him

And I don't think she would leave her home without telling her grandmother where she's going or that she's leaving

I take out my phone and call her , I can hear her phone ringing

Makhulu : it's been ringing for a while , I don't know how to answer these fancy things of yours

I clear my throat dropping the call , clearly it's been ringing here all this time

Me : can I please go knock ?

Makhulu : it's okay , her room is the one on the left

Even in just a mud house , they have separate rooms and It's clean

I knock at her door , still there's no answer

Makhulu : what is this child doing to me ?

MaShozi is a light sleeper , and she never sleeps a whole two hours during the day

The best she does it's 30 minutes

She has tendencies of waking up in her sleep , even if it's just for a few seconds

Something is wrong here

Me : can I please have a fork ? I
have to break the lock , but I
promise I'll fix it

She goes and fetches the fork
for me

I take it , and slide it in between
the handle and the frame

It takes some pushing , but it
finally opens

I open the door , and the fear
that strikes me

I rush in , and pick her up

Her whole head was inside the
bath

She's freaking cold

The poor woman is shocked ,
and you can tell the fear on her
face . I wish she hadn't seen this
at all

I spot her gown on the bed , I
grab it putting it on her

Her phone is flashing on the
bed

And that must be the phone
Mlilo got her

I grab it and answer still with
her in my arms

Me : meet us at the hospital
now !

I throw it on the bed , rushing
out with her grandmother to
my car

She sits in the back , placing
MaShozi's head on her lap

I drive out heading to hospital

I hope we make it in time

I didn't even feel her pulse if it's
still there or what

I can't even ask Makhulu to
check it , I don't even know if
she knows

But she's shaken enough

I don't want to scare her further

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Mlilo

The sight that welcomes me ,
has me shaking

MJ is leaning against the wall

Makhulu is sitting down on the
bench

She looks like her world has
crumbled

Me : sure

He looks at me and nods , he
looks worse than this woman

And now I'm scared

Me : molo Makhulu

Makhulu : Nkosana (my prince)

I look at MJ , and motion for
him with my head

We move a bit further from her

Me : what happened ?

He sighs

MJ : she drowned herself

Me : what ?

I'm in shock

MJ : this is all our fault , I think she's under a lot of pressure . We were too much on her maybe , and she couldn't handle it . We didn't realise just how hard we were coming

But taking the easy way out is not it

Couldn't we three just sat down
and talked about this ?

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INSERT 17

MJ

Doc : we've managed to stabilize her , and bump her stomach there wasn't too much water though . You got her in time , we were lucky we sedated her but it'll wear off

soon and she will wake up . She
will make it

Me : can we see her ?

We've been waiting here for
over an hour

Doc : yes , but one person at a
time

Me : thanks

He walks away

Me : uhm Makhulu you can go see her , but she's not awake yet . It might take a bit of time

Makhulu : thank you for coming when you did , I don't want to think of what might have happened

She sighs

Makhulu : you two can go see
her , I don't think I want to see
her hooked on machines

This is just sad

Mlilo : you go

He says to me

I walk inside the ward

She looks a bit pale , but yet she looks so peaceful . Like she did not just stress us like she did

I sit down on the chair next to the bed

I hold her hand , placing a kiss on top of the back of her hand

We would have never forgiven ourselves had she not made it

Right now , I'm just glad she's going to be okay

The possibility of loosing her like this , scared the shit out of me . This wasn't supposed to happen

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Sage

I open my eyes

And strange enough , I feel fine

Gosh ! I hate my life

Why couldn't I just die ?

I dart my eyes , and he's looking
at me so sternly

It actually scares me

Me : can Ican I have water
please ?

He says nothing , but gets me
the glass

He even helps me sit up well ,
and drink

Me : thanks

He goes back to sit down , and holds my hand

Me : it was all too much , I'm not making excuses . I just thought you deserve better.....both of you and having your own women not sharing me . You deserve better

He sighs

MJ : you don't want us that much you'll rather hurt us like this ?

That's the thing , I want them

But that's just being selfish right ?

Me : how are you even okay with this ?

MJ : I love you , what's so hard about understanding that

This love can't be normal , something must have been done to this man . Actually to both of them

MJ : you scared me , you scared your grandmother . She thought she was going to loose you

My poor Makhulu

I wasn't even thinking about her

MJ : let's not do this , get better
and get out of here . And then
we can talk

I just nod

MJ : you hungry ?

Me : even after this , you're still
marrying me ?

He smiles

MJ : maybe I should get you a
therapist , but yes I am still
marrying you

I smile

Still not understanding what
kind of love is this

MJ : what do you want to eat ?

Me : your favourite meal

He chuckles getting up from the
chair

He leans over

MJ : don't ever do this again

Me : I'm sorry

He leans down , and we kiss

After a few minutes he pulls out

MJ : I'm going to get you
something to eat

Me : thank you

MJ : should I call him in ?

Shock !

Me : he's here ?

He nods

MJ : your grandmother too

Wow !

See what I mean ? This is not normal

Me : I don't know

I shrug , he chuckles walking out

I close my eyes for a few seconds

I hear the door opening , I look
over

Laying my eyes on him , I see
just how selfish I was

He walks over

Me : Magaye

Mlilo : why do you want to hurt
me like this ?

At a time like this , even sorry
doesn't matter

Because it doesn't work

He leans down , we hug and he
places a few pecks on my cheek

Now , I do feel like a woman
with two husband's

I was dealt no lies

He moves back

Mlilo : we don't do this to each other , what happened to sitting down and talking ?

I have no excuse

Mlilo : I understand you don't want this

Me : I want both of you , but I feel like that's selfish . Especially when it concerns marriage , I also don't want to degrade both your statuses .

He smiles

Mlilo : we want you , so what's the problem ? We don't care how we're going to be seen

Me : this is not normal , what are people going to say about us ?

Mlilo : we'll make it our normal , and that boyfriend of yours doesn't give shit what people say

Me : how will this even work ?

Mlilo : that's where we sit down
and talk

These two are strange

Me : I'm sorry

Mlilo : don't ever do it again ,
had you succeeded it was going
to be on us . We would have
never forgiven ourselves for
cutting your life short

Me : I just wanted you to find
people you wouldn't share

Mlilo : and live with a lifetime of
pain

He takes my hand intertwining
our fingers

Mlilo : there's still lots of people
out there , but we want you and

not them . It wouldn't have
made a difference , they're not
you . You're your own person

This is not a dilemma , it's even
worse than a predicament

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MJ

Mlilo : at least she's admitted
she wants us , I think it's the
nerves and fear of the unknown

doing something that'll be
deemed somehow by society

I chuckle

Me : on your honeymoon , you
both need to teach other that
people talk . You do good , they
talk shit . You still do shit ,
they'll still talk . They won't say
what good you did

He shakes his head

I slightly laugh , I don't get why
they care what people will say

Me : drive the old woman safe

Mlilo : sure

I'm not going back there , he's
going her way so he will take
her home

She still couldn't bring herself to see MaShozi

I do feel for her , had she lost MaShozi she was left alone

I need a good glass of whiskey , it's been a shitty day

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INSERT 18

Sage

Is it safe to say I don't know
what I'm about to get myself
into ?

How am I going to manage
having two husband's ?

This has never been heard of

My grandmother still hasn't
seen me

I thought she would come today

But MJ said , she'll see me
home

I don't even know when I'm
going to get discharged , I feel
fine I should go home

The door opens and Mlilo walks
in

He smiles , but it quickly
disappears as he looks at MJ
who's walking towards the bed
fixing his zip

He's from the bathroom

I laugh

Me : relax , we weren't doing
anything nasty . He's from the
bathroom

MJ chuckles

MJ : if we were doing anything ,
you wouldn't have walked in
here

He sits down on the chair next
to the bed

Mlilo walks over , we briefly hug

Mlilo : I guess I'm too late , I had bought you food

He says looking at the food take away

MJ came with food

Me : thank you , I'm feeling spoiled . I'll have those for lunch . Hospital food is not nice

MJ puts his phone away and
looks at me

MJ : why don't they release ? Or
should I move you to a private
hospital ?

What's the drama ?

I smile

Me : I'm fine here

He chuckles

Mlilo moves to the one sitter
couch , he sits down

I look at them both , I don't
even know what to say

Do they know what they want
to say ?

Me : how comfortable are you
to be sharing a wife like the
honest truth ?

They both look at me

MJ : I suggested this , so I'm
very comfortable . I'll rather
know who you are with , than
worry that you'll cheat on me
with him . Because we would all
die

That doesn't sound like just a
saying in passing

This one is strange , I've long
said it

Mlilo : I'm fine with it , you'll
have your home with him . And
your home with me

I frown in confusion

Me : what do you mean ?

MJ : that we won't stay together , honestly I think what will work better is that you spend a week in Durban . And you spend a week this side , his house and my house are both your homes . So his time at his house , and mine at mine . But of course , once married what's mine is yours

Me : I have nothing

He smiles

Mlilo : I think getting married in community of property in both marriages will be best . In any case of a divorce which will not happen by the way

They laugh

MJ : you'll get to walk away with half

Me : but I don't want your wealth

Already it feels like I'm being greedy having them both

Me : I come into both marriages with nothing , if it happens I

leave it's best I leave with
nothing

MJ : MaShozi there's no such
thing as that , marriage is an
investment . A wife makes a
house a home , that's work on
its own

I don't think I get that

It doesn't make sense to me

Me : and you both still want to pay bride price ?

MJ : I am

Mlilo : me too , the marriages will be under customary law .

MJ : one of us will give you a traditional wedding , and the other a white wedding . You'll

get to choose who gives you
which one

Me : but a traditional wedding
means traditional things being
done

MJ : I'll give you a white
wedding , personally in my
family nothing that much is
done traditionally . He's a prince
, your ghost grandfather is too
much so he'll get the traditional

wedding . But you best believe
that you'll be a Phakade

Me : waitwho's surname will
I be using ?

The things I'm asking

Them : both

Me : what ?

Mlilo : you'll have to get rid of
Shozi , to accommodate
Phakade and Cele

MJ : to me , it doesn't matter
which one will come first or last

Mlilo : yeah , just as long as
they're the surnames you'll be
using

Yhoh !

What kind of men are these ?

It's like they have everything figured out

They know what they want ,
and just voicing it out

Me : who gets married first ?

The chuckles !

I need answers

Mlilo : you decide

MJ : yeah

Mhm !

Wouldn't it makes sense to
have a traditional wedding first ,
and then the white one ?

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MJ

Mlilo left , he had a meeting

And now , I'm just waiting for
the doctor to discharge this
person

I wish I can spend the night with
her

But she should go home , and
talk with her grandmother . I
know she's worried about her

Sage : I don't know how
Makhulu is going to take these
news , especially after what I've
done

I place a peck on her forehead

She's resting her head on my chest

I'm sitting on the bed with her

Me : she will be fine , you've had time to reflect . She's going to understand that

She smiles lifting her head looking at me

Sage : we know the royal family is fine with it , what about yours ? I'm worried Mphazima

Me : don't be , we'll get married . My father will probably beat me , but don't worry . I'm still going to look this handsome on our day

She laughs

Sage : I'm giving you the last wedding , and I'll get your surname last

Me : fuck ! Sthandwa sam no !

I laugh giving her a kiss

I am happy my surname is going last . That means a lot to me , and she probably has a slight idea

Sage : that makes you happy ?

Me : very happy , you have no
idea

It's like I was crossing fingers

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INSERT 19

Sage

Me : I am very sorry Makhulu

I'm so ashamed , like now my
actions have dawned on me

And I see just how selfish I was

I was leaving this woman all
alone

When I know very well , that all
we have is each other

Makhulu : I know this ...

She shakes her head

Makhulu : taking your own life
Sage , have I failed you that
much ?

Me : no , of course you haven't
failed me . Please don't say that

Makhulu : tell me what to do
and I'll do it , tell me what do
you want . I'll rather you live
your life the way you desire ,
than for me to loose you

Me : I will never do what I did
again , and it wasn't even
because of you

I take a deep breath

Me : please forgive me , I was just feeling way too overwhelmed . And I didn't know what to do , it was all just getting too much . But we've talked , and we've reached an agreement . I'm sorry it took for me to land myself in hospital , just to make a decision

She looks at me surprised

Makhulu : what do you mean ?

I swallow hard

Me : II will marry the prince
and Mphazima

The shock on her face

Me : we three sat down and
talked , and we have agreed
that both marriages will go
through . So you can get help ,

and have responses sent back
to their families

Makhulu : you're serious ?

Me : yes

Makhulu : this is not pressure

I laugh

Me : no

Makhulu : I am serious ,
because I know it hasn't been
easy for you . And I've also been
on your case , about making a
decision . I think we all put so
much pressure on you ,
forgetting you're just a child

Me : no trust me it's not

I smile a bit shy now

It's awkward now talking about this

I don't even know how to present it to her

Me : I don't regard them the same way , but each on their own . They hold a certain place in my heart , I've just been scared to admit that . Scared of

what people will say , and how will that paint me as a woman .
Some may think I'm a loose woman , just wanting two men in my bed . Others will degrade them

Makhulu : you love two men ?

I burst out laughing

This is crazy !

How does she even ask me that
with a straight face ?

This woman though !

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Mlilo

Buntu : I still don't agree with this , where is your dignity as a man ?

Dad : it's not for you to agree ,
is it your marriage ? Will she be
your wife ?

Buntu sighs

Buntu : I don't understand why
you're throwing him to the
wolves

Me : why is it bothering you ?

Buntu : you're going to share a woman with another man Mlilo

I sigh

Me : you sound like a broken record right now

I look at my father

Me : can we please have those negotiations this week ?

Dad : of course , why wait

I don't know if MJ will come
right with his family

But I really don't want to wait

I called Sage last night , and she
told me the traditional wedding
will come first

I might just as well go ahead ,
and get it done with

I mean , we got a response this
morning

Our letter has been accepted ,
so yeah we can go and ask for
our wife

And that's exactly what I'm
going to do

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MJ

Mom : make this make sense to me.

Dad : there's nothing about what he said that's making sense , this boy is out of his mind . What men share a

woman ? This is pure utter
nonsense and he knows it

I don't

And I'm not expecting this Zulu
man to understand

I flew in to Joburg last night

As much as I didn't want to
come home

I had to tell them the truth , and
face to face not just over the
face

Mvelo is fuming , no like he
wants to finish me

Nomvelo is seated by the
corner , and very quite

She hasn't uttered anything

Dad : what's sensible about marrying someone's wife ?

Me : she will be my wife too

Dad : why can't you just find a girl out there ? Why must you feel the need to share a woman

No marn !

Me : Mphazima I love her , and that's enough for me . I don't want another girl , I want that one . And it's okay , she will be happy with her two husband's

Mom laughs

Dad : don't annoy me

Mom : hah ! Your son wants to share his wife , it's very funny to

be honest . This girl , is my role model . I want to meet her , she's elevating women . And if a man can have more than one wife , why can't a woman have two if she wants and they want ? Life is all about choices , and no one should have an opinion to stand in the way of another

I chuckle with a smile

Hah ! Mvelo is not happy at all

Dad : what am I supposed to tell your uncle's and the rest of the family ?

Me : honestly , it doesn't concern them . Theirs is just to go there , and get me my wife . That's it

Dad : I think you need to go check yourself

I frown in confusion

Me : check what ?

Dude better not be talking
about sexual activities , like that
would just be awkward

That's for us to say to each
other

Dad : if you haven't been fed ,
there's no sane two men who
can be this okay wanting to
share a woman

I chuckle

Me : everyone belongs to
everyone out here

Dad : this is just insane

He grabs his taxi keys and walks out

Mom : you're going to make my husband reach old age before his time

What's she talking about ?

He's already old , I don't even know what he's doing still driving taxis

I need to call MaShozi

This didn't go as bad as I
thought it'll be

I didn't get any punches or slaps
, so it went well in a way

I'm guessing they just think , I'm
crazy and need help

That's also fine , just as long as I
get my wife

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Sage

Me : hello

It was a bummer , cause I
thought it was MJ

But it wasn't his phone ringing

Mlilo : did I wake you ?

Me : I can't sleep

He sighs

Mlilo : want to come for a short
drive ?

I chuckle

It's late now

Me : are you asking me to sneak out ? It's very late , people are sleeping now

He laughs

Mlilo : yeah people , not you .
So ?

Me : my grandmother is going to kill me but okay

Mlilo : give me 5 minutes I'm coming

I drop the call and grab the other phone , I dial his number

On the first ring , he answers

Me : if I turn up kidnapped , just know I went for a late night drive

I miss my boyfriend , I wish I can
say come back

But I don't even know when I'll
see him again

MJ : don't give yourself to that
boy until he's married you

I slightly laugh

Me : I won't , I promise

MJ : you be safe then , but he
won't do nothing to you . We'll
talk tomorrow morning , I have
news to share

I hope it's good ones

Me : I love you Mphazima

MJ : I love you too MaShozi

The other phone beeps , and I
know it's Mlilo he's outside

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INSERT 20

MJ

Xolani : your father has to utter such things to people ? Like how brave are you ?

Me : and your father is mostly the one to just diss me

Something is wrong with Yanga

He just stands out , out of all
the Phakade brothers

He's a man of his own

Zolani : I'm all for your choices
of life

We laugh

Zolani : it's better , than being
loyal to a woman and only for

her to cheat . Women are crazy creatures , they live for different tastes of sick

This one was dealt

Married three months , and the wife cheated . Well ex wife now

She cheated on the night of their wedding

The whole marriage , didn't go
anywhere

In three months it was done

Xolani : you're just speaking on
your behalf , we're talking
about this one

Zolani : and he's right , wouldn't
marriages last if actually it was
three and not two ?

Xolani : fuck no ! How do you even work out a sex schedule ? Like does she sleep with him in the morning , and you at night ?

Yeah !

My cousin's are just nasty

Zolani : a schedule for what ? If she wants to fuck they'll fuck ,

he shouldn't even ask if she was with another man . He knows she has another , but she will be needing his dick at that time . She should get it

Me : what the hell ?

Zolani : yeah , it'll save you heartache

I shake my head slowly

My father just had to call his
brothers , and they dragged
these two here

Now I'll never hear the end of
my marriage choices

It's annoying

Xolani : that granny is going to
make a killing , two bride prices

We laugh

Me : you're an idiot , it's not even about that . You can't just take someone's child , call her a wife . Yet you haven't done right by her and her family . She didn't fall from a tree

Xolani : this doesn't make sense

Me : mhm , dear cuz it doesn't
have to its not for you

He takes his beer taking a sip

I don't expect anyone to
understand this , after all it's
not their life nor choices . It
doesn't concern them

So whoever fucks with us , will
be there

And whoever doesn't want to ,
doesn't have to

No one is going to be forced to
be in route with us

If something is not for you ,
then it's not for you

My uncle is another one who
doesn't get this

He gave me a call earlier , and
it's not like I was expecting
anything else from him

That Mosotho man is very
stubborn

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Sage

Mlilo : my family will come then

I nod with a smile on my own

Me : okay

Mlilo : is he okay with us getting married first ?

Me : yeah

Mlilo : I thought we would get married last

I hope he's not bruised

Me : it just made sense that
way to me

Mlilo : I understand

Me : is this about the surname ?

He chuckles

Mlilo : no , mine will still be there

Me : okay , but if really is a bother . Then we should talk about it , communication to everything

This is one marriage that will survive on that

So no one feels oppressed

Mlilo : I'm okay with it , I just had to ask to make sure he's okay with it .

Me : he's fine

Mlilo : okay , preparations will go on

I am so not ready for the talks that are going to come

I'm surprised my grandmother
still haven't told my mother

And that gives me a thought

Mlilo : let me go , I'll call you
later

Me : okay

I drop the call

We spent hours on that drive of
his last night , but it was nice

I barely slept

I walk out of my room

And I'm not shocked this
woman is up , and the house is
clean

Me : Makhulu

She gives me a smile

Me : did you tell your daughter
?

Makhulu : no

Me : please don't , until at least
both negotiations are done . I
don't want her ruining anything

for me , with her drama coming
here like she cares

We haven't heard anything
from her ever since I left their
house

Makhulu : if that's what you
would like

Me : please

My mother is dramatic , she
would ruin things for me

And I don't want that

That's why she can't know
anything about this

I don't want her ruining things
for me

She's basically nothing on mine

Her treatment towards me over
the years has shown that

I haven't gone back to their
place

I've never even bumped into
any of them when I visited
Durban

We're better off

Out of each other's lives like
this , it's not like I need her
anyways

Makhulu is all that I need as a
parent and she's enough

I'm glad she hasn't told her ,
and I can't believe it's been this
long

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Mlilo

Buntu : I hope you don't get
hurt

I sigh

Me : Buntu fuck off , seriously
you're annoying

He laughs

Buntu : as king , it's my duty to handle your negotiations

Me : no it's not , but you just want to use your stupid title to involve yourself

Buntu : come on , I'm your brother

Me : it's fine , you can go there .
But I swear , if you dare mess

things up for me . I'm so gonna
fuck you up

Buntu : don't threaten me

Me : it's a promise brother

Buntu : you are your father's
son

I chuckle

I'm not kidding with him , he better not ruin things for me

Because I know he's not in full support of this

According to him , I'm degrading myself as a man

Agreeing for my wife to have another husband

But I'm not bothered by his
feelings

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INSERT 21

A WEEK LATER

Sage

The devil lives

Like no lies , she lives

Yeah

It's the she devil

There's preparations going on
here

The negotiations were held a
few days back

And Mlilo didn't want to wait

We're getting married
tomorrow

And here she is with her
favourites

In bags

She looks so worn out , if I
didn't know any better I would
say she's sick

But no

She looks poor now , like the rest of us

And these two have never even stepped foot into this yard

They look so lost

Mom : we had to hear from the media that you're getting married to the prince ?

I sigh

If she thinks she's going to get anything here , she's very mistaken

She's getting nothing , she's not even needed around here

I don't want to lie , I've already made plans with the bride price money

I'm going to build Makhulu a house , there's no way I'm going to leave her in this mud house

And the one from oPhakade , I'm definitely opening a coffee shop

I'm considering going back to school

So she's getting absolutely
nothing

Mom : where is my mother ?

Funny how she's remembering
she has a mother now

Just then Makhulu comes out

She's shocked seeing them

The poor woman doesn't even
know Faith and Hope

She's never seen them , she
only knows about them

Mom : mom

Makhulu : let's get inside

Me : deal with your daughter

I want nothing to do with them here , and they better not cause drama

That rude former king , won't spare them

Mom : do you know we're all here because of you

Me : I didn't invite you to my wedding

She laughs bitterly

Mom : just because you're
marrying a prince now , you
think you're better than us ?

Makhulu : Sonti what brought
you back ?

She's annoyed no lies

Mom : Keith ...he kicked us out of the house . And he divorced me without my knowledge , so we're stranded

I want to laugh

No , like this is funny

So they're not only poor , but they're also homeless

And now our mud house is good enough for her

Sonti : and we can thank her for that , she stole from us when we had opened our house to her . A day later Keith was shot , an intruder came in .

The lies

Me : what did I steal from you ?

Mom : his wallet , and it had his key in it . Had you not lost that key , we wouldn't have been attacked

Yhoh !

A whole pathological liar

Mom : and maybe it was those men you brought into my house

, he was shot and badly hurt put in hospital for almost a month . Hospital bills just piled up , we couldn't afford the house anymore . The bank repossessed everything , the house and the cars . He only put up with us , using his savings . And now he has nothing , he can't even work cause he'she's on a wheelchair mom !

The tears

I look at Makhulu

Me : I came back here and told you what happened , if I really stole from them why didn't she call and tell you ? She was quite for months , now she has nothing she comes here .
Makhulu I did not steal ...

She sighs

Makhulu : I live with you , I raised you . And I know you , you're not a thief

Mom : kodwa ma(but mom)

Makhulu : shut up , you're not coming here with your drama to ruin Sage's big day . You need shelter right now , that's what you came here for . Leave the

drama , and stop with the lies .
This child had nothing to do
with your misfortune

She wipes her fake tears

I'm so annoyed

Mom : why wasn't I told she
was getting married ? And who
handled her negotiations ?

I laugh

Me : you're not even getting a cent , that one you can forget about it

Mlilo got me to open an account

Unlike MJ who just gives me money on cash

He sends it on the account , and that's where the negotiations money is at

The king offered to pay for the whole wedding

That was a shock , cause he just came here and told Makhulu he's paying for everything

Even Mlilo was shocked

So we didn't use any of the negotiations money

I'm glad I have the money and not Makhulu

She would take pity on them , unlike my mother this woman has a heart

My mother is something else

Me : I don't know , maybe you
four will share your room . I
don't want anyone in mine

I say walking to my room , I lock
the door

The new lock MJ put , is much
better than the old one that I
had

I sit down on the bed and call
Mlilo

Its funny how I still use two
phones , and never call the
other with the other

Mlilo : nana (baby)

I sigh

Mlilo : what ?

Me : hayhiii ! (No)

I lay down on the bed

Me : my mother is here with
her kids , and seems like they'll
be here for a while

Mlilo : why are you stressed
because you're leaving ?

After the wedding tomorrow ,
I'm moving to his house yes

He suggested we move to
Durban , but I refused we're
fine here

I'll be closer to Makhulu , and I
don't want MJ and Mlilo in the
same place . I will travel in
between the two

Me : please send someone to come get my things , especially my important documents . I don't trust them , I won't be in this room all the time . I'm still going outside to see that everything is going well

He chuckles

Mlilo : Mveloyenkosi will come get them , you can pack it's fine . He'll take them to the house

What the hell ?

He burst out laughing

Voice : Sthandwa sam (my love)

Lord no !

Something must be wrong with
these two

I know Mlilo is at the palace ,
but what is Mvelo doing there ?

Me : nyan ? (Really)

MJ : I'm coming , then you can
scold me however you want

I don't know what to say

This is not normal

I wonder if Duma didn't work
on these guys

Like what men get along , like
they do

While marrying the same
woman ?

Like the Phakade delegation is
coming in a week

Me : okay

I drop the call defeated

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INSERT 22

Sage

I sneaked out , just so I can give
MJ my things

I can't believe he's here , I
didn't even know

Me : you two are friends now ?

He's parked a bit further down
from my home

MJ : what friend's ?

He chuckles

MJ : I will never be friends with
your husband

What does that mean now ?
Because they were together

It's no lie that MJ sometimes
confuses me with the things he
says

MJ : I love you so much

My stupid lips , they just curve
into a smile

Me : I love you more Mphazima

He laughs

MJ : see that one , I know for a
fact

Me : shame on you

MJ : doesn't matter , I thought
you'll bring me something to
eat

Now I feel bad

This one loves my cooking , he
just can't help himself

Me : it's the village aunts and all
cooking , I haven't touched the
pots

MJ : then , I'll order

If we had electricity , I would go
back home and just make him
something fast

Me : what were you doing with
Mlilo ?

He chuckles

MJ : my cousin's are there
getting drunk with his so called
king brother

What ?

Me : your cousin's ?

MJ : yeah , remember I told you
they were at my place . Xolani
and Zolani

Me : oh yeah

MJ : I did mention that you're getting married to him tomorrow , and they figured since we're also coming to marry you soon . They should come , I don't know for what . It's not like we're family and stuff

I hope this doesn't bring drama

MJ : we're going to sleep at the B & B , I hate Cele . So there's no way , I'll sleep at his palace

I smile

Me : my mother is home , with her kids . The husband was shot months ago , hospital bills sucked him dry. The bank took the house and the car's , now

they're homeless and he kicked them out . He's also on a wheelchair , apparently I stole his wallet that had a key to their house . And that's how they got an intruder the next day , who shot him

I'm saying this , he hasn't blinked not even once

And he's just staring at me

MJ : yeah butwe know that's
a lie

Me : yeah

MJ : I'll take your important
things to his house , and go get
those two and we'll leave

He's calm

Too calm , just like how he was
when I was telling him what
Keith almost did

MJ : what ?

Me : nothing

He laughs

And I'm like , why is his
calmness so suspicious

But then again , what would he be suspicious about ?

No

I'm being crazy right now , and just seeing things that are not there

Me : you're coming to the wedding ?

MJ : Zo and Xo will come , not me . I'm not about to watch that boy getting married to you

I knew it

The drama with this one never ends , he just utters whatever

Me : Mphazima ?

He now gives me his attention

MJ : MaShozi

Me : I understand you're okay ,
marrying me while there's
another husband

He nods

Me : can I please not be
cheated in this marriage ?

I don't want another woman here , not from him or Mlilo

MJ : I'm not interested in another woman , and if your husband dares cheat on you . I swear , I'll kill him with my bare hands

Yhoh !

MJ : come give me a kiss

Just like that , I guess that
conversation is done

I lean over , and we kiss

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MJ

I could tell , the whole thing of
her mother and that Barbie
being here

Unsettles her

But I don't wanna get involved
in that

It's not my wedding tomorrow

So it's not my business

But I know , if they ruin her day
or cause drama she will be hurt

And that's what I don't want

I've just dropped her things and
Mlilo's house

I'm at the palace , we're going
to leave now

These two and the so called
king are so wasted

I don't know how they're going
to be up for the wedding
tomorrow , but even if they
miss it I don't care

Me : let's have a word

I say to Mlilo

Xolani : whoa ! What's this now
? Some husband advice

They laugh

Mlilo gets up

Zolani : just don't kill him , and
eliminate the competition

Buntu : and you look like you're
capable

Zolani : you should have done it
, in the beginning . And we
wouldn't be here , he would
have long been dead . Now it's
too late , handle the challenge
as a man .

Mlilo : let's walk out , we won't
hear the end of this

We walk out

Killing someone means
something

Mlilo is no threat to me or what
MaShozi and I have

Which is why , I'm not fazed by
him at all

I hand him his house keys

Mlilo : thanks

Me : I won't be here tomorrow ,
forget it it's not happening

He laughs

Me : but her mother is there ,
and she's drama as they come .
If you don't stand your ground ,
she might just stand in your way

Mlilo : she wasn't okay ?

Me : no , so call her assure her or something . But make sure her day doesn't get ruined , because if it does she won't be happy . And I'll blame you for her hurt , it won't end well

Mlilo : you're really not making me be at ease , like that's a threat

Me : I don't care , the fact that she's marrying you doesn't mean I'll stand by and watch you hurt her

Mlilo : well rest assured , I won't

I nod

Me : I'm leaving , tell those two they'll find me in the car

Mlilo : sure

He goes back inside , I go to my
car

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INSERT 23

Sage

MJ : I love you okay ?

I smile , it never gets tiring
hearing him tell me

Me : I love you too Mphazima

He chuckles , I let him drop the call after a few seconds

I was up very early today

Because the ceremonies will be done this morning

There was no time to be sleeping

Then celebrations will take
place during the course of the
day

I don't know how I am feeling

But I am happy , and there's no
regrets

I hear the royal family has
already arrived

And from here , we'll go to the
palace

That's where celebrations will
be happening

That mean former king is just
shocking us

I hope he doesn't kill me once
I'm married to his son

He's too nice suddenly , I don't
get him at all . Because he's
never been a nice person

I'm getting dressed now , but I
just had to talk to MJ

I know he said he's not coming ,
even though I wish he was
coming

Because no one is fighting
anyone here

But then , I completely do
understand him

Right now I don't even know if
I'll see him before he leaves

All this will be done tomorrow ,
and he might be back in Durban

There's a knock at the door

And I'm annoyed

Can't I just be left in peace ?

And I hate that those three are
here

I open the door , I guess my
annoyance is justified

Mom : your sisters have nothing to wear for the wedding

Me : your kids

They're poor now , down and out so they're worthy enough being called my kids

Mom : don't embarrass us , let me see if I can't find anything from your wardrobe

Me : no , there are no designer clothes in there just rags . And that's beneath and below them

She tries getting in , I push her back

Mom : Sage , stop with the drama . Just because you're marrying a prince , doesn't make you special

Me : good thing is that I know that , so please leave me to get dressed

Mom : had you told us , we would have come prepared

I chuckle

Me : why are you making it sound like you're here for

something , when you're
literally back . And if your fancy
clothes you came with , means
you're not prepared . Then you
can gladly sit in here , no one
will even notice your absence
out there . I haven't for 15 years

She clenches her jaws

Me : go ahead , slap me like you
used to

She moves back a bit

Me : thank you

Mom : you'll be embarrassed
out there , your own mother
and sisters looking like guests in
your own wedding

Who is she kidding ?

Me : these people don't even know you , or that I have "sister's" . You've long been gone from this place

I feel tears burning my eyes

Me : I won't let you hurt me , not today . There's no pain like being rejected by your own mother , a woman who carried you for 9 months in her womb . I was 5 , only 5 . When you left

me with your mother like you
picked me from the streets

Mom : stop acting , it's not like I
left you with a stranger

She will never see herself wrong
, she will never admit how much
she's broken and hurt me

Me : I became nothing ,
because I couldn't afford to

make myself something . I used to beg you so many times , to pay for my school fees . Instead , you turned me into a maid for your rich family . It's not like you couldn't afford to pay me for

Mom : I was married , do you think my husband would have agreed to take care of another man's child ?

Wow

Me : I guess it's fine then , the very same man you chose over me today has discarded you like trash . See how this life thing works like ?

Mom : because of you , this is what you wanted right ? To ruin my marriage and my perfect life

Me : I could care less , but you know the truth . And you know you're lying about me , I didn't steal anything . Whatever happened to you , it's just because every dog has its day . And they say Karma never miss an address

She opens her mouth , I close the door locking it

She should leave me alone

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In the other room

Sonti walks in her mother's
room

The two girls are sitting on the
bed

Faith : and ?

Sonti : just wear whatever you can wear

Hope : mom there's nothing , it's mostly jeans in these bags

Faith : and everyone is wearing traditional clothes out there , you know that we don't have those

Hope : what did she say ?

She looks at her daughter's ,
frustration taking over

Sonti : please , you can miss the
whole thing

Them : what ?

Hope : no ways , those people
are royals

Faith : we can't miss this ...

Sonti : well then do you expect
me to work miracles ?

She snaps

Sonti : Sage doesn't want with
her things

Faith gets up

Faith : that child of yours , no wonder she jumped from one men to another . I wonder if this prince , even knows she was busy with older men in Durban

Sonti : leave her alone , it's not the end of the world

She sits on the edge of the bed facing down

Just her reality hitting her

While Faith smiles , just getting
lost in thought

Thinking of what she actually
can use , and it'll work in her
favour to bring Sage down from
this pedestal she thinks she's on
right now

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Mlilo

Zolani and Xolani are here

MJ didn't come as he said , I
didn't think he was kidding

This makes me wonder , if I'll be
there when they get married

This was an agreement , but
then again I guess somehow it
still can't be easy

I feel a tap on my shoulder

I was just having a smoke , away
from everyone

I turn , and frown in confusion

She smiles

Her : hi

I nod

Her : oh sorry , my name is Faith

Mhm !

Could she be that Faith , or
she's another one ?

Faith : I don't know how to approach a royal , please forgive me

Me : what can I do for you ?

Faith : oh uhmI just think it'll be very unfair for you to marry a girl you don't know

Me : oh ?

Faith : I'm sister to the bride ,
she didn't even tell us she's
getting married . Her own
sisters and mother

I chuckle

Faith : see , Sage is not a good
person at all . She used to mess
around with men in Durban ,
and that's why our mother
distanced her from us because

she's just bad influence . She
even stole from us

She shakes her head , like she
actually believe what she's
saying but in the say that she
can't believe it . Like she just
can't believe the kind of person
Sage is

Faith : I can bet you , she's still
seeing that old guy from Durban

My phone vibrates , I take it out
and it's Buntu telling me they're
about to start

Me : okay thanks

She gasps with a frown

I chuckle shaking my head
walking away from her

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INSERT 24

Sage

It's been a crazy day

I'm tired , and I feel like just sleeping

Everything went great , I'm happy and glad about that

I thought my mother and her kids were going to be a problem

But they kept on giving me ugly
and nasty stares

I'm so over them right now

I dial his number and it rings for
a bit

MJ : sthandwa sam (my love)

Me : did you eat ?

MJ : no

I sigh

Me : I'll send someone to bring
you food , please eat

He chuckles

Me : please

MJ : okay

Me : I have to go now , I love
you

MJ : I love you

I heave a sigh dropping the call

I don't know who am I going to
send there , but I have to find
someone

His cologne graces me , he
places a kiss on my neck

I smile

Me : baby ...

Mlilo : mhm

Me : I have to

Mlilo : we're leaving , tell me
you're done

I turn around facing him

Oh gosh he looks so cute , I
can't help but just blush

Leaning over , I give him a kiss
which he gladly welcomes

The hot flushes , Jesus help me

After a few minutes we pull out

Me : I have to go finish clearing
up

We're at the palace

Mlilo : no , we're leaving

Me : what ?

He nods

Me : wait we're not
sleeping here ?

Mlilo : no

Me : but I was told I have to be
up in the morning , and do
duties

He chuckles

Mlilo : who said that ?

Me : your aunt's

He laughs shaking his head

Mlilo : that's not happening , if
they're interested in doing
duties they'll do them
themselves

He's serious

Mlilo : let's go home

Here goes nothing

Me : can I get a driver to deliver
Mphazima food ?

He smiles

Me : I hope I did not offend you

He chuckles

Mlilo : what noyour
boyfriend is sulking , let's go
home you'll cook for him there .
I'll have someone over , he'll
take the food to him . Or Zolani
and Xolani , they're still around
they can pass by there

I still say these men are strange

We're going to what's going to
be our home now

And I'll have to cook for another

That's crazy

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Mlilo

I walk in the bedroom , she's
walking out of the shower

Butt naked , nothing covered

I stand still on my tracks

She looks my way and smiles

Sage : you're done with your
call ?

I nod

She giggles

Sage : baby come to bed

She says opening the sheets

I close the door and walk in
closer to her

She's just moving around , like
she's not torturing me right
now

I stand behind her , taking my
shirt off and pants

She turns her body stumbles
upon me

I know she felt I was behind her
, she just ignored that

Me : MaNdosi

It feels good being married

She smiles , getting on her toes
placing a kiss on my lips

I pull my briefs down , and pick
her up into my arms

Not breaking the kiss

I lay her on her down on the
bed , she parts her legs

I place both my hands on her
knees , rubbing my dick on her
open

Her moist welcomes me

I slide in slowly , as she expands
welcoming me

Sage : mhmmm..... Oh shit !

She whimpers , I thrust in just to
get her comfortable enough

She clings her hands on my back

I move back a bit , thrusting in
deeper staring into her eyes
that she slightly closes

I feel her walls closing in on my
dick , I thrust in harder her flaps
hugging so perfectly on my dick

She convulses underneath me
having an orgasm

I move back sliding my dick out
for a second

I get on my feet , pulling her to
the edge of the bed

Sliding my dick back inside of
her

Pulling both her legs to my
shoulders

She grabs a pillow and places it
underneath her lower back

I chuckle

As she settles , I grab tight on
her legs pounding in inside of
her

Sage : Ahhhhfuck !

She screams , and I smile to myself

We have a screamer here

She better understand , I don't make love I fuck . A woman must be thourouly fucked

My dick tightens , her walls
close in

She tries moving back , I hold
her tighter

Her things shake against my
lower chest , she grabs on the
sheets with both her arms

Her screams filling this room

With force , she's trying to push me back

I shoot up my cum inside of her , still buried deep inside her

As she's trying to fight the pleasure

She turns her body slightly to the side

I move with her to the side ,
still pounding in inside of her

Sage : fuuuuuck

Her whole body shakes like
she's going into shock

She stares at me , as she slowly
closes her eyes

Her screams slightly dying down

I slowly pull out , watching her
honeypot squirt

And she's so out of it

I let her calm down , and slide
my dick back in

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Sage

No !

I look at him shocked

And he smiles

I'm like what the fuck ?

But he's flicking his thumb on
my clit , he's still buried deep
inside of me

I feel like his dick is poking my
womb

How do you fuck me that I pass
out ?

And I wake you , you're still
fucking me

Something is wrong with Mlilo

Somebody better send help

My joints are painful

It felt like I was dying , having
that crazy orgasm

He leans down capturing my lips
into his

Mlilo : I love you so much

I place my hands on his head

Me : baby I love you

He deepens the kiss , my thighs
shake against his as another
wave of pleasure hits me

Oh fuck !

I am screwed

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INSERT 25

Sage

Mlilo is annoying , like he's
annoying

This is like the tenth time he's
waking me up

Me : what ?

He laughs

Mlilo : your phone has been ringing , please answer your boyfriend

Yhoh !

I could slap him right now

I'm this tired and worn out because of him

Mlilo : I'm going to shower

He walks to the bathroom

I grab the phone and answer

Me : Mphazima

He laughs

Am I the joke or what ?

MJ : you're embarrassing us ,
get up bath make something to
eat . Please be a bride

Mxm !

He will make me a clown and
have fun while doing that

MJ : awkward timing ?

I smile

Me : what you be talking about
?

I know exactly what he's talking
about

But , talking about the sex life of
the other to other

Will never happen

He knows it , he's just trying to
get on my nerves

MJ : I got the food , thank you .
And I ate , I promise

Me : good

Then I remember he's leaving

I try sitting up , and it's a
mission

Me : when are you leaving ?

MJ : today , my flight is at 11:00

I look at the time

Me : that's like in an hour

Yes !

A brand new Makoti , I was
woken up at 10:00

I should be ashamed of myself

I'm just thankful we didn't sleep
at the palace

Imagine the shame

MJ : I know

Me : you're leaving and I won't
be seeing you ?

MJ : sthandwa sam (my love) ,
are you not going to a
honeymoon ?

Now he's just mocking me , MJ
is dramatic

I laugh

Me : what honeymoon ? I'll only be here for two days , then I have to go home for abantu bakini (your family)

He chuckles

MJ : you'll see me then

I sigh

MJ : just a few days

Me : okay fine !

He chuckles

MJ : I love you okay ?

Me : I love you too , thanks for
the call

MJ : I'll call you when I arrive

Me : travel safe

MJ : okay

He drops the call

I pull over the sheets covering
myself

The laughter that erupts

I groan so annoyed

Me : I swear Mlilo , mina I'm going to kill you shame

He pulls the sheets off of me

Mlilo : Nana (baby) don't we have things to do ?

I pull him down , pecking his lips

Me : they can wait

He chuckles moving back

I don't even know what things
we have to do

But right now , I just wanna be
left alone and sleep

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Mlilo

We're cuddling on the couch ,
she's binging on these fake
reality shows

She doesn't wanna go
anywhere , she doesn't want to
do anything

And she blames me

Me : I want to buy you a car

She looks at me like I'm crazy

Me : what ?

She laughs , I chuckle

Sage : I don't know how to drive

Me : everyone learns how to
drive

Sage : huh !

Me : what ?

Sage : I'm sure educated people
and what not , I left school in
grade 5 . I can't

I place a kiss on her forehead

Me : MJ will teach you

Sage : why him ? Did he say he wants to ?

Me : no , he didn't . It's not like I told him , I want to buy you a car . It's your wedding present

She smiles

Me : and he will be more patient with you , I won't be

Sage : wow !

I chuckle

Ms : I don't want to lie , I didn't write my learner's or do my test for the licence . I bought it

He jaw drops

I laugh

Me : this country is full of corruption , trust me almost everyone does it

She moves positioning herself better

Sage : coming to think of it , I don't even know what you do

Shit !

Me : mhm ?

She laughs

Sage : baby you heard me , like
what do you do ?

Me : I do this and that

She frowns

Sage : what's that ?

Me : intelligence

Her look says it all , I've lost her

Me : Nana (baby) , just keep in mind that I work in intelligence and that's it . But you're a very rich wife , married to successful men . You need a car

That gets her to laugh , I hope
we're over this what I do
business

Because I will never tell her ,
until kingdom comes

Sage : I've been meaning to tell
you something

Me : what ?

Sage : no women are allowed into my marriage , I didn't ask for this . So I don't want to hear , you have two husband's we can have girlfriends too or whatever . There's no other wife who will come here , if any of you cheat on me I'll leave . I won't share you

I smile placing a kiss in her lips

Me : you won't , I promise

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MJ

Coming to a full house , wasn't
exactly what I expected

Mom and dad , and the siblings

Along with the uncles and
cousins

Like why is my house infested
by them ?

Karabelo : you can still change
your mind , you still have two
days to say this is nonsense and
you're not doing it

He must not bore me.

Me : Karabo please talk to your
brother

She laughs

Mom : he's your uncle

Yanga , him and Xolani

They're just the same and the
one

Dad : why are you disrespecting
my wife ?

I shrug shaking my head

Xolani : this marriage will work

Vika : boy ...what are you talking about ?

Xolani : well , we went there to that wedding . Of course , someone was sulking he didn't go . But the wife cooked , in the

husband's house . And had us
sending him food , at the B&B
he was . The husband's secretly
get along very fine , I don't see
why it wouldn't work

Zolani : for once you're
speaking sense

Nomvelo : so , why didn't you
go to the wedding ?

Me : I'm still the boyfriend , I
had no business there . And I
wasn't sulking

Mom laughs

Me : don't do that

Mom : you've always been
jealous

I frown

Me : what ?

Nomvelo : waitso he's not coming to your wedding too ?

Me : it's not my business , I didn't go to his because I didn't want to . But he can come and see his wife get married if he wants

Zolani chuckles shaking his head

Karabelo : this is unheard of

Me : a se Lesotho mona (this is not Lesotho)

Karabelo : o tla nyela (you'll shit yourself)

He doesn't wanna go there with me

Dad : let's go

I sigh getting up

Nomvelo looks at me , like she's
feeling pity

Mom : Mvelo don't hurt my
child

He says nothing but walks out

Me : I swear if he puts his hands on me , I will shoot him

Mom : I'm not ready to be a widow sir

What the fuck ?

Who is more important , me or her husband ?

I walk out , and he's leaning by
the wall smoking

Dad : I don't pretend to
understand shit when I don't ,
like I don't understand this . You
better know what you're doing ,
and pray to your gods that it
works . Because if it doesn't , I
will snap your neck

Fuck !

I move back a bit

Dad : for the talks , you're
fucking about to bring us with
this marriage of yours

Me : it will work ...

Dad : I wasn't asking you , you'll
make it work you chose it

He throws the cigarette on the floor and stomps on it

He turns and walks back inside the house

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INSERT 26

A FEW DAYS LATER

Sage

I'm home

And the Phakade's are coming
tomorrow

I'm nervous , I don't want to lie

It's not the wedding yet

Just negotiations , I don't know
how things are going to go like

I saw Mlilo earlier on , and he
said something very strange

That he's going out of the
country

That shocked me , because
even his reason didn't even
make sense to me.

But then , his family will be here

He said his father and Buntu will come

There'll be a bit of a celebration going on , if things go well

So they'll be here for that , as I'm already a daughter in-law to them

Which is what scares me

How will the Phakade family
accept me ?

I hope no drama goes on

These three are still here , and
they're just sour people

I'm glad to have found my room
the way I left it

But then again , I saw someone
was fiddling with the lock

But it's clear , they didn't get in

Makhulu : how are the nerves ?

I smile

Me : crazy

Makhulu : I have been praying ,
for strength and wisdom . You'll
be okay , everything will go well
. If there's a God out there , and
he has seen your sufferings and
hurt he will surely make a way
for you

I smile

Me : thank you Makhulu

Voice : what's going on ?

She says walking in with my two
uncle's and aunt

From my father's side , even the
first negotiations they handled
them

They greet , we greet them back

I pull chairs so they can sit down

Mom : what are these people doing here ? And I see a van driving in , they're taking out vegetables

Makhulu : what's it to you ?

I look down slightly laughing

Mom : mom

Makhulu : excuse us , we want to talk

Her jaw drops

Mom : and what are these people doing here ? What do they want ?

These people being my aunt and uncle's

Makhulu : it doesn't concern
you

She looks at everyone very
suspiciously , and she walks out

I sigh

Makhulu : don't worry

I hope she's right , everything
will work out well

I walk out , and some of the
village mothers are walking in

I laugh

It's just drama , they're also
here just for drama

There's been talks

Everyone has something to say

And now , they will all come here because they want to see with their own eyes what's happening . And hear with their own ears

I just look at them , as the men deliver the vegetables

I'm glad for one thing though , that they're helping

At least , when they start
running their mouths about us

Eating our food and drinking
our alcohol

They would have worked their
asses off

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MJ

Karabelo : third chance , and
the last one

Me : ah o tlo ntena (you're
going to annoy me)

Doesn't he throw a bottle my
way

I duck and it hits a tree

Me : you're not going there
tomorrow

He laughs

Karabelo : MaZulu a tlaya (the
Zulus will go)

He walks away from us

Zolani : umalume wakho (your
uncle)

We're all at the B&B

We booked a few rooms

It's my parents , along with all
my father's brother's

And this brother of my mother ,
along with the two cousins

That's a lot of people

My mother wasn't staying
behind

She was like , she wants to meet
this daughter in-law of hers

That woman !

I can't wait for tomorrow to see
my wife

And just hold her into my arms

A few days without her felt like
shit

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In Makhulu's room

Sonti paces around , with her
daughter's looking at her

Faith : mom what's going on ?

She looks at them and sighs

Sonti : things are just happening
in this house and I'm not told

Hope : what ? What are those
people doing out there ?

Sonti : I don't know

She motions with her hands
annoyed

Hope : village things are so weird

Faith : why don't we go outside and find out ?

Sonti shakes her head

Sonti : no , let's wait until tomorrow . We will look like we're snooping around , if we start getting too friendly with

those people out there . They'll start gossiping about us

Hope throws herself on the bed , looking at her mother

Hope : I hate this life , I miss my dad . I miss our life

Sonti : your very same dad that casted us out ?

Hope : had you not brought
your whore daughter into our
home , we wouldn't be here

Sonti slaps her

Faith looks at her mother
shocked

They've always seen her slap
Sage , but she's never laid her
hand on one of them

Sonti : he tried to rape her , we all saw that video

Hope : mhm , still . If she didn't come into our home , he wouldn't have tried to sleep with her . This is all her fault , and it's your fault ! I hate you , I hate this life . And I hate that daughter of yours , she's married to a Prince and she doesn't give shit about you

Sonti : we also didn't care about her , what makes you think she will care about us ? This is our life now , make peace with it . Unless you go out there , find a rich man and get us out of this hell whole . If you think you can do better , why don't you ? Go pimp yourself out

Hope gets off the bed

Hope : your whore daughter
already has one , pimp her . But
I'm definitely getting out of
here

She drags her bag , putting her
clothes inside it

Faith : Hope stop this

Sonti : no don't stop her , if she
wants to leave let her

Faith : mom !

Sonti : no let her , she'll see
herself out there

Faith begs Hope who is not
budging

She opens the door and walks
out

Faith : she's your daughter !

She's close to tears

Sonti : sage was my daughter
too , I still left her

Faith pops her eyes , and runs
out running after her sister

Sonti sits down on the bed

Life has kicked her to the curve ,
the very same place she ran
away from

In hopes for a better one

But this is where she ends up at

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INSERT 27

Sage

Why wasn't I this nervous when
the Cele family came here ?

I'm sweating right now

My aunt is trying to get me
dressed

Well she's helping me

I just want everything to go well

And with the way things were
yesterday

Hope left , Faith spent half the
night crying with her mother
shouting at her

Just making us noise

It was just drama , and I had
Makhulu sleep with me in my
room just for a few hours

The uncles were outside ,
braaing meat and drinking with
some of the villagers

My phone rings , and I reach for
it

Me : can I please answer this ?

She nods with a smile and walks
out

Me : baby

He sighs

Mlilo : why does it sound like
you want to cry ?

Is it that bad ?

Mlilo : you know everything is
going to go okay right ?

Me : I don't know that

Mlilo : it's just nerves , but don't worry . MJ will marry you by force if he has to , he's crazy like that

I laugh

Mlilo : calm down , do it for him

I take a deep breath

Me : okay

Mlilo : you go out there , and
you be cute

I laugh

Mlilo : I'll call you later ,
hopefully you'll get a few
minutes to spare

Me : I love you , thank you for
the call

Mlilo : I love you too Nana
(baby)

He drops the call , I smile

At least he got me to calm
down , I'm thankful for that call
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MJ

Two hours , a whole fucking two
hours

And no one has said anything to
me

No one has come out of the
house

Outside people are going up
and down

I am slowly getting frustrated ,
and I don't wanna burst

I saw that Cele and Buntu
around here

I'm outside by my car , just by
the gate

I'm with Zolani

My mother wasn't staying
behind , she wanted to be in
there

That woman takes the cup

Zolani : I feel like we should call
someone right now , because I
don't like your look

I look at him

Zolani : let me call Xo

I let him be

I don't know how Xolani is going
to answer his phone in there

Zolani : let me put it on loud
speaker

He does just that , we listen as
the phone rings

He finally answers

Xolani : what ?

He's whispering

And we can hear the other
voices

Not being able to make out
what they're saying

It's just masculine voices

Zolani : how is it working in
there ? MJ is not feeling well

He chuckles

Xolani : Mvelo is fighting

Me : what ?

I ask , ready to get off this car

Xolani : he says he has to pour
bile on the Makoti

What the fuck ?

Xolani : he's not budging ,
they're arguing she's already

married and that was done . But
he says he wants her
acknowledged at his house too

Me : this

The line goes dead

Zolani : your father !

Like what is wrong with that
man ?

Like is this worth it ?

I mean , we didn't even talk
about this whole thing

Zolani : don't go in there , you
will ruin things

My father is already ruining
things

What does he care if she's
poured with bile or not ?

Like what does that matter ?

He better not ruin this for me ,
honestly I will not appreciate his
presence being here very much

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Sage

With each hour that's passing , I
keep looking at my phone

And now I'm tired

I got ready long ago , I don't
understand what's taking so
long

I can't even hear anything ,
from those voices in there

This is frustrating

I wipe my tears and grab my
phone , I call him

On the first ring he answers

Me : are you still marrying me ?

He chuckles

Is he not worried like I am ?

MJ : stop crying , of course I am
marrying you

I sigh

Me : what's taking so long ?

MJ : it's my father sthandwa
sam (my love)

Me : he doesn't want me ?

He chuckles

MJ : no , he's fighting for you to be acknowledged traditionally into our family . He wants you

What ?

Me : the bile business ?

MJ : yeah

Whoa !

But that was done at the Cele
home

Is it allow that it happens twice ,
on different home ?

MJ : don't worry , everything
will be fine . I will walk into that
house if I have to

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In the kitchen

Sonti walks in

She's been in the other room ,
leaning against the door
listening

Sonti : what is this ?

Everyone looks at her

Sonti : don't all just stare at me ,
I asked a question . That
daughter of mine you're here
for is married , to a prince . I
don't know what nonsense is
happening here , or what kind
of a scam are they playing here .
But please , don't waste your
time and money leave .

No one says nothing , nor do
they even move

Sonti : are you people death ?

Karabo gets up

Karabo : you're a very ratchet
woman , and what is happening
here has nothing to do with you
. Excuse yourself

She looks at Karabo shock

Sonti : did you hear ...

Karabo : I heard you , we all did
. Now leave

Her jaw drops not believing this
woman standing in front of her

Karabo : you're wasting our
time , leave

She frowns and walks back to
Makhulu's room

To a sulking Faith

Faith : how is she getting
married twice ?

She just looks at her and says
nothing

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INSERT 28

Sage

I'm startled by the ululations

I so hope my ears are not
hearing things that are not
there

The door opens , and Mrs
Phakade walks in

I don't know her , but I've seen
her pictures at MJ's house

She smiles

Mrs Phakade : oh you're so
beautiful , no wonder you're
driving these two boys insane

Yhoh !

The ground should open and
just swallow me

Mrs Phakade : are you ready ?
Your in-laws are ready to see
you

Lord I just nod with tears
streaming down my face

Its done , and I guess all went
well

Like I didn't think it will

With that drama , hearing my
mother's voice is there shouting

Even though I couldn't hear
what she was saying

But I thought she had ruined
this for me

Mrs Phakade : it's okay , I
welcome you into our family

She hugs me , it's the warmest
hug ever

I am so happy , like I'm really
happy

Now I can relax , and just enjoy
my day

Without any worries

I know it'll be a long one , it
already started very long

I just hope , it ends well

From hereon , I don't know
what's going to happen

But the worst is over , I can
finally plan my white wedding .

Then we can go on with our
lives

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MJ

Me : what was that ?

I ask not pleased at all

Don't get me wrong

I'm glad everything went well ,
the two families finally reached
an agreement

And now it involves the Cele ,
but it doesn't matter

Because now , all three
Ancestors would have to be
combined on MaShozi

But I still don't understand my father for this

Dad : you don't send me to get you a wife , and expect that wife to not be acknowledged by our ancestors

Dramatic much !

Dad : in that case , she might as well not be our wife

Me : but we didn't talk about this

Dad : it's done now , give it rest

Wow !

Dad : I married your mother in court , but I still went back and did things right . I paid bride price , and she was poured with

bile as a wife into this family .
That's just what I simply did for
you , what's a wife if you can't
do ancestral things for her ?
Would it please you , that they
include her kwaCele but you
can't do it kaPhakade ? Just
leave me alone , and be grateful

I am defeated

He walks away , and I'm left
alone

I turn taking my phone out , and
I bump into Barbie

Her : hi handsome

I can never keep up with this
girl's name

Her : such a handsome hunk like
yourself , what are you doing
tying yourself to a woman that

belongs to another ? Honestly I must say , I'm very disappointed by your actions

Bipolar alert !

Her : but worry not , she has you two hooked on her spell . I can be yours if you want , she doesn't even have to know . But , I'll always avail myself to you when she's paying attention to her prince husband

Me : no

She frowns

Her : what ?

Me : get out of my way

Her : oh come on ! No man can resist all of this , for another

man's seconds . You must have
been fed

I chuckle

Me : okay that's fine

I smile catching a glimpse of
MaShozi coming to us

Her : there's

She shuts up as she stands next
to me

This girl is too much !

I hold her hand , placing my free
hand on her waist

Me : MaShozi

She smiles

Me : I heard you've fed me ,
because there's honestly no
way I can be with you while you
have your prince husband

She looks at Barbie annoyed

I chuckle , tilting her face to
mine

Me : I don't care , and I don't
mind . Honestly sthandwa sam

(my love) , if you've fed me
something continue feeding me
don't stop . And you can add big
chunks now

Doesn't Barbie click her tongue
and walks away annoyed

She laughs

Sage : what

Me : that fake girl is annoying !

I say shaking my head

But just looking at this beautiful
woman in front of me

My heart melts

Me : we've done it

Sage : we did

She smiles , getting all
emotional

I lean down giving her a kiss ,
which she gladly welcomes

I know it's been a tough
morning to us

But we did it , and that's all that
matters

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Sage

After such a long day

The last thing I really need , is
this lecture from my mother

Mom : how do you get married
when you're already married ?

Honestly I don't have her energy at all

Mom : and the nerve Sage , the nerve to invite those people .

Yet I as your mother I didn't even know anything , what kind of a child are you ?

Those people are my father's family , they clearly don't get along

Whatever they did to her , or
whatever my father did to her
must have been huge

Because she's proven that she
doesn't like them

Makhulu : they were here on
her first negations , and it was
only right they

Mon : they what ? So they can take the money and run away with it , leaving you with nothing ?

It's late now , just after 19:00 I think

There's still people out here

But I know the Phakade family asked to leave around 17:30

So I know they're not around
here

I don't want to stand for this , I
just really can't

Me : Makhulu I'm leaving , I'll
come see you tomorrow or
soon. We have things to talk
about

I give her a hug

I walk to my bedroom , and it's crazy that i have all this much money in a school bag

I grab it , along with a towel just to cover myself

It's a bit of a distance to Mlilo's house , but that's where I'm going

He did give me a key when he
left , so I'll spend the night
there

I walk out , and she's now quite
but with death stares

There's a few neighbours
outside , I pass them going out
of the gate

Just having walked a short distance , his car stops next to me

I smile , he just opens the door I get in . I swear it's like he was just near , standing watch

Me : I thought you left ?

He drives off

MJ : I figured something will annoy you , and you'll want to leave . Cele is out of the county , so why not spend time with you when I can

I don't even want to know how he knows he's out of the country

Because these two call each other , and they're just awkward for my liking

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INSERT 29

Sage

I'm woken up by the aroma of
food

I find him staring at me

This man can cook , he just shy's away from the kitchen

Me : babe

He smiles

MJ : sthandwa sam (my love) ,
wake up so you can come eat .
You didn't eat last night

I didn't want food

I honestly just feel like Makhulu
should kick my mother and that
Faith out

Hope never returned , and I
don't care to know where she is

I sit up straight

Me : can you help me do
something ?

MJ : what ?

He says grabbing his phone

Me : deposit money

MJ : who do you want to send
money ?

That time he's not even looking
at me

Me : myself

Ah ! The eyes , I finally get them

MJ : I didn't give you money ?

I smile and slightly laugh

That's one thing he never
forgets , he's being dramatic
right now

Me : I didn't say you didn't

MJ : okay , then what's going on
?

Should I tell him this ?

Me : it's the lobola money

He laughs

MJ : Makhulu dealt us , why did she give you the money ?

Me : even the first one , she gave it to me

He continues to laugh

He walks over , and sits next to me on the bed

MJ : so ...you're inventing it ?

Me : that probably would be nice , but no

He frowns

Me : Iokay , so I plan to use the money to build Makhulu a house . And well maybe open a small coffee shop , that's the one thing we don't have in the village . If you want coffee , you

have to go to the restaurants . I don't know , but I always thought that one day I can have a coffee shop

MJ : that's cute

I chuckle

Me : and I want to go back to school , well that's a thought . I don't want to lie , I hate the fact

that I'm not educated whatnot .
But also I'm 20 , you do grade 5
when you're 11 . See the gap , it
makes me feel uneasy . So I was
thinking that maybe , I can just
focus on the business . And if it
works, that would be great .
Because then I would be doing
something with my life , than
just being a house wife . Might
take a toll , but I'll just have to
find the balance

MJ : can we eat ? And you
continue to tell me more about
this

I smile , MJ loves food like he
loves food

Me : give me a kiss

He chuckles leaning over

I laugh

Me : don't get any ideas , just a
kiss babe

I hold his hand as we kiss

It doesn't help just how I'm
yearning for him

Last night , we were very
behaved we did nothing

But lord !

Can I resist ?

Most definitely not !

I laugh through the kiss , as he
gets in between my legs

I part them further
accommodating him better

I have on just my panty , he's in his briefs

I place my one leg over his back , as he lowers his briefs taking them off

He slides my panty to the side , and slowly rubs himself on me

And slowly he slides in

I gasp a bit , feeling all of him
just filling me up

He thrusts in , starting in slow
paces

But as more pleasure intensifies
, he picks his pace up

I move my hands grabbing on
his ass cheek

This man has strokes , he can
move this waist

It does something to me , just
feeling the rhythm grabbing on
his ass cheeks

At this point I'm definitely
feeling him , there's no doubt

He's really drilling me in a way
that it's on the spot

I grab his neck , hugging him
down to me as I feel that wave
of pleasure having an orgasm

He doesn't even let me calm
down , he has me flipped

On my knees , ass in the air

The slight slaps on my ass
cheeks

It's painful but also giving
pleasure vibes

As he slides his dick in

I move my upper body forward
a bit

Grabbing that pillow biting it , I
feel like his dick has gone too
far

My lower stomach is burning

As he starts thrusting in ,
grabbing on my thighs

My ass cheeks just bouncing on
his lower waist

From time to time he's slapping
them

He just sends me over , as I hear
him deep grunt and I know he's
left his seed in me

Sexiest thing ever to hear a man
enjoying you like that

With just a few strokes , my
cum graces his dick

I bite on the pillow so hard

As I lower my knees lying flat on
the bed

I close my eyes briefly , but I
quickly open them as I feel him
grabbing me

Are not resting and sleeping
becausewow !

He has me pinned against the
wall

My legs wrapped around his
waist

Kissing the shit out of me , as he
slides his dick in

My arms wrapped around his
neck

I pull out of the kiss , as he goes
in deeper

I cling my hands to his back

He rams through , I feel like I'm
going to burst

And every time it feels like I'm
about to reach an orgasm , he
just denies me

Me : baby please

MJ : mhm ?

His voice just sends me over ,
whispering against my ear

He's buried deep inside of me

Me : oh fuckahhh

At this point there's no part
that's not painful on my body
crying to release

Viciously , with a scream of pain
I pull off of him

Almost falling down , but he
holds me

My legs are shaking like crazy , I
feel his dick twitching against
my tummy his cum gracing my
lower stomach

I'm tearing up , feeling this
wave of pleasure that's coming

I'm on my toes , squirting over
this floor crying my eyes out .
My whole body shivering , and
shaking

And he's watching me with a
smile , like he's proud of himself

Wow !

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MJ

Me : the food is cold now

She doesn't even look at me

She turns , and gives me her
back

I chuckle

Me : you not hungry anymore ?

She shakes her head covering herself

I drag my one hand to her ass cheeks

Me : you're giving me your back , I can still tap this ass

She lazily laugh

Sage : babe nono please
don't be that person , let me be

I chuckle , grabbing on her ass

Sage : Come on baby , cuddle
me to sleep

Me : look at me then

She sighs

It takes her forever to turn , but she finally does

I bring her closer with my arm smuggling her closer to me

Sage : I love you babe

I smile placing a kiss on her forehead

Me : I love you sthandwa sam
(my love)

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INSERT 30

Sage

MJ and his family left today

He helped me deposit that
money

And I got to look at building materials

Our neighbour is a builder , I was planning to talk to him

He's not a professional , but he built his own house

But MJ said I should just tell him how big do I want the house to be

I don't know what's he planning
, but I have to talk to Makhulu
first

I bought groceries

I think I'll be home for a while

While I plan my white wedding ,
I want it happening in Durban

If Makhulu can allow me to go there

I'll go that side and make plans , maybe find a wedding planner as well

Makhulu : thank you for bringing food

Me : foreign things , don't start with me

I never want to be thanked for anything that I do for this woman

If I do it , then she most definitely deserves it

Makhulu : haven't they started talking ?

I laugh

Me : your neighbours have long started

We laugh

Me : honestly I'm sure we're the talk of the village . They were peeking through windows when I walked in here

She sighs

Me : I'm sorry

I brought her these talks

Makhulu : as long as you're
okay and happy , it's fine

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

Makhulu : what ?

Me : now that I'm leaving , you
can use my room . And leave
those two in yours

She laughs

Me : there'sI want to build
you a house , I don't want to
leave you in this mud house
living alone

Makhulu : but ...houses are expensive

Me : I know , but you woman raised me . And that bride price money belongs to you , it's yours . So to avoid it being spent on another people , let's get you a house

Makhulu : I don't know what to say

I smile

Me : but , I don't want mom
and her daughter in there .
You'll move into the house
alone , and they'll stay here in
the mud house . We've had our
fair share of this life , and now it
has taken a turn . Let them feel
their own , you've been a
mother to her . Even though
she failed to be a mother to me

, and a daughter to you . But you still welcomed her back , she will have a roof over her head . And she can use her hands perfectly to work , I won't be supporting her . Or helping her kids for school , no one helped me when I needed help and she could have helped . She chose not to , I'm just doing the same

I have never seen my
grandmother shed tears , and I
hope these are tears of joy

I will not hold back how I feel
about her daughter

She never did with me , she
always made it a point that I
know just how she doesn't care
about me

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Mlilo

I'm in the dog box

No ways , shit awaits me when I
get back home

I've just gotten out of the
shower , I'm trying to call

And my phone is switched off

And I know it's just mine

She called last night , it's guns
blazing

Just shot after shot , I couldn't
answer

And now , I know she's angry

I dial his number

MJ : yeah

Me : can you help me ?

He chuckles

MJ : I'm not your friend , what do you want ?

Even if he were the last friend on earth.

Me : someone is not happy with me , it's fine I fucked up . But I'll be back home in a few days , I'll fix it . There's a car that's being delivered today , they said it'll arrive in an hour or so . I don't want it staying there , so can you please get it for me . Treat it like a baby it's for her

He laughs

MJ : your wife needs funding for
a coffee shop

Me : how much ?

MJ : how much do you have
Mlilo ?

Me : should I go ask her ?

MJ : ask her for what ? Is she the one who told you ?

I sigh

Me : okay , but you'll get the car right ?

MJ : yeah , was telling you that as you're running to the middle east securing deals of guns . You better make money with it , and

fund her when you get back .
Come prepared

He drops the call

He will never give me a break

How does he even know where
I am and what I'm doing ?

This guy is just awkward , and
I'm stuck with him

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MJ

Sage : I spoke to Makhulu ,
she's happy about the house

We're on video call , I'm at the
office

My parents are still at my house

Just them , everyone else left

I have to go fetch the car at the dealership

I could have Kenzo go fetch it , but because I was asked I have no choice

Me : that's good , how big are we building ?

Sage : we ?

I chuckle

Sage : she said three bedrooms
, a kitchen and lounge and a
bathroom

Me : that's not bad , I'll send
people over during the week

Sage : for what ?

Me : to build , I'll tell them what's wanted . They'll draw out a plan , one that will accommodate Makhulu and make the house be comfortable for her . And you'll pick what you want , like the kind of bricks . And how you want the house furnished , I'm thinking we'll need to get her a helper too .

She can't be cleaning and
cooking , all by herself

An awkward silence , I turn over
to the phone and look at her

She's just staring at me now

Me : what did I say ?

Sage : thank you

I chuckle

Me : I love you

She smiles

Sage : I love you too

Me : I have to go somewhere ,
but we need to talk

Sage : about ?

Me : you're remaining on
contraceptives sthandwa sam
(my love)

She laughs

Sage : you don't want kids ?

Me : I do , but not yet . A year
into the marriage , there should
be no kids . You're going to start

your business , you need to focus on that . And we need to establish this set up perfectly , before we start bringing kids into it

Sage : okay , that makes sense . I'll tell Magaye about it

Me : okay , I have to go he sent me somewhere

Sage : aibo !

I laugh

Me : he sure thinks we're
friends

Sage : you two are awkward , I
think you were done something

We laugh

Me : I've been told that I'm fed ,
so it's fine

Sage : mxm ! So since you two
are buddies , did he tell you why
he's out of the country ?

I clear my throat

Sage : I mean , what's this
intelligence work he says he
does ?

Fucking intelligence

When he's just a criminal arms
dealer

I'm not about to tell her she
married a criminal

Me : I don't know , we don't
talk like that

Sage : really now ?

I nod

Sage : fine , I'm coming that side . I want to plan the wedding there

Now that's music to my ears

Me : can't wait to see you

She laughs

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INSERT 31

A WEEK LATER

Sage

All plans are done , just touch ups here and there

MJ was so invested , he even helped me finding a wedding planner

And he was at every meeting ,
putting his input

Yeah

That felt like team work , I loved
and enjoyed planning our
wedding together

I have to go back to the village
today

His parents left yesterday , I
love that I get along very well
with her mother

It was just great , seeing their
family dynamics

Mlilo got back a few days ago

And we're somehow right now

Cause I snapped at him , I was asking him about this trip of his that he didn't answer my calls when I called

And he had nothing tangible to say

And I snapped at him

I felt bad after that , but I don't appreciate being lied to

I've never lied to them , and I
expect them to give me the
same courtesy

I walk in the lounge , he's going
through some papers

Already the builders have
started working back at home

I will go and check on progress

Me : babe ?

MJ : mhm ?

He doesn't even look at me

Me : can you please come help
me ?

Only now he looks at me

MJ : with ?

I laugh

Me : don't be nasty , just with
untying my hair

MJ : how much time do you
have before you leave ? I'll take
you to the salon and pay for it
sthandwa sam (my love)

Hah !

Me : but I'm asking you

MJ : you take hours doing that

Me : together we'll take less

MJ : I think it's best I pay at the
salon

Me : what if we find a line ?

He laughs

MJ : I'll pay them so we can
pass

Me : stop the drama , please
come

He sighs

MJ : come here

I smile , walking closer to where
he's seated

MJ : sit down

I laugh , sitting down on the
carpet in between his knees .
He fiddles with the knots on my
head

MJ : you're a lot of work

Me : and I love you

He laughs

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Mlilo

Dad : how's marriage ?

Me : it's fine

He called me over , I don't even
know why

I don't wanna be here

I want to be home when my
wife arrives

I know she's not happy with me
, about the phone calls business

She ended up snapping at me ,
when I was trying to explain
that

Of course with lies , and not the
truth

MJ sent her car over , it's at the
house now

I hope that can make her happy

I heard he's already started
teaching her how to drive

I know soon she will be driving
it , so it wasn't a waste

Dad : I have always deemed you
weak to Buntu , and maybe
that's why I choose him as king
and not you

Me : I don't care about that

He sighs

King : I just want to say , you've stood up for yourself against me . And you've done your own thing , proudly so without care . And that makes me very proud of you

Oh well , that's a first

Me : uhmokay

I don't know

What am I supposed to say ?

I've never heard this man say
he's proud of me

Or that maybe I've done
something good , or whatever

Dad : I will be going away for a while , please look after your brother . And see that he doesn't ruin this kingdom , I don't know for how long I'll be gone for

I don't even want to ask where he's going

And I'm not going to baby sit his king son

He chose him , he should trust
he'll take care of his kingdom

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Sage

Me : is this how I get welcomed home ?

He chuckles

I love the car , a whole G63

Mlilo : I missed you

I missed him too , but I'm still
not happy with him

Mlilo : let me let you have your
bath , I'll see you when you're
done

He walks out , I continue with
my bath

When I'm done , I walk out
wrapped in a towel

I hope there's no one in this
house just him

Me : baby ?

He's in the lounge , focusing on
his phone

He side eyes me and chuckles

Me : it's not happening , I just
need your help

He gets up

Mlilo : with what ?

Me : washing my hair

He laughs

Mlilo : no , lets go to the salon .
I'll pay

What's wrong with them ?

Me : but I'm asking you to do it
please

He sighs

Mlilo : Nana (baby) you take a
long time washing your hair , I'll

rather pay someone and have
them do it

See why this is working ?

I have two husband's , with the
same mind-set

Me : please

I walk to him , hugging his lower
back

Mlilo : who undid the hair ?

I laugh

Me : Mphazima did

Mlilo : did you bribe him ?

Me : what do you take my for ?

Please come help me

Mlilo : this is crazy

Yes it's crazy but he's taking my
hand walking to the bathroom

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INSERT 32

Sage

I'm making the bed

He walks in , and leans by the door

We didn't talk much

Nor about what happened , that phone call

Mlilo : Nana (baby) , can we please talk ?

I sigh

I know we must , or rather we
have to

But I don't want to be lied to

Me : unless you're going to tell
me the truth , if not don't

Mlilo : I said let's talk , not that I
want to talk

He walks further in

I turn and look at him

Me : will it be the truth ?

Mlilo : so you're saying I lied ?

I just stare at him , he says
nothing I turn back doing what I
was doing

Mlilo : I didn't appreciate you raising your voice at me like that

Yeah

I feel bad about that

But let's talk about his lies

Me : and I don't appreciate being lied to either

He grabs my arm , making me
turn to him

Mlilo : don't ever raise your
voice at me like that , I am not
death right ?

I say nothing

Mlilo : right ?

I laugh

Me : you know you're not death
, so what do you want me to say
?

In a split second I regret saying
that

He has me turned back , pinned
against the bed

His one hand pinning my lower
back flat on the bed

I gasp , as he rips my poor new
leggings apart

Sliding my panty to the side ,
and he's inside me

Pounding like it's his last time

Gosh !

Never mind the pleasure , it's so
uncomfortable

I feel like my lower back is going
to break

Me : Ohhh my godbaby
.....please stop

And my pleas are falling on
death ears

Now he's really acting like he's
death

Funny how that is what got me
being fucked like this

I feel that wave of pleasure
coming , I grab on the sheets

Hah !

He moves back

I turn my head looking at him ,
and he's zipping his pants . Like
he's for real

I look at him shocked

Did he just deny me an orgasm
after fucking me like that ?

Like really ?

I move back , he leans over
giving me a kiss and I don't kiss
him back

He pulls out

Me : I hate you

I turn walking to the bathroom ,
and he's left laughing in there .

It really must be nice being him
right now

Mxm !

I take a shower , not even
thinking about him and that
stunt he pulled

When I'm done , I walk back to
the bedroom

He's sitting down on the bed
pressing on his phone

Mlilo : Nana (baby)

Me : I want my leggings back

Mlilo : okay , mamela (listen)

I walk to my closet leaving him
there

Doesn't he follow behind me ,
like I have a tail

I lotion and dress up , I have to
wear a dress cause I'm going
home

Makhulu would grill me for
rocking up in pants

Mlilo : uyaphi ke ? (Where are
you going)

I look at him putting my sandals
on

Mlilo : okay likenot ignorance
baby

He stands behind me , placing a
kiss on my neck

This is the devil's son

Me : please leave me alone , I'm going home

Mlilo : okay I'll take you

Me : no , I'll walk

Mlilo : for what ?

Me : my feet work very fine

Mlilo : don't do that

I walk out of the bedroom and
he's still following me

I touch the door knob he holds
my hand

Mlilo : should I order food for
you and Makhulu ? I'll bring
them

Yhoh !

I want to die of laughter , but I
won't laugh in front of him
shame

He's getting my I'm angry at you
reaction

Me : no , we can cook . And I'm
not hungry , Makhulu has food
at her house I'm sure

He sighs

Me : ndiyeke (leave me)

He moves and stands in front of
the door

Mlilo : no , you can't leave angry
at me like this

Me : I'm not angry , that's just
emotional consuming . I just

don't want you anywhere near
me

Mlilo : aa (no) , don't hurt me

What's with the drama ?

Wasn't he trying to be all manly
with me just minutes ago ?

He must be forgetting I'm a
woman with two husband's ,

and well I won't cry nor beg
another for an orgasm when I
can get it from another

Me : move

Mlilo : uhm no

I laugh moving away from him

Mlilo : don't use another door
please don't do that

Me : hayhiii , I wasn't even thinking about that . Angithi you want me as a prisoner here , just leave me alone

Mlilo : how can you say such a thing though ?

One thing about Mlilo is that he's way softer than MJ

MJ would have straight up told me , that yeah I'm a prisoner so what am I going to do about that

Mlilo : okay mamela ke (listen then) , I'll take you home . But we'll talk and like right now

He stands behind me , placing kisses on my neck

He lifts my dress , sliding his hand inside my panty

I moan slightly softly as his finger rubs on my clit

Mlilo : I'm sorry , your man is just a thug and nothing else . I can't tell you more than that , please forgive me . And don't be upset

I want to push him back , and
slap him

Of course in my head

Because right now , his finger is
doing things in there and giving
me pleasure

Lord !

He just told me he's a thug , as
if that's the same as stealing
candy

I turn my head facing him , he
brings his face and we kiss

He flicks his middle finger in my
open

I place my hand on his head , as
my cum graces his finger

And he slowly pulls it out

I gather myself after a few
seconds

Me : you deny me your dick ,
just so you can give me your
finger ?

I ask with a frown , and he burst
out laughing

Now I have to go change ,
because I feel drenched

All because of a finger , such a
denial of pleasure

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INSERT 33

Sage

Makhulu : how are the wedding plans coming along ?

Me : good , the planner is already going ahead , Mphazima has paid for everything . It's a wedding next weekend

She smiles

I hand her the cup of tea

Makhulu : thank you , I'm so happy everything is going so well for you . You deserve this happiness , I didn't know it'll take two men

We laugh , that last statement was so unnecessary

My mother walks in

Mom : the wife with two men is here

She pulls a chair and sits down

Mom : what have you turned to ?

Me : please , you know nothing about . And I was raised with morals and values , things you

know nothing about . I might
have grown up poor , but I
turned out so much better than
your kids

She raises her hand to slap me ,
but Makhulu holds her hand

Makhulu : not in my house , you
don't raise your hand and hit
my child

Mom : did you hear how she spoke to me ? This is why I left you , you're an ill-mannered child

Makhulu : I gave you a roof over my house , the least you can do is be grateful and worry about finding your daughter who disappeared

She gets up clicking her tongue

Mom : she didn't disappear ,
she chose to run away and go
pimp herself to men . Its clear
my womb was very rotten , I
gave birth to whores . One is
already giving herself to two
men legally

This woman is bitter yhoh !

Makhulu : Sonti !

Mom : what ? Where have you ever heard of this nonsense , a woman with two husband's ? How do you even allow such nonsense to happen , and you think you raised her better than I would have . Mom you should be ashamed of yourself , you're too old for this . Is it the bride price money ? Yeah , it must be it . You're already using it to

build a house , you didn't even waste time .

She turns to walk away , but stops on her tracks and looks at us

Mom : I gave birth to her , that house will be mine . You will remain in this mud house of yours , that bride price money is mine . And whatever you use to buy it , I'll take it . I'm her

mother not you , you think
you'll elevate yourself using her
. Forget it , at least not killing
her when I found out I was
pregnant has finally paid out

I laugh

Mom : oh it's a joke ? You must
be thinking I'm joking

I get up

Me : that's my money that's building that house , and you won't even get a cent from the bride price money . And if you think you'll live in there , you're mistaken very badly . It won't happen , I'll roll over before that happens . And just so we're clear , you're still here because Makhulu is kind enough . If I had my way , I would have long kicked you and Faith out

She laughs clapping her hands ,
and walks closer to me

Mom : you have really grown a
mouth haven't you ?

Me : I've always had one , I
respected you enough in your
house . But not here , it won't
happen

She shakes her head walking
out

Me : your daughter is
something else

I sit down

Me : I'm so sorry for sounding
disrespectful , but I won't stand
her being disrespectful towards
you . She's very ungrateful

She sighs sipping on her tea

Makhulu : between her and me
, I'm the one who's womb was
rotten . She's just a bad mother
, and raised her kids very bad .
Don't take her to heart

Well she couldn't be more right
about that

Look at how Hope and Faith
turned out

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Mlilo

Me : you're building ?

MJ : yeah

I'm busy clearing the guns , I
don't want them here

I'm married now

I have a wife , and this is her
home

She can't stumble upon such
things , I know she won't stand
them at all

I've already said I'm a thug to
her

I can't have her knowing there's
guns around here

Me : so where do I chip in ?

He laughs

MJ : I chipped in nowhere on
the car

I chuckle

Me : yeah , that was her wedding present . You're building a proper home , for a woman who raised our wife . We should be nice son's in-law

MJ : install water and electricity

Me : I can do that

MJ : the coffee shop ?

Me : she hasn't said anything to me about it , but are you funding it ?

MJ : yeah

I laugh

I thought he'll say I should alone

Me : then how much am I supposed to take out ?

MJ : I'm estimating she'll need about 1.2M , or maybe less . Depending on does she build from scratch or buys a building that's already there , there's renovations . And equipment as well , also how big the place will be . But she wants something small

Me : mhm , the 1.2 is fine . We can go half on that

MJ : okay , I don't want her going out there with business plans seeking investors . If she gets turned down , it might take a knock on her

I get where he's coming from

After all , she's married to men with money . Why must she ask for it , when we can just give it

to her . She really doesn't need
to have financial stress , we can
afford her

Me : alright , I'll get on with
guys so they can work on the
water and electricity

MJ : alright cool

I drop the call

Carrying the bags with the guns
outside to the car

Me : make sure they're safe ,
we can't even afford to loose
one . The buyer will be ready by
Friday

He nods , I watch as he gets into
the car and drives out

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MJ

Nomvelo : when will your fiancé
be in Durban ?

Me : why ?

Nomvelo : I just want to meet
her , mom can't stop raving
about her daughter in-law . She
was busy telling Imani all about
her , yhoh the woman is flexing
. We're all breathing hard

I laugh

I love the fact that they get along , it's less stress for me

Me : it's the wedding weekend , I don't know when they'll arrive this side . Maybe Wednesday or Thursday , when are you coming ?

Nomvelo : I'm thinking of
tomorrow

Me : you come through , I'll ask
her

Nomvelo : okay , I hope we'll
have a sisters relationship

Me : don't bash her , for having
two husband's and you'll get
along fine

She laughs

Nomvelo : Karabo loves her for that , why would I even bash her ?

Me : okay then , let me get back to work

Nomvelo : alright bye

I drop the call

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INSERT 34

Sage

Me : so , are we not going to
discuss you saying you're a thug
?

He shakes his head

I sit down opposite him

Me : how safe am I ? How safe are we ? From this thug business of yours , can we even say we're safe ?

Mlilo : very safe , because no one even knows me.

Me : what does that even mean ?

Mlilo : please just trust me
when I say , you're safe .
Nothing will happen to you ,
take my word for it

I sigh

We sit in silence for a bit , I grab
the remote flipping over TV
channels

Mlilo : I will install water and electricity at Makhulu's home

I look at him shocked

Me : what ?

He nods

Me : that's nice of you baby , I didn't even think about that

He chuckles

Mlilo : it's okay

Me : wait ...there's something
to talk about

Mlilo : mhm

Me : uhmI'm on
contraceptives

He darts his eyes to mine

Me : Mphazima on his side said
, maybe a year should go on
before there's kids . I spoke to
him about wanting a coffee
shop

He smiles

Mlilo : that's nice , you don't
want to be a house wife ?

I laugh

Me : no , I'm not complaining though . Because financially I'm taken care of , I just want to do something as well . It's not even about the money

Mlilo : that's good , you have my support as well

Me : thank you , now about the kids ?

He laughs

Mlilo : marriage should be enjoyed before there's kids , especially ours . You're in between two homes , we really shouldn't rush that . So I don't mind , until actually you feel like you're ready for kids . It'll be your body carrying those kids

I move over and sit on top of him , straddling him

Me : I'm glad there's an agreement on that

Mlilo : I might as well tell you that we'll fund the coffee shop

Me : you and who ?

Mlilo : woman ! Your husband's

I laugh

Mlilo : we spoke about it and
agreed , so when you're ready
we're ready

Me : wow

I peck his lips

Me : baby , are you sure Duma
didn't feed both of you
something ?

He trails his hands behind my
back

Mlilo : I can't be worked on by
herbs

Me : really ?

Mlilo : yeah , we're Zulu men .
Siqinisiwe thina , angeke sidle
idliso (we've been strengthened
, we'll never eat potion)

Yhoh my Zulu men

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Mlilo

She frowns

Sage : Makhulu what do you mean ?

Me : what's going on ?

She's on call with her grandmother , but I don't appreciate her expression

She puts the phone on loud speaker

Makhulu : I don't know what punishment was God giving me with your mother as my child , do you know I caught on them talking about how Keith tried to rape you

What the fuck !

I look at her

Makhulu : they maintain to say ,
you stole and was bringing men
into their house . But they can
admit to such a horrible thing ,
to themselves

Sage sighs

Sage : it's okay , it's over now .
Please don't let them stress you
, get some rest , I'll come see
you tomorrow when we leave

Makhulu : okay bye

Sage : bye

She drops the call

And I need answers

Me : who is Keith ?

She sits down on the bed

Sage : my mother's ex husband

Me : Nana (baby) , rather tell me so we can cut it short with questions

Sage : Keith is the man my mother was married to , and I used to go to their house in Durban just to clean for them . I

wasn't allowed to visit or anything like that , they didn't even regard me as family . So it happened that , MJ came around we had only been dating for two days . I didn't have a phone , so he walked in . Somehow Keith thought it meant he can sleep with me , because I knew men . So he tried to rape me that day , of course I managed to escape and MJ found me safe . I never went

back , and they never called us again . Until they came back here , and claimed I destroyed their lives . They said I stole his wallet , that had his key inside . Like who even puts a key inside a wallet ? That's just crazy , but yeah . My mom said they had an intruder the next day , and Keith was shot . He got admitted in hospital , bills piled up . He was the only one working , my mother was just a

housewife . So the bank
repossessed the cars and the
house , he kicked them out .
And he's also on a wheelchair , I
guess both he and my mother
are just disgusting parents .
Cause Faith and Hope are his
daughters , but he kicked them
out too . Just like she left me at
5 years , and never looked back
. She's never regarded me as
her child , she always favoured
the two .

She gets up

Sage : it's just annoying , that
now they're back into our lives .
Hope ran away , not so long ago
. And she's not even interested
into finding her , God sure does
give kids to idiots

I watch her as she walks to the
bathroom

It's like she didn't just utter all
of that seconds ago

They're leaving for the wedding
in Durban tomorrow

I need to find out if her mother
and that Faith will be going too

If not , it'll be perfect to strike

Because they'll be alone

I grab my phone making a call ,
on the second ring he answers

Me : I need a favour

I walk out of the bedroom
closing the door

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Sage

My mother just has a way of
just reminding us of the past ,
she's too much

Like why can't she just let go of
what happened ?

She's old enough to get back on
her feet

I hate that they're upsetting my grandmother

As for me , I don't care about them

But it's clear , the things they say and do affect her

And you can't even ignore a person when it's like that

Like it becomes hard , to just ignore them

Because they just never know when to stop , they keep on going

Just like they're doing right now

She should find something to do , and keep herself busy

Because sitting there all day
long , blaming me for her
miserable life won't make a
difference

And it won't take everything
back

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INSERT 35

Sage

Mom : wow

Sisters is angry , because I
turned them away with their
bags

As they were coming to the car

I told her I don't want them at
my wedding

And now she's pretending to be
all sorts of sad

Faith : you really think you're all
that right ?

Me : I don't think , I know . The
fact that I have two husband's ,
should tell you . And you're
single , squatting in my
grandmother's house

I'm tired of them

I don't want to lie

Mom : if you think you'll
succeed in this life , while you
don't respect your mother . You
have another thing coming

Me : right ? Look at you , but
I'm not you . Because I respect

and honour , the woman who raised me

Faith drags her suitcase back inside the house annoyed as hell

Me : don't give the builders trouble , or you'll be out of here when I get back . It might not be my house , but I know Makhulu has the deed of this yard in my name . Don't get any ideas

She clicks her tongue

I turn and walk to the car

I get in , Makhulu looks so comfortable and relaxed

The driver drives off

MJ sent a car , cause he said driving three hours with

Makhulu would be awkward for him

And I understand

Even Mlilo doesn't enter the yard at home , yet he's a son in-law that's done all that's required of him

They take this thing way too serious if you ask me

Makhulu : it's a long way to the city , one might even fall asleep

I laugh

We'll be staying at a hotel , my uncle's and aunt are coming as well

That's the only family I have

I can't take them to his house ,
and his family arrived yesterday

As much as I won't be staying at
his house too , I want to see
him

Like spend time with him before
the wedding

I'm excited about the wedding ,
I don't know

I feel different , than how I felt
at the negotiations

I'm happy , and I'm relaxed and
just excited

So I have a good feeling
everything is going to go well

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MJ

Mlilo : I will arrive on Friday

Me : sure , don't bring Buntu .
He's gonna get drunk , with
those two and just annoy me

He laughs

Mlilo : you won't even be
paying them attention , he

wants to come . Royal duties ,
are starting to annoy him

I chuckle

Me : we should kick him off the
throne , and you take it . If only
you weren't a criminal , it would
be nice to eat royal money

He laughs

Mlilo : you're greedy , you're already eating it . And I'm not interested being king

Me : it wouldn't suit you after all , I was just saying . Those things have their own people

Mlilo : mxm !

He drops the call , I laugh shaking my head

He's the husband , I don't mind
him coming to the wedding

After all , it'll look somehow if
he doesn't show up

As for me , I was still a boyfriend
then

I grab my car keys

MaShozi has arrived at the hotel
, and I want to go see her

If it's possible , I'm spending the
night there

I walk in the kitchen , mom is
cooking with Nomvelo

Dad left with my uncle and
Kenzo , I know they're at the
rank

Nomvelo : where are you going
?

Me : out

Nomvelo : you're going to see
your wife ?

She asks with a smile , mom
laughs

Me : what's it to you ?

Nomvelo : can I come with you
please ?

Me : no

I know she wants to see her ,
but she can see her tomorrow

Nomvelo : you're mean

Mom : you can sit down ,
because I invited MaShozi and
her family for dinner tonight

Me : what ?

Mom : yes , it's their first night
here . So we have to make them
feel welcomed

This woman !

She's ruining my plans

Me : honestly , you're killing me
right now . Why didn't you tell
me at least ?

Mom : just a few days Mvelo ,
you won't die

Why didn't MaShozi tell me this
?

I'm definitely spending the night
at the hotel

If she's sharing a room with her
grandmother , I'll definitely
book another one

Just to be with her

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Mlilo

Me : not tonight , on Sunday .
But make sure the place is

watched , and if they dare move then follow them . I want to know everything , you cannot afford to loose them . And if Sunday they're still there , go there . Don't use force , don't ransack the place . I don't want this looking like an attack of some sort , or like a robbery . No , I want a clean job . Get in , rape that woman and her daughter . Make sure there's 5 guys at least , I want every hole

penetrated . Make sure you
leave them broken , to a point
of no return . That they wish
death , and bring it upon
themselves

He nods

Me : I know I've made myself
clear

I get up , he follows suit

Me : is the car ready ? I have a job to do , and I can't have anyone knowing that I was in Durban . So until Friday , I cannot be spotted there

Lefa : everything is ready , just as you have requested

We walk out of the restaurant

We walk to the back , he shows me the car before he goes to his

I get in , and drive out heading to Durban

I don't care to know who shot that guy , but I don't like half done jobs

I will make him meet his maker , and we'll go on to live in peace

Some people , do not deserve pain . They just need to die , because what's pain if you're still living ?

I don't believe there's such as , death is peaceful

If you're a dog , and you die as one

There's no peace there

Those kind of things , have their own people and it's most definitely not men like us

Fact is that , if a person is still breathing then there's still hope for tomorrow

He doesn't deserve that

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INSERT 36

A FEW DAYS LATER

Sage

I look at him , and I hate what
my mind is thinking right now

I hate the fact that I'm even thinking about it

I could ask MJ , but then it would mean I have to tell him the truth

What if he doesn't take it lightly like I did ?

We have a good thing going on , and I might just ruin it

But this is too much of a
coincidence

We're still in Durban , about to
leave

One of our neighbours called
uMakhulu this morning

Told her there was a break in at
our house

Mom and Faith were brutally hurt , they even think they were raped

She said they called an ambulance for them , so they're at the hospital

Not yesterday , I walked in on MJ reading news on his tablet

And Keith was there , he was a
well known business man

And well , he was killed in his
house execution style

Well that's what they said

I'm not stupid

I tell Mlilo about this , Keith dies
this horrific death

Mom and Faith are raped

No ways ! No

But I don't want to accuse him
of something

And in the end it looks like I'm
just provoking him

Me : Magaye can we talk ?

He nods

We're at the hotel , he booked
a room here as well for the
wedding

Everything was just perfect , it
went the way I wanted

I'm now Mrs Cele Phakade , it's
insane

But I am happy

The proudest moment of MJ's father was when he was performing the traditional ceremony

Pouring me with the bile

That man welcomed into his family , Makhulu even shared

tears . I do feel like I am one of them

He became a father figure to me , in that instant moment

Sure , we're trending on every media outlet

But they don't seem to care , and as for me I don't even read news that much

So I'm missing a lot of things
there , on what they're saying
about us

We were asked for a few
interviews , I am so not
interested

My life is not for the public to
indulge on , anyone who's
interested let them have their

two husband's . Or share their
wife with another , then they
can have an insight

Not on my life

But yeah , it's official now . We
three are the talk of this
country

Me : it's about what happened

Mlilo : with ?

Me : when you said you're a thug , did it also mean you kill people and all ?

He just stares at me

This is the problem I have with him , it's like his words just get stuck and they can't come out

He would stare at me , or say nothing instead of giving me a straight answer

Me : please forgive me for this

I take out my phone and make a call

MJ : Mrs Me

I chuckle

Me : please come to the hotel ,
get us space if you can

MJ : us being ?

Me : the three of us

MJ : okay

Me : thank you

I drop the call , I would rather
he's here and we talk not in
Mlilo's room

He's quite the whole time , until
MJ calls and tells me which
room he's in

We walk there , and Mlilo is just
quite . We might as well do this
, once and for all

Right now , he's being like
someone who knows nothing
and who's done nothing

We walk inside , and he sits
down opposite MJ

I should be the one sitting there
, but it's fine

I sit next to MJ and look at them

If his business is a secret , today
will be the end of that

There won't be any secrets
between us no more

And he seems to be the one
with secrets

Me : I'm not making you two
feel like you're kids right now ,
but I honestly don't appreciate

being treated like one . Because
I am not a child either

Well not to them , I'm their wife

MJ frowns , this one has a blank
stare

Me : I am young , I know that .
And I still give out respect to the
both of you , all I'm asking is
that I be rewarded the same .

Goes for being honest with each other , I've never lied to both of you about anything

I see MJ just wants to burst , but he's holding himself together

Me : Magaye you know what happened when you left , and I asked you then you weren't truthful . I'm not saying I was right either , I just don't want to

be treated differently from how I treat you . Few days ago , I told you about Keith and his family for the first time about what happened . And you didn't say much , not that I expected you to . Now how much of a coincidence is it , that on the same day he's killed my mother and Faith are raped ? Am I wrong to be thinking you have something to do with that ?

MJ : why would you think he has something to do with that ?

Me : you're into farming I know that , I asked him what he's into he said intelligence . And when he came back from his out of the country trip , he told me he's a thug . What does that even mean ?

I may be looked at somehow for speaking like this

But it's best we do this , out in
the open

Right now it feels like I married
a man I don't even know

MJ : okay

He's calm

Me : did you know ?

I bet my flat ass he knew

MJ : yes

Me : wow !

Now it feels like the idiot is me
in this marriage

Tears burn my eyes

MJ : I shot Keith , I left you at home in bed and went to his house . I shot him , right in front of your family . They know it was me , there was no intruder

Oh my God!

I have my hand on my mouth , just in shock !

Not believing this

I look at MJ hoping he'll say he's kidding , but no

Me : waitwhat are you telling me ?

MJ : you wanted the truth from him , I'm giving you my truth

Me : and this makes you what ?
A thug as well ?

MJ : you can't exactly call me a thug , for just laundering money

Laundering money !

I don't even know what that is

Mlilo : I did it , I sent guys to rape them . But I killed Keith myself

Lord !

Tears stream down my face

My tongue is tied , I don't even
know what to say right now

This is the truth I wanted , it felt
somehow thinking about it

But it's another , now hearing
from them both

I didn't even suspect MJ at all

What kind of men am I married to ? And there's no regrets here whatsoever

Me : am I even safe with you two ? What if I do something to anger you , won't I end up shot or maybe raped even dead ?

MJ : don't say that , I for one will never hurt you . I'll never lay my hand on you , and if he dares put his hand on you . You best believe I will kill him , I won't let anyone hurt you .

That's a given , that's why I did what I did . And I know , he did what he did because he loves you . These people hurt you , and he just hurt them back for you

Somebody help me

I can't take this , clearly I asked
for more than I can handle

I get up , but MJ holds my hand

He engulfs me in a hug , I just
tear up against his chest

Mlilo : get her to calm down , I
don't regret what I did

I hear the door opening , so he's
leaving

He's really a thug

I can't believe this

So now I'm supposed to be at
peace with the fact that my
husband killed someone ?

And had two women brutally
raped and hurt

I can't deal with this , it's even
so hard to believe they're
capable of such

That is so inhumane , and that's
who I'm married to

He was better off not knowing
what happened

Now I regret that phone call
from Makhulu , he shouldn't
have heard about it . And we
wouldn't be here

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INSERT 37

MJ

Me : don't be so hard on your
thug husband , he loves you .
And he didn't intend to hurt you

She pulls back and looks at me

Sage : how ...

She shakes her head

I wipe her tears off

Me : don't think about it , it's done now . He won't go to jail , and no one will ever know if you don't tell on him

I feel like I'm busy protecting his ass

While he just walked out

I need to have a talk with him

He needs to understand his
thug tendencies won't work in
making a marriage work

So he better get himself in line

He's the one who should be
grovelling and begging her

Calming her down , but he
wants to be a thug in his
marriage

Me : I'm sorry okay ?

She fits on my t-shirt

Me : let me make love to you
and make it better

She laughs

I lean down giving her a kiss ,
she welcomes it back we kiss

I should have that damn door
locked , but if anyone decides to
walk in here

They'll see things they're not
supposed to see , and that'll be
their problem

I pull her dress up , she only has
on a panty no bra

I carry her into my arms ,
placing her on the couch we
were sitting on

I slide her panty off slowly ,
parting her legs I get in between
them

Rubbing on her clit with my
thumb , I slide my middle finger
inside her

I use my one free hand to
unbuckle my pants

She pulls my t-shirt off , pushing
my pants and briefs down

I slide my finger out , and slowly
slide my dick in

Her flaps hugging on me
perfectly , as I slide in

Sage : Ohhhh.....

She whimpers , locking her legs
behind my legs

Me : please forgive us

I lean down to her neck ,
sucking hard leaving wet kisses

She trails her hands down to my
ass , I chuckle

Because I know the strokes are hitting her in the right place , when she starts touching my ass

She's definitely feeling this , and we're forgiven no doubt

She thrusts underneath me , meeting my thrusts with my pace

I place both my hands
underneath her , hugging her
upper body so tight to mine

She brings her lips to mine , we
kiss as I thrust in deeper

Sage : I love you

She mumbles through the kiss ,
it comes out as a whisper

She stops thrusting as her cum
graces my dick

I watch her as pleasure hits her ,
and she has her eyes closed
biting her lower lip

A few more deep thrusts , and I
shoot up my load inside of her

Me : I love you

She giggles , I lean down giving
her a kiss

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Sage

Me : babe I want to go pee

MJ : okay

I grab his arm , he looks at me

Me : I need to pee

He frowns , and laughs

MJ : sthandwa sam (my love) ,
I'm not going to carry you

I press my thighs together ,
looking at him

He sighs , and gets up

MJ : okay

He picks me up walking to the bathroom

He places me on the toilet , I pee while he stands and watch

I wipe myself , and wash my hands

Getting on his back , he groans
with a chuckle carrying me back
to bed

MJ : let me go check on food , I
need strength after that
carrying

Drama !

He puts on his t-shirt and pants
, and he walks out

I lean over grabbing my phone ,
I have a few text messages from
him

I don't know , but that puts a
smile on my face . I call him

Me : did you eat ?

Mlilo : I'm sorry

Me : I know you are

Mlilo : please tell me that we'll
work this out , that you won't
walk out of me

I sigh

Me : this is marriage , and we
don't run away at the first sight
of trouble

Mlilo : I love you so much , it
pains me that I'm like some jerk
of a husband

I smile

Me : you're not a jerk

Now I see just how different
they are , but that's why it's
best not to compare them

Because they're each their own individual , and I get the best from both

Me : please eat something

Mlilo : okay

Me : when are you leaving ? I'm leaving today with Makhulu because of what happened

I should be staying here , but
now I have to go back home

Mlilo : I'm leaving today

Me : okay

The door opens MJ walks back
with food

Mlilo : I love you and I'm sorry
okay ?

Me : I know , I love you

He chuckles

Mlilo : please let me know if I
can see you when you get to
the village

Me : okay

I'll probably go sleep at home

I'm sure Makhulu is affected by
this

And she won't be comfortable
being at the house all by herself

Because unlike me , she doesn't
know the truth of what
happened like me

Best I be with her

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Mlilo

I still maintain I don't regret
what I did

I hope she doesn't feel bad for
them

They hurt her , and they got
their karma

Sometimes it just needs
someone in the right direction

And I just did that

What came as a shock , was the
fact that MJ is the one who shot
the guy

I didn't even think about that

I guess those threats of his he's
always making , are not just
threats

He's very much capable

I am leaving now , heading for
the village

Buntu : is everything okay ?

I nod

Buntu : you look a bit distracted

Me : mhm-mhm , nothing I
can't deal with

Buntu : if you say so

I let him drive

I can use this time to think

I need my wife to be okay with
me

I hate it when she thinks , I'm
just not being forth coming with
her

Even though I am

But sometimes transparency is
not always the way to go

But then again , it's very much evident that in this marriage that's what will work

Being honest with each other is the way

Even though I thought I'm just shielding her , from not telling her the whole truth

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INSERT 38

Sage

I let Makhulu see them alone

Not because I don't want to see
them

Or maybe I'm scared of how
they look like

Honestly , I just feel guilty

Even though I'm not the one
who hurt them

But I'm married to the one who
did

And even after this , I still love
him the same . Something must
be very wrong with me

Finding out these things about
him , hasn't changed nothing

So maybe I'm just as bad as he
is

MJ already started this

And I didn't even think anyhow
about him

I just don't know how I could
see them , and I'll be able to
just be okay

So it's best I don't see them at
all

For my own sanity

Before they start blaming me ,
because they're capable of
doing that

I'm the one who didn't want
them going to the wedding

So it'll be like I left them
exposed to danger

I don't need that drama of
theirs

MJ sent us with the car , the
driver is waiting outside

He will take us home before he goes back to Durban

Now I wish the house was finished , so Makhulu can just move in already

Because we will be uncomfortable being in that house after what happened

Knowing that such a thing
happened in our house , where
we have to sleep in

We can't be at ease

Even knowing that it won't
happen to us

Makhulu finally walks out of
their ward

She sighs , I get up taking her hand

Me : are you okay ?

She nods

Makhulu : the doctor says they suffered trauma , the child was cut very bad she needed to be stitched in her private part

Poor Makhulu

She shakes her head

Makhulu : what kind of men
hurt someone to that extent ?

I swallow hard

Me : itthe private part is
very sensitive Makhulu . It can

easily be cut , if the man is too rough

I say looking down in shame

I don't even want her to ask me how I know all of this

Makhulu : he said they will need a lot of counselling

Who will be paying for that ?

Definitely not me , I will not even bother myself

Makhulu : this doesn't even make sense , we don't have these kind of evil men in our village

I need strength to get me through these talks

Me : let's go home , you must
be very tired

Makhulu : I am

We walk out going to the car

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Mlilo

Me : what are you doing calling
me ?

He laughs

I sigh annoyed

MJ : you got caught , stop with these thug tendencies of yours . This is a marriage , you're a husband and not a thug . Get that through that big head of yours

Me : fuck off !

MJ : I'm saving you from divorce
right now

I sit up

Me : did she say she wants a
divorce ?

He laughs

I lay back down

Me : you're bored MJ ?

MJ : on a serious note , stop these tendencies of yours . In the eyes of the righteous we both fucked up , but you just have a way of making things worse

I sigh

Me : fine , point taken . Stop giving me husband advice , it's creepy

MJ : you're so ungrateful , and here I am playing marriage counsellor for you

I chuckle

He drops the call

I really hope that divorce talk ,
was just him getting on my
nerves

Not something that Sage said

I would be fucked up really

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Sage

I walk in and he's lying on the
bed

Wearing sweatpants and a vest
, with socks

Doesn't seem like someone's
who's even intending on
sleeping

Me : baby

He turns and looks at me

Me : come give me a hug

He gets up and walks over to
me

I open my arms for him

He chuckles , I smile

I hug his lower back he brings
his arms to my back

Mlilo : it's late , how did you get
here ?

Me : I walked

Mlilo : please don't do that
again

I nod against his chest

Me : you ate ?

He picks me up , and walks to
the bed

He lays down , with me on top
of him still hugging

Mlilo : I'm sorry baby

I lift my head and look at him

Me : I know

I peck his lips

Me : Can we just have honesty
here ?

Mlilo : we will , I assure you

I smile kissing him , he kisses me
back

Me : I love you , and I'm here

Mlilo : no divorcing ?

I frown

He smiles biting his lower lip

Me : why do you let him get to
you ?

He laughs

That was confusing , but too
easy to read

It can only be MJ who got him
to ask me about divorce

That one is a mean person

Mlilo : I know I fucked up so

Me : I would divorce him too ,
he went on to shoot people and
said he was at the office

He laughs

Mlilo : but now you know baby ,
I won't lie to you anymore

Me : thank you , let me go cook
for you . I have to sleep at home
, for Makhulu's sake

Mlilo : let's cuddle a bit please ,
I miss you

When this one wants cuddles , I
know he seriously wants
cuddles

They don't end up as sex like
someone else

So I'm safe

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INSERT 39

Sage

It's been a few days

And the two have been
released from hospital today

They still look bad , the bruises

Especially on Faith

My consciousness is killing me

But then , I can't afford to say
anything

I won't throw my husband to
the wolves

Even though I don't agree with
what they did

If it gets out , Mlilo is definitely
going to jail

Mom : Faith is resting

I'm leaning against the
cupboard

It's just so awkward

Makhulu : you should rest too

Mom : ma ! (Mom)

She sighs shaking her head

I must say , I've never seen this
woman this broken

You can tell , she's just a former
shadow of herself

The attitude is only what's left

Mom : who could do this to us ?

I look down swallowing

Mom : if we went to the
wedding , none of this would
have happened

I knew it

Me : I won't let you blame for this , for years you've never cared about my life . So why should you start now ? I didn't want you at my wedding , and I still maintain that

I sigh annoyed

Mom : anyways , you can understand we're not

comfortable in this house
anymore

Me : yeah , you can always
leave it's understandable

She looks at me.

Mom : leave ? The house is
almost done , I think it'll be best
we move in there for our safety

I chuckle

Me : no , it's not happening

Mom : ma ! (Mom)

Makhulu : Sage is the one
building that house , she can
make her own decisions

Mom : decisions of putting our
lives in danger ?

Me : ah I'm sorry , I don't want
Makhulu disturbed in her house
. She needs peace , she's had
too much suffering

She clicks her tongue

I shake my head , reaching for
my ringing phone

Me : Magaye

Mlilo : uh... Baby you're coming back ?

I laugh

Me : yes

These two are back , I am going back home . I don't want to be in this house with them

I'm a married woman really , I can't stay home longer than I should

Mlilo : okay tell me when you want to leave , Buntu invited a few friends . He asked I come over , is it okay if I go ?

Me : it's okay you can go

Mlilo : thank you

Me : you'll pass by here to get me ?

Mlilo : yes I will

Me : okay

Mlilo : I love you

I laugh

Me : yes , I will greet Makhulu
for you

He laughs

Mlilo : you're disturbing ,
couldn't you just go outside ?

Me : no can do sir

Mlilo : sihamba sishada (we
marry a lot)

He drops the call laughing

Me : uhm Magaye passes his
greetings

What can I say ?

I've already lied , I might as well
confirm my lie

Makhulu : thank you

Me : can we have tea before I
leave ? He was saying Buntu
asked him to come at the
palace

She laughs

Makhulu : why is your husband
asking for permission from you ,
to go see his brother ?

This woman !

Me : he's not asking for
permission , it's communication
Makhulu

She shakes her head , clearly
thinking I'm wearing pants in
that house

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Mlilo

I didn't even stay long at the
palace

I was missing my wife

I went to pick her up , and we
came back home

We've just take a shower
together , we're cuddling in bed

Sage : Makhulu said you're asking permission from me , to go see your brother

I chuckle

Me : Makhulu sees that , you have me in the palm of your hands

She laughs

Sage : you're

Her phone rings

She looks at me , because it's
the phone from me

Me : I can't be calling you

She sighs reaching for it

Sage : it's Makhulu , I hope
nothing is wrong

She moves sitting up

Sage : Makhulu

She listens for a bit , and drops
the phone

Luckily it's on the bed

Me : what ?

Sage : please take me there ,
Faith overdosed on the stupid
medication they were given .
She's gone

Fuck !

Just when I thought , we will
move past this like it never even
happened

What if now she starts blaming me for this ?

This is fucked up

I don't care that she's dead

I just don't want my wife to blame me for her death , because I had them raped . She was an excuse of a human being

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Sage

We had to call an ambulance
this late

There was no way , a dead
person was being kept in this
house

My mother hasn't stopped
crying

She's the one who found Faith ,
as she was going to bed

White foam everywhere on the
sheets

And the bottles of pills right
there next to her

She hasn't stopped crying

I don't even know what to say

Makhulu just looks so shunned

Faith is bringing us a dark cloud

What was she doing killing
herself in our house ?

She could have gone to the veld
or anywhere else

Now how is Makhulu supposed
to live peacefully in this house ?

First the rape thing , now this
suicide

This is a lot for my grandmother

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INSERT 40

Sage

Makhulu : what are we going to do now ?

I just look at her

This really shouldn't be our burden , I don't even know why it should be

And I'm sure both MJ and Mlilo
won't help

Not unless I really beg them

The hate is so evident they
won't care

Mom : I don't know , we have to
have a burial

That's obvious

Makhulu : did you have a funeral plan ?

I doubt

Mom : kodwa ma (but mom) ,
how can you even ask me that ?
When we had to move in with
you , because of our situation

She wipes her tears

Makhulu : so you didn't have a plan at all ? Death comes unexpected , no one expects it . That's why you

Mom : she couldn't handle being brutally raped like that , she couldn't live with that

I dart my eyes away from her

I slept here , more like stayed
the night

Because I couldn't even shut my
eyes

I haven't spoken to Mlilo

I spoke to MJ when he called
this morning , and told him
what happened

Makhulu : what about your ex husband ? Didn't he leave anything ? Even if it's money for a coffin

Mom : leave what ? His lawyers sold his company , so they can pay his debts . He was buried by the state

Yhoh !

How rough are these people
having it ?

Mom : maybe we can use some
of the bride price money

What ?

Mom : we should use it , I don't
even know why we're gathered
like this talking like we don't
have money

We ?

And exactly who is we ?

Me : that money is finished

Mom : what ?

I keep quite

Mom : how can you be so evil ?
This is your sister we're talking
about , and you're crying about
money

My money

I'm the one who has to endure
two husband's

I'm not complaining but still

Me : maybe the state can bury her too , just like her father

She gets up , looking ready to kill someone

Mom : you should have been the one who got raped and died

She clicks her tongue walking out

I have my head bowed down , I
can't even bring myself to look
at Makhulu

Faith is called my sister now
because she's dead

She's never seen nor
acknowledge me as a sister

I'm sure even in death , she
won't

She will be a very bad ancestor
to me just like my grandfather

So why should I bury her ?

If she will haunt , she will
definitely come back to haunt
me

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MJ

Me : you look rattled

He sighs

We're at the restaurant

I called him over , as soon as I
arrived

There was no way , that I was
going to his house

After that call with MaShozi in
the morning , I knew I had to
come

Mlilo : we were okay , past
those stupid lies of mine

He sighs

Mlilo : now this stupid girl , has gone and killed herself . She might just blame me for this , and we go back to not being okay or even worse

There's no such

MaShozi loves him , she wouldn't let this get between them

Just listen to me

Going on about my wife and her
love for another man

Me : what did she say to give
you these thoughts ?

He shakes his head

Mlilo : we barely spoke when I
was taking her there last night

And today , we haven't spoken
at all . She didn't say nothing ,
I'm just worried

I get up

Me : can we just go , these
stares are annoying me

He chuckles

We made news , and people
still talk even today when they
spot us

We walk out

Me : I feel like I'm you're
marriage counsellor , it's
annoying

He laughs

Mlilo : are we paying for the funeral ? I doubt your mother in-law can afford it

Me : let MaShozi speak to us , we'll see

Mlilo : okay

We walk to our cars , and drive out heading to her home

The drama with these village
people just never ends

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Sage

Me : what's wrong with your friend ?

He laughs

MJ : he thinks you're going to divorce him

Me : did you say that to him again ?

MJ : again ?

I slightly laugh

Me : can you just leave him alone ?

MJ : this time he said it , he
thinks you'll blame him for
Barbie killing herself

Me : Barbie ?

I ask with a frown

Why is he calling her Barbie ?

Like why ?

Doesn't that sound like a
nickname of some kind

MJ : she was just too fake , and
the make up that made her look
like a doll . I could never keep
up with her name

MJ is savage though

Me : I'll talk to him

MJ : please do , he's not beating himself . But he's scared of you changing on him , giving the blame

I think , when I kept quite after knowing what happened

That was me saying I'll see this through

Blaming her death on him
because of the rape he
orchestrated , won't change
nothing

They went on to speak to
Makhulu

And I think their hearts went
out to her , and they said they'll
pay for the funeral

But Makhulu was very clear ,
that it should be something
small and not expensive

Really , my mother should be
thankful to them.

Because I wasn't going to do
anything

MJ : can you go talk to him , so
we can go see what we're doing

I pat his arm walking to Mlilo

He's leaning by his car

I don't even care that these
neighbours are looking at us

They'll get used to this , that
there's two sons in-law in this
home

And when needed , they'll come
here together

Me : give me a hug

He chuckles , pulling me closer
to him

We hug

Me : we're okay

He places a kiss on my cheek

Mlilo : thank you

I slowly pull out of the hug

I still maintain , Mlilo is soft

He just hides it good behind the
thug persona

But when he's exposed , you
can see it all

Me : thank you for offering , to
pay for the burial . Makhulu is
really relived

Mlilo : it's nothing , and we did
it for her

I think that's very much clear ,
because I didn't ask them

And I wasn't going to

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INSERT 41

FIVE MONTHS LATER

Sage

Nomvelo : it was nice of you to
visit us

I smile as we hug

Me : I missed you guys , and you
know your mother was so close
to kill me for postponing so
many times

She laughs

Nomvelo : I'm going to miss you

Me : I know

This relationship has grown ,
I've basically gotten a sister

We get along so well

Now I do feel like I have a sister

We lean against the car

I've already said my goodbyes
to the parents

And the little siblings

We're waiting for Mrs Phakade ,
she's taking me to the airport

I came for a week to visit the
parents

And it's been bliss

Also I needed this time away
from MJ and Mlilo

Not that there's something
wrong there

But it did me good being away

Nomvelo : you seem somehow

I look at her

Nomvelo : everything okay
between the husband's ?

I laugh

Me : perfectly fineit's just
me

I heave a sigh

The balance that's just there
between them is amazing , I
don't want to lie

And they're what makes this
marriage works so well

There's barely fights

Just small arguments , that
never go to bed unsolved

Nomvelo : that's worrying ,
how's the coffee shop ?

Me : great , business is growing
and we're really making great
returns

Nomvelo : I'm so proud of you

Me : mhm They're looking
into expanding

Nomvelo : wow , things are really working out

Me : you know them , if they put their mind on it they'll definitely do it

Nomvelo : that's good , so why do you keep drifting ?

Me : I'm pregnant

She pops her eyes

Me : I am so stressed

Nomvelo : whoa ! I'm going to
be an aunt ?

Me : that's awkward

She laughs

Me : I don't know who the father is

This is embarrassing honestly

For a married woman to be saying such things

Nomvelo : Cele or Phakade , I'm an aunt to this baby

Wow she's so welcoming

Nomvelo : do they know ?

I shake my head

I just can't bring myself to tell
them

I don't even know how I'll tell
them

Nomvelo : just tell them

Me : and when they ask who the father is , what am I supposed to say ?

Nomvelo : why would they even ask you that ? That would just be disrespectful , they shouldn't even dare

Me : then how do we know who's the father ?

Nomvelo : when the baby is born , I think if it's a royal one the seer will tell you before the baby is even born . And quite frankly , it doesn't even matter who the biological father is . Because both of them , are father's to the child

I sigh

I wonder if they'll be just like
her

Or they'll demand answers from
me

Answers I don't even have
myself

Me : I don't even know how I'm
pregnant , yet I'm on
contraceptives

Nomvelo : that shit happens ,
and you have two sperms
running around your womb

We laugh

Me : you're disgusting

Nomvelo : contraceptives are
not 100%

Me : this is crazy

Nomvelo : stop stressing
yourself , tell your husband's
and just be happy for your baby
. Enjoy your pregnancy

I nod slowly

Mrs Phakade finally walks out of
the house

Nomvelo : I'm tagging along

She says opening the car door

I laugh , because she wasn't so interested to go to the airport with us

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MJ

Mlilo : so do we ask her ?

I chuckle

Me : she will tell us when she's ready

He leans back on his chair and sighs

Mlilo : you think she knows who the biological father is ?

I chuckle

Me : don't ask her that nonsense , go ask Duma . He should be able to see

Mlilo : of course I won't ask her , that would just be stupid

Me : at least we agree on that

Mlilo : women are very smart about these things , they check their dates and all that

Me : you're strange , and I most certainly don't check when I sleep with her that she's ovulating

Mlilo : that's too much

I laugh

Me : stop asking me about this baby business , it's been three months and she's quite

Mlilo : let me call Duma , I'll tell him I'm coming

He takes out his phone

Mlilo : will you come with ?

Me : no

He shakes his head calling the
man

Mlilo : I

He pops his eyes , like they'll fall
out of his socket

Mlilo : what do you mean two ?

It's like he's just seen a ghost ,
but just how his expression is

Mlilo : is that possible ?

He looks at his phone , like a call
has been cut on him

Me : what ?

Mlilo : hehe says there's two
kids

Me : so it's twins ?

I ask with a smile , and a bit
excited

Mlilo : I don't even know if we
can even call them that

Me : what's with you ?

Mlilo : we both have a seed

I laugh

Mlilo : what's funny ? Did you hear what I said ?

Me : so ...Duma said there's two kids , one for you and one for me ?

Mlilo : basically yes

Me : so why are you stunned ?

Mlilo : that sounds crazy

Me : for an educated man ,
you're a disappointment .
They're called fraternal twins ,
they're twins that share the
same mother but different
father's . Yet born at the same
time , obviously they're not
anywhere near being identical .
Meaning , when they're born

we'll see the biology of it . My
seed definitely cannot be born
with yellowish eyes ...

Mlilo : you're annoying kodwa
MJ

I laugh

Me : let's be welcoming to the
pregnancy when she tells us , if
Duma is right it's perfect . Even

if he's not , it doesn't matter .
This wasn't planned , we know
she was on contraceptives . But
it has happened , so it was
meant to be . Good thing is that
, we're going to be father's

Mlilo : and I'll just be the best
dad than you , most definitely .
The kids are going to adore me ,
more than you

Really ?

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Sage

Okay !

This is strange

I wanted to go home , and see
Makhulu

I hardly see that woman

Ever since her house was
finished , and she got electricity

She has her church friends
watching gospel and church
channels

She hardly even pays attention
to me when I'm there

My mother is still there , living
in the mud house yes

She's just something else

I think she's suffering mentally ,
to be honest it's sad

But I still don't want her in the
house to bother Makhulu

I didn't think I'll get back , and
be taken to be treated out at a
spa

I look at them

MJ : you had fun ?

I slightly laugh

Me : what did I do ?

Mlilo : nothing

Very suspicious

MJ : you want to eat ?

Me : okay , what's going on ?

Mlilo : how was Joburg ?

Yhoh !

Me : I will go get dressed , and
leave . Unless I'm told what's
going on here

Mlilo sighs

I guess there's something , but
they just don't want to say it

Me : okay , I don't want to be
stressed . So please , if you've

done something and I need to
know about please tell me . I'm
pregnant , I'm sure that's stress
enough

What a way to burst out

The smiles

I end up laughing

Me : and now ?

MJ : we just wanted you to tell us , now we can all be happy about the new edition

Me : you knew ?

Mlilo : you're almost showing , three months is a long time

What the hell ?

So I've been going crazy ,
wondering how I'll tell them

They knew and kept quite

Me : do you know how stressed
I was ?

MJ : why ?

Me : it's embarrassing

They both frown

Me : I meanI mean I don't know who the father is

Mlilo : that's fine , don't worry yourself about it

MJ : we're both father's , and that's that

No

This feels way too good to be true

And usually when it feels this way

Then it most definitely is too good to be true

I'm shocked

Me : the spa was nice , can
someone take me to Makhulu's
place . I'm lazy to drive

No takers

Me : okay fine , let me go

Mlilo : I'll drive behind you

Awkward !

Why not just drive me ?

I let them be , I loved what they
did for me

It was just beautiful

After changing , we all get into
our cars and drive out heading
to Makhulu's house

It's just crazy , all three cars
following each other

Why couldn't we just take one
car ? If we so badly wanted to
be a family traveling together ?

I park my car in the yard , they
park by the gate

I walk in leaving them outside

Me : Mak

She opens the door , and it's
gospel music playing

Me : hi

Makhulu : why did you leave my
son's outside ?

Me : they came here on their
own

I laugh passing her getting
inside the house

Me : I have news

She turns and looks at me

Me : I'm pregnant

Makhulu : I know , you've been
showing for a while now

Woman !

What is she talking about ? My
tummy is not that big , that
anyone can see it

She laughs

Makhulu : remember I know
you , I raised you

Oh well , I can't dispute that

Makhulu : you're married , even
at 21 I'm glad your first child is
from marriage . Make tea , call
your husband's in

Wow !

I go out and call them in , they
go to sit with Makhulu in the
lounge

I make tea in the kitchen

I'm glad this is out now

Pity I've just been driving myself
insane for nothing

Hiding a pregnancy from people
who already know

The joke is on me

Me : I

We're startled by screams
outside , and of a car screeching
driving away in high speed

I'm outside , as my mother is on
the ground on her knees

Next to a black plastic , and the
smell that's coming from there

Has me wanting to puke

Mlilo holds me , like he's
holding me from going further

Mom : what have I done ?
Haven't I suffered enough on
this world ? Why would I loose
my kids like thisso brutal like
this . What did I do ?

The woman is screaming her
lungs out

Me : oh my God it's Hope !

Who could dump her dead
rotting body like this ?

Next to the mud house door

I am beyond shocked !

No one has seen or heard
anything from Hope ever since
she left

And this is how she comes back

Makhulu : sins of the past , will
always come back to haunt you
. Kids do get punished because
of their parents sins

What ?

She says and walks back inside
the house

It's like everything has just
come to a stand still for her ,
and my mother hasn't stopped
crying

MJ : this is not a good
environment for you , Mlilo take
her home

Mlilo doesn't need to be told twice , he has me going to his car

As he drives off heading to our place

Mlilo : by the way , I had nothing to do with that . It wasn't me

Poor man , I'm not even
accusing him of anything

Karma does come back tenfold

The woman has seen enough ,
she's been through enough

How will she survive this one
now ?

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THE END