

LUZUKO INKABI

I'm Sorry , I'm No Saint



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PROLOGUE

Luzuko

I'm driving around like crazy

I feel like I'm losing my mind

And maybe , just maybe I really am

I can't think of anything , nothing sane
comes to mind

I'm losing it , I'm really losing it

And this is not good , my panic and emotions are not good right now

Not for me and neither for her

I can't think clearly when I'm this stressed and panicking

Yes !

I need to gather myself , I need to calm down

And think !

I stop the car on the side of the road

I've probably been driving around for
hours and hours

And almost , just almost made it outside
of Joburg

The last place that picked her phone and
car signal is back at club Venus

For those few minutes , and she was
gone

There's too many possibilities right now

I have enemies , my father has enemies .
And her father now I assume with his job

She's a target with most , all the men in
her life are nothing but just threats

Myself included

I went to the apartment , it didn't even
look like she went there

I went to her father's place , and it was
way too quiet to even have suspensions
of anything

I know she wouldn't go to my home ,
she's not that close with my family to

She hates my father , or rather doesn't
like him much

So that's out of question

Pretty is still at the club , and there's no
way she would go to res

Knowing I'll seriously follow her there ,
and she's not there

My phone rings and it's Tau

Me : yes

Tau : Dube think of something , it's
nearing dawn now

Can he just tell me what I don't know

Tau : Pretty is still here , and I'll keep her
here . She's the cause for all this

Sure she is , but I don't care about her
right now

My only worry is my wife and our
daughter , nothing else

Me : who would have taken her ?

Tau : what ?

I sigh

Tau : wait....you can't think such

Me : it's clear someone took her , there's no way she can disappear in seconds just like that

Tau : I know this is crazy....but there has to be an explanation for this

Me : what ? What explanation ?

He sighs back

Tau : I don't know , let me lock Pretty
and come to you

Me : no , don't come I'll find my wife

Tau : now , you're just talking nonsense .
The guys have left , and you need me
right now

Two is better than one right ?

Me : okay

Tau : something doesn't add up here though

Me : there's no way she disabled the trackers , she didn't even know they were there . So

Tau : I hate what we're thinking right now , but it's the only logical thing

Now fear creeps in , whoever took her will definitely hurt her

Whether to hurt my father , her father
or me . But they will

And now I'm even more scared , for the
life of our daughter

Zuri will never forgive me for this , I
swear she will never

Tau : I'm coming

Me : let's meet at the house , there has
to be something we can do there to find
her

Tau : on my way

I drop the call

I'm not even religious , but will a prayer
even help me right now ?

Will God even hear me ?

It's no lie I'm no Saint , I've spilled more
blood I can even imagine

There's no force out there that can hear
me right now

I'm filthy as they come

But this is not how I lose my wife and our daughter

I drive to the house , and we arrive at the same time with Tau

Tau : traffic was bad

Me : I took time considering to even pray

He chuckles , I break the lock we walk inside

Tau : damn these guys

They're just sleeping on the couches ,
there's an empty bottle of whiskey on
the floor

Tau : they're pigs , they couldn't even
use glasses

Me : get ice

In seconds he has it by my side with a
bucket of water

I pour the ice in the water , and throw it
on them

Tau : shit !

They're on their feet in seconds , even
falling on their feet

Me : my wife is missing , and my guys
are here sleeping . Wasted my whisky ,
they don't even know how much it costs

Brain is first to head to this laptop

Me : you better give me an answer , and
something I haven't done already in the
past four hours

He brushes his head , clicking on the laptop for a few minutes

Brain : the tracker is not destroyed just disabled

Tau : don't annoy him , find the fucking location !

Brain : uhm....give me a sec

I just can't be still , no matter how calm I want to be I can't right now

Brain : this doesn't make sense

Me : what ?

He moves a bit from the laptop , and Tau
and I walk closer

Tau : what the hell ?

How is this even possible ?

We look at each other

Tau : we'll never recover from him !

We both turn heading to the door to
leave , we jog to my car

Tau : let me drive , I still value my life

I let him be , right now every single part
of my body is shaking

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INSERT 01

Luzuko

Luzuko



It's freaking cold now , but we don't even feel the cold

As dawn approaches the coldness is just something else

Tau parks the car , and I get out running heading to the door

I knock and knock , I know they're asleep . Security only let me in because they know me

Tau : shit !

Me : and I don't have my damn keys

He walks away from

Tau : come see this

I jog to where he is

Tau : I guess we're not lost after all

Me : it's her car

I sigh shaking my head

Me : can't believe I drove around Joburg and Pretoria , and this whole time she was here

Tau : don't beat yourself up , you didn't think she'll come here

Me : this is the last place I would have even thought , she would come

We stand still at the sound of a gun clocking

Her scent just makes me calm

Me : it's us , can you not shoot

Mom : what are you two doing in my yard , at witches hour ?

We slowly turn and face her , mind you she still has the gun pointed at us

Me : couldn't any of you call me , and tell me my wife is here ? Like in this crazy night that I've had , driving around going everywhere for her

She just stares at me

Me : is the door opened ?

I ask already heading to the back door of the kitchen

It's the one she used surely , that we didn't even see her

I get in and my father is having a glass of water , he's just in sweatpants shirtless

He has his gun on the table

Me : you send your wife to kill intruders really ?

He places the glass down and laughs

Dad : I didn't marry an idiot not

Mxm !

Dad : your wife should teach you a
lesson or two

I won't stand for this , I run up the stairs
going to my room

And to my luck it's not locked , I get in .
And what do you know ? She's in bed ,
busy on her phone wide awake

I'm angry and upset , I don't want to lie .
But I'm mostly relieved

I find myself getting on the bed and just
hugging her so tight . She drops the
phone in between us

Zuri



I won't laugh , because I swear this guy is crying right now

There's no way my back is getting drops
of water from nowhere

Me : tatakhe ? (Daddy)

Luzuko : mhm ?

Lord he's really crying ? Are these
hormones or what ?

I mean Google said sometimes the
father's are the ones who get them

Me : are you crying ?

He goes quite

I brush his head

Me : okay , I'm sorry

I hold him tight back , until I feel him
loosen his grip

Me : look at me

We slowly pull out , and there's no tears
on his cheeks or face

Nor even any trace , but the eyes tell it all .

Me : don't ever cry again , it's just heart-breaking

Luzuko : you disappeared on me in seconds, I went crazy driving around everywhere looking for you . I was so scared , so scared that I thought I lost you . Please don't ever do anything like this again even again please , I fuck up just do something just not this . Slap me or curse , but don't go out of my sight like this . I thought something had happened to you

Lord !

Me : please calm down for my sake ,
you're about to trigger me right now

I take slowly feel breathes

The way he's just going on and on , it's
just crazy and causing me a panic

But slowly he manages to get me right ,
and by now he's calm as well

Luzuko : I'm sorry

I nod slowly

Luzuko : sthandwa sam (my love) , what happened out there ? How did you manage to disable the trackers ? And how did you even know they were there ?

Me : if there's one thing I'm good at , it's technology and metal . I didn't disable anything , I just hacked those trackers using my phone and I blocked the signal

I feel like some bad girl say such things

Me : and I think I have a slight idea , of
how to spot a tracker

He sighs shaking his head

Luzuko : you're scaring me right now

Me : I'm not an idiot okay

Luzuko : I know that , I know . Couldn't
you at least let me know where you
were ?

Me : did you care to know ?

Luzuko : I was out there looking for you ,
going out of my mind insanely

Me : and I called you , you couldn't pick
up your phone . And hour right after you
said , I can find you on the phone

He looks down shamefully

Me : you let me down , and you need to
know that

Luzuko : I know

Me : honestly if you want to have me as a wife , you seriously need to do better than this . What if I had been kidnapped ?

He can't even look at me in the eye

Me : am I supposed to trust and believe that my life is safe with you ?

I can't believe he's so quite right now , and I'm the one who's a loud mouth ?

Me : what if I was having an attack ? And I called you , and you ignored call because you....

Luzuko : sthandwa sam , anything but that . I did not ignore your call (my love)

He slowly lifts his eyes and looks at me.

Me : you ignored my call , because you were busy doing drugs and had a skank on your lap . Do you know that by the time , you were done with your nonsense . This child of yours and I would be dead when you found us ?

Luzuko : please don't say that

He pleads , and here it doesn't help him

Me : no ! You need to know just what a risk it is for me , to even be pregnant right now . It's fine , don't care about me or what happens . But at least please try and care about your child , even though you didn't ask for it

Luzuko : sthandwa sam , please don't say such things . (My love)

I take a deep breath

Luzuko : I know I've let you down , I know that . But please believe me when I say , I have never cheated on you and that will never happen like ever

Me : of course it won't , I'll shred whatever skank opens their legs for you

He's amused and I don't know why , because I'm seriously not joking

I will kill for this dick , because I know I will never settle for another

Leaving him is not an option

So anyone who'll be foolish enough , to even entertain him . They'll just live to regret it

Luzuko : and I'm not a drug addict

Me : wasn't it you doing cocaine ?.

Luzuko : yes it was , that was the second time . The first time I did was 5 years ago

Me : so it makes it right ?

Luzuko : no it doesn't

Me : let me sleep

Luzuko : sthandwa sam , please lets talk
(my love)

Me : right now I want to sleep

Luzuko : okay in the morning then ?

Me : yes morning is fine

Luzuko : okay thank you

He gets off the bed

Luzuko : let me lock so we can sleep

Me : what about your friend ?

He frowns

Me : I know you're not alone , I heard your parents talking when they were going outside

He locks the door and takes his clothes off

Luzuko : Tau is a grown ass man , he'll see what to do with himself . There's too many rooms here

He places my phone on the night stand , and gets in bed cuddling me

Luzuko : I love you , I really do

He kisses my forehead , I close my eyes just loving the feeling of being in his arms

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Pretty

Pretty



I'm done and tired of screaming

There's no one to even hear me around

I'm cold and shaking like hell

My whole body feels frozen , like I'm
damn feeling the cold

I don't know what I did this time around

But I surely can't be locked in here for no
reason

Like Tau dragged me off a pole , and just
threw me in here

Without any explanation , like nothing

Now I'm fearing for my love , over
something I don't even know

I wonder if Zuri is okay

After I ditched her at the door , I just
went on with my business

She'll probably hate me , if she figures
out what I was playing at

But right now , that's the least of my
worries . I just want to leave here

Can it be morning already , that they
open and Tau can come and take me out

If this is my punishment for something ,
I'm sure it must be enough by now

That's if he doesn't find me dead

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Luzuko

I didn't sleep , I just couldn't

Even though I had her in my arms , and I
was more than glad that she's safe

A part of me didn't believe , and so I was
looking at her for those few hours at
dawn

While she just slept , and looked so
peacefully as ever

Everything is still just blur for me

Like the hacking of the trackers , her
coming here . The least place I thought
she could come

And no one even bothered to tell me
she's here

Or at least , call and ask why she's here
alone and I'm not

I sweat everything that happened , it
feels like the universe was against me

I'm sitting on the bed , she's walking out
of the shower

Zuri : are you okay now ?

I can't believe she had me crying like
that

I must have looked so weak in front of her eyes

But I don't care , I'll be a man to her and I'll be vulnerable if it comes to it

Me : out of all the places , you just chose here . After I drove home , to your father's place and res . And you were just here

She just looks at me

Me : how did that happen ? What did you even say to them ?

Zuri : I'm a Dube too am I not ? And legally if I must say , I'm a daughter in-law here . I should hope and believe that , I do have space in this house

Me : well sthandwa sam , clearly you do (my love)

Zuri : yes

She unwraps the towel , and starts to lotion

Zuri : I told your mother just the way you really annoyed me , and I didn't care if you found me or not . I just wanted to be

very far away from you , before I did
something to you with my bare hands

She's really saying this to me

My mother really heard that from her ?

We still need to talk , and it's like I'm just
going go get jabs from her

Her phone rings and it's her father

Me : does he know ?

She faces me

Zuri : what ?

Me : about what happened ?

Zuri : if I'm spending a night at your home with your parents , while I left you in a situation like last night . Best believe my father knows

She's enjoying this torture on me

What happened to my sweet baby mama and wife ?

Zuri : hi Daddyyes I'll come in an hour or two...alright bye I love you

She drops the call

Zuri : my father wants me home , and you'll have to drop me there

I swallow a non existent lump

Me : do....uhm do I have to

Zuri : just use this time you have to talk , because you're dropping me off

Maybe Tau should come with , Nyiko will probably give me hell

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INSERT 02

Luzuko

I'm done showering

We're still in my room , I want us to talk before going out

Me : about what you saw

Zuri : the lap girl or drugs ? Or is it the crazy scary men ?

Me : I...the people I do business with , they're ...well there's things

Zuri : if you're telling me something , say it

I sigh

Me : okay

She sits down next to me

Me : there's drugs going on in there ,
there's human trafficking and sex trade

I look at her , and she's just blank . I
should just continue

Me : those men , when they come for
drugs or girls . That's how we entertain
them , so we engage with the girls and
I'm drugs . And that's just what you saw
happening , I won't lie to you . Before
marriage , yes I did have sex with some
girls . But after we got married , I

stopped doing that . Having a girl in my arm , that's as far as it goes . But now even that I see it's wrong , I'm a married man I shouldn't entertain such things . Even if it's just for business , there's single men I have who can do that on my part

Zuri : what does Pretty do there ?

Me : she's a stripper and one of the girls who is traded . But it happens at the club

Zuri : she's a prostitute ?

I nod

Zuri : wow , just wow

Me : I didn't force her , she's doing all this in her free own will

Zuri : so you're a fake lecture ?

What now ?

Me : I studied for that

She laughs

Me : sthandwa sam (my love)

Zuri : what do you want me to say ?
You're nothing but a criminal

Me : I'm sorry I'm not saint

Zuri : there's more to this than what
you're telling me

I rub my hands together

Me : I'm...I kill

What the hell am I supposed to tell her ?

Zuri : you're a serial killer ?

Me : no

Zuri : don't start lying , especially now
that we're on the truth path

She's really enjoying this like for real ,
and here I am feeling like shit

Me : I'm not a serial killer , there's a
difference

Zuri : don't you go around killing people
? Like you're on some spree killing ?

Me : but a serial killer is someone who just kills people , even for no reason .
And it's someone who has an execution style

Zuri : okay then what are you ?

I just stare at her

I feel naked right now , and I'm not ready for the judgement

Zuri : I want a Rover

Me : am I buying that ?

Zuri : the guy behind you

Wow ! And she laughs

Me : it's not funny

Zuri : and I want a house

Me : okay , a Rover and a house . Okay
I'll get them

Zuri : and that's how I excuse this
mistake of yours , but don't ever you
with our lives like that again

Me : noted , it won't happen again
sthandwa sam (my love)

Zuri : I'm hungry

I chuckle hugging her

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Tau

He walks in the room I'm in

And he doesn't look as bad as I thought
he would

He sighs , and sits on the bed
I laugh

Me : I thought you'll have slap marks on the cheeks , maybe a busted lip even some black eye

Luzuko : don't speak nonsense

Me : how did you justify yourself ?

Luzuko : I told her the truth

Me : everything ?

Luzuko : yeah , what was the point of lying ?

Me : you went too far

Luzuko : I got caught

Me : on drugs and a whore on your lap

Luzuko : she's not stupid okay

I shake my head

Me : I think you're playing with fire right
now

Luzuko : then let me burn , it's fine

Me : what about the rest of us ?

Luzuko : what could she possibly do ?

Me : before I would say nothing ,
because we even have her father

Luzuko : and now ?

Me : now your wife disappeared from us
in mere seconds , and disabled trackers .
For hours and hours we looked for her ,
while she was here

Luzuko : she hacked them , and any whizz with a laptop or phone could have done that

He's fucking with me right now

Me : you know that's not true , those trackers weren't easily detected . How did she even know about them ?

Luzuko : okay enough , you can keep your distance if that will make you feel better . But stop this , going at my wife like this

Me : she's your wife , I guess if she betrays you . You'll remember your words

Luzuko : I need you to come with

Me : where ?

Luzuko : to see her father

Me : and why would I come with ?

He sighs

Luzuko : seems like he knows , and he called her over . I'm supposed to drive her there

Me : then you go

Luzuko : you seriously want to let me in the lion's den alone ?

Me : your wife seems dangerous for my liking , I don't think we should be this relaxed

Luzuko : maybe we should just step up our game

Me : what ?

Luzuko : yeah , perhaps this was a wake up call we needed . What if she hadn't pulled the stunt she did ? And what if something had really happened to her ?

He's got a point there

Luzuko : everything that happened last night , literally made us look like armatures

Me : as sad as it is to admit

Luzuko : so come with

I laugh

Me : now you want to get your ass
kicked along with me ?

He chuckles

Luzuko : I love his daughter , I can't
possibly even take a jab at him

Me : then go and take his

Luzuko : don't be like this

Me : what do I get out of this ?

Luzuko : don't act like you're my wife ,
I'm already buying her a house and a car

I burst out laughing

Luzuko : this is sad

Me : this girl has you by the balls

Luzuko : yeah it's fine , lets go

I don't want to , I really don't

But I can see he truly loves her , to an extent of even respecting her father

Me : that girl is still locked at the club , and they're open by now

Luzuko : when we leave Nyiko you'll go there , and move her to the house

I'm not surprised , he won't just let her go that's for sure

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- .
- .
- .

Zuri

These two grown man are just
something else

Luzuko is the same guy who threatened
my father with his

But now he's scared to face my father ,
he had to being his friend with

This is just crazy

Because with everything else he told me

I have no doubt he was also in on that
with his father

Because being married to me , also
protects him from his shady doings

Knowing my father will never hurt me ,
but turning him in or whatever

He sure played his thing

And now I don't even know if he was
real with me or what

And the sad thing is that now I love him

But I have this question lingering behind
my head

Does he really love me ? Or this was just
to lure me in

Right now I don't know what I would do ,
if they were to cross paths

And my father does something , that
comprises Luzuko

He sure did his thing

Luzuko : sthandwa sam (my love)

He's so down , I don't know what's
wrong with him

I just look at him , because right now
even I'm not myself

And I'm really questioning his love , and
true intentions for me

And if I'm honest it hurts

Luzuko : please don't leave us alone with
your father ?

Is he serious

Luzuko : please

Me : you must be kidding right now

Luzuko : no , this man will beat us

I shake my head slightly , as Tau parks the car

I'm first to get off , and they rush behind me

Luzuko : at least just promise

Me : you're men too , beat him up as well

Tau : so we must fight your father back ?

I just side eye him

If they could threaten him , then they
sure as hell can fight him

Luzuko : weI respect this man please
don't let this get far

Me : where was the respect when you
threatened him tatakhe ? (Daddy)

He smiles , but it's not fully you can see

Luzuko : don't you think we should talk
first maybe ?

Me : no

I'm avoiding to cry , because I will
definitely ask him this now

I thought maybe my insecurities were
just getting the better of me

And they would pass , but now I really
want to know the truth

I face him

Me : I just want to see my father and go
home

He nods with a sigh

Me : and please , contain it in yourself
not to throw the whole Dakarai thing in
my father's face

Luzuko : I promised I won't tell him that

Me : thank you

We walk inside , and he welcomes me
with a hug

Dad : are you okay ?

He asks pulling out , placing his hands on my shoulders

Me : I'm okay

He looks at them

Dad : gentlemen , please lets have a word

Tau clears his throat

Honestly they're just being crazy , and only Lord knows for what

Luzuko : now would really be a perfect time for you to protect us

He whispers that , and I just shake my head

My father walks away to his study

Tau : really ?

I laugh

Luzuko : let's just go

He pulls him by his hand and they follow him

Beats me how I got the braveness to go to the Dube home , than coming to my father . Mrs Dube didn't even question me , and surprisingly the husband just said that's my home too

So I'm allowed to go there whenever I want

That was a shock , because I thought he didn't even like me . Because of who my father is

And our first encounter wasn't so very nice

I thought maybe he took some offence with that

But I guess I was wrong

I just told his mother he angered me , and I just wanted to be away from him

She didn't even ask what he did , because she saw I didn't want to say anything further

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INSERT 03

Luzuko

We walk inside his study , and he shuts the door behind us

Not locking it though , and he comes and stand in front of us

Nyiko : if there's one thing in common about us , is the fact that we're fuck ups and screw ups

Now that's addressed at me

Nyiko : see how an idiot boy and his friend kidnapped my daughter , and she landed in hospital

I swallow hard , like how in the hell did he find out about this ?

Nyiko : I know

I sigh

Me : well

I just shrug

Nyiko : you came in there , and salvaged the situation

I shake my head

Me : I...I did nothing

Nyiko : no , you did something . And I applaud you as a man for that

Should I take that as a compliment somehow ?

Nyiko : but do you know what I have a problem with Dube ?

He walks closer to me , I back away .
Now I'm no coward !

But damn , the situation doesn't allow me to lay my hands on this man

Nyiko : the fact that you fail my daughter

I look down , he's just an inch away form me

Nyiko : what did I say to you ?

Me : that...I shouldn't hurt you daughter

Nyiko : and what do you call what you did ?

Me : I...

And I'm just met by a slap , that causes me to close my eyes for a second

I lift my head , and my lip is bleeding . I must have bit myself

Tau : what the....

I just shove him back as he attempts to charge for Nyiko

Nyiko : try that shit my boy , and you'll walk out as a corpse out of here

I shake my head at him , he's pissed . But we're not doing this

Not with my father in-law , my wife loves this man with her being

I won't hurt her like that

And I'm the one who got slapped and not him

Nyiko : threaten me all the hell you want , but when it comes to my daughter I'll risk it all . You and your father are not the shit you think you are , I only care to live for her . So know this from this day forth , hurt my daughter again Dube . When you rip this fucking heart off my chest , you'll die with me

The door bursts open , and she walks in . More like rushes in

She looks at me , and u try by all means to be normal

She walks close and tits my chin , I'm really bleeding . Even though it's not that bad

She looks at her father with teary eyes , she slowly lets go of my chin

Zuri : you slapped him , why ?

She's far from being calm , her voice is pained . And slightly strained

Nyiko : Zuri....

Zuri : can you two not see that you're hurting me ?

Tears stream down her face , it breaks me

Me : sthandwa sam (my love)

One look at me and I stand still

Zuri : you threatened him so I can marry you , isn't that enough to just let him be . He's all that I've got , and I did this for him

Now I feel like shit

Zuri : you probably won't understand this , and I don't expect you to . But please care enough , to never lay a hand on him again

He darts his eyes my way , and this man hates me

There's no doubt there

Zuri : can I please go ?

He says nothing , and she's hurt by that .
But either way she still hugs him

And he hugs her back , kissing her
forehead

Nyiko : I love you enough

He says as they pull out of the hug

She wipes her tears and looks at me ,
walking past us

Tau is first to walk out , and with his
anger right now . I better follow back

Me : I'm really sorry about everything , I really am

He clenches his jaw and I walk out

Zuri is already in the car

Tau : what kind of shit was that ?

Me : can you just not

Tau : you fucking let him just slap you , just like that

Me : can you just drive us , if you want

I pass him and get in the car ,
surprisingly he gets in and drives off

The car ride is just off , I have my wife's
head on my shoulder . My hand on her
back

She's crying , I can tell she's hurt

Tau : why in the hell did you let us go in
the study with your father ?

What nonsense is this ?

Me : Tau let this go

Tau : no ! She knows that man she calls a father , and he's violent

His tone is just off , and I am quite frankly not liking it

Especially because he's addressing my wife with it

Tau : you wanted him to lay his hand on him right ? You knew damn well that....

Me : Tau enough !

I raise my voice

And that gets him to shut up , until we
get to Hyde Park

He parks the car and we get out

He releases one crazy heavy sigh

Tau : that stunt you just pulled back
there with your father , it makes me
wonder if you're even really down for
my boy . Or this is just a big

I find myself hitting him on his chest ,
and he staggers back

Me : don't fucking piss me off , you don't
get off talking to my wife like that . Don't
ever do this shit again , I'll have serious
problems with you

Tau : you....

Me : fuck off ! Right now

He darts his eyes on her

Me : get in that car and leave , and the next time you see my wife you'll be on the ground . Begging her for forgiveness , now fuck off before I lose myself with you

He shakes his head

Tau : I hope you know what you're doing

He leaves getting in my car and he drives out

She walks inside the house , and I'm left on the doorstep alone

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Tau

I feel like shit , my head is pounding like
crazy

It feels like it'll burst , or just blow into
half or even more pieces

I ended up at the club , got drunk like
crazy

I checked on Pretty , she was passed out
cold on the floor

There was just pee smell everywhere , it
was just disgusting

I'll get one of the guy to go clean it today

I've just woken up and there's already a knock at the door

I open , holding the glass of water in hand

Okay ! His anger face is what I meet at the door . Honestly I know I fucked up

But I was angry , and I didn't like what yesterday at all

He grabs the glass from me , and throws it in my face

He pushes me , and I stagger back and just land down on the floor

Me : fuck !

Luzuko : Tau I will never , and I mean never put you in line where my wife is concerned . She's my wife , and you'll stay in your lane . You will know your place

I sigh

Luzuko : I told you , we were just going to let Nyiko be . That man loves his daughter more than anything , and he will kill for her . If you think the threat means he's our puppy , then you're mistakenly wrong ! Where his daughter is concerned , he doesn't fuck anything

Me : he still shouldn't have laid his hand on you

Luzuko : it was just a fucking slap , that you did not need to question my wife for nor blame her

I a deep breath , I can see I angered him

Luzuko : you crossed a line , and I don't care how upset you are or were . You don't talk to my wife like that , I'd hate to lay my hands on you because of that

I hold my hand out , he looks at me and sighs holding his out

He helps me up

Me : I'm sorry

Luzuko : that's bullshit , and I told you you'll beg her to forgive you

He turns around and leaves

Now I know I fucked up , like no kidding
seriously I fucked up

I take Luzuko like a brother , and I really
didn't like what happened yesterday

Especially because he asked Zuri not to
leave us alone with her father

But what did she do ? She let us be

Honestly it just felt like , maybe that's
exactly what she wanted

And that just questions her character

This is not a typical normal marriage

There's threats and all that , now how does one know for a fact she's in like she is ?

Surely around such a marriage , there's plots and all of that . Revenge even

Right now I'm not trusting Zuri and her intentions for my boy at all

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Zuri

He walks in , it's midday now

And he left in the morning , I don't know
where he disappeared to

I was still in bed when he left , and not
much was said to each other

Even yesterday , we didn't say anything
to one another

Luzuko : can we talk ?

I nod , he walks closer and takes my
hand . We sit down on the bed

Luzuko : how are you feeling ?.

Me : I don't know , but I'm not okay

He nods

Luzuko : Tau was out of line , I won't even excuse him

Me : my father had no right to lay his hand on you

He chuckles

Luzuko : oh ! But he does , when I fuck up with his daughter he has every right to beat the shit out of me

Me : don't say that

Luzuko : it's the truth , whatever happened between us happened .
Things changed from that , and I need to understand that

I sigh

Luzuko : let's talk

I slowly look at him

Me : you're talking about how things have changed , everything that happened has made me question this .

The same way your friend saw it fit , to question me because of what my father did

Luzuko : you don't trust nor believe I love you as I say I do ?

This is hard , and it's sad for me .
Because I love Luzuko

Me : did you lure me in to fall for you , knowing very well that I'll always be caught between you two . And it'll be hard if ever it came down to choosing ?

Luzuko : I love you , and I need you to understand that . Come sit here

Me : no , I'm fine here

Luzuko : no , please come here

I get up and straddle him , he places his hands on my neck

Luzuko : don't ever feel like you'll ever have to choose , between me and your father . I'm sorry last night happened , and that's exactly just now it felt like . A situation you were forced to choose now

, between your father and your husband
. I was so into you, in just a few hours of
marrying you . And that first kiss at my
home , it sealed everything for me . This
was some kind of a messed up situation ,
and I thought you'll just be to secure us
the deal with your father . I didn't think ,
I will lay eyes on you and I'll just be like
I'm making this marriage work . But
that's what happened , and I don't know
how it even happened . But I love you ,
threats and everything aside , sthandwa
sam ngiyak'thanda (my love , I love you)
I hug him , laying my head on his
shoulder

Me : I won't retaliate on anything , I never even planned to . My father's life , is all that I'm grateful for . Falling for you , felt like some kind of a betrayal to him . But I didn't choose to

Luzuko : I'll never question you , I'll ever question your love . Because I know you

I slowly lift my head and look at him

Luzuko : irrespective of what anyone's says

He cups my face

Luzuko : you're going to call your father , or text him . Tell him how much you love him , so he knows you're not angry at him over what happened . You didn't choose me by walking out , you were just a married woman . Acting on instinct , when such a things arise your home is where you want to be

And I'm sure my father thinks I'm angry at him

Luzuko : you will do that right ?

I nod

Luzuko : good

He smiles , I lean down capturing his lips

I can feel his crotch , has grown
underneath me

My clit is throbbing , I'm longing for that
feeling of pain and pleasure when he's
buried inside of me

I find myself lowering his sweatpants ,
he pulls my dress of and slides my panty
on the side

He rubs his dick on my coochie , and I'm already excited

Luzuko : you're wet enough ?

I nod , he lifts my ass a bit and he slides his dick inside of me without even directing it

I moan out in pain , as he deep groans

Luzuko : move down a bit

He lets go of my ass , and I go down his length taking him in much deeper

I cling tight for dear life on him , as he
thrusts in

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INSERT 04

Luzuko

He walks in , I stand by the door

Tau : shit

The smell that comes from in here , it's disturbing

He walks out , with a frown . I close the door back and lock

Tau : she's still alive

Me : good

We walk to the office

Me : make sure she's out by tonight to the house , I need to deal with her

before Zuri starts asking questions about where she is and all that

He pours himself a glass of water

Tau : what's your plan with her ?

Me : I don't need to plan for her , like she's some big fish

He laughs

Tau : she's been locked up for days , she's weak and drained . You can just let

her go , I'm sure she knows you're not to be messed with

Me : she messed with my wife , it was all her doing that Zuri ended here and seeing all that

Tau : yeah well

Me : keep quite , and let me do this how I see fit

Tau : fine

He sits down

There's no way in hell I'm letting that girl
just walk off

And at the end of the day , she's without
a job

If she thought this will play out her way ,
she was very wrong

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Tau

I got two guys to move Pretty from the club

Smoothly that no one caught up on what was happening

She's really out it

Right now she's laying down on a cold floor, and she's not even moving an inch

I don't get how he wants to already
punish a punished person

But that's his business , and I should stay
out of it as he said

Luzuko : pour some water in the bath

And they rush doing that , I don't want
to get involved

Out of nowhere , he's beating Pretty like
it's the end of the world

And she's Slightly gaining some
consciousness's

And cries out in pain , as if that's not enough

He takes a wire and starts beating her with it , all over her mother

She tries to cover her face with her hands , but with failure

She starts bleeding , the wire is just doing the most on her skin . He finally throws it away , but drags her off the floor

He throws her inside the bath , and she
cries out

I'm sure the water is doing the most to
her wounds

I know Luzuko is violent yes , and he hits
these girls

But I've never seen anything like this ,
with men I know he doesn't hold back

I thought he will be too lenient with her ,
she's a woman after all

But now , I guess I thought wrong
And I release just how wrong I was ,
when he starts electric shocking her

Some of the guys even walk out , the
way this is just so sad

He's going hard at her

Me : she's fucking going to die from
shock

He moves back , and I'm breathing high
like crazy

Me : this is enough , okay

I'm just trying to calm her down

This is way beyond Pretty , I'm sure
whatever shit he's holding in he's just
taking it out right now

And she fucked him up , so she'll get the
end of the raw deal

Me : come on

He spits , wiping his nose

Me : you....you can leave . I'll clean this up

He says nothing but walks out , I sit down taking a sigh

This is just being brutal and ruthless on another level

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Zuri

With my school work load , slightly a bit better

I figured I should come see my father , after the advice Luzuko gave me

I know he was right , and I also miss my father like crazy

A call once a day it's just not enough

I'm just used to us being us , and right now we're strained

I don't like that

Dad : you look good

I smile

Me : I haven't been good though , so looks are deceiving

He chuckles

Me : I'm sorry , I didn't walk out because
I....

Dad : I know , and there's no choosing
her . Luzuko is a child to me , and I'll get
him in line however I see fit . I know we
were both unfair to you , and I as an
elder could have handled things better .

Zuri : he's not angry

Dad : I'm not his friend to be angry

He says shaking his head , I laugh out

Me : the two of you are giving me stress
, and I don't need it

I pass him the scan , he takes it and looks
at it

Dad : what happened to....

Me : that's disgusting don't say it

He laughs

Dad : baby you're too young to be
making me a grandfather

Me : you need a little friend , whom you can spend all your money on

Dad : and who's money will you be spending

Me : yeka Luzuko (Luzuko's)

I say laughing getting off the chair , to get myself a snack

Dad : is he happy ?

Me : he has no choice , I bought pink clothes with his money . And that's how I told you

He laughs

Dad : make that boy suffer , it makes me happy

I shake my head smiling , as he laughs

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INSERT 05

A FEW DAYS LATER

Luzuko

With June exams approaching , varsity work just keeps piling up

For the both of us , my lessons have increased . And her classes have become straining

She's doing her best to cope , and I'm just being supportive as well as I can be

She's just trying , but this pregnancy is something else

She's always nauseas , and dizzy . It's not even morning sickness honestly

Because sometimes even during the day
, she will feel sick

Like right now , and she said she just
want to sleep but she's also hungry

She said she's never getting pregnant
again, and I don't know about that

Poochie is going to need a sibling to play
with

She will be lonely being the only child ,
and Zuri should know this

She's an only child , that's not a lovely environment . After Poochie we're having another one , that's for sure

Me : we should go see a doctor

I just came home to check on her , I'm heading back to campus soon

Zuri : you know there's nothing she can do

Me : surely there has to be something , because you're not yourself right now

Zuri : I'll be okay , an hour of sleep it'll do me good

Me : okay

I'm just saying , because in all honestly I'm worried

Zuri : go to work

I get up giving her a kiss

Me : call if there's anything

Zuri : okay

That's accompanied by a sigh , and so it's not convincing at all

Me : Sthandwa sam , I'm serious (my love)

She laughs , I don't get how she laughs during such

Zuri : ewe I'll call (yes)

I sigh

Zuri : your worry is just crazy

And I see I'm the only crazy worried one
here

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Zuri

I know I say he's dramatic and all

But I know and understand his worry

Because even I'm worried myself

This pregnancy is on steroids , I can't
seem to catch a break

I'm never doing this again , like never

And right now , I just want to pop this
baby out of me

I'm left eating corn flakes , just dry as they are

This is just nonsense , I hope this baby will at least be normal

I don't know how , with a name like Poochie

Luzuko is crazy , and I hope it's only for now

When she's born , he better give her a proper normal name.

And this can't be a nickname , I refuse

Kids nowadays are cruel , and I don't
want my baby going through such things

My phone rings , I reach for it and
answer

Me : Mrs Dube

Mrs Dube : Mrs Dube junior

Wow !

Mrs Dube : how are you ?

Me : I'm okay and yourself ?

Mrs Dube : I'm good , are you at Varsity ?

Me : no , I don't have classes

Mrs Dube : Ziyanda and I are doing lunch , come join us

Maybe going out will do us good

Me : okay , not a problem

Mrs Dube : I'll send you the details , or should we come pick you up ?.

Me : no , it's okay I'll drive

Mrs Dube : alright , we'll see you soon

Me : see you soon

We drop the call

And what does one wear when going to meet with that woman ?

She's too perfect , and always on point it's just intimidating

But I'm glad we don't have an awkward relationship

That would be something else really

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Tau

I left Pretty at the hospital that day

Because I didn't know what to do with
her

There was no way I could have taken her
to campus

She was out of it , I'm sure she's stuck in
a coma of some sort right now

There's no way she was going to recover on her own

She needed medical attention

Luzuko : you still not over what happened ?

I look at him

Luzuko : what ? Do you like that girl ?

Me : why would I like wasted used goods ?.

He laughs

Luzuko : then what's your deal ?

Me : you were brutal

Luzuko : what ?

Me : the way you beat up that girl , and tortured her like that . I've never seen you that ruthless

He's still laughing , I guess he's not even touched nor even bothered a little bit

Luzuko : weren't you on my case about being weak , regarding what that mere slap Nyiko gave me

Me : that's different

Luzuko : no

He gets up

Luzuko : there's nothing different , if I'm to be ruthless let everyone feel it . No exceptions

I just nod , clearly there's no getting through to him

Those girls better get in line , or they'll
have serious problems with him

Me : and your anger to her , wasn't it
fuelled by what Nyiko did ?

The eye he gives me

But there was just more to that beating

And I think he just took it far , because
Zuri is fine

Nothing happened to her

Luzuko : the fact that he slapped me ,
and I couldn't fight him back ? You could
just ask that , and not go indirectly

Me : well

I shrug my shoulders

Luzuko : no , I didn't beat Nyiko because
he's my wife's father . Not because he's
an adult no

Me : and Pretty ? That much punishment

Luzuko : because here is what you need to know Tau , when it comes to my wife I don't fuck around . With no one , and I mean literally no one .

It's the way he's just saying this , I know he won't hold back

Luzuko : so next time you want to spit shit about my wife again Tau , I'll so more than push you around

Fuck ! So the no one also includes me

Me : noted !

Luzuko : for your sake

He goes back to his chair

And I'm left like , who knew Luzuko
would fall in love and fall this bad !

Just the power women have over men

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Zuri

And yes , lunch wasn't so awkward at all

This woman is chilled , she's not too
much adult like

One can be free around her , yes to a
point

Because one can't also ignore the fact that she's scary and all

But I can hold a conversation with her now , so it's not so bad

Mrs Dube : are you two okay ?.

Me : yes we're okay

Mrs Dube : good , I'm glad to hear that

Me : there's something

Mrs Dube : what ? He's not cheating
right ? Because I know I didn't birth one

I laugh

Me : no , I'm...I'm pregnant

She gasps in shock , putting her hand on
her mouth

Me : found out over a week ago

Mrs Dube : he knows ?

I nod with a smile

Mrs Dube : I won't lie , it's way too early for you two to be having babies .

I know that , but I wasn't expecting to hear it

Mrs Dube : you know , if there's one thing good about this marriage . Is that you two fell for each other , and that makes up for everything . I know this child was made out of love , and that makes me so happy

I slightly laugh

Mrs Dube : Lethuxolo better hold off on kids, I'm already a Granny . Was so not ready for this

This woman ! Not even my father was this dramatic

Mrs Dube : at least you'll have someone to play with now

She says looking at Ziyanda who's eating and minding her business

One crazy idea hits me

Me : can we have her for the weekend ?

I love and adore this baby

This might sound crazy , but now we
need some parenting skills

And it'll just be great to have her around

She's shocked , surely she wasn't
expecting me to ask her that

But well it's done

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Luzuko

I open the door and I'm welcomed by
her

Touching my glass table with her sticky
filthy , sugary hands

Ziya : Zuko uyafika (you have arrived)

I chuckle

Me : sthandwa sam (my love)

I know there's no way my parents are here , I didn't see any of their cars

Me : let's speak English please

She laughs

Zuri : why ?

Me : because she's here and it's the only language she doesn't understand

She nods still laughing

Me : what is she doing here ?

Zuri : spending the weekend with us

Me : she is ?

Zuri : yes

Me : and when did this happen ?

I don't even remember being told anything , I know I can never forget such

Zuri : she came here today

Me : she came ? With who ?.

Zuri : me

Me : and....and where did you get her ?

Zuri : we were having lunch with your mother

Me : oh ?

Everything is just a shock to me

Me : a whole weekend with us ?

I sit down

Zuri : you won't die

Me : look at my table

Zuri : get used to dirt , soon you're going to be a father . That's why she's here

Me : Poochie won't be like this

She shakes her head , I sigh

It's going to be one hell of a weekend
with Ziyanda here

I can't even run away , because I want to
be by my wife's side

With her not being so well , I hate
leaving her alone

So I'm stuck with Ziyanda !!

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INSERT 06

Luzuko

This is not a good morning

I'm sure though there's something , we
can get from the doctor

Maybe some kind of pills , just anything
that can tone the sickness down

Me : here

I hand her a glass of water , and she rinses her mouth

I help her up , and we walk back to the bedroom

I have Ziyanda's eyes on me like crazy

She gets in bed , I sit next to her . And Ziyanda just gets on top of her

Me : unga....(don't)

Zuri : it's okay , I'm not in pain he's not hurting anything

I sigh

Ziya : Zuko yagula umfazi wakho (your wife is sick)

Isn't it too early for this

Me : uzoba right (she's going to be)

Ziya : ha.ana (no)

Me : aibo ! Utsho njani ba ha.ana ?
(Really ! What do you mean no)

Ziya : masambe (let's go)

Me : siyaphi ? (Where are we going)

Ziya : ka dokotela , yagula umfazi wakho
(to a doctor , your wife is sick)

Zuri laughs

Me : you see your doings ? This is our
daily mornings , mna I'm forced to take
you to a doctor

Zuri : I don't know how you're going to
convince her that I'm okay

Me : she's 4 , we can't fool her . So a doctor it is

She is not for this , but it serves her right

Ziya : masambe (let's go)

Me : sizo hamba (we'll go)

She looks at her , and places her tiny hand on her cheek

I'm loon at her , like girl what you doing to my wife

Ziya : isungu ? (Is it painful)

We're never having this guest here ever again , until Poochie is around maybe

Zuri : ha.ana (no)

Ziya : zophola anithi ? (You're going to heal right)

Zuri : ewe (yes)

She smiles we end up all smiling with her

Ziya : kiss

That one she knows best , she just brings
her whole face down to Zuri

Aiming for her kiss

It's crazy how we all took this from our
parents

The whole affection thing

Well I think we all did , but I'm not so
sure about Lethuxolo

He's just something different , closed off
and such a mystery

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Zuri

After being forced to go see a doctor

I was given some more supplements

I don't know if they'll work or what , but
I'm hoping that they do

I've lost hope in a lot of things
But I'm feeling better right now

We're in the lounge , cartoons playing
on TV

And there's a doll set in front of us

That Luzuko was forced to buy when we went to the mall

The poor guy !

But he better get used to this

Because his own baby is on the way soon
He will spend money unnecessary , even when he doesn't plan to

These people they don't even ask , they just take and you'll have to pay

Which is what happened with the doll set

She grabbed it while we were walking around , to get some snacks

She keeps looking at us , and I know there's bunches and bunches of questions

Maybe she probably just doesn't know how to say , or ask them

But there's something , it's the way she drifts her eyes to me and then to Luzuko

I watch cartoons , avoiding this awkward situation I am feeling

His phone beeps , he looks at it . And chuckles , then he looks at me

Luzuko : sthandwa sam (my love)

I side eye him , I don't know if I'm being crazy or what

But I'm already feeling somewhat

Me : you're not going anywhere

He frowns but quickly catches up maybe
, well I think so as he smiles

Luzuko : I know , and I'm not going
anywhere . I'm here with you three
ladies

I smiles , now that slight anger feeling is
gone

Luzuko : there's something I want you to
come see

Me : what ?

Luzuko : just come with me , you'll see

He gets up , and I get up as well . Ziyanda
just gets up

I laugh

It's just funny how kids reacts to
whatever you just do

Luzuko picks her up and we all walk out

Father God !

I'm speechless beyond words , I know I
said I want this

But I didn't think in a space of a full week
and few days he would have done it

I look at him with teary eyes , he brings
me closer and kisses the top of my head

Luzuko : I know you wanted it , but I
know you deserve it . And very much
more

Me : you did it with love

He chuckles

Luzuko : I sure did

Ziya : Zuko imoto yabani le ? (Who's car is this)

Let me leave them and check my new baby

I wanna scream right now , this is my flex all day

And it's just perfect in metallic black

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Luzuko

I've been getting so many why's since yesterday

I hope today there's none of that , and I'm glad she's going home

Babies are a lot of work , especially when you have to engage in conversations that you don't even understand

Like Ziyanda has her speech right , but there's just some things she says out of the blue

And you're just left wondering , ba what is she talking about

And the worst thing ever , she'll want
you go engage in them.

That time you have no idea what she's
talking about

We're still in bed , and today everything
seems so much better

We haven't had any morning sickness
episode

Me : you feeling better ?

Zuri : much better

We're both just shocked , as Ziyanda lays her head on her tummy

We look at each other

Me : what is she doing ?

Zuri shakes her head

And the way she keeps lifting her head slightly , and brings it back down

It's like she's listening to something

Zuri : there's no way she felt any movement, I mean I didn't feel anything

She finally lifts her head and places her tiny hands there

I laugh as I think about this

Zuri : share the joke

Me : she heard nothing , bad mistake taking this one to with to the doctor . She saw what they were doing to you , I'm sure that's where her mind is right now . She's probably just doing it on her weird way

Zuri : that's cute

Cute yes , but this is Ziyanda she's awkward

Ziya : usuthi kakhulu ? (Are you too full)

Zuri laughs

Zuri : ngilambile (I'm hungry)

Doesn't she lifts her pj t-shirt and looks at her tummy

We just burst out laughing , and she's just looking at us all awkward

Zuri : is this how she gets me to tell her about my bump ?

Me : good luck

Zuri : how do I tell her there's a baby in there

Me : while at that , be ready to explain how it got in there

Zuri : this is beyond me , asambeni siyodla (let's go eat)

She looks at us

Ziya : ulambile manyan ? (You're hungry for real)

Wow !

Has this girl never met anyone with a big tummy ?

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INSERT 07

Luzuko

My mother couldn't come to get Ziyanda

So we had to come and drop her off
ourselves

But Zuri didn't mind , since she's the one
who came with her

Arriving at home , I really don't get why
this woman couldn't come to pick her
daughter

She's not sick , she's not caught up doing anything

She's busy with her husband , eating fruits

I'm not happy at all , and she's been laughing at me

Mom : how was your weekend ?

I shrug she continues to laugh

Mom : you had fun though with your guest?

Me : it was awkward

It really wasn't , I enjoyed and loved
having my little baby there

And I'm grateful , of the relationship
between these three Dube ladies

We have one visiting us now on
weekends , and they do lunches
together

That's one thing that makes a man be at
ease

Dad : she's growing up and I don't like it ,
soon she'll be asking for more
sleepovers . How does she even spend a
week not seeing me ?

Mom : it must have been all nice , she
forgot all about us

Me : you guys can have her all you like

Dad : I hope you two didn't have sex in
front....

Me : dad !

Mom laughs and Zuri is just so embarrassed, but who can blame her ?

Dad : what ? You two are kinky

Mom : this is so wrong

Me : tell him please !

Dad : I caught you them making out in my couch

Me : we were not making out , it was just a kiss....wait ...why am I even explaining myself to you ?

He laughs

Me : we're leaving , just grow up ! You're about to be a grandfather

He frowns

Dad : you fucking made a baby !

Me : duh !

The joke is on him now it's so nice

Me : MaDube let's go

I take her hand

Dad : is this a joke

Mom : no , it's not ...isn't it lovely ? Zuri told me when we met for lunch on Friday

Dad : and you didn't think to tell me ?.

Mom : oh I knew sooner or later you were going to know

He sighs

Me : bye , remember my advice and do
take it into account

Dad : Luzuko get out of my house

We all laugh except him

Me : it will sink in soon , don't rush it .
You're not young at heart

The eye he gives me , it's my cue to
leave

Zuri

That man is awkward , like he's really
awkward

I just don't get him at all

And for that arrogance and the rudeness
, he had

He's really awkward

Me : will your father ever forget that thing ?

He laughs as we walk inside the house

Luzuko : no

Me : he's really awkward

Luzuko : I know

I sit down as he walks to the kitchen

Me : that scene embarrass me like hell

I raise my voice a bit

Luzuko : don't let it get to you

He peeks in

Luzuko : well him , don't let him get to
you

Me : he's my father in-law

He laughs

Luzuko : and he sees you as a daughter ,
and not daughter in-law . That's why he
can being that couch incident , just like
that without shying away

Me : he's awkward

He keeps laughing

Luzuko : you said that already

Me : see , I really mean it

Luzuko : see him as a father , and not father in-law . You two will be fine

Me : that's.....strange

Luzuko : you're the one who's being strange right now , and I thought you were over that

Me : over what ?

Luzuko : being strange

Me : when was I ever strange ?

He goes back

Me : I asked a question

I shout , and what does he do ? He just laughs at me.

I guess I'm not getting an answer , but he saw me strange . Wow !

Me : please bring me some water

He says nothing , but comes with the water

Me : thank you

Luzuko : have you found a house yet ?

I shake my head

Me : I haven't even started

He laughs

Me : don't be like that

Luzuko : okay , you'll let me know once
you have

I nod

I'm not backing down on that , I do want that house

It even makes sense right now , I won't be raising a child in an apartment

A baby needs a home and not a house

Being safe and stable , and this is not really offering that

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Tau

The fucking pride I had to swallow in ,
just to find myself here

But it was no use delaying the inevitable

I knew one way or the other , I had to do
this so here goes nothing

Me : no excuses , none whatsoever . I'm really sorry , for how I addressed you . And not only that , but I did throw accusations in a way . For that I'm very sorry , I was way out of line . Angry or not , you're his wife . And I should respect that , and know my lane . Your marriage is yours , and how you deal with your situations it's none of my business . I promise , what happened will never happen again . I was wrong , please forgive me

Zuri : okay

What ?

Me : just an okay ?

Luzuko : don't start

Me : wait.....that was so heartfelt , like I poured my heart there . At least say you're forgiving me

Zuri : now you're telling me

Me : Luzuko really ! Where did you pick this one

Zuri : book me a day spa , full everything
. And include lunch as well , and a day at
Golf Reef City will do

Luzuko laughs , I'm just staring at her .
And I can tell she's not joking

Me : this is not a joke ?.

Zuri : no

Me : who do you think my father is ?

Zuri : oh ! You're Tau Tsatsing , you own a strip club . You trade girls for sex , and you sell drugs . So you have money

I look at Luzuko

Me : see what you have done , this is all your doings . I don't really understand a man with a loud mouth

Luzuko : I bought a half a million car , I'm still yet to buy a house. Give me a break

Me : you didn't have to tell her all this , she didn't hold a gun at your head

Luzuko : it's done just get over it , pay up

I sigh

Me : fine

Zuri : good , make it for 3 . Include
kiddies games

Me : for 3 ? For 3 everything and now
extra games for kids ? Wait what ?

Zuri : you already agreed , keep to your word . I'd hate to think you're not an honest man

Wow !

Zuri : apology will be accepted one you deliver

She gets up and walks in the kitchen

Me : what the hell dude ?

Luzuko : just stop

Me : your wife is a leech !

He laughs

Me : do you have an idea how much this is going to cost me

Luzuko : don't make your problems mine

Me : and who are the 2 extra people ?

Luzuko : her two besties , mom and Ziya

Me : she'll be using me to pamper her mother in-law and sister in-law , what a way to earn points at my expense !

I shouldn't have come here , I should have sent an apology text

Luzuko : that was some damn apology you dished out

Me : shut up !

There's nothing funny about what his wife just dealt me

And he's busy laughing , it's all lovely to him

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INSERT 08

Luzuko

Done with my last lecture for the day

And I just want to be out of here

To be with my wife , and we get home
and just be us

And thinking about her , she walks in

She's no longer the same now , she can
come to my office

Unlike before , when she thought people
will just talk and blow the whole thing

Me : miss me much ?

She laughs sitting down

Me : we're going home

Zuri : let me take a breather , before
going to reach the parking lot

I chuckle

Me : what's on your mind ?

She's busy moving her lips around , she
does that when there's something that's
occupying her mind

I've just learnt to notice that

Zuri : Where is Pretty ?

Shit !

That girl should really be dead , who knows what she'll spit out when she comes to

Me : you're asking me ?

Zuri : she was last seen in your club

I'm not doing this with my wife , fuck no
! I am not

This conversation is not happening , it's not fucking happening at all

Not now , not ever

Me : last seen ? What are you talking about? Is she missing ?

Zuri : that's too many questions

Me : MaDube just answer them

Zuri : I haven't seen her since I last saw her in your club

Me : you mean when she dragged you there? In hopes that I'll be exposed

She frowns

Me : I did nothing to your so called fake friend , if you think I have something to do with her disappearance

Zuri : I wasn't accusing you of anything

Me : and I was clarifying that , since I'm being asked about her . As if I should know her whereabouts , let's not forget I'm not her keeper . She's nothing of mine

Zuri : calm down for all our sakes

She gets up

Zuri : right now you're acting like you're the one with pregnancy hormones

I shake my head

Zuri : I was just asking , because I haven't seen her since that night . And I went past her room , there was no answer . I asked you , because she works for you . And well you also have lectures with her , so I thought maybe you had seen her

Me : sthandwa sam , I haven't (my love)

Zuri : okay , it's no big deal . Let's go home , and we're passing by the mall for some ice cream

Me : anything for my girls

She laughs

I hope this is the last I hear about that girl , from my wife

I don't want Poochie eating ice cream , the damn thing is cold

I'm just asking myself , if she's even allowed to eat such things

But I don't want the wrath of my wife

Even though I don't like the ice-cream idea , a man has to do what a man has to do

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Tau

It's very early to be seriously getting his call

I don't even have lectures today , I planned to say in

Me : mhm

Luzuko : where is that girl ?

Me : I dumped her in hospital

Luzuko : and you haven't gone after , to see if she's alive or dead ?

Me : I can't risk going there

Luzuko : well find someone , anyone who can risk going there

I sigh

What a way to wake up in the morning

Me : what happened ?

Luzuko : Zuri asked me about her
yesterday

Me : what ?

Luzuko : yeah , let's just say I'm
regretting letting that girl live now

Me : what do you mean ?

I think I understand , but can he can just
utter it out himself

Luzuko : her living is a problem for me ,
my wife is to never know what I did

I shake my head slowly

Honestly people will die because of Zuri ,
because Luzuko wants to protect her at
all costs

Luzuko : if she opens her mouth .

Me : I doubt she will , she's scared of you
now . She knows what you're capable of
, just one word from you and she'll be
quite

Luzuko : some spoke person of hers that
you are , and well I hope you're right .
Otherwise blood will spill

Me : don't.....

Luzuko : fuck this up and see

He drops the call

And once again , what a morning !

Such a call this early is just depressing no
lies

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Pretty

It's so hard , to even just lift anything

My own head feels like it's split in half

Everything is just so painful , surely
death is even better than this

I'm so in my mind's , that I know very
well what happened to me

And exactly just how it happened , I
remember every single thing

Some details are still foggy , but I'm not
clueless

I've messed up before , Luzuko has hit
me before

But this time around , he did a crazy
number on me

I tried thinking what shit I did , and
nothing could come to mind

Well except one thing

Taking Zuri to the club , and her seeing
whatever was happening there

This makes me wonder , if they're still
together

Maybe she left , that's why he gave me
such a hell of a beating

He wanted me dead , my whole body
and my wounds say so

Zuri is weak , there's no way she stood
with him after seeing what was
happening in there

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INSERT 09

Luzuko

I don't want to worry myself about the
Pretty matter

Yeah sure I can only hope that Zuri will
let it go

And definitely not be in my case , just in case it comes up

But she hasn't said anything for the past few days

But I'm living on hope here , just because she's quite it doesn't necessarily mean she's over and done with her

I'm at home , because I need to talk to my father

I can't let anything disturb me from this ,
including the whole Pretty matter

Dad : what's on your mind ?

Me : I want to go and do right to Nyiko

Dad : do right ?

Me : pay bride price for Zuri and
damages for the baby

Dad : did he say you must do that ?

Me : no

Dad : then ?

Me : I love her okay ! She's not some business deal or transaction to me . I want to do right by her , and give her the kind of a white wedding she wants .

He goes way too quite , now I can't even figure out what he's thinking

Me : even if you don't agree , or see the importance of what I want to do . Can you at least just let me do it , because I want to

I don't expect him to understand , or to even offer any form of help

He's been a boyfriend to a woman for 24 years , and that says a lot about him

Dad : you're serious about this ?

Me : I'm very serious

He nods

Me : is that your yes ?

He chuckles now shaking his head

Dad : you love thinking ahead of me

Me : what ?

Dad : if this is what you want , then I'll support you

Me : for real ?

I'm kind of shocked

Dad : Luzuko you're my son , of course I want you happy. And if what we had initially planned , has now turned and become this. I won't stand in your way ,

I won't even try to . Because I'm here to support you

Some strange father and son talk happening

But I'm glad , I'll get to do right and knowing I have his support means everything

I just hope Nyiko doesn't make things difficult for me

The man breathes for his daughter , and I doubt he agrees of me as of yet

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Zuri

Who knew house hunting could be so therapeutic

As tiring as it is , but I'm glad I dedicated this day to this

And I've fallen in love with one of the houses , it's big enough for a baby

We can actually raise our family there , and change that house into a home

I just hope Zuko will love it as much as I do , or at least he can like it

I didn't even care about the price ,
because that's his blood money paying
there

And that absolutely has nothing to do
with me

If it leaves him bankrupt , he'll just have
to make more money

Because babies do cost money , like you
cannot raise a child with love and being
there

Like will the love fill their stomach ? Or maybe buy pampers ?

I don't think so

Money is needed when you're raising a child period !!

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Tau

We're at the club , as I get a text from one of these guys I sent to the hospital

I don't know if I should even tell Luzuko this

His call , kind of rubbed somehow

That he regrets letting Pretty live , he's capable of finishing what he started

Which is just killing Pretty

I really think she learnt her lesson , and
that she'll leave him alone

I don't even know what agenda she
holds against him

Maybe I should find that out myself

Me : I need to rush somewhere

Luzuko : you're not fucking with me , so I
won't even ask you where you are going

I chuckle getting up

Me : I have to leave

He says nothing , I head out

I drive to the hospital , this is a risk . But I don't think she'll pull any stunts

Definitely not with me

I'll just have to have a small talk with her , making sure she knows how much she needs to value her life

This is Luzuko we're talking about

He won't think twice this time , he'll definitely kill her

That's why I didn't tell him that she's awake

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Pretty

It'll take a while before I can function
well again

Be able to do things myself , but I'm glad
it's not that bad

Except the pains , my skin that's
somehow now ruined

Luzuko did a number on me , no guy will
ever look at me and see Pretty anymore

I don't even like what I see when I look
in the mirror

I managed to get hold of one from one
of the nurses

I just wanted to see how I look , and I
have a bad scar on my cheek

My skin is pealed on my body , not the
whole body but on some parts

Like what kind of an animal is capable of
doing such to a woman ?

Doc : do you remember what happened to you ?

I shake my head

The nurses have been trying to also get something out of me

That a case should be opened , because it's clear I was tortured and beaten

Doc : we're required by hospital policy to report such to the police

Me : what's there to report , when I don't remember anything ?

Doc : your brain is not disturbed , the police will need to ask you some questions

With the kind of electric torture I got , I'm surprised my brain is still functional

Doc : the police will be here today

He walks out , and I'm left just sighing

If Luzuko even hears that I spoke with cops , will he even let me live to tell the tale ?

I'm sure a man like him has cops in his pockets

What if he finds out ?

These people are putting my life at risk , and I need to get out of here

Or maybe get hold of a phone and call Tau , tell him that I won't say anything that I don't have to say

Maybe that could work

I will have to ask one of the nurses ,
before the cops even get here

A man like that , has ears and eyes
everywhere

I'm sure he knows where I am at this
moment

And he even knows that I'm awake now

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INSERT 10

Pretty

This doctor wasn't kidding

Because here are the police , and no nurse came to check on me

I didn't get to ask for that phone call

I'm more scared about my life than I am of anything right now

Cop 1 : can you recall what happened ?

I just shrug

Cop 2 : the doctor says no one has come to see you , since you got admitted

Me : because there's no one to

Cop 1 : how so ?

Me : I have no family

One Chuckles

Cop 1 : it's amazing how you remember everything , yet you still have no idea what happened to you

This is my life we're talking about

Cop 2 : if we ever find out , that you lied and defeated the ends of justice . We'll charge you , for obstruction of justice

It wouldn't be our justice system

They'll arrest you , for not helping them do their own jobs

Cop 2 : if you remember anything do call us

Me : I doubt I will , I was drunk that night . I probably blacked out , that's why I remember nothing . That's what usually happens with alcoholics

The eyes they give me , but I don't care what they think

Me : we black students just have it hard , more especially if we're all alone in this cruel world

One sighs

Cop 2 : alright , but do call if anything happens

I nod , they both turn out and leave

I heave a sigh of relief !

But that soon disappears as Tau walks in , and he looks like he's ready to kill

I look around hoping they come back , or that someone walks back

Me : I ...I didn't....say anything...I swear

He just sits down , and I'm here peeing
on myself right on this damn bed

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Luzuko

My phone rings , just as I sit down . I turn around to see if she's near

And I don't see her in sight , I answer

Me : yeah

Him : she says she doesn't remember , she didn't even hint . Apparently she was drunk, and she's some kind of an alcoholic . And your man walked in as we left

Tau must be thinking I'm an idiot

Me : sure

I drop the call , making the payment

And she walks in , with a while ice-cream
tin

This has become some habit , she just
always has to eat ice-cream everyday

And it's always just vanilla , I came with
chocolate yesterday

Ask me for what I don't know , but she
cried

Mom gave me hell , because apparently
I'm not supposed to make a pregnant
woman cry

Zuri : I didn't hear you come in

She sits down

Me : should you be eating that everyday
?

She frowns

Me : okay I'm sorry

Zuri : I found a house , it's hella expensive but I want it

Me : without me ?

Zuri : it's our house , but technically it's my house

I laugh

Me : okay , how much expensive are we talking about ?

She smiles taking a scoop

Me : bare in mind , I'm just a mere lecture . And I don't even make seven figures

She laughs

Me : I'm serious

Zuri : use your criminal figures

What now ?

Me : sthandwa sam (my love)

Zuri : I won't shy away from who you are , as much as I don't approve of it . But it has nothing to do with me , and keep it away from me as far as you can

Her words get to me , because my security is weak

I need to do something to make sure she's safe at all times

I can't afford to have any of the recent worries I've had

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Tau

She's scared , she can't even hide it

And right now , I'm sure she so badly wishes that those cops come back

Me : alive and not so well

Pretty : Tau please.....I really didn't say anything

Me : what do you know ?

Pretty : what ?

Me : like do you have anything to say , is there anything you can say ?

Pretty : I...I don't understand

Me : if you're anything half clever as you look , or rather looked . You'll absolutely have nothing to say , like you won't even remember anything . Meaning you won't be quite because you're scared , but it'll be because you really don't know

She's confused for a while

Me : forget what you think you know , let it be something that never even happened

Pretty : I won't talk

Me : because there's nothing to talk about

She nods

Me : one thing you need to know , is that Luzuko is a brother to me . And I'll always have his back , don't be fooled. When it comes to him I give no fucks

Pretty : please ...I swear.....I've learnt my lesson

Me : good

I get up

Me : leave his damn wife alone , if you still value your pathetic life .

The shock in her eyes

This girl clearly has no idea just how much far gone those two are

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INSERT 11

A MONTH LATER

Luzuko

Tau has been keeping his distance , but I don't care

I'm not fucking with him , so he can do his shit and I do mine

Just as long as he's there for work , and doing what's expected of him

That's all I care about

I'm sure he probably thinks I don't know about Pretty

Because I didn't even bother asking him anything

I don't care about that girl , I just want her away from my wife and that's it
I just want her far , I don't even want them greeting each other

And she's the one who has to make sure that happens

Because there's no way in hell I'm feeling my wife that shit

I love this pregnancy , but she's so emotional it's just crazy

And now I'm scared , I'm scared that
she'll go back to that shell of hers

Because even small things make her cry ,
like not being able to open a lid

Yeah that was some crazy shit ever , and
she's at my parents home now

All because of a stupid gherkins lid not
opening

So the less emotional I keep her , the
better for my sanity

I walk in finding my father in the kitchen

Dad : get the hell out

Me : Mr I want my wife

Dad : who's child are you ?

Me : Shaka , you're asking me ?

He chuckles

Dad : how do you manage to make your wife cry over gherkins ? Like are you broke maybe ?

Me : I can afford gherkins , it was the lid not opening . And I wasn't even there , she called crying . When I got home she wasn't there

Dad : you're an idiot , why don't you leave the bottles slightly loosened ?

Me : eh Mr , give me a break . Where's my wife ?

Dad : I'm not her keeper , I don't have a wife

Voice : always the easy way out for you ,
you're a disgusting man . And I'm glad
your son is not following in your
footsteps

By the time she's done talking , I'm dying
with laughter

Dad : take your wife , and get out of my
house

Me : gladly....

Mom : while at that , be prepared to answer why you came home late to open the lid

But this is just nonsense

Me : I wasn't late I ...

I take a deep breath

Dad : easy way out boy , you can always turn and say no right now

Me : Mr wait a bit , write the letter and take it to that man

Mom smiles

Dad : you're serious ? Even now ?

Me : yeah , just get to it . The sooner I'm done with that , the better

Dad : okay , I'll ask Njabulo to do it

Me : just ask Thulani

I head to my room , and she's with Ziyanda

Me : sthandwa sam (my love)

I have a smile right now , can it just work for me

Ziya : Zuko yathanda ulandela (you like following)

I get the shade from that , and she better keep her mouth shut

Me : please lets go home

Zuri : must we ?

Me : Yeah why shouldn't we ? There's a bed there , there's ice-cream and gherkins .

Zuri : why are you being a baby ?

Me , a baby ?

And says someone who cries and everything and anything

Me : let's go to our apartment , so we can pack and move to our house before the end of this week

She smiles , and this whole house
business makes her happy

I don't even know what the hell I'm
doing marrying her right now

When I broke

A millions house is never a sweet thing
okay

Like the pocket feel that shit , and mine
damn felt it

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Zuri

I'm woken up , by Luzuko

And I feel like slapping him like crazy

What sane person wakes one up so early
in the morning ?

And we slept late packing

This pregnancy tires me , and I don't
ever want to carry another human being
in me

Me : what ?

Luzuko : your father has been calling

Poor man

I take the phone from him and answer

Me : daddy

Dad : since when do we keep secrets
from each other ?

What happened now ?

Me : I'm keeping none

Okay , there's a lot . But of course , I
don't want him knowing any of those
things

Dad : why am I finding out through a hand written letter , about your lobola negotiations and not from you ?

What ?

I look at Luzuko , and he's not even looking at me

Me : II don't know anything about that

And I really don't

Dad : but a letter ?

Me : that's how it's down , they don't send emails now do they ?

He laughs , and Luzuko looks at me now

Dad : you should come see me when you get a chance , so we can talk about this matter

I don't like his tone , he's not up to any good

Me : I'll come tomorrow

Dad : alright , go back to sleep

Impossible !

I put my phone down

And should I ask Luzuko about this ?

Luzuko : your father better put his dislike for me aside , tell him I just bought you a huge house . And I'm broke

He says getting on his feet walking out

I'm left smiling like an idiot

He's marrying me ! Like finally , now I
feel like damn yeah I'll be a wife here .
And not some business transaction

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Pretty

This place felt like hell , and I'm glad to be out of here

But I don't even know where I'm going

Like I'm homeless , basically I'm kicked out of res

And I have nowhere to go

It's useless even being glad to be out , because at least I had shelter here and food

I don't even have friends , I have no one
I can even rely on right now

There's no one I can even call , or ask for
some kind of assistance

I'm just all alone

And even after this time , I still
remember what Tau said

That I should stay away from Zuri ,
meaning she's still with Luzuko

I'm even scared to call or text her , I
mean a stranger can help me with that

But she's not an option to even go to ,
I'm keeping my space

I never saw myself homeless , I don't
even have any money on me

But maybe I can go get my things , from
res and I'll get my cards

Surely there's still some money that I
have in my accounts

I can use that and start over

Why didn't I just think of that sooner ? I could have avoided stressing so much

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INSERT 12

Luzuko

As much as I know my uncle is not sane

But I'm glad he came through , even though we haven't even gone far with anything

Dad : I know he got the letter

Me : did he say anything ?

Dad : no

Me : well he called MaDube home

Dad : that one is so going to enjoy this

Thulani laughs

Dad : I don't understand why you're giving Nyiko so much power over us

Me : what power ? I want to do right by my wife

Dad : how do you fall for someone you got in that manner ?

Thulani : the heart knows no certain measures

Me : yes please , tell your brother

Dad : still , and don't get me wrong
because I do love my daughter in-law

Me : your reasons for loving her are just
insane , because it gives you pleasure to
mock and criticize me where she's
concerned

He laughs

Dad : she gets you in line , and well why
wouldn't that make me happy ?

I shake my head , not understanding this
logic of his

Thulani : how much are you willing to pay ?

Me : any amount they want

Them : what ?

Me : don't what me

Dad : boy are you sane ?

Me : Mr just leave me alone , there's no price tag for my wife

Thulani : I think we need to go back home to KZN , and get this boy to see a

seer . So he can vomit whatever he was fed

I burst out laughing

Me : oh no please ! If my wife is the one who fed me , then I don't want to vomit .
Leave me as I am

Dad : I should have just given Zuri to Lethuxolo

Thulani : that's just sad , why would you even say such a thing ? Lethuxolo is not

human enough to end up with any
woman

Me : hey !

Thulani : it's not a lie

Me : he's still my brother , and just leave
him with his weirdness

Dad : he's better than you , at least he
wouldn't have fallen this hard

Me : I feel for you , but don't mess this for me . Whatever that man wants , just give it him

I get up

Me : I'm leaving , I still have lectures for the rest of the day

After dropping Zuri at her father's house , my father called me over at home

Only to find my uncle around , and he has hopes that Nyiko will answer us soon

I only drive Zuri around because I hate it when she drives this heavily pregnant

Well that's according to me and not her , because according to her she's still flexible enough to drive herself

I don't feel safe with that , for their sake . So I prefer to drive her

.

Zuri

This is a treat , which is a reminder that I can't stay away from this man

My father takes the cup , and he goes all out where I'm concerned

There's snacks , and sweet treats . Like just everything to munch on

Dad : my baby still okay ?

Me : she's too busy , but yes she's okay

Dad : that's good , so you ready for this ?

Me : this being ?

Dad : the negotiations ?

I smile

Dad : just look at that

Me : hey ! I'm excited okay

Dad : yeah you and me both

Me : really ?

Dad : yeah

Me : that's new , have you accepted him now ?

Dad : he's not mine to accept

Me : daddy !

We laugh

Me : then what are you happy about with this ?

Dad : I mean just months ago , they came here guns blazing in . Threatened me and demanded my daughter , he goes and falls for you . Now he wants to be a decent man, and do right by you . He'll come here , and beg me for you now

This man !

Me : don't be hard on them

Dad : for what reason why not ?

Me : you know this is all his doing , he's just trying to make right

Dad : and he will make right

Me : he said he's broke , don't want to much money from him

Dad : he's a criminal he has money , it's not even about selling you. Just tell me what you want with that money

Me : you're going to give me that money ?

Dad : all of it

Me : are you even supposed to do that ?

He chuckles

Dad : don't worry you'll enjoy it

Poor Dube wam (mine)

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Pretty

This must be a curse of some kind

Half my things are gone , including my
cards

And no one knows anything , not even
the security

And obviously if it's students around ,
they'll be very discreet about it

Now I really don't know what to do , I
really don't know where to even go

Like in stranded for real , I have no plan
like absolutely nothing

I'm just outside the gate , with just one
small sports bag

It has a few of my clothes , at least I still
have some clothes

Voice : what's with you ?

Just the sound of his voice , sends me in
a great scare

I slowly lift up my head and look at him

I open my mouth , but nothing comes
out . I just stutter shaking my head

Tau : what are you doing here ?

He comes closer , I look around . I can't
even run away and get far , he'll catch
up to me

Tau : I asked you a question

Me : I ...I'm not causing any trouble

Tau : of course you won't dare

Will I ever get a break from these guys ?

And right now I know I don't have my
job anymore

Me : I'm.... kicked out of res , and I don't
have anywhere else to go

Tau : don't you have money to go into a
BnB or something ?

Me : my ...things are lost.... Including my cards , I'll have to go and make new ones

He sighs

Tau : come

He says turning heading to his car , but of course I'm reluctant to follow him

Tau : I won't stand here all afternoon with you

I slowly follow him to his car , he's not parked far

We get in , and I sit in the back

Tau : you'll spend the night at my house ,
and see what to do with yourself
tomorrow

Wow !

To say I'm shocked is an understatement
, like why is he being so nice to me ?

Like Tau doesn't like me , and he's never
liked me . So why is he doing this ?.

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Tau

I'm fucking toast right now

And I know he will know , unless I make sure that this girl is out of here first thing tomorrow morning

Why the hell did I even bring her here ?

Okay ! In all honesty , maybe I do feel for her as a person

Like she's not that bad , yeah life has dealt her

But she's not really trash per se , just she lacks maybe better choices in life

Me : you'll use that room

Pretty : thank you

I just nod

Pretty : why are you being nice to me
Tau ?

Me : girl even I don't know , so don't
think too much about it . It absolutely
means nothing

I pass going into the kitchen

INSERT 13

Luzuko

I knew it was a mistake letting that girl
live

I should have finished her , then I
wouldn't have to be worrying myself
about my men

I don't trust no one , fuck I don't even
trust myself

But this is shit

And it doesn't fly for me , whatever Tau is playing at better stay the fuck away from me

This is dangerous , for me more than him . And it doesn't matter how he chooses to justify this nonsense

If I can have means to find out things he's up to , that alone just says a lot

I don't trust him either , and he doesn't even make it easy for me to

It's the lies

Not taking me that she's awake , and
now this

I deal with this for all our sakes , he's not
a child . I'm sure he can hold his own

Zuri : where are you going ?

Me : I'm going to see Tau

Zuri : this early in the morning ?

Me : yeah , we just have to deal with
something very fast

Zuri : okay

Me : did you want something ?

Zuri : no , I was just asking

Me : okay , I'll be back

I peck her lips taking my car keys

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Pretty

It's not a Pretty knock , and I'm the one that's awake and in the kitchen

Tau finally walks in , in just his briefs and he's annoyed

Tau : why are you not answering the door ?

Is it my business to do that ?

Or I'll just be looking like I'm too forward

I say nothing he opens the door , and he staggers back spitting blood from his mouth

I scream a bit , and notice Luzuko walk in

He smashed the back of his gun , right on Tau's cheek

And that's why he's bleeding

Tau : what the hell ?

Luzuko : you're harbouring this whore here!

He's spitting Vernon , and no doubt I'm dead today

Luzuko : Tau if you want to fuck me up , do it in front of my face . Not this shit , going behind my back . Betray me with balls , do it like a man

It's the calmness in his voice , that's just making one shake like hell

Tau : fuck ! I'm not betraying you

Luzuko : fuck her directly

Tau : do you seriously think I want to fuck her ?

He gestures to the whole of me , and it hurts way more than being called a whore by Luzuko

Tau : she's been fucked by tons and tons of men , she's a used piece of shit . I don't want her

This is what these two men see me as ?

Like their pimping me is this what it has degraded me to

It's heart-breaking to finally know , and Tau is not lying he's not even kidding

His voice and expression matches what he's saying

I guess giving me a place just for last night , wasn't even out of the goodness of his heart

Tau : you really think so little of me , I wouldn't degrade myself with her . I just didn't want you killing her , for no valid reason whatsoever . She's not one of your killing spree people . At least give her that much , I'm giving her money . And I'll personally make sure she fucking stays away from South Africa

What ?

He turns and looks at me

Tau : you're going to Lesotho today , and you better stay there if you know what's good for you

Lesotho ?

Why can't they just leave me alone ?
And I'll see how to survive

Luzuko : you're on thin line boy , a
woman you don't love is not worth all
this shit

Tau : lesson learnt

Luzuko turns and walks out , and I'm still
just stuck on the same spot

I've been shamed and insulted in the most hurtful way

That no woman should ever hear such words from men about her

Tau really broke me there

I will never allow any man near me again , I'll never feel woman enough

Tau : you better not fucking even think of running away , I'll find you and kill you myself

He walks upstairs , I'm left sliding to his
kitchen floor crying my eyes out

This is it for me

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Tau

I'm shocked he didn't break my jaw

But fuck , I felt that hit . And for what nonsense !

I had a good thought last night , this girl is better away from us all

My actions were now starting to look like betrayal to Luzuko

I don't blame him , he left this loose end because of me

So it's up to me to fix this shit

And she better go , I made calls last night
. And managed to get her across the
boarder

Guess it's my slip up I got caught , before
I could even make sure she's gone

Me : get off my floor , and get your rags .
It's either this , or under the bridge .
Choose wisely , because no one will even
miss you when you're gone

I get a bottle of water from the fridge

It's after a minute or so she gets up , and
I'm left leaning against the fridge
drinking the water

INSERT 14

A FEW DAY'S LATER

Luzuko

He walks in , and I hope he's not about to annoy me

Nyiko finally sent a response back
And in just a few days , I'll be marrying my wife . Now that I'm excited and happy about

Of course , in keeping in mind that man might just make things difficult for us

Just to spite us and nothing else

But one thing I know is that he loves his daughter

And he won't do anything to hurt her , he knows I make her happy

And he knows that she loves me , and wants to be with me

As it is she's home , because her aunt's and uncles arrived yesterday

And of course , I'm to see her after everything is done

When we welcome her , as a Dube wife
officially traditionally

I know he won't ruin this , but I know he
won't just make it easy

But I'm willing to take anything

Tau : you really thought I wanted that
girl ?

And that's the first thing he says , like
right out of nowhere

Me : well , what were you doing with her
in the first place ?

Tau : I know how it looks from your point
, but even I wouldn't stoop that low

Me : okay

Tau : she's gone , and my guy says she
arrived and has settled

Me : I don't care to know

He chuckles

Tau : I know

He sighs shaking his head

Tau : you were ready to fucking cut me off

Me : what do you think ? I don't keep nonsense with me

Tau : and I know that best , don't worry I got you

Me : I'm glad we're on the same page

He laughs , opening his laptop

Me : did you fuck her ?

The eye he gives me

Me : sorry

He shakes his head

Me : but at least you could have fucked her, while she was sleeping a few feet next to you

Tau : shut up

Me : no matter how wasted a whole is , you can still slide inside

We burst out laughing I

Tau : fuck no ! Can you just stop .
Because you would never fuck that

Me : because I'm me , and I have the
freshest thing ever

Tau : I'll get myself some fresh Wakanda
pussy

Me : eh....this conversation is done .
Thank you

I focus on what I was doing before he
got here

I'm glad that girl is gone , this much
peace is needed

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Zuri

I'm clueless about these traditional things

Like I know nothing , and I mean absolutely nothing

My aunt's are not really that much clued up as well

Basically oNyiko we know nothing , about South African traditions

I have to rely on Luzuko for everything

Like there's no one to ask , except Google . And even Google doesn't tell everything

And again it is said , things are done differently according to each family

So he's the one who's been telling me , how things are done in his family

And things are still yet to be done , when the negotiations are over

We have to give them a gifts , and they give us as well

That's called some ceremony , a gifting ceremony I think he said

And that's one of the many steps in the Zulu culture to a traditional wedding

But he said I can still plan my white wedding in the meantime

Now that was less stressful news's , I just can't wait

But of course it'll be after a few months
when the baby is born

I'm not getting in a white wedding dress
, while this bump hell no

Dad : this is Northcliff for heaves sake ,
people shouldn't stand at my gate and
make noise . Police will be called

We laugh

Me : I'm sorry sir , but apparently that's
how it's done .

Uncle : and we don't take short cuts ,
when it comes to tradition

Me : just like how we don't with ours , so
please lets give the Dube's a chance to
do theirs

Dad : well at least they can keep it down
, and send a text that they've arrived

This man !

Me : they're supposed to shout so you
can hear them from the gate

He shakes his head

Dad : I don't think that's normal

Wow !

Me : please don't even ask them that tomorrow , better yet don't even mention it. Lets them do things their way

Dad : for your sake

Me : well thank you

This is something new

We're Africans yes , but then our
tradition isn't like that of theirs

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Luzuko

I can't wait for the day to pass

I had our packed boxes moved from the apartment to the house yesterday

While everyone kept running around ,
with these things of theirs for the negotiations

And I seriously don't get what's the big deal

Zuri : you woke me up

She's grumpy , but I wanted to talk to her

I thought I won't be allowed in these negotiations , but apparently I am

So I'll be inside with them , and that means not being able to talk to my wife

Me : I know , but I won't be able to talk to you until everything is done . And that can take hours

Zuri : y'all better not make noise at the gate

I laugh

Zuri : my father said , people will call cops on you

Me : what ?

Zuri : yeah so keep it down

She says laughing

Me : we'll shout for two minutes , and you better let us in

This is just crazy to me

But who am I ? Especially when Thulani is adamant that this is how things are done

I'm sure he'll be the one making noise

My father is not going to do that I'm very much certain

And Njabulo is a definite no , he won't even dare

Me : we're almost there , wake up and bath

Zuri : these are bundus things (village)

I chuckle , someone loves her sleep

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INSERT 15

Luzuko

So much for a man who said he doesn't
want noise at his gate

I'm just assuming that's what he said , in
his own words

That man feels himself way too much
okay , and not in a bad way

He can fucking throw shade at you ,
while he's still smiling at you

And that's just wicked

We've been standing here for 20 minutes now , that's long

Not as long as it can be in the village , but I thought he didn't want this

Njabulo : I hope this is the first and the last time we do such things

He's the type that married a wife through home affairs and that was it

Me : maybe we can call them

Thulani : are you crazy ?

Me : this is the suburbs , people do things differently

Thulani : you're not people , stop with this crazy ideas of yours

Me : oh well , at least I suggested something . And that woman is already my wife , can't I just pay ? I mean like is there a need for all this ?

Njabulo : at this present moment , I have a feeling you still need to be taught your culture

Dad : finally

He says as some guy opens the gate , he looks so bored

He's not that old , probably the same age as Zuri or slightly older with a year or so

Him : how can I help ?

The accent is there , honestly we have to bare with these people because they don't know any of this

Thulani : we're the Dube family , and we've come to ask for a bride

Him : oh ?

This guy is even bored to talk , I really don't know what to say about him

Him : let me go tell the elders all this

He turns , and we're just looking at each other like what the fuck ?

Njabulo is first to laugh

Thulani : you're really making us do things

He comes back

Him : you're welcomed to entre , but of course the right way

We know what we have to do , so
Thulani takes the money out putting it down

He looks at it , and I'm like boy that's R2000

Thulani puts another R1000

He picks it up , and there's just some
crazy smile on his face

Him : you can come through

We follow him , and there's no turning
back now

Me : we're not leaving this place without
my wife , give these people what they
want

Njabulo : they're going to suck us dry

Me : it's fine , let them

Dad : love was never meant for kids

Me : Mr wait a minute

We walk inside , and I see just three guys
. Nyiko and two others , and this boy
that makes it four with him

These people are crazy , they'll make you
pay to even sit down

There's the crazy fee to get them to talk
, and as I'm counting this money

We're so close to R10 000 , and we haven't even started about negotiating I'm telling you Thulani is handling this , he's even talking calm

As crazy as he is , I knew I can count on him

Nyiko : do you know this bride you're here about ?

Thulani : yes , yes we know her

Nyiko : okay , I'll call my girls and you can pick yours

That bored boy goes , I wonder who he is . I really don't like him

After a few minutes he comes back , and there's three girls all covered in blankets

I can only tell by the body shape that this one is mine

Nyiko : here they are , you can pick yours . And then we can proceed , bare in mind if you chose the wrong one I'll make you pay a fine . Or you'll get to marry both of them

That gives me a stomach bug , Zuri
would kill me with a heart attack

Family or not , my wife doesn't want to
share me that much I know

Teach people your ways , and they come
back and use them against you

They don't even consider to maybe
uncover them a bit

Can they at least let me , choose my wife
?

We look at each other , and I don't trust these two . They don't know my wife

It's wrong for my father to do that

I get up and Nyiko clears his throat , but he can go to hell right now and I'll follow right behind him

He can fine me and I don't care , already they seem to want to milk me dry so he he might as well go ahead

I uncover her , and the smile on my face as she slightly lifts her head

Nyiko : Dube !

I turn and face him

Nyiko : what an advantage

I don't appreciate his tone , but like I said he can go ahead and fine me

The other two girls are asked to leave , they head out with the bored guy

Nyiko : Zuri

Zuri : baba (dad)

Nyiko : do you know these people ?

She wants to give me a heart attack , as she goes quite

Nyiko : you can lift your head , and look at them

She slowly lifts her head , but her eyes are just stuck on my

Nyiko : so ?

This man knows how to ruin a moment

Zuri : yes , I know them

Nyiko : alright , you can excuse us

She gets up slowly , and walks away

Nyiko : your son was ought to know his own wife

And he should be pleased

Nyiko : you already have my child pregnant Dube

Dad : and we're willing to rectify that

Nyiko : a R150 000 for damages to the child

I chuckle shaking my head slowly

Thulani : just damages ?

Nyiko : yes

I see Thulani sighing , he doesn't feel this at all

Thulani : can you go down at least from that?

Nyiko : exactly what are you trying to say
?

I see where this is going , and I don't
want drama

Me : a R150 000 for damages yes

Nyiko : good , because you defiled my
child

Me : I know

Now I can't even look at them

Nyiko : once that's passed , then we can get to the bride price for my child

Njabulo : can we make you an EFT ?

What the hell ?

I want to laugh right now , bug fuck no I can't . It's not the time and nor the place

But an EFT ?

Nyiko : don't you have money with you ?

Njabulo : man , you're wanting millions here. And we can pay those , but we don't carry millions in our pockets

Nyiko : right

He's mocking us , even with the slight smile and nodding he's doing

Dad : how much for the bride price ?

His eyes to us , I'm telling you this is not your normal negotiations

This man is going to call a ridiculous amount just the spite us

Nyiko : you're taking my pride and joy , and that's a lifetime commitment . And you might as well be ripping my heart out

What the fuck ?

Now we know what he's making us pay for

It's for threatening him , and taking his daughter then and not now

He's spitting us , because he knows exactly who we are

And now honestly we have no leverage over him whatsoever

Dad : how much ?

My father has changed his tone , he can also see what I'm seeing here

And Nyiko knows we can't stand to have our laundry aired out , not in front of his stranger people

Surely he didn't tell them , he would never . Because they would never allow this

But the four of us know things have changed , from when we started this

Nyiko : R550 000

I have my head bowed down , and I let out a slight chuckle

A whole fucking R700 000 , not counting the close to R10 000 money we paid

That's absolutely nothing , but just change

I'm surprised he didn't even go over a million rand , he's very much capable

Thulani : that much money , that's an EFT of course

He takes a paper and write something on it , he places it on the table

I take a look and it's an account number , and I know it by heart . It belongs to my wife

Nyiko is really having his way with us ,
and he's really enjoying it

I take out my phone

Njabulo : what.....

Me : please allow me to take care of my
business

They lean back , see me paying a million
rand to my wife

I might as well , that's how much her
father wanted I'm sure even more

Me : it's done

He has a conniving smile

Nyiko : well gentlemen , I'll go call your bride for you . Please be at home , indeed we're pleased because of this union

He gets up

Dad : did he just make you pay bride price to your wife ?

His tone is down , no one is hearing him

Me : Mr , of course he just wanted to have us . And he doesn't even want that money

Dad : he's a piece of....

Me : don't swear at him , that man is my father in-law

Njabulo : so much for following tradition and culture , only to pay electronically

What does it matter ?

Exactly why we should have called these people , instead of making noise at their gate

He comes back with my wife , and I must say this bump that cost me so much suits her

And I don't regret making this woman mine

She knows I'm no Saint , and she's holding me down still

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THE END