

INSERT 1

INTRODUCTION

There was complete silence...

Priest: Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today in the sight of God, and in the face of this company, to join together this Man, Kwanele Buthelezi and this Woman, Tholakele Gwala, in holy Matrimony; which is an honourable estate, instituted of God. Into this holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined. If any man can show just cause, why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter for ever hold their peace.

Thandeka glanced at her daughter who was sitting next to her. Thandeka was fuming. Every single fibre of her body was pulsing in anger. She had wanted her daughter to stay away and not come here to witness this nonsense. As the priest asked if anyone was against this union, Thandeka contemplated standing up, going over to that podium, snatching the microphone from that priest and then using it to bang some sense into Kwanele. She was so furious at how things had turned out over the past year and a half. She had watched her very own daughter go from being first priority, to being second best... None of this was put on the table when her daughter got married to Kwanele. None of it was discussed... Now all of a sudden they were informed that Kwanele was getting married to someone else. How is that even possible when you already have a wife who would kill and die for you? Suddenly a sharp pain stung her heart as the sad realisation of her daughter's inability to conceive children, dawned on her. Of course Kwanele and his family would do such. Her daughter, Nolwazi was unable to provide the one thing Kwanele and his family desired the most... Children.

Thandeka slowly reached for her daughter's hand and she squeezed it lightly.

"If only it was me who was going through all of this. My daughter does not deserve this," she thought, "Her loving and innocent soul has done nothing wrong. Why is she suffering for something she has no control over?"

These thoughts raced through Thandeka's mind as the silence in the church pierced her aching heart.

She glanced at Nolwazi once again and then sighed.

Priest: I require and charge you both, as you will answer at the dreadful day of judgment when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, that if either of you know any barrier, why you may not be lawfully joined together in Matrimony, you do now confess it. For be well assured, that if any persons are joined together other than as God's Word allows, their marriage is not lawful.

Kwanele and Tholakele stared into each other's eyes. Tholakele looked at her man and all she could feel was pure happiness. She had fallen in love with him the second they laid eyes on each other. Their love story is something that she holds close to her heart and she was more than ready to be with him for the rest of her life. This was her man and she was going to take care of him in every possible way. She would open up a whole new world for him, something his old and bitter first wife could never do. She was prepared to establish her place in his heart for eternity...

She said all these things in her vows and her man would occasionally wipe her tears.

Kwanele looked at this short, plump, light-skinned, big-eyed girl that stood in front of him. He still couldn't understand how he managed to fall in love with her... Nothing about her would normally appeal to him. He loved them tall, well-built, skin looking like it had been dipped in warm chocolate... That was Nolwazi... His one and only Nolwazi. The beautiful, strong and independent Nolwazi whose confidence and intelligence led him straight to his father and uncles, asking them to go ask for her hand. This woman drove him insane every single time he looked at her. Just her mere touch was enough to send him to an unknown world. Her struggles, her achievements and her resilience earned her his utmost respect. He respected her so much that she would even get annoyed by the way he put her on such a high pedestal.

He quickly blinked a few times and snapped out of it. This was not about Nolwazi... This was about Tholakele. This innocent, chubby, bright eyed girl who was standing in front of him. Her zest for life charmed him. Her ability to bring out the child in him and not to take life so serious was what made her so attractive. Life isn't supposed to be hectic at all times, right? Tholakele fully understood this and she brought sunshine to his life... Much needed sunshine... She brought youth, an aspect Nolwazi had lost over the past couple of years.

They looked at each other lovingly and shook their head when the priest asked them if there was any reason for them to not be united.

The priest then cleared his throat.

Priest: Kwanele, will you have this Woman to be your wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honour, and keep her in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, so long as you both shall live?

Kwanele stared at Tholakele and nodded lightly.

Kwanele: I will.

Nolwazi's heart rate was beating so fast, that she did not think that she would be able to breathe any longer. Here she was seated as a guest at her love's wedding and hearing him say he will honour another woman for as long as he lives.

Just 4 years ago, it was her. She had looked into that man's eyes and she had given herself to him. She had given her heart to him and she had trusted him with it. He promised to always prioritise the needs of that heart before any other heart. It was her heart that he had fallen for and he promised her that he would keep it safe for the remainder of their life together...

But now it was being replaced...

She sat there, lifeless. Her heart was not hers anymore. It had been with Kwanele for so long that she did not know what to do with it now that it was being thrown back in her face. It was cold, bitter, hurt and damaged. Damaged beyond repair... The love that once kept it alive had now found its way to another fresh, young heart.

She felt her mother squeeze her hand and she took a deep breath and focused on her breathing. She wouldn't have survived the past year and a half if her rock wasn't there at all times. She

appreciated her mother because she was able to carry her through this tough time.

The priest then cleared his throat again and then looked at Tholakele.

Priest: Tholakele, will you have this Man to be your wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honour, and keep him in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, so long as you both shall live?

Tholakele smiled brightly, with tears in her eyes and nodded excitedly.

Tholakele: Yes. Yes I will.

They held hands and had to repeat after the priest.

Kwanele: I, Kwanele, take you Tholakele, to be my wedded Wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance.

Nolwazi felt a sharp pain rush through her chest. She took another deep breath...

Mam'Buthelezi smiled widely as she watched her son stand there... All she could see at this point were 3 little Kwaneles running around the house... He had hit a jackpot with this young, fresh and beautiful girl. They had a bright future! She glanced to the side and saw her daughter in law, Nolwazi sitting there. Any sane person could tell that Nolwazi was not well.

"She will get over it one day", she thought. "What else would my son do? Sifuna abazukulu thina and this old one is incapable of doing the job. It's been 4 years kodwa there's no child? Haibo singafa phela"

She sat there and watched happily as Tholakele spoke.

Tholakele: I, Tholakele, take you, Kwanele, to my wedded Husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance.

The rings were presented.

Priest: With this Ring I wed thee, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

The priest then took Tholakele's ring.

Priest: Bless, O Lord, this Ring, that he who gives it and she who wears it may abide in peace, and continue in thy favour, unto their life's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kwanele then took the ring and slid it in Tholakele's fourth finger.

Nolwazi felt another sharp pain.

Thandeka squeezed her daughter's hand gently. She was trying so hard to transfer some of her strength to her... Her poor daughter was not given this lavish wedding 4 years ago. All of this was just wrong. This young, fat kid came here out of nowhere, cried about wanting a white wedding and everyone jumped and catered to her childish needs. Thandeka was sure that even the ancestors were angry. All of this was just wrong. They didn't even bother to follow the correct procedure. They were mocking her precious daughter. They were mocking the church. They were mocking the principle of marriage.

Thandeka sat there, trying not to burst.

The priest then took Kwanele's ring.

Priest: Bless, O Lord, this Ring, that she who gives it and he who wears it may abide in peace, and continue in thy favour, unto their life's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tholakele took the ring and slid it in Kwanele's fourth finger.

Nolwazi felt yet another sharp pain rush through her chest.

Priest: Oh Eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life; Send your blessing upon these servants, this Man and this Woman, whom we bless in your Name. That they, living faithfully together, may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant they made. These rings are received as a token and pledge. May they ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to your laws; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Everyone muttered "Amen."

Priest: Oh God, look mercifully upon these servants, that they may love, honour, and cherish each other, and so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and of peace; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

The priest then joined their hands.

Priest: Those, whom God has joined together, let no man put apart.

The priest then looked at Kwanele and Tholakele.

Priest: May God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, bless, preserve, and keep you. May the Lord mercifully with his favour, look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual blessing and grace; that you may so live together in this life, that in the world to come you may have life

everlasting. Amen.

Kwanele and Tholakele muttered "Amen."

The priest then looked at everyone.

Priest: For as much as Kwanele and Tholakele have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have given and pledged their troth, each to the other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving a Ring, and by joining hands; I pronounce that they are Man and Wife, Mr and Mrs Buthelezi, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Everyone murmured excitedly and the priest looked at Kwanele.

Priest: You may kiss the bride.

Kwanele looked down at his bride as she beamed with joy. He pulled her closer to him so they could be pressed against each other and soon enough, their lips locked.

Nolwazi's heart rate sprung up and before she knew it, she had zoned out.

INSERT 2

Thandeka: Baby...

Thandeka squeezed her daughter's hand lightly.

Thandeka: Lwazi vuka baby.

Nolwazi blinked a couple of times and her mother touched her face and caressed her cheek lovingly.

Thandeka: There you go. Let's try to sit up.

She held her daughter and helped her reposition so she could sit up and balance her back on the headboard. Once she had repositioned properly she made Nolwazi drink water.

Nolwazi: Is it over?

Thandeka: The wedding?

Nolwazi nodded lightly and before Thandeka could reply, the bedroom door swung open and in walked Kwanele. He rushed to the bed and stared at Nolwazi.

Thandeka: Ngicela uphuma lana Kwanele.

Kwanele turned to look at his mother-in-law intently. He was about to say something when Nolwazi reached for his arm and that caught his attention. He focused on Nolwazi again and then sat down on the edge of the bed.

Nolwazi: Nele I'm sorry.

Kwanele: Why are you apologising?

Nolwazi sighed and fiddled with her hands.

Kwanele: It was wrong of me to expect you to be there... I'm the one who's sorry Lwazi.

He reached for her face and made her face him.

Nolwazi smiled lightly.

Nolwazi: I like your tuxedo.

Kwanele chuckled lightly and leaned closer to kiss her forehead.

Him: Of course you do.

They stared at each other, and as always, they got lost in each other's eyes... For that moment, Nolwazi's body relaxed and she relished in her husband's presence. The love was there, there was no denying it. Even a stranger would be hesitant about interrupting this moment.

Thandeka looked at these two and her insides churned. She knew their love binded them but she just couldn't shake off the anger towards Kwanele. Why did he have to ruin things with his selfishness?

She cleared her throat, hoping to stop the intense connection, but nothing happened.

Kwanele looked at his wife and his heart ached as he saw the sadness in her eyes. He was responsible for her now looking so frail and fragile. The strong and confident woman he loves now looked like an unfamiliar person who wanted to hide behind some shell... He had caused this and his heart ached for her.

Nolwazi could feel her husband's love for her. There was no doubt that he loved her... For that moment she allowed herself to relax and just be at ease in his presence. She smiled as she felt his hand stroke her cheek.

Kwanele: There it is.

Seeing her smile made it a better for Kwanele. It made it a tad bit easier and it eased the guilt...

Thandeka cleared her throat even louder and both Kwanele and Nolwazi snapped out of it and they looked at her.

Thandeka: Hamba Kwanele. I'm sure your people are looking for you. Nolwazi should be the least of your worries.

Nolwazi: Mama...

She understood that her mother was angry but she didn't want her anger to rule her. She was also mad at Kwanele but at the end of the day, this man had her heart and she didn't want her mother to be too hard on him.

Thandeka: Hamba Kwanele.

Kwanele sighed heavily as he looked at his mother-in-law. A year and a half ago one would swear that this woman had given birth to Kwanele. The love she had for him was immeasurable. They were so close that even Nolwazi would get annoyed at their inseparability. Fast forward a year and half later, she couldn't even look at him for more than 5 seconds. The hatred and anger radiated out of her and it hurt him deeply that a good relationship had lost its cause...

Kwanele shook his head lightly, trying to get rid of his thoughts. He then focused on Nolwazi again and he smiled lovingly.

Kwanele: Ngiyakuthanda yezwa?

Nolwazi nodded.

He then leaned closer to her and she collapsed in his arms as he held her tightly. He hid his head in her hair and breathed in her scent. A warm rush of love filled his body and he sighed.

Him: I love you so much Lwazi.

Nolwazi also took in his scent and she tried holding back her tears as she realised that someone else was now part of this embrace that she treasured so much.

Nolwazi: I love you too.

Her voice was barely audible because she was trying not to burst out in tears.

Nolwazi: You have to go now.

Kwanele gave her one last squeeze before finally letting go of her. He wanted to give her kiss but had to stop himself. He couldn't help but feel that would be disrespectful towards Nolwazi... However he gave her a peck on the cheek and then stood up.

Nolwazi then repositioned and sank in the bed, facing the other direction. She sank in the covers and closed her eyes as the tears burnt her face.

Kwanele took one last glance at his mother-in-law who was wiping her own tears. In that moment he allowed himself to drown in his guilt and regret. He had brought so much hurt to these people...

He sighed heavily and then began walking towards the door.

Thandeka: You don't do this to people you love. You just don't...

She just had to push him deeper into his pool of regret. He continued to walk towards the door and before he opened it, took a deep breath and then exhaled, trying to let go of the anxiety that had kicked in. He opened the door, walked out and then closed it.

As he walked downstairs and exited Nolwazi's house, she bumped into her mother, Thenjiwe, whom they grew up calling Titi. She was a big woman whose step shook the ground. People knew better than to mess with her family. She was the unmovable pillar that connected everyone in the family together.

Titi: Kanti yini inkinga yakho wena? Today is Tholi's day! Why would you go and cater to someone else's needs when the bride of the day is the one who should be the centre of your attention?

Titi looked at his son in disappointment.

Titi: I fully understand that Lwazi is not okay kodwa we all told her not to come angithi? Of course seeing your husband marrying another person is not an ideal situation kodwa utsheliwe ukuthi makahlale la and not be involved. We met her halfway maan Kwanele so it angers me to see her suddenly making this about her!

Kwanele: Mama-

Titi: Go and check on your wife. She is crying her lungs out now because it looks like she is the bad person.

Kwanele: Where is she?

Titi: Your sister's house.

Kwanele nodded lightly.

Titi: I'll be in the main house. The guests are all waiting there and you two need to show up fast before they start talking!

Kwanele: Okay.

Titi: Handle your business boy. No one forced you to do any of this. You made your bed so you better lay in it and stop being a sheep about it.

She shook her head disapprovingly and then walked away to her car. Kwanele followed, got in his car and drove off to his sister's house...

INSERT 3

Kwanele finally got to his sister's house. As he sat in the car, he took a deep breath and then slumped over his steering wheel. He didn't think it would be this hard... Seeing Nolwazi made him a bit more insecure about this decision. The hurt in both her and her mother's eyes was unexplainable- it just brought down his spirits.

He loosened up his tie and then got out of the car. He made his way to the door and then walked in. He heard his sister's voice coming from the lounge and he slowly made his way there, preparing himself mentally for what he was about to endure.

When he got to the lounge, Tholi was laying face up on the long couch. His sister was kneeling next to her, caressing her face and whispering to her- comforting her.

Kwanele stood there in silence and watched as his bride held on to Lindi's hand, sobbing quietly.

Lindi: Shh... You already have a puffy face, let's not make it worse.

Lindi continued to stroke Tholi's beautiful chubby face.

Kwanele cleared his throat and both Lindi and Tholi looked up.

Out of nowhere, Tholi's sobs turned louder and they became uncontrollable. Seeing her husband brought back the hurt 100 times harder. Her chest was on fire from all the hurt, anger and sense of rejection.

Lindi: Hey hey...

Tholi couldn't hear any of it. She shut her eyes tightly and cried uncontrollably. Kwanele rushed to the couch and Lindi moved so he could kneel in front of her. Kwanele reached for her face.

Kwanele: Baby please stop.

In that moment, he forgot about every other thing that was taking place. His main concern was getting Tholi to a calm and stable place. He wiped her tears and continued to hold her face as she squealed painfully.

Kwanele: Tholakele ngiyacela bandla.

As Tholi shut her eyes, she saw Kwanele leaving her stranded at the altar, and rushing off to where Nolwazi was. She saw how he pushed everyone who was surrounding Nolwazi and then knelt down to check if she was okay. Tholi had been left there like some irrelevant thing. She had been left just after she was declared his wife. It hadn't even been 2 minutes she was Mrs Buthelezi but she was already being left like the irrelevant second wife that she is? How was she going to live like this? Would her needs be prioritised only AFTER The Great Nolwazi's needs?

She cried some more when all these thoughts flooded her fragile mind.

Kwanele: Tholi please...

Tholi: I ca-ca- can't!

She cried some more when she remembered how Kwanele carried Nolwazi out of the church and left her there without any acknowledgement.

Tholi: You do-d-

Kwanele: Shhh.

He pulled her to the ground so she could rest her head on his chest. They sat on the floor and Kwanele held her tightly, trying to make her feel better. Tholi buried her head in his chest and started shaking lightly.

Kwanele: Ngicela wehlise umoya Tholi, please.

Tholi: Y-you a-

Kwanele: Shhh... Take a deep breath angel.

Tholi shook her head angrily. She was hurt. She felt inadequate and she hadn't even been Mrs Buthelezi for one day.

Just then Lindi walked over to them.

Lindi: Amanzi.

Kwanele looked at his sister and nodded. Lindi then kneeled next to them and then tried to gather the big wedding dress that had also filled up the space.

They sat there and listened to Tholi's distressful sobs.

After a very long time there was finally silence. Tholi went dead quiet and she didn't move. Her head was still buried in her husband's chest. She just couldn't cry anymore. Her head was pounding hard and her chest was locked up, which made it hard to breathe. She focused on shutting out the image of Kwanele running off and leaving her there...

She then focused on her breathing... In... Out...In...Out... She continued to focus on this process until her chest slowly began to open up. Her husband's scent filled her and she felt her head buzz- it was such a crippling feeling. She loved him so much but now the road looked daunting... At first she was convinced that she would be able to handle everything like the positive, bubbly and strong person she is. She thought she would handle it well but now? Things looked rather dim.

Kwanele: Baby?

Tholi kept quiet. Words failed her.

Kwanele repositioned and then held her face. She looked to the side just so she wouldn't have to look at him.

Kwanele: You can't even look at me?

She shook her head innocently.

Kwanele: Do you hate me that much?

She quickly looked at him.

Hate? There was no room for hate in her heart. Sure she was hurt, angry and all those other emotions but hate? She could never bring herself to that point, even for her worst enemy. She definitely didn't like that Nolwazi woman, but hate? Never that.

Kwanele: You hate me that much baby?

Tholi shook her head.

Kwanele: You don't hate me?

She looked him in the eye and realised that she didn't doubt this man's love for her. His eyes were filled with so much love that she felt a bit foolish for being so dramatic.

He gently wiped her face with his tie and they continued to stare at each other.

Tholi: Don't look at me.

She thought she looked ugly after all the crying. Her face was bloodshot red. Her light skin was flushed.

Kwanele: Don't tell me what to do.

She blushed through the tears and they continued to stare at each other.

Lindi looked at them in confusion and amazement.

Kwanele and Lindi have always been inseparable. Kwanele was 3 years older than her but one would swear that they are twins. They understood each other and didn't even have to communicate verbally to get a message across. Their bond was deep and they respected each other abundantly.

Lindi looked at these two and she didn't know how to feel... She and Nolwazi had developed such a good sisterhood over the years that she felt conflicted when she began developing love for this Tholakele girl. She was a young, vibrant girl who brought so much positivity with her. One couldn't hate her, it was impossible. At first she was mad at her brother for bringing this chubby girl here. She was mad for even admitting that he had fallen in love with someone who was not Nolwazi. She hated this chubby girl before she even met her... But all that hatred and bitterness quickly turned into love when she got to know her... She understood why and how her brother could fall for her. The only problem was Nolwazi. Sweet, strong, supportive, loving, forgiving, Nolwazi. She was the only person who lost in this situation. Lindi knew she had to eventually go and face her but she was beyond scared. Nolwazi's mother had made it clear that she wanted nothing to do with the Buthelezis anymore.

She quickly shook her head and focused on these two again.

Her heart went on to her brother. She knew that he loved both these women... He loved them both equally... but not the same. Yes, it was difficult to understand but after seeing both ends of the stick, Lindi fully understood... She just couldn't help but feel like she was betraying her good friend and sister, Nolwazi..

INSERT 4 (Didn't get to edit so excuse any errors)

Lindi finished up fixing Tholi's makeup.

Tholi: Ngiyabonga Sis'Lindiwe.

Lindiwe: I'm not that old you know?

Tholi giggled shyly.

Lindiwe: Well in your case I am but ke angifuni ukubizwa ngosisi, okay?

Tholi: Okay.

Lindi: Now go to your husband, he's worried sick about you.

Tholi sighed heavily.

Lindi: Don't over think it.

Tholi nodded lightly and then made her way downstairs. As she approached the bar area, she saw Kwanele sitting on one of the high stools, having a glass of brandy. He was obviously deep in thought because he didn't hear her walk towards him.

Tholi: Please don't.

Kwanele snapped out of it and glanced at his wife.

He put down the glass of brandy and opened up his arms so his wife could nuzzle in his embrace. She walked right in the embrace and held him as well.

Tholi: I'm sorry.

Her childish voice made him smile slightly.

Kwanele: Ungaxolisi, you did nothing wrong.

Tholi squeezed him and then kissed his cheek...

Kwanele: How are feeling now?

Tholi: I'm okay baby.

He nodded lightly and then looked at her.

Kwanele: We have to go.

Tholi smiled warmly and nodded.

Tholi: Okay.

Their faces touched and she placed her lips on his. She slowly parted his lips with the tip of her tongue and they gently kissed.

Lindi: Haibo akuhanjwei!

They stopped kissing and then let go of each other. Kwanele stood up and they walked out of the house hand in hand with Lindi following them. They made their way to the cars.

Lindi: I'll follow you.

Kwanele nodded as they got in the car.

The yard was filled with so many people that Kwanele felt his anxiety creep up on him. Only his mother would turn this wedding into a big deal.

Suddenly he felt Tholi's hand on top of his and he looked at her. She smiled understandingly and then leaned closer and kissed him.

Tholi: I love you.

He smiled back and kissed her.

Kwanele: I love you too angel.

They both took deep breaths and as soon as they opened the car doors, the noise, music and vibe welcomed them. They got out of the car and before they could wait for Lindiwe, they were already being dragged inside by people, ululating and cheering. People were so happy and blissful.

Thandeka: Nolwazi vuka.

Nolwazi lazily sat up and looked at her mother who was packing.

Nolwazi: Mama wenzani?

Thandeka: Siyahamba.

Nolwazi: Siyaphi?

She quickly got out of bed and walked to her mother.

Nolwazi: Mama ngicela wehlise umoya bandla.

Thandeka stopped packing and looked at her daughter for a second.

Thandeka: Baby I am as calm as they come!

Nolwazi: Manje why u-pack-a?

Thandeka: We're going home.

Thandeka then continued to pack and Nolwazi stopped her.

Nolwazi: Mama no, please calm down.

Thandeka: I've tolerated their bullshit for too long.

Nolwazi gasped in shock. Her mother was not one to use such language... This whole situation had really made her act of out character and Nolwazi didn't like this.

She took a deep breath.

Nolwazi: Okay.

Thandeka quickly looked up at her daughter in disbelief. She thought she would give her a tough time about it. She smiled thankfully and then continued to pack.

Nolwazi: Ithi ngigeze ke.

Thandeka: Okay baby.

Thandeka sighed, feeling so relieved that they were finally going to leave this family. Her one and only job was to protect her daughter and she would die doing exactly that.

Nolwazi walked to the bathroom and she began washing her face. She reminisced about all the things that took place in that bathroom and couldn't help but chuckle lightly. She always knew how to satisfy that man... Now she was being tossed to the side like she was nothing.

She got in the shower and lost herself in the hot water.

Thandeka walked in the bathroom.

Thandeka: Baby!

Nolwazi: Ma?

Thandeka: Finish up phela the flight will leave soon.

Nolwazi walked out of the shower and her mother handed her the towel and she began drying herself.

Nolwazi: What flight? When exactly was it booked?

Thandeka: You ask too many questions.

Nolwazi smiled lightly and shook her head. She realised that she had no choice but to go along. She then walked out of the bathroom and into the bedroom where she began lotioning herself.

Just then her phone rang and she got it and checked the caller id.

Nolwazi: ULindiwe.

Thandeka: Angiyifuni kabi leyonyoka.

Nolwazi wanted to answer the call but she knew it would anger her mother so she let it ring till it stopped.

Thandeka: She smiled in your face while she knew that her brother was busy on the side. These people are all twisted.

Nolwazi sighed and didn't respond.

Thandeka: Are you ready baby?

Nolwazi sighed as she finished up getting dressed.

Thandeka: This is not a good environment for you Lwazi. These people do not deserve even a little piece of you...

Nolwazi: This has been my life for 4 years now kodwa mama.

Thandeka: Your fairytale has come to an end, sadly.

Nolwazi kept quiet and then walked out of the bedroom. She walked around the house, reminiscing on her life... She didn't want to leave. Yes, she was hurt and angry, but she took her vows too seriously and she felt it would be an insult to God to just up and leave.

After a while her mother came down with a suitcase.

Thandeka: Kuncono ngoba uyazisebenzela mntanam. You have your own degrees and you are not sticking around here because you're dependent on a man. When we get home we will devise a plan of what will happen next in your life. You deserve so much more Lwazi.

Nolwazi just nodded absent-mindedly. Her mother was so focused on getting her out of here that she was not concerned about anything else. She went to fetch a few essentials and then they walked out of the house.

As they were putting the bags in the car, Nolwazi's phone rang and when she checked the caller id, it was Lindiwe again. She put the phone on silent and they finished putting everything in the car. They got in and drove out.

Everything was happening too fast.

Thandeka: He won't even notice that you are not here. He'll be spending his night thrusting into that fat pig.

Nolwazi: Mama.

Thandeka: Bullshit.

Nolwazi kept quiet. She knew she had to take her mother away from this situation because it could lead to her death. Her anger was just too much to bear.

Lindiwe paced around and her heart sank. She knew things would never be the same with Nolwazi.

She saw her mother walk to her. The big woman was clearly happy... Titi finally got to her daughter.

Titi: How can you not celebrate? It's a wedding for heaven's sake!

Lindiwe: Mxm.

Titi: Hehe! I love how my children make decisions and then turn around and act like little fools when it's time to face the music.

Lindiwe kept quiet.

Titi walked over to other people and danced happily at a distance.

Lindiwe tried calling Nolwazi again but it took her straight to voicemail.

INSERT 5 (Didn't get to edit so excuse any mistakes)

Kwanele sat on the edge of the bed and watched as Tholi walked over to the closet, holding on tightly to her towel. He couldn't help but chuckle at her as she fidgeted around.

Tholi was a nervous wreck. No man had seen her naked and now she didn't know what to do with herself as she walked to the closet.

"I should have taken my night dress with me to the bathroom," she thought. "Now I have to lotion myself in front of him and I have no idea how he will feel about seeing my body for the first time."

Kwanele: Tholakele woza la.

Tholi said a little prayer in her head.

Kwanele: Uze naleyo lotion.

Tholi bit her lip nervously and felt her palms getting wet from being so nervous. She hesitantly took her lotion and slowly walked to a very cool-looking Kwanele. He had a smirk on his face and that made her even more nervous. She finally got him and he opened up his legs, clearly indicating that she should walk closer and stand between them. She let out a tight sigh when Kwanele put up his hand, asking for the lotion.

Kwanele tried not to laugh because he knew it would make her feel even more uncomfortable. She was so cute when nervous. This was the first time they were together like this, if he had ever doubted her innocence, now it was confirmed. She looked so scared and he didn't know how he would approach the situation.

He thought back to years ago when he was in this very same position with Nolwazi...

Nolwazi: Nele, no man has ever touched me... Do you know how privileged you are right now?

Kwanele looked at Nolwazi as she stood there with her naked self. If there's one thing this woman radiated, it had to be confidence. She had such a humble and down to earth personality but there would be those random moments when she would remind people that she was actually a force to reckon with. Those moments would throw Kwanele off and Lwazi would always laugh at how shaken he would look. But then seconds later she would go back to being that quiet, sweet little angel... Nolwazi's complexity amazed him. Every day he learnt something new about his lady and the mystery kept him up at all times, literally...

Kwanele: So I should be honoured that I am the one and ONLY man that gets to explore that sexy body of yours?

Nolwazi giggled shyly and Kwanele scratched his head. Just now this woman had an attitude and was talking about being privileged but now she was smiling and giggling shyly and innocently. The confusion excited Kwanele. This one was a puzzle... Constant readjusting...

Kwanele: Asike sibone ukuthi ungi-phatheleni ke.

He pulled Nolwazi close to him and wrapped his arms around that body of hers.

Kwanele: Lezinqa zakho ngathi zizoba yinkinga.

Nolwazi hid her face in his neck and giggled.

Kwanele rubbed that butt and spanked it out of nowhere and Nolwazi squealed in shock.

Nolwazi: Ngizotshela umamami.

Kwanele: Ave umthanda unyoko.

Nolwazi: Of course I do.

Kwanele: Will you tell her about all the things I'm going to do to you tonight?

Nolwazi slowly removed her face from his neck and then stared at him amusingly.

Nolwazi: I find it cute that you think you'll be the one doing things tonight.

Kwanele raised an eyebrow. There's that random act of confidence again. Damn rollercoaster.

Nolwazi smiled slyly and before Kwanele could respond, her lips were already on his and she wrapped her arms around his neck. They hadn't even done anything but just the thought of what they would be doing was enough to making him hard and hot.

Nolwazi blinked a couple of times and smiled.

Kwanele: A lifetime of this?

Nolwazi: A lifetime Nele... How amazing?

Kwanele: Fucking amazing.

Nolwazi: Speaking of fucking.

Kwanele: Hey now!

Nolwazi giggled as he lowered his arms and soon, was carrying her to the bed...

Kwanele: Shit.

Just then he snapped out of it. He literally shook his head a couple of times to erase the thoughts.

Tholi grabbed her towel which was on the ground and ran back to the bathroom and locked the door.

Kwanele: Fuck.

He stood up and walked over to the bathroom door. He tried opening it but it was locked.

Kwanele: Baby?

He knocked lightly and there was silence.

He knocked again but there was no answer.

Kwanele: Baby kwenzenjani? Ngicela uphume bandla.

He felt like punching himself.

Tholakele sat on the toilet seat and grabbed a face cloth and stuffed it in her mouth so her sobs wouldn't be audible.

She ignored the knocks and stifled the growing sobs.

Was her body really that horrible? She had stood there and Kwanele literally zoned out and paid no attention to her. There were even moments when he looked like he was shocked or disgusted. She didn't know. She was confused. Kwanele had never been INTIMATE with her- this was the first time she was naked in front of any man. Now she finally got to be naked in front of her husband and instead of relishing in the moment, he zoned out and seemed disgusted!

She couldn't hold back the ugly cries anymore. She sat there and let it all out.

Kwanele gave up trying and walked back to the bed and sat on the edge.

"What the fuck have I put myself into?" he thought.

He hit his head roughly a couple of times and stifled an angry yell.

What the fuck was he doing here when the only person who had his heart was a distance away, probably tossing and turning in hurt?

Kwanele: Bloody Thenjiwe.

He continued to cuss at his mother as he thought back to how it all began.

Kwanele: No.

He looked straight into his mother's eyes.

Kwanele: No.

Titi laughed loudly and even smacked her thigh.

Titi: You think you have a choice?

The woman continued to laugh loudly.

Kwanele looked at his father for some assurance but his father shook his head gently.

Buthelezi: Kuzomele ushade enye intombazane. Two years later nisahlezi ngathi nishade izolo? Haibo mfana.

Kwanele: How could you even sit there and utter those words to me? God has his pla-

Titi: Heyi bo mfanandini ungenaphi uNkulunkulu la? Ungalinge usebenzise igama lakhe to justify lento eyenzekayo.

Kwanele shook his head in anger.

Kwanele: I don't think i-

Titi: And that time we don't even care about what you think shame.

Kwanele: I wo-

Buthelezi: Uphendula bani? Don't test my patience boy.

Kwanele looked at his father.

Kwanele: So you're making decisions for me now baba? That's how it works now?

Buthelezi: Ngizoshona kungesikudala Kwanele. You want me to die not having had the pleasure of meeting my grandchildren?

Kwanele: Be patien-

Buthelezi: Enough! You will go and look for a second wife. I will not repeat myself.

Kwanele: I'm going to call a family meeting.

Titi laughed boldly.

Titi: And say what??

She continued to laugh.

Titi: Baby, all of your uncles have flocks of wives. Yisiko lethu leli.

Kwanele: Kodwa baba wena awunabo-

Titi: That's because I am fertile you stupid child! Unlike that piece of biltong of yours, giving birth was never an issue for me. My eggs are functional till this day! Yihlazo lento yakho man and ngivele ngizizwe ngibila when you start defending this nonsense when you yourself know that you want children!

Suddenly Kwanele snapped out of it and then buried his face in his hands. He rubbed his eyes roughly and took a deep breath. He didn't want to think about how he got to this position...

All he wanted was to feel Nolwazi pressed up against him, loving him.

He reached for his phone and dialled her number. It took him straight to voicemail and he remembered that she always switched it off after 8pm. He contemplated calling her emergency number but then decided not to. What was he going to do? Leave this girl here and run off to Nolwazi?

He sighed.

Yes, he loved Lwazi but he was definitely not heartless. He had grown some feeling for this girl throughout the year... The most hectic and complicated year of his life...

He stood up and walked to the bathroom door. The crying had stopped. Nothing pierced his heart more than a woman crying.

"How ironic because Nolwazi will be crying for the rest of her life because of you," a little voice said in his head.

He shook it off just as the bathroom door slowly opened.

INSERT 6 (Didn't get to edit)

Nolwazi: Does dad know that we are coming?

Thandeka: What difference does it make?

Nolwazi: Haibo mama.

Thandeka: He will deal with it. You are his daughter.

Nolwazi kept quiet as the silence of the flight dawned on her. She allowed herself to relax and think happy thoughts. She was going to see her little brother and sister and she hadn't seen them in months. She then thought about her work situation. She'd have to schedule a Skype meeting with her boss so she could explain her current situation. The option would be to resign and start over, or resign and be transferred from the Durban Company to the Johannesburg one... All of that would be sorted once she got home. There was no way she would sit at home and not do anything. Her job is the one thing that gives her great joy and peace. The craziness of her job was what distracted her from her family life. When she was young, her parents started a business from scratch... Today it was a multi-million accounting firm that had made its mark in the finance industry. She had always felt the pressure to live up to her parents' standards... Having been influenced by her parents, she also went the finance route but her focus was mainly Economics. She went on to get her Masters in the field and was now part of the executive team of one of the country's top Economics driven companies. When the country experienced recession, many years back, she would always read up on it and educate herself about it, even though she was still young. Her love grew and she was now an expert in the field... She could spot any trends from a mile away... Growing up in such an academic and finance driven household influenced her pursue of independence. She didn't even want to depend on her parents for anything, yet alone a man. So when she met Kwanele who had also established his name in the law field, she had already reached a stable point in her life. At first it was difficult to build a life with Kwanele because his family is so traditional and strict. For the duration of their marriage, her work life had always been a problem for them. Kwanele didn't care because Nolwazi's independence was what attracted him to her... The family was the problem. It was never just Kwanele and Nolwazi. All these other people found it very appropriate to meddle in their business and of course they used "culture" as a blanket. Nolwazi was expected to stay at home and cater to Kwanele's needs. She was supposed to play the trophy wife and be domestic to the core. The thing is, Nolwazi had no problem whatsoever with doing that... She could do all that domestic stuff: take care of her man in the kitchen and the bedroom PLUS get her work done on the other hand... Multitasking had never been an issue for her so it irked her that she was never treated well by that family despite her hard work.

Buthelezi: Six bloody months have passed and Kwanele still won't listen to us. He needs a second wife!

Titi served her husband his tea and then sat next to him.

Titi: I am so furious Shenge. This boy has disobeyed us immensely!

Buthelezi sighed heavily.

Buthelezi: He loves that woman.

Titi: Loves her?? That girl is as evil as they come!

Buthelezi: Haibo Thenjiwe.

Titi: She is the one who is feeding my son nonsense. She has him convinced that this life they are living is good when in actual fact umsangano wodwa!

Buthelezi looked at his wife.

Titi: How are you going to turn my son against me and then expect me to love you?

Titi stood up and paced around the room.

Titi: I will open up this boy's eyes... No one knows my son better than me!

Thandeka beamed as they drove in their house. Her daughter was finally back!

Thandeka: Oh baby I am so happy you are back! We are going to go on spa dates, we will have movie nights like old times Lwazi!

Nolwazi glanced at her mother and smiled. She really couldn't feel any bad feelings towards her. Personally she thought she didn't need any protection but there was obviously no stopping Thandeka.

Nolwazi: Zamo and Bhenju will be so happy to see you. Bekunini?!

Nolwazi sighed.

Nolwazi: Yes, it's been long...

Thandeka drove into the infamous Dumakude household. Nolwazi smiled as she recalled all the loving memories the house held. In as much as they were always isolated behind the gates, their life was really extraordinary. The vacations they took as a family, the play dates they had with the family that lived right across the street... All these memories reminded her just how much love she had always received throughout her life.

She and Kwanele had started to create their own memories but this one thing was affecting them... She couldn't seem to give birth. Personally, Nolwazi didn't want children YET, the only reason she was touched by all of this was because Kwanele had always wanted to build a family. She was willing to do anything for him even if it meant carrying children for months on end.

Nolwazi was at the peak of her career... She really didn't think having kids was a good idea but if it made her husband happy, and then she was okay.

However the fact that they had been trying for 4 years, actually did affect her... At first she didn't take it seriously but as time went by and the family started bringing it up, she couldn't help but think that maybe there was a problem. She had wanted to go to the doctor to get it checked but her mother insisted that she should not go...

Anyway she made a mental note... "Set an appointment with Dr. Smith," she thought.

They got out of the car.

Thandeka: Leave those bags baby, Dlomo will take them...

Nolwazi looked at her mother in disbelief.

Thandeka: This is a once off thing. I am just happy that you are back.

Nolwazi chuckled. Dlomo was an old time family friend who was responsible for making sure that everything in the house was fine- from gardening to security and every other logistic. He was more of the "ground man", who also played the uncle role because he was her father's best friend.

Growing up, Nolwazi always thought he was some random employee but she came to understand his role as she got old. In as much as everything was provided for her, her parents always made sure that she did not think she was entitled to anything. Yes, they had a helping lady and a bunch of gardeners and other random employees who ensured that the house was on check, but Nolwazi was still treated just like any other normal kid. She was taught the importance of respect regardless of one's stance in life...

As she walked in the door she was greeted by Mam'Moloi. She had been working for the family since Nolwazi was very young... They shared a hug and caught up with each other.

Nolwazi: Where is Zamo?

Moloi: She said she'll be back later.

Nolwazi: And of course Bhenju didn't sleep here.

Moloi: Uyamazi ubhuti wakho.

Nolwazi sighed.

Nolwazi: It's so good seeing you ma. I have so many things I need to fix right now. My life is an absolute mess.

Mam'Moloi nodded lightly.

Nolwazi: What am I going to do?

Mam'Moloi: You have never been one to throw the towel Lwazi...

Nolwazi: He has a second wife mama.

Mam'Moloi shook her head.

Moloi: So you're going to erase the past four years like it was nothing.

Nolwazi looked at her intently.

Moloi: Go and get some rest... I'm sure your father will be very happy to see you.

She gave her a "look" and Nolwazi sighed even more.

Kwanele rested his head against the couch. He was floating around somewhere between awake and asleep.

He could feel it building up.

It's coming.

Not now, he thought. Please, not now. I wasn't prepared this time around and no one is here.

He tried to focus on his thoughts when suddenly he felt his mind sink into a deep space... Low and low and low it went... There was no ground for his mind to land on. The sinking went on and on and on.

BOOM.

Fuck.

He tried touching his chest because something definitely hit him hard there. He tried to utter something with his mouth. One word, a phrase, something to get some attention. But there was nothing.

Fuck there's no one in this house... Nolwazi did you really have to leave for a damn emergency meeting at 9pm??

It's happening!

He felt his eyes roll up in his head. On a slow, steady rhythm, they started moving with much intensity to the right.

Fuck I am losing myself. I can't control this!

The anxiety shot up and his eyes began jerking. Left Right Left Right Left Right.... Fast Fast Fast they went.

Fuck I'm losing control of my breathing. Did this really have to happen now? Really?

His breathing became quick and shallow. His eyes were now so far up and to the right that they pushed painfully against the sockets.

The shaking started.

Now he's losing control of his body. It starts with one tiny twitch then before he knew it his whole body was shaking furiously.

He lost control of his thoughts. The intensity was becoming too much to bear. His head jerked too, going in all sorts of directions.

Eyes pushing, pressing, pushing, pressing... Head trembling painfully. The pain... The pain was too much.

Someone had to make it stop!

He saw a trace of something. Was it his thoughts? What was it? He focused on grasping something in his mind, a thought, a memory, a feeling. Something to keep him conscious!

Nolwazi.

Fuck her. Why the fuck would she leave in the middle of the night for a fucken meeting? It hasn't even been one year since we got married but you're already running off to work in the middle of the night.

I hate her.

Ah I can't breathe.

No who am I kidding? I love her. But shit, where is she??

Suddenly the throat began burning.

No, not this again!

The foam built up. The foam built up and it filled the mouth. No breathing this time... No breathing whatsoever.

No, please, someone needs to come in now. I need to stay conscious.

Think think think...

Out of nowhere there was a loud scream.

Took you long enough, he thought. Kunini!

Her hands touched him gently.

Call my mother Nolwazi.

Her hands trembled as she held his face. She wasn't supposed to panic... She needs to calm down, it's nothing deep.

Ah fuck... I didn't tell her about this. She had no idea. Now she's panicking and I can't even comfort her. I can't even speak demmet!

Call my mother Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: Nele! Kwanele look at me!

She cried uncontrollably.

Ah fuck this... I'll deal with this later...

He drifted away and allowed the gloomy darkness to fill him.

INSERT 7

Titi: You almost died demmit and where was that wife of yours? A bloody meeting! Ngo 9 ebsuku??

Titi yelled and the house literally shook.

Kwanele looked at his mother with narrow eyes. He was so drained that he really didn't have the strength to deal with her.

Buthelezi: Son, what happened today can never happen again.

Kwanele: And what exactly happened?

Buthelezi: When has it ever been appropriate for a wife to leave the house in the middle of the night for ANY reason?

Kwanele: I'm not going to sit here and discuss MY household with you.

Titi: Heehh! Lalela la wena slima ndini. No son of mine will talk bullshit to me siy-

Buthelezi: Haibo Thenj-

Titi SCREAMED angrily.

Then there was dead silence.

Everyone in the room stared at her in complete shock.

Just then Nolwazi walked in the room and everyone shifted their focus to her. She had gone to get Kwanele some water... She obviously missed the discussion about her but she sure as hell heard that evil scream.

She walked to her husband.

Kwanele: Lwazi asambe.

Nolwazi put down the glass of water and nodded. She didn't understand why they had to come to their in-laws in the first place. She had called the family doctor and he told her what she should do with Kwanele... As soon as Titi found out, she drove all the way to their house and demanded that Kwanele should be taken to HER house. Nolwazi was beyond infuriated...

Kwanele: Nolwazi.

Nolwazi snapped out of it and then helped her husband stand up.

Titi: Oh shame kanti nawe uyakwazi ukunaka indoda? Ah!

Nolwazi tightened her jaw and said a mantra in her mind, just to stay calm.

Kwanele managed to stand up and then Nolwazi looked at everyone.

Nolwazi: Nisale kahle.

Everyone mumbled "goodbye".

Lindiwe: I'll see you tomorrow Lwazi.

Nolwazi: Okay.

They shared a brief hug and then Nolwazi grabbed her car keys and then put out her arm so her husband could hold her. They began walking out...

Titi: Awuvalelisi Kwanele?

Lindiwe: Would it kill you to just keep quiet for once?

Titi: Uthini wena??

An argument broke out between Lindiwe and Titi. If there's one person who made it crystal clear that she does not tolerate this woman, it was Lindiwe. She couldn't stand her mother.

Lindiwe: You are such a bully! Oh my goodness you are going to die a miserable death!

Titi laughed boldly.

As they were going back and forth, Kwanele looked at Nolwazi.

Kwanele: Let's go.

He and Nolwazi began walking away and they made their way out of the house. Nolwazi helped him get in the car and then she also got in and drove off.

There was complete silence.

Kwanele didn't need a signal informing him that his wife was angry. He could feel her anger just from the silence.

Kwanele: Lwazi.

Nolwazi was trying hard not to be blinded by her anger as she was driving. She continued to focus on the road and blocked out the man who was sitting next to her. She refused to acknowledge his presence.

Kwanele got the message loud and clear. He too focused on the road ahead and kept quiet, dreading to go home. His mother's fury was much better compared to Nolwazi's. This woman hardly gets angry so when she does get to that point, there's no middle ground.

After a while they finally got to the house and instead of helping Kwanele, Nolwazi simply placed the car keys on his lap, got out of the car and made her way inside the house.

He took a deep breath and tried to get out of the car. He was still feeling very weak so it was definitely a struggle but he managed to get out. He locked the car and made his way inside the house.

"How am I going approach this?" he thought.

As he walked in the kitchen, he poured himself a glass of water and he stood by the counter as he took long sips. After he was done, he walked to the lounge and found Nolwazi cleaning. The place was already spotless but her Obsessive Compulsive Disorder usually kicked in when she was uneasy.

As she walked around clearing out things, she was calculating her next move.

"I could easily throw this vase at him", she thought, "That ought to give him another epileptic attack, damn fool!"

Kwanele looked at his wife and he couldn't help but chuckle quietly. She was busy pacing up and down the lounge, clearly fighting her thoughts.

He took a deep breath and walked over to her.

Kwanele: Baby, stop.

Nolwazi didn't hear one word. She continued cleaning up until she felt Kwanele's hand on her arm. She quickly pushed it away and then stared at him.

Nolwazi: Epilepsy Kwanele?? Epilepsy??

Kwanele looked at her intently.

Nolwazi: I've been in your life for almost two years. We've been married for 6 months and you failed to mention that you're epileptic??

Kwanele: I was go-

Nolwazi: You were going to tell me?? Kwanele are you kidding right now??

She walked to him and he took a step back.

Nolwazi: When were you planning on mentioning this tiny fact? Exactly when??

Kwanele: Baby-

Nolwazi: You obviously don't think of me as your wife angithi? Kwanele that's like me not telling you about my previous addiction to prescription pills! What were you going to do had I not told you and one day you found me laying here because I relapsed??

Kwanele: Mamela-

Nolwazi: There really isn't a logical explanation here Kwanele. I am so angry and disappointed in you.

Kwanele walked over to her and placed his hands on her arms.

Kwanele: You are right.

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Kwanele: There is no logical explanation.

Nolwazi: You must have a ton of other secrets stacked somewhere.

Kwanele: Come on Nolwazi.

Nolwazi looked at him intently.

Nolwazi: I'm mad at you.

She narrowed her eyes and he smiled.

Kwanele: Ngiyaxolisa baby. Please have mercy on me? I am already feeling weak manje nawe ngapha...

Nolwazi: Whose fault is that?

Kwanele sighed heavily and just looked at her.

Nolwazi: Let's get you in bed. First thing tomorrow we're meeting with the family doctor. I need to be educated ngalento because I had no idea what I was supposed to do tonight.

Kwanele smiled and nodded.

Nolwazi: I almost died Nele.

Kwanele: Ngiyaxolisa.

She took a step closer and Kwanele wrapped his arms around her.

Kwanele: I love you.

Nolwazi: I love you too.

They shared a kiss.

Nolwazi was awakened by someone shaking her lightly. She lazily sat up and looked at Mam'Moloi.

Nolwazi: Kwenzenjani ma?

Moloi: Sisi come downstairs.

Nolwazi: Is everything okay?

Moloi: Your father is here.

Nolwazi: Oh.

She got out of bed and then followed her out of the bedroom and downstairs.

Nolwazi rubbed her eyes and stretched as she walked to the lounge where Thandeka stood next to her husband. It didn't take rocket science to comprehend the tension... She was angry, but why?

Nolwazi stretched one more time and her father walked to her.

Dumakude: Kuhle ngoba you are well-rested ke sisi...

Nolwazi looked at her father in confusion.

No hello? Kanjalo nje?

Dumakude: Now go on and take the clothes you came with. Your home is waiting for you on the other side...

Nolwazi tried saying something but she just stood there, speechless.

Dumakude began walking away.

Dumakude: Have you ever heard of a wife leaving her home abruptly?

Thandeka: But sh-

Dumakude: I've never been one to repeat myself.

With that said he disappeared.

Nolwazi stared at Thandeka in shock.

INSERT 8

Nolwazi looked at her mother in complete shock and confusion.

Nolwazi: Mama?

Thandeka: You are not going back there Lwazi.

Nolwazi: What is going on? Why is he like this?

Thandeka: You know your father.

Nolwazi walked out of the lounge and walked to the patio where her father was sitting.
Dumakude glanced at his daughter.

Dumakude: Are you done packing?

Nolwazi: Dad, I had to come back.

Dumakude: Did you and Buthelezi get a divorce without letting me know?

Nolwazi looked at her father sadly.

Dumakude: Did you?

Nolwazi: No.

Dumakude: So why are you here? Did you inform your in-laws that you would be coming here?

Nolwazi looked down and fiddled with her hands.

Dumakude: Did you, Nolwazi?

Nolwazi: Cha baba.

She whispered and stood there, feeling like a little timid girl. Her father could be so intimidating at times and all her confidence would literally go down the drain when she interacted with him in those times.

Dumakude: So why are you here?

Nolwazi: Mama fetched me.

Dumakude: Fetched you? Why did you need to be fetched?

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Dumakude: Ngiyabuza njalo.

Nolwazi cleared her throat.

Nolwazi: She doesn't want me to stay there.

Dumakude: Is your mother married to Kwanele Buthelezi?

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Dumakude: Nolwazi.

Nolwazi put her head up and looked at her father.

Dumakude: Is she married to Kwanele?

Nolwazi: Cha.

Dumakude: Manje tshele mina ukuthi ufunani la when you have built your own home with your husband.

Nolwazi: Kodwa baba are you telling me you are okay with what he has done??

Dumakude stared at his daughter intently.

He was trying by all means not to burst out on her daughter because he knew that all of this was his wife doing. Yes, it was unsettling that Kwanele married another woman, but at the end of the day there was no turning back. He had the utmost respect for his culture. He was raised a certain way and there was no way he was going to allow his wife to instil her own personal feelings in this situation. Nolwazi belonged to the Buthelezis now and she had no business running around like an unchosen woman.

Dumakude: Go pack your clothes.

Nolwazi: I asked you a question.

Nolwazi took a deep breath and stood a bit taller, hoping her father would sense her sudden confidence.

Dumakude looked at his daughter... Why couldn't she conceive? What was wrong with her? He found it very unsettling that she had been in that marriage for four years yet she couldn't get children. None of this would be happening if she could just give birth.

His heart definitely sank because it was his daughter. He felt terribly sorry for her but in these circumstances there really wasn't a way out. Divorce wasn't even an option. He himself was raised a certain way and his parents would spit on him if he allowed his wife to rule his life...

He viewed marriage in such a deep way. He respected it... Nolwazi had to understand that no matter what happens, you always have to stick with your spouse. Running around and leaving your home is just a case of bad home training and his reputation was also at stake as the father. He couldn't allow all this gallivanting back and forth. Nolwazi had to go and establish her position as the first wife. She made the perfect wife for heaven's sake!

Nolwazi: Baba.

Dumakude shook his head lightly and erased his thoughts. He then focused on his daughter, standing so confidently in front of him. He really had done a great job raising his children. The only problem was that he instilled a lot of independence in them... Maybe if he had raised them the old fashioned way, she wouldn't see any of this as a problem.

Nolwazi: Dad, are you even listening to me?

Dumakude snapped out of it again and looked at Nolwazi.

Nolwazi took a deep breath.

Nolwazi: I feel betrayed dad.

Dumakude sighed.

Dumakude: You are going back.

Nolwazi's tears broke through and she wiped them quickly. Her father obviously didn't deserve to see her vulnerable.

Just then Thandeka walked to the patio and looked at Nolwazi.

Thandeka: Ukhalelani? Those people do not deserve your tears!

Nolwazi furiously wiped her tears.

Thandeka: Kanti yini inkinga yakho Vusi?

Dumakude looked at his wife and shook his head.

Dumakude: You're getting carried away now.

He looked at his wife intently and Thandeka came back down to earth. This man really could be intimidating at times. Thandeka loved seeing this side of him when it was bestowed on OTHER people not her. She didn't like any of this.

Dumakude then stood up and walked back in the house and left the women there.

Nolwazi: Mama.

Thandeka: I can't believe him.

Nolwazi: I'll go pack.

Thandeka: Lwazi you don't have to g-

Nolwazi: I'll go pack...

Nolwazi walked in the house and left her mother standing there.

She made her way to her bedroom and Mam'Moloi followed her. Once they got to the room, Ma'Moloi closed the door gently and then walked to Nolwazi. She opened up her arms and Nolwazi leaned closer to her and she was embraced.

Moloi: Shhh...

She comforted Nolwazi as she sobbed.

Moloi: Toughen up angel.

They stood there for a while and Nolwazi eventually calmed down. They finally let go of each other and sat on the edge of the bed. Ma'Moloi wiped Nolwazi's tears and then held her hands.

Moloi: You need to toughen up Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: How? My husband is married to another woman!

Nolwazi was becoming agitated. Why was it hard to understand where she was coming from? There is nothing normal about what was happening. Your husband marries another woman and you just smile through it for the rest of your life? Certainly not!

Moloi: He is YOUR man.

Nolwazi: And there's another woman who feels the EXACT same way.

Moloi: So you would rather he cheat on you with other woman?

Nolwazi: He getting married to another woman is an indication that he has been cheating!

She bit her lip and tried not to smack this woman.

Moloi: Better the devil you know than the one you don't.

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Moloi: This is what you are going to do now my dear, you will go take a nice long bath, freshen up, readjust your mindset and attitude, travel back to YOUR home and let those bastards know who you are. Nolwazi they should NEVER see you cry or frown. They need to be scared of you angel!

Nolwazi looked at Mam'Moloi.

Moloi: This is not an ideal situation for any woman however now that you are here, face it head on. Beat them at their own game Nolwazi!

Mam'Moloi stood up and looked down at her.

Moloi: That Thenjiwe witch? Do not stoop to her level! Kill her with passive aggression. Don't show ANYONE that they have gotten to you. Get there and claim your position as Kwanele's wife and do it in a classy way.

Nolwazi: I want nothing to do with him.

Moloi smiled warmly.

Moloi: Let go of the anger, it's going to drive you insane... Love your husband in public. That will send everyone to the woods, crazy. They will never understand how you do it. These people have obviously underestimated you! In their minds you are a weakling!

Nolwazi stared at her.

Moloi: Love your man in public!

Moloi smile slyly.

Moloi: But when it's just you and that polygamist bastard?

She pulled Nolwazi up and made her face her.

Moloi: When it's just you and him? Show him what a cold front is. He should feel it and shake in his boots!

Nolwazi couldn't help but chuckle.

Moloi: Don't let him touch you... Make him beg for you but still not pay him any mind. Make him regret his decision!

Nolwazi looked at Ma'Moloi intently.

Moloi: This is deep baby. These people have messed up your life... Don't walk away like a lost puppy. You see how you walk every time you go to work? Confident and unstoppable!

Nolwazi nodded lightly.

Moloi: Channel that feeling of empowerment and show those Buthelezis that you are a Dumakude. They must beg for your forgiveness...

Nolwazi sighed.

Moloi: But it will take time... And commitment.

She squeezed Nolwazi's hands.

Moloi: They always say akuthunyelwa gundane emendweni... A bride can never know how her marriage will turn out. You can't send a rat to go spy for you before you get there. Different things come at you and you always find yourself overwhelmed because all those things were not present before you tied the knot.

Nolwazi nodded lightly.

Moloi: So show those bastards that what they did to you was complete bullshit...

Nolwazi: Mama no!

They both giggled.

Moloi: Hai your mother is such a bad influence!

Nolwazi: She really has been cussing a lot lately, I'm shocked.

They shared a long warm hug and let go of each other.

Moloi: I'll fill up the bathtub for you angel.

Nolwazi nodded lightly and sat on the edge of her bed as Ma'Moloi walked to her bathroom...

INSERT 9

Just as Nolwazi had finished up packing her things, her phone rang.

She took a deep breath and answered.

Nolwazi: Hello.

Kwanele kept quiet for a second. He didn't think Nolwazi would answer the answer the call.

Nolwazi kept quiet as well. She wasn't the one who called so she wouldn't be the one doing all the talking.

Kwanele: Lwazi?

Nolwazi: Hello Kwanele.

Kwanele: Are you at the house?

Nolwazi chuckled lightly. The son of a bitch hadn't even noticed her absence. Too busy with his wife...

Nolwazi: I'm at home.

Kwanele: What? Home as in your father's house?

Nolwazi: Yes, home as in my place of birth.

Kwanele: I don't understand...

His voice was a low and sad whisper.

Nolwazi smiled.

Nolwazi: What don't you understand my love?

Kwanele kept quiet.

Nolwazi: When am I seeing you? We should probably start having a book which has time allocations...

Kwanele: Huh?

Nolwazi realised just how fun this might be if she let go of the anger. She tried not to laugh at her husband's sudden confusion.

Nolwazi: I'm saying, baby, that we need a book that will help us divide time equally. How are you planning on handling me and our dear Tholakele?

There was complete silence.

Nolwazi: Anyway, I'll be back that side tomorrow.

Kwanele: Will you really come back Lwazi?

Nolwazi: I've just said ukuthi ngizobuya kusasa nje sthandwa sami?

Kwanele: Oh.

Nolwazi: Enjoy the rest of your day.

Kwanele: Uhm... You too...

Nolwazi: Goodbye.

Kwanele: Bye...

Nolwazi dropped the call and quickly rushed downstairs excitedly like a little girl. For the first time in a very long time, she kind of felt a bit lighter. She rushed to the kitchen where she found Ma'Moloi.

Ma'Moloi: Hai wena ntombazane you don't run in here like a crazy chicken!

Nolwazi: I think you're right!

Nolwazi flashed a smile and just then Thandeka walked in. She looked at her daughter in complete shock. She hadn't seen her smile like this in ages.

Thandeka: Baby?

Nolwazi: Hey ma.

Thandeka stared at Nolwazi with her jaw slightly open and then glanced at Ma'Moloi, checking if she also saw this sudden change in Nolwazi.

Ma'Moloi: I had a chat with her Thandi.

Thandeka looked at both of them in confusion.

Nolwazi: Mama let's go to a spa. For old times' sake?

Thandeka was still confused. Nolwazi looked at Ma'Moloi.

Nolwazi: We'll be back later.

Ma'Moloi: Okay darli.

Nolwazi then took her mother's arm and led her out of the kitchen. They bumped into Dumakude.

Dumakude: Have you b-

Nolwazi: I leave tomorrow.

Dumakude sensed the sudden shift in attitude and then nodded, feeling slightly proud for some reason. He then walked off and disappeared.

Nolwazi looked at her mother, who was still perplexed.

Nolwazi: Mama.

Thandeka: What's going on?

Nolwazi: We have a couple of hours to kill before dinner, let's go to Saxton- get to relax and chat properly.

Thandeka chuckled lightly.

Thandeka: Okay.

Nolwazi: I'll be back.

She ran up the stairs and went to her room. She got her things and just as she checked her phone, a message came in.

Kwanele: Baby, are you okay?

Nolwazi replied.

Nolwazi: Yes I am okay now... See you soon, I hope.

Kwanele: Don't say that.

Nolwazi: Say what now baby?

Kwanele: That you hope to see me.

Nolwazi: Don't shoot me. Clearly a woman can only hope these days.

She looked at her screen, chuckling.

Person: Look at this washed up first wife running back to mommy and daddy...

Nolwazi quickly looked up and her brother stood by the door.

She stood up and they walked to each other and shared a hug. Mduduzi picked her sister up and squeezed her.

Nolwazi: Boy, I'm a granny now! You're going to break my bones.

Mdu let go of his sister and grinned as he looked down on her.

Mduduzi was the youngest child out of the three (24 years old). He was a masculine young man who practically lived at the gym. He looked just like his father: strong, chocolate skin, dark piercing eyes that would kill if they could and a powerful memorable voice. However unlike his father, his accent was a bit on the posh side (years of good schools and white friends influenced that) but when he spoke his mother tongue, one would get confused because the poshness disappears instantly. Dumakude wasn't interested in raising uncultured spoilt brats. The man prided himself in his culture. As much as his children had all these high-class tendencies, they all knew their home language like nobody's business. Thandeka provided the modernity while Dumakude came with his cultured self. They balanced each other very well and their children turned out alright... They could fit in anywhere, thanks to their mother's training. Thandeka didn't want her kids to be limited... Yes, she loved her culture but at the end of the day, one has to be well-rounded in order to make it in today's world so she prepared her children for all possibilities. Dumakude on the other hand was just drilling in that culture like nobody's business. According to him, there is nothing as humiliating as a child who can't converse in

anything other than English. He didn't want to raise shallow children who thought they were white when that was never the case...

Mduduzi looked at his sister intently... He was a talkative person, only when he was with people who know him. Otherwise, he kept his mouth shut and spoke only when spoken to. In his mind, he was the older sibling. His father's influence really got this young man thinking he runs the world. Just like his father, power was everything in life. But you see the special quality about these two men is that they never begged for attention or power. It was a natural thing for them... It was all simple really, they walk into a room, they look at their opponent, the opponent shakes and moves away, and BAM-hierarchy is restored.

The only people who made things tough for them were these three women they loved. Thandeka was practically a man! The woman didn't see anything wrong with walking up to a man and challenging him. At first, Dumakude had a hard time with her. After all these years, he came to accept that the woman he loves is a wild card. However he did manage to tame her a little bit. All it took was that notorious deadly look of his and Thandeka would keep quiet. Not because she was scared, no no- but because at the end of the day she is a better wife than a bullfighter and she loved her husband.

Thandeka made sure that she passed down her wildness to their first child, Nolwazi. Dumakude was very disappointed at first that it was a boy but as time went by he focused on this little girl and tried by all means to instil some of his qualities in her. He and Thandeka would fight because both of them wanted to create their own mini versions of themselves... But in the end, Thandeka won. Nolwazi is a firecracker when she is poked... She is not afraid to stand up for herself and she really isn't intimidated by the opposite sex BUT the special thing about her is that she is actually a cross between her mother and her father. Unlike her mother, she does not go off crazy...unless you come for her. She has a very subtle way of letting you know that she is a force (like her father). Out of all the children, she is the one who balances between Thandeka's qualities and Dumakude's qualities...

Now Mduduzi was an exact replica of his father. There was no questioning it. When they found out that they were having a boy, Thandeka washed her hands and gave it all to Dumakude. She was more than happy to have a Dumakude junior. Nothing like a strong man to keep you in check from time to time...

And then there's Ivy... The rebel, the stand-alone, the last born...

It's safe to say both Thandeka and Dumakude did not know what to do with this unique one. Every day was a discovery with this one... Even Thandeka didn't know how to deal.

Ivy was Ma'Moloi's golden child. Thandeka and Dumakude both washed their hands and allowed Ma'Moloi to handle the last piece of the puzzle...

Nolwazi looked at his brother.

Nolwazi: I'll see you when I get back.

Mdu: What are you even doing here, first wife?

Nolwazi: Not funny!

Mdu: Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think you'd be second best.

Nolwazi crossed her arms and Mdu laughed boldly.

Mdu: Kwanele might just be more of a man than I thought. He needs to give me tips.

Thandeka: Don't you have weights to pick up na wena?

Mdu turned to look at his mother, who had walked in.

Thandeka: Asambe Lwazi.

Nolwazi took her bag and pushed past her chuckling brother. That joke was funny and all but it really stung... None of this was okay. She was hurt as hell but she knew she had to toughen up and stop whining. It really wasn't a cute look for her.

INSERT 10 (Couldn't edit this, please excuse any errors)

Nolwazi: Mom, I've booked my flight. Ngiyahamba ksasa.

Thandeka looked at her daughter carefully. They were now at Saxton and were sitting outside, having snacks. The massages had calmed both of them down so they were now feeling a bit neutral.

Thandeka: You don't have to go back Lwazi.

Nolwazi: I know...

She loved her husband so much but the betrayal was too much to ignore. The only reason she was going back was because she was actually very curious to see how things would turn out.

Thandeka: I keep putting myself in your shoes and my body literally goes on crazy mode when I think of the hurt you're experiencing. I could someone kill someone.

Nolwazi: Please don't.

They smiled lightly and sat in silence for a while.

Thandeka: So I'm guessing we're killing them with passive aggression?

Nolwazi smiled.

Nolwazi: Kindness all the way.

Thandeka: Will you be able to pull it off?

Nolwazi: Angazi yazi ma. I just want to see ukuthi uKwanele uzoqhuba kanjani ngalombhedo.

Thandeka: Nolwazi whatever you do, don't give that man a taste of your vagina!

Nolwazi laughed lightly.

Thandeka: He can't be having sex left and right. Ngabe uyanya.

Nolwazi nodded.

Thandeka: You must masturbate regularly. Get rid of any sexual desires ngoba he will use that to get you to soften up.

Nolwazi: Mama!

Thandeka: You see all those toys you were given ngeBachelorette party yakho? Dig them up sisi because they will be of good use.

Nolwazi blushed.

Thandeka: So are you sure you want to do this?

Nolwazi nodded lightly.

Thandeka: Okay sisi.

They spent more time there and relaxed even more. By the time they were done they were feeling much positive and calm.

Everyone was at the dinner table.

Mdu: So when are you leaving?

Nolwazi: Tomorrow.

Mdu: And here I was thinking you're going to stay longer.

Thandeka: Pass me the salad Bhenju.

Mdu passed the salad bowl absent-mindedly.

Mdu: But then again you don't belong to our family anymore.

Dumakude chuckled lightly.

Thandeka: Angazi uhlekani shame Vusi.

Thandeka looked at her husband, clearly irritated on her daughter's behalf.

Mdu: So, sister how are you going to deal?

Thandeka: Would you shut up wena?!

Mdu: Mama but I wasn't addressing you yazi.

Dumakude chuckled again and Nolwazi stared at him angrily.

Thandeka: Mxm.

Just then they heard footsteps.

Thandeka: Zamo?!

She yelled Zamo's name and there was no response.

Nolwazi: Ivy, ma.

Everyone chuckled and shortly after, Ivy approached the eating area. She stood there and looked at everyone.

Thandeka: Hello baby.

Ivy: My good people!

Nolwazi stood up and Ivy walked to her and they shared a hug.

Ivy: You didn't even bother to call me. So much for loving me!

Ivy was really the unique one of the bunch. She was 22 years old and had already gotten engaged, ended the engagement, gone to university, did Law, quit it, did Fine Arts and then quit that as well. She was now studying Classics... According to her, she has always been interested in Greek Methodology. No one knew what the hell she was doing but there really was no stopping her. Both Dumakude and Thandeka gave up very early with this one. They knew they would encounter problems when she got expelled from primary school for attacking her grade 2 teacher with paint, when the principal was called, she told him to go and drown himself... Thandeka thought boarding school would help but Zamo got expelled 1 month later after she was caught burning her roommate's textbooks. They took her to a special school (for slow children) thinking maybe the special attention would help her but she was kicked out as well because she told a dyslexic learner that the reason he couldn't read was because his parents had sex in a library so the universe was punishing them for doing nasty things in an educational place. In high school she got suspended more than 10 times for bullying other learners and harassing the teachers as well.

Dumakude and Thandeka gave up trying and just let her be. In university she went through so many different courses and she really wasn't fazed about it. She was 22 years old, this was supposed to be her last year in university for undergrad, but she was still doing 1st year courses. She really was troublesome.

Nolwazi loved her sister. She was such a bubbly person and there was never a dull moment with her. When she got engaged at 17, the first person she told was Nolwazi. The boy was 18 years old and he was her gay best friend. Ivy agreed to engage him just so his parents would think he was straight. She kept it a secret for one month until Dumakude found out and dragged her to Juvenile School, the institution for reckless kids. She stayed there for 2 months and came out even worse... When she came out, she went back to that gay best friend of hers and started having sex with him because she was convinced she could make him straight.

The girl really was a mess.

Nolwazi: How are you?

Ivy smiled brightly and sighed dramatically.

Ivy: Same old same old.

Thandeka: She got a tattoo...

Thandeka cursed angrily.

Nolwazi: Hawu Zamo?

Ivy: Zamo yani? Awume please...

She then pulled her jacket sleeve and revealed a tattoo that covered half of her arm.

Nolwazi: Nomzamo!

Ivy then went on to scratch it.

Ivy: I need to cover the whole arm. Make it a full length sleeve.

She smiled brightly and then continued to scratch it.

Ivy: But it is sooo itchy, my word!

Mdu: USatane loyo. The Devil is obviously running through those demonic veins.

Ivy: Mxm.

They sat down and Ivy dished up for herself.

Dumakude: Where did you get the money for that tattoo?

Ivy glanced at her father and smiled.

Ivy: My friend is an artist daddy.

Dumakude didn't even bother. He had stopped giving Ivy money so he didn't even want to know where she got all that money.

The next morning everyone woke up early... They were all getting ready to take Nolwazi to the airport. Mdu walked to Nolwazi's room and knocked lightly.

Nolwazi: Come in.

He walked in and Nolwazi had just finished getting ready.

Mdu: Are you ready?

Nolwazi nodded and Mdu got all of her bags and then walked out with them.

Nolwazi checked to make sure that she had everything and then walked downstairs.

Ma'Moloi then grabbed her and took her to the kitchen. She held her hands and looked at her intently.

Ma'Moloi: Angel...

Nolwazi looked at her.

Moloi: You will stay strong, right?

Nolwazi nodded lightly.

Moloi: Don't let them get to you, okay?

Nolwazi: Okay.

Moloi: I love you.

Nolwazi: I love you too.

They shared a hug.

Moloi: Bye bye ke sisi.

Nolwazi: Bye ma.

They let go of each other and Nolwazi walked out to the car where everyone was waiting. They all got in and then Mdu drove off, with his father sitting in front with him.

Ivy: So you're really going back to that douche bag?

Thandeka: Shut up Zamo.

Ivy rolled her eyes and went on to converse with her big sister.

After a while they all got to the airport and just as Nolwazi was checking in, Thandeka did the same. Everyone looked at her.

Dumakude: And then?

Thandeka: Haibo, you really think I'm going to let my daughter go back to those vultures by herself?

Dumakude was lost for words.

Mdu: Mama you can't be serious. She's going to HER home!

Thandeka: There are so many spare rooms ke that time. Don't you worry yourselves!

Dumakude: Where are your clothes?

Thandeka: In her bags...

Everyone just looked at her in shock.

She looked at Nolwazi and smiled.

Thandeka: You're not fighting this battle by yourself.

Nolwazi just stood there and didn't know how to react.

Thandeka: Hambani ke, we can take it from here.

She smiled at her family and they all just looked at her.

INSERT 11

They had now arrived on the other side. Nolwazi had organised transport to get them from the airport. She had asked her driver, John, to pick them up. Since she travelled a lot for her job, John was her go to guy for transport...

Nolwazi looked at her mother.

Nolwazi: Are you good?

Thandeka nodded lightly.

Thandeka knew she would have to be very calm this time around. The plan was to keep cool and not show those people that they got to her. Just the mere thought of that elephant, Thenjiwe, was enough to drive her crazy. If only she could just sneak into her bedroom while sleeping and shove a dead bird in her mouth.

They got in the car and off they went...

They held hands and Nolwazi smiled at her mother. She appreciated the support 100%. This is exactly what a parent is supposed to do: protect your child with all your might and never leave her in the deep end, even if it means you drown together. A child should never feel abandoned when there's a person in this world who gave birth to him/her.

After a while they finally got to the house and Nolwazi took a deep breath as they got out of the car.

John: I'll get your bags ma'am.

Nolwazi: Ngiyabonga kakhulu John.

John went on to get all the bags and after he was done he said goodbye and drove off.

Thandeka: Nobody's home.

They both laughed lightly and got inside.

The house was so cold- Nolwazi couldn't help but laugh sarcastically.

Nolwazi: Ya neh...

Thandeka: Impilo inzima!

Nolwazi tried pushing away the hurt and her mother grabbed a bag.

Thandeka: Let's unpack and make this place feel homey again.

Nolwazi nodded and then went on to help her mother with the bags. They got upstairs and unpacked.

Nolwazi took her phone out and saw that she had 5 missed calls, 2 were from her boss and 3 were from Kwanele. She sat on the edge of the bed and called her boss.

Dean: Hello?

Nolwazi: Hi, Dean it's Nolwazi.

Dean: Oh, I didn't check the caller id. How are you?

Nolwazi: I'm good and you? It's been quite a while.

Dean: I'm holding up... Did you get my email?

Nolwazi: Oh my goodness, my work phone has been untouched!

Dean: No worries. The Star wants you to write a piece on globalisation.

Nolwazi: Dean, how in the world does globalisation concern me?

Dean chuckled.

Dean: They want you to write about its impact in the economy.

Nolwazi: That has got to be the worst focus ever. So so so lazy!

Dean: They obviously want to fill up the paper with fluffy pieces.

Nolwazi sighed.

Nolwazi: Manje bayifuna nini?

Dean: I told the editor that you're on leave so he said he would be in contact with you but angazi ke njengoba uzifihlile.

Nolwazi: I'll get to it now.

Dean: You'll be done in 10 minutes surely, easy stuff this.

Nolwazi: Talk about boring and lazy journalism.

They shared a laugh.

Dean: Unjani?

Nolwazi sighed.

Nolwazi: I am in such a bad space angazi ngizenzeni...

Dean: If you need me to give you work then let me know.

Nolwazi: Hai unjalo ke wena. I'm not going to be your slave.

Dean: I'm being a good boss right now!

Nolwazi: Hai allow me to take my break please.

Dean: Alright then but don't say I didn't offer a solution. Work always helps in such situations.

Nolwazi: Oh please, you know nothing about marriage.

Dean: Aggressive much?

Nolwazi: Goodbye Dean.

Dean: Bye.

Nolwazi dropped the call and quickly got her laptop and connected it to the charger. She switched it on and went straight to her emails. Sure enough there were tons of emails, most of them were just economy updates but she clicked the one Dean was talking about and got more information on the article she was supposed to write. Afterwards, she put the laptop down and walked to the bedroom her mother always slept in when she visited. She found her changing the

linen.

Nolwazi: Mama I'm about to work on something now.

Thandeka: Don't worry about me baby. Would you like some tea?

Nolwazi: I would love some.

Thandeka: Alright sisi.

Nolwazi walked back to her bedroom and changed to a plain t-shirt and leggings and then opened the curtains and windows. She then grabbed her laptop and phones, walked out of the house and made her way to the patio. The fresh air and great smell of grass filled her and she smiled. This home had cost so much to build from scratch but it was definitely worth it. The view was magnificent... She sat down and took a couple of minutes to get in her work mode. It had been so long...

As soon as she began typing, everything else faded. She was in her happy place.

She saw her mother, but paid no attention to her. Thandeka knew not disturb her baby when she was in her zone. She simply placed the tray on the table and then kissed her forehead lovingly and walked back in the house.

Two hours passed and Nolwazi typed that final sentence and then exhaled loudly.

She felt rejuvenated.

She took the last sip of her tea and then stood up and walked around her yard. Every time she wrote articles, she would write the first draft, take a walk and get some fresh air and then go back and edit. After editing, she would take another walk and then read it again and if it still

made sense then she would submit it. This was a fluffy piece so she knew it didn't need much editing but she still took that walk just to clear her mind. It's crucial to forget about what she wrote for a couple of minutes so that she edits with a fresh perspective, and it's easier to spot the mistakes.

She walked around her yard and took in the fresh breeze... She was actually quite surprised that she felt so light and stress-free. Her job does that to her.

Besides Kwanele, Economics really turned her on.

Actually, Economics may just be better than Kwanele.

She chuckled at her thoughts and then walked back to the patio and sat down. She read her piece out loud and once she was satisfied, she emailed the editor and then sent it to Dean as well. She checked all the other emails and was glad that there was no emergency. She went through all the economy updates and would cuss when she came across something absurd.

Just then, an email from Dean came through:

Hi,

Next time, try to write like an inexperienced 1st year journalism student, please. We cannot have these media institutions thinking you are some kind of professional journalist, and then snatch you from us.

Your boss,

Dean.

Nolwazi laughed sarcastically and then typed a reply:

Hi,

Please do not rain on my parade. I will never downplay my phenomenal skills just to ease your talentless self. Maybe I should consider going into Journalism permanently?

PS: You are not my boss. Technically, you and I are equals.

Yours in WRITING,

Nolwazi.

Just then, she got a reply from the editor of The Star thanking her for an amazing article. He said it would be included in tomorrow's paper and Nolwazi agreed and sent him regards.

Just then an email from Dean:

Hi SUBORDINATE,

Equals? You and who? Because the last time I checked, my pay cheque is untouchable, compared to yours...

Your BOSS,

Dean.

Nolwazi shook her head and replied:

Hi (please note that I have the most "disinterested" facial expression as I type this unnecessary greeting),

I'm coming for that position, watch out.

YOURS IN COMPETITION,

Nolwazi.

Dean replied:

I am yawning.

STILL YOUR BOSS,

Dean.

Nolwazi chuckled as she closed her laptop and walked inside the house. She went to the bedroom and also began changing the linen...

Just then she felt someone wrap their arms around her waist and she said a mental prayer.

She turned around.

Kwanele looked at his wife and smiled warmly.

Nolwazi: Look what the wind blew in!

Kwanele's smile disappeared and then Nolwazi smiled warmly.

INSERT 13 (Can't seem to find Insert 12)

Nolwazi looked at Kwanele ever so kindly.

Nolwazi: How are you? I have missed you terribly.

She leaned closer to his lips and when Kwanele closed his eyes, thinking he was going to be kissed, Nolwazi simply looked at him.

After a few seconds of not being kissed, Kwanele opened his eyes and looked at Nolwazi with a sense of confusion.

Nolwazi: Everything okay, love?

She smiled innocently and Kwanele just kept quiet. It really was a sad sight to see...

Nolwazi: How are you?

Kwanele cleared his throat and shook his head, trying to erase his thoughts. "What the hell is going on here?" he asked himself.

Nolwazi: Nele?

Nolwazi waved her hand and he snapped out of it. She then turned around and carried on with changing the linen.

Nolwazi: Your other wife must be on fire, for you to be this deep in thought hey.

She said that coolly but deep down she was actually very hurt. Clearly this girl has him wrapped up in her finger. "God, how in the world am I going to cope with this? None of this is okay," she thought, "Maybe it was a bad idea coming back here because I am not strong enough for this."

Kwanele: You left without telling me.

Nolwazi: What exactly were you going to do?

Kwanele: Come on Lwazi.

Nolwazi went to the other side of the bed and changed the pillow cases.

Nolwazi: What were you going to do had I called you?

Kwanele: I wouldn't let you leave, you know this.

Nolwazi: So you were going to desert your wife on your first night together to come to silly old me?

Nolwazi chuckled lightly as she focused on the bed.

Kwanele sighed heavily and scratched his head.

Nolwazi: Silly old dramatic me...

She finished up and then walked to the bathroom.

"This is a mental thing," she thought, "Maybe I'm not good with mental games."

She walked back to the bedroom and found Kwanele sitting on the edge of the bed.

Kwanele: Woza.

She walked to the bed and sat down and Kwanele pulled her closer.

Kwanele: I thought you weren't going to come back.

Nolwazi: And why is that?

Kwanele kept quiet and avoided her eyes.

Nolwazi: Have you eaten?

Kwanele shook his head.

Nolwazi: Would you like me to prepare something or you're sorted, that side?

Kwanele: Lwazi...

Nolwazi looked at him innocently.

Nolwazi: I'm just asking...

Kwanele remembered that he had left Tholi in the house, preparing lunch.

Kwanele: I'm starving.

Nolwazi: Okay.

She stood up and walked out of the bedroom and Kwanele lowered his body and lay on the bed, facing up. He had missed this bed so much. Now he had to go back and forth to Tholi's house and this house. It was all too much admin.

Nolwazi walked downstairs and found her mother in the kitchen.

Nolwazi: Let me cook for my husband.

Thandeka looked at her daughter and rolled her eyes.

Nolwazi: My husband is hungry.

Thandeka: Ngazizwa ngifuna ukuhlanza.

Nolwazi chuckled and they both began taking out all the necessary things.

Nolwazi: I'll prepare his favourite dish. I'm his trophy wife after all.

Thandeka: Ngicela ume tuu Lwazi.

Nolwazi laughed lightly and continued to mock her mother. Just then, there was a buzz to indicate that someone was outside the gate.

Thandeka: Who could that be?

She went to the buzzer and pressed the speaker button.

Thandeka: Hello?

Thenjiwe almost died when she heard Thandeka's voice.

Thenjiwe: I'm outside.

Thandeka and Nolwazi glanced at each other and then Thandeka took a deep breath.

Thandeka: We know you are outside but who are you?

Thenjiwe: Haibo njalo.

Thandeka: Okay then, goodbye.

She walked back to the sink and carried on rinsing the vegetables.

Thandeka: That woman irks me so much.

Nolwazi: Manje you won't open?

Thandeka: USatane ujumpa ama-fense baby.

They both laughed and just then Kwanele walked in and Nolwazi looked at him.

Kwanele: Uhm umama uthi ungaphandle.

Nolwazi: Who? Your mother?

Kwanele: Yes, she says she asked to be buzzed in.

Nolwazi: No, she did not.

Thandeka: Haike it means we are deaf.

Kwanele: No, it's okay.

He pressed the button and walked over to the fridge to get himself a bottle of water.

Minutes later the door opened and they heard footsteps.

Thandeka glanced at Nolwazi and winked at her humorously.

Thenjiwe walked in the kitchen and assessed everything. She glanced at everyone and Kwanele cleared his throat.

Kwanele: Sawubona ma.

Thenjiwe: I have been waiting for 10 minutes!

Nolwazi: Then there is something wrong with the buzzer ke mama.

Thenjiwe looked at Nolwazi suspiciously and then snapped her tongue. Kwanele looked at Nolwazi in confusion. His wife's behaviour really puzzled him, even Thandeka's calmness was suspicious.

Thandeka on the other hand, focused on her vegetables because she was avoiding drama.

Kwanele: Singakusiza ngani?

Kwanele himself wasn't thrilled to see his mother.

Kwanele: What does this concern?

Titi: Your new young wife.

Thandeka and Nolwazi carried on focusing on the food like nothing was said... Life was good for them, well in pretence of course. Nolwazi's heart sank almost immediately but she had to keep a straight face.

Thenjiwe looked at Nolwazi's mother, knowing that she would speak out but she got the shock of her life when no one flinched at her comment. She then looked at her son, annoyingly.

Kwanele walked away angrily.

Nolwazi then looked up at Titi.

Nolwazi: Would you like something to drink ma?

Thenjiwe stared at Nolwazi intensely.

"What is going on here? Why is she okay about this? What happened to that sad and pathetic Nolwazi I last saw?" Thenjiwe thought.

Nolwazi smiled warmly.

Nolwazi: I take it you're okay?

Thenjiwe groaned angrily and then followed after her son. As soon as she disappeared, Nolwazi exhaled loudly. She turned to look at her mother.

Nolwazi: Ma don't over-chop those veggies phela.

Thandeka put down the knife and looked at Nolwazi.

Thandeka: The Devil is trying me.

Nolwazi smiled sympathetically because she understood exactly what her mother was feeling.

Anyway, they carried on with their cooking and after a long time, Thenjiwe walked back to the kitchen with Kwanele following her.

Thenjiwe: Siya eDundee.

Both Nolwazi and Thandeka looked up.

Titi: We're having a traditional ceremony so the whole family will be there, including Tholakele's.

Thandeka: When is all of this happening?

Titi: We're heading there in 3 days.

Thandeka: And when were you planning on informing us?

Thenjiwe smiled slyly.

Titi: Kanti ngenzani manje sisi?

Thandeka looked at Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: I'm supposed to be back at work in 2 days.

Titi: Hai sisi don't worry, you don't have to be t-

Thandeka: Worry not, the Dumakudes will definitely be there. We wouldn't miss it for the world my dear.

Thenjiwe gritted her teeth and Thandeka smiled.

Thandeka: Lwazi will easily get an extended leave. I'll let my husband know and they'll fly down here and we will join you.

Titi looked at Kwanele sharply and Kwanele didn't even notice because he was focusing on Nolwazi, trying to figure out her facial expression.

Titi: We will be in contact.

Thandeka: Next time, say your name before you buzz the gate yezwa sisi? Just save us all the trouble and drama.

Titi was about to say something but Nolwazi and Thandeka had already moved their attention to their food. She then cursed quietly and then walked out of the house and disappeared.

Nolwazi looked at Kwanele briefly before focusing on the pots once again.

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After a long time, lunch was finally ready. Nolwazi prepared the table and then Thandeka put the food on the table.

Thandeka: Go change sisi.

Nolwazi: Change?

Thandeka: **whispering** How is this man going to beg for your love when you look so dull?

Nolwazi: Oh hai kodwa ma.

Thandeka: Go!

Nolwazi reluctantly made her way upstairs to their bedroom and found Kwanele sleeping. She walked to the bathroom and cleaned herself up quickly and then walked back to the bedroom where she began lotioning herself.

Kwanele heard this movement and then repositioned so he could watch his wife. Every fibre in him wanted to reach out and help her as he normally would but then things had changed a bit so he felt like he was walking on thin ice.

Nolwazi knew Kwanele was watching so she gave him a show. She lotioned her arms carefully and then slowly rubbed the lotion on her stomach and went up her breasts. She slowly stroked herself until the lotion settled. She then applied it on her thighs and then carefully went in between them; she bent down slightly and began rubbing herself.

Kwanele couldn't take it anymore. Before he knew it, he was already reaching out and pulling her towards him.

Nolwazi squealed in shock.

Kwanele: Let me help you.

He locked her in between his legs. As tempting as it was, she knew she had to nip it in the bud real quick so she pulled out of him gently and then smiled.

Nolwazi: I'm good, thanks.

Kwanele's jaw opened a bit and he just watched in disbelief as she finished up. Little did he know that Nolwazi wanted him just as much as he wanted her. She walked to the walk-in closet and began browsing through her dresses.

"I really don't want to do this to Kwanele..." she thought, "But I can see all of this has him confused so I guess it's worth a try."

She picked the perfect dress and wore it, without any lingerie.

"Surely heels are a bit too much? But then again, what else could I possibly wear with this dress?"

She sighed as she picked a pair of heels and made her way back to the bedroom.

Kwanele's mouth literally opened when he saw Nolwazi.

Kwanele: Lwazi.

Nolwazi went to sit on the edge of the bed next to her husband. She bent down and slipped in her heels.

Nolwazi: Yes?

Kwanele kept quiet, he really didn't know what exactly he wanted to say because all of this just felt very strange. He wasn't sure what was happening.

Once her heels were fine, she sat up properly and then glanced at Kwanele kindly.

Nolwazi: Everything okay Nele?

They stared at each other and she tried to keep a straight face. She honestly wanted to kick some sense into him and make him realise how foolish he has been all this time however she managed to keep her cool.

She stood up and walked to the mirror and then sat down and began applying just a little bit of makeup.

She avoided Kwanele's eye contact via the mirror. After a while she finished up and then walked over to Kwanele and reached to him.

She smiled warmly.

Nolwazi: Asambe.

She pulled him up and then he instantly wrapped his arms around her waist and then pulled her closer.

"It's really unfortunate that I'm not going to be able to show him a good time with this erection of his, she thought. "His other wife will have to deal with his hard-ons from now onwards."

Kwanele tried kissing her and she went in for the classic peck on the cheek. She gently removed his arms from her and then held his hand and led him downstairs.

Thandeka watched as they approached the eating table and she wanted to laugh. Kwanele's erection was so visible- it almost made him look like an idiot because the poor man wouldn't be getting any from her daughter.

They got to the table.

Thandeka: Have a seat, son.

Kwanele looked at Thandeka and her daughter suspiciously.

"Are these two trying to kill me? I am convinced they are! All these weird vibes I'm getting surely mean something," he thought, "Fuck I need to keep my cool and avoid eating their food."

They all sat down.

Nolwazi: Should I dish up for you, my love?

Kwanele nodded lightly and watched his wife's every move, making sure she doesn't sneak anything in his plate. Nolwazi dished up for him slowly and then gave him his plate.

Nolwazi: Wine or juice?

Kwanele: Juice, please.

“There is no way I’m going to allow them to make me drunk,” he thought.

Nolwazi poured her husband a glass of juice and then placed it next to him.

Kwanele: Ngiyabonga.

Nolwazi nodded and then looked at her mother.

Nolwazi: Should I dish up for you as well ma?

Thandeka smiled proudly.

Thandeka: Yes please, madam.

Nolwazi chuckled as she dished up for her mother.

Thandeka: Not too much meat baby, I need to keep this figure for my Vusi phela.

They both laughed and Kwanele looked at them intently, making sure he doesn’t lose track of them.

Thandeka: Phela these days, these men will cheat on you if you let go of yourself.

“That was obviously directed at me,” thought Kwanele as he continued to stare at them.

Nolwazi: Kunzima.

Thandeka: Remind me to call Vusi after we eat so I can tell him about the trip to Dundee.

Nolwazi: Sure.

She finished up dishing for her mother and herself and then they both looked at Kwanele.

Thandeka: Baba wekhaya, will you bless the food?

Kwanele shifted in his seat and then cleared his throat.

Kwanele: Can we bow our heads?

Thandeka: Ok son.

Both Thandeka and Nolwazi bowed their heads but Kwanele made sure his head remained up.

Kwanele: Father we thank you for the food we are about to eat.

He then glanced at Nolwazi and Thandeka as they closed their eyes.

Kwanele: May you continue to bless us abundantly and may we continue to praise and thank you.

He closed his eyes briefly.

Kwanele: Amen.

Thandeka: Amen.

Nolwazi: Amen.

They all opened their eyes and began eating. Well, Kwanele waited for them to eat first and once they had swallowed and he was convinced that they would stay alive, he went on to eat, feeling slightly safer.

Kwanele: Thank you for the meal.

Nolwazi looked at him and smiled. As much as she tried hating him, she really couldn't allow herself to. There really wasn't space for hate in her heart more especially for someone who owned her heart.

Thandeka: Manje uzolalaphi tonight bhuti?

Kwanele looked down ashamedly and Nolwazi glanced at her mother, hoping she would ease up a little bit but Thandeka rolled her eyes just before Kwanele looked up again.

Kwanele: I don't want to overstep.

He said this while staring at Nolwazi.

Thandeka: Haike sizozwa ngawe...

Nolwazi focused on her food and avoided the emotions that were creeping up on her. Honestly if her mother wasn't there she wouldn't be able to do all of this. Maybe in a couple of days she would get the hang of it but she couldn't help but wonder how long it would continue. Surely she couldn't live the rest of her life like this?

She sighed and shook her head lightly.

Kwanele: Lwazi?

Nolwazi: I have plans for tonight so it would be useless for you to stay.

Both Thandeka and Kwanele looked at her.

Nolwazi: I have a gala dinner that I need to attend tonight.

Thandeka: Oh yes, I remember you mentioning it.

She had never mentioned anything to her mother but she was glad to have some back up.

Kwanele: Gala dinner?

Nolwazi nodded.

Kwanele: Uhamba wedwa?

Nolwazi: Yebo.

Kwanele focused on his food and Nolwazi looked at her mother nervously. She always went with Kwanele to these types of work events so she felt bad for rejecting him like this.

Thandeka tried reassuring her with her eyes. She didn't want her daughter to lose the plot because she was doing so well so far.

Nolwazi shook her head and came back to her senses. Heck, she really needed to stop feeling sorry for this man. "If he could betray me like this then he sure as hell can handle a little rejection from me," she thought, "Love aside, this son of a bitch deserves everything I'm going to do to him."

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Thandeka walked to the kitchen with the plates. Just as Nolwazi was about to stand up so she could assist her mother, Kwanele pulled her and she found herself sitting on his lap.

Kwanele: Don't do this.

He looked at her, pleading with his eyes. A huge part of him wanted to take more control but another part of him wanted to give Nolwazi the necessary space to deal with this. He knew he was in no position to try to make demands... He was in a very strange position and he wondered if it would ever stop.

Nolwazi looked at Kwanele with a straight face.

Nolwazi: I have to go.

Kwanele sighed heavily and then nodded. He could only trust and hope that Nolwazi wouldn't do anything out of character... He was afraid of losing her because of his choices. He loosened his hold on her and she stood up and took the rest of the stuff to the kitchen. He stood up and

walked upstairs to the bedroom. Just then, Nolwazi's phone rang and he walked over to where it was and checked the caller id. It was Ivy.

He contemplated leaving it but then he missed his sister-in-law. He actually was fond of her weird and rebellious ways.

He answered.

Kwanele: Hello?

Ivy: Uhm who's this?

Kwanele: Is my voice that unrecognisable now?

Ivy: Kwanele?

Kwanele smiled, he hadn't spoken to Zamo in a while.

Kwanele: Yes, it's me.

Ivy: Argh go suck a dick bruh.

She dropped the call and Kwanele stood there feeling like he had just been thrown with a bucket full of vomit. Was this his life now? Constant tears, insults and sarcasm? Maybe he hadn't thought this out properly because the repercussions seemed extreme. Too many people were hurt.

Nolwazi: My phone?

He quickly snapped out it and realised that Nolwazi was standing there. He handed her the phone and then sat on the edge of the bed.

Kwanele: That was Ivy.

Nolwazi: Oh okay, utheni?

Kwanele: Not much.

Nolwazi chuckled because it was clear that Zamo said something that offended him.

Kwanele: So when is your gala dinner?

Nolwazi: 7pm.

Kwanele nodded lightly and watched as she opened the sliding the door and went to stand outside the balcony.

Nolwazi: These flowers are dead.

Kwanele: Is it?

She came back in with the vase and showed them to him.

Nolwazi: Things seem to be perishing these days...

Kwanele's heart sank even further. He stood up and grabbed his phone.

Nolwazi: Are you leaving?

Kwanele: Clearly I'm unwanted here.

Nolwazi laughed boldly and Kwanele stood there and tightened his jaw. He was getting angry by the second. All these jabs were getting to him and he wanted to remove himself from the situation because deep down he knew he was still in the wrong.

Nolwazi: Bye bye muntu wami.

She walked out with the dead flowers and left Kwanele there... Just then, his phone rang and when he checked the caller id he took a deep breath. He answered after a couple of rings.

Kwanele: Tholakele.

Tholi: Where are you Kwani?

Her voice was a mere whisper.

"Ah, she can't be crying again! I refuse to believe that she is crying," he thought, "It hasn't even been 4 hours since I left the house."

Kwanele: I'm on my way.

Tholi: Uyabuya?

Kwanele: Yebo Tholakele.

Tholi: Okay.

Kwanele took a deep breath and closed his eyes.

Kwanele: I'm coming okay?

His voice was gentle now. He realised that he couldn't take out his frustrations on her because she was also innocent in her own way.

Tholi heard the change in tone.

Tholi: Okay.

Kwanele: Give me 30 minutes, okay?

Tholi: Okay.

Kwanele: Bye bye.

Tholi: Bye.

Kwanele dropped the call just as Nolwazi walked back in. Nolwazi merely acknowledged him, she simply walked past him and went straight to the balcony. He contemplated following her but decided not to so he walked out of the bedroom and made his way downstairs.

Thandeka: Are you leaving, son?

Kwanele: Yebo ma.

Thandeka: Uhambe kahle Shenge junior.

She chuckled.

Kwanele could sense the sarcasm in the tone and it didn't sit well with him, just as all the other jabs didn't. He simply nodded and then walked out of the house and made his way to the car and drove out.

Thandeka: Nolwazi Camilla Buthelezi!

Thandeka yelled until Nolwazi made her way downstairs.

Nolwazi: Yes, Thandeka Beatrice Dumakude?

Thandeka: Wooo uzoswaba wena!

They both laughed because Thandeka hated her "apartheid" name.

Thandeka: Your hubby is gone with the wind!

Nolwazi sulked and went close to her mother so she could hug her.

Nolwazi: I want him back. Mama did you see how gloomy he looked??

Thandeka hugged her and then shook her.

Thandeka: He did look sheepish shame kodwa ke he needs to feel rejected and ridiculed. You don't mess with people's lives and then think life will move on swiftly.

Nolwazi nodded.

Nolwazi: You should have seen him when I was getting dressed.

Thandeka laughed.

Thandeka: I'm sure you almost gave up when you saw that erection. Even I was amazed by it!

Nolwazi: Mama!

They laughed and hugged again.

Nolwazi: But I think I secretly enjoy messing with him like this, even though I'm still hurt.

Thandeka: Let's keep it up, who knows? Good things might just happen!

Nolwazi: I just don't get exactly why we're doing this.

Thandeka: He needs to know that he cannot take for granted what he has. He needs to beg for your love and once all the hurt and anger is settled, you will be able to decide what you want to do. As much as I want you to pack up and leave, we both know that will not happen now.

Nolwazi: There's no going back to how we were.

Thandeka: Then let's play with his mind a bit while you get to heal on the side.

Nolwazi nodded lightly.

Nolwazi: Okay.

Thandeka: Now do you know what you're going to wear for the gala?

Nolwazi: I don't think I want to go. I used it just to get him to leave. I hate him so much.

Thandeka: Yet you love him.

Nolwazi: I need him.

Thandeka: Yet you want nothing to do with him.

Nolwazi: Love really isn't black and white is it?

Thandeka: It comes with its complications. Your heart will want him so badly.

Nolwazi: But your brain will nag you about all the hurt he has brought to you.

Thandeka: Battle of the rational and irrational. Do you go with the heart that is willing to forgive

and continue loving?

Nolwazi: Or do you go with the brain that knows you deserve better?

They both sighed in defeat.

Thandeka: You can't love someone foolishly because that's just dangerous but at the same time you can't always calculate or divide the amount of love you give... It's a constant battle but after a while you realise that you need to find a balance between the two... Being rationally irrational.

Nolwazi: Being rationally irrationally?

She chuckled.

Nolwazi: I like that...

Thandeka: So for now, let's make him suffer a bit... Maybe through this experience you'll get an AHA moment where everything clicks and you see where you want to go with your marriage.

Nolwazi was beyond appreciative of her mother's presence. She had always been close to her but this was different. They got to bond on such a deeper level and she was thankful for some of the life lessons she learnt from her.

They made their way upstairs and got to the bedroom. Nolwazi checked her phone.

Nolwazi: Thuli called.

Thandeka: Is it?

Nolwazi nodded as she dialled her best friend's number. It had been a while since they spoke... Thankfully, Nolwazi's friends knew when to back off and when to reach out.

The phone rang for a while and it was eventually answered.

Thuli: Lwazi?

Nolwazi: Hey there.

Thuli: Oh my goodness my friend, unjani?

Nolwazi: I'm do-

Thuli: Wait wait let me put you on speaker, we're all here.

She heard some shuffling and seconds later she was laughing because her friends were now arguing about who would hold the phone.

Nolwazi: Yazi you could easily put it on the table or something?

Slindile: Please tell that to Thuli. Angazi ubani omenze um'phathi. Just because she won a case she thinks she's the shit.

Thuli: The day I slap you wena Sly?

Slindile: Oh pl-

Nolwazi: Thuli you won the case?

Thuli: Uhm but who are we talking about here? Of course I won the case.

Slindile: Weeh safe Jehova!

Nolwazi: Siyakubongela, well done mngani.

Thuli was the one who introduced Kwanele to Nolwazi... She's close to both of them so this situation was very awkward for her.

Nolwazi: Uphi uNomthandazo?

Both Slindile and Thuli laughed.

Nolwazi: Oh no, wenzeni manje?

Slindile: Your girl is drunk.

Nolwazi: Well I wish I was her.

Slindile: No man we need to see you, where are you?

Nolwazi: Endlini.

Slindile: Are you alone?

Nolwazi: Who else would I be with?

Slindile: Yazi we really need to report that douche to the police. Surely yi-rape lento ayenzayo with that 22 year old.

Thuli: Slindile!

Slindile: Hai suka wena Switzerland. Being neutral is not a cute look for you. Your buddy is a piece of shit.

There was an awkward silence.

Slindile: We're on our way ke Lwazi.

Nolwazi sighed.

Slindile: Haibo waphefumulela phezulu nje sisi? We are on our way!

Thuli: Listen Lwazi, you'll let us know-

Nolwazi: No it's fine wozani.

Slindile: Thulisile let's go.

Thuli: Uhm Lwazi I know you need your space-

Nolwazi: Wozani, it's fine.

Thuli: Are you sure?

Nolwazi: Yes.

Thuli: Okay then.

Nolwazi: Bye.

Thuli: Bye love.

Nolwazi dropped the call and then looked at her mother.

Thandeka: Are they coming over?

Nolwazi nodded.

Thandeka: Don't be gloomy man nawe. You could do with a distraction... Nami nje I need Nomthandazo to get here so we can finish a bottle of wine together.

Nolwazi: Hehe apparently she has already passed out.

Thandeka: Oh hai kodwa she will never change.

Thandeka stood up and began walking out.

Thandeka: Don't allow yourself to be the depressed lover. It's very easy to get sucked into being depressed... Don't do that to yourself. Take all the love and support you can get. Shutting it out only harms you baby.

With that said, she walked out.

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Sly and Thuli walked in carrying a very drunk Nomthandazo.

Nolwazi: Oh hai kodwa uNomi.

Thuli: Nginyanye kabi nje.

They walked to the lounge and placed her on the couch.

Sly: Let's go sit outside, I need some fresh air.

Nolwazi: Alright.

Just then, Thandeka walked down the stairs and then Sly and Thuli ran to her excitedly and they shared hugs.

Thandeka: Ninjani kodwa zithandwa zami?

Sly: Woo impilo inzima.

They all laughed.

Thandeka: Uphi uNomi?

Nolwazi: Nangu la.

Thandeka walked over to the couch and looked down at Nomi who was passed out.

Thandeka: Angithandi kodwa when she is this drunk.

Thuli: There is no stopping her.

Thandeka: No man, she needs to do it in moderation, yazi iphuza face ayidlali?

Sly: We need another intervention.

Nolwazi: Come on, cut her some slack.

Sly: Ohho.

They carried on chatting for a while.

Thandeka: My babies, it was good seeing you kodwa I have to go.

Thuli: It was good seeing you too ma.

Thandeka: Shap ke.

Nolwazi: Uzobuya nini?

Thandeka: Don't worry I'll be back before you leave.

Sly: And where are you going madam?

Thandeka: Let me leave you girls to catch up, bye bye ke.

They said goodbye to Thandeka and she disappeared. They then made their way outside and went to sit by the gazebo.

Sly: Where are you going friend?

Nolwazi: Gala dinner.

Thuli: Is it for work?

Sly: Obviously.

Thuli rolled her eyes and then became serious as she looked at Nolwazi.

Thuli: How are you?

Nolwazi sighed heavily and shook her head.

Nolwazi: Kunzima shame I'm not even going to lie. I feel like I'm having an out of body experience.

Both Sly and Thuli nodded.

Nolwazi: But I'm trying not to sulk too much.

Sly: You know I'm all about settling the scores so what's your plan?

Nolwazi: Oh hai kodwa Slindile.

Sly: That man did you so wrong! Fuck, I don't think I've ever hated someone so much!

Thuli: Are you coping thoug-

Sly: Stop trying to change the subject Thuli, Kwanele is wrong and there is no justifying it. Stop this neutral thing of yours.

Thuli: What neutral thing? You know I'm getting very tired of you-

Sly: Mxm so much for being a friend.

Thuli: What is th-

Nolwazi rubbed her eyes and zoned them out as they went on arguing. These two loved each other but the problem was that both of them were very stubborn. Yes, they fought all the time but they knew that their friendship was deep so the arguments never lasted.

Thuli: You're so an-

Nolwazi: Okay okay okay!

Both of them looked at her and she smiled.

Nolwazi: Can we at least drink something so we can all be calm?

Sly: Go get some champagne, I brought us the nice nice.

Nolwazi already knew what she was talking about. Whenever one of them was going through something, they would all get together, drink up and get high. Nothing compared to being reckless with your friends in the safety of your house. All of them lived busy lives so these moments, although sad, brought them together.

Nolwazi stood up and walked inside the house. Shortly after, she came back with a bottle of champagne and 3 glasses. Sly had already rolled 3 joints for them. She lit them and they all sat there and caught up with each other's lives.

Thulisile is an Intellectual Property lawyer and her job entails of providing legal assistance to artists, inventors and others who need help managing their published and unpublished work. She focuses more on protecting her clients' exclusive rights to their intellectual property. She met Nolwazi six years ago at some random one week environmental awareness conference. They were placed in the same group so they basically saw each other from 8am-4pm everyday for that week. Once the conference was over they had developed a good acquaintanceship so they continued to stay in contact and months later, they became good friends. Thuli is a very down to earth person, a little bit like Nolwazi. She is 29 years old and is in an on and off relationship with her ex husband. She has always been one to shy away from serious relationships but when she met her ex-husband, she let down her guard and followed her heart-

which led her straight to marriage. They got married after 3 years of dating and things were perfectly perfect but that was until her insecurities got the better of her. She became the classic jealous wife who thrived on checking her husband's every move. For 3 years her world revolved on snooping around and arguing with Pat on her suspicions. Two years into the marriage, Pat decided that he had had enough and so they got a divorce. Unfortunately, he couldn't deny that Thuli was the perfect woman for him- the only problem was her insecurities and constant nagging. They began dating each other again and it's been a rollercoaster of a ride ever since... They have been on and off for the past year. Nolwazi didn't agree with Thuli's ways... Because of the way she was raised, Nolwazi felt like they gave up too quickly. She also felt like since they were divorced then there was nothing binding them so they needed to either cut ties completely or get remarried to avoid this teenage back and forth.

Thuli had invited Nolwazi to a work function that was taking place in her law firm because at the time, she and Pat were not on good terms so couldn't bring him as her plus one. While there, Thuli's good friend and colleague, Kwanele, took an interest in Nolwazi. Being the good friend that she is, Thuli was more than happy to play matchmaker. For the next couple of months she put all her efforts into making Nolwazi and Kwanele a unit. Thankfully, she succeeded because they clicked instantly. Of course Nolwazi gave Kwanele a tough time... Also, she was still hung up on her ex at the time so Kwanele had a lot of damage control to do. Nolwazi was still a virgin but she was very knowledgeable about relationships, via her ex, so she wasn't the classic virgin who was still ignorant and gullible. After a year of courtship, Kwanele finally got in and it has been a good ride ever since. Thuli still prides herself in being the "founder" of these two's relationship. However, because she is close to both of them, things would always get awkward when they had arguments... But now she could give anything to deal with those other arguments than what they were currently facing. Her loyalty was cut between both Nolwazi and Kwanele and she was having a difficult time supporting both of them equally...

Now Slindile is the reprimander of the group. She speaks truth and nothing but the truth-even if it cuts the receiver. She owns an events company that does catering, decor and all the other aspects of pulling off a fantastic event- be it a wedding, birthday, baby shower- any event you want to pull off, she was the go to person. Her business was growing on the daily thanks to the good reviews she receives. She got a degree in Pharmacy but once she got out of university she put it aside and decided that she wanted to be in touch with her creative and business-oriented side so after 4 years of focusing on a Bachelor of Pharmacy, she went back to school but only this time she took courses in Business, Tourism and Catering. She wanted to be an all-round business woman who would be hands-on when she started her own company. As she studied, she took up internships on the side just so she could gain all the necessary experience in events management... As soon as she was done she was ready to start her own thing. When she was ready, she sought aid from a certain law firm and she was led to Thuli. Thuli, who was the Intellectual Property guru, assisted Slindile in getting her company registered and ensured that all her paperwork was filed and approved. Through that work relationship, a friendship

blossomed and they have never looked back...

When Kwanele proposed to Nolwazi and wedding plans were underway, it was obvious that Thuli was going to suggest Slindile's company to do all the organising and execution. Nolwazi was a bit hesitant at first because the company was still developing. Thuli saw this as an opportunity for her friend, Sly, to make a solid name for herself in the events field. After much convincing, Nolwazi finally agreed and Sly's company was responsible for the planning of the wedding. At that point in time, Sly was still under-staffed so that meant she had to be on the foreground at all times. Through this, she got to interact with Nolwazi and once again, a friendship blossomed. Slindile proved to be an amazing planner and after Nolwazi's wedding, more offers and opportunities came her way. Her business grew tremendously and she has now taken over her field.

These 3 became best friends in the next 2 years...

Two years ago, Thandeka called Nolwazi, informing her that the daughter of her close friend was moving to Durban and would need some accommodation for just a couple of weeks... This is how Nomthandazo came into the picture. She was a 27 year old aspiring actress who needed a break from life. The acting field is a cut-throat field and if one is not built to handle countless rejections then they should think twice about getting in. Nomthandazo, known as Nomi, had an Honours degree in Engineering but the only reason she pursued it was because her father was forceful about it. She worked as an engineer for 5 years and when she turned 26, she quit her job (every month was like she won the lottery) and decided that she wanted to do acting. Even Thandeka was a bit shocked by this but she was the one who managed to calm Nomi's parents down and convinced them to allow their daughter to live her life the way she wanted. Thandeka then arranged for Nomi to stay with Nolwazi and Kwanele for a couple of weeks and during that time, Nolwazi introduced Nomi to her two best friends and it's safe to say they all clicked.

These four friends were binded by their different life goals, experiences and perspectives on life, love and all that other jazz. Each one brought something different to the table: Nolwazi was the "mother" of the group. She was the responsible one whose ability to love and forgive wholeheartedly made her the umbrella of the group. Thuli was the analytical one, the perfectionist who wanted everything to be in line. Her friends concluded that it was because of her relationship that developed all these characteristics. She's the over-thinker, the one who needs all information in order to make decisions... Everything just had to be in line. Sly was the colourful one, the vibrant mouth of the group. Mess with her and all hell breaks loose. She loved being the boss and having people's attention. All eyes had to be on her and because she was beautiful, she wanted to make sure that people recognised her brains more instead of making

impressions just by seeing her pretty face. Nomi was the quiet one... Because her parents used to control every aspect of her life, she got used to being on the receiving end of authority. She was still trying to find her own voice and her friends were helping her with that. At 27, she still had not had sex with anyone in her life. She avoided commitment like a plague because she didn't want to put herself in yet another situation where her actions had to be limited just to satisfy or accommodate another person. Her life consisted of going to events, partying up a storm and then lazing around in her beach house. She would constantly say that she was on the pursuit of happiness so her friends made a deal with her: After one year, she would stop lazing around and do something constructive with her life.

It was now around 4pm and the friends were high and tipsy.

Sly: So what are you wearing to the gala?

Nolwazi: Shit I forgot!

Sly and Thuli laughed because Nolwazi was not one to say words like shit.

Nolwazi: I need to call Dean and ask him to reserve a seat for me.

Thuli: Isn't it a bit too late though?

Sly: For Nolwazi? Mxm I'm sure they will bend over backwards for you Miss Economics.

Nolwazi: Maybe I shouldn't-

Sly: Uh-huh you need to get out of this house! I refuse shame.

Nolwazi: Hawu angithi nikhona nina?

Sly: Woo we love you mngani but we have plans.

Nolwazi looked at Sly in disbelief.

Thuli: She has a date.

Sly smiled as she fanned herself dramatically by her coochie.

Sly: Sex before friends, any day!

They laughed.

Sly: Itotolozi all day!

Nolwazi: I give up!

They continued to chat for a while.

Nolwazi: Let me ask Dean if it's too late.

She took out her phone and took a deep breath- she was a bit high after all so she had to try not to slur her words.

It rang for a while until it was answered.

Dean: Dean speaking, hello?

Nolwazi: Hi, it's Nolwazi. What happened to checking caller ids?

Dean: Ngimatasatasa la.

Nolwazi: Are you getting ready for the gala?

Dean: After all these years you think I stress over those boring things?

Nolwazi: Well alright then... Listen, is it too late for me to change my RSVP?

Dean: You want to come?

Nolwazi: Yes, I think.

Dean: I don't think it will be a problem. I'd call Alex for you just to confirm but I'm a bit tied up now, will you manage?

Nolwazi: Yes, I'll call him. Thanks.

Dean: No problem, bye.

Nolwazi: Bye.

She dropped the call.

Sly: All sorted?

Nolwazi: One more call.

She dialled Alex's number, who was responsible for the tickets, and tried her luck. Alex was a coloured colleague who worked at the Public Relations division of the company.

Alex: Of course you can come, babe.

Nolwazi frowned. She found it extremely inappropriate that Alex insisted on calling her "babe".

Nolwazi: Okay thanks.

Alex: Babe, but we gave away your plus one seat.

Nolwazi: No, that's not a problem.

Alex: Are you sure?

Nolwazi: Yes I am.

Alex: Oh alright then.

Nolwazi: Thank you.

Alex: See you soon.

Nolwazi: Bye.

She dropped the call and looked at her friends.

Sly: All sorted?

Nolwazi nodded.

Thuli: Then let's get you ready before we leave.

Sly: Yaas!

Thuli: Uakwa kabi wena.

Sly: I'd tell you to go suck a dick but ke you're single.

Nolwazi: Sly!

Sly gave Thuli the middle finger as they got back in the house. Nomi stood there and watched as her friends got in.

Nomi: Where is the party??

Thuli: Uyabheda manje wena.

Nolwazi went and grabbed Nomi's arm and they all went upstairs to the bedroom.

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Sly: Yaas! You see how great you look, mngani??

Nolwazi stared at herself in the mirror and chuckled. She was still quite high so all of this was a bit funny.

Thuli: Your eyes are so red and droopy though, friend.

Nolwazi: Ngilambile ke manje.

Nomi: Why would you get high without me?

Sly: Haike wena sdakwa ndini.

Nomi rolled her eyes as she lay on the bed.

Nomi: I like that dress Lwa, that ass is banging.

Nolwazi laughed and then stroked her stomach.

Nolwazi: Ngilambile bo!

Just then they heard footsteps and seconds later, Thandeka walked in.

Thandeka: Woo look at my baby!

They all greeted her excitedly.

Nolwazi: Mom I'm hungry.

Thandeka: Heeh manje ngingenaphi lapho mina?

Sly: She's high.

Thandeka: Manje uzohamba unje?

Nolwazi: Argh I'm fine.

Thandeka: Haike now you're experiencing munchies and you're making it my problem?

Sly laughed.

Sly: And bheka muhle kanjani that time.

Nolwazi sat down and looked at her mother.

Nolwazi: The shower woke me up man, I'm fine.

Sly: I'll prepare something for you phela you can't be eating like a beast at a formal dinner.

Nolwazi rolled her eyes as Sly walked out of the room and went to the kitchen.

Thandeka: Are you going alone?

Nolwazi nodded lightly.

Thandeka: Will you be fine?

Nolwazi: Why wouldn't I be? You people are being dramatic.

Nomi laughed.

Nomi: Weed makes you snappy ke wena.

Thandeka shook her head and stood up.

Thandeka: You'll let me know once you leave ke.

She walked out and Nolwazi rolled her eyes.

Thuli: Heeh haibo sisi.

Nolwazi: Thuli please drive me there.

Thuli chuckled. Nolwazi really couldn't handle booze and weed. Out of everyone, she took the longest to go back to a normal state. By now, both Thuli and Sly were fine but Nolwazi was still a bit out of it, not too much but she was still woozy.

Thuli: Ya I'll drive you there and I'll pick you up as well.

Nolwazi: See why I love you?

Thuli: Weeeh.

Nomi: Hai shame Lwazi I'm staying here tonight.

Nolwazi: You're not going out?

Nomi: I'm so tired.

Nolwazi: Sala noThandeka ke plus she could use the company.

Nomi nodded just as Sly walked in with a plate of sandwiches and a glass of cold water.

Sly: Bamba.

Nolwazi took the plate and ate slowly. Sly put down the glass of water and went to stand by the mirror.

Sly: I can't wait to start glowing... Give me a week and all shall be well.

They all laughed.

Sly: Lwazi wena angazi ngoba you are starting to look a tad bit deprived.

Nolwazi kept quiet and focused on her food, she could feel her emotions coming to play. She wanted to be with Kwanele. Sly saw this and immediately changed the subject. Nolwazi's breakdowns lasted for a couple of days so she didn't want to be the one to trigger such.

After much fooling around, Nolwazi brightened up and Sly retouched her makeup.

It was now around 6pm.

Thuli: Asibe yindlela.

Sly: Indeed.

They grabbed everything and before they made their way out, they said goodbye to Thandeka. Nomi stayed with her and the rest of the girls made their way out of the house and to the car.

Thuli: I'll drop you first Lwazi and then I'll drop this one- so we can prepare for her date.

They got in the car and drove off.

Nolwazi: This feels very weird. Why am I going to this thing alone?

Sly: Don't worry man, your colleagues will be there.

Nolwazi: With their partners!

Sly: Hai man Lwazi uzoba right.

Nolwazi sighed and sank in her seat.

Thuli: Sit properly man and stop being so negative.

Nolwazi sat up and huffed. Sly gave her a bottle of water and she took a sip.

Sly: Uh-huh, finish it.

Nolwazi ignored her and they listened to music as they drove on. At around 6:50pm they got to the venue.

Sly: It's still a bit early.

Nolwazi: That's good. I don't want to arrive late kanti ngi-dateless. I'll just find my table and sit down.

Thuli: Are you sure you don't want us to chill for a few minutes?

Nolwazi shook her head.

Sly: Call us if you need rescuing ke.

Nolwazi: Okay.

She said her goodbyes and then got out of the car. She walked past security and made her way inside and as usual, the place was beautiful, extravagant and glamorous. Typical gala things... The place was filling up but a lot of people were still not there. As she stood there, she assessed the tables.

She felt someone tap her and when she turned around, she saw Alex.

He flashed his charming smile.

Alex: Long time no see!

Nolwazi faked a smile and they shared a brief hug.

Nolwazi: How are you Alex?

Alex: Well now I'm good...

He assessed Nolwazi from head to toe and then stared at her.

Alex: You look stunning babe, as usual.

Nolwazi faked another smile.

Nolwazi: Thanks.

Alex: You're quite early, as you can see people still haven't arrived.

Nolwazi: That's perfect. Would you mind showing me my table?

Alex: Sure babe.

Nolwazi rolled her eyes as she followed Alex to a table that was allocated in the middle.

"Ah, couldn't they place us in some dark corner?" she thought, "Why am I even here?"

Alex: I'll be joining you once we start.

Nolwazi nodded disinterestedly and then walked around the table to check who was placed on her table. She knew Dean would be there and she was glad because she wasn't looking forward to dealing with all the old white men by herself. She checked to see if Dean's partner's name was there and indeed it was. Well the actual name wasn't there. Dean had been with this girl for 2 years now.

"I need to convince him to marry this girl," she thought.

Nolwazi couldn't understand why people "date". She had been married for so long that she believed that other people should get married as well.

"Argh but look where that got me," she thought, "I'm locked down in a lie of a marriage."

She walked to the bar and asked for a glass of champagne. She then walked back to the table and sat down. She took out her phone and went through her regular economic updates...

She heard someone clear their throat and she looked up. It was Dean's girlfriend.

Nolwazi: Ntsiki!

Nolwazi smiled kindly and Ntsiki smiled as well. Nolwazi stood up and they shared a hug.

Ntsiki: How are you?

Nolwazi: I'm great thank you and how are you?

Ntsiki: I'm great as well.

Nolwazi: Uhm, have a seat.

Ntsiki looked at the name cards and rolled her eyes. The card was written "Partner"

Her facial expression changed.

Nolwazi: Everything alright?

Ntsiki nodded lightly and then sat down. The seat between her and Nolwazi was for Dean.

"I would also be touched if I was nameless," thought Nolwazi, "Dean could have easily given them Ntsiki's name and they would have printed it instead of Partner."

Ntsiki: Where is Kwanele?

Nolwazi faked a smile.

Nolwazi: He couldn't join me today.

Ntsiki nodded lightly.

Nolwazi: Don't you want something to drink?

Ntsiki: I do actually.

Ntsiki stood up.

Ntsiki: I'll be back.

Nolwazi nodded as Ntsiki walked to the bar. Just then, her phone rang and it was Kwanele, she looked at the screen for a long time before answering.

Nolwazi: Hello.

Kwanele: Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: Yes?

He kept quiet for a second.

“Ask me to come back Kwanele and I will,” she thought, “Man up and fight for me.”

Kwanele: Did you arrive safely at the dinner?

Nolwazi sighed angrily.

Nolwazi: Why are you calling me?

Kwanele sighed.

Nolwazi: Focus on your wife and leave me alone.

Kwanele: B-

She dropped the call and switched off her phone. It angered her that he played this innocent person when all of this hurt was caused by him. She stood up and walked to the bar and ordered whiskey.

Ntsiki, who was still waiting for her glass of champagne, looked at Nolwazi in shock as she downed it.

Ntsiki laughed nervously.

Ntsiki: Is everyt-

Nolwazi: Give me another one.

The bartender obliged and gave her another one and she downed it as well. She then walked back to the table and sat there... People started arriving and a white old man whom she knew from the economics field sat on the other side of the round table. She zoned everything out and thought about nothing in particular.

She felt someone tap her shoulder and she snapped out of it.

Dean was now seated next to her.

Dean: Look what the wind blew in.

She smiled lightly.

Nolwazi: Where were you?

Dean: Sorting a few things out.

She rolled her eyes and Dean looked at her weirdly.

Ntsiki held Dean's hand underneath the table and Dean looked at her.

Ntsiki: **whispering** She downed a lot of whiskey. Straight nakhona.

Dean: Who?

Ntsiki glanced at Nolwazi and then Dean looked at Nolwazi.

Dean: Are you good?

Nolwazi didn't think he was talking to her. She was in her own world.

Dean and Ntsiki glanced at each other and then Ntsiki shrugged her shoulders.

After a while the place was filled up... Alex came and sat next to Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: Where's your partner Alex?

Alex smiled slyly at Nolwazi.

Alex: I'm riding solo, babe.

Nolwazi: Call me babe one more time and you will be jobless by tomorrow, okay?

Dean heard this and both he and Alex stared at her.

Nolwazi: Nxx ngizolenzani i-Coloured mina?

She took her phone and switched it on...

Dean and Alex glanced at each other in shock.

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As the starters were served, Alex finally fuelled up the courage to look at Nolwazi again. Nolwazi was focusing on her plate, eating slowly... Dean and Ntsiki on the other hand were also uneasy. The one person who always had her shit together was now showing them a whole other side. Nolwazi had been silent throughout the speeches and small talk that took place at the table.

Alex cleared his throat and glanced at a very quiet Nolwazi.

Alex: Uhm-

Nolwazi looked at him and his whole face froze.

Alex was cracking his skull... Of course he had a crush on Nolwazi, who wouldn't? The lady is everything! But he thought she was okay with him playing around with her. He knew she was married so it was all fun and games for him you know? Nothing hectic.

Nolwazi: You're going to have to stop staring at me Alex. Your stare is weighing heavy on me.

Dean was listening attentively even as he was making small talk with all the other people at the table. He had to make sure that Nolwazi doesn't do anything crazy and embarrass both herself and the company.

Alex: Sorry.

Nolwazi focused on her food again and then looked up, as if looking for someone.

Dean: Ufunani?

Nolwazi: Where's the person responsible for this table? Can't they see we're out of champagne?

Dean cringed.

Dean: Nolwazi.

Nolwazi looked at Dean innocently.

Nolwazi: Why do you look embarrassed? Am I embarrassing you?

Dean: Wha-

Nolwazi: Mxm.

She dismissed Dean and then signalled for a waiter to come. She then asked for more champagne and an old white man who was the most talkative at the table laughed boldly.

Old man: Ahh someone finally asked!

He laughed again.

Old man: I was afraid you people would think I'm an alcoholic! Nolwazi here's to you!

Everyone at the table laughed and they raised their glasses and toasted humorously.

Nolwazi then turned to look at Dean.

Nolwazi: This is me we're talking about...

She smiled and then went on to chat up a storm with these old white men who had taken a liking of her. They were not what she expected- they were beyond open and raw. They talked about their divorces, affairs and all that other raw stuff that gets discussed by a bunch of middle aged rich men.

Ntsiki watched in annoyance and then cussed lightly. She turned to face Dean.

Ntsiki: I'm sure if was it me who was drinking like a fish you would judge me and call me names.

Dean looked at Ntsiki in confusion as she took a sip of her champagne.

Ntsiki: Why didn't you tell your people my name?

Dean was beyond confused.

Ntsiki: Your printing people. Why ungabatshelanga igama lami? My name has been Partner for the past 2 years now, Mr Boss.

Dean didn't say one word. He looked at her and she immediately kept quiet. That look could mean one thing...

The waiter came with a bottle of champagne.

Nolwazi: Just one??!

Everyone at the table laughed.

The old man whose name was Greg, laughed boldly.

Greg: Cuummaan!

They all laughed.

Nolwazi: Go on and get us more bottles! We have 6 old timers in this table.

Greg: Listen to the lady, young man!

The waiter nodded and chuckled as he walked off.

Alex tapped Nolwazi lightly and Nolwazi looked at him, this time she was a bit gentler- thanks to the crazy men at the table.

Alex: I want to apologise.

Nolwazi: Imagine if I walked around calling Dean "babe". In which world is that appropriate Alex?

Alex frowned.

Nolwazi: I shouldn't have to tell you what's right and wrong when you are 20 what again?

Alex: 24.

Nolwazi laughed.

Nolwazi: You're 24?

Alex nodded. He was suddenly very shy.

Nolwazi: No wonder... You're still young and naive.

Alex: I'm sorry.

Nolwazi: No problem, just- no babe, okay?

Alex: No babe.

Nolwazi: Now wipe the smug look on your face and have some champagne. You deserve something nice for pulling off this dinner.

Alex smiled proudly.

Nolwazi: "Babe."

They chuckled and Nolwazi went on to converse with her newly found acquaintances. For a while there she managed to forget about her problems and was glad she came.

They were now finishing off their main course.

Ntsiki: Yooh nkos yam I'm so full...

She rubbed her belly and yawned.

Dean shot her a look and she quickly sat properly and tried not to sulk. Dean had taken her to so many etiquette classes throughout their time together in the hopes that she would improve because when they first met, she was quite unpolished, to say the least.

Ntsiki looked over at Nolwazi.

Ntsiki: Nolwazi.

Nolwazi, who was eating, turned to look at Ntsiki kindly.

Ntsiki: I am so full.

Nolwazi laughed and rubbed her belly.

Nolwazi: I'm ready to burst ngikutshela!

Ntsiki laughed flatly and then looked at Dean while Nolwazi went on to chat to Alex.

Ntsiki: Double standards...

Just then, a speaker went to the podium and asked for everyone's attention.

It was now around 10pm and the formal event was done. The DJ was now playing music and all

these old people went to the dance floor and danced their old lives away. Nolwazi was just sitting there drinking champagne. It was now just her, Dean and Ntsiki left at the table.

"I don't even want to think about what will happen the second I get up from this chair," she thought amusingly, "It's a good thing champagne doesn't get me sloppy drunk... I'm just feeling very nice... and horny."

Nolwazi: Mxm.

Dean: Hmm?

She shook her head lightly and continued to watch all these people dancing. They were all so stress-free. She loved the fact that she enjoyed herself tonight but she couldn't help but having a sinking feeling the second she thought about what awaited her at home. Her life was such a mess... Her job was the only bright aspect in her life.

Ntsiki yawned and tapped Dean.

Ntsiki: I think we should leave...

Dean glanced at her and nodded. He gave her his car keys.

Dean: Go wait in the car.

Ntsiki: Okay babe.

She was relieved that she wouldn't have stay and suffer through all the hugs and goodbyes. She stood up.

Ntsiki: Bye bye Nolwazi.

Nolwazi looked up and smiled lightly.

Nolwazi: Leaving already?

Ntsiki nodded.

Nolwazi: You must be bored out of your mind. It takes time and skill to deal with these events.

Ntsiki: Haike and shame igazi lami alivumi!

They both laughed and Dean shot Ntsiki a look and she stopped laughing.

Ntsiki: Usale kahle sisi.

Nolwazi: Bye.

Ntsiki grabbed her clutch and walked away happily.

Nolwazi looked at Dean.

Nolwazi: Don't be too hard on her.

Dean: She forgets sometimes...

Nolwazi: That she's dealing with an uptight person?

Dean: Mxm.

He then looked at her intently.

Dean: You shouldn't have come here.

Nolwazi: Ngoba?

Dean: If it weren't for your charm, things could have easily turned left.

Nolwazi: Dean, I left my father in Johannesburg.

Dean tightened his jaw.

Nolwazi: Enjoy the rest of your night. I'll see you tomorrow at work.

Dean shook his head in defeat.

Dean: I'm not even going to ask.

Nolwazi: It's good that you know your place.

Dean chuckled lightly and stood up.

Dean: Good night.

Nolwazi waved disinterestedly and carried on watching what was happening on the dance floor while Dean walked out.

INSERT 19

Thuli: Look at this drunken girl!

Nolwazi sank on the seat and sighed amusingly.

Nolwazi: Friend, do you have more of that nice nice?

Thuli: You want to get high on top of how you are now?

Nolwazi: Haibo njalo, uThandeka ngimshiye endlini mina.

Thuli: Heeh haike!

She started the car.

Thuli: Should I take you home?

Nolwazi: Where else would you take me?

Thuli: Kwami.

Nolwazi: Uh-huh, ngiyolala embhedeni wami.

Thuli glanced at Nolwazi as she sat there, drunk. It was only when Nolwazi stood up from that gala chair that she realised that she had too much to drink. It took a lot of mind manipulating for her to stand up and walk out of that place steadily. Thankfully, she pulled it off and was able to get to Thuli's car successfully.

Thuli: You're thinking about Nele?

Nolwazi looked at Thuli and kept quiet. She loved her friend dearly but after much talking with Sly, they came to the conclusion that Thuli shouldn't be "in the loop" as much. Thuli's loyalty was cut between her and Kwanele so of course she would report back to him whatever was discussed.

Thuli: Nolwazi?

Nolwazi: Thuli?

Thuli: Are you thinking about him?

Nolwazi: No, I'm thinking about what I'm going to wear tomorrow.

Thuli: Where are you going?

Nolwazi rolled her eyes.

Nolwazi: Ngibuyela emsebenzini.

Thuli: Oh, why didn't you tell me?

Nolwazi: Dali, uThandeka ngimshiye endlini stop playing mom.

Thuli kept quiet, feeling a bit offended. She knew that out of everyone in the group, she was the one who knew the least about Nolwazi's progress throughout this situation.

They drove in silence until they finally reached Nolwazi and Kwanele's house.

Nolwazi: Ngiyabonga dali.

Thuli sighed.

Thuli: Lwazi.

Nolwazi: Ya?

Thuli: I'm here for you.

Nolwazi: And when was your availability ever questioned?

Thuli cursed quietly. This champagne was really messing with this one's attitude.

Thuli: As long as you know.

Nolwazi: Of course I do. Thanks for the lift.

Thuli: Okay dali.

They both chuckled and Nolwazi got out of the car and Thuli waited for her to make her way in. When her phone buzzed she knew it was Nolwazi telling her she's inside so she drove off.

Nolwazi put down her things on the kitchen counter and walked to the fridge. She opened it and stood there for a good minute, contemplating taking a bottle of champagne and downing it but she talked herself out of it.

Nolwazi: That's how people become alcoholics...

Thandeka chuckled and Nolwazi jumped in shock.

Thandeka: Uthi that's how people become alcoholics?

Nolwazi took a bottle of water and closed the fridge.

Thandeka: How was it?

Nolwazi smiled and shrugged her shoulders.

Nolwazi: It was nice.

Thandeka: Ubushayile neh?

They both chuckled.

Thandeka: I trust that you didn't embarrass yourself?

Nolwazi: Hmm yazi I think I did well... I may have had a little tiff noDean kodwa I don't think it's anything hectic.

Thandeka: Wenzeni?

Nolwazi shrugged her shoulders.

Nolwazi: People just need to calm down sometimes.

Thandeka laughed out loud.

Thandeka: Oh baby, YOU need to calm down.

Nolwazi: I need to sleep.

Thandeka chuckled lightly.

Thandeka: Take a shower first.

Nolwazi: No, I'm too tired futhi I have to be up for work.

Thandeka: Haibo I thought uzobuyela next week Monday once this traditional nonsense is over?

Nolwazi: No I can't be in this house day in and out, I'll go crazy.

Thandeka: Nolwazi, take the rest of this week off.

Nolwazi shook her head.

Nolwazi: Cha ma.

Thandeka sighed and nodded.

Thandeka: Alright then.

Nolwazi: Uphi uNomi?

Thandeka: Guest room.

Nolwazi nodded.

Thandeka: Hambo lala ke sisi I'll wake you up for work.

Nolwazi: Thanks.

Thandeka: Zamo and Bhenju are arriving tomorrow.

Nolwazi: Hawu?

Thandeka nodded.

Thandeka: I'm glad they insisted on coming earlier ngoba bheka manje you are planning on going back to work.

Nolwazi: What time are they arriving?

Thandeka: Some time in the afternoon.

Nolwazi nodded and then walked past her mother.

Nolwazi: Night.

Thandeka: Ulale kahle baby. Don't forget to drink two Panados otherwise uzovuka uzwile.

Nolwazi: Sure.

Thandeka: Oh and Lwazi.

Nolwazi looked back at her mother and Thandeka tried not to laugh.

Thandeka: Your husband is upstairs.

Nolwazi: What??

Thandeka: He came here after you left, demanding me to tell him where your dinner was. We managed to get him to settle down noNomi.

Nolwazi: Settle down?

Thandeka: You know how hard-headed he can be.

Nolwazi's heart began to beat faster and she had no idea why.

Nolwazi: We've been in this kitchen for almost 10 minutes and you failed to tell me that Kwanele is here??

Thandeka: He's the least of our worries angithi sisi?

Nolwazi: Wow.

Thandeka: Good night baby. Remember wh-

Nolwazi took a deep breath and walked away. She heard her mother chuckle lightly and she rolled her eyes. What happened to all that anger she had?

She walked up the stairs and made her way to the bedroom...

She cursed quietly and walked to the bathroom. She took off her dress and got in the shower for 5 minutes just to clean off that gala energy. She dried herself and walked to the bedroom. She switched on the side lamp on her side of the bed and lotioned herself.

Kwanele: Are you drunk?

Nolwazi stood up and got her sleeping shirt and wrapped her head. She went to brush her teeth and then toned her face. After she was done, she switched off the bathroom lights and walked to the bed. She got in and then switched off the side lamp.

Kwanele lay there facing up for quite some time. If Thandeka wasn't so unnecessary he could have easily gone to that stupid dinner, now only God knows what Nolwazi actually got up to there. A few glasses of champagne and she easily switches... And that Coloured thing that calls her babe, he had confronted Nolwazi about it and she also complained about its inappropriateness... Not forgetting that arrogant partner of hers.

His insecurities were starting to kick in and it's all because he felt so out of touch with her. She could be doing other things out of spite and he couldn't bear to think about them. All these thoughts flooded his mind and he shook his head lightly.

Kwanele: Baby.

Nolwazi was laying there, trying to figure out what the hell was happening. The alcohol had washed off her system but she was still a tad bit woozy. She was wondering what this one was doing here...

Kwanele: Nolwazi ngikhuluma nawe.

Nolwazi kept quiet and tried dozing off.

Before she knew it, Kwanele had already grabbed her and made her lay on top of him.

Kwanele: Uqale nini ukuba yismumu?

She tried moving but he locked her in with his legs.

Kwanele: How was your dinner?

She kept quiet.

He sighed and continued to lock her in that position.

Kwanele: Stop.

“Nolwazi really thinks I’m that stupid? If she’s turning this into a game then I am more than willing to pull her leg as well... I need to remind her why she loves me besides all the other romantic and deep stuff. It’s been six months since I touched her... Also, Thandeka has to go. I can’t have these people clouding her judgement while I’m trying to fix all of this...”

Nolwazi eventually stopped fighting and just sank. She had no energy to speak or do anything. After a while she felt herself doze off and she allowed herself to sink into that familiar warm feeling she always had when she slept in her husband’s arms. Kwanele, who was up, felt this and his mind and body relaxed as well. Nolwazi had been so distant and stubborn and this was the first time in 6 months that they were this close to each other. He slowly released his tight hold on her and simply placed his arm around her waist. He smiled as he felt her breathe softly on his neck...

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When Nolwazi opened her eyes and realised that she was being held from behind by Kwanele she said a mental prayer. She lay there as her head pounded fiercely. She had forgotten to drink the Panados last night and now she had to wake up for work. She felt Kwanele’s arms cover her even more and she rolled her eyes. She was too lazy to wake up.

Just then, the door flung open.

Thandeka: Lwa Lwa!

Nolwazi rolled her eyes even more. Of course Thandeka would wake her up the same way she did when they were kids.

Thandeka: Akuvukweee! Nolwazi Camilla Buthelezi!

Nolwazi felt Kwanele tense up.

Thandeka: Wake up!

Thandeka walked over to Nolwazi's side.

Thandeka: Lwazi!

Nolwazi: Mmmm.

Thandeka: Wake up baby.

Nolwazi grunted and Thandeka chuckled as she walked out of the room. Nolwazi lay there, regretting her decision to go back to work.

Kwanele: Going back to work?

Nolwazi grunted and slipped out of his arms. She sat on the edge of the bed and stretched while yawning. She checked the time and it was just before 6am and she had to be at the office by 8am.

"I could easily sleep for another 20 minutes and then I'll shower for 15 minutes instead of 20..."

She continued to calculate different strategies that would enable her to sleep some more but she suddenly felt Kwanele pull her up.

Kwanele: Go shower and stop trying to figure out how you're going to sleep some more.

Nolwazi looked at him and groaned.

Kwanele: Hambo geza.

She walked to the bathroom and went straight to the shower.

Kwanele, on the other hand, was still on leave so he had all the time in the world. He made his way to the walk-in closet and looked through Nolwazi's formal dresses. He picked a new one he had gotten for her a while back and then picked the perfect heels to go with the dress... Over the years he had managed to grow very good taste in clothes, thanks to Thandeka... Thandeka would constantly nag him about priding himself as a lawyer and blah blah blah... That woman could talk for years on end.

After he was done, he walked to the bathroom and found Nolwazi coming out of the shower. He handed her the towel and she grabbed it annoyingly and huffed.

"And uzoqina ke sisi ngoba angiyindawo," Kwanele thought, "Your hangover does not faze me..."

Nolwazi dried herself and then walked past Kwanele, to the bedroom. She put the towel aside and began lotioning herself. Seconds later, there was a knock on the door and then Thandeka walked in.

Thandeka: Uvukile baby?

Nolwazi nodded.

Thandeka: Nomi is busy nge-breakfast ke dali.

Nolwazi continued to lotion herself and Thandeka chuckled.

Thandeka: Uzoyeka ukuphuza le champagne yakho dali.

Just then, Kwanele walked out from the bathroom and Thandeka glanced at him.

Kwanele: Nilale kahle ma?

Thandeka: Yes baba wekhaya, nina?

Kwanele: Could be better.

Thandeka: Hawu you're telling me you slept next to Nolwazi and that still isn't enough for you?
Heeh usisabe isithembu!

Kwanele kept quiet and Nolwazi couldn't help but chuckle quietly.

Thandeka: See you when you're done ke.

Nolwazi nodded lightly and Thandeka walked out and closed the door.

Kwanele: Unjani?

Nolwazi: I'm good.

Kwanele sighed and Nolwazi turned her back and continued lotioning herself.

Kwanele: I picked clothes for you.

Nolwazi looked over at the dress he chose and then finished up lotioning herself. She walked over to her underwear drawer and then chose a bra. She slid it in and then walked over to the closet.

Kwanele looked down at himself and cursed at his upcoming erection. He frowned as he watched Nolwazi waltz past him, panty-less. Nolwazi had dismissed what was chosen for her and picked something else instead. She wore a fitted custom dress that required her to wear nothing underneath.

"How inappropriate," Kwanele thought, "She's trying to test me..."

He grunted and angrily walked to the bathroom and shut the door.

Nolwazi: Mxm.

She fixed her hair and applied a bit of make-up. Once she was done she walked to the bathroom.

Nolwazi: Kwanele.

Kwanele, who was standing in her way for no apparent reason, moved sheepishly and she

pushed past him and went to the sink to wash and lotion her hands. She walked past him again and closed the door as she walked out. She took her laptop and slid it in the laptop bag and then got her work bag as well. She went to get a pair of heels and then made her way out of the bedroom. She walked downstairs and then went to the lounge to put her bags and heels on a couch. She then walked to the kitchen and stood by the counter.

Nolwazi: Hey Nomz.

Nomi, who was dishing up, looked up and smiled.

Nomi: Hey stranger.

They both chuckled.

Nomi: Here's your shake.

Nolwazi sat on one of the high stools and took Nomi's infamous "hang over cure" which was a concussion of many a thing.

Nomi: How was the din-din?

Nolwazi sighed as she took a huge gulp of the shake and swallowed painfully.

Nolwazi: It was nice hey. Nothing hectic.

Nomi: UThandi uthi ubushaye strong.

Nolwazi finished up the shake.

Nolwazi: No man, it wasn't that bad.

Nomi: Are you sure you're ready for work?

Nolwazi: Come on now.

Nomi: **whispering** Kwanele yena?

Nolwazi: Mxm uyanginyanyisa nje loyo.

Nomi: Unamanga.

Nolwazi: Mxm.

Nomi finished up dishing up for her and then gave her the plate.

Nomi: So should I set the table for breakfast?

Nolwazi: Angizingeni, go ask Thandeka.

Nomi: But that means I have to sit next to him and it's a bit awkward shame I won't lie.

Nolwazi chuckled and shook her head.

Nolwazi: My innocent husband has made so many enemies lately.

Nomi: At one go!

They both laughed and Nomi suddenly looked down and stopped laughing. Nolwazi turned and saw Kwanele making his way to the kitchen. She focused on her food again.

Nolwazi: Haven't been in my office for almost two months...

Nomi: I'm sure you feel weird as we speak.

Nolwazi: It's better than being in a hospital bed though.

Kwanele was now walking to the fridge.

Nomi: Hai shame we didn't think you'd survive.

Nolwazi: Cabanga nje Nomi sekuthiwa I died from heart break.

Nomi shot Nolwazi a look.

Nolwazi: What would my colleagues and competitors think of me? They'd think I'm a weakling!

There was an awkward silence.

Nolwazi: I had no choice but to shape up quick fast.

Kwanele shut the fridge roughly and walked out of the kitchen.

Nomi: Oh hai kodwa Lwazi.

Nolwazi: Mxm. Yazi I'm in such a bad mood, I really don't have time for this game.

Nomi: Either way, it's getting to him. Bheka manje he's camping this side.

Nolwazi cursed quietly and Thandeka walked in.

Thandeka: Heeh kanti ninjani? Why aren't you eating at the table?

Nolwazi: No time.

She finished up eating and then took the plate and glass to the sink.

Nolwazi: Ngiyabonga Nomz.

Nomi: Anytime love.

Nolwazi walked back to the lounge to get her things.

Kwanele: Enjoy your day Lwazi.

She took a deep breath and turned to look at him. It was like a light switch had gone on... She smiled very warmly and looked at him.

Nolwazi: Thank you, enjoy your day as well.

She gave him one last look and then walked out.

Nolwazi: Nisale kahle.

Thandeka: Bye baby.

She walked out of the house and got to the garage.

Kwanele was still standing there confused as hell. He was now back to square one, trying to understand what was going on...

Thandeka: Baba wekhaya, would you like some breakfast?

Kwanele glanced at Thandeka who was now standing next to him.

Thandeka: Baba wekhaya? Did you hear me?

Kwanele: I'll be there shortly.

Thandeka flashed a smile and nodded.

Thandeka: Sure baba wekhaya.

She walked back to the kitchen and Kwanele sheepishly made his way upstairs to clean himself up.

INSERT 21

Nolwazi walked into the premises and she tried not to faint from excitement. That familiar sense of enthusiasm rushed through her body as she made her way to the office, with people greeting her along the way. As she approached the lift, she bumped into Alex. She smiled kindly and nodded.

Alex: Mrs Buthelezi.

Nolwazi chuckled and bowed her head lightly.

Nolwazi: Mr Van Wyk.

They both laughed as they got in the lift and made their way to the 20th floor.

Alex: Arrived safely at home?

Nolwazi: Why, of course!

Alex: You sure had a good time. Greg Williams is probably going to send an email, sending his regards.

Nolwazi: Regards to silly old me?

She asked innocently and Alex tried not to smile like a little boy. His crush on Nolwazi had

evidently gotten him in trouble last night so he knew he had to walk on egg shells.

After much small talk and chuckles, they finally reached their floor and they made their out of the lift.

Alex: See you around. It's good to have you back.

Nolwazi: Thank you.

Alex walked off. Just then, Phiwe stood up from her desk and practically jumped to where Nolwazi was.

Nolwazi: I was wondering where you are! I was starting to feel unloved for a second.

Phiwe: Boss lady!

Nolwazi looked at her personal assistant amusingly and they shared a brief hug. Phiwe was a 23 year old girl who started working for the company over a year ago. She loved being Nolwazi's PA because it came with a lot of benefits... She wouldn't trade working closely with Nolwazi with anything. Nolwazi was the type of woman she aimed to be through time and her influence really was remarkable.

Nolwazi: I have missed your pretty face, missy.

Phiwe blushed and smiled brightly.

Phiwe: I've beeeen waiting for you like, OMG!

Nolwazi began walking to her office which was situated opposite Phiwe's desk. They got in and Phiwe took her bags and placed them on the studio couch.

Phiwe: There's a board meeting in an hour.

Nolwazi: Uhm okay...

She frowned in confusion. She obviously didn't get the memo.

Phiwe: Apparently Jacob wants to readjust the plan you guys had for the oil company.

Nolwazi: Readjust? What could possibly be wrong with it?

Phiwe: The email states that the business cycle has somehow changed so the plan needs to be adjusted accordingly.

Nolwazi: And I wasn't cc'ed in that email?

Phiwe: I also found out from Liz, she showed me the email. I guess they didn't see the reason to include me seeing as my boss lady was gone with the wind.

Nolwazi smiled lightly.

Nolwazi: Well I'm back now...

Phiwe: We have a lot of catching up to do and we need to reformulate your schedule.

Nolwazi: We're most definitely behind.

Phiwe nodded.

Phiwe: I'll get your tea first...

Nolwazi: Alright, thanks.

Phiwe smiled brightly as she walked away excitedly. At least now she would do some constructive work.

Nolwazi walked around her office and frowned.

"Time for an upgrade... This cute thing has to fly now," she thought.

She walked out of the office and greeted people along the way. All the interns and regular employees had their own section with their cubicles... She walked past them and made her way to the other side. She knocked on the closed door.

She was told to come in and so she opened the door.

Dean: Well lookie here!

Dean looked at Nolwazi from his desk.

Nolwazi: First of all, why am I still in that office when you are sitting here in this mansion?

Dean laughed.

Dean: You want another office?

Nolwazi walked in and closed the door.

Nolwazi: Damn right I do.

Dean: Let's see...

He swung his chair so he could face her direction.

Dean: When people refer to you, do they say Mrs Buthelezi or regular Nolwazi?

Nolwazi cursed and went to sit on the couch that was a distance from his desk.

Dean: Until, like some of us, you have a "Dr." before your name, you will remain regular. Mansion comes with status.

Nolwazi: The day I get that PhD, Dean uzokhala.

Dean: Ya well you don't have it at the moment so allow me to flourish please.

Nolwazi: Anyway, what's this I hear about a board meeting?

Dean checked his time piece.

Dean: Ya Jacob and his crew want to meet.

Nolwazi: And why wasn't I i-

Dean: Uh-huh calm down.

Nolwazi: Mxm.

She was feeling a bit annoyed. She had fought very hard to establish a name for herself and for her- every setback was taken to heart. The last thing she needed was people thinking it is okay for them to dismiss her because of her gender. It's a man's world after all so she always had to fight to make sure that she is not belittled. It's a tough world for women in the corporate world and her race didn't make things easier as well...

Dean: This has nothing to do with your feminist ideologies. Thina we were under the impression that you're coming back next week.

Nolwazi looked at him suspiciously and he chuckled.

Nolwazi: I'll let it pass...

Dean: Sibonge.

She sighed.

Nolwazi: I have so much catching up to do.

Dean: Wow...

She stood up.

Nolwazi: Good luck with your board meeting.

Dean: Hai ke, you're mad at the wrong person. Go ask Alex why he didn't inform these people about your sudden change. Angingeni ndawo lapho mina.

Nolwazi: Shame.

Dean: Weeh hamba ke.

Nolwazi: Don't get too comfortable lapho.

Dean: I'll be waiting.

They chuckled and she walked out and closed the door. She made her way back to her office and sat down. Just then, her phone rang and it was Thandeka. She smiled as she answered.

Nolwazi: Mama.

Thandeka: Hello baby, ufike kahle?

Nolwazi: Yes ma.

Thandeka: Alright sthandwa sami, enjoy your day.

Nolwazi: I love you so much.

Thandeka: Ohh mntanam you know I'm loyal till the end.

Nolwazi: And I'm beyond grateful.

Thandeka: I know you're feeling overwhelmed futhi ku-worse since you're back at work so I'm here to share your heavy load.

Nolwazi: Thank you.

Thandeka: Bye bye ke baby.

Nolwazi: Bye ma.

She dropped the call just as Phiwe walked in with her tea.

Nolwazi: Just on time!

Phiwe: That's me!

She put the tea on the desk.

Nolwazi: Alright, grab a chair because it's going to be a long day!

It was now around 3pm and Nolwazi and Phiwe were still at it: reshuffling meetings and making phone calls. When Nolwazi was in such a zone, Phiwe literally had to ask her to take a break because she could go on and on.

Phiwe cleared her throat and Nolwazi glanced at her.

Phiwe: Boss lady... I kinda need to pee.

Nolwazi: Oh wow, has it really been that long?

She checked the time.

Nolwazi: Sorry love, go on and take an hour break. We'll finish off and carry on tomorrow.

Phiwe: Thanks.

Nolwazi nodded and Phiwe walked off. She carried on focusing on what she was doing.

Phiwe: Uhm Boss lady...

Nolwazi didn't look up from her desktop.

Phiwe: Boss lady.

Nolwazi: Aren't you supposed to be taking your break?

Phiwe: You have a guest.

Nolwazi: Hai ke angizingeni lezo. Mtshela ahambe.

Phiwe: Awks...

Nolwazi finally looked up and was shocked to see Kwanele standing there.

Kwanele: Ungahamba Phiwe.

Phiwe looked at Nolwazi before walking off. Kwanele then closed the door and walked over to the couch, he had a paper bag with him.

Kwanele: You haven't eaten.

Nolwazi focused on her desktop again.

Kwanele walked over to her.

Kwanele: Nolwazi.

Kwanele pulled her chair and dragged it to where the couch and table was.

He then pulled and carried her, placing her on the couch. He took out the food from the paper bag and sorted everything for her.

Kwanele: Bamba.

Nolwazi took the takeaway and began eating.

Nolwazi: Thanks.

Kwanele nodded as he sat down and watched her eat. Out of habit, Nolwazi took off her heels but just as she was about to reposition, she remembered and then stopped herself.

Kwanele: Uxakwe yini?

Nolwazi: Hmm?

He reached for her legs and pulled them so she could place them on his lap.

Nolwazi continued to eat and just as Kwanele was beginning to massage her feet, there was a knock on her door.

Nolwazi: Come in.

The door opened and it was Dean. He raised an eyebrow when he saw the cute massage session. He chuckled.

Dean: Sanibonani.

Kwanele gave him a nod.

Dean then looked at Nolwazi.

Dean: Why ungashongo ukuthi your lunch would be provided?

Nolwazi: Ha-

Kwanele: Dean.

Dean smiled and looked at Kwanele.

Dean: Long time no see Buthelezi, u-right kodwa?

Kwanele: Uyazibonela nawe.

Dean chuckled and nodded. Then he looked at Nolwazi.

Dean: Anginamali yokudlala wena.

Nolwazi: I'll give you your 200 bucks.

Dean: Ngiyayifuna vele.

Kwanele: Enjoy the rest of your day.

Dean glanced at Kwanele and nodded lightly. He then walked out with his paper bag and closed the door. He pumped into Phiwe who was smiling brightly.

Phiwe: Heeey Mr-

Dean shot her his notorious look and Phiwe shivered away.

INSERT 22

Tholi was now pacing up and down...

She had no tears left, none whatsoever.

She went to grab her phone and dialled her aunt's number.

It rang but she eventually angered.

Pretty: Yini wena?

Tholi: Aunt-

Pretty: Yini maan wena?

Tholi started crying.

Pretty: Ukhalelani? Do you think I'm your friend?

Tholi: It's j-ju-just t'tha-that-

Pretty: Heeyi man! I don't have time for this.

Tholi tried speaking but she couldn't, her hiccups were blocking her.

Pretty: Focus on your marriage! Angazi uxakwe yini maan!

With that said, Pretty dropped the call and Tholi buried her face in a pillow and screamed. As she dozed off into a dark and heavy sleep, her thoughts flooded her.

Tholi: Mama...

Tholi looked down at her mother as she lay on the floor. She reached down with a cloth and wiped the open wounds that covered her mouth... She dabbed the cloth on each wound carefully, trying by all means not to make her feel any more pain. Her mother's fragile body winced as Tholi continued to clean her face. Tholi then walked to the other side of the room and removed the pot from the two plate stove. She then took the plastic plate that was there and dished up the last bits of food that they had. She switched off the stove and walked back to her mother.

Tholi: Ma uzokwazi ukudla?

She sighed. Her mother was in no state to talk. She put the plate down and then tried to make her sit up but after much struggle she gave up.

Tholi: Can you at least try to open your mouth so I can feed you ma?

Tholi sighed in defeat as her mother continued to lie there...

Tholi: You are dying aren't you?

Tholi looked down at her mother as her eyes filled up with tears.

Tholi: Where am I supposed to go now?

She slumped next to her mother and glanced at her.

Tholi: I love you...

Her mother lay there and Tholi heard her take her last breath. She then got closer to her lifeless body and wrapped her arm around her and sobbed silently.

Just then she heard a phone ringing and she quickly got up.

Tholi: What's happening?

She looked around.

Tholi: Where am I?

She looked around and the phone continued to ring and she soon realised that she was in her new house. She shook her head and quickly got up from the couch to run to her phone. She looked at the caller id and answered.

Tholi: Hello?

Person: Tholi??

She cleared her throat.

Tholi: Hello, who is this?

Person: Tholi?! Hi my friend, it's me, Zani!

Tholi kept quiet for a few seconds and before she knew it she was smiling.

Tholi: Zani!

Zani: My friend! Kanti where are you?? Bekunini kodwa!

Tholi: It's been so long! Unjani??

Zani: Angithi wangilahla!

Tholi: What?? No! There were just so many complications that I couldn't even explain.

Zani: Where are you??

Tholi kept quiet as her reality began sinking in.

Zani: Listen, are you around Durban?

Tholi nodded.

Zani: Tholi??

Tholi: Yes. Yes I'm in Durban.

Zani: Then text me your details. I have to see you my friend!

Tholi: Uhm-

Zani: What?? Is Pretty around??

Tholi: No no, she's not here.

Zani: Manje?

Tholi shook her head and took a deep breath.

Tholi: Okay I'll text you the details.

Zani: Okay sisi, do that ke and save my number.

Tholi: Okay.

Zani: Bye bye.

Tholi: Bye.

She dropped the call and went back to the lounge to clean up.

It was now around 5pm and Nolwazi was getting ready to leave when Phiwe walked in her office.

Phiwe: Ready to leave?

Nolwazi nodded.

Phiwe: It's so good to have you back Boss lady.

Nolwazi smiled.

Nolwazi: Ngiyabonga Phiwe.

Phiwe: Should I walk you out?

Nolwazi chuckled.

Nolwazi: You never cease to amaze me.

Phiwe: Hai don't blame me for missing you!

Nolwazi finished up packing her things and then they made their way out. Just as they were

approaching the lounge area where their division had refreshments, everyone shouted "Surprise".

Nolwazi chuckled as she looked at all the balloons and crazy decorations. There was a huge "Welcome back" banner.

Nolwazi: Well lookie here!

Her colleagues went on to hug her and Phiwe took her bags.

Nolwazi: Aww!

Alex walked up to her and gave her a hug.

Nolwazi: I'm sure you planned this Alex.

Alex: Yes, bab-

He stopped himself and Nolwazi chuckled.

Nolwazi: Hmm...

Alex: Well at least I stopped myself!

They shared a laugh and then Nolwazi spent more time chatting and catching up with some of her colleagues. After a while she spotted Dean, who was standing by the drinks section. They looked at each other and he put his champagne glass up in acknowledgement and she nodded. She then walked to him and he gave her the glass.

Nolwazi: I think I'll pass.

Dean: Had too much last night?

Nolwazi narrowed her eyes.

Nolwazi: Low blow.

Dean: How was your first day?

Nolwazi: Exhilarating to say the least.

Dean: Well it's good to have you back. Every boss needs a peasant.

Nolwazi: You know, I'm not going to dignify that with a response Dr. Hlongwane.

Dean: Hehe you know, this is the third time since I got my PhD that I'm hearing you call me Dr.

Nolwazi: I am bitter.

Dean: Uxakwe yini ungayenzi eyakho iPhD?

Nolwazi: Unlike you, I have a life outside of work and academia.

Dean laughed.

Dean: Interesting life you live.

Nolwazi: Mxm sala ke with your low blows.

Dean: I didn't even say anything.

Just then Phiwe walked over to them.

Phiwe: Boss lady, are you good?

Nolwazi: Yes I am, thanks love.

Phiwe glanced at Dean and smiled coyly.

Dean: Anything else?

Phiwe: I beg your pardon Mr. Hlonga-

Dean: Dr. Hlongwane.

Nolwazi laughed sarcastically and Phiwe giggled.

Phiwe: Oh, sorry.

Nolwazi: Liz is waving you at that side.

Phiwe: Is it?

She turned and indeed, Liz, who was Dean's personal assistant, was waving at Phiwe.

Phiwe: So you're good Boss lady?

Nolwazi nodded and Phiwe glanced at Dean again before strutting her stuff.

Nolwazi: She's head over heels.

Dean: Quite annoying if you ask me.

Nolwazi chuckled.

Nolwazi: You need to stop being so rigid. You'll end up making too many enemies without even knowing.

Dean: This is work. Friendships are the least of my worries here.

Nolwazi: Well okay then!

Dean chuckled.

Dean: Well you know what I mean.

Nolwazi: Hai suka, I'm offended.

Dean checked his time piece.

Dean: I have to go.

Nolwazi nodded.

Nolwazi: See you tomorrow.

Dean: By-

Nolwazi: Oh, wait here for a sec.

She went to get her bag and then walked back to Dean. She went through her bag and seconds later she was holding up 200 bucks towards him.

Dean chuckled.

Dean: Nolwazi Buthelezi.

Nolwazi smiled innocently.

Nolwazi: I mean you looked offended when you saw me having my lunch.

Dean: You think that offended me?

Nolwazi shrugged her shoulders and Dean took it and folded it.

Dean: You never cease to amaze me.

Nolwazi: See you tomorrow Dr. Hlongwane.

Dean nodded lightly and walked away.

Just then her phone rang and she took it out and answered.

Nolwazi: Ivy.

Ivy: Uh-huh where are you?

Nolwazi: I'm still at the office.

Ivy: Bring your ass here before I kill this half dick of a polygamist you call a husband.

Nolwazi: Ivy!

Ivy: Buya man.

Nolwazi: Okay I'll be there within an hour or so.

Ivy: Hopefully he'll still be alive.

Nolwazi dropped the call and said her thanks yous and goodbyes.

INSERT 23 (Couldn't edit)

Nolwazi made her way inside the house.

Mdu: You're going to have to shut that mouth of yours.

Ivy: Hai suka.

Mdu: This is not your house Nomzamo, watch your mouth.

Nolwazi: Uhm???

Nolwazi stood there and looked at Ivy and Bhenju.

Mdu: Ivy you are disrespectful as fuck, cut that shit out.

Thandeka: Hai ke angeke ngize ngivume ukhulume nengane yami ngathi wehla entabeni.

Mdu: She's the one who's doing that. Kwanele is fucked up for what he did kodwa angazi ningenaphi nina, including wena mama.

Thandeka: Heeeh!

Mdu: You can't disrespect a man in HIS house. That's uncalled for.

Ivy: Disrespect yokunya!

Nolwazi: Excuse me!!

They all turned to look at Nolwazi, none of them had seen her walk in.

Nolwazi: Do you mind telling me what is going on??

Mdu: Kwanele has left the house because of Ivy.

Ivy: Boo hooo hooo! The Mighty Polygamist is sad! Oh what a troublesome occasion!

Nolwazi glanced at Ivy.

Mdu: She disrespected him and I applaud him for not smacking some sense into her.

Nolwazi: Kwanele left?

Mdu nodded.

Nolwazi: Mxm.

Mdu: Uthi mxm Nolwazi?

Nolwazi: Heyi awungiyeke wena ngoKwanele. If you admire him so much then uxakwe yini ungamlandeli niyohlala nonke with his whore of a wife?

They all looked at her in shock.

Nolwazi: He doesn't deserve anyone's sympathy and wena Mduduzi if you're going to continue being his bitch then you might as well get the hell out of my house.

Mduduzi: What th-

Nolwazi: I will not be going back and forth with you about this. YOU must know your place both as my younger sibling and a bystander in this situation. How dare you come into my house and be tolerant of Kwanele's bullshit? Ungangihlanyisi wena.

Bhenju looked at her in shock and Thandeka smiled lightly.

Nolwazi: I'm done feeling sorry for that son of a bitch and as soon as we're done with their traditional bullshit, I am divorcing him.

Now everyone was back to their shocked state.

Nolwazi: Now, if you're not going to have my back Mduduzi, I suggest you get out of my house.

With that said, she walked up the stairs and went straight to her bedroom and shut the door.

Thandeka turned and looked at Bhenju, who was now seated on the couch. Not even Thandeka has ever put him in his place like this.

Thandeka: Uzoyeka ukuphapha. How dare you overlook your sister's pain?

Ivy looked at Bhenju disgustingly.

Ivy: I feel sorry for the girl you will marry. You're such a chauvinistic pig!

Mdu got up and was about to strike Ivy when Thandeka slapped him. Mdu looked at his mother in complete shock.

Thandeka: You seem to forget who contracted the sperm that formed you.

Mdu looked down at his mother.

Thandeka: I will slap the piss out of you!

Mdu tightened his jaw.

Thandeka: Now do us all a favour and follow Kwanele. Get out of here before I do more than slap you.

Mdu: Mx-

Thandeka: Sorry?

Mdu kept quiet.

Thandeka: Get out!

Mdu: Ma-

Thandeka: Out!

Mdu pushed past them and made his way out, fuming.

Thandeka turned to face Ivy who was amusingly shocked.

Ivy: You go girl!

Thandeka relaxed.

Ivy: Who would have thought?? Everyone seems to tiptoe when it comes to Bhenju.

Thandeka: Mxm.

Ivy: Let me go check on Lwazi.

Thandeka nodded and Ivy walked upstairs... She opened the door-

Ivy: Oh shit!!

Nolwazi was laying there, twitching a bit.

Ivy quickly closed the door again and ran downstairs.

Thandeka: Yini?

Ivy: She's fapping.

Thandeka: Huh?

Ivy: You know... Pleasuring herself.

Thandeka chuckled.

Thandeka: Good for her.

Ivy: I didn't know she di-

Thandeka: Haibo wena Nolwazi is not a superwoman. What would make you think she doesn't need orgasms?

Ivy: Mom stop!

Thandeka chuckled.

Thandeka: For an expressive and rebellious girl, you sure shy away from sex talk.

Ivy blushed.

Thandeka: It's good that she's-

Nolwazi walked downstairs and both Ivy and Thandeka stared at her.

Thandeka: Baby u-right?

Nolwazi: Couldn't be better.

She walked past them and went to the kitchen. Thandeka then looked at Ivy.

Thandeka: Uyabona ke?

Ivy: Argh whatever!

Thandeka left her and walked to the kitchen.

Thandeka: First day went well?

Nolwazi looked at her mother and nodded.

Thandeka: I kicked Bhenju out.

Nolwazi: Wenze kahle. I don't want to end up hating him.

Thandeka: Hopefully he'll come around. Nothing Kwanele does now will ever justify his choices.

Nolwazi: I'm starting to realise this. Things will never be the same with us and I really don't have it in me to stay in this marriage anymore.

Thandeka kept quiet. She wasn't expecting this at all.

Nolwazi: I want a divorce.

Thandeka looked at her intently.

Nolwazi: I'm calling Henry as soon as all this Dundee BS is over and we will take it from there.

Thandeka: Oh Lwazi.

She sighed heavily.

Nolwazi: I am not going to sit here like some weakling.

Thandeka: Have you thought this through?

Nolwazi: Yes.

Thandeka: As your mother, I am behind every decision you make.

Nolwazi: Thanks.

Thandeka sighed again and they stood in silence for a long time.

Nolwazi: I have work to do.

Thandeka nodded lightly and Nolwazi walked out of the kitchen.

Ivy: Lwazi, you're not mad at me right?

Nolwazi: How could I possibly be mad at you?

Ivy grinned.

Nolwazi: Now I have to deal with the great Dumakude.

Ivy: He really isn't as powerful as you make him out to be. So what if you get a divorce? That skrop-laap doesn't deserve you. If dad doesn't see this then he can go have an orgy with Kwanele and Mdu and they can make their own babies.

Nolwazi: Ahh.

She cringed in disgust and Ivy rolled her eyes.

Ivy: Kwanele is a punk and I cannot wait to go to that traditional nonsense they're having. That bulldozer of a mother-in-law needs to be sorted nje naye.

Nolwazi: So uthi uze ngomfutho?

Ivy: I also need to see the skunk that would purposely choose to wreck a marriage and then voluntarily choose to be second best on top of that. I NEED to see what an idiot ACTUALLY looks like!

Nolwazi chuckled.

Nolwazi: When is dad coming over?

Ivy: Uzofika Friday.

Nolwazi grunted.

Ivy: It's time for you to stand up against all this bullshit. Fuck these people bruh.

Nolwazi: We'll see...

Ivy: Whatever happens, just know that I have a gun. We will bust all of them up if they try us.

Nolwazi: Oh boy...

Ivy: Don't say I didn't warn you...

Nolwazi: Listen, I need to work.

Ivy: Go on big sis. Me I'm going out...

Nolwazi: Have fun.

Ivy: Shap.

Nolwazi walked upstairs and made her way to the bedroom.

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The following day, Nolwazi went to work as usual and when it was time for her to have lunch, Kwanele didn't show up, thankfully. She stayed cooped up in her office from 8am-4pm straight. By the time she was supposed to leave, her brain was fried.

Just as she was packing up her things, there was a knock on the door. She didn't even have the energy to tell the person to come in...

Dean: Haven't seen you today.

She looked at him and frowned.

Nolwazi: I'm getting a divorce.

Dean: Only now?

Nolwazi: What's that supposed to mean?

Dean walked in and closed the door.

Dean: It's been over a year now...

Nolwazi: And?

Dean: That divorce should have been filed the day he came to you with his BS.

Nolwazi huffed.

Nolwazi: Easy for you to say.

Dean: So why now?

Nolwazi: I can't live like this.

Dean: So the guy is really going back and forth from you to the other wife?

Nolwazi nodded.

Dean: I think that's every man's dream.

Nolwazi: Mxm.

Dean: I'm guessing you haven't spoken to him?

Nolwazi: Not yet.

Dean: Knowing him, he's probably not going to let go easily.

Nolwazi: Dean I don't care at this point.

Dean nodded lightly.

Nolwazi: Every time I tell myself that I'm going to let it go and try to make it work, I realise just how unrealistic that is.

Dean: How do you share your husband and carry on as if it's all good...

Nolwazi nodded.

Dean: I don't get it either.

Nolwazi: But he keeps telling me about this ultimatum.

Dean: Ultimatum?

Nolwazi: Angazi nami.

Dean: Did anyone threaten to kill him when he made this decision?

Nolwazi: I doubt.

Dean: Hai ke. I can't imagine what would force me to do such a drastic thing.

Nolwazi: I've been cracking my skull for months on end.

Dean scratched his head and they stood in silence for a while.

Nolwazi: There's just no way around it.

Dean: So let's say he realises that he messed up and he separates with the other wife?

Nolwazi: It will never be the same though. The fact that he did it nje has changed everything.

Dean nodded lightly.

Dean: Have you spoken to the other wife-

Nolwazi: No! I would kill her!

Dean chuckled.

Dean: No, we don't want that.

Nolwazi went to her couch and threw herself on it. Dean turned and looked down at her.

Dean: I hope you don't mind me asking if you guys have a pre-nup.

Nolwazi: Of course.... To think ukuthi I didn't want to sign it.

Dean: Love is blinding.

Nolwazi: Yeah so at least there won't be a problem with assets.

Dean nodded.

Dean: Here I was thinking you had the perfect marriage. When you told me about this whole thing I gave up.

Nolwazi laughed.

Nolwazi: Nami I thought I was living a perfect life.

Dean shook his head and clapped his hands twice.

Dean: Enough of this... Let's be out.

Nolwazi: I don't want to go home just yet.

Dean: Woza ke.

Nolwazi: Take me somewhere.

Dean: Let's go.

Nolwazi stood up and went to grab her bags. They walked out of her office and Phiwe looked up from her computer.

Phiwe: Boss lady uyahamba?

Nolwazi: Yes Miss Phiwe.

Phiwe looked at Dean and smiled.

Phiwe: Bye Dr. Hlongwane.

Dean grunted annoyingly as he walked away. Nolwazi followed him and they walked to his office.

Dean: You need to tame that assistant of yours.

Nolwazi: Hai ke uyamyeka uPhiwe wami.

They got to his office and Dean began packing his things.

Nolwazi: The day I get this office... Lord have mercy.

Dean: I will not dignify that with a response.

Nolwazi laughed.

Nolwazi: Touché!

He finished up and they made their way out.

Nolwazi: Where are we going?

Dean: Follow me.

Nolwazi: Sure.

They both got in their cars and drove off, with Nolwazi following Dean.

Just then her phone rang and she answered it guiltily while driving.

Nolwazi: Hello?

Thandeka: Baby.

Nolwazi: Ma I'm going to arrive late lapho neh? I'm driving manje.

Thandeka: No problem love, I was planning on taking us out for dinner so I guess it will just be me and Ivy.

Nolwazi: Have fun.

Thandeka: Bye love.

Nolwazi: Bye ma.

She dropped the call and continued to follow Dean. After a while they got to a restaurant and made their way out of the cars.

Nolwazi: Dean yazi angilambanga?

Dean: Really?

She nodded and frowned.

Dean: Then you'll watch me eat.

Nolwazi: I'll have champagne.

Dean: Well alright then.

They made their way inside and the waitress led them to a table which Dean had booked. They got there and placed their orders.

Nolwazi: So you were coming here anyway?

Dean: Yes I was.

Nolwazi: So...

Nolwazi smiled slyly and Dean eyed her suspiciously.

Nolwazi: Ntsiki.

Dean: Hmm?

He raised an eyebrow and Nolwazi laughed quietly.

Nolwazi: Uhm so...

Dean: Yini Nolwazi?

Nolwazi: Haike nawe wazoba serious?

Dean just continued looking at her.

Nolwazi: When are you marr-

Dean: Mxm.

Nolwazi: Hawu Dean.

Dean: Ungibuza umbhedo.

Nolwazi: Tjo.

Dean: Wena when you look at Ntsiki you see my wife?

Nolwazi nodded slowly.

Dean: Uyabheda.

Nolwazi: If you say so...

Dean's food finally came and Nolwazi watched him eat.

Dean kept on chuckling.

Nolwazi: Yini?

Dean: I can't believe you think I'd marry Ntsiki...

Nolwazi: Kanti what's wrong with her?

Dean: Hai, why would I marry someone like her?

Nolwazi: Woah!

Dean: She's the laziest girl I've ever been with and she doesn't even have a proper job.

Nolwazi coughed uncomfortably.

Dean: It annoys me that she's attached now. I made it clear from the beginning that I'm not in it for the long haul.

Nolwazi: I remember you saying that but I thought you have changed your mind. You guys have been at it for 2 years Dean.

Dean: So? I just prefer that than behaving like a 20 year old.

Nolwazi: Stability?

Dean nodded lightly.

Nolwazi: So have you guys had a conversation lately?

Dean: She knows she'll never be my wife. Yoh I'd definitely consider polygamy if she was to be my wife.

Nolwazi: Hai Dean.

Dean shrugged his shoulders and continued to eat.

Nolwazi: I'm kind of hungry now.

When the waitress came to the table, Dean asked for an extra fork and when it came, he shifted his plate of pasta to her and she dug in.

Nolwazi: Do you want to get married though?

Dean: I have my days but at the moment my career is my wife.

Nolwazi nodded.

Nolwazi: Ntsiki seems to think you two are really within.

Dean: I don't have the energy to fight with her anymore.

Nolwazi: You see why marriage is better than playing the field?

Dean: Hai there's nothing complicated about setting boundaries in your relationships. UNtsiki uyazihlanyisa because I don't even know her second name. We're not that deep so I have no attachment whatsoever.

Nolwazi sighed.

Nolwazi: That's cold, Dean.

Dean shook his head.

Dean: Ngimdala kabi Nolwazi. I can't be involved in teenage love affairs.

Nolwazi: Okay...

Dean: So, can we stop discussing my non-existent relationship?

Nolwazi: Okay.

She finished up the pasta and took a sip of her champagne.

Dean looked at her intently for a long time.

Nolwazi: Yini?

Dean: I'm not sure how I'm going to put this without freaking you out...

Nolwazi put down her glass and looked at him, confused.

Nolwazi: Try me.

Dean checked his phone and then looked at her...

Nolwazi: Dean?

Dean cleared his throat and chuckled quietly.

Nolwazi: I'm listening...

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Nolwazi: Dean?

Dean finished up his champagne and Nolwazi continued to stare at him.

Nolwazi: Hai ke angazi yini inkinga yakho.

Dean: No, it's nothing.

Nolwazi: It sure sounds like something.

Dean shook his head lightly as if trying to remove a thought.

Dean: Ready to go home now?

Nolwazi: Actually, no.

Dean frowned.

Nolwazi: I've been cooped up indoors, I'm tired.

Dean: Manje ufuna ukwenzani?

Nolwazi: I don't know.

Dean looked at her and she sighed.

Nolwazi: I'll drive back to the office and get some work done.

Dean: I have no response for that.

Nolwazi: Yes, I'll go back to the office.

As Dean paid the bill, Nolwazi stood up.

Dean: Yima kancane Nolwazi, what's with the sudden rush?

Nolwazi was suddenly very fidgety and restless for no apparent reason. Dean finished paying and they walked outside.

Dean: What's wrong now?

Nolwazi: Angazi.

She walked to her car and got her bag and took out her mood stabilising pills.

Nolwazi: I have no idea what's wrong, I feel panicky.

Dean watched as she swallowed her pills and searched for a bottle of water somewhere in her car. Once she was done she took a deep breath and looked at him.

Nolwazi: I don't want to go back to that house.

Dean: Uhm alright, let's go back to the office.

Nolwazi nodded.

Dean: I don't think you'll be able to drive though.

Nolwazi: You're being dramatic.

Dean: No, I'm serious.

Nolwazi got in her car and Dean walked over to the driver's side and Nolwazi handed him the

keys.

Nolwazi: You're complicating this.

Dean: I'll send someone to get my car.

Nolwazi sank on her seat and tried calming her now fast heart rate. Just the mere thought of going back to her house was enough to drive her insane. She was also quite shocked at this sudden realisation...

"It's probably this divorce thing," she thought, "I am starting to realise just how messy my life is about to get."

Dean glanced at Nolwazi as he was genuinely concerned at her sudden weird behaviour. Now he was trying to figure out what he may have said that could have contributed to this.

Nolwazi: Maybe some paperwork will calm me down.

Dean: But what exactly is the issue here?

Nolwazi: Dean I was in hospital for weeks on end. I'm allowed to act weird once in a while.

Dean kept quiet.

Just then, Nolwazi's phone rang and she reached for it.

Nolwazi: UKwanele.

Dean kept quiet.

Nolwazi switched off her phone and put it away.

After a while they finally got to the office and it was now around 7pm. Security had to open up for them as people had already gone home. They made their way up to their division and walked to Nolwazi's office.

Nolwazi went to her desk and began going through her paperwork and all Dean could do was just go sit on the couch and keep quiet. He too, was very familiar with the need to let his work consume him so he wouldn't have to deal with anything else.

Nolwazi found all the paperwork she was looking for and then logged in her PC.

Dean sank on the couch and went through his phone. The silence was very calming for both of them. As Nolwazi typed away, she felt much better and Dean on the other hand was also minding his own business at a distance.

Nolwazi: I am so full from all that pasta.

Dean chuckled.

Nolwazi: Jacob sent me the new plan that was drawn up for that oil company.

Dean: I wasn't involved in that so I didn't bother going through it.

Nolwazi: Jacob really needs to stop making decisions without consulting either one of us.

Dean: Hmm.

Nolwazi: Maybe we should have a conversation with him.

Dean: Hmm.

As much as he was here, he really wasn't in the mood to discuss anything work related. The silence was far better than discussing work dynamics with Nolwazi because the woman really could go on and on.

Nolwazi took her laptop and switched it on and then walked over to the couch and sat next to him.

Nolwazi: Look at this.

Dean, who was slouched on the couch, glanced at the screen and saw a business cycle.

Nolwazi: This is what I came up with for the company. You mean to tell me that all my work has been wasted?

Dean: Mmm.

Nolwazi: And I know that this is the perfect plan, Jacob and his people will regret sidelining me for their nonsense.

Dean: Hmm.

Nolwazi: When have I been wrong Dean? All my plans have been legit!

Dean: Ya.

Nolwazi: Look at this...

Dean was not even listening anymore. Nolwazi nudged him.

Dean: Hmm?

Nolwazi: Ngithi bheka le-plan yabo!

Dean glanced at the laptop screen and Nolwazi went on and on about how flawed the current plan was. After a long time, Dean couldn't listen anymore.

Dean: Want some coffee?

She looked at him and frowned.

Nolwazi: You think you're sleek aren't you?

He chuckled and stood up.

Nolwazi: Tea, please.

Dean walked out of the office, relieved. Nolwazi continued to analyse the plan that was sent to her and she would occasionally cuss and huff. After a while Dean walked back in with Nolwazi's cup of tea. Nolwazi put down the laptop and thanked him as he gave it to her.

Nolwazi: I think I could go on for the rest of the night.

Dean looked at her and she laughed.

Nolwazi: I want to type out all the flaws in this plan so I can present them to Jacob tomorrow.

Dean: There's no stopping you.

Nolwazi: How are you going to reject my perfect plan and then come up with some floozy thing? Uyahlanya uJacob.

Dean: Knowing him, he'll definitely give you a hard time.

Nolwazi: Mxm.

They sat there for a while.

Nolwazi: Dean.

Dean: Mmm?

Nolwazi: What did you want to say earlier?

Dean glanced at her.

Nolwazi: Ready to tell me?

Dean: Nagging doesn't suit you.

Nolwazi: Very funny.

Dean looked at her intently and scratched his chin thoughtfully. Nolwazi put down the cup of tea and then sat properly so she could face him. Dean chewed on his teeth humorously and then chuckled.

Dean: Want me to show you?

Nolwazi: You're speaking in riddles.

Dean: Come closer so I can show you.

Nolwazi frowned and Dean patted the spot next to him on the couch.

Dean: Sondela.

Nolwazi: Yini kanti?

Dean smiled lightly.

Nolwazi then moved closer to him and looked at him. Dean loosened his tie and cleared his throat.

Dean: Are you feeling better?

Nolwazi nodded.

Dean: So you're really getting this divorce?

Nolwazi: Yes.

Dean: And wi-

Nolwazi: Hai phela Dr. Hlongwane we've already discussed this.

Dean nodded lightly.

Nolwazi: Now let's go back to what you wanted to tell me. I can see it's bugging you.

Dean: Is it?

Nolwazi: Yes, you are never nervous unless it's something hectic.

Dean: I look nervous?

Nolwazi: Just a tiny bit!

Dean frowned and Nolwazi laughed lightly.

Nolwazi: Dean khuluma man.

Dean rubbed his eyes lightly and shook his head.

Before he could say something, Nolwazi's phone rang loudly and both of them snapped out of it.

Nolwazi: I'm not answering it...

She looked at Dean again.

Nolwazi: Khul-

Before she could even finish off her sentence, Dean had already grabbed her and pulled her to his lap.

Nolwazi stared at him. What shocked her more than anything else was the fact that she was not shocked. Her body did, however, tense up as it pressed against Dean. She felt his arms tightened around her and his hands rested on her back.

Nolwazi: Dean?

Her phone continued to ring and both of them zoned it out.

Suddenly she was holding her breath and her brain was doing calculations. She was trying to put things in perspective and analyse other things. While her brain kept busy, her body, which hadn't been in contact with masculinity in a long time, failed her.

Somehow she was willing to cross a boundary...

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Nolwazi closed her eyes, hoping something would somehow emerge and stop her but nothing came, instead the heat was getting to her.

Dean was about to speak when she shook her head. She didn't want to hear anything he had to say. She felt it would somehow alter everything.

For a while they just sat there not saying anything until Dean loosened his grip on her and she looked at him questioningly.

Nolwazi: No, what are you doing?

He stood up and walked over to stand by the door.

Dean: You're vulnerable.

Nolwazi stood up and went to stand close to him.

Nolwazi: Are you my psychologist?

Dean's chuckle suddenly sent weird shivers down her spine and she tilted her head and stared at him. For the first time since they've known each other, she really looked at him and analysed his face and body. Nolwazi had always prided herself in having tunnel vision when it came to men. From the day she committed herself to Kwanele, she genuinely focused on him and him only. Now suddenly as she looked at Dean and felt something pulsing deep within, all of her commitment was in question.

Dean tightened his jaw and scratched his head thoughtfully. Nolwazi got closer to him and he wrapped his arms around her and they pressed against each other. Dean slowly lowered his

hand and as he slid it down, they continued to stare at each other. Nolwazi wanted to remember every single thing that was taking place. She blinked a couple of times and Dean looked at her with quite a tender expression. Her mind was telling her to cut it out before it went further but of course her body was anticipating what was to come. She reached for his neck and loosened his already loose tie. Dean bowed his head and she carefully removed the tie. She then unbuttoned his shirt, slowly, as if she was trying not to hurt him. Once she reached the button by his chest, Dean made her turn around and he carefully unzipped her dress. Once he was done and Nolwazi's bare back was exposed, he stared at her and gritted his teeth. A lot was also going through his mind. Part of him wanted to stop and leave because of her vulnerability but a huge part of him was excited to see where this was going... He had always fantasised about this day and now that Nolwazi was standing there, her body clearly yearning for him, he couldn't help but go with the part of him that yearned for her just as much.

Now that both of them had somehow shown each other that they were willing to cross the boundary, there was a sense of relieve.

Dean placed his hand on her waist and pulled her close to him. Once they pressed against each other, he slowly wrapped his arms around her and hugged her from behind. He lowered his face to her neck and as he carefully touched her skin with his lips, Nolwazi tilted her head and closed her eyes. He planted a feather kiss and she relaxed in his embrace. He planted another delicate kiss and she sighed quietly. As he continued to plant tender kisses, Nolwazi tried not to give in too much to the weakness. Even in such situations she still wanted to prove just how strong she could be. Dean sensed her sudden tenseness and so he kissed her more gently and went up to her ear. He trailed kissed by her ear and soon enough she was sighing again. She placed her hands on his hands which were on her stomach and then carefully turned around so she could still be in his arms. She looked at him and leaned closer to his face. As soon as their lips touched, all else faded.

Dean ran his hands on her body and she winced as she felt them touch her bare back. He unzipped the dress further and soon it was on the ground. She also finished unbuttoning his shirt and soon it was on the floor as well. She slid down her hand by his arm and he looked at her weirdly. Seconds later he heard the door lock snap and then chuckled.

She smiled and he made her face the other way again. He pulled her closer and ran his arms around her bare stomach. She closed her eyes again as Dean's hands trailed up and reached her breasts. He lowered his head again and planted full kisses on her neck. He massaged her breasts tenderly and she winced, one hand slid to her stomach while the other one focused on one breast at a time. He gently massaged each breast, stroking the nipple and twisting it lightly.

Nolwazi moaned as the gentle pleasure began creeping up on her. Dean continued to massage her breasts... Slowly and tenderly... He brought the other hand up and then cupped each breast, caressing the nipples as well.

Nolwazi: Dean...

Dean's body was also tensing up as his chest pressed up against Nolwazi's back. Her body was heating up and Dean was also getting there. He stopped kissing the left side of the neck and Nolwazi tilted her head differently so he could focus on the right side as well. Her scent sent jitters through his body. A scent he always smelled from a distance was now so close to him that he wanted to make sure that he took it all in. As his one hand played with one breast, his other hand trailed down to her belly. Nolwazi bit her bottom lip and sighed as the pressure from her breasts pulsed through. She felt his hand slowly get to the top of her treasured area. She mentally gave herself a high five for wearing a lacy thong. Dean's hand was now on her vagina. He began to caress her over the lace and she let out a moan. His hand went even lower and Nolwazi winced as his thumb went up and down her lining. He stroked her and before Nolwazi could digest anything, he quickly yanked the lace and she yelped as the fabric slid in her labia.

Nolwazi: Ah!

He pulled it up and then used his other hand to stroke her while her thong was buried deep in her lining. The lace tightened against her clit and she couldn't help but moan as the intensity filled her.

Dean then fixed the lace and carefully slid his hand inside. His hand came into contact with her shaven treasure and she grunted as she felt his warm hand finally touching her. He stroked her gently and then delicately spread her lips apart. She felt him smile and she knew her wetness amused him. He used one finger to slowly go up and down her opening and she squirmed in his arms. Dean continued regardless of her body going weak- it also didn't help that his deep breaths were electric. He then slid his hand out and ran it up till he was touching her face. He slid the dripping finger in her mouth, wanting her to taste herself. She quickly bit it and he winced.

Nolwazi then turned around and looked at him. Before he could protest she placed her lips on his and they kissed. At first it was a slow and tender kiss but once Nolwazi felt Dean's erection

against her, the hunger filled her and the kiss became more passionate and intense. Dean lowered his hands and picked her up. As they kissed each other hungrily, he walked over to the couch and carefully made her lay down. He looked down at her and Nolwazi saw the sudden shift in mood. He had an intense gaze that sent shivers all through her body.

Dean placed his hand on her legs and made her spread them. Nolwazi opened up her legs and they stared at each other as he slid her thong off. He threw it on the side and before wasting anytime, buried his face between her thighs and put in the work. He licked around the outer labia, using his tongue fully. He then moved in to her inner labia...

Nolwazi: Dean...

He was wasting no time at this point. He then reached her clit and she cried out. He used his hand to make way for him and then nibbled on it. She moaned in pleasure as an orgasm approached.

Nolwazi: I'm about to cum.

Dean quickly looked up at her and she stared back at him.

Nolwazi: Don't blame me.

Dean knew she would cum instantly if he continued to focus on the clit so he stopped and balanced himself on top of her. He leaned closer to her face and they kissed. Nolwazi was more on the hungry side but Dean managed to calm her down and get her to a gentler place. She moaned as their tongues danced with each other. She then felt his free hand run down her body.

Nolwazi: I need to cum.

Dean looked at her chuckled. He nodded lightly and then went down again, this time avoiding the clit and using his fingers. He carefully licked her and she continued to moan pleasurably.

Once he realised that she was enjoying this a bit too much, he stopped and Nolwazi stared at him.

Nolwazi: Dean!

He looked at her amusingly.

She pleaded with her eyes. It was as though Dean wanted to control her orgasm and only let her cum when he wanted. Nolwazi felt tortured at this point because even her strength was at a low. Dean leaned in again and gave her clit on long lick and she winced. He stopped and looked at her again, with humour in his eyes.

Dean: Ready to admit that I am your boss?

Nolwazi: Not now, please!

Dean gave her another long and slow lick and she wiggled, trying to get more of his tongue but he stopped and stared at her again.

Dean: I didn't hear that?

Nolwazi gasped for air and shut her eyes.

Dean chuckled once again as he took off his pants and briefs.

Nolwazi opened her eyes and looked at him desperately. Dean positioned her properly and soon enough, he was carefully sliding in her. Her closed walls slowly opened up and welcomed him. It had been so long! She spread her legs even wider and Dean groaned as he went deeper and deeper. Once he had settled in properly, he held her legs and looked down at her. Nolwazi arched her back and shut her eyes.

He slowly went in and out... Paying close attention to her reactions... Once he heard her moan and saw her touch her breasts- that was confirmation that all was well. He closed his eyes as well and allowed himself to finally do what he knew was supposed to happen a long time ago.

As they continued to bask in the glory of this moment, all worried vanished. Dean's thrusts became deeper and faster and Nolwazi couldn't take it anymore. With each thrust, she felt herself come closer and closer to the edge. Dean too, was waiting for it. Nolwazi's wetness spread all over but that didn't stop them. She rolled her neck as the intensity came in floods.

Nolwazi: I'm about to cum.

Dean: Then cum.

Nolwazi shut her eyes even tighter and screamed as all the floods opened up and fled. She felt herself shake as the intensity filled her body. Seconds later, Dean pulled out and his cum sprung out of his hard erection. Nolwazi sat up, as paralysed as she was, and stroked him. He sank on the couch and Nolwazi continued to help him get off fully.

It was now around 11pm and Nolwazi made her way inside the house. As she walked in the lounge, she found Ivy watching TV.

Ivy: Sister sister!

Nolwazi smiled.

Nolwazi: Sorry for not answering your calls.

Ivy: Don't worry, we knew you were at the office. We know how you get once you're buried in your paperwork.

Nolwazi: You know me too well.

Ivy: Bhenju came over.

Nolwazi: Is it?

Ivy: Ya uxolisile for his behaviour.

Nolwazi: That's good.

Ivy: Are you okay?

Nolwazi: Ya, I'm just exhausted.

Ivy: You look like you just ran a marathon.

Nolwazi: You have no idea.

Ivy: Go to bed shame. Would you like something to eat? I could heat up something for you.

Nolwazi: No thanks love. I'm going to crash now.

Ivy: Alright then, nighty.

Nolwazi: Night.

Nolwazi sighed as she walked up the stairs and made her way to the bedroom. She didn't even have the energy to take a shower. She took off her dress and got straight into bed, zoning out completely.

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Nolwazi woke up the next morning and got ready as usual. After she was done, she made her way downstairs and found Mdu and Ivy.

Nolwazi: Sanibonani.

Mdu looked at her and frowned humorously. He then got up from the couch and walked over to her and picked her up.

Nolwazi: Kodwa Mdu.

Mdu hid his face in her neck and hugged her tightly.

Ivy: Don't forgive him wena Lwazi.

After a while he finally let go of her and then looked at her innocently.

Nolwazi: Have something to say?

Mdu: No.

Nolwazi: Hehe.

Mdu: I love you though.

He hugged her again and Nolwazi hugged him back.

Nolwazi: Of course you will never apologise, what was I thinking?

Mdu: Kanti kuphekwa nini la? I'm hungry.

Just then, Thandeka walked downstairs, looking very exhausted. All of her children looked at her weirdly as she yawned and stretched.

Thandeka: Morning.

Mdu: And then?

Thandeka: I'm exhausted yazi.

She stretched again and then looked at Nolwazi.

Thandeka: Hello love.

Nolwazi pushed Mdu away and went to hug her mother.

Thandeka: Ufike kahle izolo?

Nolwazi nodded lightly.

Thandeka: Did you eat? We brought some takeaways izolo from the restaurant noZamo.

Mdu: Is that why kungaphekwanga i-breaksfast? Sidla ama takeaway manje?

Thandeka: I'm not here for you wena.

Mdu: Heeh ngoba si-this side, asinakwa?

Thandeka looked at Nolwazi.

Thandeka: Want me to prepare something for you?

Nolwazi: No it's fine, I'm not that hungry.

Thandeka: Are you sure?

Nolwazi: Yes.

Thandeka: Alright then, are you leaving now?

Nolwazi nodded.

Thandeka: Enjoy your day ke baby.

Nolwazi: Nisale kahle.

Dean: Ngilambile mama.

Thandeka: Ufunani?

As Mdu went on to tell his mother what he wanted to eat, Nolwazi got her things and made her way out of the house. She drove out and went straight to work.

As she made her way to her office, Phiwe followed her and recited her plans for the day.

Nolwazi: Can you check if Jacob can meet with me?

Phiwe: Okay I'll get to that now.

Nolwazi: Thanks.

Phiwe: Uhm Boss lady...

Nolwazi looked at Phiwe as her face turned pale. She was staring at the area by the couch.

Phiwe: Nothing.

Nolwazi: Are you okay?

Phiwe: Yes, I am. I'll get your tea.

Nolwazi: Thanks.

Phiwe walked out and Nolwazi went over to her desk and got in her zone. Just as she was typing away, her phone rang and she glanced at it. She rolled her eyes before she answered it.

Nolwazi: Hello.

Titi: Yebo.

Nolwazi: Unjani ma?

Titi: As if you care... Listen here, I wanted to confirm our trip to Dundee. Siyahamba ksasa.

Nolwazi: I thought we're leaving the day after tomorrow-

Titi: Well we want to arrive there early because we have a lot of preparations.

Nolwazi: Oh uhm I'll let everyone know.

Titi: You don't have to come.

Nolwazi: Oh I'm definitely coming... Going to make the most of my last family ceremony with you all.

Titi: Huh?

Nolwazi sighed.

Nolwazi: We will be there.

Titi: Bye.

Nolwazi: Goodbye.

She dropped the call and dialled her mother's number and she picked up after a while.

Thandeka: Baby?

Nolwazi: Mama uTiti called me now.

Thandeka: Ithini leyonja?

Nolwazi: Apparently they leave tomorrow for Dundee.

Thandeka: She told you that?

Nolwazi: Yes.

Thandeka: Yazi at this point I don't see why we have to go.

Nolwazi: No I want to go. This will be the last time sihlangana nabo anyway.

Thandeka: Eish I'll call your father ke.

Nolwazi: Okay.

Thandeka: Lwazi were you serious about the divorce?

Nolwazi coughed as she allowed her mind to trail back to the previous night's happenings.

Thandeka: Lwazi?

She quickly snapped out of it.

Nolwazi: I couldn't be surer.

Thandeka: Well alright then... Shap ke.

Nolwazi: Bye ma.

She dropped the call and sat there, thinking about last night. She still hadn't processed what she did. She figured that if she didn't think about it then she'd function properly. Now that the flashbacks were filling her head, she found herself finding it hard to breathe. She quickly stood up and walked out of her office and went straight to the bathroom. She got there and tried to gather her thoughts. After a while she eventually walked out and made her way back. She walked back in her office and found Dean standing by her desk. She sighed as she walked in.

Nolwazi: Nice to know that my office is an open space for all.

Dean: Was I supposed to wait outside?

Nolwazi: That's what normal people do.

Dean: Good for them.

They stared at each other for a while.

Dean: After your nagging yesterday, I managed to convince Jacob to meet with you.

Nolwazi: Is it? How kind of you.

Dean walked over to the couch and sat down with a grin on his face.

Nolwazi: I guess sleeping with the right people has its benefits.

Dean: You have no idea.

Nolwazi chuckled as she sat down. Just then Phiwe walked back in with Nolwazi's tea. She placed it on the desk and then turned to look at Dean.

Phiwe: Hi Dr. Hlongwane.

Nolwazi: Phiwe stop calling him that.

Phiwe: But he sai-

Nolwazi: He was not serious.

Phiwe giggled nervously as she looked at Dean.

Phiwe: Oh... Well I thought he was.

Dean looked at Phiwe and then at Nolwazi... That was a clear indication that it was time for Phiwe to step on out. Phiwe looked at Nolwazi sadly, she really had a crush on Dean and his coldness didn't help at all.

Nolwazi: Thank you for the tea Miss Phiwe.

Phiwe smiled and nodded before walking out. Nolwazi began drinking her tea and just then, there was a knock on the door and before Nolwazi could say come in, Kwanele had already opened the door.

Both Dean and Nolwazi just stared at him blankly.

Kwanele: Sanibonani.

Dean: Buthelezi.

Kwanele glanced at Dean intently before focusing on Nolwazi, who was on her desk.

Kwanele: Please excuse us Dean?

Dean got up from the couch and nodded lightly. He looked at Nolwazi.

Dean: I'll send you an email with the details about your meeting with Jacob.

Nolwazi: That would be highly appreciated.

Dean: Such favours remain unforgotten.

Nolwazi laughed.

Nolwazi: Thank you very much boss.

Dean nodded and then looked at Kwanele who was gritting his teeth.

Dean: Usale kahle Buthelezi.

Kwanele nodded stiffly as Dean walked out and closed the door. Kwanele walked over to Nolwazi's desk and looked at her. She took a sip of her tea and looked back at him, with no stress.

Kwanele: I think it's time your family goes back to Johannesburg.

Nolwazi raised an eyebrow and looked at him innocently.

Nolwazi: Is it?

Kwanele nodded tightly.

Nolwazi: Then tell them to leave. It is OUR house after all so you have every right to eliminate whatever makes you uncomfortable.

Kwanele narrowed his eyes and stared at her as she took another sip of her tea. She relaxed in her chair and took another sip.

Kwanele: So you're fine with me asking them to leave?

She shrugged her shoulders lightly.

Nolwazi: Do whatever makes you happy Kwanele.

He sighed heavily and then Nolwazi's work telephone rang.

Nolwazi: Sorry, I have to answer this.

Kwanele nodded as she answered.

Nolwazi: Hello?... Hi Jacob, Dean told me you agreed to meet...

Nolwazi watched as Kwanele walked around the office.

Nolwazi: Yes I want to discuss the new plan you formulated... No, it's just that I spotted a couple of flaws that I think we need to rectify...

Kwanele walked over to where the couch is.

Nolwazi: Yes I would appreciate that... No, 2pm is fine...

Nolwazi watched as her husband bent down and picked up something.

Nolwazi: So should I come with my pl-

Nolwazi coughed a couple of times and cleared her throat.

Kwanele walked over to her desk and he placed Nolwazi's lace thong on top of her paperwork.

She stared at Kwanele as he tightened his jaw and huffed silently.

Nolwazi: Uhm yes, I will come with my proposed plan... 2pm is perfect... Alright thank you, bye.

She slowly dropped the call and then reached for her thong and looked at it. Kwanele was 5-to-bursting.

Nolwazi smiled lightly and then leaned comfortably on her chair.

Nolwazi: Well lookie here...

She looked at Kwanele and smiled warmly. She then put down the thong and took another sip of her tea.

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Nolwazi stared at her husband as he paced around the office.

Nolwazi: What's wrong, Nele?

Kwanele paced around and tried to speak but his anger failed him. He walked over to Nolwazi and pulled her up from her chair. Nolwazi, who was not expecting this, squealed in shock and a bit of nervousness as she had never seen him like this. He pressed her against the book shelf and for a split second she was terrified but she managed to keep her composure.

Kwanele: So this is how it is now?

He pressed her harder and she kept a straight face even though the book shelf was hurting her back.

Kwanele: Really Nolwazi?

He looked at her with indescribable fury in his eyes.

Nolwazi: Uyazi bona ukuthi ungibambe kanjani Kwanele?

He pressed her even harder.

Nolwazi: You're hurting me Kwanele.

She said that so calmly that she even surprised herself.

Kwanele: So you're fucking people in your office now?

Nolwazi: You find MY thong in MY office and conclude that I'm being fucked?

Kwanele: What else am I supposed to assume?

Nolwazi: Kwanele you're hurting me.

Kwanele tightened his jaw as he let go of her and she looked at him calmly.

Nolwazi: What brings you here anyway?

Kwanele: Don't fuck with me Nolwazi!

Nolwazi: Well I haven't done that in over 6 months.

She chuckled and shook her head.

Nolwazi: Ah... I crack myself up sometimes.

She walked back to her chair and sat down. As nervous as she was about Kwanele's anger, she remained as cool as a cucumber.

Kwanele stood by the book shelf and tried to control his breathing. Nolwazi took another sip of her tea and leaned on her chair once again. The silence was piercing...

Suddenly there was a knock on the door.

"It better not be Dean because now is not the right time," she thought.

Nolwazi: Come in.

The door opened and sure enough it was Dean. Nolwazi couldn't help but roll her eyes at the universe.

Dean looked at Kwanele and then at Nolwazi.

Dean: We have a meeting to prepare for.

Nolwazi: Whi-

Kwanele: One more word from you and I will slice you.

Dean's face changed as he looked at Kwanele. It was a mixture of shock and anger with a tad bit of humour as well.

Dean: Uhm?

Kwanele: Phuma.

Dean glanced at Nolwazi who was happily drinking her tea.

Dean: Haibo Buthelezi.

Kwanele was about to walk over to Dean when Nolwazi stood up and stood in his way.

Nolwazi: Yabona manje uhlaza mina.

Kwanele looked at her in disbelief.

Nolwazi: Dean.

Dean: Khuza indoda yakho...

With that said Dean walked out and shut the door.

Nolwazi and Kwanele stood there for a long time.

Nolwazi: Do you see me running to your office and acting crazy?

Kwanele really was holding himself back. It took all his might not to reach out to Nolwazi and do unforgivable things to her.

Nolwazi: You've already disrespected me enough so please.

Kwanele pushed her aside and stormed out of the office, almost breaking her door as he shut it. Seconds later Nolwazi paced around the room as everything sank in.

Nolwazi: What just happened??

Her heart rate was sky high and her palms were sweating.

Nolwazi: Shit!

After a couple of minutes she walked out of her office and went straight to Dean's office. She walked right in and before she could say anything, she saw Ntsiki sitting there, looking pissed.

Nolwazi, who was now in the office, stood there and cleared her throat, she was both shocked and confused. She glanced at Dean who was also not looking too happy himself over there at his desk. She then glanced at Ntsiki who looked at her intently.

Nolwazi: Uhm, hi Ntsiki.

Nolwazi smiled and Ntsiki exhaled.

Ntsiki: Hey Lwazi.

Nolwazi cleared her throat.

Nolwazi: Uhm, I didn't know you were here. I was supposed to have a meeting with Dean.

Ntsiki: I just got here na-

Dean: Give me 5 minutes.

Nolwazi took a deep breath and smiled.

Nolwazi: No it's not a problem. Take your tim-

Dean: Didn't I say give me 5 minutes?

Nolwazi looked at him in disbelief, hoping he would apologise for being rude but instead he stared at her intensely and tightened his jaw.

Ntsiki: Don't worry Lwazi I won't be too long...

Nolwazi felt herself getting angry and she gave Dean a deadly stare before turning around and walking out. She made her way back to the office and found Phiwe in there.

Phiwe: Boss la-

Nolwazi: Ufunani Phiwe?

Phiwe gasped in shock because Nolwazi had never been so snappy with her. Nolwazi looked at Phiwe and saw how hurt and offended she was.

She took a deep breath and smiled lightly.

Nolwazi: I'm sorry love. I have a lot on my mind.

Phiwe sighed in relieve and smiled.

Phiwe: I understand...

Nolwazi walked over to her desk and saw her thong still chilling there and she quickly grabbed it and put it in her desk drawer. Phiwe giggled and Nolwazi looked at her.

Phiwe: Don't stress silly! He's your hubby!

Nolwazi exhaled loudly and sank on her chair.

Phiwe: At least you're keeping the spark alive!

Nolwazi stifled a smile.

Phiwe: I wanted to ask if I can also take Thursday and Friday off, seeing as you won't be here.

Nolwazi took her cup and finished up the lukewarm tea. She blinked a couple of times and then smiled.

Nolwazi: Uhm of course you can.

Phiwe: Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Phiwe walked over to her and hugged her.

Nolwazi: Alright!

Phiwe: I can finally spend some time with Scelo.

Nolwazi chuckled.

Phiwe: He has been so distant lately so I need to reignite our spark.

Phiwe giggled.

Phiwe: Just like you Boss lady.

Nolwazi laughed a bit awkwardly and nodded.

Nolwazi: Have fun.

Phiwe: Will do!

Nolwazi: Kodwa ke we still have the rest of this day so let's get moving!

Phiwe: Yes!

She walked out of the office and as soon as she closed the door, Nolwazi put her head on her desk and sighed heavily. After a while her work phone rang and she answered it.

Nolwazi: Nolwazi speaking.

Dean: Come over.

Nolwazi: Mxm.

Dean: I'll be waiting.

Nolwazi: Exc-

Dean dropped the call and Nolwazi cursed silently. She stood up and walked out of her office and went straight to Dean's. She opened the door and before she could utter a word, he grabbed her by the waist, locked the door and then pressed her against it.

Nolwazi: Who the hell do you think you are??

Dean: Your boss.

Nolwazi: I'm not some floozy you can talk shi-

He pressed his lips against hers and for a couple of seconds they both kissed each other very angrily. After a while the kiss slowed down and in turn, became quite tender. Both their bodies relaxed and after some time Dean stopped and then looked at her with a calmer vibe.

Dean: I'm sorry.

Nolwazi: Don't ever address me like that.

He nodded lightly and then let go of her and walked over to his desk. Nolwazi wiped her mouth and then fixed her dress.

Nolwazi: Dean, Kwanele is pissed.

Dean kept quiet and sat on the edge of his desk and looked at her blankly.

Nolwazi: I've never seen him like that.

Dean: Is he gone?

Nolwazi nodded lightly and Dean shook his head.

Dean: Ntsiki broke up with me.

Nolwazi frowned.

Dean: She says she's tired of my mood swings.

Nolwazi: Well she has a point.

Dean: Mxm.

Nolwazi: Listen, the next time you see me leave my underwear, don't just leave it there.

Dean raised an eyebrow and smiled.

Dean: The next time?

Nolwazi rolled her eyes and unlocked her door.

Nolwazi: I have a meeting to prepare for.

Dean chuckled and nodded as Nolwazi walked out. She went to the bathroom to go gather herself and her thoughts.

INSERT 29 (Couldn't edit)

It was now around 5pm and Nolwazi was getting ready to knock off. As she finished up packing her things, there was a knock on the door and it was Dean.

Nolwazi: I'll see you next week.

Dean: Whatever you do, don't act a fool there.

Nolwazi: I won't... I just want to get things over with already.

Dean nodded lightly.

Nolwazi: Anyway, goodbye.

She walked over to him and they shared a hug.

Dean: Good luck.

She frowned and then took her things and they walked out of the office together.

As Nolwazi walked in the house, she was shocked to see her father in the kitchen, chatting to Thandeka.

Nolwazi: Dad?

Dumakude glanced at his daughter and smiled.

Dumakude: Yebo Nolwazi.

She put her things down and went to hug him.

Dumakude: Unjani?

Nolwazi: Ngiyaphila wena unjani?

Dumakude: Nami ngiyaphila sisi.

Nolwazi: Uhm I didn't know ukuthi uzofika namhlanje.

Dumakude: Your mother saw it fit to change my flight.

Nolwazi: Oh...

Thandeka: Hello baby.

Nolwazi: Hey.

Dumakude: Awusemuhle nje.

Nolwazi frowned as she looked at her father.

Thandeka: Uyambona? Clearly going back to work was a good thing ngoba she has been very happy.

Dumakude: There's no coming between you and your work.

Nolwazi chuckled and nodded.

Nolwazi: Well, thank you.

Thandeka: Are you hungry?

Nolwazi: I was thinking of meeting up with the girls tonight. I've missed them terribly.

Thandeka: Oh alright then.

Nolwazi: You don't mind, right?

Thandeka: No I don't unгахamba.

Nolwazi: Alright.

She made her way to the bedroom and took off her dress. She sat on her bed as she dialled Sly's number. The phone rang for a while but she eventually answered.

Sly: Lwazi!

Nolwazi: Hey you!

Sly: The way I miss you though!

Nolwazi: Unamanga.

Sly: No, I'm serious friend. Phela I'm busy planning a baby shower so this week has been hectic so far.

Nolwazi: When is it?

Sly: It's for Saturday but I'm working with a best friend who wants perfection so nje I'm being drilled.

Nolwazi: Kaze nizobathola nini abantwana so I can organise your baby showers.

Sly: Hai wena ungalinge!

They laughed.

Nolwazi: Listen, I want us to meet tonight.

Sly: Woo I am in!

Nolwazi: Great, so can you be the organiser?

Sly: Futsek!

Nolwazi laughed.

Sly: I'll call the others ke and I'll see where we can meet.

Nolwazi: Fantastic, you'll text me the details.

Sly: Shap love.

Suddenly a thought crept in Nolwazi's mind.

Nolwazi: Wait, Sly.

Sly: What's up?

Nolwazi cleared her throat.

Nolwazi: Uhm listen, can it just be the three of us?

Sly laughed for a good minute.

Sly: As in me, you and Nomi?

Nolwazi: Ya.

Sly: You sneaky little girl!

Nolwazi: I just need to talk to you about something.

Sly: Of course love, Thuli is probably busy anyway.

Nolwazi: Okay then.

Sly: Shap.

Nolwazi: Bye bye.

She dropped the call and sat there for a few minutes. Thuli was the last person who needed to know about the recent events that took place in Nolwazi's life. Her loyalty was a tad bit questionable so the last thing she needed to know was that Nolwazi was getting ready to file for a divorce and she slept with someone else besides Kwanele. After a while she went to the bathroom and took a bath, trying to relax a bit. After about 30 minutes she got out, dried and lotioned herself and then found something casual to wear. As she was getting dressed, her phone rang and she went to answer it, it was Nomi.

Nolwazi: Nomz.

Nomi: Hey you.

Nolwazi: Unjani?

Nomi: Ngiyaphila sthandwa, wena?

Nolwazi: I'm good hey. What's up?

Nomi: Should I bring vodka?

Nolwazi laughed.

Nolwazi: Nomthandazo, really??

Nomi: What?? I'm just trying to understand what kind of night it will be. Sad or celebratory?

Nolwazi chuckled.

Nolwazi: A bit of both, I guess.

Nomi: Then I won't bring the strong vodka ke.

Nolwazi: You are beyond damaged wena!

Nomi: See you now now ke.

Nolwazi: Kanti sihlanguana kuphi?

Nomi: Sly's place.

Nolwazi: Alright then, shap.

Nomi: Bye.

She dropped the call and finished up getting dressed. She finished up and then did a couple of touch-ups and then made her way downstairs. She said goodbye to her parents and then made her way out.

Sly was busy cooking in the kitchen and Nomi and Nolwazi were sitting on the high stools, drinking champagne.

Nolwazi: So how is the vibe between you and Richie?

Sly: Argh, if you people would stop calling him that!

Nolwazi: Haibo it's his name mos!

Sly: Hai man stop!

Nolwazi: Manje ufuna sithini?

Nomi: She calls him Chocolate Drop.

Nolwazi laughed.

Nolwazi: Uyahlanya, manje mele sibize indoda yakho ngoChocolate Drop? In which part of the world is that normal??

Sly: Hai man uRichie sounds like some washed up drug dealer who sells nyaope.

They all laughed.

Nolwazi: So how is he?

Nomi: Heeh usathi how is he? His clothes are all over this house!

Nolwazi: Slindile!

Sly: What?? He says he wants to leave traces of himself la.

Nolwazi: And you've known him for how long konje??

Sly: Awungiyeye please. This man floods me with so many orgasms, I really could marry him right now.

Nomi: Sies!

Sly: Nomi you're still a virgin. You'll never understand sisi so I don't judge you.

Nolwazi: Hai kodwa nawe Nomi kanti when are you planning on popping your cherry?

Nomi: Never! I will remain untouched till the end.

Sly: What's worse is that she doesn't even masturbate!

Nolwazi: Exactly! Like, how do you deal with all your frustrations?

Nomi: I drink, you idiots! What you need to understand is that sex is not a priority or need. A person can live without it.

Nolwazi laughed sarcastically.

Sly: The day a man tears that vagina up, you will swallow your words!

Nolwazi: And a penis!

They all laughed.

Nomi: Hai suka I'm perfectly fine. My alcohol keeps me so nice and warm all day so there's no need for other things.

Sly: Hai kodwa Nomthandazo mina ngiyala shame.

Nomi: Wena uthanda izinto nje.

Sly: Of course I do! Wooo when that man slides it in and your juices are all shiny and dripping for him?

Nolwazi: And when he opens up some deep places you thought were unreachable.

Sly: And when he is done but you still feel it in your stomach??

Nomi: Sies man!

Sly: And after a good pounding session, you still feel vibrations when you walk.

Nomi took a huge gulp of her champagne.

Nolwazi: I'm all about being closed off and all that other stuff but even I can admit that sex is the truth, Nomi!

Sly: You're missing out, friend.

Nomi: I need something stronger.

She reached for her vodka and took a shot.

Sly: One day you'll realise that this life you're living is all kinds of fucked up. Sex is the truth!

Nolwazi: Nothing but the truth!

Nomi narrowed her eyes and focused on Nolwazi.

Nomi: How would you know because you've been dry for months on end now??

Nolwazi focused on her drink.

Sly: Hell no! You did not give that polygamist man your vagina!

Nolwazi: Haibo who said I'm having sex?

Nomi: Well a couple of minutes ago, you sure as hell sounded like you were speaking about recent shit.

Nolwazi shook her head and looked at them innocently.

Nolwazi: I would never have sex with Kwanele. Come on guys.

Sly sighed a huge sigh of relieve.

Nolwazi: I would never!

Sly: Thank the heavens!

Nolwazi shook her head and chuckled and when she looked at Nomi, she was staring at her suspiciously.

Nolwazi: Yini Nomthandazo?

Nomi: Something isn't right here.

Nolwazi: Excuse me?

Sly: Udakiwe lo.

Nomi shook her head and pouted.

Nomi: Hmkay!

Sly: The food is ready.

Nolwazi: I'll dish up.

Nolwazi stood up and dished up for all three of them.

Nomi: Look at her Slindile.

Sly: Yini na wena??

Nomi: Look at your friend!

Nolwazi glanced at them and Sly looked at Nolwazi.

Sly: Hmm.

Nolwazi: Haike.

Sly tilted her head and looked at Nolwazi from head to toe.

Nomi: There's something.

Sly stared at Nolwazi and Nolwazi ignored them and took the plates to the balcony. Nomi

brought the drinks and Sly brought the cutlery. They got there and began eating.

Nolwazi: So uthi unjani uChocolate Drop?

Sly: U-right.

Nolwazi laughed lightly. She then focused on her plate of food. When she looked up, both Sly and Nomi were staring at her.

Nolwazi sighed and rolled her eyes.

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Sly and Nomi continued to stare at Nolwazi and she took a deep breath and stared back at them.

Nolwazi: I'm getting a divorce.

Nomi's jaw dropped and Sly looked at her with a blank expression.

Nomi: What?!

Nolwazi looked at both of them and kept quiet. They sat in silence for a while until Sly cleared her throat.

Sly: Are you sure about this?

Nolwazi nodded lightly.

Sly: Shit.

They sat in silence one again and then out of nowhere, Nomi started sobbing.

Sly: What the fuck?

Nolwazi stood up and went to sit next to Nomi.

Nolwazi: Nomi, what's wrong now?

Sly and Nolwazi glanced at each other as both of them held Nomi.

Sly: Nomi?

Nomi looked at Sly.

Nomi: Do you not understand how sacred marriage is?

Sly frowned.

Nomi: A divorce?

She then looked at Nolwazi.

Nomi: A divorce, Nolwazi?

She continued to sob.

Sly: That's unfair though. Kwanele is the one who tarnished everything.

Nomi: No, I'm not blaming anyone. I'm just shocked that's all.

Nolwazi went back to her seat and found herself getting emotional as well. Her decision was slowly sinking in...

Sly: I don't think it's fair to expect someone to stay after being betrayed to such an extent. Kwanele is not having some unknown affair. He literally spat on Nolwazi's face and married someone else!

They sat in silence for a while and then Nomi stood up and went to sit next to Nolwazi.

Nomi: I'm sorry. I just never thought this would happen, especially to you.

Nolwazi nodded lightly.

Nomi: No, I mean it Lwazi. I wasn't expecting you to say that.

Sly: What were you expecting? You thought she'd tell us that she wants to host brunch and invite that Tholakele girl?

Nolwazi looked at Sly and Sly cussed.

Sly: I will never understand how you would want someone to keep torturing themselves. I can't

even stomach what Kwanele did but here you are feeling sorry for him? Haibo ungazobheda wena Nomthandazo.

Nomi: Who said anything about feeling sorry for him?

Sly: Manje ukhaliswa yini?

Nomi looked at Sly in disbelief.

Sly: No one deserves what Nolwazi is going through. You dedicate your whole life to a person and then they turn around and do some shit like that? What do you expect Nolwazi to do? Stay and accept that she will share the man she loves knowingly like there's nothing wrong?

Nolwazi: Sly d-

Sly: Hai suka. Ukhalelani? Unesicefe man Nomthandazo.

Nolwazi: Slindile.

Nomi was sobbing all over again and Nolwazi comforted her.

Sly: I don't know, maybe it's because you've never loved someone...

Sly stood up.

Sly: Because if you have then you sure as hell would understand the hurt your best friend is going through and you wouldn't sit there and cry for the man who caused all that hurt.

With that said she walked back in the house and Nolwazi tried calming Nomi down.

Nolwazi: Listen, I understand where you're coming from.

Nomi: I lived with you guys Lwazi. I'm just disappointed that all the years you've invested have gone to waste.

Nolwazi nodded lightly and wiped Nomi's tears.

Nomi: All the pain and joy you've went through was for nothing. Your four years with him are gone...

Nolwazi nodded and Nomi calmed down.

Nomi: I'm not crying because I feel sorry for him.

Nolwazi: I know, stop explaining yourself.

Nomi sighed heavily and nodded lightly.

Nolwazi: Nomi there are no words that could ever describe the hurt I'm feeling. Every day I wake up and I try so much not to give in to this sinking feeling that is always lurking in me. Kwanele has hurt me so much that I don't think I will ever recover from this punch. I'm so hurt!

Nolwazi was now crying and Nomi tried comforting her.

Nolwazi: How could he do something like that? I don't care how much his family pressurised him but how could he do something so hurtful to me? Couldn't he go and have a baby without

me knowing? Does everyone really expect me to sit this through and see it as one of our other marriage obstacles? I am so hurt.

Sly walked back out and sat next to Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: Even if he does decide to separate from her, it still doesn't change the fact that he did it. This is the worst betrayal of my life and I don't think my heart will ever recover.

Sly: Do what's best for you.

Nolwazi: I don't know how life is without him. He's been such a constant in my life that I never thought I'd reach the day where I have to erase him. How do I move past this?

Sly and Nomi kept quiet.

Nolwazi: And now I slept with someone else and I feel like absolute shit. How do I still manage to feel bad even after he has betr-

Nolwazi stopped herself as soon as she realised what she said. Both Sly and Nomi tensed up and stared at her.

Nolwazi wiped her tears.

Nolwazi: I slept with someone else.

Sly let go of Nolwazi and turned her body so she could face her directly.

Sly: What?!!!

Nomi just sat there, frozen.

Nolwazi shrugged her shoulders.

Sly: You slept with someone else?!!

Nolwazi nodded lightly and then glanced at Nomi, who was still frozen.

Sly: What???

Nolwazi rubbed her eyes and sighed.

Out of nowhere Sly stood up and starting jumping around.

Sly: Amen!!!

Nolwazi frowned.

Sly: Amen! Amen! Amen!

Nomi stood up as well but she went inside the house.

Sly: Who? When? HOW?

Nolwazi hid her face.

Sly: Nolwazi!

Nolwazi: Dean.

Sly: Dean?!

Nolwazi nodded.

Sly: Dean, as in DEAN your fucken BOSS?!

Nolwazi: Technically he's not my b-

Sly: Dean?! Oh shit!

She continued to jump around.

Nolwazi: Please sit down.

The mood had somehow shifted. Sly sat down and slapped her thigh.

Sly: Spill!

Nolwazi: Spill what?

Sly: Ngizokufaka impama wena!

Just then Nomi walked back to the balcony with a bottle of vodka. She took a huge gulp and sat down.

Sly: I think I also need some.

Nolwazi: Me too.

Nomi gave them the bottle and they all took huge gulps.

Nolwazi: I don't know how it happened.

Sly: How though??

Nolwazi took a deep breath and went on to tell them how it all began.

Sly: Do you understand that Kwanele has been the only person to have sex with you?!

Nolwazi: Well not anymore.

Sly: Exactly! He has no power over you now!

Nolwazi: I feel bad.

Sly: Bad for who? For that man who is probably sucking the daylights out of his new bitch??

Nolwazi frowned.

Nomi: How was it Lwazi?

Nolwazi looked at Nomi's innocent face and couldn't help but smile. She asked with such random innocence.

Nolwazi: It was good.

Sly: Was it the only time?

Nolwazi nodded.

Sly: How many rounds?

Nolwazi: Just 2.

Sly: And you didn't do anything today?

She shook her head.

Sly laughed loudly.

Sly: Oh shit! I can't believe this. Fuck!

Nomi: Do you like him?

Sly: Shit, I also like the arrogant son of a bitch.

Nomi: He's not for you though Lwazi.

Sly: Hai wena who said she wants a deep relationship?

Nomi looked at Nolwazi intently.

Nomi: Be careful, this might not end well.

Nolwazi: It's not serious.

Nomi: Exactly. I'd rather you sleep with someone else than him. I don't like him.

Sly: Fortunately he's not fucking you, angithi?

Sly then focused on Nolwazi.

Sly: You're enjoying yourself?

Nolwazi: It's not a regular thing man, it happened once.

Nomi: You're vulnerable right now Lwazi, this guy is taking advantage of that.

Sly grunted.

Nomi: What will happen after you're both tired of each other? Will you be able to work productively together?

Nolwazi: Nomi you're overanalysing this.

Nomi: I'm just not sure about this.

Sly: Manje uthi bekunjani Lwazi?

Nolwazi was still focused on Nomi.

Sly: This is exactly why you will never be happy. You keep cracking codes and calculating things when none of that is necessary. At the moment, sleeping with Dean is bringing some type of positive feeling in you. Bask in that and enjoy yourself.

Nomi: It doesn't make it right.

Sly: I'm not going to argue with you Nomthandazo. At this point there's no use fighting about what's right and wrong. Kwanele showed us that there are no boundaries here.

Nomi: What's the use of acting reckless when all that instant gratification and "positivity" won't last? If this was any other guy then I'd probably be less concerned but this is your colleague. You have to think long term unless you're planning on finding another company to work for.

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Nomi: Don't be fooled by those 30 seconds of ecstasy when in actual fact your life will be negatively impacted in the long run, for more than 30 seconds.

Nomi looked at Nolwazi intently and Nolwazi sat there and processed everything.

Nomi: Deal with your divorce first and then move on to another thing. Don't mess up your life all in the name of hurt and anger. Take it one step at a time... And this Dean person clearly isn't your friend because a friend would know that you are very hurt at the moment therefore the decisions you make aren't as rational as they normally would...

Nolwazi kept quiet...

Nomi: I don't like this, Lwazi... I don't like this at all...

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After Nomi had passed out, naturally, Sly and Nolwazi cleaned up the place. After they were done, Sly went to get a joint for them and they went back to the balcony.

Sly: How are you feeling?

Nolwazi: Want me to be honest?

Sly: This is me we're talking about.

Nolwazi sighed.

Nolwazi: Nomi is absolutely correct.

Sly kept quiet and they sat in silence for a while.

Nolwazi: But I'm not listening to her right now.

Sly looked at Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: It's so easy for her to say all of those things because she is so inexperienced.

Sly nodded.

Nolwazi: The girl knows nothing about life to be honest. She's speaking from observation and textbook type of knowledge. Right now, I'm not hearing her.

Sly: She's inexperienced.

Nolwazi: Too much!

Sly: All that talk is deep and touching but honey if your husband goes and marries another person then all bets are off.

Nolwazi: She has a black and white view of life. There's no grey area.

Sly: And it really takes a lot for me to not slap some sense into her.

Nolwazi: Sly can I tell you something?

Sly: Go ahead.

Nolwazi: As messed up as it is, sleeping with Dean ignited something in me. I'm not saying I'm healed but I'm definitely not sulking either.

Sly: And you have every right to decide what you want to do. Don't let anyone dictate how you should deal with this.

Nolwazi: When Kwanele finally realised that he is not the centre of my world anymore, I got a kick out of it. I enjoyed seeing him like that.

Sly nodded.

Nolwazi: So for now I'm going to do what makes me happy. I'll deal with the rest when the time comes. What I know for sure is that I will not sit here and cry over Kwanele... I'm beyond hurt but I can't live like that. I'm cutting him off my life.

Sly: And whatever you do, make sure it's what you want. Even though it might make other people frown or side eye you, do it. You have a friend in me and I will never judge you. I don't want you to waste any more tears on that man. If you want to go to Paris and run naked by the Eifel Tower then I will join you, if you feel like being with Dean for now will somehow help you, I will definitely NOT join you but I will support you.

They laughed.

Sly: And if this whole Dean situation turns left somehow and you feel embarrassed or whatever, I will still be here! Who the fuck am I to judge or tell you how to live your life? I've made my own mistakes and I've learnt from them so why the heck would I want to dictate how you should live? You need to go through your own baggage so you can come out a grown person in the end. I'm not your mother, heck even your mother can't tell you how to live! Nomthandazo herself should know better. Her parents thought she should stick to Engineering but she insisted that it wasn't her path. Her relationship with them is messed up now because she wants them to stop telling her how to live so why should anyone tell YOU how to live?

Nolwazi: Hmm.

Sly: I'm not about to be the stuck up friend who thinks they are some kind of God. Yes, I will definitely warn you about some things but I will never choose a path for you. You're a grown ass woman.

Nolwazi: I hear you.

Sly: Make your own mistakes and I'll be here to help you pick up the pieces.

They shared a hug and by this time, they were beyond relaxed.

Nolwazi: Thank you.

Sly: You're welcome and I love you.

Nolwazi: I love you too.

Sly: And I love Nomi too, even though she annoys me sometimes.

Nolwazi: Hai suka everyone annoys you wena.

Sly: It's just that as a friend, you shouldn't make your friend feel judged when she comes to you with something she's feeling or going through. I don't want to be that kind of friend and that's why I refrain from telling Nomi some things. Her analytical vibe is good to have but sometimes I don't want you to tell me all the deep stuff. You know, most of the time I come to you as a friend knowing very well that what I'm doing is right or wrong so I don't want you to lecture me. I just want you to comfort me or laugh with me... As much as Thuli annoys me, she's actually the most level headed one when it comes to my crazy issues. It's just unfortunate that she's also Kwanele's friend because if she wasn't, she would be the perfect adviser for this situation.

Nolwazi: True.

They continued to chat for a while until Nolwazi took out her phone.

Sly: You're not driving.

Nolwazi: I'm not...

Sly: Manje who are you calling?

Nolwazi grinned and Sly exclaimed.

Sly: Heeh!

The phone rang and after a while it was answered.

Dean: Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: Are you sleeping?

Dean: I was.

Nolwazi: I need you to come get me.

Dean: Get you from where? You do know that some of us have work tomorrow angithi?

Nolwazi told him where she was.

Dean sighed heavily.

Nolwazi: Haike don't make me beg you.

Dean: I'll be there.

Nolwazi: Thank you boss.

Dean: Mxm.

Dean dropped the call and Sly stood up and danced.

Nolwazi: Haike.

Sly: Khon'ozolaaahla!

Nolwazi: Argh.

Sly: Woo he sounds so sexy with his husky sleepy voice!

Nolwazi chuckled.

Sly: Hai shem let me also be within my boo.

Nolwazi: Uthanda izinto.

Sly reached for her phone and dialled her man's number. It rang for a while but he eventually answered.

Richie: Hey sexy.

Sly giggled.

Sly: Hello my Fine Human Being!

Nolwazi: Chocolate D-

Sly kicked her.

Sly: Baby where are you? Woza phela.

Richie: But I thought you are with your girls.

Sly: Nooo, come.

Richie chuckled sexily and Nolwazi pretended to vomit and Sly kicked her again.

Sly: Come over babe.

Richie: Kodwa uyahlupha yazi Slindile.

Sly: Haibo uthini na baby?

Richie: I'm in bed.

Sly: Hmkay.

Sly dropped the call and Nolwazi laughed.

Sly: You're laughing at my pain?

Nolwazi: Oh shame, your booty call rejected you.

Sly: Not for too long.

She browsed through her phone and showed Nolwazi a photo.

Nolwazi: Sly!!

Sly: I'll send him this photo and we'll see if he still wants to sleep.

Nolwazi: Woo Slindile!

Sly kept busy with her phone and about a minute later her phone rang. She answered lazily.

Sly: Hello?

Richie: Baby I'm on my way.

She yawned dramatically.

Sly: Ahh I'm in bed now.

Richie: Good.

He dropped the call and Nolwazi laughed in shock.

Sly: That's how you get and keep your man.

Nolwazi: Wow.

After a while of chatting and laughing, Nolwazi's phone rang and it was Dean. She answered.

Nolwazi: Hello?

Dean: I'm waiting.

Nolwazi: Okay.

Dean dropped the call and Nolwazi and Sly both stood up.

Nolwazi: Thank you for an amazing and weird evening my friend.

Sly: Anytime love.

They shared a hug and got in the house and Nolwazi grabbed her things.

Sly: Don't do anything I wouldn't do.

Nolwazi: U-worse phela wena.

Sly: Whatever! I'll bring your car back ksasa.

Nolwazi: I'm not sure when exactly we're leaving for Dundee so I'll get it after the weekend.

Sly: Shap ke. Who knows, Chocolate Drop and I may just bless it.

Nolwazi: Slindile!

Sly: I'm kidding!

Nolwazi: Ungangihlanyisi.

Sly: Hai suka bye bye.

They shared another hug and then Nolwazi made her way out and walked to Dean's car. She got in front and put her things at the back.

Nolwazi: Hi.

Dean glanced at her.

Dean: Aren't you supposed to be packing?

Nolwazi shrugged her shoulders.

Dean: Am I taking you home?

Nolwazi: Ucabangan wena?

Dean chuckled quietly and then started the car and drove off.

INSERT 32 (Couldn't edit)

They got to Dean's house.

Dean: You are awfully relaxed, I see.

Nolwazi: What do you mean?

Dean: Wena tshela mina.

Nolwazi: My friend is into pot.

Dean chuckled.

Dean: Wena?

Nolwazi: Not that much... It's just an occasional hobby.

Dean: Don't ever smoke pot Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: Hai.

Dean: It's already enough ukuthi uphuza i-champagne...

Nolwazi: It's not an everyday thing.

Dean: Good.

Nolwazi: Haike waze wakhuluma ngathi you're my father.

Dean: Your dad warns you against weed?

Nolwazi: Well...

Dean: Come here.

She sank on the couch and Dean pulled her closer to him. She relaxed in his arms and sighed.

Nolwazi: Dean.

Dean: Hmm?

Nolwazi: Are you taking advantage of me?

Dean laughed for a good minute and Nolwazi frowned.

Dean: Am I taking advantage of you?

Nolwazi: I just want to know.

Dean: Have I given you that impression?

Nolwazi shook her head.

Dean: What could possibly make you think I'm taking advantage of you?

Nolwazi: I don't know.

Dean grunted.

Nolwazi: Are you angry?

Dean shook his head lightly and then removed his arms from her and stood up.

Nolwazi: Dean.

He walked up the stairs and disappeared and she contemplated going after him but she was too comfortable on the couch.

“Nomi has planted wrong seeds in my mind,” she thought.

Minutes later Dean walked back downstairs and stood by the couch.

Dean: Want to sleep here or one of the guestrooms?

Nolwazi: Dean, come on.

He looked down at her and she could see the fury in his eyes and body language.

Nolwazi: I didn't mean it lik-

Dean: I'll get you blankets.

He walked away and Nolwazi sat there and cussed at herself for being so unnecessary. Shortly after, Dean walked back with pillows and blankets. He placed them next to Nolwazi and then switched off the lights and locked up. He then made his way upstairs and disappeared. Nolwazi sat there watching TV absentmindedly and after a while she reached for her phone and dialled Sly's number. It rang for a long time.

Nolwazi: Please pick up...

It went to voicemail.

Nolwazi: Probably busy...

She put down the phone and sat there for a while, trying to figure out how she would approach the situation. Dean had every right to be angry at such an accusation... She checked the time and it was now around 11pm and there was no way she was going to sleep on the couch. She stood up and walked up the stairs. She got to Dean's room and knocked lightly but there was no answer. She knocked again and heard him say come in.

She opened the door and made her way inside, feeling a bit nervous and embarrassed. Dean was sitting on the edge of his bed, reading something. He looked over at her as she stood by the door and then carried on reading. She walked in and closed the door and then made her way to the bed and sat next to him.

Nolwazi: That was uncalled for.

Dean looked at her.

Dean: Very few things anger me than what you just did now.

Nolwazi: I'm sorry.

Dean: Do you know how serious it is to think I'm using or taking advantage of you?

Nolwazi nodded.

Dean: The last time I checked both of us are adults and not once have I forced you to do anything.

Nolwazi: I know.

Dean: So what made you ask me that?

Nolwazi: It just came out. There really is nothing to it.

Dean kept quiet.

Nolwazi: Dean, I'm serious, weed aside. I'm not here because anyone forced me. I chose to come here.

He looked at her and she sighed.

Nolwazi: I apologise, sincerely.

Dean: You can't throw such baggage at me. I take that shit seriously.

Nolwazi nodded.

Dean: Normally, I would kick a girl out for taking such shit.

Nolwazi: Uhm firstly, I'm not a girl.

He put down whatever he was reading and looked at her with a smirk on his face.

Nolwazi: Secondly, you're rude for that.

Dean chuckled.

Nolwazi: And lastly, no wonder you're single.

Dean: I'm going to fire you.

Nolwazi: Mxm.

She got closer to him and he pulled her and made her sit on his lap.

Nolwazi: I will never be beneath you. Accept it Dean.

Dean: But you are.

Nolwazi got closer to his face and placed her lips on his.

Nolwazi: I'm not.

He held her tightly and quickly repositioned her and got on top of her and then smiled slyly.

Dean: Now you are.

Nolwazi laughed quietly and then wrapped her legs around him. Dean lowered his head to her neck and planted a soft kiss. She smiled as he bit her just a tad bit.

Nolwazi: Hey, no hickies. My goodness, how old are you?

He looked up at her and grinned.

Dean: Don't you want something to remember me by for the next couple of days?

She laughed.

Nolwazi: Uyabheda wena.

Dean: I'm serious.

Dean: Hai man Dean.

He leaned closer to her face and planted a kiss on her cheek and trailed to her lips. She closed her eyes as he kissed her gently. A moan escaped from Nolwazi and Dean chuckled in her mouth.

Dean: I haven't even done much.

She opened her eyes and found him staring at her.

Nolwazi: I'm already ahead in my mind.

Dean: Thinking ahead.

They laughed quietly as he kissed her again and they rolled till Nolwazi was on top. Dean's

hands ran through her body and landed on her butt. He slid his hands on her jean pockets and squeezed her. She stopped kissing him and looked at him amusingly.

Nolwazi: Look who's beneath now...

He quickly repositioned and got on top and took off her jeans. He took off his top and then sat on the edge of the bed and pulled her so she could kneel and balance on his lap.

Dean: Let's take advantage of each other.

Nolwazi laughed.

Nolwazi: I didn't mean it Dean.

Dean: Prove it Nolwazi.

She wrapped her arms around his neck and he held on to her butt...

Nolwazi made her way inside the house at around 4am and found Mdu taking down bags from upstairs.

Mdu: Look what the wind blew in!

Nolwazi frowned.

Mdu: Hectic night?

Nolwazi: Was with Sly.

Mdu: Ushilo umama.

Nolwazi watched as he put down all the bags.

Nolwazi: Is everyone ready?

Mdu: We leave in 2 hours.

Nolwazi: Let me pack-

Mdu: You know Thandeka loves you.

Nolwazi laughed quietly.

Mdu: Hambo geza.

Nolwazi nodded and walked up the stairs to get ready. She took a long shower and felt 100 times better afterwards. As she was getting dressed, there was a knock and her mother walked in.

Thandeka: Baby.

Nolwazi: Thandi.

Thandeka: Hurry up neh?

Nolwazi: Will be done in 15 minutes.

Thandeka: Okay.

Thandeka walked out and Nolwazi finished up getting dressed. She checked to see if her mother had left anything and she chuckled as she realised that she packed every single thing Nolwazi would need. She knew her too well. She then made her way downstairs and everyone was heading out.

Dumakude looked at her intently.

Nolwazi: Morning.

Dumakude: Unjani?

Nolwazi: I'm good and you?

Dumakude nodded.

Thandeka: We'll have breakfast somewhere... We just need to get going.

Nolwazi nodded lightly. She had already eaten so she wasn't fazed.

Ivy walked down the stairs and hugged Nolwazi.

Ivy: Such a stranger!

Dumakude: Let's go.

Ivy: Argh.

Nolwazi chuckled.

Thandeka, Ivy and Dumakude walked out and just as Nolwazi was about to walk out of the house, Mdu blocked her way and stared at her.

Nolwazi: And then?

He looked at her intently for a couple of seconds.

Mdu: The least you could do is try to act like you're not being pounded.

Nolwazi gasped in shock.

Nolwazi: Excuse me??

Mdu: You're making it too obvious... Soon, dad will catch on and uzozisola.

With that said, he walked away and Nolwazi stood there in shock.

Thandeka: Nolwazi lock up and come! We don't have time!

She quickly snapped out of it and locked up the house and then made her way to the car.

INSERT 33 (Couldn't edit)

Kwanele: Tholi ngicela wehlise umoya.

Tholi stopped pacing around and looked at Kwanele.

Tholi: Really Kwanele?? Really?? You and I haven't even been married for 2 weeks but you're already abandoning me.

Kwanele: I needed to sor-

Tholi: Stop lying to me!

Kwanele kept quiet and looked at her intently as her face went sad. He walked over to her and wrapped his arms around her.

Kwanele: Ngiyaxolisa Tholakele.

Tholi: I'm tired of crying Kwani.

Kwanele: And there's no need for you to cry.

Tholi kept quiet and Kwanele squeezed her.

Kwanele: Let's get you ready before your aunt gets here.

Tholi nodded lightly and wiped her innocent face. She walked to the bathroom and Kwanele reached for his phone and dialled a number.

As they approached the rural areas of Dundee at around 8am, Nolwazi woke Ivy up.

Ivy: Are we here?

Thandeka: Yes we are.

Nolwazi looked out the window and was beyond annoyed. The last time she was there was the previous year when Kwanele and his family informed her about Kwanele's "decision" to take another wife. She cursed as she thought back to how traumatising it all was.

They finally drove to the Buthelezi's land and there were cars already parked there.

Ivy: What exactly is happening here?

Thandeka: Nathi asazi, all I know is that we wouldn't let Nolwazi come alone.

Nolwazi glanced at Mdu and he looked at her mockingly. Dumakude parked the car and as they all got out, they all knew this would be some kind of big ceremony. Women were already walking around in their aprons, cooking outside and others brewing beer.

Dumakude and Mdu took out their bags but Thandeka told them to not take anything out yet. Ivy went to stand next to Nolwazi and held her hand.

Ivy: Who is this shit for?

Nolwazi: Some celebration for welcoming the wife I guess.

Ivy laughed sarcastically.

Dumakude: There ar-

Person: Hawu Vusumuzi Dumakude!

They all turned and some old man approached them.

Dumakude: Nqobizitha Sikhakhane!

The old man walked over to them and he and Dumakude shook hands happily.

Nqobizitha: Heeh kanti wena awugugi na?

Dumakude laughed boldly.

Dumakude: Ngiguga kanjani impilo imnandi kangaka?

Ivy nudged Nolwazi and rolled her eyes.

Nqobizitha: Nginesikhwele!

They laughed and spent the next couple of minutes laughing some more.

Nqobizitha: Is this your wife?

Dumakude: Yena uqobo.

Nqobizitha: Wow!

Thandeka got closer to the man and shook his hand.

Thandeka: Good morning.

Nolwazi and Ivy looked at each other and chuckled. Thandeka could have at least greeted him in IsiZulu.

Nqobizitha: How are you my darling?

Thandeka: I'm great thank you, wena unjani baba?

Nqobitha: Ngiyaphila Mrs. Dumakude.

Thandeka nodded and smiled lightly and then looked at Dumakude expectantly.

Dumakude: Why are you even here ngoba awazi muntu la?

Nqobitha laughed loudly.

Nqobizitha: Haibo what do you mean? This is a very small world I tell you!

Dumakude: Who do you even know here?

Nqobizitha: Well the bride is my niece.

Ivy: Oh hell no!

Everyone looked at her.

Ivy: We're going back to the car.

She pulled Nolwazi away and they got in the car and sat there.

Ivy: Dad is such an idiot. Now he's befriending people who are supposed to be our enemies??

Nolwazi didn't want to admit it but she was feeling very anxious and uneasy. She regretted being there...

Ivy: Hey, are you okay?

Ivy brushed her hand and Nolwazi nodded.

Nolwazi: I don't even remember why we decided to come here.

Just then the door opened and Thandeka looked at them.

Thandeka: Wozani.

Ivy: Is the sell-out done laughing with our enemies?

Thandeka sighed and looked at Ivy.

Thandeka: Nomzamo, don't disrespect your father publically.

Ivy: Mxm.

Thandeka then looked at Nolwazi.

Thandeka: U-right baby?

Nolwazi frowned and Thandeka gave her a reassuring smile. Nolwazi then looked at Ivy and smiled lightly.

Nolwazi: Asambe.

Ivy: We could always just stay in this car until they're done.

Nolwazi shook her head.

Nolwazi: Let's go.

Ivy huffed and they got out of the car. Dumakude turned to look at Ivy with a deadly stare.

Ivy: Whatever, hey.

Thandeka held Dumakude's hand and he looked away.

Nolwazi: Can we move please?

Mdu started walking and led the way to the other side of the land where the main house was. Dumakude spotted some of the old Buthelezi men and so he and Mdu walked over to them to greet while Thandeka, Nolwazi and Ivy made their way to the house. Women were all over the place, preparing food and everything else. As soon as they got in the kitchen, everyone turned to look at them. There were about 6 women there and they stopped what they were doing.

Thandeka: Sanibonani.

Everyone cleared their throat and there was an awkward silence.

Ivy: Hai ke.

One woman cleared her throat and smiled lightly.

Woman: Hello sisi, ninjani?

Thandeka looked at her from head to toe.

Thandeka: Siyaphila, nina?

Woman: Siyazama.

Thandeka nodded lightly and then glanced around.

Thandeka: Ukhona uThenjiwe?

Woman: Ngathi ungaphakathi, I'm not sure.

Thandeka nodded lightly.

The woman then looked at Nolwazi for a long time and Nolwazi glanced at her uncomfortably.

Woman: Makoti.

Nolwazi, who had completely forgotten that she's the wife, looked at her without saying anything.

Another lady clapped her hands once and exclaimed.

Woman 2: Iheee!

Thandeka then looked at her sharply and the lady kept quiet and looked at her back.

Thandeka: Everything okay there sisi?

Woman 2: Ucabangani sisi?

Thandeka: Ngibona usineka lapho.

The woman rolled her eyes and continued chopping veggies.

Thandeka gave them one last look before walking out of the kitchen and further into the house, with Nolwazi and Ivy right behind her. Nolwazi felt like a stranger when in actual fact, this had become her “home” over the years. They walked to the lounge area and there were 3 women sorting out the baked scones and queens’ cakes.

Thandeka: Sanibonani.

They turned and when they saw Thandeka they exclaimed happily. These were relatives of Kwanele’s father. One of them, Nqobile, was Kwanele’s aunt, and the other two were related somehow.

Nqobile: My friend!

Thandeka chuckled as she walked over to Nqobile and they shared a hug.

Nqobile: Will you ever get old??

Thandeka: Haibo ngicela ungadlali ngami!

They shared another hug and then Nqobile glanced at Nolwazi and Nolwazi couldn't help but smile.

Nqobile: My one and only makoti!

Thandeka: Anizweni...

Nqobile walked over to Nolwazi and opened up her arms.

Nqobile: Hello my angel!

Nolwazi hugged her.

Nolwazi: Unjani ma?

Nqobile: Well I am certainly happy to see you! Wow when last was it??

Thandeka: 1 year ago.

Nqobile: Wow look at you!

She hugged her again.

Thandeka: Angithi you didn't come to your nephew's second wedding.

Nqobile: Don't start, please.

Nolwazi chuckled as she remembered how Nqobile reacted when she was informed that Kwanele would be taking a second wife. She almost burnt down everything.

Nqobile then looked at Ivy.

Nqobile: Nomzamo?

Ivy looked at Nqobile with a blank face and Nolwazi flushed in embarrassment. Ivy was really not about this life. Little did she know that Nqobile was on their side.

Nqobile: Why are you so grumpy Zamo?

Ivy: First of a-

Nolwazi: She's just tired ma.

Ivy looked at Nolwazi and she took a deep breath.

Ivy: I'm just tired "ma".

Nqobile: Oh shame baby, let me get you the keys to your house then maybe you can rest.

Thandeka: Ya I would actually appreciate that. We need to freshen up.

Nqobile: Ngiyabuya.

Thandeka: Uphi uThenjiwe?

Nqobile: Ngimazelaphi? It's good that I haven't seen her nje.

Ivy: Oh wait, you're not in her team?

Thandeka: Nomzamo.

Ivy looked at Nqobile and Nqobile laughed.

Nqobile: Clearly you don't know me.

Ivy smiled lightly as Nqobile walked away.

Ivy: She's not bad.

Nolwazi: Tried warning you.

Thandeka: Umuntu uzoba ne High High la.

Nolwazi: Tell me about it...

Nqobile walked back to them and gave them the keys.

Nqobile: I'll give you some time to settle in kodwa ke wena Thandi ngicela ubuye la.

They laughed.

Thandeka: Alright then.

Nqobile: It's so good seeing you all. I'm shocked ukuthi you even came.

Thandeka: Kunzima.

Nqobile: Uphi uVusi?

Thandeka: Outside, noBhenju.

Nqobile: Oh okay.

Thandeka: Shap ke.

Nqobile walked back to the couches and sat with other 2 relatives and they continued sorting out the cakes. Thandeka and her daughters walked out again and they went to where Dumakude and Mdu were. They greeted the couple of people who were there and then made their way to the other side which was where Nolwazi's house was situated. They got in and waited for Mdu and Dumakude to get the bags.

Thandeka: It's going to be a long 3 days.

Nolwazi sighed heavily and went to get herself a glass of water.

Pretty: Haibo usho ukuthi those Dumakude's are here?

Thenjiwe cussed.

Pretty: Tholakele is Kwanele's new wife. I will not tolerate any disturbances here!

Thenjiwe: Haibo wena ukhuluma nobani kanjalo?

Pretty: Ngikhuluma nawe wena! The deal was that Tholakele gives you grandchildren and -

Thenjiwe: And she better. Otherwise angikuniki lutho!

Pretty: Be patient, they're newlyweds.

Thenjiwe: Now you listen here, I could have chosen any other young girl but I felt sorry for that niece of yours!

Pretty: Mxxm!

Thenjiwe: Now don't you ever talk to me like that, siyezwana?

Pretty crossed her arms and pulled a face.

Thenjiwe: I already have to deal with the Dumakudes so don't annoy. You seem to forget that I have the upper hand here.

Pretty laughed.

Pretty: Tholakele is the one who will give you grandchildren! Don't forget that.

Thenjiwe: And I could easily get rid of her.

Pretty looked at her and Thenjiwe narrowed her eyes.

Thenjiwe: Don't ever forget your place!

Pretty: Honestly, you are the face of evil!

Thenjiwe laughed sarcastically.

Thenjiwe: Go deal with that crying niece of yours and tell her to pull herself together.

Pretty: Mxm.

Thenjiwe looked at her sharply before walking off.

INSERT 34

Pretty: Tholakele.

Tholi, who was being dressed by some relative, looked at her aunt.

Pretty: Kanti yini nah wena? Uyokhala kuze kube nini?!

Tholi looked down and the woman who was dressing her up, finished.

Woman: Bheka umuhle kanjani sisi. Don't cry.

The woman led Tholi to the mirror and made her look at her reflection. The beads were ravishing and the whole attire was perfect for her. It was just a pity that she didn't feel like the goddess she actually looked like.

Woman: Don't look so sad dear, the Buthelezi family is welcoming you with open arms so embrace the love.

Tholi: *mumbling* What love?

Woman: Don't be so negative.

Pretty stared at the woman.

Pretty: Awunake izindaba zakho wena, phuma please.

Woman: Haibo Pretty.

Pretty gave her a death stare and the woman clapped once and walked off cussing. Pretty then walked over to Tholi and looked at her through the mirror.

Pretty: Why would you cry like this when you have a family?

Tholi: Mam'Thenjiwe is not so welc-

Pretty: Heeyi wena mntanandini! For 10 years I have had to work tirelessly to take care of you! My own children, yes the ones I gave birth to, have had to share ME with YOU! All the money and love I could have spent on them was given to you! Now suddenly you find a man who loves you and is willing to take of you and you think you are above us??

Tholi turned and looked at Pretty in confusion and disbelief.

Tholi: Aunt Pretty!

Pretty: Don't you dare!

Tholi: What are you talking about? When have I ever given you the impression that I'm ab-

Pretty: Shut up!

Tholi kept quiet and held in her hot tears. She didn't understand where this was coming from.

Pretty: When that sick mother of yours selfishly died, everyone refused to take you in but I did the job! Don't mess this up!

Tholi blinked and bit her shaking lips.

Pretty: You are just like your mother! Selfish and conceited!

Tholi looked at her, words failed her at this point.

Pretty: Now stop whining and go out there! If I see that smug look on your face again... So help

me God!

Tholi's chest heaved from the cries she was holding back.

Pretty: Nxa!

Pretty walked out and as soon as Tholi heard the door close, she sat on the bed and the tears failed her. She tried holding it in but the thought of her mother not being there stung her and she tried suppressing it. As she sat there, there was a light knock on the door and she tried wiping her face but Zanele, her friend, was already rushing to where she was.

Zani: Tholi no!

Zani got to her and tried comforting her.

Zani: Don't, please don't cry.

Tholi: I ha-

Tholi kept quiet for a while and tried to let the hiccups settle. Zani held her lovingly.

Tholi: I have no one in my corner...

Zani: You don't have to do this Tholi.

Tholi: You will never understand...

Zani: Make understand Tholi! Make me understand why you would put yourself through this??

Tholi sighed and forced a smile.

Tholi: Let it go.

She removed Zani's arms from her and then walked to the bathroom to wash her face. It was red and puffy but after lotioning it, it looked a bit better.

Zani: Kodwa Tholi.

Tholi walked back to the bedroom and smiled at Zani.

Tholi: I'll take a quick nap. Please wake me up once I'm needed.

Zani watched as Tholi walked to the bed and lay down with everything she was wearing.

Zani: Okay.

Tholi closed her eyes and allowed herself to think about her mother...

Ivy was now in the main house.

Ivy: I'm so hungry...

She said that out loud but it really wasn't meant for anyone in particular. She just came in there to check the coast. The women in the kitchen looked at her.

Woman 1: Uthi ulambile?

Ivy looked at this woman.

Ivy: Huh?

The woman looked at Ivy and Ivy dismissed her and looked through her phone. Just then, Thandeka walked in the kitchen.

Ivy: Mama.

Thandeka: Hello baby?

Ivy: Ngilambile.

Woman 1: Nak'ukudla sisi.

Ivy: Mama I'm hungry.

Thandeka looked around the kitchen.

Thandeka: Do you all need any help?

Woman 2: Hai we are fine, as you can see.

Ivy: Mama we all know that the men in this family love your cooking.

Thandeka: Angithi uya-

Just then Buthelezi walked in the kitchen.

Buthelezi: Haibo! MaMwelase??

Thandeka: Oh so you are here?

Buthelezi laughed and then walked over to Thandeka and hugged her. He was an oldish man but because he was still healthy, he looked like he had just turned 50. Unlike men like Dumakude, Buthelezi was not an over the top powerful men. His silence however, is what intrigued people about him. His silence is what makes him powerful in his own way...

Buthelezi: Ngingayaphi kodwa Thandeka?

Thandeka: We will never know.

Everyone could sense Thandeka's coldness.

Buthelezi: Ninjani kodwa?

Thandeka: My family is good, thank you.

Buthelezi: Hai cha nathi sisaphila.

Ivy: *mumbling* Nobody asked you.

Everyone looked at Ivy.

Buthelezi: Haibo uNomzamo lo?

Thandeka nodded lightly and Buthelezi walked over to Ivy.

Buthelezi: You've only been this side once young lady!

Ivy: Wonder why...

Buthelezi put his hand out so Ivy could shake it but Ivy was already focusing on her phone. The women in the kitchen mumbled quietly in shock and Buthelezi cleared his throat. He then turned to look at Thandeka.

Buthelezi: Nifike nini?

Thandeka: About 3 hours ago.

Buthelezi: Oh, we are happy to see you. Umakoti yena ukhona?

Ivy: Which on exactly?

Everyone gasped quietly and Buthelezi looked at Ivy and she stared right back at him.

Ivy: Ukhuluma ngomuphi umakoti, baba wekhaya? Ngoba ngathi bathanda ukuba baningi la ekhaya.

Thandeka was not even bothered that Ivy was being like this, in fact she was glad. Being here just confirmed to her that these people really didn't deserve any kindness.

Buthelezi: Ngi-

The pillar of the house walked in. Everyone turned to look at her and the earth may have shaken slightly.

Buthelezi: Ukhona uDumakude, Thandeka?

Thandeka: He's outside.

Buthelezi nodded lightly and then walked out of the house.

One woman cleared her throat and awkward silenced ensued.

Thenjiwe stood there and looked at Thandeka intently.

Everyone in the kitchen looked at both of them expectantly.

Ivy: Mama.

Everyone snapped out of it and glanced at Ivy, who had disturbed the traumatic silence.

Ivy: I'm hungry.

Thenjiwe laughed boldly and Thandeka turned to look at Ivy and smiled.

Woman 2: There is plenty of food here.

Woman 1: Yebo, naku-

Ivy: No one wants to eat your poisoned food so please stop offering.

All the women exclaimed in shock.

Just then, Buthelezi walked in and looked around as if looking for something and then he looked at Titi.

Titi: Ufunani Shenge?

Buthelezi: Haibo kuphakwa nini? There are men outside. These people have been up all night.

Woman 2: Oh sorry, we thought we would wait for all the people to arri-

Titi: Awuphake ukudla wena uyeke ukuba yis'dina.

Woman 2: Haibo Thenjiwe.

Titi clicked her tongue in annoyance and the women got back to work. Buthelezi then looked at Thandeka and smiled.

Buthelezi: Will you also cook?

Thandeka: I d-

Thenjiwe: Who is she cooking for Shenge?

The look on Thenjiwe's face was that of complete disgust.

Ivy: Uyalishaya ibhodo umama.

Ivy looked at Buthelezi and smiled.

Ivy: Right?

Buthelezi: Of course!

Ivy then looked at Thenjiwe and smiled warmly.

Ivy: Ubaba wekhaya ukhulumile Mam'Thenji.

Thenjiwe tightened her jaw and looked at Buthelezi.

Buthelezi: The men are waiting...

He walked out of the house and Thenjiwe stormed out, following him.

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Nolwazi was in the bedroom taking a nap when her phone rang and she checked the caller id.

Nolwazi: Hey.

Dean: Nifike kahle?

Nolwazi: Yes, thanks.

Dean: Were you sleeping?

Nolwazi: It's the least I could do.

Dean chuckled lightly.

Nolwazi: I feel out of place. Why didn't you stop me from coming here?

Dean chuckled once again.

Nolwazi: Laugh at my pain.

Dean: You'll be fine, just don't show anyone that you're bothered. Those old women are probably

expecting you to breakdown.

Nolwazi: You should hear how Ivy speaks to them.

Dean: She is quite a firecracker.

Nolwazi sighed.

Dean: Well they can't expect you to be all smiles.

Nolwazi: I guess...

Dean: Toughen up.

Nolwazi: Mxm.

Dean: I'll speak to you some other time.

Nolwazi: Thanks for calling, boss.

Dean: I had to check on my employee.

Nolwazi: Bye!

Dean chuckled and dropped the call. Nolwazi lay there for a while trying to figure out how she was going to approach everything. Just then, there was a knock on the door and she got up and went to open.

Some strange woman stood there.

Woman: Sawubona makoti.

Nolwazi: Yebo ma.

Woman: Unjani sisi?

Nolwazi: Ngiyaphila wena unjani ma?

Woman: Ngiyaphila. Your mother is asking for you in the main house.

Nolwazi: Is it?

The woman nodded.

Nolwazi: Okay, thank you.

Woman looked at Nolwazi intently and then smiled.

Woman: Not everyone is against you, you know.

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Woman: Even though you don't know me, just know that I have respect for how well you have

carried yourself throughout this whole situation.

Nolwazi smiled lightly.

Woman: Stay strong. Don't allow anyone to bully you into doing things you don't want.

Nolwazi: Thank you ma.

The woman put out her hand and Nolwazi put out hers as well and they shook.

Nolwazi: Umama ubani igama?

Woman: Mam'Hlongo. I am a close family relative.

Nolwazi nodded lightly.

Nolwazi: Ngiyabonga ma.

The woman nodded and then walked away. Nolwazi got back in the house to wear a head wrap and then walked out and made her way to the main house.

She got in and found Thandeka in the kitchen, with two other women.

Nolwazi: Sanibonani.

The two women turned and smiled.

Woman 1: Hello koti!

Nolwazi faked a smile.

Thandeka: Lwazi we need a helping hand la.

Nolwazi: What do you need?

Thandeka went on to instruct Nolwazi and soon enough, all three of them were hard at work.

Woman 1: Waze wakhanya boNolwazi.

Nolwazi kept quiet and focused on what she was doing.

Woman 2: How are you coping though?

Nolwazi glanced at Thandeka and Thandeka smiled reassuringly.

Nolwazi: I'm coping well...

Woman 1: You look like you are happy.

Thandeka: She is.

Nolwazi kept quiet and continued to focus on what she was doing. She was not about to engage

in any discussions with these women even though they seemed kind. She knew people were nosy and most of them would pretend to be concerned when in actual fact they just wanted to find out her business.

Nolwazi: Where's Ivy.

Thandeka then looked at Nolwazi.

Thandeka: She is around... You know she can't stay in the same place for too long.

Nolwazi: Kaze wenzani...

Ivy: Come on, you're telling me you're scared of what your father will say?

Themba frowned.

Ivy: Bruh, how old are you?

Themba: 19.

Ivy: So what's the problem?

Themba: My fath-

Ivy: Your father is busy slaughtering cows there, you think he cares about you at the moment?

Themba scratched his head.

Ivy: It's just a hike. We'll go to the top of that mountain and will probably be back in 2 hours max.

Themba: Do you usually do this when you come here?

Ivy: I've only been here once and that was when my sister was getting married. Fuck these people bruh.

Themba kept quiet.

Ivy: Come on, let's go.

The timid boy nodded doubtfully and Ivy grabbed his arm and they began walking.

Person: Ivy!

Ivy turned around and it was Mdu. He walked over to them and looked at them.

Mdu: Where do you think you're going?

Ivy: We're taking a hike. We'll be back in time for whatever is going on here.

Mdu looked at this strange boy.

Mdu: And who are you?

Ivy: This is Themba, he says he's related to someone here... Don't know, don't care.

Mdu frowned.

Ivy: See you soon.

Mdu: Do you have your phone?

Ivy nodded and grabbed Themba's arm again and they began walking away. Mdu shook his head lightly as he walked back to where some of the men were. He got to the spot where the older sons were sitting and sat down. Senzo, who was also part of the family somewhere somehow, looked at Mdu.

Senzo: Manje awusho, ushada nini wena?

Mdu laughed boldly.

Mdu: Haibo I don't want to get married mina.

Senzo: Ngoba?

Mdu: Hai angifuni.

Senzo: Don't you want a couple of wives like your brother-in-law?

Mdu chuckled and shook his head.

Mdu: That man has shot himself in the foot.

Senzo: Usho?

Mdu nodded lightly.

Senzo: I'd be thrilled if I was in his position.

Mdu: You're not the monogamous type?

Senzo: Isn't it every man's dream to not have to cheat privately?

Mdu laughed and they continued to chat for a while.

Kwanele, who had been AWOL throughout the morning, finally emerged from his cave. As he walked around the yard that was now filling up with people, he tried by all means to avoid conversations. He wanted to see Nolwazi. He made his way inside the house and bumped into his mother.

Titi: Where have you been?

Kwanele: Uphi uNolwazi?

Titi: Ungazongibuza um'bhedo wena.

Kwanele pushed past Titi and made his way to the kitchen and found Nolwazi, washing her hands. She was alone there. He stood there till she turned around and when she did, she looked at him coldly and dried her hands.

Kwanele: Why ungashongo ukuthi nifikile?

Nolwazi ignored him and she was about to push past him, he held her and made her face him. A small part of her still had to get used to seeing this angry side of Kwanele. In all her years of being with him, she was never exposed to it... Well it was never aimed at her...

Nolwazi: I'm not here for your drama.

Kwanele tightened his jaw as he stared at her.

Kwanele: Why are you being like this?

Nolwazi: Excuse me?

Kwanele kept quiet.

Nolwazi: You're making it a habit to mishandle me now?

Kwanele glanced down at her arm and realised he had gripped it tightly. He loosened his hold on her and then stared at her again. She was tempted to tell him about the divorce right then but she decided against it.

Kwanele: You think I'm going to sit back and allow this to happen?

Nolwazi: What?

Kwanele: Don't act stupid.

Nolwazi: Mxm.

Kwanele: I'm warning you Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: You really think your idle threats are fazing me?

Kwanele: Ungathi angikukhuzanga.

He let go of her arm and walked out of the kitchen. Nolwazi stood there for a while trying to not burst out in anger.

"How the hell is he going to turn all of this around and make me the bad person?" she thought to herself.

She walked out of the house and as soon as she stepped out, there was singing and ululating. All the women who were busy cooking outside began cheering. Nolwazi directed her attention to where everyone was focused and her stomach turned as she saw Kwanele's wife come from the house that was on the other side of the land. Her mouth went completely dry as she stood there and watched people sing and be merry.

Suddenly she felt someone wrap their arm around her shoulder.

Mdu: I think I'm starting to realise that this is bullshit.

Nolwazi kept quiet and they both stood there and watched as a group of young girls began leading songs and dances... Tholakele joined those girls... Everyone started cheering and clapping... Nolwazi was startled by the amount of people who were suddenly there. It was now packed for some reason.

Mdu: Is that her?

Nolwazi nodded lightly, as she held back all the emotions that were flooding her internally. She saw Lindiwe, Kwanele's sister and her so called best friend, staring at her from a distance and she looked away and continued to focus on what was happening.

Just then, some women walked over to where Kwanele was and they grabbed him and pulled him to where Tholi and the young girls were. As he reached her, everyone sang even louder and cheered on.

Mdu squeezed Nolwazi by the shoulders reassuringly and they stood there and continued to watch the circus.

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People were now being served food, there was music and dancing and the vibe was very lively. All these adults were clearly having the time of their lives. Nolwazi decided that she would go to her mother and tell her she was going back to her house, which was now known as the "first wife's house". She shook her head lightly and tried to stabilise herself as she looked around for her mother. As she walked around, all the men regarded her with utmost respect. As the first wife, she was the pillar, according to them of course. The women were just being dramatic and unnecessary.

She made her way inside the main house and as she got in the lounge area, she was startled to find both her parents sitting there with Buthelezi and his sister, Nqobile. Buthelezi, who was speaking, kept quiet and looked at Nolwazi as she stood there.

Thandeka was about to stand up when Dumakude held her back.

Thandeka: Baby.

Nolwazi looked at Thandeka.

Nolwazi felt a pinch of anger creep up on her. She couldn't understand why her mother would even sit in the same room with Buthelezi. In fact she couldn't understand what she herself was doing there in the first place. She regretted coming because it was clear that she was the fool in all of this. Her pride and dignity was being dragged through the mud and it was starting to dawn on her that she really wanted to be done with this family. She wanted nothing to do with them.

Thandeka: Baby-

Dumakude: Ungahlala phansi Nolwazi.

Nolwazi looked at her father coldly. She was starting to develop more than anger towards him and it scared her that she would end up doing things she would regret because of his lack of sympathy.

Buthelezi: Nolwazi your parents have just informed me about your grievances.

Nolwazi continued to stare at Thandeka and Thandeka looked down ashamedly.

Nqobile stood up and walked over to Nolwazi. She took her arm gently and then led her to the couch she was sitting on. She then sat next to her and held her hand.

Nqobile: Kodwa yini lomsangano oqhubekayo bhuti?

Buthelezi looked at his sister and kept quiet.

Nqobile: Hai man Bheki ayikho lento man!

Dumakude: Nqobile.

Nqobile glanced at Dumakude and she instantly kept quiet.

Nolwazi couldn't help but chuckle sarcastically.

"So controlling HIS household was not enough so now he wants to come control other people's wives?" she thought to herself, "This man I call my father may just be bully after-all."

Buthelezi: I cannot be held accountable for a decision I did not make.

Nqobile: Then you need to stop that wife of yours before she ruins everyone's li-

Dumakude: Nqobile would you mind stepping out?

Everyone looked at Dumakude as he stared straight at Nqobile blankly.

Nqobile: Haibo Vusi, this is my brother.

Dumakude: This does not concern you in any shape or form. Ungaphuma...

Thandeka: Uhm I thin-

Dumakude glanced at Thandeka and she kept quiet. Nolwazi was suddenly disgusted by her father. She stood up.

Both Nqobile and Thandeka looked at her and asked where she was going, at the same time.

Nolwazi looked at Dumakude and he stared right back at her.

Nolwazi: Clearly not being able to conceive children is some kind of blessing because I would hate to have a child who would have such family members.

Thandeka gasped and Dumakude flinched.

Nolwazi: I'm not against Kwanele getting married. He must go on and have the children you all desire so much. Me, on the other hand...

She looked at Buthelezi.

Nolwazi: God will make a plan...

Thandeka and Nqobile stood up and went to stand next to her.

Dumakude gritted his teeth.

Nqobile: This is something that needs to be discussed properly, not now.

She then looked at Nolwazi and Thandeka.

Nqobile: Asambeni.

Nolwazi glanced at her father one more time before walking off with Thandeka and Nqobile.

As they walked out of the house they bumped into Titi.

Thenjiwe: Nifunani la wena Nqobile?

Nqobile: Lalela la wena... That load of dirt and shit you speak with your mouth will come out of its rightful place after I am done with you.

Both Thandeka and Nolwazi couldn't hold their gasps.

Nqobile: Nxx.

Nqobile walked out of the house and Thandeka and Nolwazi looked at Titi, who was ready to burst.

Thandeka: Yoh.

Nolwazi: Ewu.

Titi: Nithini nina??

Thandeka: Ngizobiza uNqobile.

Titi grunted furiously and walked inside the house as Nolwazi and Thandeka walked out, looking for Nqobile. People were still celebrating, not having a care in the world.

Nolwazi: Mama.

Thandeka: I'm sorry about that.

Nolwazi: I'm growing very tired of dad.

Thandeka: Me too.

Just then Nqobile walked to them and Thandeka started laughing.

Thandeka: Hai cha you are worse than me!

Nqobile: Yerr she angers me so much!

Thandeka laughed once again.

Nolwazi: I'm going to the house.

Nqobile and Thandeka asked if she would be fine and she nodded as she walked off, trying to avoid the crowd and attention. Just as she was approaching her house, she heard someone yell her name. She ignored it at first but the person persisted. When she turned around she exclaimed in shock.

Nolwazi: Mtho??

She watched in shock as Kwanele's half-brother walked over to her.

He finally got to her and they shared a brief hug. Nolwazi looked at him in disbelief.

Mtho: Sawubona.

Nolwazi: Oh my goodness, what are you doing here??

Mtho laughed lightly.

Mtho: I had to see what's going on this side.

Nolwazi: How are you? I didn't even recognise your voice!

Mtho: I'm good Nolwazi but I'm not even going to ask you how you are.

Nolwazi frowned.

Mtho: Kubi neh?

Nolwazi simply shrugged her shoulders.

Nolwazi: How have you been? Are you still holding up in Cape Town?

Mtho nodded and smiled.

Mtho: Things are looking up yazi.

Nolwazi: Hard work always pays off though.

Mtho nodded.

Nolwazi: Oh wow, I'm happy to see you.

Mtho: I'm sure you and my aunt are the only ones who are.

Nolwazi sighed.

Nolwazi: Titi doesn't know that you're here?

He shook his head.

Mtho: Nobaba akazi ukuthi ngila so I'm trying to be on the down low.

Nolwazi laughed.

Mtho: Nkosi yami if Thenjiwe sees me phela I'm dead.

Nolwazi continued to laugh and Mtho joined in.

Mtho: I haven't been called a bastard in a very long time.

Nolwazi: And a half-breed!

They laughed.

Mtho: So I'm not sure if I'm ready for the trauma I'm about to experience.

Nolwazi: Join the club.

He sighed and Nolwazi smiled.

Nolwazi: I'll see you around. I need to take a nap.

Mtho: Well there goes my fellow unwanted breed!

Nolwazi laughed once again and sighed.

Nolwazi: I've had my share of trauma for the day. Go and take one for the team.

Mtho: Ngaze ngavelelwa nkos yam.

Nolwazi patted him on the shoulder and gave him an assuring and humorous smile.

Nolwazi: See you around.

Mtho: Alright.

She turned around and proceeded to make her way to her house and Mtho went back and tried to hide within the crowd.

Mdu was standing a bit far from the crowd when he saw Tholi walking over to where he was, she was making her way to her house to change clothes.

Mdu watched as she got closer to her.

Tholi walked past him, she was in her own world.

Mdu: Mrs Buthelezi.

Tholi, who was a couple of metres away from him, turned around and looked at him. She had a confused expression on her face.

Mdu walked over to her and she frowned.

Mdu: You don't know me?

Tholi kept quiet. She hadn't met Mdu or Ivy so she had no idea who he was.

Mdu reached over to her face and brushed her cheek and she looked at him weirdly.

Mdu: Congratulations.

Tholi tilted her head and Mdu lowered his hand.

Tholi: *mumbling* Thanks.

Mdu grinned and then nodded lightly. Tholi looked at him for a long second before turning around and continuing to walk to her house.

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Lindiwe walked inside the house and went to her parents' bedroom. She was feeling very sick. Seeing Nolwazi throughout the day made her whole body uneasy and the expression she had when Tholi was approaching everyone was something she wouldn't forget. She knew Nolwazi was badly affected but was acting strong so that people wouldn't see her in that state.

She got to the bedroom and was shocked to find Kwanele sitting on the bed.

Lindiwe: What are you doing here?

Kwanele just looked at her in defeat and huffed. She went and sat next to him.

Lindiwe: Yini? You shouldn't be away from your guests for too long.

Kwanele: I'm losing Nolwazi, Lindiwe.

Lindiwe kept quiet.

Kwanele: I can feel it, I'm losing her.

Lindiwe: What did she say?

Kwanele: Nothing.

Lindiwe nodded lightly and they sat in silence for a while.

Lindiwe: What are you going to do?

Kwanele: I'm not going to allow it.

Lindiwe: Do you think she wants to separate?

Kwanele: I'm not thinking that far. I'm not going to allow it to get to that point.

Lindiwe: But in all honesty Kwanele, what were you expecting?

Kwanele tightened his jaw.

Kwanele: Ungibuza ukunya Lindiwe.

Lindiwe kept quiet.

Kwanele: If Nolwazi really thinks that I'm going to let go of her after all we've been through then she has another thing coming.

Lindiwe frowned and Kwanele stood up and walked out of the bedroom. He walked out of the house and as he got out, he bumped into someone.

Mtho turned and Kwanele looked at him in shock. Mtho chuckled and opened up his arms.

Mtho: Bhuti.

Kwanele: Mtho.

Mtho smiled and they shared a hug.

Kwanele: Ufunani la?

Mtho: I have already missed your wedding so I had to show face this time around. Big brother duties.

Kwanele frowned and sighed.

Mtho: Two wives?

Kwanele looked down.

Mtho: Uyayenza into Kwanele...

Kwanele: You wouldn't understand.

Mtho: I doubt I want to... So Nolwazi wasn't enough?

Kwanele kept quiet.

Mtho: Anyway, how are you?

Kwanele: I'm all over the place, wena? How's the business going?

Mtho: It's going very well... Wena? Kuhamba kanjani enkantolo?

Kwanele chuckled and shrugged his shoulders.

Kwanele: There's progress.

Mtho: Let me not keep you here, you have a wife to focus on.

Kwanele frowned and Mtho chuckled and patted his shoulder.

Mtho: A real man does not cry about the choices he made. He finds a way to make things work for him. Don't moan like a baby, we were not raised-

He shook his head.

Mtho: Well I was not raised like that. You on the other hand, grew up spoiled and babied. Man up and own up to your decisions, brother.

Kwanele kept quiet.

Mtho: Hamba phela.

He walked away.

Ivy and Themba walked back in the yard. Mdu saw them from a distance and then walked to them.

Mdu: 3 hours?

Ivy: Fuck, I'm starving!

Mdu looked at Themba suspiciously. Ivy also looked at him and she smiled.

Ivy: Are you also hungry Themba?

Themba nodded lightly and Ivy grabbed his arm.

Ivy: Let's go eat.

Mdu: Wait, Ivy go check on your sister first.

Ivy became serious.

Ivy: Did something happen?

Mdu looked at Themba.

Themba: Uhm, I'll go dish up for us.

Ivy winked at him as he walked away. She then focused on Mdu.

Ivy: What happened??

Mdu: Just go check on her.

Ivy: Is she in her house?

Mdu nodded and before she was about to walk, he blocked her way.

Mdu: What did you do to that boy? He looks a tad bit traumatised.

Ivy laughed.

Ivy: Mind your own business hey.

Mdu shook his head lightly and Ivy made her way to Nolwazi's house.

The second Thenjiwe spotted Mtho, she almost found herself spitting flames. Mtho saw this and he couldn't help but chuckle. Titi rushed to the house and went to Buthelezi, who was sitting with Nqobile.

Thenjiwe: Shenge!

Buthelezi: Kwenzenjani manje?

Thenjiwe: What is that bastard doing here??!

Buthelezi: Ukhuluma ngobani Thenjiwe?

Nqobile sat there and looked at Thenjiwe disapprovingly.

Thenjiwe: You ask your stray dogs to come here without my permission?? Is that what we do now?!! Ye Shenge??!

Nqobile: Ye wena, this is my brot-

Thenjiwe: One more word from you and I will burn you alive!

Buthelezi: Thenj-

Thenjiwe: Try me!

Nqobile: Hehe.

Thenjiwe: Test me!!

Nqobile stood up and walked out and Titi looked at Buthelezi.

Titi: What is he doing here?!

Buthelezi: Who are you talking about?

Just then, Lindiwe emerged from the bedroom and looked at her parents with a confused expression.

Lindiwe: What's going on?

Titi: Shenge ngiphendule!

Buthelezi: I don't kn-

Nqobile walked back in the house.

Nqobile: Look who's here!

Everyone turned and Mtho walked in, following Nqobile. Buthelezi exclaimed in shock and then stood up.

Buthelezi: Haibo!

Thenjiwe stormed out of the house.

Buthelezi reunited with his son after 3 years of not seeing him.

Thenjiwe walked over to the back of the yard where there was no one around. She took out her

phone which was tucked in her bra and dialled a number. It rang for a while but the person eventually answered.

Person: Hel-

Titi: Ye wena, uxakwe yini ungaphenduli ucingo?

Person: I'm busy.

Titi: Busy with what? I'm also paying you, don't you ever forget that.

Person: What do you want this time?

Titi: My husband's son is in the picture again.

Person: Is it?

Titi: Is it yani na wena? Do something about it!

Person: Okay.

Titi: All this money yet you are beyond pathetic!

Person: I'm n-

Titi: Hai suka, voetsek!

She dropped the call and squashed it back in her boobs. As she walked back to the main part of the yard, she bumped in to Pretty.

Pretty: Are you happy now?

Titi: Uthina na wena? Nakhona when are you leaving ngoba le phuza face yakho ingixakile.

Pretty tightened her jaw and stared at Thenjiwe.

Titi: Are you asking me if I'm happy that your annoying niece has finally stopped crying and sniffing and did what she was supposed to do? Don't bore me please.

Pretty huffed.

Titi: Now if I were you, I would go grab a container and stock up on food ngoba uyazazi ukuthi uyisihlupheki. Instead of wasting your time annoying me, go do something constructive.

With that said she walked away and made her way back in the house. She got to the kitchen and found Nqobile pouring herself a glass of water.

Nqobile: Oh look who is back!

Thenjiwe looked at Nqobile and chuckled lightly.

Nqobile: Aren't you happy to see your son?

Thenjiwe: My son?

She chuckled.

Thenjiwe: I only have one son, and he is outside having a good time.

Nqobile: Are you sure about that?

Thenjiwe: Yazi Nqobile, you love playing the mother in general.

Nqobile: Of course, it comes naturally to some of us.

Thenjiwe: Well it's such a pity seeing as you didn't really have your children naturally-

Within seconds there was a loud smack and Titi touched her cheek and rubbed it lightly as the piercing pain rushed through her skin. She smiled lightly and Nqobile started breathing heavily.

Thenjiwe: It's good that you're so close with my dear Nolwazi. Birds of a feather flock together angithi sisi?

She gave Nqobile one long cold yet humour-filled look and then proceeded to go to the lounge. When she got there, Buthelezi and Mtho were busy chatting.

Mtho looked up and smiled.

Mtho: Sawubona Thenjiwe.

Titi gave him a cold look and walked the other way to her bedroom.

Mdu walked over to where Kwanele and Tholi were sitting. People were still dancing and having a good time...

Kwanele saw Mdu as he approached them and he sighed.

Mdu got to them and smiled.

Mdu: Sanibonani.

Kwanele stood up and they shook hands.

Mdu: I haven't seen you in a while.

Kwanele: You seem to be a busy man.

Mdu chuckled and nodded.

Tholi, who was sitting down and having a drink, looked up at this person and analysed him. He intimidated her to the core and she didn't even know who he was. Mdu glanced down at her and Kwanele also looked at his wife.

Mdu: I don't think we've been introduced.

Kwanele: Oh.

Tholi looked at Kwanele.

Kwanele: Tholi, this is Mdu... Uhm-

Mdu chuckled.

Mdu: I'm the first wife's brother.

Tholi swallowed hard and didn't say or do anything. She took another sip of her drink.

Mdu: And you are obviously Tholakele Buthelezi.

Kwanele sat down and Tholi glanced at Mdu.

Mdu put out his hand so she could shake it and Tholi looked at it. After an awkward silence, Mdu put his hand down and nodded lightly.

Mdu: Let me not disturb you...

Kwanele: Good seeing you.

Mdu: Likewise...

He turned and walked away...

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Ivy: Lwazi...

Ivy went over to the bed and sat next to a sleeping Nolwazi. She shook her lightly and Nolwazi opened her eyes and blinked a couple of times.

Ivy: Sister sister.

Nolwazi cleared her throat and glanced at Ivy in confusion.

Nolwazi: You're back?

Ivy nodded and smiled.

Nolwazi: What did you get up to?

Ivy: I definitely got up to SOMETHING.

Nolwazi: I don't want to know.

Nolwazi sat up and stretched.

Ivy: How are you?

Nolwazi: I'm okay...

Ivy frowned and Nolwazi sighed.

Nolwazi: Well I'm not but I will be...

Ivy: Maybe we should go home tomorrow.

Nolwazi: I think so too.

Ivy: This place sucks the life out of a person.

Nolwazi nodded.

Ivy: Did you see the wife?

Nolwazi nodded.

Ivy: The bitch needs to die as well.

Nolwazi: Ivy, stay away please.

Ivy: Mxm.

Just then, there was a knock on the door and Nolwazi got up from the bed and went to open.

Nolwazi: Aunt Nqobile?

Nqobile: Am I disturbing you?

Nolwazi: Cha, what's the wrong?

Nolwazi backed away so Nqobile could get inside. She closed the door and followed her to the lounge where they sat down.

Nqobile: Yazi ngizom'bulala uThenjiwe.

Nolwazi: What happened?

Nqobile cussed.

Nqobile: She mentioned my children Nolwazi.

Nolwazi sighed heavily.

Nqobile: I think I'm going to leave now before I do something I'll regret.

Nolwazi: Leave?

Nqobile nodded and Ivy walked to the lounge and sat next to Nolwazi.

Ivy: Hey Aunt Nqobz.

Nqobile smiled lightly and acknowledged Ivy.

Nqobile: I don't want to find myself doing something crazy. I love my children Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: I understand.

Nqobile: So I came to say goodbye.

Ivy: You're leaving already??

Nqobile: I have to otherwise I'm going to kill that thing.

Ivy: Well I don't mind joining forces. We could bury her somewhere in this land.

Nqobile chuckled.

Nqobile: Oh kodwa Nomzamo.

Ivy: I also suggested that we leave tomorrow. This place and its people really bring out the worst in us.

Nqobile: My thoughts exactly.

Ivy: Well uhambe kahle Aunt Nqobz. I'll visit soon.

Nqobile: I would love that.

They all stood up and shared hugs.

Nolwazi: Thank you for coming.

Nqobile held Nolwazi's hands and looked at her.

Nqobile: Stay strong.

Nolwazi: I'll try.

They hugged one more time and Nqobile made her way out of the house.

Kwanele: Are you okay?

Tholi: I'm tired.

Kwanele looked at her intently.

Tholi: What time are these people leaving?

Kwanele: They're not leaving.

Tholi: So we have to do this for two more days?

Kwanele nodded and Tholi sighed.

Kwanele: I'm also tired but we have to show face.

Tholi nodded and they continued to sit there as people came to converse with them. After a while Tholi stood up.

Tholi: Would you like something to eat?

Kwanele shook his head.

Tholi: I'm hungry.

Kwanele: I'll get someone to dish up for you.

Tholi: I've been sitting for a long time.

Kwanele: Alright.

Tholi walked off to the other side of the yard where some of the cooking women were. She asked them if she could dish up and they said she should get the food that was inside the house which was reserved for family only. She made her way inside the house and went to the empty kitchen. Thenjiwe had now forbidden people from entering her house.

Tholi got there and began dishing up for herself.

Dean: How is everything going so far?

Nolwazi: I really don't want to be here.

Dean: Then come back.

Nolwazi: It's not that easy. I want to tell them about the divorce first but angazi kanjani.

Dean: Okay.

Nolwazi grunted.

Nolwazi: I'm so hungry.

Dean: I assume there's tons of food in such occasions?

Nolwazi: Dean I'm not touching these people's food.

Dean chuckled.

Dean: Haibo Nolwazi so when exactly are you planning on eating?

Nolwazi: I think I'll be fine.

She laughed quietly.

Dean: Go on and starve yourself.

Nolwazi's stomach growled and she rubbed it.

Dean: It's almost 3pm now. You'll survive till you leave?

Nolwazi: Aha.

Dean: Well alright then...

Nolwazi: Thank you for calling.

Dean: Sure, bye.

Nolwazi: Bye.

She dropped the call just as Ivy walked in the bedroom.

Ivy: I'm starving man Lwazi.

Nolwazi: I haven't eaten as well.

Ivy: Asambe.

Nolwazi: Hai angeke ngidle lokakudla mina.

Ivy laughed.

Ivy: You and mom cooked angithi.

Nolwazi frowned and they walked out of the house.

Ivy: These people are going in on the free booze and food.

Nolwazi: Wouldn't you?

Ivy: Cheapskates.

As they made their way to the main house, they tried by all means to avoid conversations and thankfully, all these people were now drunk so Nolwazi was the least of their worries. They got to the house and made their way in.

Nolwazi: Wow where are all the people who were gallivanting in here?

They made their way to the kitchen and to their surprise, Tholi was there. She was sitting down on one of the high stools, eating. Clearly she needed a break from the chaos outside.

Nolwazi took a deep breath and followed Ivy in. Ivy, on the other hand, stared at Tholi who seemed to have frozen where she was sitting. She looked like she had seen a ghost. They walked to the other side of the huge kitchen.

Ivy, who was chuckling sarcastically, turned to look at Nolwazi.

Ivy: What would you like to eat, big sis.

Nolwazi cleared her throat and stared at Ivy.

Nolwazi: Still not eating.

Ivy: Well my appetite has also deteriorated now. I wonder why...

Nolwazi couldn't say anything. She needed a glass of water.

Ivy: Want something to drink?

Nolwazi nodded tightly and Ivy poured her a glass of water.

Tholi, on the other hand, felt like dying. She didn't know where to look or what to do.

Ivy: Yazi, some women never cease to amaze me...

Ivy began dishing up for herself.

Ivy: Sometimes all a bitch needs is a SLAP. One slap to bring things into perspective.

Nolwazi finished her glass of water.

Ivy: Conceited bitches.

Just as Nolwazi was digesting what was happening, Tholi quickly stood up and ran out of the kitchen. Ivy turned to look at Nolwazi and she gave her another glass of water.

Ivy: Lwazi breathe.

Nolwazi looked at Ivy pleadingly.

Ivy: Okay, come.

They quickly walked out of the house and rushed back to their house.

Ivy: I'm sorry Lwa.

Nolwazi sank on the bed and covered herself. She shut everything out and Ivy knew it was time for her to give her sister space so she got out of the house and went back to the main house to get her food.

At around 9pm, Nolwazi's phone rang and she opened her eyes. She had fallen asleep crying since the afternoon. She reached for her phone and it was Dean.

She answered reluctantly.

Nolwazi: Hello?

Dean: Hey.

Nolwazi: Dean please call some other time.

Dean: I'm parked outside.

Nolwazi quickly sat up and exclaimed.

Nolwazi: What??

Dean: Ngingaphandle.

Nolwazi: Phandle kuphi??

Dean: Well there's a shitload of cars lana so I tried to blend in.

Nolwazi kept quiet. She wasn't sure if she was dreaming or hallucinating.

Dean: Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: Dean! What if someone sees you??

Dean: You do realise that people are drunk and being merry here, right?

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Dean: You'll find my car somewhere outside alongside all these other cars.

Nolwazi quickly dropped the call and wore a throw jersey and made her way out. Sure enough, as soon as she stepped out, she realised what Dean was talking about. The place had transformed to some kind of traditional tavern. People were beyond out of it.

Nolwazi looked around to see if she could spot anyone but it seemed like people were minding their own business. Ivy was busy talking some strange boy at a distance and Mdu and the rest of her family were nowhere in sight.

She tried blending in as walked out of the yard and made her way to where all the cars were parked. Her heart rate was on another level. She kept glancing behind, making sure that no one was following her. After a long time of searching for Dean's car amongst the many cars, she finally spotted it and then speed walked to it. She opened the door and quickly got in, feeling like she had just ran a marathon.

Nolwazi: Dean!

Dean, who was as cool as a cucumber, chuckled at how rattled Nolwazi was.

She sank on the seat and spent the next minute gathering her thoughts and self.

Nolwazi: I can't believe you.

Dean: Well, hello to you too.

Nolwazi: Hai suka.

She looked at him and he shrugged his shoulders.

Dean: I brought you some food.

Nolwazi: Dean, you drove approximately 4 hours to bring me food??

Dean nodded and turned. He reached for a paper bag at the back and then handed it to Nolwazi.

Dean: Am I incorrect in stating that you're hungry?

Nolwazi laughed quietly in disbelief.

Dean: There's a lot more where that came from.

Nolwazi looked at him and he grinned.

Nolwazi: I'm too hungry to dignify that with a response.

They both chuckled as she took out the food from the paper bag and began eating.

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Nolwazi: Thank you.

Dean: You're welcome.

Nolwazi rubbed her belly and smiled.

Nolwazi: I may have overeaten.

Dean shook his head lightly.

Nolwazi: Will you be able to drive back at this time of the night?

Dean: Amanzi amancane.

Nolwazi: You sure care about your employees.

Dean: Right.

Nolwazi sighed heavily and sank on the seat.

Nolwazi: This is such a mess.

Dean kept quiet.

Nolwazi: Anyway, how are you?

Dean: I'm good...

Nolwazi nodded lightly and sat up.

Dean: I was thinking about what you said the last time we were together.

Nolwazi: I say many things when I'm with you.

Dean: That I may be taking advantage of you...

Nolwazi looked at him intently.

Nolwazi: Dean-

Dean: It bothered me a bit.

Nolwazi: But I told you I didn't mean it.

Dean: I know. I just can't help but think there's some truth to it. I mean, consciously I'm not taking advantage of you, it's not my intention but I do think you're going through a lot and your choices may not be well-thought.

Nolwazi: Hai ke kanti how old am I?

Dean looked at her.

Nolwazi: I am well aware of the choices I'm making. Had I not wanted anything to transpire here ngabe kudala ngayivala lento.

Dean: Are you sure?

Nolwazi: Yes I am.

Dean nodded lightly and they sat in silence for a while.

Dean: Alright then, let me get going.

Nolwazi: No!

Dean looked at her weirdly and she sighed.

Nolwazi: Not now. I don't want to go back there.

Dean: How is Ivy treating them?

Nolwazi: You don't want me to go there.

They chuckled.

Nolwazi: She's going in on them.

Dean: And the monster-in-law?

Nolwazi: I've been avoiding her the whole day.

Dean shook his head lightly.

Nolwazi: See how tragic my life is?

Dean: Kunzima.

Nolwazi: And then he has the nerve to threaten me.

Dean looked at her sharply.

Dean: Who threatened you?

Nolwazi: He said he'll never let go of me.

Dean: Wow.

Nolwazi: He's all bark.

Nolwazi glanced at Dean and was a bit taken aback at how angry he looked but she dismissed it. They sat in silence for a while once again.

Dean: Come here.

Nolwazi involuntarily leaned closer to him and moaned at the first taste of him. They kissed for a while and with each second, she managed to forget the drama of the day.

Dean broke the kiss and Nolwazi watched as he lowered the seat as far back as it would go. He smiled lightly and Nolwazi climbed over him. Somehow her body was already thinking ahead. Her thighs were throbbing in anticipation. She settled properly on his lap and leaned down so she could kiss him again. He placed his hands on her back and she groaned into his mouth as her private area pressed against the length of his already hard tool in his pants. She stopped kissing him and they looked at each other humorously.

Nolwazi: I'm also taking advantage of you.

Dean chuckled.

Dean: Imagine.

Nolwazi giggled quietly as she leaned down again and they continued to kiss. She was glad that she wasn't the only one who was in this state. The small space was not making it easier as well. She repositioned so that Dean could take off the dress she was wearing. He managed to take it off and he unhooked her bra as well. She shivered as his warm hands caressed her bare skin gently. She lowered herself so he could lick her hard nipples. He licked one nipple at a time and Nolwazi groaned quietly. He ran his tongue slowly around her areola and then captured the nipple between his teeth. Nolwazi arched her back, pushing her breasts into his mouth, one at a time, and he obliged and gave them all his attention. She rocked her hips against his hips and soon realised that she had been ready for him. His hands trailed up her thighs carefully and he slid them in her underwear and she repositioned so he could slide them down. She reached lower to touch his face and then bent down and controlled the kiss. She smiled through the kiss as he groaned and pressed her body against his even harder. After much tongue playing, Nolwazi found herself grinding and humping. At this point she knew she could cum without him being inside her, just the feel of his body on hers was enough to send her to the edge. She continued to grind and hump... Dean stopped the kiss and laughed quietly. She stopped her involuntary movements and hid her face in his neck, taking in his mesmerising scent.

Nolwazi: Sorry.

Dean continued to laugh quietly and she lowered her hand and slipped it between them so she could unzip his pants. Taking his pants off would be another mission and she was not about to waste time. As soon as she opened everything, she smiled at him as his cock popped out, hard and ready as well. She touched it and wrapped her hand around it, sliding up and down slowly. She moved closer to it and seconds later, was rubbing her clit with the head.

Dean: Fuck, Nolwazi.

She watched as he closed his eyes and groaned while she continued to tease him. She too was feeling the anticipation but she enjoyed being in control just this once.

He pulled her down towards him and her lips landed on his. He bit her bottom lip and she moaned and stopped the kiss. Her wetness was now spreading and she couldn't wait any longer. She was desperate to have him inside her so she positioned herself properly over the tip. She held his cock and moaned as she slid the head in slowly. Dean also groaned, waiting for her to settle in so she could start the work. She slowly sank down and her walls slowly opened up and welcomed Dean's fullness. She allowed herself to feel this moment of openness and she gasped as every inch of Dean slid inside. Once he was inside, she slowly moved her hips in a circle to make sure she was comfortable. She arched her back and then balanced herself properly. As she began to move up and down, she smiled to herself. There was no greater feeling than this... All the pain, hurt and anger she experienced that day was no longer filling her mind, body and soul. Dean had now filled all that up and she couldn't ask for anything better. Dean placed his hands on her butt and helped her move up and down.

Nolwazi: Dean...

Dean: Hmm.

Nolwazi tried saying something but that familiar feeling of intensity and thrill slowly began to creep up and she couldn't utter a word. She moaned loudly as she increased her pace, her pelvis coming down against his pelvis harder and harder. Their skin slapped against each other and the heat intensified. His hands were now on her breasts, cupping them, stroking the nipples and pinching them. Their breathing became shorter and the moans became louder and intense. Nolwazi shut her eyes and growled as she felt him deep inside her, her juices sloppy. She squealed as she felt his hand trail to her stomach and down. As she was grinding, he slid his fingers down and began stroking her clit rhythmically.

Nolwazi: Ah!

He continued to stroke her and she increased her pace. Her vagina tightened around his cock and she continued to go in hard and fast.

Dean: Cum Lwazi.

Nolwazi shut her eyes even tighter and slammed in and out quicker and harder, Dean was now stroking her hard clit vigorously.

She cried out and he placed his hands on her butt and made her go even harder.

Nolwazi: Aaah!

Before she knew it, she was already locked up in his embrace. He however was just about to cum so she slipped out and he twitched as his orgasm filled him. She collapsed on him and they lay there for a long time, digesting the ecstasy they had just experienced.

Dean: Lwazi.

Nolwazi: Hmm.

Dean: You can't fall asleep phela.

Nolwazi ignored him and he shook her lightly as she hid her face in his neck.

Dean: Nolwazi vuka.

Nolwazi moaned and put her head up.

Dean: Get dressed.

She sighed as she went back to the passenger's seat and began to get dressed. Dean also fixed himself and after a while, she finished.

Nolwazi: Thanks for coming.

Dean: Sure.

She leaned closer to him and they kissed.

Nolwazi: You should get going.

Dean: Yes I should.

They kissed again and Nolwazi opened the door and got out. She wasn't shocked that people were still having a joll. She quickly rushed back to the yard without looking back and sighed a huge sigh of relieve when she managed to blend in with the crowd. Just as she was about to walk to where her house was, she felt someone grab her arm.

Nolwazi: What the h-

She turned and sighed when she saw Mtho.

Nolwazi: Oh, hey.

Mtho: Did I startle you?

Nolwazi: A little.

Mtho: Ngiyaxolisa.

Nolwazi blinked.

Nolwazi: No, it's fine. I was just going to bed.

Mtho: Alright.

Nolwazi looked at her arm and then at Mtho.

Mtho: Oh, sorry.

He let go of her and she forced a smile.

Nolwazi: Good night.

Mtho: Night.

She quickly turned and began walking towards her house.

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Just as Nolwazi got in the house, she bumped into Mdu.

Nolwazi: Hey.

Mdu wrapped his arms around her and squeezed her.

Mdu: I've missed you.

Nolwazi laughed, trying not to sound awkward.

Nolwazi: Unjani? I've missed you too.

She tried breaking free from his hold but instead Mdu held her even tighter.

Mdu: I've been thinking about you since you left the ceremony earlier today...

Nolwazi: Is it?

Mdu nodded.

Nolwazi tried breaking free once again but Mdu didn't let go instead he chuckled.

Mdu: Kanti why is my hug affecting you so much today?

Nolwazi laughed, trying not to be awkward once again.

Nolwazi: You're breaking my bones boy.

Mdu: Hmm.

Nolwazi quickly tensed up.

Nolwazi: What?

Mdu: You smell nice.

Nolwazi: Mxm!

She pushed him away and stormed to the bedroom. She was suddenly very angry.

Mdu followed her and looked at her intently.

Mdu: You're being irresponsible. What if someone saw you?

Nolwazi: Saw me doing what??

Nolwazi turned to look at him with unexpected fury in her eyes.

Mdu: You reek of a man's cologne Nolwazi. Clearly whoever this man is came here for you.

Nolwazi tried saying something but words failed her. Suddenly it hit her that someone may have indeed seen her. She looked at Mdu nervously.

Mdu: Listen, after what I saw today, to be honest, I'm starting to see that this is bullshit. It's all such a mind fuck.

Nolwazi kept quiet and Mdu walked over to her and hugged her.

Mdu: I can't begin to imagine how it feels. After cracking my skull today, I think you should do

what's best for you.

Nolwazi: You mean that?

Mdu nodded and she smiled lightly and they hugged again.

Mdu: Just don't be irresponsible. Dad is the last piece of the puzzle and I think we all know that it's going to take more than tears to convince him that this shit is fucked up.

Nolwazi: It's so frustrating.

Mdu: But I mean we can't blame him. At the end of the day he was raised a certain way and whether we like it or not, people are influenced by that and it's hard to break free.

Nolwazi: But I'm his daughter. Who would want to see their daughter hurt?

Mdu shrugged his shoulders and they went to the lounge.

Nolwazi: I thin-

Just then there was a loud bang on the door and Mdu pushed Nolwazi aside and rushed to the door, on defence mode. Nolwazi followed him and he opened it, ready to attack whoever it was, but it was that Themba boy he saw with Ivy.

Mdu: Ye wena, uxakwe yini??

Themba looked at Mdu nervously and Nolwazi stood next to him.

Nolwazi: How may we help you?

Themba: Aunt Thandeka said I should tell you to come to the house.

Nolwazi and Mdu looked at each other.

Themba: She says you must hurry up.

Nolwazi sighed and she and Mdu locked up and made their way to the main house. They walked past all the people and made their way inside and closed the door. They heard murmurs and just as they entered the kitchen, they saw Thandeka and Dumakude.

Nolwazi: What's g-

Thandeka: Kwanele is having a seizur-

Nolwazi instantly rushed to the sitting room and found Thenjiwe, Lindiwe, Tholi and Pretty. They were all towered over him.

Thenjiwe looked at Nolwazi.

Nolwazi got to them and asked them to move but they all just stood there.

Thenjiwe: Animuzwa uNolwazi?? Sukani man!

They all backed away and Nolwazi looked down at Kwanele as he lay there, about to go into a seizure.

Thenjiwe: Why are you crying na wena?? Thula!

Tholi, who was balling her eyes out, cried more silently.

Pretty: I'm a nurse. I know these thin-

Thenjiwe: Don't you dare touch my son!

Pretty: But I-

Thenjiwe: You think your baby sitting skills qualify you as a nurse?? Don't you da-

Nolwazi: Can everyone leave, please!

Nolwazi looked at them pleadingly. They all kept quiet and Mdu came over with a glass of water and Nolwazi shook her head.

Nolwazi: He can't drink anything until it's over.

Mdu: How long does it last?

Nolwazi: Not longer than 3 minutes.

Nolwazi kneeled down next to Kwanele and then unfastened his belt.

Nolwazi: Mdu please reposition him to the side.

Mdu obliged and moved Kwanele and made him lay on his side.

Pretty: He is supposed to face up!

Thenjiwe: One more word from you wena slima ndini! You want him to suffocate from his vomit and saliva??

Pretty kept quiet and Tholi's sobs filled the room.

Thenjiwe: Can someone please take this crying girl out of here!

Lindiwe: Mama she has never seen Kwanele lik-

Thenjiwe: Out! Nonke futhi! PHUMANI!

Lindiwe was about to protest when Mdu looked at her and she kept quiet instantly.

Mdu: Let's go.

He led Tholi, Lindiwe and Pretty out. Thenjiwe and Nolwazi were now the only ones there.

Just as they left, Kwanele's seizure began and Titi looked down at him worriedly and sighed heavily.

Titi: I can never get used to this.

Nolwazi: I know.

They watched painfully as Kwanele lay there, unrecognisable. It was too painful to watch...

Tholi walked out of the house and went to the other side of the yard, crying. She had never seen Kwanele in that state and she was scared and shocked. She was now praying that he would survive whatever he was experiencing. Just the thought of him dying terrified her.

She was startled to feel someone place their hands on her shoulders. She turned around and saw Mdu. He looked at her, concerned.

Mdu: He'll be fine.

Tholi: What is wrong with him??

She couldn't help but panic.

Mdu: He suffers from epilepsy.

Tholi's tears flooded her eyes and she tried erasing the image of Kwanele laying there. She was genuinely traumatised.

Mdu: He'll be fine.

Tholi: Ho-how do you know that??

Mdu: The people in his life know how to deal with it.

Tholi: You're lying. Titi and Lindi seemed confused.

Mdu: That's because Nolwazi has been the one who has dealt with him for the past four years.

Tholi: Kanti uqale nini ukuba nje?

Mdu: The year before they got married but she found out a bit later.

Tholi kept quiet and focused on stopping the tears. She was really shaken.

Mdu pulled her closer and she collapsed in his arms.

Nolwazi: Can you please get a towel.

Titi, who had already brought one, gave it her.

Nolwazi: He's calming down.

They watched as Kwanele's seizure quietened down and he lay there having a hard time breathing. Nolwazi repositioned his head so his neck wouldn't be compressed. After a while, his breathing finally stabilised.

Just then Mdu walked in, carrying Tholi.

Titi: And then?

Mdu: She fainted.

Titi: Mxm.

Pretty rushed in and looked at Mdu in panic.

Pretty: Nooo what happened to her?? Is she fine??? Oh noo!!

Titi: Stop being dramatic wena ngoba we all know that you don't care about this child.

Titi looked at Mdu.

Thenjiwe: Mdu take that girl to one of the bedrooms and sprinkle water on her. I'm sure your arms even hurt.

Pretty gave Thenjiwe a sharp look.

Thenjiwe: Heeh man go! We don't need unnecessary drama here.

Mdu walked to the other side of the house.

Thenjiwe looked at Pretty.

Thenjiwe: Umeleni wena? Go take care of your niece.

Pretty gave her one more look and then ran to where Mdu was headed. Thenjiwe looked down at Kwanele and sighed in relief as he opened his eyes.

Nolwazi: Nele.

Kwanele kept quiet and just stared ahead.

Nolwazi gently made him open his mouth and then cleaned out all the vomit that was in his mouth with her finger. She wiped him properly and then he blinked a couple of times.

Thenjiwe: Does he need water?

Nolwazi: Not yet.

She kneeled there for the next 10 minutes or so until he became stable.

Nolwazi: Want me to help you up?

Kwanele nodded lightly and Nolwazi wrapped her arms around him and managed to help him sit up.

Kwanele: Water.

Thenjiwe rushed to the kitchen and found Thandeka and Dumakude standing there, Dumakude holding his shaken wife.

Thandeka: Is he awake?

Thenjiwe nodded tightly before she walked back to the lounge and handed Nolwazi the glass. Nolwazi helped Kwanele drink some water and then put the glass away.

Nolwazi: Don't you want to get up and sit on the couch? Aren't the tiles hurting you?

Kwanele nodded and Nolwazi stood up and both she and Titi helped him stand up and they got him to sit on the couch. He rested his head and closed his eyes.

Nolwazi then took a deep breath and looked at Titi.

Nolwazi: Get him to bed once he is fully alert.

Titi nodded and just as Nolwazi was about to get up from the couch, Kwanele placed his hand on her arm. She turned to look at him.

Nolwazi: Do you need anything else?

Kwanele opened his eyes and looked at her and she, in turn, looked at Thenjiwe.

Thenjiwe walked out of the lounge and Nolwazi sat in silence as Kwanele closed his eyes again. Part of her was worried about Tholi. She knew what she was going through... Kwanele obviously kept this from her and the girl didn't know how to react, she didn't blame her.

Thandeka walked in slowly and looked at Nolwazi.

Thandeka: Is he fine?

Nolwazi nodded.

Thandeka: We're going to bed now, shout if you need us.

Nolwazi nodded and Thandeka walked out with Dumakude.

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Nolwazi: Are you fine now?

Kwanele shook his head lightly and she looked at him. Knowing Kwanele, he was perfectly fine at this point but he was going to use this to keep her by his side. Nolwazi, because of her love for him, would stay without a doubt. They both knew that she would never leave him when he was like this... In sickness and in health...

Nolwazi: Should I take you to bed?

Kwanele nodded and she "helped" him stand up and they walked to his bedroom in the main house. He refused to go to Tholi's house for some reason. They got in and Nolwazi helped him take off his clothes and get in bed.

Nolwazi: Good night.

Kwanele: Nolwazi, please.

Nolwazi: Ufunani Kwanele?

Kwanele kept quiet and Nolwazi walked out of the room and closed the door. She did not know where she was going but somehow she found herself heading to the bedroom where Tholi was. She knocked on the door and shortly after, Mdu opened.

Nolwazi: How is she?

Mdu: Uthukile lomuntu.

Nolwazi: Can I get it?

Mdu looked at her in disbelief and Nolwazi walked past him and made her way in. Tholi was on the bed and Pretty was sitting on the edge. She walked over to the bed and stood there, looking down at Tholi who seemed shaken.

Pretty: What do you want here?? You came to ridicule my niece??

Nolwazi looked at Pretty calmly and shook her head.

Pretty: Ufunani??

Nolwazi glanced at Tholi and then took a deep breath. For a moment there, she felt like she was looking at Ivy, her younger sister. She looked so shaken and it really was a sad sight to see. She walked closer and then kneeled down by the edge so she could be closer. She then looked at Mdu.

Nolwazi: Get her some warm milk.

Mdu nodded lightly as he walked out of the room. Nolwazi reached for Tholi's face and removed her hair gently. Tholi had her eyes closed and her face was red and puffy.

Pretty: Tholakele is a sheltered girl. This family needs to understand this.

Nolwazi glanced at Pretty and didn't say anything.

Pretty: She can't be treated like this because at the end of the day they chose her...

Pretty kept quiet and Nolwazi broke eye contact and looked at Tholi. They stayed in silence for a while until Mdu walked back in with a mug of warm milk. He gave Nolwazi the mug and she brushed Tholi's face.

Nolwazi cleared her throat and swallowed hard.

Nolwazi: Tholi.

Tholi didn't open her eyes.

Nolwazi: Please drink this, it will help.

Tholi still didn't open her eyes. Nolwazi glanced at Mdu and he walked over to where Nolwazi was kneeling and then leaned down so he could be closer to Tholi.

Mdu: Tholakele.

Tholi opened her eyes and blinked a couple of times.

Mdu: Try to sit up.

She obliged and sat up, balancing on the head board. Her heart rate was on another level. She avoided eye contact with Nolwazi. It wasn't enough that Mdu's intimidating demeanour was weighing heavy on her and now she had to deal with Nolwazi, whose presence also frightened her up close.

Nolwazi: Bamba.

She fuelled up the courage to look at Nolwazi but didn't look at her in the eyes. She looked at the mug.

Mdu: Take the mug Tholi.

Tholi obliged once again and Nolwazi couldn't help but look at Mdu in confusion. She couldn't understand why Mdu seemed to get through to her. Mdu smiled with his eyes and Nolwazi focused on Tholi again.

Nolwazi: It's warm milk.

Tholi looked at the mug and then glanced at Nolwazi's hands, still avoiding her eyes.

Tholi: Thank you.

Nolwazi nodded lightly and Tholi began drinking the warm milk.

Pretty: I have to go.

All three of them looked at her in confusion.

"It's midnight," Nolwazi thought to herself, "So she'd rather leave her traumatised niece just to go have a good time outside? Some people really don't know how to love..."

Pretty: Nizoba grand angithi?

Mdu: Mxm.

Pretty looked at Tholi.

Pretty: U-right angithi? Call me ke if you need anything.

Before Tholi could reply and ask her to stay because she feared staying with Mdu and his sister, Pretty was already walking out. Seconds later she closed the door and there was silence. Tholi focused on the mug again and both Nolwazi and Mdu stared at her.

Mdu: Is Kwanele fine?

Nolwazi: There's nothing wrong, he's fine.

Tholi: He's not going to die. Is he??

She quickly looked down. She didn't know where her courage to speak came from.

Nolwazi: No, he won't die. He's perfectly fine.

Tholi nodded lightly and continued to drink the milk. Nolwazi then glanced at Mdu and he nodded. She got up and then looked at Tholi.

Nolwazi: He was probably going to tell you...

Tholi kept quiet and Nolwazi turned and made her way out of the bedroom. When she closed the door she leaned on it and closed her eyes. She took a deep breath and processed everything that had happened.

Lindiwe: Lwazi.

She opened her eyes and saw Lindiwe standing at a distance from her in the passage.

They stared at each other for a while.

Out of everyone involved in this situation, Nolwazi really couldn't contain the anger she had towards Lindiwe. Besides Kwanele, she felt Lindiwe betrayed her deeply because of their close relationship. She walked away and made her way to Kwanele's bedroom. When she got in she found him sleeping. She went to the bed and sat next to him. She allowed herself to delve deeper into her thoughts... Kwanele got closer to her and placed his head on her lap and slept away.

The following morning, Thandeka and Nolwazi were busy making breakfast when Ivy walked in.

Everyone had completely forgotten about this one.

Thandeka: Nomzamo!

Ivy smiled brightly.

Ivy: Hey humans.

Thandeka: Where have you been??

Ivy: Hai ke no one asks you what you get up to.

She then looked at Nolwazi, who looked sombre.

Ivy: What's up Lwa?

Thandeka: Kwanele had a seizure last night.

Ivy laughed.

Thandeka: Nomzamo!

Ivy: Hai suka singenaphi lapho thina? Ngabe nimyekile afe-

Before Ivy could finish what she was saying, Nolwazi had already thrown a glass at her. Ivy ducked and both she and Thandeka exclaimed in shock. Thandeka rushed to Ivy to see if she was okay and Nolwazi stood there and realised what she had done. Soon after, she also walked to Ivy.

Nolwazi: Ivy...

Ivy looked at Nolwazi in shock.

Nolwazi: I'm so sorry!

Ivy pushed both of them away and stormed out of the house.

Thandeka: Lwazi!

Nolwazi looked at her mother nervously.

Just then there was a knock on the door and Thandeka opened and Mtho walked in.

Mtho: Sanibonani.

Thandeka: Yebo, Mtho.

Mtho: Uhm, my father asked me to call you.

Thandeka: Haibo angithi I told them that we would have our own breakfast here.

Mtho: No, he says there's a family meeting.

Thandeka frowned.

Thandeka: Manje?

Mtho: Yebo

Nolwazi and Thandeka glanced at each other.

Thandeka: Okay bhuti, siyeza.

Mtho looked at Nolwazi.

Mtho: Sawubona Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: Hi.

Mtho frowned at her coldness before he turned and walked out of the house.

Thandeka: Let's eat first.

Nolwazi: Ma I need to find Ivy.

Thandeka: She'll get over it. We also need to cut you some slack. One does not simply "switch off" their love for someone. Awujoli noKwanele. You two are married and I know it must be hard for you so don't worry about Ivy, she will get over it... She has to.

They continued to prepare their breakfast.

INSERT 42 (Couldn't edit)

Nolwazi, Thandeka and Mdu finished up eating. Dumakude had spent the morning with Buthelezi so Nolwazi figured he was also part of whatever meeting was planned.

Nolwazi glanced at Mdu.

Nolwazi: Bhenju.

Mdu looked at Nolwazi as Thandeka walked out.

Nolwazi: How is Tholi?

Mdu: She was better when I went to check this morning.

Nolwazi then stared at Mdu intently.

Nolwazi: Bhenju.

Mdu: Yes?

Nolwazi: What's going on?

Mdu chuckled lightly and shook his head.

Nolwazi: Okay.

They walked out of the house and Nolwazi looked around the yard trying to see if she could spot Ivy but she was nowhere. People were still sitting around the yard... Clearly it was going to be another long day but Nolwazi wasn't sure if she would stay.

They got to the kitchen and Thandeka was busy boiling water and Thenjiwe, as cold and unresponsive as she was, was busy sorting out the scones.

Nolwazi: Do you need help?

Thandeka shook her head and Nolwazi carried on walking hand in hand with Mdu. When they got in the lounge they found Buthelezi, Dumakude, two uncles from Buthelezi's side, Lindiwe and Kwanele.

Mdu: Nivuke kahle?

All the men responded.

Nolwazi: Sanibonani.

Buthelezi smiled and stood up. He opened up his arms and Nolwazi looked at him weirdly. Mdu then pushed her towards his direction and she went in for a hug.

Buthelezi: Thank you.

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Buthelezi: Thank you very much makoti.

Nolwazi nodded lightly and he let go of her.

Buthelezi: Hlalani phansi.

Mdu and Nolwazi sat next to each other and Kwanele finally looked up and stared at Nolwazi. She avoided his gaze and made small talk with her brother while they waiting for Thenjiwe and Thandeka. After a while they finally walked in and Thandeka went to sit next to her husband.

Buthelezi cleared his throat and everyone kept quiet and listened to him.

Buthelezi: I called this meeting because in all honesty, the past hours we have been together have shown me just how divided we are as a family. There is so much hurt, anger and disrespect that is going around and it really pains me to see this because this is a recent thing. We've always been a close nit family and now we are extremely divided.

Dumakude: I agree 100%. My suggestion is that we deal with the root of the problem.

Buthelezi: The root of the problem?

Dumakude: Yes...

Dumakude glanced at Nolwazi and Kwanele.

Dumakude: We are all aware that problems aroused when you were all convinced that my daughter cannot conceive children.

Everyone kept quiet.

Dumakude: When you all came to that conclusion you began doing other things on the side and as a result, we are seated here today.

Buthelezi: Doing other things on the side?

Dumakude: Haibo Buthelezi don't tell me that as the man of the house you had no idea ukuthi your wife was busy running the show.

Everyone kept quiet and Thenjiwe looked at Dumakude and gasped.

Dumakude: Your wife is a big problem Buthelezi and I would like to think that you are man enough to admit this yourself.

Thenjiwe: Haibo kanti m-

Dumakude looked at Thenjiwe and she kept quiet instantly. Dumakude then looked at Buthelezi.

Dumakude: You brought in a second wife here and everything was done in the wrong way, that's why izinto zihamba kabi.

Buthelezi: How would you suggest we do it?

Dumakude chuckled.

Dumakude: Can't you see that the damage is already done?

Buthelezi glanced at Nolwazi.

Dumakude: Yonke le up and down ebeniyenza inixakile manje.

There was silence and then Thandeka cleared her throat.

Thandeka: You did not think things through...

Buthelezi: I am man enough to admit to that.

Thandeka: But are you man enough to undo it?

Nolwazi: There's no undoing it.

Everyone looked at Nolwazi in disbelief and there was silence.

Nolwazi: To be honest I really am not interested in what anyone has to say at this point.

She looked at Kwanele who was now staring at her with his jaw tightened.

Nolwazi: All this back and forth...

She took a deep breath and exhaled.

Nolwazi: Count me out.

Buthelezi: What are you saying Nolwazi?

Even Thenjiwe was stunned at this point. She had no words whatsoever.

Nolwazi: What I'm saying is... I'm getting a divorce.

Everyone exclaimed in shock, except Thandeka, Dumakude and Mdu.

Buthelezi: Angikuzwa kahle makoti.

Nolwazi turned to look at a flabbergasted Buthelezi and she swallowed hard.

Nolwazi: I'm done.

Buthelezi rubbed his eyes and scratched his head. He genuinely looked like he got kicked in the stomach.

Kwanele on the other hand seemed to be in his own world. He wasn't there...

Dumakude cleared his throat.

Dumakude: Do you see where your irresponsibility and selfishness has led us?

Buthelezi: You can't allow this Dumakude!

Dumakude: Nolwazi is 29 years old. Do you really think I can stop a woman her age from making decisions which she feels are best for her?

There was silence.

Dumakude: You have all lost a daughter. Nolwazi would go to hell and back for that boy sitting right there but because you are all such a reckless and selfish family, you are losing her now. As much as my pride won't let me go through with this, I refuse to let it take over my judgement. My daughter's dignity has been dragged through the mud and I can't allow this anymore.

Nolwazi tried holding back her tears as she watched her father, even Thandeka was crying. No one expected that from him.

Dumakude: She has reached her breaking point and we as her support system are going to take her back under our wing seeing as you all failed to appreciate her. I didn't give birth to my children just to have them treated like rubbish by strangers.

Buthelezi, Titi, Lindiwe, Kwanele and the two uncles all sat there dumbfounded.

Dumakude: My only wish right now is that you as the Buthelezi family learn from this. You do not treat people like they're dirt and then expect them to stay loyal to you.

Buthelezi sighed heavily.

Dumakude: I am cutting all ties with you, Shenge. My daughter needs me now.

Dumakude then glanced at Kwanele and shook his head.

Dumakude: You've lost an irreplaceable treasure son... I hope you manage to find something as close to what she is.

Ivy: Well we certainly know that the new wife is not close...

Everyone turned and Ivy stood there and looked at everyone.

Ivy: So I guess we're all on the same page now? We're finally seeing these people for the evil, blood thirsty and selfish things that they are?

Dumakude: Nomzam-

Ivy: You people don't know what love is. It's actually such a pity.

Dumakude kept quiet. Ivy had never listened to him in life so she sure as hell wouldn't start now.

Ivy: I feel very sorry for you. Take a good look at this side of the room.

She pointed at her family.

Ivy: You see these people? These people have each other's backs. No matter how hectic things get, they don't betray each other... Now YOU on the other hand? You have a woman who takes evilness to a whole other level, a man who has the power but doesn't stop this woman, a daughter who doesn't know what true friendship means and uncles who are really just pictures on the wall-in other words they're irrelevant and forgettable,

She looked at Kwanele.

Ivy: I'm not even going to read you Kwanele because you have won the title of titles. Sikushayela izandla bhuti ngoba uyayenza into yakho.

Thandeka cleared her throat loudly.

Ivy: Anyway, I'm just glad you people know about the divorce now. We need to get going manje. This whole place has a way of draining a person!

She sighed and Dumakude cleared his throat.

Dumakude: I think its best we leave.

Dumakude glanced at everyone and then at Thandeka.

Thandeka: Okay.

Dumakude: I just need to talk to Buthelezi.

Nolwazi, Mdu and Thandeka stood up and they walked out with Ivy. Words and looks were not exchanged at this point. The atmosphere was a bit too tense and awkward.

INSERT 43

Mdu made his way to Tholi's house. He knocked a couple of times and eventually the door opened and Tholi stood there in confusion, she looked at him nervously.

Mdu: Can I come in?

Tholi froze and continued to stare at him with a mixture of confusion and uneasiness.

Mdu stepped forward and she backed away and he made his way in.

Mdu: Close the door.

Tholi stood still by the door, still confused. Mdu huffed and walked closer to her and shut the door. He then stood very close to her and looked at her.

Tholi: Is the-

She cleared her throat.

Tholi: Is there a problem?

Her cheeks were now flushed.

Mdu: Well it depends on how you view it.

Tholi looked at him with a puzzled expression and he smiled kindly.

Mdu: They're separating.

Tholi's expression remained unchanged, she was still puzzled.

Mdu: How old are you again?

Tholi's puzzled expression deepened. Mdu confused the hell out of her.

Mdu: Hmm?

Tholi: 22.

Mdu nodded.

Mdu: Nolwazi is getting a divorce.

Tholi's eyes shot up and she opened her mouth to say something but words failed her. Mdu

stared at her for a very long time.

Mdu: At least you have him to yourself... Isn't that what you've always wanted?

Tholi looked at him without saying anything and Mdu grinned.

Mdu: He's all yours now.

Tholi: I-

Her thoughts flooded her mind and she just stood there, speechless. She wondered if it was something she said or did that led to this. The last time she saw Nolwazi, she looked so confident and well put together so how did she come to this?

"Could it be something I did?" she thought to herself, "Maybe I did something that angered her somehow..."

All these thoughts flooded her and she felt her heart sink as she realised just how hectic this situation was. Could it be that all this time she just managed to lie to herself? She allowed people to dictate what she was supposed to do and in the end, quite a lot of people were hurt, including her. She thought back to the day she was told that she would get married to Kwanele... She hadn't allowed herself to retrace all of those memories...

She felt a hand touch her face and she sighed. All this time she had managed to convince herself that Nolwazi was a bad person. Viewing Nolwazi in such a negative light made it easier for her to go on with her life however, after Nolwazi had been so kind to her and made sure she was fine after Kwanele's seizure, she soon realised that she was the complete opposite of bad.

As she shook her head lightly, to try and erase her thoughts, she looked at Mdu.

Tholi: Please leave.

Mdu: I have to give it to you... You have tears for days.

Tholi didn't even comprehend that she was crying. As she was about to wipe her tears, she was shocked to realise that Mdu's hand was on her face. He chuckled as he watched her face turn even redder and her eyes popped out.

Mdu: Calm down.

Tholi tilted her head and Mdu's hand fell off her face.

Tholi: Leave.

Mdu nodded lightly and stood there.

Tholi: Now!

Mdu: How am I supposed to get out when you're pressed against the door?

Tholi tried moving but Mdu blocked her way and grinned.

Tholi: I'm glad you find this amusing.

Mdu: I do actually. Your innocence genuinely amazes me.

Tholi tried moving again but this time he blocked her and wrapped his arms around her waist.

Tholi's eyes popped out again and Mdu laughed quietly.

Tholi: No, please leave me alone.

She looked at him pleadingly and he couldn't help but remove his arms. He then looked at her.

Mdu: Can I tell you something?

Tholi kept quiet.

Mdu: I was planning on fucking the daylights out of you.

Tholi gasped in shock.

Tholi: How dar-

Mdu: But-

He chuckled and shook his head lightly.

Mdu: My plan was ruined...

Tholi was still looking at him in shock.

Mdu: By you.

He narrowed his eyes and stared at her.

Mdu: Something tells me you're not to blame for any of this shit... You don't strike me as spiteful.

Tholi's expression relaxed a bit but she continued to remain silent.

Mdu: I was going to steal you from him and leave him wifeless. How ironic would that be? He'd go from having two wives to none but now that my sister is done with him, I've decided to let it slide... Now he can focus on building a life with you...

Tholi kept quiet.

Mdu: So I'll leave your household in peace.

He smiled kindly.

Mdu: Excuse me.

He motioned that she was blocking his way and she didn't move.

Mdu: Tholi I'd like to leave now.

Tholi shook her head lightly, obviously snapping out of it.

Tholi: Oh, sorry.

She tried moving aside but Mdu was still blocking her way. He stepped even closer to her and

she looked at him pleadingly. Before she could say anything he had already held her and their faces touched. Tholi's body tensed up and she felt him smile as his lips gently touched hers. She was expecting herself to try to stop him but that didn't happen. They stood there for a long time, not kissing. Mdu was waiting for her to relax and she was waiting for a miracle to stop whatever was happening.

As she closed her eyes, Mdu planted a light kiss on her lips and then leaned his face closer to her ear.

Mdu: Stop letting people rule your life.

He backed up from her and she stood there, still taken away.

Mdu: Tholi, seriously now, get out of my way.

He looked at her as she shook her head once again, shaking whatever thoughts were flooding her. She looked down embarrassingly and shifted so he could have access to the door.

Mdu: You're adorable.

Tholi grunted and he chuckled as he opened the door.

Mdu: Bye.

She kept quiet and he walked out of the house. As soon as the door closed, Tholi rushed to the bathroom to rinse her face. She was confused and mesmerised at the same time.

Just as she was walking out of the bathroom and to the lounge, she heard the door open and to her surprise, it was Kwanele. She hadn't seen him since the previous night because they slept in different rooms. She looked at him, suddenly feeling concerned. He looked like he had just been

hit by a bus. As she was about to walk to him, he gave her a quick stare and she stopped. He then walked to the bedroom and shut the door. She sighed in defeat and decided to give him his space...

INSERT 44

Thandeka looked at Nolwazi who had not said a word to anyone.

Thandeka: Baby.

Nolwazi: I don't want to talk.

Thandeka nodded lightly and finished up packing for everyone. After a while Dumakude walked in the house and he looked at Nolwazi.

Dumakude: Are we ready to leave?

Nolwazi nodded lightly and he walked to the bedroom to also get ready. Mdu walked in as well, looking quite pleased with himself for some reason.

Mdu: Are we leaving?

Nolwazi ignored him and continued to sit on the couch, drowning herself in her thoughts. Mdu figured it was best to leave her alone and he too walked to his bedroom to get ready. Nolwazi's heart had sunk so low, she wasn't sure how she was feeling. She wanted to get back to her house and shut everything out until she could make sense of everything.

Thandeka: Baby we're all ready now.

Nolwazi looked at her mother and nodded. Ivy, Dumakude and Mdu made their way out and Nolwazi stood up.

Thandeka: Mdu has your bag.

Nolwazi nodded and she looked around the house blankly.

Thandeka: It will get better Lwazi.

Nolwazi ignored her mother and made her way out of the house. As they all walked past the main house, they were all shocked to hear people yelling.

Dumakude: It's none of our business now.

The yells were so loud and all of them couldn't help but want to find out.

Thandeka: I wonder...

They continued to walk until they got to their car.

Ivy: Good riddance!

Nolwazi got in the car while all of them were busy putting the bags in. Once they were done they all got in the car except Mdu.

Dumakude: Yini manje Bhenju?

Mdu: I forgot my charger.

Thandeka: Hurry up please!

Ivy: Uyabhora man Bhenju.

Mdu turned and walked back to the yard. He made his way back to Nolwazi's house and to his bedroom where he left his phone charger. He got it and then made his way out. As he was walking, a thought crossed his mind but he dismissed it.

Person: Mdu!

Mdu turned and stifled a grin. He watched as she tried rushing to him from a distance. When she finally got to him, she took a deep breath and exhaled. Mdu chuckled.

Mdu: Yes?

She held on to her chest for a couple of seconds and then sighed once her breath had stabilised.

Tholi: What were you talking about when you said I shouldn't let people rule my life?

Mdu: What's not clear about that statement?

She looked down embarrassingly and then he smiled.

Tholi: Why would you say that?

Mdu: Listen, I have to go.

Tholi kept quiet.

Mdu: I thi-

Person: Ye wena Mdu! Don't fuck with us!

Mdu turned and Ivy stood at a distance.

Ivy: We've been waiting for you and you're out here talking to that thing!

As Mdu turned to face Tholi again, she was already walking away. He scratched his head lightly and then turned and made his way back to the car.

Ivy: You should have brought your own car here if you were planning on delaying us.

Mdu ignored her and they got in the car and Dumakude drove off. Mdu then turned to look at his big sister who was sitting alone at the far back. It was clear that this was going to be a whole other obstacle she'd have to get over...

Dumakude: I think we should go to a hotel, Nolwazi might need her space.

Thandeka: You all can go. I'm not going anywhere until she tells me to leave.

Dumakude kept quiet.

Thandeka: I'm not going to leave her all alone when she's facing something this deep.
Ningahamba nina kodwa angiyindawo mina.

Mdu: I think we should stay but still give her space. I don't think it's a good idea to leave her here after what happened.

Ivy: I concur.

Dumakude sighed heavily and then nodded.

Thandeka: We all need to rest for now.

They all agreed to give Nolwazi her space and mind their own business until she reached out to them.

Nolwazi was in the bathtub, taking a nap while the hot water pierced through her skin. She was beyond numb at this point, both emotionally and physically. She knew she'd have to go through a stage of depression before she saw the light again. What she built for four years had now amounted to nothing...

Just as she was dozing off, she heard the door open but she just laid there.

Thandeka: Baby.

She opened her eyes and looked at her mother as she towered over her.

Thandeka: You'll get a cold. You've been in here for over an hour now.

Nolwazi kept quiet and watched as her mother grabbed a towel and reach down to her.

Thandeka: Phakama Lwazi.

She involuntarily got up and stepped out of the tub. Thandeka then wrapped the towel around her.

Thandeka: Dry yourself up, I'll clean up here.

Nolwazi walked to the bedroom and Thandeka stayed in the bathroom and cleaned up. After she was done she walked to the bedroom and found Nolwazi lotioning herself. She went to her drawer and took out her warm pyjamas and then placed them on the bed.

Thandeka: I'm preparing an early dinner for us.

Nolwazi kept quiet and Thandeka walked out and closed the door. As soon as Nolwazi was in her pyjamas, she got in bed and zoned out.

Thenjiwe: She will never divorce him.

Buthelezi kept quiet. He hadn't said a word to anyone since the previous night.

Thenjiwe: She will never do it!

He couldn't stand Thenjiwe's voice anymore so he stood up and walked out of the house. Lindiwe and Thenjiwe then had another loud verbal argument for a while.

Lindiwe: Why are you so concerned?? Weren't you the one who infiltrated all of this??

Thenjiwe: Watch your mouth!

Lindiwe: You have brainwashed your son and made him your puppet! Look at where that has landed him!

Thenjiwe: Ukhuluma ngani wena?!

Lindiwe: Oh please, I know what you did!

Thenjiwe: Watch it Lindiwe!

Lindiwe: Kwanele's life is ruined because of you!

Thenjiwe: Ye wena mntanandini! Don't you dare come here and act innocent. You were the one who came here telling me about how you're starting to like Tholakele!

Lindiwe kept quiet.

Thenjiwe: Oh so you're out of words now??

Lindiwe looked at Thenjiwe angrily.

Thenjiwe: You people love blaming me!

Lindiwe: All of this was started by you.

Thenjiwe: Stop talking rubbish and get out of my house.

Lindiwe stormed out and Thenjiwe sat down and huffed and puffed for a good five minutes. Once she was stable, she slid her hand in her bra and took out her phone. She dialled a number.

Person: Hello.

Thenjiwe: I need information...

Person: I'm listening...

Thandeka walked back in with a tray. She placed it on the side table and then shook Nolwazi lightly. Nolwazi opened her eyes.

Thandeka: Here's your food baby.

Nolwazi blinked a couple of times and then sat up.

Nolwazi: Thank you.

Thandeka: Anything for you.

She placed the tray on her lap and Nolwazi began eating. Thandeka sat on the edge of the bed.

Thandeka: How are you feeling?

Nolwazi glanced at her mother.

Nolwazi: Like a failure.

Thandeka nodded lightly. She knew she had to allow Nolwazi to go through all the emotional stages that were involved in such situations.

Thandeka: It will get better.

Nolwazi laughed sarcastically and then carried on eating.

Thandeka: I suggest you focus on your work. Keep busy.

Nolwazi nodded lightly.

Thandeka: Would you like me to call Nomi or Sly?

Nolwazi shook her head.

Thandeka: Okay then.

Nolwazi: Thanks for the food.

Thandeka took the tray and then nodded. She walked out of the bedroom and closed the door. Nolwazi then sat in silence for a while. She reached for her work phone and switched it on and it was flooded with emails. She read all the important ones and felt slightly better knowing that out of everything that was going on, her job was still intact.

She dialled Dean's number and it rang for a long time but he eventually answered.

Dean: Work phone?

Nolwazi: Yes, I'm back.

Dean: So soon?

Nolwazi huffed.

Dean: You sound terrible. What's wrong now?

Nolwazi: I told them about the divorce.

Dean: How did he take it?

Nolwazi: I can't describe it. He was weird and quiet.

Dean: If you need more days then I'll or-

Nolwazi: No, I need you to forward me more work.

Dean: Are you sure?

Nolwazi: Yes.

Dean: Okay...

Nolwazi: And I'd also appreciate it if you would come fetch me.

Dean: Are you at your house?

Nolwazi: No Dean, I'm in Australia.

Dean chuckled.

Dean: Give me two hours or so. I'm on my way to the gym.

Nolwazi grunted.

Dean: Grunt all you want.

Nolwazi: Bye.

Dean: Bye.

She dropped the call and continued to go through her work emails.

INSERT 45

Mdu walked in the bedroom and went to sit next to Nolwazi.

Mdu: Hey kiddo.

Nolwazi looked at him and he smiled and Nolwazi smiled back faintly.

Mdu: I'm worried about you.

Nolwazi: Don't be.

Mdu: Will you be fine?

Nolwazi: Yes.

Mdu nodded lightly and Nolwazi got up and began packing an overnight bag.

Mdu: Haibo where are you going?

Nolwazi kept quiet and Mdu watched her closely and once she was done, she went back and lay on the bed next to him.

Mdu: Lwazi.

Nolwazi: Hmm.

Mdu: Lay off whatever you're doing.

Nolwazi glanced at him and laughed quietly.

Mdu: You're v-

Nolwazi: You forget your position sometimes.

Mdu kept quiet.

Nolwazi: Get out.

Mdu reluctantly stood up and walked out of the bedroom. Nolwazi lay there and tried not to give in to the sinking feeling that was trying to fill her even more. Eventually her phone rang and it was Dean telling her that he was outside. She got her bag and made her way downstairs where she found everyone in the lounge watching TV.

"How sweet," she thought, "Having a good time while I'm cracking my skull..."

Thandeka: Oh-

Ivy: She's a grown ass woman. Don't even try it!

Thandeka: Ha-

Ivy: Go get fresh air Lwa.

Nolwazi glanced at Ivy and Ivy winked at her. Nolwazi stifled a chuckle.

Nolwazi: Have a good night.

As much as Dumakude and Thandeka wanted to know where she was off too, they knew they had to back off. This wasn't even their house so their rules wouldn't apply... Well Thandeka didn't mind at all, she just wanted to be sure that her daughter was fine.

Thandeka: I'm sure she's going to Sly.

Dumakude: Understandable...

Ivy: You've been crowding her.

Thandeka: Uyaphapha ke wena.

They continued to watch TV. Nolwazi was now making her way to the car. She got in and placed her bag at the back. She then took a deep breath and looked at Dean. She resisted the urge to pounce on him with his good-looking self. He flashed a smile.

Dean: So where to?

Nolwazi rolled her eyes and fastened her seat belt. He started the car and drove off.

Dean: Have you eaten?

Nolwazi nodded.

Dean: Stop nodding and shaking your head. Answer me properly.

Nolwazi glanced at him.

Dean: Have you eaten?

Nolwazi nodded and they both chuckled.

Nolwazi: Have you eaten?

Dean: No.

Nolwazi: Drive through PicknPay or Woolies.

Dean: Ngoba?

Nolwazi: Just go there please.

Dean focused on the road and they drove in silence till he got to the nearest PicknPay. They got out of the car and made their way in.

Nolwazi: What would you like to eat?

Dean looked at her and frowned.

Nolwazi: I'm offering to prepare a good wholesome meal for you and all you can do is frown?

Dean: Well why didn't you say so?

Nolwazi: For a PhD scholar, you sure can be slow.

Dean: Watch it.

Nolwazi shook her head as she grabbed a trolley and they walked around.

Nolwazi: So what do you want?

Dean: Surprise me.

They continued to walk around the aisles and Nolwazi picked out everything she would need. Once they were done they paid and made their way back to the car. Dean then drove off to his house.

Nolwazi was now in the kitchen preparing a meal for him while he went to take a shower. As she was busy, her phone rang and when she checked, it was her mother. She answered.

Nolwazi: Ma.

Thandeka: Baby u-right?

Nolwazi: Yes, I am. Don't worry.

Thandeka: Eish yazi ngiphatheke kabi kanjani. Angithandi when you're so down.

Nolwazi: Like you said, it will get better.

Just then Dean walked to the kitchen and sat on one of the high stools.

Thandeka: I love you.

Nolwazi: I love you too ma.

Thandeka: Be safe.

Nolwazi: Okay.

Thandeka: Bye bye.

Nolwazi: Bye.

She dropped the call and looked at Dean, who was busy with his phone.

Nolwazi: I think everyone is expecting me to go through depression again.

Dean: Will you relapse?

She shrugged her shoulders and carried on cooking.

Dean: Would you like something to drink?

She glanced at him and he chuckled.

Dean: Champagne coming up.

He walked over to the fridge and poured her a glass of champagne and handed it to her and she took a sip.

Nolwazi: Thank you.

Dean: So how did your father react?

Nolwazi: He was surprisingly supportive.

Dean nodded and kept quiet as he watched her cook.

Mdu was now driving to his friend's house party. As he made his way there, he kept replaying some random memories and found himself chuckling. After a while, he finally got there and made his way inside. People were all over the place, getting drunk and dancing.

Person: Mdu!

Mdu turned around and spotted his long time friend, Larry. They went to university together and once they graduated he got a job in Durban while Mdu stayed in Johannesburg.

They shook hands and hugged. Larry was a little on the drunk side.

Mdu: How's it, mate?

Larry: All good and you?

Mdu: All good...

They spoke for a while, catching up with each other's lives.

Larry: Listen, I'll see you around. Someone's waiting for me upstairs.

Mdu: Let me not disturb you...

They shook hands again and Larry disappeared. Mdu looked around and felt a tad bit sheepish. The only reason he came here was because the house was a bit depressing. Seeing Nolwazi in that state hit a nerve...

He walked around and eventually walked to the pool area where there were a couple of people. He found a place to sit and took out a cigarette and lighter. He watched as people danced and that occasional buzz he got from his cigarette made him slightly better.

He felt someone tap him on the shoulder and he turned to see who it was. It was an unfamiliar girl. He looked at her blankly and she smiled brightly.

Girl: Why are you sitting by yourself??

She giggled and Mdu frowned. She came and sat next to him, a little too close...

Girl: So?? Why are you sitting by yourself??

Mdu: I don't have friends.

Girl: Aww!

She giggled once again and Mdu looked at her. She was the typical pretty girl: nice body, pretty face and all that jazz... Although he wasn't in the mood for entertaining anyone, his uncontrollable male urges were too much to deal with. He already knew how this would end up.

Girl: I can be your friend.

Mdu sulked and pouted and the girl went on to giggle again.

Girl: You're so handsome and cute.

She playfully squeezed his cheek and then got closer to him.

Girl: You're not from here?

Mdu: Sorta kinda.

Girl: What's that supposed to mean?

Mdu: I live in Johannesburg but I also have a life here.

Girl: Oh you're from Jozi?

Mdu nodded.

Girl: I'm sure your Zulu is a bit tainted then.

Mdu chuckled and took a drag of his cigarette.

Girl: Can I?

Mdu: I can give you another o-

Girl: No, I want yours.

Mdu: Well okay then.

He smiled and gave her his cigarette. She took a long drag and blew it on his face.

Mdu: Watch it.

She giggled.

Girl: So what's your name?

Mdu: Mdu.

She smiled and nodded.

Mdu: And you?

She took another drag and smiled slyly.

Girl: Zanele.

Mdu nodded.

Girl: But I prefer Zani.

Mdu nodded again.

Girl: You look tired...

Mdu: I am...

Girl: I'm also tired. Was at a friend's ceremony yesterday...

Mdu nodded disinterestedly.

Girl: How about we find a room and get some rest?

Mdu looked at her and chuckled.

Girl: Come on, we both could do with some rest.

Mdu: You think?

She took another drag and nodded.

Girl: And you can tell me all about Joburg...

Mdu chuckled as she stood up and grabbed his hand.

Girl: Woza.

He stood up and grinned. His mind was playing tricks on him and this girl was going to help him let it all out...

INSERT 46 (Excuse any errors)

A week passed...

It was now time for Dumakude, Ivy and Thandeka to leave. Mdu on the other hand, insisted on staying.

Thandeka: Lwazi please let me know if you ever need me to come back here.

Nolwazi: Mama you've been with me long enough, you also have a life.

Thandeka: And it revolves around my children.

Nolwazi smiled lightly and hugged her visibly worried mother.

Nolwazi: I'll be fine.

Thandeka looked at her and huffed.

Nolwazi: I promise!

Thandeka hugged her again.

Nolwazi: Plus Mdu will be around.

Ivy: Kanti why can't I stay mina?

Dumakude: Because you need to focus on getting at least ONE degree. This lifestyle of yours will not sustain you.

Ivy: School is not for everyone.

Dumakude ignored her and went to put all the bags in the car.

Nolwazi: Thank you for everything.

Thandeka: I just feel bad for leaving.

Nolwazi shook her head.

Nolwazi: Don't.

Thandeka sighed heavily and then nodded.

Thandeka: If you say so...

They hugged again and then Ivy came to Nolwazi.

Ivy: I'll come back again.

Nolwazi: Alright sister sister.

Ivy giggled.

Nolwazi: Thank you.

Ivy: You're my ride or die.

Nolwazi: Likewise.

Ivy: I love you.

They shared a warm hug.

Nolwazi: I love you too.

They all walked out of the house and once they got to the car, Dumakude pulled Nolwazi to the side.

Dumakude: Lwazi...

Nolwazi: Thank you for your support.

Dumakude nodded lightly.

Dumakude: You're my first born after-all.

Nolwazi smiled lightly.

Dumakude: When are you planning on contacting your lawyer?

Nolwazi: I'll get to it.

Dumakude nodded tightly.

Dumakude: You and Kwanele share the same lawyer?

Nolwazi nodded.

Dumakude: I think you should have your own personal one.

Nolwazi: Either way, we signed a prenup so we won't have problems.

Dumakude nodded once again and then opened up his arms.

Dumakude: Come give daddy a hug.

Everyone heard him say that and they all burst out in laughter. He looked at them and frowned.

Ivy: Being soft doesn't suit you. Don't traumatise us please.

Dumakude: Mxm.

He looked at Nolwazi and she stepped closer to him and they shared a warm hug. Nolwazi had to admit that her gratitude levels were sky high. She had the best family one could ever ask for.

Thandeka: Nisale kahle ke.

Mdu: Don't worry, I'll make sure ukuthi yonke into i-straight.

Dumakude: I trust you son.

Thandeka: Haibo hold your horses, this is not his house.

Nolwazi: Yazi.

Mdu: Ohho.

They said their goodbyes and Mdu and Nolwazi watched as they drove off.

Mdu: Finally!

Nolwazi: I should be the one saying that.

Mdu laughed and they walked back inside the house and Nolwazi went to the kitchen and poured herself a glass of water. The house was now so quiet that part of her wasn't too sure if letting her mother go was a good decision.

Mdu: Lwazi.

She shook her head and quickly snapped out of it.

Nolwazi: Hmm?

Mdu: I think I want to meet this man.

Nolwazi looked at him in confusion.

Nolwazi: Meet which man?

Mdu smiled slyly.

Mdu: The one who's been helping you out lately.

Nolwazi couldn't help but laugh sarcastically.

Nolwazi: You're funny.

Mdu: I'm glad you find me funny.

Nolwazi drank her water and then looked at him.

Nolwazi: If you continue to meddle in my business then you will be homeless. Consider yourself warned.

Mdu: Dramatic much?

Nolwazi: Hmm...

She walked away and left him there.

Pretty: It's time for me to go home now.

Tholi carried on folding her husband's clothes.

Pretty: Tholakele.

Tholi: Hmm?

Pretty: Ye wena ngikhuluma nawe!

Tholi turned to look at her with a blank face. Pretty walked up to her.

Pretty: Ungenwe yini wena?? You've been acting funny lately!

Tholi: I don't know what you're talk-

Pretty: Mxxxm!

Tholi looked at her with no expression.

Tholi: So you're leaving?

Pretty: Yes!

Tholi: Okay.

She turned around and continued to fold the clothes.

Pretty: Heeeehh!

Tholi ignored her and then walked to the bedroom with the basket. She then walked back to the laundry room.

Tholi: Uhambe kahle.

Pretty stared at her and then crossed her arms. Tholi looked at her briefly before taking out the rest of the clothes from the tumble dryer.

Pretty: Bye bye ke.

Tholi: Bye.

Pretty: Heheee!

Pretty clapped once and then walked out of the room. Tholi sighed a huge sigh of relief and then finished up what she was doing. By the time she went downstairs, Pretty had already left. She finished up cleaning the house and then went to the balcony and sat there for a while.

Just then, her phone rang and she answered.

Tholi: Hello?

Person: Is Kwanele back yet?

Tholi: Mam'Thenji-

Thenjiwe: Is my son back?

“Why don’t you come check for yourself,” she thought angrily.

Thenjiwe: Ye??

Tholi cleared her throat and shook her head.

Tholi: No.

Thenjiwe: Has he called you?

Tholi: I last spoke to him yesterday. He told me he’s busy.

Thenjiwe: Mxm.

Tholi: He says he’ll be back so-

The call was dropped violently and she huffed. She put her phone down and sat there. It took every fibre in her body not to cry her lungs out. Most nights she’d find herself crying but would instantly stop herself. She now hated her own tears for some odd reason.

As she was about to stand up, her phone rang again and she reached for it and smiled when she saw her friend’s name. She hadn’t seen her since the first day of her ceremony in Dundee.

Tholi: Zani!

Zani: Friend!

Tholi: How are you?

Zani: I am alive and kicking yazi. Is that evil aunt of yours gone?

Tholi nodded.

Tholi: Ya she is.

Zani: Can I come over?

Tholi: Uhm sur-

Zani: No, actually let's meet somewhere. I'm sure you're tired of being cooped up in that big house of yours!

Tholi: Uhm-

Zani: I'm not taking no for an answer!

Tholi sighed and Zani told her she would fetch her in an hour and she should look pretty instead of being her usual dull self. Tholi had gotten used to not being noticed so she had trouble with relating to modern girls who knew everything about makeup and all that other stuff. She dressed comfortably and didn't aim to please anyone because she was convinced that no one was watching anyway.

She walked inside the house and went to her bedroom where she began looking for what she would wear. As she smelt Kwanele's clothes, she felt the urge to burst out in tears but she managed to control herself.

Mdu: I'm heading out.

Nolwazi: Where are you going?

Mdu: You're obviously not planning on cooking.

Nolwazi: Nope.

Mdu: Mxm I'm sure you're planning on being with your mystery man.

Nolwazi: And even if I was, I don't see how it concerns you.

Mdu stared at her.

Nolwazi: Hamba Bhenju.

Mdu: Woah.

Nolwazi: I don't understand what you want from me. You want me to sit here and feel sorry for myself?

Mdu: No, I ju-

Nolwazi: Just go.

She walked to her bedroom and Mdu stood there for a while. He then got his things and made his way out.

INSERT 47

Zani called Tholi and told her she was parked outside her house and Tholi made her way out. She got in the car and huffed.

Tholi: I could cook a meal for us a-

Zani: Uh uh! You've been in that house for way too long.

Tholi shrugged her shoulders uncomfortably. Locking herself up seemed far easier than being around people. She always had anxiety when she was in crowds.

Zani: We'll go to a nice restaurant with a live band and have a lovely chilled time.

Tholi huffed again as Zani drove off.

Zani: So how is your hubby?

Tholi kept quiet and focused on the road.

Zani: You will never be happy shame wena.

Tholi continued to keep quiet and eventually they got to a restaurant and made their way in. They got a table and placed their orders.

Zani: Tholi relax! Geesh!

Tholi shifted in her seat uncomfortably and sighed.

Zani: Kanti yini inkinga yakho?

Tholi shook her head.

Zani: Let's have a good time. I'm expecting someone to come join us later.

Tholi: Who?

Zani smiled mischievously and Tholi looked at her oddly.

Tholi: Do you have a boyfriend now?

Zani: Hai it's nothing like that.

Tholi kept quiet.

Zani: He has potential though.

Tholi: Okay.

Zani: And he's rich...

Tholi shook her head lightly.

Zani: Hai suka you can't be the only one with a rich person hawu kanti yini inkinga yakho?

Eventually their food came and they began eating.

Dean: Nolwazi.

Nolwazi quickly snapped out of her thoughts and glanced at Dean, who was sitting on the other couch.

Nolwazi: Hmm?

Dean: Come sit next to me.

Nolwazi stood up and went to sit next to him. He pulled her closer and wrapped his arms around her.

Nolwazi: Dean.

Dean: Hmm?

Nolwazi: Thanks for everything.

Dean: Anytime.

She put her head up and glanced at him and he grinned.

Nolwazi: My brother knows about this.

Dean chuckled.

Nolwazi: Dean just promise me one thing.

Dean stopped focusing on the TV and looked at her.

Nolwazi: We've been friends for a while now.

Dean: And we're not kids. We'll continue to handle things like the adults we are.

Nolwazi smiled faintly and nodded.

He focused on the TV again and Nolwazi put her head on his chest and they didn't say much after that.

After a while Dean's phone rang and he asked Nolwazi to get it for him. She reached for it and gave it to him and then went back to being comfortable in his arms.

Dean hissed.

Nolwazi: What?

The phone stopped ringing and he put it down.

Dean: UNtsiki.

Nolwazi sat up and looked at him and his face remained calm and unchanged.

Nolwazi: Is she the one who called?

He nodded tightly and pulled her again.

Dean: Mxm.

Nolwazi kept quiet and focused on the TV again.

Zani: Uhm listen neh friend, I'm going to get him outside.

Tholi: Maybe I should leave.

Zani: And go where?? Stop being a party pooper man!

Tholi frowned as Zani stood up and walked out of the restaurant. The last thing Tholi needed

was to sit here and be with Zani and her random men. She really just wanted to be in her bed, watching old movies... She took a sip of her drink and sat there, waiting for Zani to come back so she could tell her that she was leaving, plus it was now around 7pm and she had to be back at home just in case her husband decided to come back.

Just then she heard Zani's voice and she tried to finish her juice.

She heard Zani laugh and a male chuckled along with her.

Zani: There we go.

When Tholi looked up, she immediately choked on her juice and held on to her chest.

Zani: And then? What wrong?

Tholi glanced at Mdu, who was also confused and looked a bit shocked. She quickly stood up and walked to the bathroom where she drank some tap water and stood there for a while.

After a long time she finally made her way back to the table. Instead of sitting down, she looked at Zani.

Tholi: I'll see you soon.

Zani stood up and looked at her intensely.

Zani: Why are you being like this?? Stop this bullshit man.

Tholi: Don't talk to me like that.

Zani looked at Tholi in confusion and a bit of disbelief. She had never heard her use such a cold tone.

Zani: Sorry, friend.

Tholi then glanced at Mdu, who was sitting there looking slightly amused. She sat down and took her empty glass of juice.

Tholi: Can I have another glass?

Zani looked around.

Zani: Uhm sure, I'll find the waiter.

Tholi nodded tightly and Zani walked off, looking for the waiter.

Mdu: Who would have thought? You actually have a friend?

Tholi looked at him sharply and he chuckled.

Mdu: Small world...

Just then, Zani walked back with a waiter and asked him to refill Tholi's juice. She then sat down and sighed.

Zani: Uhm so ya... Mdu, this is my best friend Tholi.

Mdu nodded and smiled at Tholi.

Zani: Tholi, this is Mdu.

Shortly after, the waiter came back with her juice and she gulped it all up at once before he could even walk off.

Tholi: Can I have a glass of water?

Waiter: Sure.

Mdu: Give me a shot of Glenfiddich, please.

Waiter: Alright.

The waiter walked off and Mdu stared at Tholi. She kept on huffing and puffing, obviously trying to conceal whatever emotions were brewing in her. Her cheeks were slowly turning red and she avoided his eyes. He found it very amusing.

Zani: Tholi is the one I was telling you about Mdu.

Mdu glanced at Zani and nodded lightly.

Zani: I need the loo, will be back soonest.

She stood up and rushed to the bathroom.

Tholi: Glad to know that I'm the centre of your conversations.

Mdu: Hey now!

He looked at her amusingly and she flared her nostrils.

Mdu: Cute.

She huffed again.

Mdu: Ikhona into ekudlayo? You've been huffing and puffing over there.

She kept quiet and the waiter came back with her glass of water and Mdu's shot. He downed it quickly and she took a long sip of her water.

Just then, Zani came back and sat down next to Mdu. She looked at him and smiled.

Tholi: I have to go now.

Zani: Bu-

Tholi stood up.

Zani: Mxm angazi bengikusaphi. You're hopeless.

Mdu looked at Zani disapprovingly and Zani retaliated.

Zani: What?? You have no idea how lame she can be.

Tholi hissed and took her bag.

Tholi: Where do I pay?

Zani laughed sarcastically.

Zani: Using beloved hubby's card?

Tholi stared at Zani, that comment hit her a bit. She didn't understand why she was being like this. Clearly Mdu made her feel superior.

Mdu: Is Kwanele back, Tholi?

Zani quickly looked at Mdu in shock. Tholi just stood there, her feet had defeated her and she felt overwhelmed.

Zani: What???

Mdu looked at Zani blankly.

Mdu: Hmm?

Zani: You know her husband??

Mdu nodded casually and then looked at Tholi.

Mdu: Want me to give you a lift?

Zani: How do you know her??

Mdu continued to look at Tholi.

Zani: Mdu ngikhuluma nawe!

Mdu: Awume Zanele.

He focused on Tholi again, who didn't say anything. He sighed and then glanced at Zani.

Mdu: Take your friend home Zanele.

With that said he stood up and left them there.

INSERT 48

Another week passed...

Lwazi made her way to the law firm and once she got to the reception, she was taken to Anthony's office. Anthony was a divorce attorney... He was a different lawyer from the one she and Kwanele jointly had.

She got to the office and he welcomed her.

Anthony: Mrs. Buthelezi, lovely to meet you.

Nolwazi smiled faintly and they shook hands. She wasn't feeling well but she knew she had to get this over and done with.

Anthony: Have a seat.

Nolwazi: Thanks.

She sat down and he went over to his chair and sat down. He smiled kindly.

Anthony: How may I help you?

Nolwazi: Like I said, I want a divorce.

He nodded.

Nolwazi: My husband and I have a mutual lawyer.

He nodded once again.

Nolwazi: My father advised me to find a new lawyer as our current one's objectivity might be questionable.

Anthony: I agree with your father.

Nolwazi kept quiet. She had a terrible headache and didn't know if she would make it to the end of this meeting.

Anthony: Are you okay?

Nolwazi shook her head lightly.

Nolwazi: Can I have a glass of water please?

Anthony: Sure.

He walked out of the office quickly and Nolwazi brushed her forehead lightly, feeling her hot temperature. Anthony walked back in and gave her a glass of water.

Nolwazi: Thank you.

Anthony: You're welcome.

He sat down again and looked at her kindly.

Anthony: I've dealt with lots and lots of divorce cases, some tragic and dramatic than others.

Nolwazi: How nice.

He chuckled quietly.

Anthony: As a general starting point, I think I'll just brief you about the common mistakes people

make when divorcing.

Nolwazi nodded lightly and put her glass on the table.

Anthony: Firstly, some people fail to respond and communicate. This won't necessarily apply to you because you are the one who is filing for a divorce. When your husband receives a summons, he must do something. He will not automatically be given notice of a court date. In fact, if he fails to put in a notice of his intention to defend, the case can be finalised without any further reference to him. This can cost him plenty. That's why it's important to get a good divorce specialist attorney. Yes, it will cost you some money. But, in all honesty, it costs much more if you do not investigate before taking an informed decision.

Nolwazi: A divorce summons?

Anthony nodded.

Anthony: A divorce action is introduced by the issuing of a summons. You can divorce in either the Regional Court of the Magistrate Court having authority in your area or in the High Court. To start the divorce process you need to serve a Summons. A divorce summons is unique in that it must be served personally to the defendant by the sheriff of the court.

Nolwazi nodded lightly.

Anthony: The summons informs your husband that if he disputes your claim and wishes to defend the action, he must serve a notice of appearance to defend the claim within 10 days if both of you are in the same province or 20 days if you live in different provinces.

Nolwazi's anxiety shot up. All of this information was confusing and overwhelming.

Anthony: There are typically two types of divorces, the contested or opposed divorce and the uncontested or unopposed. The unopposed type of divorce is the best and most cost effective

for all parties concerned. Like the name suggests, both you and your husband are not opposing the divorce, you are both contesting it. It can be finalised in as little as 4 weeks but if a divorce is contested or opposed then it may take between 2 - 3 years, but most contested divorces do settle long before they go on trial.

Nolwazi: 3 years??

Anthony nodded lightly.

Anthony: Civil marriages, civil unions and those religious marriages conducted by registered marriage officers can only be dissolved by order of the court. The person wishing to end the marriage must issue a summons against the other spouse, stating that the relationship has broken down, that there is no reasonable hope of restoring the relationship and which matrimonial property regime governs the marriage. The summons must make provision for the division of the estate, either stating that the parties have entered into a prior agreement or asking the court to divide the joint. Parties must also set out what the arrangements are with regards to any children born or adopted during the marriage.

Nolwazi: We don't have children and we also signed a prenuptial.

Anthony: Oh, you did?

Nolwazi nodded.

Anthony: Then that makes things easier. So there won't be any discussions revolving around division of property.

Nolwazi: What's mine is mine and what's his is his.

Anthony: So it wasn't Community of Property?

Nolwazi shook her head.

Anthony: That's great Mrs-

He stopped himself.

Nolwazi: You can call me Nolwazi.

Anthony: Well it's good that you didn't combine your property. Combining assets has proven to be dangerous. Many couples don't think about divorce when they get married. No one wants to think about it as a possibility and as a result, they do not protect themselves in case it does happen... Life is quite unpredictable, unfortunately.

Nolwazi sighed and rubbed her forehead again.

Nolwazi: So what's an uncontested divorce?

Anthony: The best option, if you can make it happen, is to do your divorce in an uncontested or unopposed manner. An uncontested divorce is one in which you and your husband work together to agree on the terms of your divorce. You will both consult with the same attorney, who will be unbiased and impartial. There is no formal trial, and only the plaintiff, meaning you- since you are the one who initiated the divorce- appears in court. In an uncontested divorce, both of you agree prior to the divorce on how to divide your assets and, if there are children involved, which parent will become the parent of primary residence and which will be the parent of alternate residence. A settlement agreement is then drafted with the help of the attorney, entered into (signed) by both parties, and made an order of the court. An uncontested divorce is without a doubt the least expensive type of divorce.

Nolwazi nodded slowly.

Nolwazi: And an opposed divorce?

Anthony sighed heavily.

Anthony: This one is more complicated.

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Anthony: A contested or opposed divorce has 7 stages: 1. Pleadings. 2. Application for and set down of trial date. 3. Discovery of documents. 4. Further discovery and particulars. 5. Pre-trial conference. 6. Trial. 7. Judgment

Nolwazi shook her head. She couldn't take in all this information at once.

Anthony: I understand.

Nolwazi: Would you please send me an email with all this information and whatever you think I need to know?

Anthony: Of course.

Nolwazi sighed and reached for her glass of water.

Anthony: But since you have a prenup, this might be a smooth ride.

Nolwazi: So what happens if my husband does not cooperate?

Anthony: Well... You could have what we call a Default Divorce.

Nolwazi looked at him intently.

Anthony: A default divorce is a form of uncontested and unopposed divorce. A court will grant a divorce by default if you serve a divorce summons on your husband and he does not respond. In a default divorce, you as the plaintiff prepare a summons setting out your claims with or without the help of an attorney. A court issues the summons and a sheriff serves the summons on your husband. The summons specifies the number of days in which he has to file a notice of intention to defend.

Nolwazi: In other words he has 10 days if he lives in the same province as me or 20 days if he doesn't?

Anthony nodded.

Anthony: If your husband does not answer by way of a notice of defence within the time, you may approach the court to register the divorce on the court roll and conclude the divorce on your husband's default. In such a case, only you appear in court. Some courts do request that a notice of set down (a document stating where and when the divorce will be heard) be served to your husband personally or by registered post. It may be a good idea to contact your husband to find out why he has not defended. Although you can technically seek a default divorce when the time limit in the summons passes without his response.

Nolwazi sighed heavily and nodded.

Nolwazi: Thanks Anthony.

Anthony nodded.

Anthony: I'll send you every single detail now.

Nolwazi: I'd appreciate that.

She finished up her glass of water and then stood up. Anthony stood up as well and they shook hands.

Nolwazi: Thank you.

Anthony: Enjoy the rest of your day.

Nolwazi: I'll be in contact.

Anthony: Alright.

Nolwazi got her bag and made her way out of the office and firm. As soon as she got in her car, she slumped on the steering wheel and burst out in tears. A huge part of her knew that Kwanele was not going to make any of this easy. She wondered if she had the willpower to carry on and drain herself even more...

INSERT 49 (Couldn't edit)

Nolwazi made her way back to work and went straight to her office. Before Phiwe could say anything, she shut the door and went to her couch and lay down. She felt like she was about to have a panic attack. All the information she received left her overwhelmed and genuinely terrified. She was questioning if she could go on with the divorce.

She lay there and tried to imagine how life would be after the divorce. She definitely saw Dean in the picture. His constant support was what she appreciated the most. Yes, her family was always by her side but Dean provided another layer of support... All these intimate moments they shared actually allowed her to distance herself more and more from Kwanele.

Just then, there was a knock on the door but she ignored it.

After a while, she heard the door open and she knew it was Dean because only he would do such. She heard the door close and seconds later he was kneeling next to her.

Dean: Phiwe told me you're not fine.

She laughed quietly and opened her eyes, staring at him.

Nolwazi: I'm fucked.

Dean: Yini?

Nolwazi: Just had a meeting the divorce attorney.

He nodded and she sighed heavily.

Nolwazi: It's too much Dean.

He got up and sat on the couch while she placed her legs on his lap.

Dean: Like I said before, get all the information you need so you can make an informed decision.

She nodded and covered her eyes as she felt the tears well up again. He pulled her towards him and wrapped his arms around her. She sobbed silently and he held her.

Nolwazi: I'm a failure.

He didn't say anything.

Nolwazi: Other women fight for their marriages and here I am, rooting for the easy way out.

Dean: Come on.

Nolwazi: I will never forgive myself for this.

She sobbed again and Dean kept quiet. He knew he had to be very careful with his words. One thing he told himself he wouldn't do would be to tell Nolwazi what to do. She was the one who had to make her decisions.

Just as Nolwazi was wiping her tears, the door flung open and both Dean and Nolwazi froze.

Phiwe stood there for a long second, staring at her two bosses as they held on to each other.

Phiwe: Uhm-

She quickly shut the door again.

Nolwazi: I don't even care at this point.

Dean sighed.

Nolwazi: Don't you have a meeting this afternoon?

Dean nodded.

Nolwazi: Let me not keep you.

Dean: Mxm.

She huffed as he pulled her even closer so her face could touch his.

Dean: You need to go home.

Nolwazi: Hai, ngoba?

Dean: Your face is not pleasant to look at right now.

Nolwazi: Dean!

He chuckled and she huffed again.

Dean: I'm serious.

Nolwazi: Mxm angiyindawo.

Dean: I'm your boss Nolwazi and I demand that you leave the premises this instant.

Nolwazi: Cute.

Dean: You don't know your place.

She hissed as he placed his lips on hers. She moaned quietly and he stopped the kiss.

Dean: I have a meeting.

She groaned and got away from him. He stood up and fixed himself.

Dean: See you around.

Nolwazi: Now I have to deal with Phiwe.

Dean: You better, otherwise she'll have me to deal with and that won't end well. What kind of assistance budes in her boss's office? Um'jwayezile nawe.

Nolwazi: Bye Dean.

Dean: Bye.

He walked out of the office, leaving the door open. Nolwazi fixed herself and then went over to her door and looked over at Phiwe who was on her desk, across the office. She looked up at Nolwazi and then tried avoiding her eyes. Nolwazi sighed.

Nolwazi: Woza.

Phiwe stood up and walked over to Nolwazi's office. She closed the door and looked at Nolwazi nervously.

Nolwazi sighed and sat on her desk.

Phiwe fiddled with her fingers.

Nolwazi: Talk to me.

Phiwe: Boss lady?

Nolwazi: Phiwe talk to me.

Phiwe looked at her pleadingly.

Phiwe: Uhm...

Nolwazi: I'm getting a divorce.

Phiwe exclaimed and looked at Nolwazi in shock.

Nolwazi: This stays between you and me, Phiwe.

Phiwe nodded quickly, trying to assure her boss.

Nolwazi: It's a long and complicated situation...

Phiwe: I'm sorry boss lady.

Nolwazi nodded.

Phiwe walked over to her.

Phiwe: I'm really sorry.

Nolwazi: I'll be fine.

They shared a hug.

Phiwe: Now it makes sense why Dr. Hlongwane was comforting you.

Nolwazi nodded tightly and Phiwe smiled.

Phiwe: Such a supportive guy.

Nolwazi: Mmm.

Phiwe sighed heavily.

Phiwe: I hope everything works out for you boss lady.

Nolwazi: Thank you Phiwe.

Phiwe nodded sadly.

Phiwe: Thank you for trusting me...

Nolwazi smiled lightly and nodded.

Phiwe: Let me get back to work.

Nolwazi: Alright.

Phiwe smiled warmly before walking out of the office and closing the door.

Tholi had stopped reaching out to Kwanele because it proved to be useless. He had stopped answering any calls. In Tholi's mind, he needed some space to deal with whatever he was dealing with. Maybe everything would be better once he came back...

Just as she was preparing herself dinner, her phone rang and she couldn't help but rush to it, thinking it was her husband.

When she looked at the caller id, it was an unrecognised number. She answered it hesitantly.

Tholi: Hello?

Person: Hello Tholi.

She cringed when she realised that it was Mdu's voice.

Mdu: Tholi?

She cleared her throat.

Tholi: Yes, who am I-

She coughed once.

Tholi: Who am I speaking to?

Mdu chuckled and she grunted.

Mdu: Ah here's that infamous grunt of yours. You know exactly who this is.

She kept quiet.

Mdu: Where are you?

Tholi: Excuse me?

Mdu: Ukuphi Tholakele?

Tholi: My house.

Mdu chuckled quietly.

Mdu: Listen, I'll be there in 30 minutes.

Tholi: What??

Mdu: See you soonest.

He dropped the call and Tholi stood there, not knowing what to do. Different thoughts crossed her mind and she quickly ran to the door and locked it. She then rushed to the bedroom and shut the door and began pacing around. She was suddenly sweating lightly.

She touched her chest.

Tholi: What the heck??

She rushed to the bathroom and rinsed her face and lotioned it. She then walked out and went to the kitchen to make sure her pots were fine. She switched off the stove and poured herself a glass of water which she drank in a couple of seconds.

Just as she was putting the glass back, her phone rang from the lounge and she jumped in shock. She walked to the lounge and took it, it was Mdu's unrecognised number again. She let it ring and didn't answer it, hoping he would leave her. Once it stopped she sighed in relief and walked back to the kitchen. Just then it vibrated and she saw that it was a text message, she opened it.

Mdu: Tholi, do not test me. I will break in and the alarm will go off.

She quickly put the phone down and exclaimed. She suddenly felt hot. Before she could gather her thoughts, it beeped again and she took it and opened the message.

Mdu: I'm giving you 5 minutes to come out.

She replied.

Tholi: I will do no such. Please stop bothering me.

Mdu replied.

Mdu: Ave uthanda ukuzenza u-special. No one is bothering you but trust that you will be bothered by your alarm when I break in.

She huffed and sighed heavily.

Another text got in.

Mdu: 3 minutes.

She grunted as she walked to the door and opened it. She walked out of the house and made her way to the gate. She went through the small one and saw a car parked close by. She walked to it and went to stand by the driver's door.

The window slid down and Mdu grinned.

She flared her nostrils, feeling slightly angry.

Mdu: Une drama shame mntanabantu.

She grunted.

Mdu: That grunt of yours...

Tholi: What do you want?

Mdu: Get in the car.

Tholi: I will do no such!

Mdu: You testing me?

She crossed her arms and stared at him.

Mdu sighed.

Mdu: Alright then, you leave me no choice.

He opened the door and she backed away. When he got out, she backed even further but he caught up with her.

Mdu: Let's go lock up your house.

Tholi: No!

Mdu: Mxm.

Tholi: I will scream!

Mdu: You think these white people care about their little rich black neighbours?

She looked at him in disbelief.

Mdu: Woza.

He grabbed her arm and pulled her towards the gate.

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Tholi sat still, trying not cry.

Mdu glanced at her and laughed quietly.

Mdu: Ya, your river flows eternally shame.

She looked at him sharply and he chuckled.

Mdu: Awusho ke, ukhalelani because no one is hurting you?

Tholi: Take me back to my house!

Mdu: Mxm kanti.

He focused on the road and Tholi wiped her eyes.

Tholi: Where are you taking me?

Mdu didn't answer her so she kept quiet and also focused on the road.

Tholi: Does Zani know you're here.

Mdu chuckled and ignored her.

After much driving, they got to another quiet area and he drove into some house. Once he parked, he got out and Tholi watched as he walked to her side. He opened the door and looked at her.

Mdu: Woza.

She held on to her seat belt.

Tholi: Whose house is this?

Mdu: Mine.

Tholi: What are we doing here?

Mdu: Nothing. Tholi phuma.

Tholi: No I'm not going anywhere. Take me back to my house.

Mdu: You'd swear you're having funny in that house of yours the way you keep demanding that I take you back.

She kept quiet and flared her nostrils.

Mdu: You don't want me to drag you out, do you?

Tholi: Mdu please take me home.

She looked at him pleadingly.

Mdu: Kahle kahle what do you think I'm going to do to you?

Tholi huffed.

Mdu: Why would I hurt my ex-brother-in-law's wife?

He smiled and Tholi cringed.

Mdu: Seriously though, please come out.

She stared at him for a while and then sighed. She reluctantly unfastened the seat belt and then Mdu moved so she could get out of the car.

Mdu: Thank you.

He locked the car and began walking towards the door and she followed him. He unlocked the door and then moved aside so she could walk in. She just looked at him and he sighed.

Mdu: Tholi ngena man.

Tholi: No, wena ngena kqala.

He laughed quietly and then got in and she followed him. She looked around and frowned.

Tholi: Where's your furniture?

Mdu: I don't live in Durban.

She looked at him in confusion.

Mdu: I live in Johannesburg. Only came down here to attend your lovely ceremony.

She kept quiet and he stifled a laugh.

Mdu: Bought this house a year ago.

Tholi: But you don't live here.

Mdu nodded and she didn't say anything.

Mdu: However, due to recent developments, I'm considering coming this side...

Tholi: Please take me home.

Mdu: Anyway, I came to fetch something here. Ngiyabuya.

He walked away and Tholi stood there feeling uncomfortable. She wanted to get out of there and lock herself in the comfort of her home, despite her husband not being there. After a while, Mdu walked back and went to the door and Tholi followed him. They walked out of the house and made their way to the car and got in. Tholi grunted because she didn't understand what was going on. Mdu started the car and drove out of the yard.

Mdu: Are you hungry?

She shook her head.

Mdu: I asked you a question.

Tholi: No.

He focused on the road and they drove in silence till they reached her house. He parked outside and Tholi tried opening the door but it was locked.

Mdu: Ubuya nini uKwanele?

Tholi: How do you know that he's not here?

Mdu: I just know.

Tholi: Angazi.

Mdu: Did he tell you where he was going?

She was about to shake her head when he gave her a warning look.

Tholi: No.

Mdu: Alright then, good night.

He unlocked the doors and Tholi glanced at him before getting out of the car. She rushed to her gate and went straight to the house. Once inside, she went to the bathroom to rinse her face. She didn't want to delve into her thoughts. Her tummy growled and she went downstairs, realising just how hungry she was. She switched on the stove so the warm pots could heat up once again. As she was about to take out a plate and cutlery, the gate buzzer went off. She went to the speaker and switched it on.

Tholi: Hello.

Mdu: Come get your phone.

Tholi: I left it there?

Mdu: Ya.

Tholi: Okay.

She made her way out of the house and to the gate. She then walked to the car just as Mdu got

out and stood by his door. She walked to him.

Mdu: There you go.

Tholi: Thanks.

He put out his hand and she reached for it. Just as she was about to take the phone, he tightened his grip on it.

Tholi: I've honestly had enough of you! What do you want from me??

Mdu laughed.

Mdu: Haibo how are you going to turn on the very same person who told you to stand up for yourself?

Tholi crossed her arms.

Mdu: When I said that shit I didn't mean practise on me. That Zanele friend of yours should be your punching bag.

Tholi: Ungenaphi lapho wena?

Mdu: Hehe.

Tholi: Give me my phone.

Mdu: Who would have thought ukuthi the crying girl could be a bit feisty?

She kept quiet.

Mdu: Bamba.

He put the phone out again and as she reached out to get it, he pulled her and wrapped his arms around her waist. She tried wiggling but he held her tight.

Mdu: Uyangifuna wena.

She looked at him in shock.

Mdu: Uyaphika?

Her body tensed up and he stared at her.

Mdu: You're too young for this shit.

Tholi tried moving again, with no success.

Mdu: You have no friends... Your family is full of shit... Your husband is a dick.

Tholi looked at him without saying anything.

Mdu: Re-evaluate your life.

Tholi: For your own information, I do have family.

Mdu: Mxm you mean that pathetic aunt of yours?

She tightened her jaw and kept quiet.

Mdu: I'm genuinely concerned about you. I'm not even joking.

As they stood there, Tholi remembered that she left the stove on and she tried moving but Mdu continued to tighten his hold on her.

Tholi: I left the stove on!

Mdu: Let the house burn.

Tholi: For fuck's sake, let me go!

Mdu: Kanti uyayazi intlamba nawe?

Tholi broke free from his hold and quickly rushed back inside. As she got in the kitchen, the smoke was slowly making its way up. She switched off the stove and opened the door and windows so the smoke detector wouldn't go off. She cursed as she opened the pots and the smell of her burnt food filled the kitchen.

Mdu: Sorry about that.

Tholi glanced at him as he stood by the door. She took the pots to the sink and he walked to the

counter and leaned on it. She ignored him and began clearing out the pots and cleaned them.

Mdu: Great, now let's go eat.

Tholi turned to look at him.

Tholi: I don't want to go anywhere with you. Leave me alone, please!

Mdu: No.

She huffed and Mdu chuckled. He wasn't leaving anytime soon...

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Just as Nolwazi finished up cooking, the buzzer went off and she opened the gate. Shortly after, she heard the bell and then went to open the door.

Sly: No man, uyadina Thuli.

Thuli: You could have easily asked me instead of barking.

Sly: Mxm hai suka you'll get over it.

Nomi got in between Sly and Thuli and hugged Nolwazi, who was standing by the door chuckling.

Nomi: Hey sis.

Nolwazi: Hey love.

Nomi walked inside and then Nolwazi looked at Thuli and Sly.

Nolwazi: What now?

Thuli: She is s-

Sly: Yeah yeah whatever!

Sly then focused on Nolwazi and smiled brightly.

Sly: Hey babe.

They shared a hug.

Sly: Missed you!

Nolwazi: Likewise.

Sly: I'll go dish up for us.

Nolwazi: Ukudla ku-ready.

Sly walked in the house and then Nolwazi looked at Thuli, as she stood there.

Nolwazi: Long time...

Thuli: Wonder why.

Nolwazi: I've missed you.

Thuli: Oh really?

Nolwazi: Drop the sarcasm Thulisile.

Thuli shrugged her shoulders and Nolwazi opened up her arms.

Nolwazi: Stop being anal.

Thuli stepped closer to her and they shared a hug.

Thuli: You sure have a funny way of missing me.

Nolwazi: It's been a hectic time Thuli.

Thuli: And I'm out of the loop because?

Nolwazi looked at her intently.

Thuli: Can I at least come in?

Nolwazi chuckled and moved so Thuli could walk in. She closed the door and they made their way to the kitchen where they found Sly dishing up and Nomi pouring herself a glass of wine.

Thuli: Pour some for me too please.

Sly: Me too.

Nolwazi: What a shame!

Sly: Hai suka wena, sine-stress thina.

Nolwazi: What's wrong now?

Sly: Eish friend.

Nolwazi: Is Chocolate Drop giving you problems?

Thuli and Nomi laughed.

Thuli: Sly is being dramatic as usual.

Sly: Shut the fuck up Thuli!

Nolwazi: What happened?

Sly: He keeps disappearing and taking “work” calls while we’re together.

Nomi: Well no offense but what did you expect from a man named Richie?

They all burst out in laughter.

Sly: Laugh at my pain, friends!

Nolwazi: Ah shame man I’m sure you’re overanalysing the situation.

Sly: No! Guys you know I don’t overanalyse things. Thuli does that shit, not me!

Thuli: Very funny.

Sly: That man is cheating on me and heaven help the bitch he’s making cum.

Nolwazi: Hai Slindile.

Sly: Yazi Lwazi, I really like this guy. Yes, it’s been almost 2 months but I like him!

Nolwazi: Manje you’re going to investigate?

Sly: No, I’ll keep quiet for now. I don’t want to seem insecure, like Thuli.

Thuli threw a dish wiping cloth at her and they laughed.

Nomi: Wena Lwazi unjani?

Nolwazi: I'm taking it one day at a time.

Sly: How is Kwanele taking it Thuli?

Thuli: How am I supposed to know?

Nomi: You know, you can really be dumb at times Thuli.

Thuli: No you idiots, I haven't seen Kwanele since he left for Dundee.

Sly: Manje akezi emsebenzini?

Thuli: He had his leave but he was supposed to be back after the Dundee weekend.

Nomi: And he's not?

Thuli shook her head and glanced at Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: You haven't spoken to him?

Thuli: Nope.

Nomi: That's very odd.

Thuli: I've been trying to contact him... He has a big case waiting for him at work and the boss said he'd give it someone else if he doesn't show up.

Sly: Heeh kaze iphi leyonja!

Thuli looked at Sly sharply.

Sly: Mxm I don't give a rat's penis about him. He must bring his ass back here so this divorce can commence.

Nomi: Lwazi have you tried contacting him?

Nolwazi: Why would I?

Sly: Uyawubuza umsuzo shame Nomthandazo.

Nomi: Maybe he'll answer if he sees it's you.

Nolwazi didn't say anything.

Sly: He's being a dick for no reason. It's obvious he's trying to delay this process.

Thuli: But surely you can carry on without him?

Nolwazi shrugged her shoulders.

Nomi: She wants to do things the right way.

Sly finished dishing up for everyone and they all went outside to the patio and sat down.

Nomi: Maybe Tholakele knows...

Sly: That yellow bitch?

Nolwazi cringed.

Sly: I'm sure it does.

Nomi: It?

Sly: Yes, it. I'm sure IT knows where the punk-ass is.

Thuli: Fuck, you're so disrespectful.

Sly: Cry me a river.

Thuli: Mxm.

Sly: Anyway, this divorce can commence without him. It will be a Default Divorce.

Thuli: So now you're a lawyer?

Sly: No, I'm just very knowledgeable hun.

Thuli hissed.

Nomi: How is it going Lwazi?

Nolwazi snapped out of it and looked at Nomi.

Nolwazi: Hmm?

Nomi: Are you going to carry on even without him?

Nolwazi: I have to.

Thuli: This is going to be a draining process, are you ready?

Sly: No one asked you that load of bull when you divorced Pat.

Nomi: Slindile!

Sly took a sip of her wine and kept quiet. Thuli focused on Nolwazi.

Thuli: Are you?

Nolwazi: What?

Thuli: Ready.

Nolwazi: Being ready will not make a difference. It's happening.

Thuli nodded lightly and focused on her plate.

Nomi: I still can't believe this.

Sly: While you two are busy mopping around, Lwazi and I will be getting men!

Nolwazi chuckled lightly.

Nomi: That's not something to be proud of.

Sly: Till this day, I ask the heavens how and why you're my best friend Nomi.

Nomi: Whatever.

They carried on chatting.

After a while Nolwazi's phone rang and she took it and checked the caller id. She glanced at Sly and Sly smiled.

Nomi: Aren't you going to answer?

Sly: Nomi bamba nayi-vodka. Ngathi uthanda ukuphapha manje.

As they were going back and forth, Nolwazi stood up and went inside the house. She answered.

Nolwazi: Hello.

Dean: I was about to end the call.

Nolwazi: Sorry, I have guests.

Dean: My apologies, ngizokuthinta later ke.

Nolwazi: Bowuthini?

Dean: Hmm.

Nolwazi chuckled.

Nolwazi: Khuluma Dean.

Dean: Nothing, enjoy the rest of your evening.

Nolwazi: Hai angiyithandi ke le. Uqale nini ukuba nama tendency wama teenager?

Dean laughed.

Dean: Bye Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: Mxm, bye.

Dean dropped the call and Nolwazi made her way back to the patio. She sat down, took her plate and everyone stared at her.

Nolwazi: What now?

She looked at them innocently.

Sly: Lutho. These two really don't deserve to be our friends.

Nolwazi laughed and Thuli narrowed her eyes.

Thuli: So you're sleeping with Dean, Lwazi?

Nolwazi looked at Thuli in disbelief.

Nolwazi: Ho-

Sly: It's this fool, Nomi. All this wine and vodka is messing with her head.

Nolwazi looked at Nomi who was quarter to passing out. She sighed and then looked at Thuli.

Nolwazi: Is there a problem?

Thuli: Uhm let's see...

Nolwazi sighed. She knew judgement was coming.

Thuli: You're married!

Sly: Haibo wena, don't you know what divorce is?

Thuli: Nolwazi!

Nolwazi frowned.

Thuli: I can't believe this. Is this why you're so adamant about separating?? Ufuna uDean??

Nolwazi chuckled.

Nolwazi: I won't dignify that with a response.

Sly: And you don't have to...

Thuli looked at Sly in shock.

Sly: And wena go and find that asshole of a man you call a friend. We need him to come sign these papers, angasibhori please.

Thuli kept quiet and sat back.

Nolwazi's phone beeped and she took it. She read the message.

Dean: Was asking if you could spend the night here.

Nolwazi tried not to show any expression because she knew all eyes were on her.

She replied.

Nolwazi: I'm the one who always asks to be fetched... This is interesting...

Dean replied.

Dean: Why do you think I was nervous about asking?

Nolwazi tightened her lips because she really wanted to smile but the way Thuli's judgement was set up right now...

She replied.

Nolwazi: Now I feel like I'm the one who's been doing the chasing.

Mdu: You have but I don't blame you. It's a Dean thing.

Nolwazi laughed quietly.

She replied

Nolwazi: I'll let go of that comment just this once. The only reason I'm agreeing to come is because I'm caught up in a very tight situation right now. I'll let you know once my friends leave.

Dean: Alright.

Nolwazi put her phone down and sighed.

Sly was smiling and Thuli was staring at her intently.

Nolwazi: Dessert anyone?

Sly: Yebo sthandwa!

Nolwazi stood up and began walking in the house while Sly went on to tell Thuli just how annoying she could be.

INSERT 52 (Couldn't edit)

Sly: Thank you for having us mngani.

Nolwazi smiled.

Nolwazi: It was good seeing you guys.

Nolwazi looked at Thuli, who was obviously still affected by the Dean thing.

Sly: I trust that you won't find your friend and tell him Nolwazi's business.

Thuli: I'm not an idiot.

Nolwazi sighed and Thuli looked at her.

Thuli: Your secret is safe.

Nolwazi: Just don't forget that you're not my mother, okay?

Thuli: Mxm.

Nolwazi: Anyway, it was good seeing you.

Thuli mumbled "likewise" and they shared a brief hug.

Sly: I'll contact you tomorrow ke. I need to discuss work stuff with you.

Nolwazi: Sure.

They both walked to their cars and just then, Nolwazi heard Dean's car outside.

Sly: Let's get going.

She winked at Nolwazi and they got in their cars.

As Nolwazi opened the gate, Dean's car was there, blocking the way for Sly and Thuli. Nolwazi watched as he drove off the driveway and then Sly hooted. She chuckled and after a couple of minutes, both Sly and Thuli's cars disappeared. Dean then drove in and Nolwazi walked over to the car. He got out and she got to him, resisting the urge to hug him.

Nolwazi: I'll be quick.

Dean: Sure.

He got back in the car and she walked in the house and went to the Nomi's usual "pass out" room and found her sleeping peacefully. She then went to her bedroom and got her bag. As she was making her way downstairs, she dialled Mdu's number. It rang for a long time but he eventually answered.

Mdu: What's up?

Nolwazi: Listen, Nomi is in the guestroom downstairs.

Mdu: That alcoholic friend of yours?

Nolwazi: Watch it.

Mdu chuckled.

Nolwazi: Just check on her when you get back, please.

Mdu: Sure. Uyaphi?

Nolwazi: Bye.

She dropped the call and made her way out of the house and locked up. She then went to the car and got in.

Nolwazi: Good to go.

Dean started the car and drove out.

Mdu put down his phone and looked at Tholi.

Mdu: See, you're still alive.

Tholi looked at him and didn't say anything. She looked around the restaurant and was glad that it was empty. The waitress came and then asked them for their orders. Tholi hadn't even looked at the menu.

Mdu: Tholi?

Tholi looked at him.

Mdu: Have you decided what you want?

She mumbled a "no" and then Mdu went on to place his order. As Tholi opened the menu, she realised that she had no clue what was going on. All these complicated names filled the menu and she didn't even know what was what. She tried seeing if there were pictures at least, that

showed what the meals looked like, but there was none. She felt her heart rate increase a bit because she could feel Mdu and the waitress's eyes on her. She paged through the menu, hoping to see "burger", "steak" or something!

As she approached the end of the menu, she wanted to cry. She couldn't even pronounce all these words and phrases.

Mdu: Tholi.

She bit her bottom lip and glanced at him nervously and he looked at her coolly.

Mdu: Want me to order for you?

She nodded lightly and then Mdu went on to place an order for her.

Waitress: And would you like anything to drink?

The waitress stared at Tholi and Tholi blinked a couple of times.

Tholi: Uhm a glass of water with no ice, please.

The waitress nodded and then looked at her expectantly.

Waitress: Can I have the menu, ma'am.

Tholi: Oh.

She handed the waitress the menu and the waitress walked off. She looked around the restaurant, avoiding Mdu's eyes. She was beyond embarrassed at this point. Expensive restaurants were always avoided like a plague by her. Whenever Kwanele tried taking her out, she lured him back in with her excellent cooking. Now she regretted all the possible training she missed out on.

Mdu: So did you go to school?

She snapped out of it and glanced at him in confusion.

Mdu: Did you go to school?

Tholi: Had to dropout.

Mdu frowned.

Tholi: Was at DUT for one year.

Mdu: And then?

Tholi: I was financially excluded.

Mdu nodded slowly.

Mdu: Are you planning on going back?

Tholi nodded.

Mdu: When?

Tholi: After I've settled.

Mdu: Settled as a wife?

Tholi shifted uncomfortably and nodded.

Mdu: What does settling as wife entail?

Tholi looked at him in confusion.

Mdu: Ushu wenzani when you settle as a wife?

Tholi: It's self-explanatory.

Mdu: Not at all.

Tholi kept quiet and looked around the restaurant. Mdu sat back in his seat and stared at her.

After a while the waitress walked back with their drinks and then walked away again. Tholi focused on her glass of water.

Mdu: You haven't answered my question.

Tholi looked at him and didn't say anything.

Mdu: So does it entail cleaning, taking care of Kwanele and all that jazz?

Tholi: You make it sound bad.

Mdu: I'm sorry.

She huffed and took a sip of her water.

Mdu: So you mentioned that you have a family.

She glanced at him.

Mdu: Do you have any siblings?

He watched as she avoided his eyes.

Mdu: That aunt of yours is something...

She didn't say anything.

Mdu: Reminds me of Thenjiwe.

Tholi took another sip of her water.

Mdu: You like Thenjiwe?

Tholi: She's okay.

Mdu: You might be the only one who thinks so.

She finally looked at him.

Mdu: That woman is evil as fuck.

Her face relaxed a bit.

Mdu: And I'm sure you've also felt the world shake when she's around.

She stifled a smile.

Mdu: How does Buthelezi enter such a beast?

Tholi: Euw!

Mdu chuckled.

Mdu: Hawu what happened to her being okay?

She frowned and focused on her drink again. The waitress finally came with their food and Tholi looked at her plate... She saw some pasta in her there...

The waitress left and Tholi was still staring at her plate.

She heard Mdu chuckle and she looked at him sharply.

Tholi: This is pasta.

Mdu: Yes, it is. This restaurant specialises in pasta.

Tholi: What's this meal called?

Mdu: Arrabiata

Tholi sighed.

Mdu: I know, they like complicating things.

Tholi looked at the plate and sighed again. At least it wasn't something she was unfamiliar with. This was literally pasta with some parmesan sauce. Heck, she even cooks this meal at home.

She began eating and glanced at Mdu, who was staring at her.

Mdu: How is it?

Tholi: Okay.

Mdu: Okay? Uyabheda wena.

Tholi: I cook.

Mdu: Oh so you think your shit is better than this?

Tholi nodded as she swallowed.

Mdu: We'll see...

They continued to eat...

INSERT 53 (Couldn't edit)

Tholi: I'll be back.

Mdu nodded and she stood up and made her way to the bathroom. When she got there she washed her hands and checked if her face hadn't turned purple. She sighed heavily before walking out and making her way back to the table. She sat down and looked at Mdu, who was staring at her.

Mdu: Want some dessert?

She shook her head.

Mdu: Are you unable to speak?

Tholi: I would like to leave now.

Mdu: You would?

She nodded.

Mdu: I'd like some dessert.

Tholi: I want to go home! Why are you doing this??

Mdu: Don't you dare cry.

Tholi looked at him as she felt herself get angry. She really wanted to go home. It was now after 8pm and none of this was okay. What if her husband was waiting for her? What would she even say to him?

Mdu called the waitress again and then ordered dessert for himself. He then took out his phone and began browsing through it casually. Tholi stood up.

Mdu: Uyaphi?

Tholi grabbed her phone and made her way out of the restaurant. She began going through her phone, trying to see if she could call anyone to come pick her up. Suddenly she was filled with great sadness when she realised just how isolated she was... She obviously couldn't call Zani because she was acting weird. That sad realisation of her lonesome life hit her and she stood there feeling quite helpless. She dialled Kwanele's number, hoping that he would at least answer her call, but instead it said the number didn't exist.

She was startled to see Mdu walk past her. He was walking to his car and she quickly rushed behind him. Once he got to the car he turned to look at her.

Mdu: Ufunani?

Tholi huffed.

Mdu: Uphfumula phezulu yet you are the one with no car here.

She kept quiet and he unlocked the car and got in. She quickly rushed to the other side while Mdu started the car and as she touched the door, the car moved forward and stopped a couple of steps ahead.

Tholi grunted and walked to the car and when she touched the door again, Mdu drove forward again.

Tholi: Really!

She walked to the car again and Mdu drove forward and she just stood there. After a long time she finally walked to the car and she opened the door and Mdu chuckled. She looked over at him as she stood outside and then shut the door. She went to the backseat door and opened it.

Mdu: Ungalinge ungiphapele ke Tholakele. This is not a cab service.

Tholi: I'll be fine here.

Mdu: I'll leave you here.

She closed the door and went to the front and then got in. Mdu then drove off.

After much silence, they finally got to the house and Mdu parked next to the gate. She opened

the door and mumbled a “bye” and Mdu said bye as well. As soon as she closed the door, he drove off and part of her felt slightly offended.

She made her way inside the yard and as soon as she got in the house, the sad realisation she had earlier, hit her once again. She switched off all the lights and made her way to the bedroom. Too lazy to bath, she changed into her pyjamas and got in bed feeling quite down...

Mdu dialled Larry’s number and he answered after a while.

Larry: Duzi.

Mdu: Where are you?

Larry: We’re at Buyile’s place.

Mdu: I’ll be there...

Larry: Shap.

Mdu dropped the call and then changed his direction and made his way to Buyile’s house, another friend of his. If there was one thing he and his friends enjoyed, it had to be throwing house parties. Clubs were never fun for them. They enjoyed being in one of their houses, getting drunk together and of course meeting some of the women that came along with such festivities... True bachelor lifestyle...

As he made his way inside, he saw Larry talking to some girl. He went over to him.

Larry: You look tense as fuck!

Mdu: Nothing a few beers can't fix.

The girl who was with Larry cleared her throat and looked at Mdu annoyingly. Mdu chuckled and shook his head lightly.

Mdu: Well excuse me then...

Larry laughed as he focused on his girl again. Mdu then walked past people and made his way to the kitchen. Sure enough there was more than enough booze to fill up a pool. He got himself some beer and began scanning the scene. He knew it would take some time before his mind would settle...

He made his way to the lounge area and found people playing 30 seconds. He decided to sit down and watch them, his friend and owner of the house, Buyile, was among the people.

Buyile turned to look at him.

Buyile: Look at you!

Mdu grinned lightly and nodded.

Mdu: You're obviously in your element so I didn't want to intervene.

Buyile: Bullshit.

Buyile walked over to where he was sitting and looked down at him.

Buyile: How have you been?

Mdu: Hey man, go host your people.

Buyile laughed.

Buyile: Well alright then Mr. Grumpy.

Mdu chuckled and Buyile walked away...

Person: Hmm amadoda!

Mdu turned his head and saw Zanele standing close to where he was sitting. He dismissed her and went back to watching people.

Zani: Ngikhuluma nawe Mduduzi.

Mdu ignored her and suddenly she walked over and stood in front of him. He looked at her without saying anything.

Zani: You sleep with a girl and forget that she exists.

Mdu didn't say anything and Zani crossed her arms and stared at him.

Zani: Mdu!

Mdu looked at her.

Zani: I'm talking to you!

Mdu: Ungangiphapheli wena.

Zani: Mdu kanti yini inkinga yakho?

Mdu: What?

Zani: Why are you suddenly so cold?

Mdu: Ufuna ngithini? I'm not your friend. Don't get ahead of yourself now.

Zani: WOW!

Mdu: Heh man, move.

He put out his arm and shifted her to the side since she was blocking his entire view.

Zani: You fucking bastard! Fuck you!

Mdu: Okay.

Zani: You arrogant son of a-

The look she received sent shivers down her spine and she shut up immediately.

Mdu: Son of a what?

She kept quiet.

Mdu: Think twice before you call anyone a bitch.

Zani ran off crying and he took another bottle of beer and continued to sit there, feeling quite dull.

Just then, he felt someone tap his shoulder and he ignored whoever it was. He got tapped again and he turned, thinking it was Zani again but it was actually Nomi. He looked at her in confusion. Nolwazi had called him earlier telling him this friend of hers was pap drunk and now here she was, looking fresh and unbothered...

"And beautiful in fact," he thought to himself.

Nomi: Do you know where I can find Buyile?

Mdu frowned.

Mdu: Nomi.

Nomi looked at Mdu in confusion.

Nomi: You know me?

Just then, Mdu realised that as much as she looked fine on the outside, the girl was actually drunk.

Mdu: Nomi for fucks sake I'm your best friend's brother.

Nomi squinted her eyes and seconds later she was laughing.

Nomi: Oh shit, Benju!

Mdu: Hai it's too late, the damage is already done.

He sulked and she bent and wrapped her arms around him in an attempt to comfort him humorously.

Nomi: I'm sorry!

Mdu: Why are you even here? Nolwazi said you passed out.

Nomi: Mxm who passes out for the whole night?

Mdu chuckled.

Mdu: True alcoholic.

Nomi: You know this.

Mdu laughed lightly.

Nomi: I'll see you around.

Mdu: Sure.

As Nomi walked off, he stood up and made his way to where Larry and his random girl were.

Mdu: Larry.

Larry stopped smooching the girl and glanced at Mdu.

Mdu: I'm leaving.

Larry: So soo-

The girl grabbed Larry's face roughly and continued to kiss him. Mdu walked away and began making his way out of the house. As he got to his car, he heard someone yell his name. He sighed and turned.

Zani ran to him and then looked at him pleadingly.

Zani: I'm sorry!

He looked at her blankly.

Zani: I'm so sorry, I was just overwhelmed.

Mdu: Okay.

He tried opening his car but she stopped him and made him face her.

Zani: I just... I don't know...

Mdu: Zanele ufunani?

Zani's expression changed and she looked at him seductively. Mdu continued to look at her blankly. She placed her hands on his waist and smiled lightly.

Zani: Forgive me.

Mdu didn't say anything. She unzipped his pants as she was staring at him seductively.

Mdu: Za-

He winced as he felt her warm hand stroke him gently.

Zani: Don't be mad.

She was now whispering and stroking him tenderly.

Zani: Why so hard?

She smiled innocently.

Zani: So you've also been thinking about me?

She pressed him against the car and before Mdu could say anything, she had already bent down and began doing the job.

Mdu winced because as much he didn't want any of this, the girl was really doing her thing.

Mdu: Fuck man Zanele.

Zanele looked up at him as she kneeled down and continued sucking him off.

He moaned lightly and just as he was about to let himself go, he quickly grabbed her weave and yanked her head away from him. She looked at him in shock.

Zani: What the fuck??

He pulled her up and tried to conceal the intensity he was feeling.

Mdu: Don't ever do that, you hear me?

Zani: But I wa-

He pushed her aside and opened his door and got in. He started the car and attempted to drive but the erection was a bit too much. He stopped the car and quickly finished Zani's job and then drove out of the yard.

He drove for about 5 minutes, cussing at himself angrily.

He then reached for his phone and dialled a number.

He was a bit startled to hear Tholi say hello. He had figured that she would ignore the call.

Tholi: Hello?

Mdu cleared his throat.

Mdu: Tholi.

Tholi: What do you want?

Mdu: I woke you up?

Tholi: Ufunani?

Mdu: I think I'm drunk.

Tholi: Ngingenaphi mina lapho?

Mdu chuckled.

Mdu: Tholi I'm driving. I might die.

Tholi: I don't have time fo-

Mdu: I'll be there shortly.

He dropped the call before she could respond and fastened the speed. He couldn't help but grin as some thoughts filled his head.

INSERT 54

Tholi couldn't go back to sleep after Mdu disturbed her. She made her way downstairs to the kitchen and made herself some tea. She then sat on one of the high stools and thought about Kwanele. She couldn't bring herself to stress about it. She was completely numb about it all... Somehow she was glad that for once in her life she could actually have some peace and quiet.

Just then, her phone beeped and it was Mdu telling her that he was outside. She took a deep breath and made her way to the door, she unlocked it and began walking to the gate. When she opened it, she saw his car and walked to it and stood by his door. Seconds later, Mdu slid down his window and Tholi stared at him as he grinned.

He opened his door and she crossed her arms as he got out and leaned on his car.

Mdu: He-

Tholi: Listen here, you are not my friend. I do not know what it is you want from me but I do not need whatever it is you are bringing.

Mdu laughed quietly and Tholi kept quiet. Suddenly the confidence and fury she had built up was slowly lessening. As much as she tried to dismiss it, Mdu really intimidated her.

Mdu: You don't need whatever it is I'm bringing?

She kept quiet and just looked at him.

Mdu: Where's Kwanele, Tholi?

Tholi kept quiet.

Mdu: He's your husband.

She kept quiet.

Mdu: Anyway, did I wake you up?

She hissed angrily and decided that this was a waste of time but before she could even turn, he had already grabbed her. She squealed in shock as she replayed how he did the same thing in Dundee.

Tholi: Plea-

Mdu shook his head lightly and she kept quiet.

Mdu: I'm quite drunk right now.

Tholi: Please let go of me.

He looked at her intently and she stared right back at him pleadingly.

Tholi: I'm tired Mdu.

She said that with so much bleakness that Mdu had no choice but to let go of her.

Mdu: Good night.

Tholi turned and walked back to the yard and made her way inside the house. She locked up and then went back to the bedroom. She went to her closet and kneeled down to get something that she had placed at the far back. She reached for it and then walked to the bed and got in. She opened her diary and began reading through some pages... When she couldn't take back the memories that flooded her, she put the diary down and switched off the lamp and tried to go back to sleep...

After a long time she finally managed to fall into a deep but very sad sleep.

The following morning, Nolwazi was awakened by Dean's weight on her. She shifted and he groaned.

Nolwazi: You're beyond heavy.

Dean chuckled sleepily but didn't move.

Nolwazi: I'd like to go make something to eat. I'm hungry.

Dean: Nolwazi it's 6am.

Nolwazi: So?

He put up his head and looked at her sleepily.

Nolwazi: Suka.

He grunted and moved. She sat up and then got out of bed.

Dean: You're going to cook from scratch?

Nolwazi looked down at him and rolled her eyes.

Dean: Hai ke.

He covered himself and went back to sleep while Nolwazi made her way downstairs to the kitchen. She looked through the fridge and food cupboard and decided that she would make waffles. She spent the next hour preparing something for herself and then walked back upstairs and sat on the edge of the bed while Dean lay there asleep.

As she ate, she browsed through her phone and decided to call Mdu. It rang for a long time but he eventually answered.

Mdu: Hmm?

Nolwazi: Hehe you sound like you had a rough night.

Mdu: Not really.

Nolwazi chuckled.

Nolwazi: Did you go out.

Mdu: Not really.

She laughed.

Nolwazi: Is Nomi fine lapho?

Mdu: She's not here.

Nolwazi: I'm sure she woke up in the middle of the night and went back to drinking.

Mdu: Hmm.

Nolwazi: Well alright then, is my house in order?

Mdu: I don't have time for this.

Nolwazi: Hai suka.

Mdu: Bye.

Nolwazi: Shap.

She dropped the call and then texted Nomi to see if she was okay. She knew Nomi would only

respond later so she put down her phone and focused on her food which now tasted stale. Dean turned and looked at her.

Dean: What about me?

Nolwazi: What about you?

Dean: Hehe.

She looked at her plate and then gave it to him.

Dean: So I only deserve leftovers?

Nolwazi rolled her eyes and went to the bathroom. After a while she got back in bed and tried going back to sleep. She wasn't in the mood to do anything that day so sleep would be her escape... and Dean of course.

As Tholi woke up and made the bed, she couldn't help but cringe at some of her thoughts. She didn't even want to delve into them...

After she was done she sat on the bed and grabbed the laptop Kwanele had bought for her. She began researching different universities and figured out how everything works. She absolutely loved cooking so she was considering studying something along those lines. After a while she put down the laptop and then made her way downstairs and decided she would cook up a storm, even though she would be the only recipient of her great cooking. Being in the kitchen was her only solace at this point. Cooking and baking brought her much needed comfort and happiness, even though it was temporary.

It was now around 9am and she was done.

She looked at the food she prepared and sulked. She was actually quite sad.

She then made her way upstairs and went to the bathroom, taking a long bath... She allowed her mind to drift away...

As she opened her eyes, she felt the lukewarm water and then got up and dried herself. She got dressed and sat on the bed...

She looked at the time and sighed heavily.

Was this really her life?

She sighed once again.

She then dialled Thenjiwe's number and it rang for a very long time but she eventually answered.

Thenjiwe: Ufunani Tholakele?

Tholi cleared her throat.

Tholi: Uhm sawubona ma-

Thenjiwe: What do you want?

Tholi sighed.

Tholi: Kwanele is no-

Thenjiwe: Manje uthi ngenzeni? Must I go around the world and look for him?

Tholi kept quiet.

Thenjiwe: Mind your own business.

Tholi then cleared her throat.

Tholi: Can I ask you something?

Thenjiwe: What?

Tholi: Can I see Jabul-

Thenjiwe: If you ever come at me with your nonsense, I will call your aunt, you hear me?

Tholi kept quiet and seconds later Thenjiwe dropped the call.

She sat there, holding back her tears and then quickly got up and went to the bathroom to get herself together. As she walked back, her phone rang and she already knew the number that appeared...

She sighed heavily and then answered.

Tholi: Hello.

Mdu: Sawubona.

Tholi: How are you?

Mdu: Are you asking how I am?

Tholi grunted and kept quiet and Mdu chuckled lightly.

Mdu: I'm good and you?

Tholi: Good.

Mdu: You sure?

Tholi kept quiet.

Mdu: Listen, can I come fetch you?

Tholi: Where will you take me?

Mdu: Angazi.

Tholi: No thanks.

Mdu: I'll behave.

She kept quiet.

Mdu: I promise.

Tholi sighed.

Mdu: Give me an hour or so...

She didn't say anything.

Mdu: Uzoba right yezwa?

He dropped the call and she sat on the bed and sighed heavily.

INSERT 55 (Couldn't edit)

Tholi made her way to Mdu's car and he told her to get in and she did. She cleared her throat as she looked at him and he smiled.

Mdu: Hey.

Tholi mumbled a "hey" back and Mdu shot her a look.

Tholi: Hi.

Mdu: You're becoming ruder by the day.

Tholi: I'd appreciate it if you would not make it a habit to come here as you please.

Mdu: Is it?

She nodded firmly and he shrugged his shoulders.

Mdu: Let's grab something to eat. I'm famished.

Tholi: I'm not.

Mdu: Have you eaten?

Tholi was about to nod but she stopped herself.

Tholi: Yes.

Mdu: Yinto esizoyithini ke le because mina ngilambile.

Tholi: I cooked.

She said that without really thinking and was annoyed at herself. Mdu looked at her without saying anything.

Tholi: Never mind.

He grinned.

Mdu: You're offering me food?

She avoided his eyes and shrugged her shoulders.

Mdu: Konje you're alone in this house.

She kept quiet, trying not to show all the emotions she had been dealing with all morning.

Mdu: So how are we going to do this because I certainly do not want to be disrespectful and parade around your house?

Tholi let out a sarcastic sound and Mdu looked at her amusingly.

Tholi: Now you're concerned about being respectful?

Mdu: I am always respectful Tholakele. I am a nice person.

Tholi: Kuphi?

Mdu: Haibo what's that supposed to mean?

Tholi looked at him weirdly and he looked at her innocently.

Mdu: I'm the definition of respectful and nice.

Tholi hissed silently and shook her head lightly.

Mdu: Go get me some of your food phela.

He rubbed his belly and sank on his seat.

Tholi: I don't think-

Mdu: You've already offered. Go.

Tholi sighed.

Mdu: And bring me something to drink as well.

Tholi: Bring?

Mdu looked at her questioningly.

Tholi: Respect?

He chuckled and scratched his head.

Mdu: Please?

Tholi rolled her eyes as she got out of the car and made her way back to the house. She went to the kitchen and heated up everything. She then dished up in a container and poured some juice as well. After she was done she made her way back to the car and then gave Mdu the container while still holding his juice.

Mdu: Thank you.

He looked at her and smiled.

Tholi kept quiet and watched as he opened the container.

Mdu: Awu suka madoda!

He said that so dramatically that Tholi couldn't help but let out a laugh.

Mdu looked at her.

Mdu: Does it taste as good as it looks?

Tholi: Angazi.

Mdu: Hai manje how am I supposed to eat your food if you don't vouch for it?

She looked at him uncomfortably and he shook his head.

Mdu: Let's see...

He dug in the omelette and then began chewing slowly. Tholi watched him carefully and he narrowed his eyes as he swallowed.

Mdu: Hold on.

He took another bite and Tholi rolled her eyes.

Mdu: Have to make sure.

He said that with his mouth full. Tholi handed him the juice and he shook his head so she continued to hold it.

After he was done he looked at her intently.

Mdu: I think I need some more... Just to make sure.

Tholi giggled without even noticing.

Tholi: Make sure of what?

Mdu: I'm still internalising the taste.

Tholi: So it tastes good?

Mdu: I'm still not sure.

Tholi giggled once again.

Mdu: So maybe another omelette will help.

Tholi: Okay.

Mdu: Good.

He reached for the juice and drank it.

Tholi: And the juice?

Mdu: Well the juice is definitely good.

Tholi: I made it as well.

Mdu looked at her weirdly.

Tholi: It's freshly squeezed.

Mdu: Well in that case, pour me some more so I can confirm if it really tastes good.

Tholi laughed.

Tholi: Okay.

She took the containers from Mdu and then got out of the car and made her way back to the house. She got to the kitchen and dished up for him once again but this time, she added 4 slices of Fruity French toast with some yoghurt as well.

Boy was she glad that her food was going to good use!

She then made her way out again and got in the car.

Mdu looked at the food and whistled and Tholi felt her cheeks flush.

Mdu: Let's see...

He finished the omelette and then looked at her.

Mdu: This omelette will take time to settle.

Tholi: Oh please.

Mdu chuckled and she gave him the Fruity French toast and yoghurt.

Mdu: Are you trying to win my heart?

He looked at her and she avoided his eyes. He then went on to eat and then sighed.

Mdu: Who taught you how to cook?

Tholi: No one.

Mdu: Phela uphuma ema-farm wena so how did you learn all of this?

Tholi: Mxm.

Mdu: This is good.

Tholi: Thanks.

He drank the juice and then sank on his seat, rubbing his belly.

Mdu: Fuck, I'm full.

Tholi couldn't help but smile at herself. It had been a very long time since she fed someone and saw the effects of her food on them.

Mdu: Uyazama shame.

Tholi: Ngiyazama?

Mdu: You need a little guidance...

Tholi: From whom?

Mdu: Tholi I cook better than you.

Tholi laughed sarcastically.

Tholi: Wow.

Mdu glanced at her.

Mdu: Uyangiphikisa?

Tholi: You don't strike me as a chef.

Mdu: Awazi lutho wena.

Mdu rubbed his belly and then lowered his seat and closed his eyes.

Mdu: Fuck, I'm about to explode.

Tholi: You like swearing.

Mdu opened his eyes and looked at her amusingly.

Mdu: My fowl language turns you off?

Tholi: Who said I was turned on in the first place?

Mdu laughed out loud and then coughed.

Mdu: Shit, now you trying to kill me.

He continued to cough uncontrollably and then reached at the back seat for a bottle of water. He opened it and drank it. Tholi tried to contain whatever she was feeling... She was certainly embarrassed.

Mdu: Shit.

He finally stabilised and then sat back on his seat again.

Mdu: Uthini Tholakele?

Tholi huffed and as she was about to open the door, he quickly locked it.

Mdu: Yini manje?

Tholi: I want to take these things back.

Mdu: Manje why are you avoiding my eyes?

Tholi: Please unlock the door.

Mdu kept quiet and Tholi glanced at him. He was rubbing his belly, with his eyes closed.

Tholi: Mduduzi.

Mdu: Hmm?

Tholi: Please unlock the door.

Mdu: Ang'funi.

Tholi: Why do people think it's okay to treat me like some weakling?

Mdu opened his eyes and was startled. He looked at her intently.

Tholi: Open this fucken door and leave me alone!

Mdu: And then-

Tholi: Open this door and don't ever contact me!

Mdu sat up and stared at her. He knew she was holding back her tears but he was confused as to what triggered it.

Tholi: It must be so nice to walk all over weak people. I envy you!

Mdu: Tho-

Tholi: Open this door!

Mdu: I wa-

Mdu felt a sharp pain on his forehead as Tholi threw one of the containers at him.

Mdu: What the fuck?!

Tholi: Leave me alone!

He was about to say something when she threw the other container at him and he held her arm.

Mdu: What the heck!

Tholi: Unlock this door!

Mdu: Angifuni!

Tholi threw a punch at him and he winced.

Mdu: Tholakele!

She threw another punch and he winced again.

As she was about to throw another one, he managed to hold both her arms and she started crying.

Mdu: What the fuck!

They tackled for a long time until Tholi stopped and then slumped on her seat and sobbed.

Mdu looked at her in confusion and shock and they sat in silence, while Tholi continued to sob silently, hiding her face.

After a while, Mdu unlocked the car and she got out and rushed back inside the house. He scratched his head and frowned.

He instantly dialled Nolwazi's number and she took a while to pick up.

Nolwazi: Bhenju.

Mdu: Uhm listen-

Nolwazi yawned.

Nolwazi: What do you want? I'm sleeping.

Mdu: I've dealt with quite a number of crying females...

Nolwazi chuckled.

Nolwazi: That you have...

Mdu: But like, what do I do with an emotionally unstable one?

Nolwazi: Aren't all your girls unstable?

Mdu sighed.

Mdu: Not in a deep kind of way.

Nolwazi: Deep how?

Mdu: I don't know... It's just deep.

Nolwazi: Hai ke don't even involve yourself if you're not willing to stay in the long haul. I do not want to be bailing you out of any deep situations!

Mdu: You think?

Nolwazi: If you don't want to pursue something with the girl then don't bother delving into whatever she is dealing with.

Mdu: Okay.

Nolwazi: Anyway, she's probably a one night stand so I know you won't bother.

Mdu: Hmm.

Nolwazi: I gotta go kiddo.

Mdu: Thanks.

Nolwazi: Shap.

Mdu: Bye.

He dropped the call and sat there for a while...

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Nolwazi was fast asleep when she felt a warm sensation between her thighs. She moaned as it went lower and lower...

She opened one eye and saw Dean looking up at her from between her thighs, with humour in his eyes. She smiled lightly and then closed her eyes again and sank deeper into the bed. He slipped a pillow under her so she could be elevated properly.

These last couple of hours she spent with Dean were so relaxing that she didn't think she could relax even more. Those hours made up for the countless days she stressed about everything else that was happening.

After another thrilling orgasm from just his tongue, Nolwazi was feeling all sorts of relaxed.

As she lay there happily, Dean picked her up and walked to the bathroom. He then carefully placed her in the huge bathtub and she shifted so he could sit behind her. She then relaxed on his chest and closed her eyes, falling asleep once again. She was awakened by Dean's chuckle.

Nolwazi: Hmm?

Dean: Did you drink sleeping pills?

Nolwazi: This is the first time in a long time that I'm fully resting.

Dean: But surely there's a sleep limit.

Nolwazi turned and faced him sleepily.

Nolwazi: Would you rather I leave?

Dean chuckled.

Dean: Do whatever you like.

Nolwazi sat back again and closed her eyes. She felt him place his hands on her breasts and slowly stroked her nipples. He then squeezed them gently and she sighed. He kissed the side of her face and placed his lips on her ear.

Dean: I'm glad you're resting.

She moaned as the sound of his voice filled her in unimaginable ways. He ran one hand down to her belly and then stroked her while his other hand was busy teasing her nipples, one after the other. The other hand went even lower and she separated her legs slightly so he could have access. She then heard him chuckle and she smiled. He slowly rubbed her clit.

Nolwazi: Dean...

Dean: Hmm?

She mumbled something.

Even though they were in water, he could still feel the silky wetness surrounding her insides. They were distinguishable... He gently slid one finger in and she told him it felt good and so he slid another one. He tenderly went in and out, making sure that he came back to the clit. She groaned as he put more pressure and quickened the pace. She involuntarily placed her hand over his and then guided him back to the area surrounding her clit. The hot water added to the sensation that was already driving her crazy. She began grinding along to Dean's rhythm and soon enough she was moaning loudly and twitching.

Dean turned her around and she collapsed in his arms. She put her head up and placed her lips on his. She slid in her tongue and a passionate yet gentle kiss ensued. She felt his erection press against her belly and she stopped the kiss and placed her head on his neck, still processing the orgasm she just had.

Nolwazi: Thank you and I love you.

Dean made her face him and they kissed again. After a while he stopped the kiss and looked at her.

Dean: You know how I feel.

She nodded lightly and they kissed again.

Mdu got out of the car and walked to the gate. Tholi hadn't even bothered to lock it... He then made his way to the door and found that it was also unlocked. He walked inside the house and found himself in the kitchen and then walked further in and went into the lounge but she wasn't there. The house was quite huge but he figured she would be somewhere upstairs in one of the rooms there so he made his way up the stairs and walked through the long hallway. He heard some shuffling in one of the rooms and so he walked closer to the room and sure enough, he saw her there. She was kneeling by her closet...

Mdu: Tholi.

She quickly turned and didn't seem shocked to see him.

Mdu then walked in, trying by all means to hide his uncomfortability. He got to where she was and put out his arm so she could stand up. Tholi glanced at his hand with her bloodshot eyes and then looked up at him. Her face had turned completely red from all the crying.

Mdu: Come.

Tholi just looked at him and within seconds he had bent down and pulled her up.

Mdu: Can we go outside?

Tholi: Why?

Mdu looked around the bedroom and frowned, indicating that he felt a tad bit uncomfortable being in there. He then took her hand and led her out of the bedroom. They walked downstairs and went out of the backdoor and got to the pool area. They then walked to the gazebo and Mdu turned to face her.

Mdu: I need you to make me understand...

Tholi crossed her arms and avoided his eyes.

Mdu: How did we go from having great food and conversation to you crying like this?

Tholi: If you're so sick of my crying then leave me.

Mdu: No Tholi, don't put words in my mouth. I'm being sincere.

Tholi: Just leave.

Mdu looked at her intently and scratched his head lightly. He was really out of his element here.

Tholi: Go.

Mdu: What's wrong?

Tholi: I need you to leave!

She was now getting emotional all over again. Mdu tried saying something but she had begun sobbing again.

Mdu: Tholi-

Tholi: No, please leave me alone!

Mdu: I can't do that.

Before she could turn, he grabbed her and pulled her closer to him. He then locked his arms around her and expected her to fight him but to his surprise, she actually hid her face in his chest and sobbed some more. He loosened his grip on her and held her more gently.

He decided to not say anything until she had calmed down.

After a long time she finally quietened down and then removed her face from his chest. Somehow, Mdu couldn't bring himself to let go of her so she struggled to wipe her face.

They stood there for a very long time until Tholi finally cleared her throat.

Tholi: Sorry for messing up your t-shirt.

He kept quiet and Tholi wiggled her way out of his arms and wiped her face with her hands.

Tholi: Excuse me.

Mdu: Where are you going?

Tholi: Bathroom.

Mdu: You don't need the bathroom.

He made her sit down and then sat next to her.

Mdu: You can use my t-shirt, seeing as it's already messed up.

Tholi frowned.

Tholi: I'm sorry, I'll wash it.

Mdu: I'll hold you to that.

Tholi looked at him briefly before looking away and wiping her face again. She then made sure that she was not looking at Mdu's direction.

Mdu: Tholi.

Tholi: Hmm?

Mdu: What's wrong?

Tholi: Like you said, I like overreacting.

Mdu: Then look at me.

Tholi didn't say anything so Mdu reached for her face and turned it so she could face him.

Mdu: This place and the people you keep in your life are not good for you.

She laughed sarcastically.

Mdu: Am I wrong?

Tholi: No one will ever understand the things I've gone through. I don't want to talk Mduduzi.

Mdu: Okay.

She sighed heavily and then Mdu stood up and pulled her up as well.

Mdu: Asambe.

Tholi: Where?

Mdu: Stop questioning me.

He held her hand and led her back inside the house and told her to get her things.

INSERT 57 (Couldn't edit)

Mdu: Do you trust me?

Tholi: No.

Mdu: What?? When have I ever given you a reason not to??

Mdu looked at her in shock and Tholi couldn't help but laugh.

Mdu: I am highly offended!

Tholi shook her head as she chuckled quietly.

Mdu: Wow!

He started the car and drove off.

Mdu: So you see me in a negative light?

Tholi nodded and Mdu gasped and Tholi giggled with her red face. He soon realised that him being dramatic brought some amusement to her. Growing up with 3 women influenced his interactions with the girls he met. Although he really didn't care much about them, all of them could admit that the guy definitely had something special about him. He attributed this "something" to his relationship with his sisters and mother. Being surrounded by them made him aware of the different buttons or triggers women had.

Mdu: Tjo ngiyayiqala ke le.

Tholi giggled away and he looked at her and smiled. She became serious and then faced the other direction, looking out the window.

Mdu: Yazi siyaphi?

Tholi: Kuphi?

Mdu: Johannesburg.

Tholi: WHAT?!

Mdu glanced at her and smiled.

Dean: What are we going to eat?

Nolwazi: I'm not hungry.

Dean: Well I am.

Nolwazi put on his t-shirt and got back in bed.

Dean: You are determined to stay in there aren't you?

Nolwazi: Bed rest galore.

Dean chuckled and got dressed.

Dean: There's nothing to eat here. I need food.

Nolwazi: That's your business.

She lay there and watched him finish up getting dressed.

Nolwazi: You ran out of juice so please get some.

Dean: Indoda ayithunya Nolwazi.

Nolwazi chuckled.

Dean: Nakhona you just admitted to loving me.

Nolwazi: So??

Dean: You don't starve people you love.

Nolwazi: Dean go get your food please.

Dean gave her a look before walking out of the bedroom and disappearing. She then grabbed her phone and dialled Mdu's number. It rang for a while but he eventually answered.

Mdu: Yebo.

Nolwazi: Please check if my work phone is on my bed. I'm not sure if I left it there.

Mdu: But also, where are you??

Nolwazi laughed quietly.

Mdu: Heeh.

Nolwazi: Just check my phone okay.

Mdu: I'm going to the house now and then I'm leaving.

Nolwazi: Leaving?

Mdu: Ya I'm going to the other side.

Nolwazi: Joburg??

Mdu: Yep.

Nolwazi: Mdu why?? You're going to leave without saying goodbye??

Mdu: Don't be dramatic I'll be back.

Nolwazi: Are you driving?

Mdu: Ya.

Nolwazi: Hai kodwa Mdu.

Mdu: Bye bye.

Nolwazi: Travel safely and call me!

Mdu: Shap.

Nolwazi dropped the call and sighed as she sank on the bed. Just then, her phone rang and she took it and checked the caller id and saw Ivy's name. She answered.

Nolwazi: Zamo!

Ivy: Why am I not being taken care of or loved?? Just because you and Bhenju are having fun there manje you're sidelining me??

Nolwazi laughed.

Nolwazi: Baby it's not even like that.

Ivy: Have you divorced that dick?

Nolwazi cringed. She hadn't thought about the divorce in the past couple of hours.

Ivy: Lwazi are you having second thoughts??

Nolwazi: No, it's not that. Of course not!

Ivy: Then hurry up so you can move the fuck on!

Nolwazi: It's not that easy Ivy.

Ivy: Mxm it's almost 3 weeks since we left Dundee. Surely you can move faster.

Nolwazi: You wouldn't understand.

Ivy sighed.

Ivy: Anyway, I was just calling to say that you and Mdu can go die. Fuck both of you.

Nolwazi laughed.

Ivy: Out here excluding me! You have some nerve!

Nolwazi: Aww bakithi!

Ivy: Nxa!

Nolwazi: I love you so so so much!

Ivy: Show me!

Nolwazi laughed.

Nolwazi: I'll see what I can do.

Ivy: It better make me smile!

Nolwazi: I'll see... Bye baby.

Ivy: Shap.

Nolwazi dropped the call and then took Dean's laptop and transferred money into Ivy's account.

Within minutes Ivy sent her a smiley face and Nolwazi left it at that.

She then sank deeper in the bed and ended up dozing off.

Tholi: Take me home!

Mdu sighed heavily.

Mdu: Yini manje?

Tholi: This is wrong on so many levels! Take me home!

Mdu: Ukhuluma ngani?

Tholi: Stop acting foolish!

Mdu: You're overreacting.

Tholi crossed her arms and turned so she could stare at him. Mdu looked at her briefly before focusing on the road again. Soon enough they were outside some house.

Tholi: Is this another house of yours?

Mdu looked at her intently and nodded. He knew she would freak out if she knew that it was Nolwazi's house. She was already freaking out because she saw her caller id when she called

and the fact that he wanted to go to Joburg.

Mdu: I'll be back in a second, okay?

Tholi grunted.

Mdu: That grunt of yours Tholakele.

She ignored him as he got out of the car and rushed to the yard. She sat in silence, trying not to delve into her thoughts...

After a while Mdu finally came out and he got back in the car.

Tholi: Mduduzi I don't want to go to Johannesburg.

Mdu turned to look at her as she looked at him with a frightened look.

Mdu: You're cute.

Tholi frowned and he started the car.

Mdu: I just need to get something there.

Tholi: Joburg is over 5 hours away!

Mdu: Manje?

Tholi: You're making it seem like it's a short drive.

Mdu: It is, for me...

Tholi looked at him nervously.

Mdu: Have you ever been there?

She shook her head.

Mdu: There's a first time for everything.

Tholi: I didn't pack.

Mdu: Kanti are we moving to Joburg?

Tholi kept quiet.

Mdu: Unless you want to move in with me.

He grinned and she looked away.

Mdu: Trust me, okay?

Tholi didn't say anything and Mdu continued focusing on the road.

Dean got everything he needed at the mall and then made his way to his car at the parking lot.

Person: Fancy seeing you here...

He stopped walking for a second and tightened his jaw. He got to his car and Ntsiki stood next to it.

Dean gritted his teeth and Ntsiki looked at him from head to toe. She then chuckled sarcastically.

Ntsiki: You don't seem too happy to see me...

Dean kept quiet and stared at her.

Ntsiki looked at the plastics he was carrying and chuckled.

Ntsiki: Must be nice... Uyadla...

Dean walked to his boot and put everything in there. He then walked to his door but Ntsiki blocked his way. He stared at her.

Ntsiki: Woo there's nothing that terrifies me more than that look of yours... It still turns me on though...

She smiled innocently and stared right back at him.

Ntsiki: So you forgot about me, just like that?

Dean tightened his jaw.

Ntsiki: Who's keeping you busy Dean? Who is the bitch that stole you from me?

Dean: Move out of my way Nontsikelelo.

Ntsiki narrowed her eyes and sighed.

Ntsiki: You never loved me did you?

Dean: Ucabangani wena?

Ntsiki: I think you love me... It's just that you're a tough nut to crack. You love me Dean, in your own special way.

Dean laughed quietly.

Ntsiki: I don't think you will ever find anyone who actually loves you. You're not a nice person Dean. You stomp on people and leave them to die.

Dean continued to laugh quietly.

Ntsiki: No one will ever accept your ugly side like me...

Dean pushed her to the side and opened his door.

Ntsiki: We'll be together again.

She smiled as he shut his door and drove off.

INSERT 58

Tholi: I need the bathroom.

Mdu glanced at her.

Mdu: We're an hour away.

She shook her head.

Tholi: I need it now.

Mdu: Okay.

She kept quiet once again and tried not to fall asleep. All this sitting was tiring because Mdu insisted on not making any unnecessary stops. It was now around 3pm. After a couple of minutes he drove to a garage.

Mdu: Want me to show you where the bathroom is?

Tholi: I'm not stupid.

She looked at him sharply and he rolled his eyes as he got out of the car. She got out as well and Mdu pointed to where the bathrooms were. She ignored him and walked off, trying not to run because her bladder was close to defeating her. She finally got to the bathrooms and then relieved herself. As she looked at herself in the mirror she cringed. Her face was all puffy and flushed. She splashed some cold water and then dried herself, there was a little bit of improvement but her very light skin made it difficult to get away with crying.

She made her way out of the bathrooms and as she was about to head to the car, Mdu yelled for her to come where he was, he was standing by the garage shop. She walked over to him.

Mdu: Ulambile?

She thought about it and eventually nodded.

Mdu: I don't like people eating in my car. Well this one doesn't belong to me but still...

Tholi frowned.

Tholi: But you were eating there this morning.

Mdu: Manje? Kanti yimoto kabani?

Tholi grunted.

Mdu: I'll make an exception because you fed me this morning.

Tholi: I don't want your favours.

Mdu: You don't say...

Tholi looked at him sharply.

Mdu: So since you're so hungry, how are you going to buy yourself food seeing as you don't have anything on you, Miss I Don't Need Any Favours?

Tholi's eyes shot up as she realised that what he said was true. She then started panicking.

"What if he's doing this on purpose?" He might be trying to kidnap me," she thought, "Or leave me stranded in Johannesburg."

Mdu saw the terrified expression on her face and he smiled.

Mdu: Penny for your thoughts?

She looked at in confusion.

Mdu: I'd like to know what you're thinking.

Tholi looked at him nervously.

Mdu: Come.

He took her arm and led her inside the shop.

Mdu: We'll get something light. I don't want you vomiting because of motion sickness.

Tholi: I don't get motion sickness.

Mdu: I doubt.

They went to the fridge and he took two 1 litre bottles of pure water.

Mdu: Coke is unhealthy for you.

Tholi: What are you trying to say?

Mdu chuckled.

Mdu: I don't do subliminal shots Tholi.

Tholi kept quiet and they walked to the bakery section.

Mdu: Anyway, I like your curves.

She cleared her throat and quickly focused on the hot cross buns that were near her.

Mdu: Those things are too sweet.

Tholi turned to look at him.

Mdu: We need bread.

Tholi: Bread??

Mdu: Yes and I'm sure they sell butter somewhere here.

Tholi looked at him in disbelief.

Mdu: Bread or nothing.

He looked at her amusingly and she grunted.

Tholi: Nothing.

Mdu: And the water stays as well.

Tholi: Argh.

She turned and walked away and Mdu stayed there for a while.

She went to stand by the car and basked in the sun. After a long time she saw Mdu walking back with 5 plastics.

Mdu: Let's get moving.

She walked to her door and then got in the car. Mdu placed all the plastics on her lap and she peeped through them. There were sweets, biscuits, packets of chips and many other things there. Mdu got in and started the car.

Tholi looked at him in confusion.

Tholi: What happened to your bread?

Mdu: Angithi awudlaliswa wena.

He focused on the road and Tholi kept quiet, feeling bad for being dramatic.

She mumbled a "sorry" and Mdu ignored her and continued to focus on the road. She put all the plastics at the back seat and then kept quiet and looked ahead.

Mdu: Anginayo ke imali yokudlala. You will finish whatever is in there.

Tholi gasped.

Mdu: Umangazwa yini?

She looked at him and he didn't even give her a glance. She eventually reached at the back and grabbed one plastic. She took out a packet of chips and opened it.

Tholi: Would you like some?

Mdu glanced at her and she looked at him expectantly.

Mdu: Feed me.

Tholi frowned.

Mdu: Uyabona I'm driving angithi?

She huffed and took a couple of chips and Mdu opened his mouth. She carefully fed him and he shook his head.

Mdu: Biscuits.

Tholi was about to say something when he shot her a look. She sighed and reached at the back for the plastic with biscuits.

Tholi: Why did you buy so many things?

Mdu just shrugged his shoulders. She opened some biscuits and then reached out to him and fed him one.

Mdu: Thanks.

She nodded and then sat properly and finished up the packet of chips.

Tholi: You said you're going to fetch something in Joburg.

Mdu nodded.

Tholi: So that means we'll be back in Durban by midnight.

Mdu: Ya.

Tholi: Do you usually do this?

Mdu nodded lightly.

Tholi: Will you be able to drive back?

Mdu: What would stop me?

Tholi: Aren't you tired?

Mdu: I am.

Tholi: Manje how will you drive properly?

Mdu: You ask too many questions.

Tholi kept quiet.

Mdu: You can drive angithi?

Tholi: I haven't driven in a while.

Mdu: You will today.

Tholi: No I won't.

Mdu chuckled and kept quiet, focusing on the road. Tholi also kept quiet and they drove in silence for the rest of the way.

At around 5pm they finally got to Johannesburg.

Tholi: Do you live in Sandton?

Mdu laughed quietly and shook his head.

Mdu: Is Sandton the only place you know?

Tholi: No, but it's the most famous suburb I think...

Mdu nodded.

Tholi: Have you also been to Soweto?

Mdu chuckled and nodded.

Tholi: I always see these places on TV.

Mdu: Adorable.

Tholi looked out her window, trying to hide the excitement brewing in her. As much Durban was also quite a big city, there was just something different about Johannesburg in her eyes.

Tholi: Where are we now?

Mdu: Rosebank.

She nodded lightly.

Tholi: And where do you live?

Mdu: Morningside.

She nodded once again and kept quiet as he drove on.

Mdu: Now this is Sandton.

Tholi: I see...

Mdu: And I live 30 minutes away.

Tholi: Oh.

She watched as they drove past buildings...

After a while they drove to a quiet residential area.

Tholi: Is this Morningside?

Mdu nodded and eventually they drove to a complex.

Tholi: You own a house in Durban.

Mdu: Yes I do.

Tholi: But you live in a complex this side.

Mdu: I have a home this side... No need to invest in a house yet.

Tholi: I see...

She looked at him and tried to keep a blank face. They drove inside and then parked.

Mdu: Woza.

They got out of the car and he waited for her on the other side. She walked to him and they began walking.

Tholi: Don't your neighbours annoy you?

Mdu chuckled.

Mdu: They actually do.

Tholi: Do you live alone?

Mdu: I do.

She nodded and they made their way to Mdu's apartment. He unlocked the door and followed him in. She looked around and sighed.

Tholi: It's as big as a house though.

She glanced at him and then decided to keep quiet. She knew she was coming across as very rural and inexperienced at the moment.

Mdu: But it literally has one bedroom, an ensuite bathroom, a kitchen and a lounge.

Tholi: So it's a bachelor apartment?

Mdu: Yes.

Tholi: Not surprising.

Mdu: Heeh why is it not surprising?

Tholi: You're a bachelor, aren't you?

Mdu laughed.

Mdu: You're making some deep assumptions there Tholakele.

Tholi looked at him disbelief.

Tholi: So you're married??

Mdu laughed.

Mdu: Ucabangani wena?

Tholi frowned.

Tholi: You really don't behave like a married man.

Mdu: Haibo what do you mean??

Tholi stared at him.

Tholi: Zani?

Mdu: Mxm.

Tholi: So you're cheating with Zani? Does she know t-

Mdu: Woah woah woah! We're getting ahead of ourselves right now!

Tholi narrowed her eyes and looked at him suspiciously.

Mdu: I'm not married. I'm far from it actually.

Tholi sighed in relief and Mdu eyed her humorously.

Mdu: Haibo kanti you don't like the fact that I could be married?

Tholi's cheeks flushed.

Tholi: No...

Mdu: Oh?

She shook her head vigorously.

Tholi: No, I mean "no" as is in "no" I'm glad-

She took a deep breath.

Tholi: I'm just glad you're not using Zani. That's my point... And you're not cheating on your wife.

Mdu chuckled.

Tholi: Well you don't have a wife so...

She sighed, feeling defeated by her mouth.

Tholi: You know what I mean.

Mdu: Manje what would happen if I did have a wife?

Tholi: Then you ought to be ashamed of yourself!

Mdu: Is it? You don't believe in cheating?

Tholi: Absolutely not! It's sinful!

Mdu: Oh okay then.

Tholi: Marriage is sacred.

Mdu: Mmm.

Tholi: And it should be respected.

She said that very quietly and they stared at each other for a long time.

Mdu finally broke the intense silence.

Mdu: Want me to show you around?

Tholi cleared her throat and nodded.

Mdu: You know how I feel about this nodding thing.

Tholi: Sorry.

Mdu: Come.

She followed him further inside his apartment...

INSERT 59

Nolwazi made her way downstairs and walked to Dean's study. She knocked and there was no reply so opened the door and saw him working on his desk.

Nolwazi: Why didn't you reply?

Dean ignored her and carried on with whatever he was doing. Nolwazi could tell that something was bothering him. She was just confused as to what the thing was and when it got him to this point. She walked over to him and stood by his desk.

Nolwazi: Dean what's wrong?

He looked at her and didn't say anything. She then walked over to him and turned his chair so she could sit on his lap. She gave him a concerned look and he sighed.

Dean: I bumped into Ntsiki.

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Dean: I don't do well with annoying exes Nolwazi. When I end shit, I leave it at that.

Nolwazi: She wants you back?

Dean gave her a look.

Nolwazi: I'm just asking.

Dean: See this is the shit I don't like.

Nolwazi just looked at him.

Dean: You end a relationship and they keep annoying the fuck out of you.

Nolwazi: I'm sure it will die down.

Dean: It better.

She kept quiet and Dean sighed heavily.

Dean: Anyway, enough about that.

Nolwazi: I mean, it's obviously bothering you so I can give you your space.

Dean: Did I ask for space?

Nolwazi: You don't have to. I know when to back off.

Dean looked at her and his face relaxed.

Nolwazi: I don't stay when I'm unwanted.

Dean: You don't say...

Nolwazi smiled.

Nolwazi: I need to get back to my house anyway.

Dean looked at her sharply.

Nolwazi: No one is there Dean.

Dean: So?

Nolwazi: Hai I don't like my house empty.

Dean: Mxm go make yourself food and stop talking nonsense.

He pushed her up and she stood up.

Nolwazi: What are you working on?

Dean: Nothing, was just checking out some stats.

Nolwazi grunted. She didn't even want to discuss work so she made her way out of the study and walked to the kitchen to see what Dean had prepared for supper.

Sly: Richie.

Sly's boyfriend, Richie, stopped working on his laptop and glanced at Sly.

Sly looked at him intently, trying not to show any suspicion.

Richie: Yes, baby?

Sly pouted.

Sly: You've been working the whole day.

Richie: Baby I'm working on a big gig.

Sly sulked and walked over to the couch that was opposite to the one Richie was sitting on.

Richie: I promise I'll attend to your every need once I'm done.

Sly sank on the opposite couch and Richie focused on his laptop again. She sighed and looked at him...

"This son of a bitch is definitely cheating," she thought to herself, "I've seen this too many times. Uzonya lo."

She carefully placed her feet on the small coffee table next to her. She unbuttoned the shirt she was wearing, which was Richie's, and then opened it up and sat there, looking at him.

"Son of a bitch," she thought.

Her breasts showed and she began caressing them very gently. She closed her eyes and concentrated on the intense feeling that was creeping up. She moaned quietly and then focused on her nipples, rubbing them and pinching them all at the same time.

She ran down her right hand to her belly and stroked herself tenderly.

She then opened up her legs slightly and placed that hand on the top of her cookie. She began to slowly tap the area... The other hand continued to rub her nipples, one at a time. She moaned loudly and then ran down the other hand as well. She began to brush her inner thighs and sighed quietly as the warmth of her hands sent lovely sensations through her body. She ran her hands along her vagina and then opened up her legs wider. She used one hand to open up the lining of her lips and the other hand began to carefully massage her clit. She groaned loudly as she stopped focusing on the clit and ran her finger up and down her walls.

Sly: Aahh...

She ran that busy hand up to her face and licked it. She sucked on the finger so seductively that she began to move her hips to an unknown rhythm. She ran down that hand again and slid a very moist and wet finger in.

Sly: Ah!

She slid it further in and bit her bottom lip enchantingly. She slid in another one and then moaned again. The other hand went up to her breast and continued where it left off. She slid those fingers in and out and grinded slowly.

Sly: Fuck.

She opened her eyes and stared right back at Richie whose jaw was practically on the floor. He looked like he was even salivating...

Sly stared at him as she continued to slide those fingers in and out.

She stopped that motion and then went up to her clit, not removing her eyes from Richie.

She rubbed her swollen clit gently and let out a slight cry.

Sly: Ah...

She rubbed it even more and then rolled her hips.

Just as she was about to increase the pace, Richie threw his laptop to the side and quickly stood up and took off his pants. Sly closed her eyes and continued to rub herself...

Within seconds, Richie had picked her up and threw her on the long couch, slamming inside her...

Tholi: Are we leaving now?

Mdu looked at her and sighed.

Mdu: Do you mind if we leave tomorrow?

She kept quiet.

Mdu: I'm exhausted.

She looked at him intently. She was also tired and could endure another 5 hour drive.

Mdu: Please?

Tholi sighed.

Tholi: Okay.

Mdu: Wait, are you serious?

She nodded.

Mdu: Okay that's great. Let's go eat.

Tholi: Do you have food here?

Mdu: No, unfortunately.

Tholi: Oh.

Mdu: We travel all the way to Johannesburg and all you want to do is cook?

Tholi grunted and he chuckled.

Mdu: Okay then.

Tholi kept quiet.

Mdu: You want to cook?

She shrugged her shoulders.

Mdu: Uthini Tholi?

Tholi: It's your house... well apartment... So do whatever you want.

Mdu: Hehe look at you being spicy!

She kept quiet.

Mdu: Let's go get groceries then.

Tholi: And toiletries.

Mdu: Yes, and toiletries.

Tholi: Thanks.

Mdu: Asambe ke.

She stood up from the couch and then walked over to him.

Mdu: After you...

She led the way to the door and they walked out and made their way to the car, where they got in and drove off.

INSERT 60 (Didn't get the chance to edit)

Mdu and Tholi made their way to Sandton City and Tholi frowned.

Mdu: Yini?

Tholi shook her head lightly.

Mdu: Where would you like to get your groceries?

Tholi: PicknPay or Woolworths.

Mdu nodded and he led the way. They got to Woolies and walked around.

Tholi: What would you like to eat?

Mdu: I'm craving lasagne.

Tholi looked at him.

Mdu: You do know what lasagne is, right?

Tholi: That is rude.

Mdu laughed.

Mdu: What? Phela when I took you to that pasta place you needed saving.

She gave him a sharp look before walking off to another aisle.

Mdu grunted and walked to where she was. He had to remind himself that he was dealing with an extremely sensitive one here. He got to her and she was so focused on picking a sauce that he stifled a smile. She pretended as if he wasn't standing next to her. Her nose was flaring and she was huffing and puffing silently, trying to conceal her emotions.

Mdu: Tholi.

She kept quiet and continued to look through the sauces.

Mdu: Tholi I was joking man.

She looked at him sharply.

Tholi: I didn't find it funny.

Mdu: Tholi bengidlala. Kanti awudlaliswa na wena?

Tholi: Not if it's an insult.

Mdu: Mxm.

Tholi stared at him in shock and he walked away. She stood there not knowing what to do. Just then she remembered that she was far from home and so she rushed after Mdu but she couldn't find him. She began to panic as she rushed through each aisle looking for him.

She rushed over to the last aisle and was startled when she bumped into someone very roughly.

Tholi: Sorry!

Her entire body relaxed when she realised that it was Mdu. She sighed heavily and he stared at her in confusion.

Mdu: Why are you crying?

She touched her face and felt the tears. She didn't even realise that she was crying. She was convinced that Mdu left her stranded.

Tholi: I thought you left me.

She exhaled deeply.

Mdu: Why would I leave you?

Tholi: You seemed angry when you stormed off.

Mdu: Firstly, I didn't "storm" off, secondly I wasn't angry and lastly, I wouldn't leave you.

She looked at him and didn't say anything.

Mdu: Not everyone is out to get you.

Tholi: How am I supposed to know that?

Mdu: You think I'm being insincere?

She looked down and kept quiet. Mdu scratched his head and didn't say anything.

Tholi turned and walked away and he followed her. They made their way back to the aisle they were in before and then carried on getting all the things they needed. Tholi got some toiletries as well and they made their way out.

Mdu: Don't you need something to wear?

Tholi shook her head.

Tholi: I'll be fine.

Mdu: Are you sure?

Tholi: Yes.

Mdu: Alright then, let's get going.

As they were walking, someone yelled Mdu's name.

Mdu: Just when I thought we wouldn't bump into anyone.

Tholi: Is he your friend?

Mdu nodded and they stopped walking and turned. Tholi held her breath as a really really good looking guy walked towards them. She glanced up at Mdu who was actually staring at her.

Mdu: U-right?

She nodded.

Mdu: Yazi iyadina len-

Mdu's nodding speech was disturbed by the guy as he threw himself at Mdu.

Guy: Duzi!

He and Mdu shared a hug and Tholi could tell that Mdu wasn't too thrilled to see him for some odd reason.

Guy: How's it bro?

Tholi allowed herself to analyse this guy. He was the complete opposite of Mdu somehow, from his skin tone to the personality. The guy was "out there" compared to Mdu who wasn't loud and jolly. But Mdu was jolly in his own way, she thought.

Mdu: Everything alright with you?

Guy: Listen man, I'm living!

Mdu chuckled lightly and nodded.

Mdu: Aren't we all.

The guy turned and looked at Tholi from head to toe in confusion. Tholi felt extremely self-conscious after that.

Guy: And then?

Mdu: And then what?

Guy: Aren't you going to introduce me to your friend whom I don't know?

Mdu sighed.

Mdu: Don't worry about it.

The guy eyed Mdu and raised an eyebrow.

Guy: Hmkay mate.

Mdu: Listen, I'll see you around.

Guy: Sure sure.

They shook hands and the guy turned and walked away. All the while, Tholi stood there, trying to conceal the emotions brewing in her. Something about that guy's expression made her feel unworthy somehow. He didn't even know her name but he seemed to have already made his judgements.

Mdu: Tholi.

She quickly snapped out of it and looked at Mdu.

Mdu: Ngicela sambe.

She nodded tightly and they made their way out and walked to the car. She helped him put all the plastics in the boot then they got in and he drove off.

She thought back to how the guy looked at her and she felt a piercing pain in her system.

"Are my flaws really that transparent to people?" she thought, "A person I don't even know has

left me feeling all kinds of low right now.”

She was startled when she felt Mdu’s hand on hers. She quickly snapped out of her thoughts and looked at him.

Mdu: Kunini ngikhuluma nawe.

Tholi: Sorry.

He looked at her weirdly.

Mdu: U-shap?

Tholi: Ya.

She moved her hand and Mdu focused on the road again.

After a while they finally got back to his apartment.

Tholi: Do you mind if I take a shower before cooking?

Mdu: Sure, you know where the bathroom is.

Tholi: Thanks.

Mdu: I’ll unload all of these things.

Tholi: Okay.

Mdu gave her the toiletry she got and she made her way to the bathroom. She took off her jacket and shoes and then realised that she didn't have a towel. She looked around and there was only one, which belonged to Mdu. She stood there for a while and eventually walked out and went to the kitchen and found him on his phone.

Tholi: Uhm do you by any chance have an extra towel?

Mdu: There are plenty in the closet.

Tholi: Can I have one?

Mdu: You know where my closet is.

Tholi nodded and Mdu carried on using his phone. She walked back to the bedroom and went to his closet. She saw a stack of towels in a corner and then took one. As she held it, Mdu's scent filled her and she shook her head lightly and closed the closet. She made her way back to the bathroom... She looked around and marvelled at how neat and well-put together everything was. He seemed to be an extremely organised person because his closet was arranged according to colour and his bathroom seemed new. She couldn't help but open all of his bathroom shelves. Everything was in order there as well.

She stopped being nosy and then took off the maxi dress she was wearing...

She got in the shower and winced as the hot water touched her body. Suddenly she felt so exhausted...

She finished up and then dried herself. She lotioned herself and put on the dress she had been wearing. She cleaned up the bathroom and then walked out, still a bit exhausted but fresh

enough to cook up a storm.

When she got to the kitchen, Mdu was not there and he wasn't in the lounge as well. Instead of stressing, she allowed herself to let go and focus on what she loved, which was cooking.

Over an hour later, she felt herself relax and become slightly happy. She was in her own bubble at this point.

She heard the door unlock and Mdu walked in.

Mdu: Well lookie here.

She glanced at him as she finished up layering the lasagne. She put it in the oven and then turned to look at him.

Mdu: I'm shocked you haven't burnt the house.

Tholi: Very funny.

She rolled her eyes and Mdu looked at her intently.

She grabbed a glass of water and took a sip.

Mdu: Well I'm back.

Tholi didn't say anything even though she wanted to ask him why he left her here without telling her.

Mdu: I got you pyjamas.

He walked over to her and handed her a paper bag. She looked in it and sure enough, there were pyjamas there.

Tholi: You didn't have to.

Mdu: But I did.

She frowned.

Tholi: Thank you.

Mdu smiled.

Mdu: Now I need a shower...

Tholi nodded.

Mdu: Will the food be ready by the time I'm done?

Tholi: Depends on how fast you are.

Mdu: Oh no, I'm very slow...

He stared at her for a while and Tholi tried not to show her discomfort.

Mdu: I'm a slow-paced person by nature.

There was an awkward silence and then Tholi cleared her throat.

Tholi: If that's the case then I'm sure the food will be ready.

Mdu: Good.

He walked off and Tholi poured herself another glass of water.

INSERT 61

Just as Tholi had finished cutting up the lasagne, Mdu walked to the kitchen in sweatpants and a t-shirt.

Mdu: Everything done?

Tholi was about to nod.

Mdu: Haibo njalo.

She rolled her eyes.

Mdu: Smells good.

Tholi stifled a smile.

Mdu: Have you set the table?

Tholi: No I thought w-

Mdu: Thought what?

Tholi: I thought we'd just eat.

Mdu dismissed her and then opened up a cupboard and took out napkins and plates.

Mdu: My mom would kill me if I "just ate."

Tholi: Really?

Mdu nodded.

Mdu: Proper meals are eaten at the table.

She kept quiet and just went along with the flow. They set the table together and once they were done she went to get the food. She put everything on the table and then Mdu fetched the juice.

They sat down and Tholi dished up for him and herself.

She was about to eat when Mdu grabbed her hands and bowed his head. She looked at him weirdly.

Mdu: For good food and those who prepare it, for good friends with whom to share it, we thank you Lord. Amen.

Tholi: Amen.

He let go of her hands and began eating. Tholi was still staring at him.

Mdu: What?

Tholi shook her head lightly.

Tholi: Nothing.

Mdu: Surprised I pray?

She gave him a weird look and nodded.

Mdu: Hai shame you really think I'm evil neh?

Tholi: Well...

Mdu: Well what?

Tholi: Nothing.

Mdu chuckled as he began eating. He swallowed and then smiled.

Mdu: The lasagne tastes great.

Tholi: Really?

She felt her cheeks flush as he nodded and delved in again. She also began eating. Within minutes Mdu had finished his portion. He put out his plate and looked at her expectantly. She stopped eating and then dished up for him.

Mdu: Ngiyabonga.

Tholi nodded.

Mdu: You're really not a good communicator, are you?

Tholi: Excuse me?

Mdu: You struggle with communicating.

Tholi: Good to know.

Mdu chuckled.

Mdu: Yet you are feisty.

Tholi looked at him and raised an eyebrow.

Tholi: I'm not feisty.

Mdu: Yes, you are.

Tholi: No, I am not.

Mdu: You obviously have a different perspective of yourself than I do.

Tholi: Your perspective doesn't matter.

Mdu: Hehe.

Tholi took a sip of her drink.

Mdu: Want me to tell you the facts?

Tholi: Facts?

Mdu cleared his throat and looked at her intently.

Mdu: I think you're a much bruised individual.

She kept quiet.

Mdu: The people in your life have really fucked you up.

She looked away.

Mdu: I never judge a book by its cover...

She swallowed her food and stood up.

Mdu: Uyaphi?

She looked around and then walked away and made her way to the bedroom. Mdu followed her and then found her in the bathroom, rinsing her face. He stood by the door and watched as she wiped her face. She walked to the door and tried getting out but he blocked her way.

Tholi: Mdu, please.

Mdu: Can we finish our food without you taking things personal?

Tholi: How can I not when you make everything personal?

Mdu: So what would you rather I say?

Tholi: I don't know.

Mdu: You realise that everything I say, affects you somehow?

Tholi: I just...

She sighed heavily.

Mdu: Tell me exactly how you feel.

She looked at him and they stood in silence for a while.

Tholi: I feel like there's a big elephant in the room.

Mdu chuckled.

Mdu: Titi?

Tholi laughed quietly, not realising what she actually said.

Tholi: Not that elephant.

They laughed quietly and Mdu became serious again.

Mdu: What's bothering you?

Tholi: Mdu, I ruined your sister's life.

Mdu kept quiet.

Tholi: Your entire family resents me.

She looked at him pleadingly.

Tholi: And you told me you hate me as well.

Mdu: What? When did I say I hate you?

Tholi: In Dundee.

Mdu: Hai ke now you are lying.

Tholi: You said you wanted to destroy me!

Mdu: You are crazy wena, why are you lying?

Tholi kept quiet.

Mdu: I said I want to destroy your marriage.

Tholi walked passed him and then went to the bedroom and sat on the edge of the bed. Mdu sat next to her.

Tholi: I don't even know what I'm doing here.

Mdu: There's no harm in admitting that you want to be here.

Tholi: Is this your way of destroying my marriage?

Mdu: Your marriage was over the day it began.

She looked at him sadly and laughed.

Tholi: Shit.

Mdu looked at her weirdly and she began laughing loudly...

Mdu: Tholi?

She laughed uncontrollably and even held her stomach.

Mdu: Uhm?

She laughed hysterically and Mdu grabbed her as the hysterical laughing turned into hysterical crying.

Mdu: Hey.

She cried so painfully that even Mdu, who was now used to her tears, was taken aback this time. The depth of these tears seemed a bit too real and painful... Like she had been holding them in for a very long time...

All he could do was hold her instead of calming her down because there was no calming her. She needed to let it all out... whatever "it" was...

She started shaking really badly and Mdu wasn't sure if she was having a panic attack or what.

She shut her eyes and quivered painfully.

Mdu: Tholi?

He tried to reposition her so she could lie on the bed. She continued to shiver furiously and Mdu tried telling her to calm down but she wouldn't... From his experience with Nolwazi, he knew that this was either a panic or anxiety attack.

After a very long time she eventually calmed down and lay there. Mdu wiped her face with a towel and she looked at him.

Tholi: I'm tired Mdu.

Mdu nodded lightly and she closed her eyes and shortly after, she fell into a deep sleep.

Mdu walked out of the bedroom feeling slightly traumatised. He paced around the lounge and then went to the kitchen and grabbed some of his stored whiskey. He then went to the balcony and felt much better when the night's breeze filled him. He stood there for a very long time and then made his way back inside the lounge. He went to the table and cleared the food up and then went to switch on the TV. He threw himself on the couch and went through different channels absentmindedly.

He felt extremely uncomfortable. He was feeling very weird and he couldn't really put his finger on this feeling. He went to the kitchen and took the bottle of whiskey and then went back to the lounge and began downing it. He put it down and continued to watch TV.

He felt something tap him lightly but he dismissed it.

It tapped him again and he groaned.

Mdu: Hmm?

Tholi: Mdu.

She tapped him again.

Mdu: Hmm?

Tholi: Mdu.

She tapped him once again and he finally opened his eyes. He saw her standing over him. He blinked a couple of times and she looked down at him.

Tholi: You can't sleep here.

Mdu: Hmm?

Tholi: Wake up and go to bed.

Mdu closed his eyes again and took a deep breath. He was a bit confused. He tried to recall what happened.

Tholi: Mduduzi!

Mdu: Yini Tholi?

He groaned and looked at her.

Tholi: Get up.

Mdu: What time is it?

Tholi: Just after midnight.

Mdu: Go back to sleep.

Tholi: Ngiphelelwe ubuthongo. Go to bed.

Mdu: Why the fuck would I let you sleep on a fucken couch?

Tholi: Watch your language!

Mdu: Fuck off.

Tholi: Mdu!

She gasped and Mdu grunted.

Mdu: What time is it?

Tholi grunted annoyingly.

Mdu: The fuck are you grunting for?

Tholi: So it's okay for you to grunt? Just get up and go to bed for fucks sake!

Mdu: No.

Tholi: Wait, were you drinking??

She reached for the empty whiskey bottle that was on the floor and gasped.

Tholi: You finished this bottle??

Mdu: Why do you care?

Tholi: Because we have to drive back to Durban today!

Mdu: You and your Durban. Mxm suka man Tholi, you're towering over me like a damn shadow.

He reached out and pushed her to the side but somehow she lost her balance and ended collapsing on top of him as he lay there.

Tholi: You drunkard! You should be ashamed of yourself!

Mdu had already wrapped his one arm around her so there was no escaping.

Tholi: You reek of alcohol. Let go of me!

Mdu chuckled lazily and drunkenly.

Mdu: You're the reason I drank in the first place. I'm still traumatised by your little episode.

Tholi: Mxm.

Mdu: Heeh sowuthi mxm kimi manje?

Tholi tried wiggling but Mdu didn't let go of her.

Mdu: Why do you keep fighting me yet you don't fight the people you are actually supposed to fight in your life?

She stopped and looked at him but he had his eyes closed... Obviously still drunk.

Mdu: Like, fuck, I'm out here being nice and shit but you're shitting on me. Go fight the people you're meant to fight.

She tried moving but he was still holding her waist tight.

Mdu: I'm probably the only one who loves you anyway.

Her body tensed up and she stared at him.

Mdu: Even tried to create a comfortable space for you to be yourself.

He sighed heavily and loosened his grip on her.

Mdu: I don't judge you... Surely that counts for something...

She stared at him and within minutes he dozed off again.

She carefully got up from him and then took the bottle that was on the floor. She walked to the kitchen and threw it away. She then walked to the bedroom and got a blanket and went back to the lounge and placed it on him. She switched off the TV and lights and then made her way to the bedroom.

INSERT 62 (Couldn't edit)

After much tossing and turning, Nolwazi got up and sat on the edge of the bed. She touched her chest and swallowed hard. She felt a terrible burning sensation in her chest and it made her very uncomfortable. She stroked her throat and then sighed heavily.

Dean turned and faced her direction sleepily.

Dean: Yini?

Nolwazi: Heartburn.

Dean: Drink milk.

Nolwazi: Don't you have heartburn medication?

Dean: I don't get that shit.

He turned around and dozed off again. Nolwazi stood up and then made her way downstairs. She poured herself a glass of milk and then went to the lounge and sat there, switching on the TV. She went through different channels and ended up watching the food network.

She chuckled as her stomach growled and then stood up and went to get herself a packet of cashew nuts. She walked back to the lounge and sank on the couch, and continued to watch.

Dean: Nolwazi.

She turned her head and saw Dean standing by the stairs.

Nolwazi: Hello.

He walked over to the lounge and then sat next to her.

Nolwazi: I woke you up?

Dean: Mxm.

Nolwazi: Shame.

She finished chewing the last bit of her nuts and then focused on the screen.

Dean: Uqale nini ukwenza lento?

Nolwazi: What?

Dean: Wake up in the middle of the night and watch TV.

Nolwazi: I had heartburn.

Dean: Feeling better?

She frowned.

Nolwazi: Ya.

Dean: Hmkay.

He sank on the couch and she got closer to him and cuddled.

Dean: Ngathi uzohlupha.

She chuckled and they watched TV together but within minutes, Dean had already dozed off again. Nolwazi watched eagerly... Somehow she found it therapeutic... Something about that woman busy whipping eggs and talking to the audience, made her feel at ease...

Eventually she dozed off.

The next morning she felt Dean's cold lips on hers and she frowned.

Dean: Akuvukwe.

Nolwazi: Hmm!

Dean bit her bottom lip gently and she turned her head and opened her eyes. The sunlight hit her eyes and she groaned painfully.

Dean: Wake up Nolwazi.

She shook her head and closed her eyes again. Dean was standing and towering over her... She didn't even know how she ended up back in bed.

Dean: I'm not letting you sleep today. Vuka Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: Ang'funi.

She groaned and suddenly she felt him pull her up and within seconds she was standing up.

Nolwazi: What the hell?

Dean: You're going to jog with me.

She opened her eyes and looked at him.

Nolwazi: I don't have time for this.

Dean: Neither do I.

Nolwazi: Ungenwe yini Dean?

She was about to throw herself back on the bed when Dean held her.

Dean: Uh-uh.

Nolwazi: Dean!

He carried her to the bathroom and then made her sit on the toilet seat. He took off the t-shirt she was wearing and then made her put on her bra. He then made her put on another t-shirt of his.

Dean: Thankfully, you have yoga pants and a pair of running shoes here.

Nolwazi tried getting up but he gave her a look. He walked to the bedroom and minutes later came back with Nolwazi's leggings and running shoes. He made her dress up and then led her to the basin.

Dean: Brush your teeth.

Nolwazi: Dean wh-

Dean: I'm not going to repeat myself.

She looked at him from head to toe and realised that he was all ready. She grunted and then brushed her teeth and rinsed her face.

Dean: Good.

He grabbed her arm and led her out of the bathroom and bedroom and downstairs. They got to the kitchen and he gave her a shake.

Dean: Drink up.

Nolwazi pulled a face.

Dean: It's a protein shake.

Nolwazi: I don't care.

Dean: You want me to force it down your throat?

Nolwazi: Mxm.

She took the glass and then took a sip.

Dean: This is not a milkshake Nolwazi.

She rolled her eyes and tried to finish it up.

Dean: Good.

He disappeared for a while and Nolwazi sat on a high stool and regretted ever coming to Dean's house.

Dean: Asambe.

Nolwazi: What time is it?

Dean: You're worried about irrelevant things. Woza.

She stood up and followed him out of the house. The second the sun hit her, she exclaimed.

Nolwazi: Yoh angeke.

She was about to turn back when Dean pulled her and she began laughing.

Nolwazi: Dean, please!

She tried going back to the house but he pulled her and held her. They stood there for a while, laughing while Nolwazi tried to turn around. They tackled for a while and Dean chuckled.

Dean: Awume man Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: I don't want to jog!

She stopped trying to turn back and then sighed heavily.

Dean: We'll take the shorter and easier route.

Nolwazi: Argh.

They made their way out of the yard and began to jog slowly.

Nolwazi: My breasts are slapping my face.

Dean glanced at her and laughed.

Nolwazi: Mxm.

They jogged for about 15 minutes and just as Nolwazi thought they were done, she saw them approach a very steep road.

Nolwazi: Hell no!

Dean: We haven't even done anything.

Nolwazi: We've been jogging for over an hour now Dean!

Dean: Hai suka.

Nolwazi looked at the steep road.

Nolwazi: Hai if heaven had a pathway, this would be it.

Dean pulled her and they jogged up.

Dean: The key is not to stop.

She huffed and puffed and for some odd reason, she felt very uncomfortable. Her breath was too short for her liking.

Nolwazi: Dean I feel dizzy.

Dean glanced at her and didn't say anything.

She tried to keep quiet and focus on her breathing but suddenly, her nose began to itch really badly.

Nolwazi: I'm not feeling well Dean.

Dean ignored her whining.

Her face started to feel very hot and compressed. She immediately stopped jogging and then bent down a bit. She started coughing and scratching her nose furiously. Dean stopped jogging as well and then walked over to her.

Dean: You're being dramatic.

Nolwazi coughed some more and felt her nose get more congested.

Dean: Lwazi.

He held her and she balanced herself on him.

Her one arm began to feel itchy and she scratched it.

Dean: What the fuck is wrong with your eyes?

Nolwazi: Dean!

She coughed uncontrollably as she felt her chest tighten and both her arms began to feel hot and extremely itchy.

Dean quickly secured her in his back and then ran down the steep road.

Nolwazi moaned as she felt the pain in her chest intensify.

They finally got to the house and he grabbed his car keys and Nolwazi's bag that contained her medical aid card and other essentials. He then put her in the car and drove out of the yard. Nolwazi was now breathing heavily.

Dean: Can you talk??

At this point she couldn't even talk because her tongue had also swelled up.

About 10 minutes later they got to the hospital and Nolwazi's face was all swollen.

They took her to the emergency room and the doctor walked in and took a quick glance at her.

Doctor: She's having an allergy reaction.

Nurse: Should I get Antihistamine or Epinephrine?

Doctor: Epinephrine

The nurse disappeared and the doctor looked at Dean, who looked shaken.

Doctor: What did she eat?

Dean: When?

Doctor: Did she eat anything unusual? Something she's not used to?

Before Dean could reply, the nurse came back with what the doctor asked for and the doctor looked at Nolwazi, who seemed like she was dying.

Doctor: I'm about to inject a shot of Epinephrine into your system. It's a medicine used to treat severe allergy reactions.

Dean: Just do it for fucks sake!

Doctor: I'm following procedure sir.

The doctor was as cool as a cucumber. He injected the medicine into Nolwazi and then looked at Dean.

Doctor: This will relax her muscles and prevent her blood pressure from getting any lower.

Dean looked at Nolwazi worriedly.

Doctor: Let's give it some time, she'll be fine...

Nolwazi lay there and looked at the doctor.

Nolwazi: I thought I was dying.

The doctor smiled kindly and nodded.

Doctor: So this is the first time something like this has happened?

Nolwazi: Yes.

Doctor: How did you feel?

Nolwazi: I felt my chest tighten up and I couldn't breathe properly.

Dean: You started coughing and scratching yourself.

Nolwazi nodded.

Doctor: Can you recall what you ate?

Nolwazi: Normal food...

Doctor: Anything out of the ordinary?

Nolwazi shook her head and tried to think back.

Nolwazi: Last night I ate nuts.

Doctor: Nuts are very common when it comes to allergies.

Nolwazi shook her head.

Nolwazi: I'm definitely not allergic to them.

Dean: She eats them every day.

Doctor: Then what else did you eat?

Nolwazi shrugged her shoulders.

Nolwazi: Nothing. I haven't eaten at all this morning.

Dean: She had a protein shake.

Doctor: Was it just a plain shake?

Dean: It was whey protein.

Doctor nodded.

Dean: I blended it with nuts, green apple slices and half an avocado.

The doctor looked at Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: I haven't had an avocado since I was really young.

Doctor: Hmm.

Dean looked at Nolwazi guiltily.

The doctor chuckled.

Doctor: I think we've found our culprit.

Nolwazi: So I'm allergic to avo?

Doctor: It could be. How soon did the symptoms begin after you drank the shake?

Dean: About 20 minutes into the jog.

Doctor nodded.

Doctor: I'm not sure if it's an allergy or a case of intolerance.

Nolwazi sighed heavily and was just thankful that she was okay.

Doctor: I will discuss how we will move forward with this...

Nolwazi: Okay.

Doctor: I need to run tests on your blood. Hopefully the pressure has stabilised.

Nolwazi sighed and nodded.

Doctor: Will be back...

Nolwazi: Okay.

He walked out and Dean stood up and went over to the bed and touched her cheek.

Dean: I'm sorry.

Nolwazi: I'm glad you were there. I could have died.

Dean kept quiet. He felt quite guilty.

Nolwazi: Don't worry about it.

She closed her eyes and they sat in silence for a very long time.

After a while they heard the doctor come back in.

Doctor: Alright then...

He opened her file and nodded.

Doctor: Your blood pressure is still quite low...

Nolwazi looked at him.

Doctor: You need to rest after this...

Nolwazi grunted.

Doctor: I want you to try non-prescribed medicines first before depending on anything serious. This is your first time having such a reaction after all so we can't go crazy.

Nolwazi: Okay.

Doctor: I need you to drink lots and lots of fluids more especially water.

Nolwazi: I hear you.

Doctor: Alright then...

Dean: Is that it?

The doctor cleared his throat and looked at them intently.

Doctor: Not quite...

Nolwazi: Is there a problem?

Doctor: Not at all...

Nolwazi and Dean looked at him and he looked at the nurse and they exchanged smiles.

Doctor: It seems there's a little one growing in there.

Nolwazi frowned and looked at Dean who also seemed confused.

Doctor: Congratulations are in order Mrs Buthelezi.

The world may have stopped moving for a while.

INSERT 63 (Couldn't edit)

Tholi woke up just as the sun came up. She sat on the edge of the bed for a while, trying to gather her thoughts. She hadn't slept at all since a couple of hours ago when Mdu said he is the "only one who loves her." She kept tossing and turning, replaying the whole thing in her head.

She got up and made the bed and then went to the bathroom to take a shower. She couldn't wait to get home and be by herself. Her anxiety levels were sky high...

She dried and lotioned herself and then got dressed. She cleaned up the bathroom and then walked back to the bedroom and to her surprise Mdu was now laying there on his stomach. She looked at him for a while and then walked out of the bedroom and made her way to the kitchen. She looked around and tried to think of what she would make for breakfast. Her stomach growled and she remembered that she didn't finish up dinner last night because of that little episode she had.

She allowed her thoughts to trail off as she began preparing a meal. She first made peanut butter and chocolate chip pancakes and then baked a banana loaf as well. She then made wraps filled with bacon, eggs, lettuce and avo. Just as she was preparing some iced coffee, she looked up and was startled to see Mdu sitting on the high stool.

She became a bit disoriented by his presence and just as he was about say something, she quickly switched on the blending machine and the loud noise filled the room. She focused on the iced coffee for over a minute and then stopped the blender.

She looked up and Mdu was looking at her blankly.

Tholi: Good morning.

Mdu: Morning.

She carried on where she left off and then cleaned up the kitchen. Once everything was ready, Mdu stood up and walked over to where she was.

Mdu: Let me help you.

Tholi: No, don't touch those wraps.

Mdu looked at her.

Tholi: Bamba, pour all this iced coffee in this jug.

Mdu: Okay.

She gave him the blender and he did as he was told. She walked over to where the food was and dished up properly.

Mdu: You don't have to set the table.

Tholi glanced at him.

Mdu: Unless you want to.

Tholi: It's your apartment.

Mdu finished pouring the iced coffee and she took the blender and cleaned it up.

Tholi: There's your food.

Mdu: Thanks.

Mdu took his plate and glass and walked to the lounge. He sat on the couch, switched on the TV and delved in. Tholi stood there and felt offended for some odd reason. There was something cold about the atmosphere. She decided that she wouldn't sit in the lounge, just to avoid any tension. She was now convinced that Mdu was mad at her somehow.

She took her plate and glass and then sat on a high stool. She played with her food for a while but eventually started to eat because she was hungry after all. As she was eating, Mdu walked from behind her and walked around the counter.

Mdu: Are there more wraps?

Tholi: Yes.

She replied quietly and Mdu saw them and grabbed them before walking away. She felt the tears well up but managed to hold them in.

Mdu walked over to the kitchen again after a while and put the plates in the sink.

Mdu: Thanks.

Tholi nodded lightly and Mdu walked away. She rubbed her eyes furiously and stood up to go wash the dishes. She didn't understand why he was mad at her. He was the one who threw a bomb at her...

After a while, she finished up cleaning the kitchen and then went to the lounge and cleaned up there as well. She took the blanket and folded it properly and then placed it on the table. She then began vacuuming the whole area. All this cleaning was not enough to distract her from her thoughts. After she was done she took the blanket and then walked to the bedroom and put it in the closet. As she closed the closet, she squealed in shock.

Mdu stood right next to her.

Her eyes popped out when she saw his bare chest. Everything seemed to be in slow motion at this point.

Her eyes drifted down to his well built torso... Some sprinkles of water spread on his abs and his skin looked too majestic...

Her eyes drifted further down and she felt her breath get slightly shorter. She stared at the two muscle lines that formed an unforgettable V...

Mdu: Tholi.

Those hard lines led further down to his groin... That V looked godly... He must have worked very hard to achieve such results, she thought.

Mdu: Tholakele.

She quickly snapped out of it and then covered her mouth in shock. She was shocked at herself for allowing her thoughts to be so wrong.

Mdu: Are you okay?

She looked at him and he looked at her very seriously.

He walked closer to her. Her feet defeated her. She stood exactly where she was.

Mdu: Are you okay?

Tholi: You are mad at me.

Mdu was still looking at her seriously. His jaw was even tightened.

Mdu: Who is mad at you?

As much as she felt intimidated, she couldn't move.

Tholi: You.

Mdu: You think I'm mad at you?

Tholi: I may be stupid, but I know when someone is mad at me.

Mdu inhaled deeply and stared at her.

Tholi: You're different this morning.

Mdu: How?

Tholi: You're cold.

Mdu: I'm cold?

She was about to nod when she stopped.

Tholi: Yes.

Mdu: And you don't like it when I'm like this?

She looked at him pleadingly.

Mdu: Ngiyabuza.

Tholi: You've never been cold to me.

Mdu: I see...

He kept quiet and they stood there for a while.

Tholi: Did I do anything wrong?

Mdu: Ucabangani wena?

Tholi: I don't know.

Mdu: Do I have any reason to be cold to you?

She kept quiet.

Mdu: Tholi.

Tholi: No.

Mdu: Manje?

Tholi: Angazi.

Mdu: Does painting me in a negative light make you feel better?

Tholi: I wasn't-

She stopped talking and just looked at him.

Mdu: Does it?

Tholi: I'm sorry.

Mdu stepped even closer.

Tholi: Mdu.

Mdu: Hmm?

She couldn't stop staring at him, as terrifying as it was. He took another step and she looked at him pleadingly. One more step and his body would be touching hers.

Tholi: Please.

Mdu: Ucelani?

She tried saying something but words failed her. The only thing functioning in her body was her heart... It was beating so fast that she could feel it in her ears.

Mdu: Why would I be mad at you?

She kept quiet.

Mdu: How would I even get to that point?

She felt her lips tremble very lightly and she bit them.

Mdu: I'm just stressed.

He looked so intently at her that she felt like he was trying to rip her soul out. She cleared her throat and swallowed hard.

Tholi: Why?

Mdu: Why am I stressed?

She nodded.

Mdu: Because I'm trying to figure out how to get my family to see you the way I see you.

She breathed heavily as he took that last step.

The second their bodies touched, her knees defeated her and Mdu held her by the waist and

pressed her against the closet. She exhaled loudly and placed her hands on his firm arms.

Mdu: Are you okay?

Tholi: Mdu you intimidate me.

She heard him chuckle close to her ear and her body tensed up. He looked at her and she was shocked to see how relaxed his face was now. He smiled warmly and her body relaxed just a little bit. It was like going through a rollercoaster.

Mdu: I don't mean to.

She kept quiet.

Mdu: Have I ever harmed you?

She shook her head.

Mdu: Manje?

She didn't say anything.

Mdu: Yabona ukuthi you like seeing me in a negative light?

Tholi: No.

Mdu: Hmm?

She grunted and he chuckled quietly.

Mdu: Relax.

Tholi: I am.

Mdu: No, relax.

Tholi: I-

He lowered his face until their noses touched and Tholi held in her breath.

Tholi: I-

She breathed lightly and Mdu smiled.

Mdu: I'm listening.

She involuntarily closed her eyes and felt hot tears rush down her cheeks. She wasn't even aware of her emotions at this point. She wasn't crying per say.

She felt him place his cheek on her cheek and he stroked her gently.

Mdu: Uthini Tholi?

She just breathed in and out and didn't say anything.

Mdu: I'm not mad at you, okay?

She was about to nod when he grunted.

Tholi: Okay.

Mdu: I'll never be mad at you...

She held her breath as he brought his face back up again and their noses touched.

Just as she was about to exhale, Mdu let go of her and she quickly snapped out of it. She looked at him in confusion.

Mdu: Now please excuse me. I need to get dressed.

Tholi stood there, not comprehending anything.

Mdu: Hai ke.

He grabbed her arm and pulled her... He led her out of the bedroom and then closed the door.

Tholi stood there, dumbstruck to the core.

INSERT 64 (Couldn't edit)

There was a possibility that both Nolwazi and Dean may have died for a couple of minutes and came back to earth feeling very confused and out of the loop.

Doctor: Mrs Buthelezi?

Dean: She's Ms. Dumakude.

The doctor looked at Dean and frowned in confusion.

Doctor: But-

Dean shot him a look and the doctor quickly nipped it in the bud.

Doctor: Ms.

He cleared his throat and glanced at Dean uncomfortably.

Doctor: Ms. Dumakude, congratulations are in order.

It seemed like Nolwazi was still not back on earth. Dean touched her hand and squeezed it lightly, hoping that she would come back.

Nolwazi: How?

Doctor: What do you mean Mrs-Ms-

The doctor took a deep breath.

Doctor: What do you mean, ma'am?

Nolwazi: How?

The doctor glanced at Dean in confusion. It was now clear that Nolwazi was not addressing anyone in particular. She was just murmuring to herself.

Dean: How far along is she?

The doctor glanced at the file.

Doctor: Three weeks.

Dean sighed very deeply, like he was suddenly exposed to air after a long time, and the doctor looked at him weirdly.

Nolwazi: But how?

Both Dean and the doctor looked at Nolwazi.

Nolwazi blinked a couple of times and then stared at the doctor.

Nolwazi: I thought I couldn't conceive.

Doctor: How did you come to that conclusion?

She kept quiet.

Doctor: Who is your registered doctor?

Nolwazi: Doctor Smith.

Doctor: Ahh he's a good friend of mine that one...

Dean shot the old white man a look and he sighed.

Doctor: Inability to conceive is only detected by a registered doctor so unless Doctor Smith thoroughly examined you, you cannot claim such a thing.

Nolwazi: I just thought...

She kept quiet and just allowed her thoughts to wander.

Nolwazi: I was supposed to meet him after I came back from Johannesburg a couple of weeks ago.

Doctor: What gave you the impression that you couldn't conceive?

Nolwazi: I've been married for four years now Doctor Sheppard.

Doctor: Ahh I see...

Nolwazi looked at him and he smiled.

Doctor: As scientific and empirical as I am Mrs. Buthelezi, I will have you know that some things are just unexplainable. Only the higher power would answer to such...

Dean: So there's nothing wrong with her?

Doctor: Well she is definitely pregnant...

Dean glanced at Nolwazi who was just staring at the doctor.

Doctor: As we speak, your baby-in-the-making is just a tiny ball consisting of several hundred cells that are multiplying madly.

Nolwazi sank on the bed and closed her eyes. She was too shocked to comprehend all of this.

Doctor: Any changes in the body now are likely to be very similar to those you experience just before you get your period, perhaps some mild cramping, sore or heavy boobs and generally PMS type feelings. Amazing to think what is actually going on in there!

The doctor looked at both of them excitedly.

Doctor: Would you like me to give you space?

Dean nodded tightly.

Doctor: It's such a pity that I'm not your doctor because all the babies I deliver turn to gold!

Dean gave him a look and the old man chuckled.

Doctor: Go well Mr and Mrs Buthelezi. Be sure to get your medical aid card and ID before you leave.

He walked out of the room and Nolwazi and Dean sat in silence for the longest time. Eventually, Nolwazi tried getting up and Dean helped her. Once she was on her feet, he wrapped his arms around her and held her.

Nolwazi: Can you believe this?

Dean shook his head.

She sank in his arms and they stood there for a very long time. She put her head up and looked at him.

Nolwazi: What the fuck?

Dean didn't say anything. He too, was speechless.

She hid her face in his chest again and they stood there for a while.

Out of nowhere she started sobbing. Dean picked her up and made her sit on the edge of the bed. He then stood in between her legs and continued to hold her waist. She wrapped her arms around him as well and continued to sob.

Dean kept quiet. He was just trying to keep himself together for her sake. He was over flooded with so many emotions but Nolwazi had to be the focus for now.

Nolwazi: All this time there was nothing wrong with me.

She put her head up and looked at him.

Nolwazi: All these years I was made to feel less of a woman and wife for nothing?

Dean kept quiet.

Nolwazi: Fuck.

She hid her face and sobbed again quietly.

Dean: I'm going to have a baby.

His mind went crazy and it all sunk in bit by bit.

Dean: I'm going to be a father.

Nolwazi stopped sobbing and put her head up to face him. He loosened his grip on her and walked to the only chair in the room. He sat down and buried his face in his hands.

Dean: Fuck.

He replayed what the doctor said and his emotions got the better of him.

Dean: I'm going to have a baby.

Nolwazi got off the bed and walked over to him. She removed his face from his hands and then sat on his lap. She wrapped her arms around him and he hid his face on her chest. Seconds later, it was clear that he was sobbing silently.

Nolwazi tried to not let her emotions overcome her again because she wanted Dean to digest it as well but seeing him like this actually made her feel even more emotional. She held him tightly and they must have sat there for over 30 minutes...

Dean finally put his head up and Nolwazi wiped his face.

Dean: I wasn't crying.

Nolwazi chuckled as she wiped his face.

Nolwazi: It's probably something in the air.

Dean nodded and then rested his head back on her breasts.

Nolwazi: Fuck.

Dean: Fucking is what got us here in the first place.

Nolwazi pinched his ear and they chuckled.

Nolwazi: It still hasn't sunk in.

Dean: Nolwazi we've never used condoms.

Nolwazi: But you always pulled out.

Dean: I know-

Just then, the doctor walked back in and sighed.

Doctor: I thought you may have done something to each other!

Dean: Ngathi lizongidina lelikhehla.

Nolwazi looked at Dr Sheppard and smiled lightly.

Nolwazi: We'll get going.

Doctor: Alright then... And here is your medical aid card and ID. All payments have been processed.

Nolwazi: I'm sure you've chowed me up.

He laughed boldly.

Doctor: That's just what we do!

He said his goodbyes and walked out again. When Nolwazi stood up, she almost lost her balance but Dean caught her right on time. She was still weak from the allergic reaction and injection she had.

Her stomach growled very loudly that even Dean heard it.

Dean: Here we go...

Nolwazi: Mxm.

She put her ID and card in her bag and then led the way out. As they walked out, Dean placed his arm around her shoulders and then pulled her closer to him.

Dean: Let's go feed my son.

Nolwazi looked at him and rolled her eyes.

They made their way out of the hospital and drove to the nearest restaurant.

INSERT 66 (Cant find Insert 65)

Nolwazi and Dean placed their orders and Nolwazi sank on her seat.

Dean: You still look a bit swollen.

Nolwazi: At this point, I really don't care.

Dean chuckled.

Nolwazi: It's almost 10am and I still haven't eaten.

Dean: Is the pain better though?

Nolwazi: My chest is still uncomfortable but I'm fine.

Dean: That shit was crazy.

Nolwazi: And it's all because of you.

Dean: How was I supposed to know that you're allergic to avo?

Nolwazi: Who mixes avo with apples and nuts?

Dean: It tastes good.

Nolwazi sighed as her stomach growled loudly. Dean then called the waitress.

Dean: What's taking you so long?

Waitress: Excuse me, sir?

Dean: We don't have the whole day.

Waitress: But sir, you just placed your order 5 minutes ago.

Dean: Manje? Go ma-

Nolwazi cleared her throat loudly and gave Dean a look. She then looked at the waitress and smiled.

Nolwazi: Can you get me a glass of water with no ice?

The waitress nodded.

Dean: And bring one of those starter rolls or buns that you serve. Surely that will take less than a minute.

Nolwazi kicked him under the table and the waitress nodded and walked off.

Nolwazi: Dean!

Dean: What?

Nolwazi: Cut it out. That was beyond rude!

Dean: Nolwazi I don't give a shit. Why would I be okay with starving my child?

Nolwazi: Really??

She threw a serviette at him.

Nolwazi: Cut it out!

Dean: Mxm.

Shortly after, the waitress walked back to the table and then placed a small basket filled with buns.

Dean: Are they fresh?

Waitress: Straight out of the oven.

Dean: Good.

He took one bun and took a bite. The waitress then put Nolwazi's glass of water next to her.

Nolwazi: Thank you.

Dean: Are we supposed to have them like this?

The waitress looked at Dean nervously.

Waitress: Excuse me, sir?

Dean: Are we supposed to have them dry like this?

Waitress: With butter sir.

Dean looked at the table and there was no indication of butter anywhere.

Waitress: Oh, sorry.

Dean: M-

Nolwazi: These buns are fine like this. Thank you dear.

Waitress: No ma'am, I'll get you some butter.

She quickly rushed back inside.

Nolwazi: Hai Dean kanti ungenwe yini?

Dean: People must do their jobs properly.

He threw the bun he had back in the basket and sat back on his seat.

Nolwazi: Yini kanti wena?

Dean: Unakene nami instead of eating... Dliisa umntanami please.

Nolwazi: Listen here-

The waitress came back with knives and butter.

Nolwazi: Thanks dear.

She walked away and then Nolwazi looked at Dean seriously.

Nolwazi: Now you listen here, for both our sakes- you better cut that shit out.

Dean looked at her and laughed quietly.

Dean: Just eat the damn bun Lwazi.

Nolwazi grunted and then buttered a bun and began eating. She sighed and Dean smiled.

Dean: Yabona I helped you?

Nolwazi: Mxm.

Just as Nolwazi was about to take a second bun, Dean stopped her.

Dean: You can't overload on carbs. I think one bun is fine, let's wait for the real nutritious food now.

Nolwazi: Excuse me??

Dean: We both know bread is fucked up.

Nolwazi: Lalela la wena-

Just then the waitress came to the table and she had their food.

Dean: Right on time.

The food was placed on the table.

Waitress: Anything else?

Dean: We'll let you know.

Waitress: Okay.

She walked off and Dean glanced at Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: Ngathi uzodina.

Dean: It's been an eventful morning... Please allow.

Nolwazi: Hai suka.

Mdu walked in the lounge and went to sit next to Tholi, who was watching TV.

Mdu: Ufuna sambe nini?

Tholi cleared her throat and glanced at him

Tholi: Uhm.

She looked at him and he smiled kindly.

Mdu: I don't think it's fair that I get to wear fresh clothes and wena usa-busy ngezayizolo.

Tholi: No, it's fine.

Mdu: It's not.

Tholi: Same difference.

Mdu: No it's not.

She sighed.

Mdu: Yazi I'm still hungry.

Tholi: There's lots of food left over.

Mdu: Oh yes... That's why I'm still starving. We didn't finish dinner last night.

Tholi grunted and he chuckled.

Mdu: Are you not hungry?

Tholi: I'm fine.

Mdu: Well I'm starving.

Tholi sighed.

Tholi: I'll heat it up for you.

Mdu: You will?

She nodded.

Mdu: How generous.

Tholi: I'm a guest.

Mdu laughed quietly as she stood up and walked to the kitchen. She took out the lasagne from last night and then put it in the oven.

Mdu: Is there some banana loaf left as well?

He shouted from the lounge.

Tholi: Yes.

Mdu: Do best...

She stood there and wondered why suddenly she wasn't so tense. She thought she would be freaking out after what happened in the bedroom but Mdu seemed chilled and he somehow managed to get her to be just a little relaxed as well.

After she was done she walked back to the lounge with a tray.

Mdu: Hai ke nawe. Why so formal?

She felt her cheeks flush and then sat down. Mdu sat properly and then looked at her.

Mdu: Ngiyabonga, yezwa?

She huffed.

Tholi: Sure.

He then focused on his food and munched away.

Mdu: Once I'm done here, we'll get you another dress and we'll leave, yes?

She just looked at him and didn't say anything.

Nolwazi: This is good.

Dean: Hai.

She continued to dig into her steak and sighed dramatically.

Nolwazi: Better than an orgasm.

Dean: What??

She chuckled and took a sip of her drink.

Nolwazi: Way better, I tell you.

Dean: Bullshit.

Just as she looked up, she coughed uncomfortably and then glanced at Dean.

Dean: Yini?

Nolwazi: I-ex yakho.

Dean immediately tightened her jaw and Nolwazi focused on her food.

Shortly after, Ntsiki walked to the table.

Ntsiki: Lwazi!

Nolwazi looked at Ntsiki and smiled, trying to hide her discomfort.

Nolwazi: Hi Ntsiki.

Ntsiki: Girl it's been so long!

She bent down to give Nolwazi a hug...

Mdu and Tholi were now making their way inside the mall.

Tholi: You really don't have to get me anything.

Mdu: Bullshit.

She looked at him sharply and he laughed lightly.

Mdu: Sorry Innocentia.

Tholi looked around the mall and knew that these Sandton shops were too expensive. She was too uncomfortable.

Mdu: Where do you want to go?

She didn't say anything.

Mdu: Should I pick-

Tholi: Edgars.

Mdu: Are you sure?

Tholi: Well I don't know any of these shops.

Mdu chuckled and nodded.

They then made their way to the nearest Edgars. They got in and walked around.

Mdu: And get some underwear while you're at it.

Tholi's face flushed and he chuckled.

Mdu: Can't have you repeating panties here.

Tholi: Mdu!

Mdu: Yini?

She looked at him weirdly and he shrugged his shoulders.

They walked to where the dresses were.

Tholi: Mdu I really don't mind-

Mdu: Tholi please don't. Pick a dress.

She looked at him.

Mdu: I don't like repeating myself. You're making me sound like a broken record.

Tholi: But-

He shot her a look and she kept quiet and then looked through the dresses.

Mdu: This one is nice.

She looked at him as he eyed a long reddish maxi dress.

Tholi: No, this one is fine.

Mdu: Which one?

She pointed to some black one.

Mdu: Are you going to a funeral?

She looked at him in disbelief.

Mdu: Take that dress and try it on please, ungangibhori.

Tholi: Bu-

Mdu: Tholi.

He looked at her seriously and she sighed heavily and took the reddish maxi dress. It was very obvious that this one was going to namathela her and accentuate the curves...

Mdu then led the way to the dressing rooms.

Mdu: I'll wait here.

Tholi: Okay.

She got in the dressing rooms...

Mdu stood there and took out his phone...

He saw some missed called from Zani but dismissed them... He then blocked her number.

He was now trying to figure out a way to get Tholi to stay just a little bit longer... He really en-

Person: You big fuck!

Mdu's insides churned as he heard that voice he knew too well.

Person: You big fucken fuck!

He turned around and Ivy stood there, looking at him in shock.

INSERT 67

Nolwazi gave Ntsiki a brief hug and then smiled lightly.

Ntsiki: How are you Nolwazi?

Nolwazi: I'm well and you?

Ntsiki looked at her intently and nodded.

Ntsiki: I'm good, thank you. It's been so long though!

Nolwazi: It really has.

She took a sip of her drink.

Ntsiki then turned to face Dean. She smiled ever so brightly.

Ntsiki: Hey there.

Nolwazi stared at Dean, hoping that he would at least get his act right.

Dean: Hello Ntsiki, unjani?

Nolwazi's body relaxed just a bit.

Ntsiki: Ngiyaphila... Just missing you nje but sizothini?

She glanced at Lwazi.

Ntsiki: Did he tell you that we ended things?

Nolwazi: He mentioned it...

Things were getting a bit awkward now and Nolwazi was also trying to hide her brewing annoyance. She couldn't understand why Ntsiki was behaving like this when she was the one who couldn't handle the relationship in the first place. She ended it and now she was busy acting childish.

Ntsiki: Anyway, I spotted you guys and thought I should come say hi.

Nolwazi: Good seeing you.

Ntsiki: Thank you, you too.

Dean sat back on his seat and just looked at Ntsiki disinterestedly. He looked completely unfazed...

Ntsiki: Alright then, take care.

Nolwazi: You too dear.

Ntsiki gave Nolwazi one more hug and then walked away. They watched her walk out of the restaurant and then Nolwazi frowned after a while.

Nolwazi: Wow.

Dean: See why this issue irritates me?

Nolwazi: I've seen this behaviour from Thuli. Ntsiki seems to be low-key crazy.

Dean: You think?

Nolwazi nodded.

Nolwazi: She's not over you.

Dean: You know why I will never feel bad?

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Dean: I've been transparent from the beginning. I've never wanted a serious relationship with her. Tell me if I'm wrong Lwazi.

Nolwazi: You know how we are... She probably thought she could change your mind and that's why she stayed for so long.

Dean: But she can't turn around and make me the bad guy.

Nolwazi: So how are you going to deal with this? Uyabona manje ukuthi she is stalking you? Phela she obviously wasn't here to have breakfast ngoba nangu she left.

Dean kept quiet and Nolwazi sighed.

Nolwazi: I don't even want to know how she will react when she finds out about this.

Dean sat up and looked at her intently.

Dean: She wouldn't dare. I'll kill a bitch.

Nolwazi tried saying something but she just sighed.

Nolwazi: I'll kill a bitch too.

Dean: Good.

They chuckled and continued eating...

Ivy walked over to where Mdu was.

Ivy: You idiot!

Mdu chuckled casually.

Ivy: Why didn't you tell me that you're back??

Mdu: I'm not back per say.

Ivy: And what the hell does that even mean?

Mdu: Just came here for something.

Ivy: Mxm ninjalo wena noNolwazi. So now you're teaming up against me?

Mdu: Come on now.

He pulled her and squeezed her.

Ivy: Argh.

He kissed her cheek and she pushed him lightly.

Ivy: Give me money.

Mdu: Hai uyabona ke?

Ivy: Dude your father stopped giving me money and now mom is also sucked in. What bullshit is that? Parents not taking care of their breed?

Mdu: Don't you have classes?

Ivy: Awume man. Ngiphe imali.

Mdu: Angisebenzeli wena.

Ivy: What is your boss saying futhi since you haven't been to work for weeks?

Mdu: Why do you think we have technology? I work from home.

Ivy: Hmm so now Nolwazi's house is "home"?

Mdu chuckled and nodded.

Ivy: Are you going back?

Mdu: I have to keep an eye on her.

Ivy: Spoken like a true big little brother.

Mdu: You bet.

Ivy: Okay now give me money.

She put her hand out but then her facial expression changed.

Ivy: Wait a minute.

Mdu felt his heart rate increase just a little.

Ivy: What the fuck are you doing in Edgars?

Mdu: Hai kanti I can't shop here?

Ivy: Do you even know what they sell here?

Mdu: Uyaphapha manje.

She was about to say something when he took out his wallet and put out one of his debit cards. She quickly grabbed it and smiled widely.

Mdu: If you finish my money-

She squealed in excitement and jumped on him.

Ivy: You are the shit!

Mdu: Okay now go.

She finally let go of him.

Mdu: There's a daily limit anyway so you're restricted.

She sulked.

Mdu: Hai phela bring it back.

She hugged him again.

Ivy: I'd stay and chat but a bitch gotta go!

Mdu sighed.

Mdu: See you.

She had already walked away. He watched as she disappeared...

Mdu: *whispering* Shit.

He exhaled loudly and then turned and walked in the fitting rooms.

Mdu: Tholi.

There was silence.

He walked down the passage and went to the only door that was closed and then knocked.

Mdu: Tholi.

Tholi: What?

Mdu: Woza.

Tholi: Mxm.

Mdu: Excuse me?

He heard some shuffling and soon after, the door opened.

Tholi: Take me home.

Mdu: Haibo and then?

She looked at him angrily.

Mdu: Heeh what happened in here? Did you have an argument with the walls?

Tholi: Mxm.

She was about to walk past him in the passage but he blocked the way.

Mdu: Why are you being like this?

He looked at her intently and she didn't say anything.

Mdu: Tholi?

Tholi: Mdu if your sister saw me...

Mdu: But she didn't.

Tholi: This is wrong and irresponsible on so many levels.

She looked him dead in the eye and he did the same. They stood in silence for a while.

Mdu: And even if she saw you, she wouldn't do anything...

Tholi grunted and he placed his hand on her cheek and then wrapped his other arm around her, pulling her close to him. Their bodies touched and she dropped the dress she had tried on.

Mdu: I'll take you home now.

She nodded.

He placed his thumb on her bottom lip and brushed it gently. As much as she tried, she couldn't remove her eyes from his. She felt his other hand caress her back lightly... He stopped brushing her lip and then put that hand down and seconds later, she was wrapped in both his arms. She exhaled quietly and bit her bottom lip gently.

Mdu lowered his head and she raised hers just a bit. When their noses touched, she exhaled quietly again and then released the bottom lip she was biting. She inhaled his scent and felt shivers down her spine.

Mdu was about to speak but she shook her head lightly and he didn't say anything. She leaned even closer and soon enough, their lips touched.

Their mesmerised lips were finally pressed against each other, transporting them to another world. With just the two of them there, the rest of their surroundings finally disappeared. They became lost in a sea of gentleness and intensity.

Person: Excuse me! Hello! This is not a sex club please!

As their lips pulled apart, it felt like a gentle breeze waved over the flame, extinguishing the desperate heat they almost got lost in.

The rest of the world slowly came back into focus and they finally opened their eyes.

Mdu: Is the dress fine?

She cleared her throat and blinked a couple of times.

Tholi: Yes.

Mdu: Asambe.

He let go of her and then picked up the dress which on the ground. He then took her hand and led her out of the dressing room section, walking past a very annoyed Edgars employee who kept cussing at how disrespectful they are.

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Mdu and Tholi finally reached the car, Mdu opened the door for her and she looked at him very weirdly.

Mdu: Yini? I'm being nice.

She got in the car and he put everything they bought at the back and then walked to his side and got in.

Mdu: Don't you need to charge your phone?

She sighed heavily and frowned. It was not like she had people calling her so she hadn't even thought about the state of her phone. It had been in her bag since they got to Joburg.

Mdu: Tholi?

She snapped out of her thoughts and looked at him.

Tholi: No.

Mdu started the car and they drove off in silence. Tholi was very numb for some odd reason.

She didn't feel anything as they drove back to his apartment but she was definitely glad that he was not trying to make small conversation, especially after what happened.

After a while, they finally got to the apartment and they made their way in. Tholi went to the bathroom to rinse her face and then walked back to the lounge where she found Mdu sitting comfortably on the long couch.

She walked over to him and stood by the couch. He seemed to be taking a nap because his eyes were closed and so she cleared her throat quietly.

Tholi: Mdu.

Mdu opened one eye and looked up at her.

Tholi: When are w-

Mdu: Ahh...

He groaned and sighed heavily. Tholi was now startled.

Tholi: What's wrong?

Mdu groaned again.

Mdu: I have a really bad headache.

Tholi: You do?

He pulled a pained face and sighed heavily once again.

Mdu: Ahh...

She looked at him concernedly and he groaned again.

Tholi: Would you like some water?

Mdu: Yes, please.

She turned around and quickly walked to the kitchen and poured him a glass of water. She walked back and then sat next to him.

Tholi: Here you go.

He groaned again and took the glass.

Mdu: Thanks.

Tholi: Do you have painkillers?

Mdu: I don't drink pills.

She looked at him weirdly and decided not ask him why because she knew he would say something idiotic.

Mdu: I'm in pain... Ahhh... Why me? Haaa...

He groaned and Tholi got closer to him and gently placed her hand on his forehead.

Tholi: Hmm.

Mdu: What?

Tholi: Your temperature seems fine.

Mdu: What do you know about temperatures? So you're a doctor now?

She looked at him suspiciously and he groaned.

Mdu: Please leave me alone if you're going to stress me out.

She couldn't help but chuckle.

Mdu: Uyahleka Tholakele?

Tholi: You're being dramat-

He moaned very loudly and Tholi giggled.

Mdu: Ahh... Nooo...

She giggled even more and he smiled.

Mdu: Laugh at my pain.

Tholi: Your forehead is not hot though.

Mdu: Manje?

Tholi: You were fine just 10 minutes ago.

Mdu: Ahh...

He moaned again and Tholi giggled.

Mdu: Fuck.

He closed his eyes and sighed heavily.

Tholi: Mdu.

He ignored her and she tapped his arm.

Tholi: Mdu.

He ignored her.

She sighed and just as she was about to move away, he pulled her closer to him and she

grunted.

Mdu: I'm in so much pain.

Tholi: Sorry.

Mdu: Only one thing can heal me.

Tholi: What?

He pulled her even closer and she glanced at him.

Mdu: I think I'm getting a bit better.

Tholi: A bit?

He nodded and she chuckled.

Mdu: Wait, I'm getting worse.

Tholi: Mdu!

She laughed and he put his arm around her and she couldn't escape his hold.

Mdu: Wait, I'm getting better again.

She giggled quietly and stopped fighting him.

Mdu: Hmm.

Tholi: Are you better now?

He chuckled and smiled.

Tholi: We have to go.

Mdu: I'm sick.

She narrowed her eyes and stared at him and he smiled innocently.

Mdu: Don't be too hard on me.

Tholi: Mxm.

He pouted and sulked and she giggled again.

Tholi: You're being unnecessary.

He kept quiet and then increased the TV volume. Tholi gave him one look before focusing on the screen and he soon did the same.

After a while, Tholi felt herself doze off a bit and she blinked a couple of times and shook her head. Mdu chuckled and she looked at him sharply and he laughed quietly. She focused on the

TV again but her eyes kept defeating her. She hadn't slept much the previous night and now it was catching up with her...

Without even realising it, she was now tucked in Mdu's hands and she seemed quite comfortable. Her head was hidden in his neck and had now dozed off completely. Mdu smiled as he felt her warm breath on his neck... If there was ever a time he needed to stay still in his entire life, it had to be now. He knew that if he moved she would wake up and be dramatic.

And so he too, still a bit hung over, closed his eyes and tried taking a nap, without any movements.

Nolwazi and Dean finally go back to Dean's house.

Nolwazi: I'll get my things and you'll drive me to my house.

Dean looked at her in confusion.

Nolwazi: I think it's best I go and re-evaluate everything that happened this morning, from that allergic nonsense to this pregnancy.

Dean kept quiet.

Nolwazi: I think we're just going through the motion at this point. I need some time to think things through... It has become clear that things won't be smooth so I need to get my mind right.

Dean: What won't be smooth?

Nolwazi: Dean, my family doesn't even know that I'm seeing someone and now they have to find out that I'm also pregnant on top of that?

Dean: I hadn't even thought about that.

Nolwazi: That's because we've been living in our own little bubble. It's time to face reality now.

He nodded lightly.

Nolwazi: I need to call my lawyer so we can set legit dates.

Dean: Manje njengoba uKwanele anyamalele?

Nolwazi: I'll have to get the Default Divorce.

He nodded.

Nolwazi: At least once that's out of the way, I'll be able to deal with the next hurdle.

Dean stepped closer to her and wrapped his arms around her.

Dean: I know we both haven't registered what happened but what I know for sure is that we are going to raise this baby together.

Nolwazi sighed heavily.

Dean: And you're right, we both need some space now just to let it sink in.

She nodded.

Dean: But I need you to assure me that from this point onwards Nolwazi, if you are ever put in any conflicting situation, you will inform me. I can't have you unsafe.

Nolwazi: Heeh so all this time it was fine for me to be unsafe but now suddenly I'm being considered?

He chuckled.

Dean: Mxm.

Nolwazi: I don't understand why you're so chilled about this. Dean we still have the people in the office to deal with.

Dean: That's your problem... I don't give a shit about people who don't feed me.

Nolwazi grunted.

Dean: Bangenaphi bonke labantu ozikhathaza ngabo?

Nolwazi: Well...

Dean: Go get your things ke.

She nodded and walked off...

Tholi batted her eyelashes in confusion.

It took her a long time to process her surroundings but when she did remember her reality, she felt the panic creep up on her.

Mdu: Relax.

She inhaled deeply and his cologne made her even tenser. She put her head up a bit and Mdu's chin touched her cheek.

Tholi: Mdu...

She was still a bit confused.

Mdu: Hmm?

Tholi: We have to go.

Mdu: Okay.

She put her head up higher and was met by his gaze. She puckered her lips a bit and sighed.

Mdu: We could have left 2 hours ago but you decided to delay us.

Tholi: But you were sick.

Mdu: So?

She rolled her eyes.

Mdu: Ngathi you're developing an attitude nje.

She grunted and he quickly repositioned her so half of her was on him.

Mdu: You have to give me credit though Tholi, I made you smile and giggle today.

Tholi: No I didn't.

Mdu: Heeh Tholi.

She was about to move but he poked her by the waist and she chuckled.

Tholi: That hurts.

Mdu: Sorry.

She tried moving and he poked her again and she stifled another chuckle.

Mdu: You don't have to be stone-faced all the time you know?

Tholi: I'm not stone-faced!

Mdu: You are, and that shit will age you. You're 22 years old for fucks sake.

Tholi: And how old are you?

Mdu: You don't ask a man such.

Tholi: No, it's the other way around!

Mdu: Hai.

She shook her head disapprovingly.

Mdu: How old do you think I am?

Tholi frowned.

Mdu: Hmm?

Tholi: Maybe 26.

Mdu: 26?

She nodded.

Mdu: Hmkay.

Tholi: Am I right?

Mdu: Hai it's none of your business.

Tholi: Mxm.

Mdu: Heeh Tholakele.

She smiled lightly and he poked her again.

Tholi: Mdu!

He chuckled and poked her again and again and again...

Soon enough, she was being tickled and was laughing uncontrollably.

Tholi: Mdu!

He tickled her even more and she laughed and giggled even more.

After much laughter, he finally stopped and she quietened down and sighed heavily. She exhaled loudly and Mdu felt her body relax against his body.

Mdu: Look at you.

She hid her face on his neck and he chuckled because it was clear that she was blushing. She put her head up and he stared at her lovingly.

Tholi: Don't look at me like that.

Mdu: How am I looking at you?

She stifled a smile and tried to be serious.

Mdu: You are not the boss of me.

Tholi: Mxm.

She took a deep breath and sighed again.

Her body relaxed even more...

They looked at each other for a very long time and the atmosphere changed a bit... The feeling that surrounded both of them earlier resurfaced and she involuntarily leaned closer to his face and their lips touched.

Mdu tightened his grip on her and she grunted quietly...

Within seconds, they were continuing where they left off...

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Nolwazi got in her bathtub and thanked the heavens that now she could be by herself so she could gather her thoughts in peace...

She replayed the whole morning, more especially when the doctor told her about her pregnancy. All this time she was convinced that there was something wrong with her. She always avoided going to get it checked out because she was scared of what her doctor might tell her. In her mind, she had come to terms with the fact that she wasn't going to give birth... She thought back to how Thenjiwe would insult her and make her feel like a useless women whose purpose was just to shag her son... As all of this was happening, Nolwazi didn't really react much... Having kids was an afterthought because of her career but that's not to say she didn't want them. As time went by, she ended up internalising Thenjiwe's insults and as a result, she also believed that maybe there was something wrong with her. Four years into the marriage and they were still childless. She knew Kwanele wanted them and because of that, she had begun to secretly stress about her inability to conceive...

She allowed herself to think about Kwanele...

Things have been moving so fast that she hadn't even allowed herself to think about him all... At the end of the day, they had been husband and wife, and the thought of finally letting their life go was honestly enough to drive her back into depression... She couldn't deny her love for him but unfortunately all these recent events had tainted the pure bond they shared. Too much hurt, anger and betrayal was in the mix now and she couldn't see how they would get back from such.

Then there's Dean... She was more than grateful for his presence in all of this. She couldn't even imagine what it would have been like had they not taken their relationship a step further. Yes, it was wrong but honestly at this point, everyone's understanding of right and wrong was jumbled up... As much as she loved Kwanele, she couldn't see herself moving past what happened.

Now there's a baby in the picture... Something she would have never imagined in her wildest dreams. As she analysed her feelings, she had to admit that she was disappointed that it was not Kwanele's. This would have made him very happy had everything turned out okay.

As she thought about her family, she felt a piercing pain go through her chest... That pain was an indication of just how scared she was about them finding out everything. What will they say

when they find out? She already knew that her father would be highly disappointed in her. She felt herself sob quietly as she remembered how he defended her at Dundee. She knew it took a whole lot for him to voice out his rejection for the Buthelezis... Now all of that would somehow be in vain because she went and did the wrong thing afterwards. Not only did she go have sex with her colleague while married but she went and got pregnant as well.

She sighed heavily and then reached for the glass of juice that was by the tub and then finished it up.

Now the thought of not having any champagne or wine depressed her even more. Dean was proving to be quite overprotective already so she couldn't imagine how he would be later on.

She chuckled a bit when she thought of how quick it took Dean to make her pregnant. They hadn't even been having sex for a couple of months yet he had already planted a seed... Something Kwanele failed to do in the course of four years... Now she wondered if maybe the problem was with him... All this time the blame was on her but now it was clear that she wasn't the problem...

She closed her eyes and took a nap as the hot water massaged her entire body...

Tholi let out a quiet moan as she felt Mdu tighten his hold on her.

She felt a burning sensation run through her entire body and it shocked her because she had never felt anything like this before.

Mdu slowed down and soon enough, they were both lying there, breathing quietly.

Tholi finally opened her eyes and found Mdu staring at her.

Mdu: Are you good?

She exhaled quietly.

Tholi: I think so.

Mdu: Let's get going.

She nodded lightly.

Mdu: Joburg is not a good place for such undercover things.

Tholi laughed quietly and Mdu planted a tender kiss on her lips and then loosened his hold on her. She stood up and then Mdu did as well. He then wrapped his arms around her and sighed.

Mdu: If there's one thing I won't do, it's to pressurise you.

Tholi pulled a face and he chuckled.

Mdu: I don't want you to feel tense when you're with me so let's keep it at your pace, yes?

Tholi: I'm married Mdu.

Mdu: But where's your husband?

She kept quiet.

Mdu: I know there are some deep-rooted things that I don't know about but ke you'll talk once you're ready.

Tholi didn't say anything.

Mdu: So for now, let's just say I'm your escape from the crazy and dark side of your life.

She stifled a smile.

Mdu: Don't try to hide that I make you happy. Who's that going to benefit?

He smiled.

Mdu: And it's just the two of us so there's no judgement here.

Tholi: No judgement?

He nodded.

Tholi: This is wrong.

Mdu: You think after everything that has happened in all our lives lately, people are still thinking about what is wrong or right? We are past that point now. You might as well join the Wrong Club.

She giggled quietly.

Mdu: Let's get ready sizohamba.

She nodded and he leaned closer to her face and placed his lips on hers.

Mdu: I meant what I said last night.

She puckered up her lips and he chuckled.

Mdu: Hai ke.

He gave her a baby kiss and then let go of her.

Mdu: Woza.

They walked to the bedroom and prepared for their trip back to Durban...

Nolwazi went to her personal emails and then checked how much the hospital claimed. She grunted angrily because they really ripped her off considering the fact that she got one little injection.

Just as she was going through her other emails, her phone rang and she smiled when she saw her mother's picture pop up.

She answered happily.

Nolwazi: Mama!

Thandeka: Hai kodwa Lwazi I'm hurt. Kanti why usilahlile?

Nolwazi: Ah I've been so busy!

Thandeka: Woo hai shame phela mina ngithi I don't have a daughter anymore.

Nolwazi laughed.

Nolwazi: UNomzamo yena?

Thandeka: Hai suka ungalinge ungitshela ngaleyo ngane! We had an argument izolo and she disappeared.

Nolwazi: Manje uphi?

Thandeka: Ngimazelaphi? She will definitely come back once she doesn't have any money.

Nolwazi laughed.

Thandeka: But ke she's in contact with Mam'Moloi.

Nolwazi: Of course she is. That's her mother phela.

Thandeka: I'm not going to give myself i-heart attack because of that child. Yi-lost cause.

Nolwazi laughed again.

Thandeka: Anyway, how are you baby?

Nolwazi: I'm okay ma...

Thandeka: And how is Mdu treating you?

Nolwazi: Like dad, of course.

Thandeka laughed.

Thandeka: It's good that he's protecting you phela I wasn't comfortable about leaving you alone lapho.

Nolwazi: Work has been keeping me busy though.

Thandeka: I'm sure...

Nolwazi swallowed hard as she thought about Dean and the life growing inside her.

They spent the next hour chatting and catching up...

Tholi and Mdu were now an hour away from Durban. It was now around 4pm.

Mdu: Are you hungry?

Tholi: Yes I am.

Mdu chuckled. He was glad that she had now moved from giving him one word answers.

Mdu: Let's make one last stop.

Tholi: Who was that guy we bumped into that other time?

Mdu frowned.

Mdu: When?

Tholi: When we went to get food at Sandton City.

Mdu: Oh...

He huffed and grunted.

Tholi: Is he your friend?

Mdu: He is gay.

Tholi: So?

Mdu glanced at her and pulled a face.

Tholi: So judgemental!

Mdu: Hai man he makes me uncomfortable. I met him through...

He cleared his throat.

Mdu: Through an ex.

Tholi: Oh.

She said that quietly.

Mdu: I'm confused as to why he stuck around. He should have vanished with her.

She laughed quietly.

Mdu: I don't want him touching me.

Tholi: He sure threw himself on you.

Mdu shivered dramatically and Tholi laughed.

Mdu: Angazi uhlekani.

Tholi: You're a dramatic person Mdu.

Mdu: Ngifana nawe.

Tholi: Hai I'm not dramatic.

Mdu: Heeh usho ngoba I'm the one who has dealt with your drama lately.

Tholi rolled her eyes.

They finally got to a stop and they went to the Wimpy that was there and got food. They decided to eat there because Mdu insisted that Tholi would ruin his car...

After an hour or so they finished eating and then made their way to the car and drove on...

Tholi: When are you going back to Joburg?

Mdu: Until I'm unwanted here.

Mdu glanced at her and flashed a smile.

Tholi: I wonder...

Mdu: This person is lucky I tell you.

Tholi: Good for her.

Mdu: Well she deserves all the love that will come her way.

Tholi: There's more?

Mdu: She obviously hasn't felt the love being directed towards her now so clearly she is in need of more.

Tholi: Wow.

Mdu: It will work out in the end...

He said that quietly and then focused on the road again.

They drove in silence till they finally got to Tholi's neighbourhood. Mdu drove to the house and parked by the gate.

Mdu sighed and then looked at her.

Mdu: There you go...

Tholi: Thank you.

He nodded and stared at her affectionately.

Mdu: Will you be fine?

Tholi: Yes I will. Thanks.

Mdu: You'll call if you need anything.

She nodded very lightly and he chuckled.

Mdu: Don't be ashamed of wanting me.

She grunted and he leaned closer to her and she tilted her head.

Mdu: See you soon.

She smiled and they shared a kiss.

Mdu: Go on then.

She grabbed her bag from the back and got out of the car.

Tholi: Bye.

Mdu: Shap.

She closed the door and walked to the gate. Mdu drove off and then she made her way inside. She felt like a little school girl, feeling confused and happy at the same time...

She unlocked the house and then made her way inside.

"Here we go again," she thought sadly.

She sighed as the coldness of the house hit her hard...

"Such an emotionless place," she thought.

She put her bag on the counter and then switched on the under floor heating system for the whole house. She then poured herself a glass of water and drank it slowly, chuckling, as she thought back to how she was the last time she was in the kitchen...

She got her bag and then made her way further inside.

She looked around and tried not to let the coldness of the place get to her spirit...

Before she could process her thoughts, her bag instantly dropped to the floor...

Her eyes popped out and her jaw dropped.

There was Kwanele, on the couch, busy on his laptop...

Her entire body froze as he turned his head and glanced at her from a distance.

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Tholi finally felt the blood rush through her body and she cleared her throat.

Tholi: Kwani?

Kwanele: You seem to have lost it there.

She shook her head lightly, trying to fully snap out of it. She then walked over to the couches and tried not to act awkward. Even though her thoughts and emotions were all over the place, a big part of her was actually relieved that he was okay...

Tholi: Aren't you going to hug me?

Kwanele chuckled lightly and then put his laptop aside. He stood up and Tholi stepped closer to him. She walked in his embrace and he wrapped his arms around her. They stood there for a while and he finally let go of her and smiled warmly.

Kwanele: Unjani?

Tholi crossed her arms and looked at him sternly.

Tholi: Where have you been?

She said that boldly and confidently that Kwanele looked at her with a raised eyebrow.

Tholi continued to look at him seriously.

Kwanele: I've been in hospital.

Her eyes shot up and she exclaimed in complete shock.

Tholi: What?? What's wrong?? Are you okay??

She stepped closer again and touched him. Kwanele smiled lightly.

Kwanele: I'll be fine.

Tholi looked at him concernedly.

Tholi: What's wrong? What happened?

She looked at him intently and realised just how different he was. She couldn't really identify what was wrong but there was definitely something offish.

Kwanele: Can I sit now?

Tholi: Would you like anything? Are you hungry?

Kwanele: Tholi I'm fine.

He sat down and she sat next to him.

Tholi: What happened?? You disappeared for weeks Kwani!

Kwanele looked at her without saying anything.

Tholi: Aren't you going to tell me what happened?

Kwanele: I got hurt while having a seizure...

She looked at him in shock again.

Tholi: Where were you?

Kwanele: Was driving back from Dundee the day after you left.

She looked at him nervously and as she recalled the first time she saw him having a seizure, she tried holding back her emotions.

Kwanele: Don't cry. I'm fine now.

Tholi: You were driving alone! I should have never left you behind there.

Kwanele looked at her without saying anything.

Tholi: Did someone get you? How did you end up in hospital?

Kwanele: Managed to make a call before it happened.

Tholi kept quiet and processed what he was saying. The guilt hit her so hard that she couldn't help but let the tears flow. Here she was busy gallivanting around when her husband was in danger and alone elsewhere.

Tholi: But why didn't you call me?

Kwanele: It's been a rough time Tholi.

She nodded lightly and wiped her face.

Tholi: I'm sorry Kwani...

She said that quietly and looked away.

Kwanele: Why are you apologising? You did nothing wrong. I'm the one who is sorry...

She looked at him sadly.

Tholi: It must have been tough for you...

Kwanele: I'm sorry for being out of reach. I'm waiting on my new phone now because the other one got damaged.

Tholi: Damaged?

Kwanele nodded.

Kwanele: I'm not sure what happened to it.

Tholi: So you were all alone??

Kwanele: I'm fine now.

She got closer to him and hugged him.

Tholi: I'm sorry.

Kwanele hugged her back and didn't say anything.

Dean was busy catching up on work when his phone rang and he checked the caller id before answering.

Dean: Mama.

Lindelwa: Hello mfanam, unjani?

Dean chuckled.

Dean: I was actually about to call you manje.

Lindelwa laughed.

Lindelwa: Yile-connection yethu angithi. It runs deep this thing!

Dean: Unjani?

Lindelwa: Ngiyaphila Langelihle. I've been thinking about you a lot these days yazi, is everything okay that side? I miss you.

Dean: Things couldn't be better.

Lindelwa: Is it?

Dean: Yebo... Things are looking up.

Lindelwa: But you always thrive at work so I'm not surprised there.

Dean: Hai who said I'm talking about work?

Lindelwa: Haibo Langa what else would you be talking about? Your life revolves around work!

He chuckled and seconds later she exclaimed.

Lindelwa: Am I wrong??

Dean: Just this once...

Lindelwa: Heeeh! Tell me more!

Dean chuckled.

Lindelwa: Dean!

Dean: I was supposed to tell you a couple of weeks back but it slipped my mind.

Lindelwa: What??

Dean: I've been getting close with someone.

Lindelwa screeched and Dean laughed.

Lindelwa: What??!

Dean: You're overreacting, calm down.

Lindelwa: Haibo leave me alone! Since I gave birth to you, I've never heard you say that! I was starting to think you're secretly gay!

Dean: Mama!

Lindelwa: Hai what was I supposed to think?? At 33 and you have no wife or child?? That time you've never even introduced me to any of your girlfriends!

Dean: Why would I introduce you to someone I'm not planning on being with in the future?

Lindelwa: Kodwa it would be nice to know where you are in your love life!

Dean: I didn't have a love life, that's why you were in the dark.

Lindelwa: So now you have one??

Dean: It's not that simple.

Lindelwa: What do you mean it's not that simple?? Do you love this girl??

Dean huffed.

Dean: Very much so.

Lindelwa: Tell me more!

Dean: I'm not really sure what exactly I need to tell you because it really isn't that simple.

Lindelwa: Okay, let's start with her name.

Dean chuckled quietly.

Dean: Nolwazi.

Lindelwa: Hmm, lovely name. Is she as knowledgeable as her name suggests?

Dean laughed quietly.

Dean: Beyond intelligent.

Lindelwa: Of course you'd pick a smart one.

Dean: You know me too well...

Lindelwa: And her surname?

Dean cleared his throat and growled.

Dean: This is where the complication begins.

Lindelwa: Try to make it easy for me then son.

Dean took a deep breath and began to explain every single thing to his mother... Leaving out the fact that Nolwazi is pregnant.

Lindelwa: Uhm okay...

She exhaled loudly and Dean grunted.

Lindelwa: I really don't know what to say...

Dean: Are you angry?

Lindelwa: Do I have the right to?

Dean: For now, yes, but I think we both know I'll do as I please in the end.

Lindelwa: I mean I just feel like you should have waited for her to get a divorce.

Dean: It was an uncontrollable situation.

Lindelwa: So you couldn't even hold on till she sorted out her life first?

Dean: I've been helping her sort it out. No worries there...

Lindelwa: Oh Dean... You really love her don't you?

Dean: I always have.

Lindelwa: Manje are you planning on being with her?

Dean: Of course.

Lindelwa: Does the husband know?

Dean: I really don't care about all of that. That's irrelevant to me... As long as she and I are on the same page then I'm good, honestly.

Lindelwa: And her family?

Dean: What about them?

Lindelwa: They obviously won't accept you.

Dean: Shame then too bad... We're going to have a baby anyway.

Lindelwa: What??!

Dean: She's pregnant.

He said that so coolly that Lindelwa couldn't help but laugh.

Lindelwa: I'm dumbfounded!

Dean laughed quietly.

Lindelwa: Hai wena Langelihle!

Dean: We found out this morning.

Lindelwa: Kodwa nkos yam!

Dean chuckled.

Lindelwa: I think I need to come over that side so we can talk about this properly. I feel like

you're pulling a prank on me.

Dean: Not even.

Lindelwa: Yoh angazi ngithini!

Dean: My house is always open for you. Ufuna ukuza nini?

Lindelwa: I'll see if I can come tomorrow...

Dean: Okay.

Lindelwa: If only your father was still alive...

Dean: He'd be laughing his guts out.

Lindelwa: And knowing him, he'd probably be so proud of you for moving quick on this girl.

They both chuckled.

Lindelwa: I'll call you tomorrow ke.

Dean: Okay.

Lindelwa: So you're going to be a father?

Dean chuckled.

Lindelwa: Unezimanga shame Dean. Bye bye.

Dean: Bye ma.

Lindelwa: Shap.

He dropped the call and then dialled Nolwazi's number. It rang for a while but she eventually answered.

She huffed and puffed.

Nolwazi: Hey.

Dean: Why are you out of breath?

Nolwazi: I'm busy clearing out things here.

Dean: Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: Relax it's just clothes and little stuff.

She sighed heavily.

Dean: Have you eaten?

Nolwazi: I'm going to block you Dean!

He chuckled.

Nolwazi: What have you been doing without me?

Dean: Washo ngathi my life revolves around you.

Nolwazi: Well...

Dean: Mxm.

Nolwazi chuckled.

Nolwazi: Please bring me some sushi.

Dean: Uyabona ke...

Nolwazi: What? We're feeding your baby nje.

Dean: Mxm.

Nolwazi: I'll be waiting...

She laughed quietly before dropping the call.

While Kwanele was in the bathroom, taking a shower, Tholi quickly made her way downstairs and got her phone from her bag. She put it in a charger and switched it on. As soon as it was functional she dialled Mdu's number and it rang for a while but he eventually answered.

Mdu: So you finally charged your phone?

Tholi: Kwanele is back!

She whispered nervously.

Mdu chuckled.

Mdu: Is it? Did he tell you where he vanished to?

Tholi: He was in hospital.

Mdu: Shame.

Tholi: Drop the sarcasm!

Mdu: Mxm.

Tholi: And please don't contact me Mdu.

Mdu: Okay.

Tholi: Thanks.

Mdu: Don't believe anything he says... It's quite clear that he is a snake.

Tholi: No!

Mdu: Okay Tholi, bye bye.

Tholi: Mdu-

She sighed heavily.

Mdu: What?

Tholi: Don't be mad at me.

Mdu: I'm not mad, I'm just irritated.

She kept quiet.

Mdu: Bye.

He dropped the call and Tholi stood there feeling very let down... She sighed in disappointment and then walked up the stairs and made her way back to the bedroom where she found Kwanele lotioning himself. She stared at him and he smiled warmly.

Kwanele: Everything okay?

She nodded and went to sit on the edge of the bed.

INSERT 71

Mdu made his way to the house, after driving around for hours. He drove in the yard and then made his way inside. He could already tell that Nolwazi was back... Just as he was about to walk out of the kitchen, he heard the gate buzzer go off. He walked to it and pressed it.

Mdu: Ya?

Person: Nolwazi?

Mdu: Who's this?

Person: Is Nolwazi in?

Mdu kept quiet for a second. He contemplated questioning who this person was but somehow it clicked that it was probably Nolwazi's mystery man. Without asking anymore questions, he opened the gate and went to stand by the door. Minutes later he saw an unfamiliar car drive in...

He watched as it parked at a distance and he walked to it.

Seconds later, an unfamiliar man got out of the car...

Mdu: Hi.

Dean looked at Mdu intently.

Dean: Unjani Mduduzi?

Mdu frowned and looked at him weirdly and Dean chuckled.

Mdu: And how do you know me?

Dean: I'm your sister's colleague.

Mdu: So what are you doing here?

Dean chuckled.

Dean: Is your sister here?

Mdu: You haven't answered my question.

Dean looked at Mdu and couldn't help but chuckle because he reminded him so much of himself when he was young... Thinking that everyone had to answer to him...

Dean: Would you mind telling her I'm here?

Mdu: You come into my house-

Dean: Your house?

Mdu tightened his jaw. He was on edge since that call from Tholi.

Mdu: Yaz-

Nolwazi: Mdu??

Both Mdu and Dean turned to look at Nolwazi who emerged from the other side of the yard.

She walked to them.

Mdu: Why are you smiling like that?

Dean, who hadn't even realised that he was being watched, looked at Mdu humorously.

Dean: You ask too many questions.

Nolwazi finally got to them and crossed her arms as she looked at Mdu.

Nolwazi: Ufike nini?

Mdu: Now I have to report when I'm back? How old am I?

Nolwazi: Haibo watch your mouth phela. What's eating you?

Mdu growled.

Dean: Let me lea-

Nolwazi: No, you're not going anywhere Dean.

She focused on Mdu and looked at him softly.

Nolwazi: What's wrong?

Mdu: Who's this?

Nolwazi: Don't act stupid. You know exactly who he is.

Mdu grunted as he glanced at a cool-looking Dean.

Nolwazi: Now if you don't mind, ngicela ungene endlini.

Mdu: Mxm.

He turned around and made his way back inside the house.

Nolwazi: Mxm.

Dean: To be young and buck...

Nolwazi: Something is obviously bothering him...

She sighed and shook her head lightly.

Nolwazi: Anyway...

She put her hand out.

Dean: Yini?

Nolwazi: My sushi.

Dean: So I'm your delivery boy?

Nolwazi: We need to be fed.

She said that with a warm smile and Dean couldn't help but smile too.

Dean: Pulling at my heartstrings, I see...

Nolwazi: I'm glad it's working, now give me my sushi!

Dean: Uyahlupha kodwa Nolwazi.

He opened his door and reached for the paper bag and then gave it to her.

Nolwazi: I'd kiss you right now but I really just want to eat.

Dean: Mxm.

Nolwazi: Listen, on a serious note though, my lawyer and I have finalised everything.

Dean: Is it?

Nolwazi nodded.

Nolwazi: A notice will be sent out to him no later than a week.

Dean: That soon huh?

She exhaled deeply and nodded.

Dean: Are you ready?

Nolwazi: I need to get it out of the way...

Dean: Well you know I'm here...

Nolwazi: You've definitely made that point clear.

Dean: Uyadelela unjalo.

Nolwazi chuckled and Dean became serious.

Nolwazi: Yini?

Dean: My mother wants to meet you.

Her eyes popped out and her jaw dropped.

Dean laughed quietly.

Nolwazi: What's so funny?? Did you tell her??

Dean nodded.

Nolwazi: Dean!

Dean: What?

Nolwazi: Uthi what??

Dean: Unlike all the people in your life Nolwazi, my people are not psychotic and childish. I have a loving mother who never bombards me with nonsense.

Nolwazi: Oh well excuse OUR mothers who are not loving!

Dean: Don't be dramatic.

Nolwazi: Why would you tell her without consulting with me??

Dean: Your brother knows so why shouldn't my mother?

Nolwazi: Dean, Mdu figured it out by himself!

Dean: Ya well there's no changing it now.

Nolwazi looked at him angrily.

Dean: I apologise for not consulting with you but it really wasn't my intention to tell her...

Nolwazi: Mxm.

Dean: Don't be mad at me.

Nolwazi: I'm very mad.

Dean: I'm sorry.

Nolwazi: I don't like what you have done Dean.

Dean: Ngiyaxolisa angithi?

Nolwazi kept quiet and Dean reached for something else in his car and took out a big packet of

cashew nuts and Nolwazi chuckled as soon as she saw them.

Nolwazi: You do know that I can always get those for myself right?

Dean: Yeah but you're tired right now and probably not in the mood to drive.

Nolwazi narrowed her eyes.

Dean: And I know for sure that you've definitely finished the ones you have here.

Nolwazi: Mxm.

Dean: Listen, I'm sorry okay? But I know my mother, she's not going to kill you.

Nolwazi: How sure are you?

Dean: Trust me.

Nolwazi sighed heavily and then snatched the packet of nuts from his hand.

Nolwazi: I'm still angry... Give me some time.

Dean: Well you have until tomorrow.

Nolwazi huffed and he pulled her and wrapped his arms around her waist.

Nolwazi: Watch it. I might just drop my food.

Dean looked at her intently.

Dean: I love you.

Nolwazi: Trying to pull at my heartstrings?

Dean: Only if it works.

Nolwazi grunted and they stood there for a while.

Nolwazi: So what do I wear?

Dean chuckled.

Nolwazi: A skirt and a doek?

Dean: Ungazojwayela uLindelwa wami kabi wena.

Nolwazi chuckled.

Nolwazi: Aww so I'm guessing she brings out the baby in you?

Dean: Mxm.

Nolwazi: Because if that's the case then I cannot wait to meet her.

Dean grunted.

Nolwazi: I seem to attract all the mama's boys.

Dean: Ngiyahamba manje.

She laughed and kissed his cheek.

Nolwazi: You'll let me know when and where...

Dean: Enjoy your sushi.

Nolwazi: Trust me I will.

She laughed as he growled and let go of her.

Nolwazi: Bye then...

Dean: I'm not your delivery boy, understood?

Nolwazi: Hmkay.

He got in the car and she made her way inside the house to open the gate for him...

Mdu: So that's him?

Nolwazi washed her hands and opened up her sushi takeaway.

Mdu: I don't like him. He's arrogant.

Nolwazi: Of course you don't like him. Who would like a person who's a replica of themselves?

Mdu: Mxm.

Nolwazi: That's you in 10 years... Want to bet?

Mdu: Fuck off.

Nolwazi: What's eating you? Clearly ikhona into ekudlayo.

Mdu: Mxm.

Nolwazi: Is it a girl?

Mdu: Why would a girl bother me?

Nolwazi: Hey, I'm just asking!

Mdu: Mxm.

Nolwazi: Mdu I'll give you your space... You're not in the right frame of mind obviously...

She began walking out of the kitchen.

Mdu: I'm in love Lwazi.

Kwanele got in bed next to Tholi and then switched on the side lamp.

Tholi: Kwani.

Kwanele: Yes, my love?

Tholi: When will you be better?

Kwanele: I'm fine sthandwa sami.

Tholi turned to look at him as he balanced himself on the headboard and took out the book he usually read before he goes to sleep.

Tholi: I can see that you're not fine.

Kwanele smiled kindly.

Kwanele: Let's give it a couple of days, okay?

Tholi: I'm sorry.

Kwanele: Stop apologising Tholakele.

She huffed and kept quiet. After a while she heard her phone beep and she tried not to act weird.

Kwanele: Your phone beeped Tholi.

Tholi: Oh I didn't hear it...

She nervously turned and reached for it... She saw Mdu's number and her heart rate increased.

Tholi: It's Zani.

Kwanele was too busy reading and didn't seem to care.

She opened the message:

Mdu: Seeing as you will be getting fucked tonight, I might as well let off my steam too.

Her eyes popped out and she quickly typed.

Tholi: What do you mean?

Her phone beeped again.

Mdu: Ucabangani wena?

She tried to contain the emotions brewing in her as she replied.

Tholi: Please don't.

Her phone beeped again.

Mdu: You don't want me to sleep with other women?

She typed quickly.

Tholi: No.

Mdu replied.

Mdu: Okay.

Tholi: Thank you.

Mdu: Anything for you ;)

She felt her heart rate stabilise and then deleted all the messages. She turned around and Kwanele glanced at her.

Kwanele: Everything alright?

Tholi nodded.

Kwanele put down his book and then pulled her closer to him till half of her body was on him.

Tholi: I was worried about you.

Kwanele: Ngiyaxolisa.

She nodded lightly and he looked at her tenderly and placed his lips on hers. As he kissed her gently, she tried not to act indifferent...

He tightened his hold on her and the kiss got deeper. She let out a moan as his hand stroked her back... Just as it was getting more intense, an image ran through her mind and she quickly stopped the kiss and tensed up.

Kwanele looked at her weirdly.

She took a deep breath and avoided his eyes.

Tholi: I'm... I-

He loosened his grip on her and smiled kindly.

Kwanele: It's okay.

She sighed heavily and he kissed her forehead.

Kwanele: Let's sleep.

He switched off the side lamp and then got in bed properly. Tholi faced the other way and he held her from behind...

As she lay there, she couldn't help but picture Mdu with someone else. She pictured him looking and holding some other person the way he did with her and she felt a sharp pain in her stomach. She couldn't stomach it all...

INSERT 72 (Couldn't edit)

The following morning, Nolwazi woke up feeling all kinds of grumpy and bloated. She called Dr. Smith and set an appointment with him for the following day... She decided that she would work from home till the end of the week and then go back to work next week. She wanted to sort her things out before going back and that meant getting a full health check up first. That allergy thing really freaked her out.

Just as she finished showering, there was a knock on the door and she told Mdu to come in. He walked in and sat on the bed.

Mdu: Morning.

Nolwazi: Hey.

Mdu: Thanks for the little pep talk yesterday.

Nolwazi looked at him and nodded.

Mdu: You grumpy?

She grunted.

Mdu: Let's go out for breakfast.

Nolwazi: Okay.

He got up from the bed.

Mdu: I'll go shower real quick.

Nolwazi nodded and he walked out and closed the door. She lotioned herself and then got dressed. Just as she finished, her phone and she walked to where it was and saw Dean's name and answered.

Nolwazi: Hello.

Dean: Someone's not happy this morning...

Nolwazi: I'm not.

Dean: Yin' ndaba?

Nolwazi: I don't know.

Dean chuckled.

Dean: The doctor said you'll experience PMS-like symptoms...

Nolwazi growled.

Dean: Would you like anything?

Nolwazi: No.

Dean: Well I was calling to tell you that my mother will be here just before 12pm.

Nolwazi sighed heavily.

Nolwazi: Where?

Dean: My house.

Nolwazi: Okay.

Dean: I'll see you then.

Nolwazi: Okay, bye.

Dean: Bye.

She dropped the call and then made the bed...

As Tholi finished making breakfast, she couldn't help but think back to the recent times she cooked for Mdu... Suddenly it felt like all of that happened a long time ago. Kwanele's presence made the memories a bit foggy.

She dished up everything and then made her way to the bedroom upstairs where Kwanele was still sleeping. She put the tray on the table and then shook him lightly.

Tholi: Kwani.

Kwanele instantly woke up and looked at Tholi in confusion for a second but relaxed eventually.

Tholi: I made you breakfast Kwani.

Kwanele: Of course you did.

He smiled lightly and then yawned. Tholi went to open the curtains and he sat up and stretched as she walked back to him and placed the tray on his lap.

Kwanele: It looks good baby, thank you.

Tholi smiled.

Kwanele: I've missed your food.

Tholi: I've missed cooking for you.

Kwanele: I'm sure you have.

Tholi: When are you going back to work?

Kwanele: Probably next week.

Tholi: I'm sure everyone will be happy to see you.

Kwanele: You think?

Tholi: Yes, we all missed you.

Kwanele: Good to know you love me...

Tholi avoided his eyes and stood up.

Tholi: Let me go clean up the kitchen.

Kwanele: Alright love.

She smiled and then walked out of the bedroom and rushed to the kitchen...

Mdu and Nolwazi returned from breakfast.

Mdu: You didn't eat much, why?

Nolwazi: I have a brunch meeting.

Mdu: Meeting huh?

Nolwazi: Yes, a meeting.

Mdu: Hmkay.

Nolwazi: Uyaphapha wena...

She smiled and felt grateful that Mdu had taken her out. She enjoyed his company very much when he was not being an annoying little big brother.

Mdu: So how is this relationship of yours going to influence the way you work with him?

Nolwazi: I don't think it will have any impact.

Mdu: Really?

Nolwazi: Eish man Mduduzi awungiyeke.

Mdu chuckled.

Nolwazi: And wena? When are you planning on pursuing this girl?

Mdu: I'll see...

Nolwazi looked at him and smiled.

Nolwazi: You really love her?

He nodded and frowned.

Mdu: Always on my mind.

Nolwazi: Oh wow.

Mdu chuckled.

Mdu: Anyway, I'll see you later.

Nolwazi: Thanks for breakfast.

Mdu: Anytime little sister.

Nolwazi: Mxm.

He laughed and walked away...

Dean: Mama I need you to behave.

Lindelwa: Ihee so mina I'm your child now?

Dean: No, I'm just warning you nje.

Lindelwa laughed.

Lindelwa: Hai you obviously love this girl.

Dean: She's not a girl.

Lindelwa: Hehe!

Dean chuckled.

Lindelwa: Don't worry I'll behave. I just need to see her that's all.

Dean: She was a bit grumpy this morning so I don't know how she'll be now.

Lindelwa: Langelihle, go to the bathroom and freshen up. I don't understand why you're so nervous.

Dean grunted and walked upstairs... Just as he finished freshening up like his mother instructed, his phone beeped and it was Nolwazi telling him that she was outside. He told her the code and she made her way inside...

Nolwazi on the other hand, felt like dying. She wasn't ready for all of this...

"What if she hates me? How will I deal with another crazy mother?" she thought to herself as she got out of the car and made her way to the door. Just as she was about to knock, the door opened and Dean stood there looking handsome as usual. They stared at each other without saying anything and he pulled her in and wrapped his arms around her.

Dean: Hello there.

Nolwazi: I'm nervous.

Dean chuckled as she whispered.

Dean: There's no need for all of that.

She looked at him and he planted a kiss on her lips.

Dean: These are not lobola negotiations. Relax Nolwazi.

She huffed and he planted another kiss on her lips.

Dean: Woza.

He let go of her and they walked inside the house. They got to the lounge and Nolwazi smiled as

she saw Dean's mother sitting on the couch...

Lindelwa stood up when she saw Nolwazi and Dean walk in.

Lindelwa: Oh my goodness!

Nolwazi walked to her.

Dean: Nolwazi, this is my mother.

Nolwazi: Sawubona ma.

Lindelwa smiled warmly.

Lindelwa: Hello beautiful.

She opened up her arms and they shared a very warm hug, to Nolwazi's surprise.

Lindelwa: We might as well hug seeing as you're making me a grandparent.

Nolwazi laughed quietly and they let go of each other.

Lindelwa: Hello dear, how are you?

Nolwazi: Ngiyaphila wena unjani ma?

Lindelwa: Ngiyaphila sisi.

Lindelwa smiled warmly and Nolwazi couldn't help but sigh in relief.

Lindelwa: I hope you don't mind me asking, but how far along are you?

Nolwazi: We are approaching 4 weeks.

Lindelwa smiled.

Lindelwa: We?

Nolwazi looked at Dean shyly and Lindelwa laughed.

Lindelwa: Very cute.

Dean chuckled.

Lindelwa: Dean told me about your situation yesterday but I honestly wanted to find out from you...

Nolwazi glanced at Dean, who was staring at her humorously.

Dean: Sit down.

Lindelwa: Does he also bark orders at you?

Nolwazi: All the time.

Lindelwa: You need to tame him.

Dean: Hehe.

Nolwazi: I try...

They laughed and then sat down.

Lindelwa: I prepared brunch for us but I wanted to chat first.

Nolwazi: That's okay ma.

Lindelwa looked at her intently.

Lindelwa: Would you mind telling me what's going on?

Nolwazi sighed heavily and began telling Dean's mother her story...

After she was done, Lindelwa sighed.

Lindelwa: Don't feel pressurised to do anything you are uncomfortable with.

Nolwazi: I need to move on.

Lindelwa nodded.

Nolwazi: I don't want stay in this same spot forever. I can't do that to myself.

Dean: And to our child as well.

Lindelwa: Hai suka wena. Go check if the food is fine, uyekele ukuba yisijobelelo.

Dean: I'm just saying.

Lindelwa: Go!

Dean stood up and walked to the kitchen and Lindelwa focused on Nolwazi and smiled.

Lindelwa: Well you can be certain that I won't go crazy on you my dear.

She smiled warmly and Nolwazi smiled back. The woman had a good and loving aura about her.

Lindelwa: Whatever you do, Dean and I are behind you all the way. I raised him well so I know he'll take good care of you, more especially because he loves you so dearly.

Nolwazi: That's very sweet of you, thank you.

Lindelwa: It's just Dean and me in our circle. I'm very happy that we get to be blessed with new life, more especially because we have lost so many loved ones throughout the years. You seem to have opened up a side that only I know and I'm happy to know that he can actually allow himself to love a bit.

Nolwazi: He's been very loving and supportive...

Lindelwa: I'm glad.

Just then, Dean walked in and looked at them weirdly because they were both all smiley and weird.

Dean: Let's feed my child.

Lindelwa laughed.

Nolwazi: This is what I've been dealing with.

Lindelwa chuckled.

Lindelwa: Brace yourself...

Dean: Wozani phela.

Nolwazi and Lindelwa stood up.

Lindelwa: So nithi you only started being intimate now now?

Nolwazi nodded shyly and Lindelwa laughed.

Lindelwa: Trust the Hlongwane soldiers to march purposefully.

She and Dean laughed and Nolwazi blushed in embarrassment.

Dean: Asidlali phela thina.

Lindelwa: Hai your father would be proud Langelihle.

Nolwazi: Langelihle?

Dean grunted.

Nolwazi: All these years and I didn't know your second name is Langelihle??

Dean ignored her and led them outside to the patio.

Lindelwa: Are you hungry dear?

Nolwazi looked at all the food there and smiled.

Nolwazi: I'm famished!

Lindelwa: I'll dish up for you.

Nolwazi: No ma, I'll-

Lindelwa: Uh-uh. Sit down.

Nolwazi obliged and sat next to Dean while Lindelwa dished up for them.

Nolwazi glanced at him and he grinned. She pinched his arm and they chuckled quietly...

INSERT 73

Lindelwa: So what are you hoping to get? A boy or girl?

Nolwazi finished chewing her food and glanced at Dean who was smiling.

Nolwazi: He wants a boy.

Lindelwa: And you?

Nolwazi: I'm really not sure yet... I haven't really thought about it.

Lindelwa: Well I would also love a boy.

Nolwazi: Really?

Lindelwa: Yes, I just think the world is really not safe for a girl.

Dean: That's exactly why I don't want a girl... I'll probably end up locking her in the house.

Nolwazi: I have no doubt about that.

Dean: And girls require too much admin. All the mood swings and drama.

Nolwazi: Sounds like someone I know.

Lindelwa laughed.

Lindelwa: Ah shame he's an only child.

Nolwazi: He takes it to a whole other level.

Dean: Hai suka.

Lindelwa: I'm surprised you can handle his mood swings.

Nolwazi: I've dealt with a rollercoaster of a mother-in-law. Anything else is trivial at this point.

Lindelwa: I will never understand mother-in-laws who are bitter. Why would you be evil to the woman who sleeps, feeds and lives with your son? Next thing you know she kills him because of your craziness.

Nolwazi chuckled.

Lindelwa: Being kind doesn't require much. I don't have the time or energy to be grumpy. My clock is ticking and I can't afford to stress myself unnecessarily.

Nolwazi glanced at Dean and smiled. She really couldn't believe how nice his mother was, more especially because Dean was not as nice.

Dean: I guess it's just them being overprotective.

Lindelwa: Hai suka. Your son comes and tells you that he is in love with a girl and you disregard all of that and try to prove that she is the wrong one? Hai cha abanye abantu banesikhathi. Ngiguge kabi for yonke leyonto.

Nolwazi looked at her and smiled.

Just then, her phone rang and she took it out.

Nolwazi: I have to take this...

Lindelwa: Sure sisi.

She stood up and walked inside the house to answer it. It was Anthony, her divorce attorney.

Nolwazi: Hi Anthony.

Anthony: Hello Nolwazi, how are you?

Nolwazi: I'm good thanks and you?

Anthony: I'm great, thank you.

Nolwazi: What's up?

Anthony: The papers have been finalised.

Nolwazi's heart rate went up.

Nolwazi: Is it?

Anthony: Yes, we are going to contact him just now. I was just calling to fill you in.

Nolwazi: Uhm.

Anthony: I know this is hard...

Nolwazi: Are you going to go there personally?

Anthony: Not me but the court will send someone.

Nolwazi exhaled loudly.

Nolwazi: But we're still not sure if he is around.

Anthony: A representative has to be sent there before we conclude that he is not around. It's a standard procedure.

Nolwazi: Oh.

Anthony: I will keep you posted.

Nolwazi: Okay, thanks.

Anthony: Goodbye.

Nolwazi: Bye.

She dropped the call and then stood there for a long time. She then walked upstairs to Dean's bedroom and went to the bathroom where she sat on the toilet seat for a long time. Her heart rate just wouldn't calm down.

Just then, the door opened and Dean stood there.

Dean: Nolwazi.

She glanced at him worriedly and he walked to her and got on his knees so he could be on her level.

Dean: What's wrong?

Nolwazi: They're sending the papers today.

He removed her hair from her face and she exhaled.

Nolwazi: Please get me water Dean.

Dean: Okay.

He got up and walked out of the bathroom while she continued to sit there...

He walked back in with a glass of water and she took a long sip.

Dean: Was that Anthony?

She nodded lightly.

Dean: Come here.

He pulled her up and wrapped his arms around her. She buried her face in his chest and began sobbing quietly. As much as everything was going well for her, there was no way she could get over the fall of her relationship with Kwanele. She blamed herself for giving up so easily...

Kwanele was busy with his laptop when he heard the gate buzzer go off. Tholi made her way to the kitchen to see who it was.

Tholi: Kwani, he says he needs to see you.

Kwanele: Did he say who he is?

Tholi frowned and Kwanele put his laptop aside and got up from the couch. He opened the gate and then made his way outside. He walked to the gate and some unfamiliar man got out of the

car. The man walked towards Kwanele and smiled lightly.

Man: Mr Buthelezi?

Kwanele: Yes, and who are you?

Man: Mthunzi Dlamini.

Kwanele kept quiet.

Man: I am here on behalf of the High Court...

Kwanele looked at him blankly.

The man held an A4 brown envelope.

Man: This is a divorce summons that I am supposed to hand over to you physically.

Kwanele still looked at him blankly.

Man: Are you aware of this Mr Buthelezi?

Kwanele put out his hand and the man handed him the envelope.

Man: You have 10 days to respond sir otherwise things will go in an unwanted direction.

Kwanele looked at him.

Man: I will leave you now sir. Enjoy the rest of your day.

Kwanele nodded tightly as the man got in his car and drove off... Kwanele walked back inside the house.

Nolwazi's phone rang while she was still with Dean, it was Anthony.

Nolwazi: Hello.

Anthony: Hi Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: Is there a problem?

Anthony: Not at all. I've just received confirmation that the divorce summons has been served to Mr Buthelezi.

Nolwazi: Huh??

Anthony: A representative of the High Court was sent there just now.

Nolwazi's heart rate increased.

Nolwazi: And was Kwanele there??

Anthony: Yes, he was there and the summons was given to him.

Nolwazi looked at Dean.

Nolwazi: Oh, I didn't know he was back.

Anthony: Hopefully he will respond quickly.

Nolwazi: So what is going to happen now?

All this time she was anticipating having a Default Divorce in Kwanele's absence. Now all of that was ruined.

Anthony: Like I said, a civil marriage needs to be dissolved by a court. You are only entitled to a divorce if you can prove to the court that you and your Mr. Buthelezi can no longer live together and there is no chance of resolving your differences. Proof of this can include evidence showing that: 1. you have not lived together for a while. 2. He cheated on you. 3. You left him. 4. You don't love each other.

Nolwazi kept quiet. Even after all this time, she still found it all too complicated and draining.

Anthony: Now that he has the summons, it is clear that a court date will be set. At this hearing, the judge will ask questions to confirm the information in the summons. Once everything is settled, a divorce order will be granted.

Nolwazi held back her emotions.

Nolwazi: Okay.

Anthony: It would have been easier to have one mediator but you have made it clear that you don't want to share a lawyer with him.

Nolwazi: Yes.

Anthony: We will see what happens at this point. He has 10 days to make a move.

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Anthony: I won't stop till this is done Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: Thank you.

Anthony: Goodbye.

Nolwazi: Bye Anthony.

She dropped the call and continued to sob in Dean's arms.

Kwanele walked back to the lounge, sat down and opened the envelope.

He read through the papers...

Particulars of Claim "A"

(A) Parties Involved

Plaintiff is Nolwazi Camilla Buthelezi (born Dumakude), an adult female Economist, residing at (Home Address).

Defendant is Kwanele Buthelezi, an adult male Property Lawyer, residing at (Home Address).

(B) Marriage

Plaintiff and Defendant (hereafter referred to together as "the Parties") married each other on 10 February 2010 at Pretoria, in "Out of Community of Property with Accrual" still subsists. Kindly find attached hereto a copy of the marriage certificate marked "MC".

The Parties reside within the area of jurisdiction of this honourable court.

There are no children born in this marriage.

This is what caught his attention:

(C) Irretrievable breakdown

The marriage between the Parties has permanently broken down and there are no reasonable hopes of the re-establishment of a normal marital relationship between them in that:

Defendant decided to marry another woman (This is recognised as Polygamy)

Defendant left the common home approximately a year ago;

There is no love and affection, understanding and communication between the parties;

Things changed drastically because of this second marriage and there is no way they will be able to restore what they had

He read it again...

Tholi: Kwani.

He ignored her and carried on reading.

Tholi walked to him and then sat next to him on the couch.

Tholi: Kwani!

He ignored her.

Tholi: Who was that man? What did he wa-

The second Kwanele looked up from the papers, Tholi's body froze. It was like another aura filled him.

Kwanele: Uqale nini ukubuza kangaka wena?

Tholi stared at him in shock.

Kwanele: When did you start being so nosy and annoying?

Tholi: Bu-

Kwanele: Cleary Johannesburg gassed you up.

Tholi couldn't even react.

Kwanele took all the papers and stood up. Tholi sat there, frozen, as he walked away.

INSERT 74

Nolwazi and Dean finally made their way back to the patio.

Lindelwa: Is everything okay?

Dean: Sorry for keeping you here.

Lindelwa: No worries, yin' ndaba?

Dean glanced at Nolwazi cautiously and she nodded.

Dean: Her lawyer called. The divorce papers have been given to him.

Lindelwa looked at Nolwazi sadly and sighed.

Lindelwa: Have a seat dear, I'll get you some warm milk.

Dean sat Nolwazi down and then sat next to her while Lindelwa made her way inside the house.

Dean: Nolwazi breathe.

She looked at him in defeat. All she could imagine was Kwanele's reaction when he saw those papers.

Dean: Hey, calm down.

He brushed her hand and she zoned out again. A while later, Lindelwa walked back with a mug and gave it to Dean.

Dean: Lwazi.

Nolwazi glanced at the mug and then took it. She took a sip of the warm milk and took a deep breath...

Tholi began pacing up and down the lounge, her heart rate going full force.

"How does he know about Joburg? Did he have me followed?" her thoughts flooded her mind and she couldn't help but feel dizzy.

She rushed to her phone and dialled Mdu's number and he actually picked up instantly.

Mdu: He-

Tholi: He knows!!!

Mdu: Huh?

Tholi: He knows I was in Johannesburg!!

Mdu: Is it?

Tholi: Yes!!

Mdu: Shame.

Tholi burst out in tears. Mdu's casualness didn't make it easier.

Mdu: Manje ukhalelani Tholakele?

Tholi: You don't understand what this means!

She cried even more.

Mdu: Make me understand.

Tholi: This means he knows about us!

Mdu: Good.

Tholi dropped the call because she couldn't deal with Mdu. She switched off her phone and went to the bathroom that was downstairs to wash her face. She then rushed upstairs and went to the bedroom and Kwanele wasn't there. She took a deep breath and then made her way to his office and knocked lightly.

There was no response but she knew that he was in there.

She opened the door slowly and then made her way inside.

Kwanele was on his desk, using his computer.

Tholi: Kwani.

Kwanele glanced at her for a second before focusing on the computer again. She slowly walked towards him and then sat on the chair by his desk.

Tholi: I'm sorry for offending you.

Kwanele didn't say anything. He typed something and Tholi tried holding back her tears.

Tholi: Kwani, I'm sorry.

Kwanele: I heard you. Now please leave.

Tholi's eyes popped out.

Kwanele: And spare me the crocodile tears please.

Tholi's jaw dropped.

He continued to work on his computer and Tholi rushed out of the office and made her way to the bathroom again.

Lindelwa: I think its best I leave...

Dean nodded lightly.

Lindelwa: It's been a pleasure Lwazi.

Nolwazi smiled lightly and nodded.

Nolwazi: I'm sorry about this.

Lindelwa: No, I understand...

Nolwazi: Thank you.

They all stood up and Lindelwa hugged both of them.

Lindelwa: Hopefully, everything will work out for you. Ngizokubeka emthandazweni sisi.

Nolwazi smiled. She was feeling much better than before.

Lindelwa: But please try to take good care of yourself. These early days are dangerous for that baby growing in you. Anything can trigger damage.

Nolwazi: I'll try.

They said their goodbyes and both Dean and Nolwazi walked her out and watched as she drove off.

Nolwazi: You have an amazing mother Dean.

Dean: Thank you.

They got in the house and went upstairs to the bedroom where Nolwazi laid on the bed.

Nolwazi: She's very sweet.

Dean lay next to her and pulled her so she could be on top of him.

Dean: How are you feeling now?

Nolwazi: I'm fine. I just didn't expect him to be back... I don't know...

Dean: Do you think he'll respond to the claim?

Nolwazi: It's not like he has a choice.

Dean nodded lightly and just kept quiet. It worried him how Nolwazi always reacted when Kwanele was mentioned... He was even starting to doubt himself a bit...

Tholi couldn't take it anymore. She had been pacing up and down for a while now and it affected her how Kwanele addressed her. He had never spoken to her in such a manner and she didn't know how to react.

She felt like she was going insane.

She quickly walked to the office again and then opened the door.

Tholi: Why are you being so rude to me?

Kwanele glanced at her with a blank expression.

Tholi: You are the one who left me all alone! I tried contacting you and you shut me out!

Kwanele was still looking at her blankly.

Tholi started sobbing.

Tholi: I've done nothing but love and support you. Now you're addressing me like trash! You've never showed me love Kwanele!

Kwanele: Yazi Tholakele...

He was beyond calm and cool.

Kwanele: I have dealt with a lot of insults and bullshit for taking you as my wife...

Tholi looked at him.

Kwanele: I've been called names all because I chose to take you in...

Tholi wiped her eyes.

Kwanele: Lalela la ke sisi, since you've managed to get yourself a fairytale love story then I suggest you pack your bags and get the fuck out of my house.

Tholi's eyes popped out.

Kwanele: My kindness is obviously being interpreted as weakness.

Tholi: No, what do you mean??

She was now crying.

Kwanele: Don't you dare come near me. Nonke nizongithola kahle.

Just then, his phone rang and he didn't check the caller id before answering.

Kwanele: What?

Thenjiwe: Ye wena mfanandini! Uthi what kubani? I have some information for you!

Kwanele: Come and fetch this girl from my house before I throw her out myself.

Thenjiwe: Hee??

Kwanele: And call that aunt of hers to come help her pack.

Thenjiwe: Uth-

He dropped the call and by this time, Tholi was wailing.

He glanced at her blankly, still calm.

Kwanele: Go on and call your boyfriend. I'm sure he'll be more than happy to help you out with your brother, Jabulani. Obviously my hand is no longer needed.

Tholi: Kwani!

She cried and he stared at her.

Kwanele: Phuma.

Tholi: Bu-

Kwanele: Get the fuck of here Tholakele before I make you.

She cried uncontrollably.

Kwanele: Ungrateful pigs... Now I have to clean up this bullshit because I allowed you to suck me in...

Tholi's mind was running wild. She quickly rushed out of the office and shut the door.

Kwanele took his phone and dialed a number as he checked his emails.

It rang for a while but it was eventually answered.

Person: Hello?

Kwanele: Vince, it's Kwanele.

Vince: What the hell?? Where have you been??

Kwanele: Story for another day... Listen, my life is a mess.

Vince: Talk to me.

Kwanele: Nolwazi is divorcing me.

Vince: Shit.

Kwanele: And she's pregnant.

Vince: With your kid??

Kwanele: I haven't touched her in months.

Vince: Fuck.

Kwanele: Exactly but I have other plans...

Vince: What's up?

Kwanele: I need you to help me with this case.

Vince: Of course.

Kwanele: She's not even aware that I know about the pregnancy.

Vince: How did you find out?

Kwanele: We have a joint medical aid. I got an email about a payment that was processed for some allergy thing and other tests... She must have forgotten that I also get the notifications.

Vince: Shit!

Kwanele: I need you to go through our prenup agreement. Go through every single line, 100 fucken times Vincent.

Vince: I hear you!

Kwanele: I'll send you everything.

Vince: Sure sure...

Kwanele dropped the call and went through the divorce summons one more time...

INSERT 75 (Short Insert)

Nolwazi: Can I take a nap?

Dean: Why are you asking?

She grunted and sank deeper into his arms as they lay in bed.

Nolwazi: I feel like I'm hyperventilating.

Dean: And there's no need to.

She closed her eyes and allowed herself to calm down. She knew all this stress wasn't good for her but she couldn't help it. She felt Dean kiss her forehead and then everything slowly came back to normal. She allowed herself to relax in his arms and drift into a peaceful and safe sleep.

Once he was sure that she was asleep, Dean carefully let her go and then got up from the bed.

He made his way to his study...

Kwanele heard his mother shouting from the lounge and he calmly got up and made his way out of his office.

He walked to the lounge.

Thenjiwe: What did you do?!!

Tholi stood there sheepishly with a red face and swollen eyes.

Thenjiwe: Ye wena Tholakele! Wenzeni dammit!

Tholi's chest heaved painfully and she glanced at Kwanele shamefully but he didn't react.

Thenjiwe looked at Kwanele.

Thenjiwe: What did this silly girl do?

Kwanele: I don't want her in my house.

Thenjiwe looked at Kwanele in a mixture of anger and confusion.

Kwanele: Help her pack and leave.

Tholi began crying again and Thenjiwe turned sharply to look at her.

Thenjiwe: Why are you crying?!

Tholi tried to stifle her tears but she couldn't hold them back. She looked at Kwanele pleadingly and he just stared at her expressionless.

Kwanele: Mxm.

He turned and walked away.

Thenjiwe: Tholakele.

Tholi looked down and didn't say anything.

Thenjiwe: You better run up those stairs and clean that man's feet!

Tholi looked at Thenjiwe.

Thenjiwe: What are you still waiting for??

Thenjiwe stormed out of the house and Tholi sank on her knees and stayed there for a long time trying to figure out what she would do...

She took a deep breath and decided she would just pack her things and leave.

She walked up the stairs and made her way to the bedroom. As she took out a bag, Kwanele walked out from the bathroom and walked to the bed.

Tholi silently put in some things in the bag. Her heart rate was on another level.

Suddenly she heard Kwanele chuckle quietly and she looked up at him.

Kwanele: Wait till Nolwazi finds out...

Her heart immediately sank.

Kwanele: You really think you are Cinderella don't you? That your prince charming will save you?

Tholi stopped packing and looked at him nervously. He was still so calm...

Kwanele: You think because she gave you a lousy glass of warm milk, she's going to accept that you're fucking her brother? Do you even know Nolwazi?

Tholi's heart rate began to intensify even more.

Kwanele: Do you know Thandeka? Matter of fact, do you know Nomzamo?

She began to panic internally.

Kwanele: Go on with your childish and fairytale mentality. Reality will hit you so hard and no one will be there to protect you.

She swallowed hard.

Kwanele: After everything I have put up with for you, you're going to stab me in the back and fuck me over? Have you no shame?

Tholi tried saying something but words failed her.

Kwanele: Carry on packing...

He walked out of the bedroom and left her there. She sat on the edge of the bed and rubbed her eyes. Suddenly it all clicked... She realised the severity of her actions and the people she will hurt and anger because of her carelessness. She hadn't even thought about Mdu's family... She had allowed herself to not think and now it all came crashing down. There was no way things would work out between them.

Kwanele made his way back to his office and took out a copy of his prenup agreement. All of this was standard for him. He knew he had to go through every single line 100 times until he made his moves.

He reached for his phone and dialled a number and it rang for a while.

The person eventually answered.

Person: Hello?

Kwanele: It's Kwanele.

Person: Hi.

Kwanele: So when last has she been there?

Person: It's been a while now.

Kwanele: And Dean as well?

Person: Uhm he also vanishes when she vanishes.

Kwanele: They haven't made physical contact publically?

Person: Uh I don't think so... They're always locked up in each other's offices though.

Kwanele: Okay. Let me know once they show up.

Person: Will do...

Kwanele dropped the call.

Dean made his way downstairs and went to his study. He sat down and reached for his phone and dialled a number. It rang for a while but the person eventually answered.

Person: Hello?

Dean: Dean speaking.

The person chuckled.

Person: To what do I owe the pleasure?

Dean: Someone is about to try to fuck up my life.

The person laughed.

Person: Does this someone know who they're trying to mess with?

Dean: Evidently, not.

Person: What's going on?

Dean: I'm dealing with an annoying don't-want-to-be-an-ex-husband epileptic son of a bitch.

Person: Well damn!

Dean: I'm being tested.

Person: What's the level of the situation?

Dean: Now that it will involve my kid, I'd say no shit type of level.

The person chuckled quietly.

Dean: I'm going to keep my distance and observe for now but should that epileptic idiot test me further, I will make sure he suffocates from his saliva while having a seizure.

Person: Hehe he was obviously never ready.

Dean: My kid is in the picture...

Person: You keep talking about a kid. Did you make this girl pregnant?

Dean: Don't ask me stupid questions.

Person: Geesh calm down!

Dean: Listen, this call is to let you know that I'm being annoyed.

Person: And I understand that you hate being annoyed.

Dean: Exactly. Now be on the lookout for me. I'll send you details...

Person: I'll be waiting.

Dean dropped the call and sat back on his seat for a while, trying to calm the anger brewing in him. He knew Kwanele was up to something. He disappears for weeks and comes out of

nowhere without letting anyone know that he is back? That screamed shadiness and Dean knew he had to be 10 steps ahead if he wanted Nolwazi to be fully his...

INSERT 76

Nolwazi woke up 2 hours later and made her way to the bathroom to freshen up. She was still a bit stressed but she soon realised that there was no use stressing. All of this would require her to be super focused.

As she made her way back to the bedroom, Dean walked in and smiled.

Dean: Aren't we refreshed...

Nolwazi: No one prevented you from taking a nap.

Dean: While you are busy taking naps, the world is moving.

She rolled her eyes and they walked over to the bed and he sat down and pulled her to his lap.

Dean: Are you feeling better now?

She nodded lightly as she sat comfortably on him.

Nolwazi: I was a bit overwhelmed.

Dean: And you're underwhelmed now?

Nolwazi: Mxm.

He chuckled and looked at her softly.

Dean: You really shouldn't waste your energy.

Nolwazi: You think?

Dean: What's the worst that could happen?

Nolwazi: He drags it out.

Dean: Manje? It's his money his wasting.

She sighed heavily and eventually nodded.

Dean: Toughen up.

Nolwazi: You're actually the worst motivator to ever live.

He laughed quietly.

Nolwazi: But anyway, I hear you...

Dean: Good.

She leaned closer to his face and planted a kiss on his lips.

Dean: Ungalinge.

She giggled quietly and then planted another one but Dean tightened his hold on her and kissed her more. She growled in between and he just chuckled as he continued to kiss her.

He ran his one hand up and down her thigh and slowly slid it between. Still on his lap, she opened her legs slightly and he went further inside, exploring her underneath the dress she had on. At this point, it felt like she had never had Dean before. She craved him badly and he smiled as he sensed this need. His hand went further inside until it touched the base of her vagina. He stroked her gently and she let out a moan while their lips still touched. She exhaled loudly as he tapped her gently, making her want him even more. She opened her legs more and he chuckled once again but stopped kissing her.

She looked at him questioningly.

Dean: You're tense.

Nolwazi: Then un-tense me!

Dean: You're so dramatic.

She grunted and he made her stand up.

Dean: I'll be back just now.

She huffed and then threw herself on the bed as Dean walked out of the bedroom. He made his way downstairs to the kitchen and opened the fridge, taking out ice cubes...

Dean prided himself when it came to satisfying women. In his mind, there really was nothing he wasn't good at. He was determined to make Nolwazi relax completely and forget about Kwanele...

He made his way back upstairs to the bedroom and found Nolwazi sitting on the edge of the bed, looking very irritated.

Dean: Once I'm done with you, that smug look on your face will be gone.

Nolwazi: Try me.

She rolled her eyes.

Dean: Lie on the bed and stop annoying me.

Nolwazi: Mxm.

She did as she was told and then glanced at him as he placed the ice cubes on the side.

He then got on top of her and before she could say something, he had already placed his lips on hers. She stopped trying to talk as the desire began creeping up again. They kissed gently and she moaned quietly. Dean started taking off her dress and she helped him take off his clothes as well. They kissed again and just as Nolwazi was about to fall into her needy state again, Dean stopped the kiss and she sulked.

Dean: Turn around.

She was about to complain when he gave her an affirmative look and she obliged and lied on

her stomach.

Dean: Let's get this body nice and relaxed.

Nolwazi huffed and he chuckled as he took an ice cube and put it on her neck. He slid it carefully down her spine and she winced at first contact. As it slid down, he watched her body's reaction and then stopped at her waist. He then leaned closer to her neck and planted feather kisses... She sighed... He traced kisses down the spine where the ice had been and she quivered at the thrill of it all. The ice melted as he reached her waist. He slowly licked the water off and she moaned as the feel of his tongue caressed her. He took another ice cube and traced it down her butt until he reached her thighs. She involuntarily opened up her legs just a little bit so he could slide it in between those thighs. He carefully went up and down the middle of the thighs until the ice melted... By this time she was completely aroused.

He carefully repositioned her and made her turn around so she could face up. He lowered his body and their faces touched. He delved in for a kiss and he groaned as he felt Nolwazi slide her hand between their pressed bodies so she could touch his erection.

There was no way one could be completely dominant with Nolwazi. Just when he thought he had everything under control, she always reminded him (even if it was little gestures) that she was not about that subservient or submissive life.

She slowly stroked his erect cock as they kissed. She kissed his lower lip first and then moved on to his upper lip... Roles were now completely reversed...She licked his upper lip seductively and then moved on to his lower lip. She bit it and Dean growled in pleasure... She continued to stroke his cock and he felt himself get weaker by the second.

Just as she was about to touch his balls, he quickly reached for an ice cube and before Nolwazi could take another breath, he had already placed the ice cube on the base of her vagina.

Nolwazi: Ah!

He smiled to himself as he watched her shut her eyes and roll her neck. He then slowly placed

the ice cube on the top of her clitoris.

Nolwazi: Aaah!

He chuckled quietly and then reached for another ice cube and tucked it in her lips. He then leaned closer to her and kissed her. Their lips weren't even touching but they were kissing nonetheless. While they did this, he used his one hand to reach down the ice cube that was on her clit and he slowly rubbed it around that area. She let out a cry and he continued to kiss her while also rubbing her clit with the ice.

Eventually both the ice on their lips and her clit melted and soon, his fingers were in contact with her clit and his mouth was in contact with her mouth. They kissed passionately and she just drowned in pleasure. He slowed down the kiss and then took another ice cube and placed it on one nipple. She moaned loudly as he rubbed the nipple with the ice and then moved on to the other nipple. He took the last ice cube that was left and then placed it in between his lips. He went up to her neck, traced it all around that area, went down to her breasts, traced it all around that area, went to her belly button, nibbled a bit there and finally, he got to where Nolwazi needed him the most. He positioned himself properly and then opened her legs wider. He leaned closer to his new home and used that ice to the fullest. She started moving her hips slowly to his rhythm and soon enough, the ice had melted and now he could use his tongue fully. He kissed her clitoris gently, considering the fact that it was very sensitive at this point. He kissed it tenderly and then licked and sucked it.

Nolwazi: Dean...

She moaned his name and sighed heavily as she sank deeper into the bed. She had lost control of herself.

At this point, Dean didn't see the use of fingering her. His aim was to get her to cum multiple times before he could go in and clitoris stimulation always drove her to the edge.

He focused on that little bean and felt her muscles tighten. He sucked her harder and faster and she too moved her hips harder and faster.

The end was near...

She placed her hand on the back of his head and pressed him deeper inside. His tongue's pace increased and intensified and soon enough, she was letting out a scream. Her juices spread on his face but he continued because he knew this was not enough. He gave it one last lick and suck and sure enough, another orgasm came flying by and he put his head up and watched as she twitched and moaned, completely lost in her own world...

He smiled to himself as he went up to her face to kiss her.

Her body was completely relaxed and Dean could now do his job properly...

INSERT 77 (Couldn't edit)

Tholi made her way to Kwanele's office and knocked.

Kwanele: Ngena.

She took a deep breath before walking in.

She opened the door and then made her way inside. Kwanele was sitting comfortably in his seat... She walked over to the desk and he stared at her without saying anything. He wasn't angry or anything. He was just sitting there, looking at her coolly.

Tholi: Kwani.

Kwanele: Hmm?

She glanced at him and shivered a bit. He looked at her calmly.

Tholi: I'm sorry.

Kwanele: I'm setting you free. Isn't that what you want?

Tholi looked at him pleadingly.

Tholi: I'm sorry.

Kwanele: Uxoliselani?

Tholi: I jus-

She huffed and bit her bottom lip nervously.

Tholi: I didn't mean to-

She kept quiet and looked down.

Kwanele: Hamba Tholakele. No one is standing in your way sisi.

Tholi: Don't say that!

Kwanele: Ufuna ngithini? You go gallivanting in Johannesburg and come back feeling yourself...

Go on then, I'm not stopping you.

Tholi: But how did you know??

Kwanele: Mxm, you really think you're going to walk around Sandton and not have one of my people see you?

She kept quiet.

Kwanele: Ungenza islima kahle kahle wena. I'm losing my wife because I chose to help you and now you're spitting in my face?

Tholi: I wasn't-

Kwanele: Hamba Tholakele. I'm done with you.

Tholi: I'm not leaving you.

Kwanele chuckled.

Kwanele: Mxm.

Tholi: I wasn't thinking.

Kwanele: Damn right you weren't. The second people find out, unyile and I'm not even going to protect you.

Tholi huffed.

Kwanele: You might as well get those divorce papers as well. Kick me while I'm down.

Tholi: Kwani I'm sorry!

She started sobbing.

Kwanele: Hambokhalela uMdu wakho.

He hissed as he took his phone and browsed through it.

Kwanele: Unbelievable...

She stared at him as he ignored her.

Kwanele: And you know what will happen once I cut all ties with you...

Tholi rushed out and shut the door. She walked to the bedroom, packed some of her things and then got her phone and switched it on. She dialled Mdu's number and he picked up.

Mdu: Tholi.

She tried not to sob.

Tholi: Please come get me.

Mdu: Okay.

Tholi: Now Mdu.

Mdu: Okay.

Tholi: Thanks.

Mdu dropped the call and just as Tholi turned around, she saw Kwanele standing by the door. He walked inside, shaking his head lightly and walked over to the closet to take a jersey. Tholi watched nervously as he wore it and then walked out again. She felt her heart beat very fast and had to sit down for a while just to calm herself down. Kwanele was obviously not himself and it freaked her out how he was just calm about the whole thing.

After a while her phone rang and it was Mdu.

Tholi: Hello.

Mdu: Phuma.

Tholi: Okay.

She dropped the call and took her bag. She made her way downstairs and then rushed out of the house. As she walked past the garage, she saw that Kwanele's car was not there. She walked out of the yard and quickly made her way to Mdu's car. Once she got in, she looked over at him nervously and he looked at her very casually.

Mdu: Took you long enough.

She leaned closer to him and he pulled her towards him and wrapped his arm around her. She started sobbing.

Tholi: He chased me out!

Mdu: Is it?

She nodded as she cried.

Mdu: Manje ukhalelani?

She looked at him sharply and he shrugged his shoulders.

Mdu: Good riddance...

Tholi: You don't understand.

Mdu: Tholi you can't expect me to stress about something I don't know about.

She sobbed quietly and eventually sat back on her seat and wiped her face.

Mdu: Yini?

Tholi: Kwanele is the reason my brother is still alive.

Mdu sighed.

Mdu: We'll talk about this after you've calmed down...

He started the car and drove off.

Nolwazi: I'm having weird cramps.

She touched her belly and hissed.

Dean: That's my son developing.

Nolwazi: Mxm.

Dean chuckled.

Nolwazi: I booked an appointment with my doctor tomorrow.

Dean: Dr. Smith?

She nodded.

Dean: Okay.

Nolwazi: I need him to give us the lowdown on everything.

Dean: Indeed.

Nolwazi: So you really want a boy?

Dean pulled her closer to him and she rested her head on his chest.

Dean: A boy would make me very happy.

Nolwazi: But what happens if it's girl? It sounds like you won't even love her.

Dean laughed.

Dean: Of course I'll be disappointed but I'll love her regardless.

Nolwazi: Angeke sazi phela you may just flee.

Dean: Hai suka.

Nolwazi looked at him.

Nolwazi: I think I need to tell my mother.

Dean: Just your mother?

She nodded lightly.

Nolwazi: My dad can't find out until I'm at least showing.

He chuckled.

Nolwazi: Once the divorce is final, he won't give me too much heartache about it.

Dean: As long as you and I are on the same page Nolwazi I couldn't give a fuck what people think. At the end of the day, that's my seed growing in you and I'm going to protect you at all costs.

Nolwazi: Hai ke nawe nge-drama. You say that as if someone is out to get me.

Dean: This pregnancy is going to piss a lot of people off Lwazi. Quite frankly I don't see anyone accepting the news wholeheartedly. At this point we both need to be an unmovable force because I can guarantee you that it won't be as smooth as we would like it to be. All I know though is that no one is going to harm you in any way, unless I'm dead of course.

Nolwazi smiled slyly.

Nolwazi: How sexy...

Dean: I'm not even joking. I dare any idiot to come near my kid.

Nolwazi: I think you're over-thinking it. Sure, people won't be happy about it but I think that's as far as it will get.

Dean: It better...

Nolwazi leaned closer to his face and kissed him.

Nolwazi: Let's not ruin the Zen vibe, yes?

Dean exhaled and smiled lightly.

Dean: You liked the massage?

Nolwazi: You have no idea.

Dean: There's more to come...

Nolwazi: Ngempela?

He nodded and she chuckled. She then got on top of him and rested her face on his neck.

Kwanele made his way to Dr. Smith's private practice and because they have known each other for years, he didn't even need to make an appointment.

Dr Smith: Long time no see!

Kwanele and him greeted each other and made their way to his office.

Dr. Smith: How is my sweet Nolwazi doing?

Kwanele chuckled quietly.

Kwanele: You're obviously behind...

Dr: What's wrong??

Kwanele: Let me fill you in...

He went on to tell Dr. Smith every single thing that went down. By the time he was done speaking, Dr. Smith's jaw was on the floor.

Dr: No!

Kwanele chuckled.

Dr: So it's over??

Kwanele: Apparently.

Dr: So she doesn't know that you know about the pregnancy?

Kwanele shook his head.

Kwanele: I've been going crazy...

Dr Smith looked at him intently.

Kwanele: You need to check this shit out Smith because there's no way I'm shooting blanks.

Dr: Do you really think that it might be you?

Kwanele: What am I supposed to think when I've been with this woman for 4 years yet she couldn't conceive but the second she sleeps with someone else she conceives?

Dr. Smith nodded lightly.

Kwanele: You need to check this shit out and confirm everything...

Dr: What will happen if you are the infertile one?

Kwanele: I'm not even trying to think that far. Do these tests now so I can find a way forward...

INSERT 78 (Couldn't edit)

Mdu drove to some unfamiliar complex and Tholi shot him a look.

Mdu: We'll stay here until I sort that empty house out.

Tholi: Whose place is this??

Mdu: You like stressing yourself ngezinto ezibhedayo.

Tholi hissed.

Mdu: Hai phela I'll take you back to your husband's place.

She looked at him sharply and he chuckled.

Mdu: I'm just kidding. You're mine now.

Tholi: This is not a joke!

Mdu ignored her and drove in the complex and parked. They got out and he waited for Tholi to get to him and then wrapped his arm around her shoulders.

Mdu: We should have stayed in Joburg yabo?

She removed his arm from her but he insisted and wrapped both his arms around her waist.

Mdu: On a serious note, do you want me to take you back to him?

Tholi kept quiet.

Mdu: Because I'm not going to tolerate any nonsensical guilt talk.

Tholi: How am I supposed to feel? I betrayed him.

Mdu: Then go back to him. What are you doing here?

She didn't say anything.

Mdu: The idiot kicks you out and yet you're still thinking about betraying him?

Tholi: I'm not as heartless as you.

Mdu chuckled and tightened his hold on her. He pulled her closer till their bodies touched and then smiled warmly.

Mdu: I'll ask you one last time, do you want me to take you back?

She looked at him shamefacedly and eventually shook her head.

Mdu: Good.

He planted a kiss on her cheek and then let go of her as he led the way to the apartment.

Before anything could be conducted, Dr. Smith began a brief interview with Kwanele that included: A full medical and reproductive history, along with any surgeries he has had and medications he is taking. He also asked him lifestyle questions, including his exercise, smoking, and drug use, and then had a physical exam which was a frank discussion about his sexual life, including any problems with sex or previous sexually transmitted diseases... Kwanele answered

truthfully and anticipated the tests.

Dr Smith: Identifying the cause of a man's infertility is as much an art as a science. One of the tests is known as "Sperm and Semen Analysis". Here we assess the man's sperm count, their shape, movement, and other variables. Generally, a higher number of normal-shaped sperm means higher fertility. But exceptions are common. Many men with low sperm counts or abnormal semen are still fertile. If the first semen analysis is normal, then I will order a second test to confirm the results. Two normal tests are usually interpreted to mean that you don't have any significant infertility problems. If something in the results looks irregular, then I might order further tests to pinpoint the problem. Surprisingly, if no semen or sperm at all are present, this can be a good thing. It might suggest a blockage in the "plumbing" that can be corrected with surgery.

Kwanele: So shooting blanks doesn't necessarily mean a man is infertile?

Dr: In some instances it does but if it doesn't then there might be a blockage that can be fixed through surgery.

Kwanele nodded.

Kwanele: I've never had sexual problems... I just don't understand why she was unable to conceive all this time...

Dr Smith nodded.

Dr: I need to discuss something with you first.

Kwanele: What?

Dr: I think it's best if I distance myself from this situation from now onwards.

Kwanele kept quiet.

Dr: I have grown to appreciate both of you and I do not want to be involved in any dispute between you two.

Kwanele: You can disappear after you conduct this test Smith.

Dr: As long as we are on the same page. I will keep this private, as I am supposed to, and I will back off.

Kwanele: Fine by me.

Dr: Good.

He stood up and then explained the procedure to Kwanele...

Kwanele chuckled.

Kwanele: I haven't busted a nut in a very long time Smith.

Dr: Well I need your sperms!

They laughed.

Kwanele: There goes my cleansing...

Dr: As if it's by choice!

Kwanele: Watch it now!

They laughed some more...

Dr: Here's the cup. I need you to fill this whole thing with your soldiers...

Kwanele nodded.

Dr: I even have a special room for you.

They walked out of the office and Dr Smith led him to some other room. When they made their way inside, Kwanele chuckled. There was a stack of pornographic magazines and posters...

Dr: You're obviously going to need some motivation.

Kwanele chuckled.

Dr: Here's a TV and a whole bunch of DVDs to entice you.

Kwanele: I'm not into white people's porn Smith.

Dr Smith laughed boldly.

Dr: Listen, I even have Asian stuff there. Pick whatever you want.

Kwanele chuckled and nodded.

Dr: Alright then, you'll let me know once you've got your happy ending.

Kwanele: Will do.

Dr Smith made his way out and Kwanele sat on the reclining chair...

Tholi was beyond exhausted. Her brain was beyond fried at this point and all the crying made her physically tired.

Mdu: Would you like to take a shower?

Tholi looked around uncomfortably.

Mdu: Tholi this is my friend's place, relax.

Tholi: Kanti yena where is he njengoba thina sila?

Mdu chuckled.

Mdu: You're really uncomfortable?

She nodded.

Mdu: My house has no bed.

Tholi: I grew up sleeping on the floor.

Mdu: Haike manje I have to sleep on the floor nami?

She nodded.

Tholi: It's not that bad.

Mdu: Well obviously it's not bad for you. You have all the cushion you need to sleep on the floor.

She looked at him sharply and he laughed and pulled her into his arms.

Mdu: Ngiyadlala. I love your cushions.

Tholi: You're apologising with an insult!

Mdu: Hai I'd never insult you. You're perfect phela wena.

She rolled her eyes but her cheeks turned reddish as she tried to hide the fact that she was blushing.

Mdu: A very perfect cushion.

Tholi: Mdu!

He laughed quietly and squeezed her.

Tholi: Uyeyisa wena.

Mdu: I'm hungry.

Tholi: So you insult people when you're hungry?

Mdu frowned.

Tholi: I'm tired.

Mdu: Then let's order something.

Tholi: Okay.

Mdu: Are you willing to stay here for just tonight?

She looked at him and just nodded in defeat.

Mdu: It's not like you have a choice, chubby cheeks.

She pushed him away and he laughed.

Mdu: You're practically homeless.

She crossed her arms tightly and looked at him angrily.

Mdu: Am I wrong?

Tholi: Stop teasing me!

Mdu: I'm sorry ke.

Tholi: You're being mean.

Mdu: Woza ke.

He pulled her and wrapped his arms around her and she stifled a smile.

Mdu: We'll get furniture tomorrow so you can live comfortably in your man's house.

Tholi: How am I supposed to respond to the crazy things you say?

Mdu chuckled and planted a kiss on her forehead.

Mdu: Let me order something. I'm famished.

He let go of her and went to the lounge...

Dr Smith looked at Kwanele intently and sighed.

Kwanele: Don't waste my time old man.

Dr: We're going to get the results in a few days...

Kwanele: What do you think?

Dr: Honestly?

Kwanele nodded tightly.

Dr: I don't think there's anything wrong with you...

Kwanele looked at him without saying anything for a while.

Kwanele: Why do you say that?

Dr Smith sighed heavily and scratched his head...

Kwanele: What Smith?

Dr Smith looked at him intently.

Kwanele: Do you know something?

Dr Smith sighed once again.

Kwanele: Well now I'm definitely not leaving until you tell me whatever you're thinking.

They sat in silence for a while...

INSERT 79 (Couldn't edit)

Mdu: Why aren't you eating?

Tholi ignored him and carried on watching TV. She was sitting upright and was obviously uptight. Mdu on the other hand was chewing away. He looked at her as he swallowed some of his pizza. He then leaned closer to her with his slice of pizza and dangled it in front of her face and she pushed his hand away.

Mdu: Yini sisi? You don't have an appetite?

She looked at him sharply and he chuckled.

Mdu: Hmkay.

He finished up the slice and then sat back on the couch comfortably.

Mdu: Come closer.

She ignored him and continued focusing on the TV.

Mdu: Tholakele.

Tholi: Leave me alone.

Mdu: Unemihlolo yazi. You ask me to fetch you and then act fresh once you're with me?

Tholi: I wouldn't have come had I known that I'd be insulted.

Mdu: Ave une-drama.

She rolled her eyes and continued to focus on the screen but he pulled her till she was glued to him.

Tholi: You're hurting me!

Mdu: Hai suka.

Tholi: Mdu...

She grunted but he just wrapped his arm around her and continued to pin her against him.

Mdu: Did I hurt your feelings?

Tholi tried moving but he tightened his grip on her.

Tholi: I'm tired Mdu, leave me alone.

He smiled mischievously.

Mdu: Want me to give you a massage?

Tholi: No thanks!

She tried moving again.

Mdu: Awume ngodlame Tholi. I'm offering my services to you and it offends me that you don't want them.

She looked at him annoyingly.

Mdu: Watch it.

Tholi: I don't want your services.

Mdu: Well that hurts my feelings.

Tholi: What will it take for you to keep quiet??

Mdu chuckled.

Tholi: Don't you want some peace and quiet??

Mdu looked at her innocently.

Mdu: You're the one who's making noise right now.

Tholi: Argh.

Mdu: Uyadelela kodwa Tholakele.

She looked at him blankly.

Mdu: What's wrong with you?

Tholi: I'm tired.

Mdu: Let me give you a massage.

Tholi: No I don't need one.

Mdu: Mxm.

He quickly stood up and then bent over to her and picked her up. She screamed in shock.

Mdu: Umangazwa yini?

She looked at him in shock and he laughed as he walked to the bedroom with her in his arms.

Tholi: Put me down!

He got to the bedroom and then put her on the bed and she gasped in shock.

Mdu: Shit, my back hurts.

She looked at him in disbelief and he laughed as he sat next to her and wrapped his arm around her.

Mdu: Ngiyadlala man Tholakele.

Tholi: I don't appreciate your rude jokes.

Mdu: Awusaphaphi nje these days.

She grunted and stared at him.

Mdu: Let me make it up to you.

Tholi: Will this massage get you to leave me alone?

Mdu: Yes.

She looked at him expectantly.

Tholi: Hurry up.

Mdu: Hai who rushes a masseur?

Tholi: What's a masseur?

Mdu: A person who provides massages professionally.

Tholi rolled her eyes.

Tholi: I'm tired Mdu and I'm not in the mood.

Mdu: Weeh has Kwanele seen this side of you?

She looked at him sharply and he chuckled.

Mdu: It seems like I'm an easy target for you...

She kept quiet and he chuckled again.

Mdu: Anyway, let me do my shit.

He told her to balance her back on the headboard and then he sat on the edge of the bed and took off her socks. He placed her feet on his lap and then grabbed one foot very roughly and she protested.

He laughed as she tried to remove her feet from his lap.

Mdu: Calm down.

Tholi: Please stop with your games.

She looked at him pleadingly and he sighed.

Mdu: You're really tired?

She nodded lightly.

Mdu: Hai suka there's no need to be sheepish ke nawe.

Tholi: Ngikhathele Mduduzi.

Mdu: Ewu, say my name one more time.

Tholi chuckled lightly and rolled her eyes. Mdu then began to massage her feet and she relaxed a bit.

Mdu: I told you I'm good.

Tholi: You could use some training...

Mdu: Mxm.

She chuckled quietly and closed her eyes and allowed herself to relax even more. Mdu massaged her feet for a very long time and she finally felt herself doze off. She then felt Mdu's presence over her but was too lazy to open her eyes.

She felt him plant a kiss on her forehead.

Mdu: I'm going to take care of you wena.

She grunted sleepily and he laughed quietly.

Mdu: You'll know what love is...

Kwanele dialled Thuli's number and she answered after a long time.

Thuli: Hello?

Kwanele: Thuli.

Thuli: Hello? Who am I speaking to?

Kwanele: So my voice is even unrecognisable now?

Thuli: Oh shit Kwanele??

Kwanele kept quiet.

Thuli: Where the fuck are you?!

Kwanele: Having an early dinner at your favourite restaurant.

Thuli: You're back??

Kwanele: Can you come?

Thuli: Give me 20 minutes.

Kwanele: Okay.

Thuli: Bye.

Kwanele: Bye.

He dropped the call and browsed through his phone, thinking about what Dr Smith had told him... It took every fibre in him not to burst out and kill every human that passed him but he managed to stay calm as ever.

Just as he was about to finish off his glass of water, his phone rang and he checked the caller id before answering.

Kwanele: Yes?

Person: It appears as if Dean and Nolwazi are being followed.

Kwanele frowned.

Kwanele: By who?

Person: I'll find out once I've confirmed my suspicions.

Kwanele: I need constructive intel . I don't have time for unnecessary shit.

Person: I've got you.

Kwanele saw Thuli enter the restaurant.

Kwanele: Bye.

Person: Cheers.

He dropped the call and put the phone down just as Thuli spotted him and made her way to the table in shock.

Thuli: Where the fuck have you been?!

Kwanele: Hello to you too.

Thuli: No, fuck you Kwanele! Do you know how much shit I had to carry because of you?!

Kwanele kept quiet as she stood over him, fuming.

Thuli: I am pissed Kwanele. You don't just up and leave and then expect people to tidy up your mess! What the fuck is wrong with you?!

He looked at her blankly and she exhaled loudly and her face relaxed.

Thuli: I was worried about you.

Kwanele: It's been a rough couple of weeks.

Thuli: Where were you?

Kwanele: Sit down.

She exhaled and looked at him intently and he stood up and they shared a hug. She then walked over to the other side of the table and they both sat down.

Thuli: Kanti??

Kwanele looked at her seriously.

Kwanele: I was sick.

Thuli: What happened?

He looked at her blankly.

Thuli: Does it have to do with the seizures?

Kwanele: What else would it be?

Thuli: How are you feeling now?

Kwanele: I'll be fine.

Thuli looked at him for a very long time.

Thuli: Will you make it through this?

Kwanele shrugged his shoulders.

Thuli: She's stopped talking to me for some reason.

Kwanele: Really?

She nodded and looked at him sadly.

Kwanele: Guilty by association.

Thuli: It's ridiculous. Anyway, I think it's good for us to get some space from each other. All these people are selling her dreams and I don't want to be the thorn that keeps bringing her back to reality. My presence is not needed at the moment.

Kwanele: How is she?

Thuli: You know Nolwazi...

He nodded and smiled lightly as he allowed himself to drown in his most treasured memories...
Thuli saw this and decided to keep quiet and they sat in silence for a very long time.

Thuli: I was rooting for you guys. Clearly it's time to let go...

Kwanele: I don't care what anyone else says, Nolwazi loves me and nothing else will ever compare to what we shared...

Thuli: But you ruined it.

Kwanele: I know...

Thuli: Maybe it's time to let go...

Kwanele looked at her seriously.

Kwanele: No, it's not.

Thuli sighed heavily and just looked at him sadly. She too was mourning a loss of a friendship and she needed Kwanele to come to terms with the loss of his marriage as well in order for them to move on...

INSERT 80 (Couldn't edit or finish)

The following morning, Nolwazi woke up and made her way to the bathroom. She took a long shower and then dried herself and lotioned. She then made her way back to the bedroom and found Dean sitting on the edge of the bed, busy with his phone.

Nolwazi: Morning.

Dean glanced at her and smiled lightly.

Dean: Unjani?

Nolwazi: Okay and you?

Dean shrugged his shoulders.

Nolwazi: I miss work now. This random holiday has to end.

Dean chuckled quietly and nodded.

Dean: You miss work?

Nolwazi nodded.

Nolwazi: All this lazing around won't get us anywhere. We need to go back.

Dean: It's Thursday now. We'll go back next week.

Nolwazi sighed and nodded.

Dean: What time is the appointment?

Nolwazi: It's 8am now so we have an hour.

Dean: I'll get ready then...

Nolwazi: I'll prepare breakfast.

Dean: Well that's a first.

Nolwazi: Haibo what's that supposed to mean?

Dean: You've been very lazy these days.

Nolwazi: I will not dignify that with a response.

He chuckled and she finished up getting dressed and made her way downstairs to prepare breakfast.

Kwanele was in bed... He couldn't bring himself to face the world today. All the stress he had cooped up for the past couple of weeks was suddenly breaking out. He allowed all his emotions to overcome him and he was glad that no one would see him in this state because he now had no choice but to show a different front to people.

As he lay there, he kept picturing Nolwazi in Dean's arms...

The thought of her snuggling close to him every night was enough to drive him insane. He found himself trying to stabilise his breath every now and then because of the severity of the intense anger and hurt. The anger was mostly directed at himself for allowing his life to get to this point. A big part of him knew that the damage was already too much but there was another part of him that clung on to the last bit of hope that existed. He couldn't allow himself to let go without at least trying to fight... He just hoped Nolwazi would at least try to understand where he was coming from. He made a huge mistake and it didn't take an intelligent person to see just how much hurt he brought because of his actions... He didn't want to pay the price fully. It saddened him that it took such a drastic situation for him to realise just how manipulative and conniving his mother is...

He then allowed himself to think about Tholi... The only reason he was with her was because he felt sorry for her... The whole situation was just too complicated but somehow it pissed him off that she would spit on his face like after everything he had done for her regardless of the implications of their relationship. Now that she didn't him, she chose to run off to another man's arms. As much as he wanted to fight for Nolwazi, he still couldn't help but feel betrayed by Tholi. It now seemed like all the things he done were a waste because he lost both of them...

After a long time, he finally gathered enough strength to get out of bed and take a shower. This whole experience was altering him in a way. He was starting to become such a cold and unrecognisable person and part of him feared that he would never go back to how he used to be. All of this was just to get his old life back... At this point, he knew he'd die trying to fight for Nolwazi, regardless of the obstacles he'd face along the way.

Nolwazi and Dean drove out of the house and made their way to Dr Smith's private practice...

Nolwazi: When do they usually tell us the gender?

Dean: I think at 15 weeks or somewhere along those lines.

Nolwazi: We still have a long way to go I guess...

Dean: It's good that we found out early about this pregnancy.

Nolwazi: You think?

Dean: Yes.

Nolwazi shrugged her shoulders and drove in silence till they got to the private practice. Once there, they made their way to Dr Smith's office and found him sitting on his desk.

The old man smiled as soon as he saw Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: Hello there.

He stood up and they shared a warm hug.

Dr Smith: My dearest Nolwazi!

Nolwazi smiled warmly.

Dr: How have you been? It's been a while.

Nolwazi: I know... Things have been a bit crazy.

Dr: Tell me about it!

Nolwazi shook her head lightly.

Nolwazi: The story would need us to reserve 2 days.

Dr Smith chuckled and then glanced at Dean who was looking at him blankly.

Nolwazi: This is Dean.

Dr Smith nodded and smiled kindly. He then put out his hand to Dean.

Dr: Good morning Dean.

Dean shook Dr Smith's hand.

Dean: How are you?

Dr: I'm great thank you.

Nolwazi then cleared her throat as she could see that Dr Smith was looking at Dean weirdly, probably wondering who he was.

Dr: Uhm you may have a seat.

Nolwazi: Thanks.

They all sat down and then Dr Smith focused on Nolwazi.

Dr Smith: To what do I owe the pleasure?

Nolwazi sighed heavily.

Nolwazi: I'm pregnant.

Dr Smith exclaimed in shock and smiled.

Dr: Congratulations!

Nolwazi smiled awkwardly and glanced at Dean who was staring intensely at Dr Smith.

Dr: Oh wow! I'm thrilled!

Nolwazi: Thanks.

She nudged Dean discreetly so he would stop staring at Dr Smith like he was some detective.

Dr: How far along are you?

Nolwazi: We're approaching 4 weeks now.

Dr: That's amazing dear!

Nolwazi nodded and then sighed.

Dr: Is there a problem?

Nolwazi: Uhm... Ya...

Dr: What's wrong?

Nolwazi glanced at Dean.

Nolwazi: Uhm, Kwanele and I are no longer together.

Dr Smith exclaimed in shock.

Dr: What??

Nolwazi nodded shamefully.

Dr Smith looked at her in shock and sadness.

Dr: Well that's unfortunate...

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Dr: So is the baby is?

Nolwazi shook her head and fiddled with her fingers.

Dr: Oh.

Dean: The baby is mine.

Both Nolwazi and Dr Smith turned to look at Dean because his voice was unexpected.

Dr: Congratulations.

Dean: Cut out the fakeness and get on with the tests.

Both Nolwazi and Dr Smith gasped in shock.

Dean: Test her, tell us what we need to know and give us other recommendations for gynaecologists and doctors. I don't think we'll need your services anymore.

Nolwazi: Dean!

Dean stared at Dr Smith and the old man shivered a bit.

Dr Smith: Oh I can understand if you want to change doctors.

Nolwazi: No!

Dean looked at Nolwazi.

Dean: Angilithandi lelikhehla.

Nolwazi was too stunned to even reply.

Dr Smith stood up and cleared his throat.

Dr: Uhm I'll give you some privacy...

He quickly walked out of the room and Nolwazi and Dean stared at each other for a while.

Nolwazi: What is wrong with you??

Dean: I don't like him.

Nolwazi looked at him in shock.

Dean: I'd appreciate it if we would get someone we're both comfortable with.

Nolwazi kept quiet and just stared at him...

INSERT 81

Nolwazi: But what do you mean you don't like him?

Dean: Nolwazi just as I respect your views, I'd appreciate it if you would respect mine as well.

Nolwazi: But why are you being like this?

Dean: I'm not comfortable with him.

She sighed heavily and looked away and Dean softened up.

Dean: I didn't mean to be harsh.

She ignored him and kept quiet.

Dean: So now you're angry?

Nolwazi: I'm not Ntsiki or any of your ex-girlfriends, Dean. I'm trying by all means to keep my composure right now.

Dean: What's that supposed to mean?

Nolwazi: Don't mistake me for someone who can't make her own decisions.

Dean: You're being dramatic.

Nolwazi: I won't tolerate your arrogance Dean. I'm not some pawn that you can control.

Dean: You think I'm controlling you?

Nolwazi: Don't expect me to follow all your barks like I'm some brainless sheep. I've been very patient with you but you're really getting on my nerves now.

Dean looked at her calmly.

Nolwazi: Your arrogance is appalling and I'm afraid I won't be patient forever.

Dean kept quiet.

Nolwazi: It pisses me off that you think it's acceptable for you to bark orders and then I will follow like some stupid girl. I'm grown Dean and I won't have you treating me like a child. If you were so uncomfortable with Dr Smith, ubuxakwe yini ungasho sonke lesikhathi? So basically we drove all the way here so you can disrespect this man so ruthlessly in his own practice?

Dean still didn't say anything.

Nolwazi: It's bullshit.

She huffed furiously and then looked away while Dean stared at her coolly.

Dean: Have you said what you needed to say?

Nolwazi ignored him.

Dean: Nolwazi?

She looked at him sharply.

Nolwazi: I'm starting to feel like some machine that's controlled by you. This baby has got you thinking you can treat me like some sponge that is only required to suck in your bullshit.

Dean kept quiet.

Nolwazi: You can forget it... I was not raised to be weak so this whole controlling thing of yours won't work with me. You can forget it...

Dean stifled a smile.

Dean: Are you done?

Nolwazi huffed and looked at him angrily.

Nolwazi: So my anger amuses you?

Dean: Just a little.

Nolwazi: Mxm.

She looked away.

Dean: You're confused.

Nolwazi looked at him sharply.

Dean: I'm just protecting you...

She grunted.

Dean: Yes, it may come across as controlling but I really am just trying to protect both of you. That's all Lwazi.

Nolwazi exhaled quietly.

Dean: So I apologise for giving you a controlling vibe. I think we both know that there is no way I could control you. That's just close to impossible...

Nolwazi's face relaxed just a little.

Dean: I'm sorry.

Nolwazi: Are you trying to butter me up?

Dean: Only if it's working.

Nolwazi eyed him suspiciously and he grinned.

Nolwazi: I would just appreciate it if you would discuss things with me beforehand. Don't be unnecessarily rude to people who don't deserve your rudeness.

Dean: I'm rude??

He looked at her innocently and she grunted.

Nolwazi: Mxm.

Dean: Because you asked me nicely, I'll start being kind a bit.

Nolwazi: A bit?

Dean: Don't push it.

Nolwazi smiled lightly.

Dean: I'm not a nice person, I don't want to be a nice person and I don't have to be a nice person.

Nolwazi sighed in defeat.

Dean: But for you, I'll pretend to be nice just here and there...

Nolwazi: I guess that's something.

Dean: We can't all be nice.

Nolwazi: Dean just apologise to Dr Smith please.

Dean: Hai phela I don't owe him anything.

Nolwazi stood up.

Dean: Go fetch him so he can do these tests and we can cut all ties with him. He's too old anyway. Maybe it's time for him to retire.

Nolwazi ignored him and walked out to go get Dr Smith so he could conduct all the necessary tests.

Mdu: You were even snoring.

Tholi: You're lying!

Mdu: Tholi you passed out and I had to listen to you snore the whole night.

Tholi's cheeks flushed in embarrassment and she looked away and Mdu started chuckling.

Mdu: You take yourself too seriously.

Tholi: So I should sit here and laugh along as you make fun of me?

Mdu: Yes.

Tholi: I don't find anything you say funny Mdu. You are rude and obnoxious!

Mdu: Hehe so what are you doing here with me? Go back to your lovely house phela.

Tholi: I will!

She got up from the couch and rushed to the bedroom to clear up her things. She kept hissing as she packed and once she was done, she saw Mdu standing by the door. She ignored him and then dragged her suitcase to the door and stared at him.

Tholi: Suka.

Mdu: Man, you are beyond stubborn.

He looked down at her amusingly and she looked up at him angrily.

Tholi: Get out of my way.

Mdu: Why are you so stubborn Tholakele?

Tholi: I am not.

She said that with so much dedication and determination that she couldn't help but let out a quiet laugh afterwards.

Mdu: Come here.

She sighed heavily and then let go of her suitcase and stepped closer to him till their bodies touched. He wrapped his arms around her and then leaned his face closer to hers.

Mdu: You haven't kissed your man.

Tholi: Mdu!

He chuckled and leaned even closer till their lips touched.

Mdu: Are you okay?

She shook her head.

Mdu: Stressed about Kwanele?

She nodded and he tightened her grip on her and she hissed.

Mdu: I'll handle that situation.

Tholi backed her face away a bit and looked at him in disbelief and Mdu smiled.

Mdu: What?

Tholi: Handle it how?

Mdu: Don't question me kiddo.

Tholi: Mdu.

Mdu: Hmm?

Tholi: You're arrogant.

Mdu: I am?

Tholi nodded.

Mdu: Manje that offends you?

She nodded.

Mdu: Manje you want me to be nice?

She nodded.

Mdu: Yoh being nice is too much admin Tholi.

She giggled quietly.

Mdu: So you don't think I'm nice to you?

Tholi: You're on and off.

Mdu: Nawe u-on and off angithi?

Tholi huffed and Mdu chuckled.

Mdu: Tit for tat.

They stood there for a while, staring at each other and eventually kissed. Tholi managed to forget about her crazy life for just a little while...

Dr Smith: Alright then...

He looked at Nolwazi and Dean and then smiled.

Dr Smith: You were absolutely correct in saying you're approaching four weeks...

Nolwazi nodded and glanced at Dean who had a blank face.

Dr Smith: I have other good news for you though.

Nolwazi: What?

Dean: I thought you couldn't tell the gender till 15 weeks or so.

Dr: You are correct Dean-

Dean: Dr Hlongwane.

Both Nolwazi and Dr Smith looked at Dean and he simply looked at both of them blankly.

Dean: You like wasting time don't you? What's the good news? We don't have the whole day.

Dr Smith cleared his throat and looked at Nolwazi kindly.

Dr: It seems like you might have twins...

Both Dean and Nolwazi turned to look at each other in disbelief.

Dr: Unfortunately it's too early to diagnose this accurately but I think this is the case. We'll only be able to tell at 10 weeks or so...

Nolwazi: Twins??

Dr Smith stared at Nolwazi seriously.

Dr: I guess this is a way of making up for all the lost time...

Nolwazi looked away and took a glance at Dean who was obviously thrilled.

Dean: Fuck, now I'm going to have two kids at the same time??

Dr: Well we're still not sure-

Dean looked at Nolwazi and smiled.

Dean: This is crazy.

Nolwazi touched her belly and sighed heavily. This was just another wave hitting her unexpectedly...

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Dean: You've been awfully quiet...

Nolwazi: Please drop me off at my house.

Dean glanced at her for a second before focusing on the road again. It took everything in him not to react in a questionable way. It didn't take an intelligent person to figure out that Nolwazi wasn't happy at the moment. He knew he had to keep any insecurity in check otherwise he would push her away...

Dean: Okay.

Nolwazi kept quiet and browsed through her phone and they drove in silence for the rest of the way.

Just then, her phone rang and Dean glanced at her as she answered.

Nolwazi: Mama.

Even her voice seemed defeated.

He listened to her have a conversation with her mother for about five minutes and then she hung up. He then glanced at her briefly.

Nolwazi: She wants to come this side.

Dean: Your mother?

She nodded lightly and then sank on her seat and closed her eyes. He decided to let her be and just continued to drive in silence.

Once they got to her house, he parked outside.

Nolwazi: Thanks.

Dean: Will you be fine?

Nolwazi: Yes.

He stared at her intently and she sighed.

Nolwazi: I just need space...

Dean: Okay.

She opened the door and got out and Dean watched as she walked inside and disappeared. He sat there for a while trying not to let any unnecessary emotions overcome him and he eventually started the car and drove off...

Tholi huffed as Mdu squeezed her.

Tholi: I can't breathe Mdu.

Mdu: You complain a lot.

Tholi: You're literally squeezing the life out of me.

She tried wiggling out of his grip but he was too strong. After all that kissing, they had found themselves cuddling in bed- well Mdu was doing all the cuddling.

Mdu: I've been thinking...

Tholi: What?

Mdu: Don't you want to go back to Joburg?

Tholi looked at him weirdly.

Mdu: I think you could use some fresh air.

Tholi: No.

Mdu: No, what?

Tholi: No to everything.

Mdu: Haiké I'm going to drag you there.

She kept quiet.

Mdu: It's not like you have anything going this side.

Tholi: Please stop.

He looked at her and realised that it was still too early to take a leap... He had to stick to being patient especially because she was starting to open up to him again. He knew that if he pushed too hard, she would go back in her shell again and all the progress he made would be wasted.

Mdu: Want to watch a movie?

Tholi: Okay.

Mdu: What do you want to watch?

She shrugged her shoulders.

Mdu: Tell me what you want because you will definitely not like what I like.

Tholi: What do you like?

Mdu: Documentaries on serial killers.

Her eyes shot up and she backed away from him.

Mdu: Yini wena?

He laughed as he pulled her back into his arms.

Tholi: Mdu...

Mdu: Serial killers fascinate me... I can't wrap my head around the fact that some people's brains are wired in such a twisted manner.

She grunted.

Mdu: The human brain is fascinating. How can a sane person turn into an evil being that is capable to killing? Aren't you fascinated by that shit?

Tholi: Please stop!

Mdu laughed.

Mdu: See I told you, you wouldn't be interested in what I like...

Tholi: I don't think the rest of the world is fascinated by that. That's sickening.

Mdu: Hai suka.

She then looked at him suspiciously.

Tholi: Are you a serial killer?

He eyed her mischievously.

Mdu: Why would I tell you?

Tholi: Nooo!

She gasped and Mdu chuckled and held her face so he could kiss her.

Tholi: Uh-uh.

He laughed quietly and they kissed for a while until Tholi broke the kiss.

Tholi: The movie.

Mdu sighed and then let go of her and got up from the bed.

Mdu: What do you want to watch?

Tholi: Angazi.

He got the remote and then threw himself on the bed again and switched on the TV.

After much fussing and arguing, they finally agreed on what to watch...

Kwanele checked his emails and once again, an email from their joint medical aid came through.

He got himself a fresh bottle of whiskey and poured some for himself as he read the email over and over again...

He felt his heart rate pulse furiously and he downed another shot of whiskey, hoping it would have a calming effect on him. He printed the email and then decided it was time for him to unsubscribe to all the medical aid email notifications. Something told him that Nolwazi would soon remember that these notifications came through to both of them and that would ruin everything for him. Within minutes, he had managed to unsubscribe... He being a lawyer helped in this instance because he was able to think of the little things that another person wouldn't necessarily take note of.

He sat there and downed another shot...

Just then, his phone rang and he answered it.

Kwanele: Yes?

Person: Hello.

Kwanele: Who's this?

Person: It's Dr Smith.

Kwanele: What do you want old man?

Dr Smith: All ties have been cut with Nolwazi.

Kwanele: Is it?

Dr: Yes.

Kwanele: I see she came there this morning.

Dr: Yes.

Kwanele: How did she react to you not wanting to be her doctor anymore?

Dr: For your own information, I was not the one who suggested it. It seems they beat me to it.

Kwanele: They?

Dr: Yes, she and-

Kwanele: Dean.

Dr: Listen, I am just calling you to let you know that I will not be dealing with both of you anymore however if you need any help, you know where to find me. I do not want to be caught up between you two... Being objective would be impossible and it would kill me in this instance

because I do not want you to separate. I cherish the both of you very much and I am sad that it had to come down to this.

Kwanele: Thanks...

Dr: Goodbye.

Kwanele: Bye.

He dropped the call and continued to sit there in complete silence. His heart rate had managed to calm down but he was still feeling foul... He couldn't shake off the depression that was creeping up on him.

He reached for the divorce papers and read them again and again...

Just then, his phone rang and he took it and answered.

Kwanele: Yes?

Thenjiwe: Why did you change your gate code?? Open this gate now!

Kwanele: What do you want?

Titi: Ye wena mntanandini! Open this gate! I need to talk to you now!

Kwanele: No.

Titi: What?!!

Kwanele dropped the call and switched off that phone immediately.

He took another shot of his whiskey and winced as it hit the right spot deep within...

He sank on his chair, closed his eyes and allowed his mind to drift off...

As he was about to doze off, his phone rang and he opened his eyes...

It was his other personal phone which he only used in emergencies. He looked at the caller id and it was an unfamiliar number. He knew it wasn't Thenjiwe because she probably left the house gate, fuming...

He watched as it rang but he eventually answered. The alcohol in his system had settled and as he sat there, the slight wooziness had overcome him.

Kwanele: Hello?

Person: Hi.

He blinked a couple of times and then sat up straight.

There was silence for a very long time.

Kwanele: Lwazi?

There was silence once again and he rubbed his eyes.

Nolwazi: Sorry to disturb you.

Kwanele was too stunned to say anything. Literally, all the alcohol left his system immediately.

He finally stabilised himself again and cleared his throat lightly.

Kwanele: Lwazi?

Lwazi: Did I disturb you?

He didn't even have to let her carry on in order for him to figure out that she wasn't fine. Suddenly all the anger that he had brewed inside, slowly evaporated into thin air.

Kwanele: No. No you could never disturb me Lwazi...

Nolwazi sighed lightly.

Kwanele: Is everything okay?

Nolwazi was silent for a while. Kwanele was now sober as a judge.

Nolwazi: Can we meet?

He tried to suppress his disbelief...

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Kwanele quickly got up from his chair and rushed out of his study to the bedroom. He walked to the bathroom and took a quick shower, to cleanse the whiskey stench. He then dried and lotioned himself up all in the span of 5 minutes. Once he was done getting dressed, he quickly made his way downstairs and got out of the house. He drove out within minutes...

While driving, his mind kept going back on forth, trying to figure what the hell he was going to say. As he approached their house, he felt a sharp pain pierce through his chest and began focusing on his breathing...

He got to the house and parked outside the gate. Before pressing the buzzer, he sat in the car for a long time, trying to stabilise every part of him. He couldn't really comprehend what was happening at this point and he didn't want that to be the case because he wanted to be aware of every single second that was ticking away.

After a while he finally got himself to a much better state and then slid down the window and pressed the buzzer. After a couple of minutes the gate finally opened and he drove in. The nostalgia hit him so hard that he had to count to ten in his mind. Suddenly his life in this house flooded his mind and he couldn't help but sigh heavily... It was now disappearing right in front of his eyes...

He smiled lightly as he parked his car on his usual spot, next to Nolwazi's and then got out. He walked to the door and didn't know whether to knock or walk in.

He stood there for a while and eventually rang the bell...

The door opened and he stood there, as the blood left his face.

Nolwazi looked at him and they both stood there for a very long time in silence, completely lost in their own world.

Kwanele finally allowed himself to breathe and Nolwazi followed suit and exhaled.

Kwanele: Hi.

Nolwazi: Hi.

He looked closely at her face and saw how worn out she looked. She definitely had a certain glow about her but then again there was something offish about it all.

Nolwazi: Come in.

She moved out of the way and he took a step inside the house. The warmth of his home filled him and he looked around...

Nolwazi walked over to the sitting area and he soon followed her. She sat down and he sat on the chair opposite her, with the table in between them.

Nolwazi fidgeted with her hands discreetly but Kwanele noticed this and part of him relaxed. Knowing that Nolwazi was also nervous made him slightly more comfortable.

They sat in silence for a while until Nolwazi cleared her throat and finally looked at him.

Nolwazi: My lawyer told me you're back.

Kwanele nodded lightly.

She kept quiet and just looked at him and he also didn't say anything.

Nolwazi: Is everything okay?

Kwanele: No.

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Kwanele: Is everything okay with you?

She avoided his eyes and nodded.

Kwanele: Is it?

Nolwazi: We're not here to discuss my life.

Kwanele: But I am your life, just like you are mine.

Nolwazi: I'm afraid that's not that case anymore Kwanele.

She stared at him and he counted to 10 in his head.

Nolwazi: Did you get the divorce papers?

Kwanele: You know I did.

She fidgeted with her hands again.

Nolwazi: Time is running o-

Kwanele: I still have 8 days.

Nolwazi: Why do you need all that time?

Kwanele: You want me to sign the papers?

She avoided his eyes once again.

Nolwazi: Of course.

Kwanele: I don't want to...

She looked at him and tried to hide her disbelief.

Kwanele: So what will happen if I don't?

Nolwazi: Kwanele.

Kwanele: I'm asking Lwazi.

She looked at him blankly and he stared at her intensely.

Kwanele: Ngiyabuza...

She was now looking at him pleadingly and he involuntarily stood up and went to the chair next to her and sat down. He turned her chair so she was facing him.

Kwanele: I'm asking Lwazi.

Nolwazi: You did this to yourself.

Kwanele: Is it selfish of me to not want to let go of you?

Nolwazi: Is that a rhetorical question?

Kwanele kept quiet for a while.

Kwanele: I fucked up Nolwazi. I fucked up so bad that even I can't believe I allowed things to get to this point.

Nolwazi looked at him blankly.

Kwanele: Approximately two years ago, I allowed my mother to fill my head to such an extent that I was no longer thinking or acting as myself.

Nolwazi: You can't put this on anyone else but yourself. No one put a gun to your head and told you to ruin your marriage and betray me.

Kwanele: You're absolutely right.

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Kwanele: I had declined to meet Tholi for months on end...

Nolwazi looked at him.

Kwanele: I can't even retrace all the steps it took to get me to this point because I honestly wasn't thinking straight.

Nolwazi didn't say anything.

Kwanele: Before I knew it, I was caught up in an emotional turmoil where I had no choice but to help Tholi.

Lwazi: Help her how?

Kwanele: Her brother was diagnosed with Leukaemia.

Lwazi looked at him in confusion.

Kwanele: Don't ask me how Lwazi but I found myself caught up in all of that.

Lwazi: Caught up?

Kwanele: Tholi needed the help.

Lwazi looked at him blankly. She was now very pale looking.

Kwanele: He had to go through chemotherapy...

Lwazi: He?

Kwanele: Tholi's brother, Jabulani.

Lwazi: I'm not following.

Kwanele: I offered to pay for his chemo.

Lwazi's eyes shot up and Kwanele looked down ashamedly.

Lwazi: What?

Kwanele kept quiet.

Lwazi: How did you go from paying for a stranger's chemo to marrying the sister?

Kwanele: It's all so complicated and jumbled up Nolwazi.

Lwazi: So you couldn't offer your services without marrying Tholakele?

Kwanele: As I said, I was not thinking straight. My mother also pressurising me on the side because you and I had been married for a while yet you were not conceiving.

Nolwazi swallowed hard and avoided his eyes.

Nolwazi: So you married Tholi out of pity?

He kept quiet.

Nolwazi: You wanted to save her? Is that what you're saying?

He didn't say anything.

Nolwazi: I don't know what's worse... You keeping such deep secrets from me or you thinking you can go around saving people at the cost of our marriage.

Kwanele: I really wish I could explain it to you but I honestly do not know how I lost track of everything. It all went by chaotically. Those were some dark times Nolwazi and I couldn't allow them to creep into our bubble.

Nolwazi: But you did allow that to happen, Kwanele.

Kwanele looked at her intently.

Nolwazi: I'm even more confused right now because you're not making any sense.

Kwanele: I'm sorry.

Nolwazi: It's too late.

All the things Kwanele had wanted to say slipped out of his mind immediately. He knew had to use this opportunity to say something that would show her just how much he loved her but somehow words really failed him. The shock of it all hit him so hard that he just sat there,

completely numb.

Nolwazi: The least you could have done was own up to your shit Kwanele. Instead of allowing this to get to this point, you should have shown me just how much I mean to you. You've allowed me slip right through your fingers when in actual fact you could have easily held on to me. You've pushed me right into another man's arms and I don't think I'll ever forgive you for that. I obviously don't mean anything to you if you could easily disappear after I tell you that I want to separate. All this time I thought you loved me. How could you let go of me so easily? Am I not worth your love?

Kwanele looked at her in disbelief.

Kwanele: You think I don't love you?

Nolwazi: You obviously don't. As fucked up as it is Kwanele, I was actually willing to forgive you. If you had shown remorse for your stupidity, I would have allowed myself to forgive you and try to rebuild our marriage. Till this day you have not owned up to your actions and that for me, is confirmation that you don't love me enough.

Kwanele was about to say something when they heard the door open...

Just as Kwanele was about to speak, Dean walked in...

He stood there and looked at both of them very coolly...

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Silence prevailed...

Kwanele clenched his fists so hard, nails digging into his palms. Fury raced through his body,

heating him to the very core and igniting a flame so hot within his heart that he almost screamed in agony and anger.

Dean on the other hand, was beyond cool...

He looked at both of them and then focused on Nolwazi closely. Nolwazi snapped out of her unknown zone and stood up. She walked over to Dean and stared at him, hoping he'd see the anger in her eyes. She walked past him and went to the kitchen and he glanced at Kwanele calmly before following Nolwazi. As soon as he got to the kitchen, Nolwazi turned sharply and looked at him.

Nolwazi: Really Dean??

He looked at her calmly.

Nolwazi: Really??

Dean: I'm confused. Why are you addressing me like this?

He was still calm.

Nolwazi: Ufunani la?

Dean: I came to ensure that you and I are fine. When I left you here you were obviously not okay and I wanted to make sure that all was well before I gave you your space. I thought we agreed that we wouldn't leave each other on a sour note?

Nolwazi: I am fine!

Dean: Good but there's no need for you to address me like that.

She kept quiet and Dean stared at her before shaking his head lightly. He then walked out of the kitchen and out of the house. Nolwazi stood there for a long time. As much as she regretted snapping at Dean, she still couldn't shake off the anger towards him. She felt like she had made it clear that she needed space so it angered her that he didn't respect that more especially because she was dealing with Kwanele...

She eventually walked back to the sitting area and was shocked to see that Kwanele wasn't there.

She looked around.

Nolwazi: Kwanele?

She saw that the sliding door that led to the patio was open so she made her way out and sure enough she found him sitting there. It didn't take a genius to know that he was mad. His face was beyond tense...

Nolwazi walked over to where he was and sat next to him. She allowed the guilt and shame of what happen to fill her as she stared at him for a very long time, hoping he'd say something.

Kwanele: I can't even say anything because I've lost the right to...

Nolwazi sighed quietly.

Nolwazi: You can say what's on your mind...

Kwanele laughed sarcastically.

Kwanele: This is beyond ridiculous!

Nolwazi looked down.

Kwanele: I may not exist in your world Nolwazi but for fucks sake this is still our house! How is it okay for that man to prance around like he owns the place?!

She looked at him blankly.

Kwanele: I know I have no ground to stand on by being offended but Nolwazi this is fucked up!

Nolwazi: I know...

She said that very quietly that Kwanele didn't even hear her.

Kwanele: Couldn't you both wait until you got rid of me? This doesn't even have to do with you respecting me because you obviously don't, and I don't blame you, but for fucks sake Nolwazi, come on!

Nolwazi tried saying something but words failed her. She kept quiet and just looked at him regretfully.

Kwanele: Did you see how he came over and walked through my house like he owns it??

He stood up and walked over to the garden and Nolwazi sat there and rubbed her belly discreetly because she could feel the cramps creeping up. She took a few deep breaths.

Kwanele stood at a distance for a long time. He knew he had to calculate every single one of his moves at this point. Putting his hands on Dean would take him 10 steps back... He was also just caught up in the middle because at the end of the day, he knew he couldn't blow up at Nolwazi because all of this was his fault to begin with. He couldn't show her the true nature of his fury because unfortunately, he had no ground to stand on.

He calmed himself down and then walked over to where she was... He grabbed a chair, placed it opposite Nolwazi and then sat down. He took a deep breath and looked at her but she was busy fidgeting with her hands and facing down.

Kwanele: Lwazi...

He said that quietly that she couldn't help but look up at him.

Kwanele: I tore your world apart. If I wasn't seeing it all this time, please trust that I see it now... I think the reason I keep shying away from what I did is because I can't seem to wrap my head around the fact that I actually brought you so much hurt. I am the person who is supposed to protect you from any negativity and trouble but I failed. It's so much easier for me to blame my mother and other factors instead of owning up to everything. I just can't bring myself to face the reality of what I did because it means I have to accept that you have every right not to want me in your life. I'm stuck in a place of denial because it allows me to hold on to you. I'm afraid that if I come to terms with what I did then I'm going to understand why you want to leave me.

Nolwazi: You have to understand that what you're saying is not reflected in your actions. I can't interpret your cold actions. You have been coming across as very unapologetic and insincere since this whole thing transpired.

Kwanele: But you know me...

Nolwazi: Knowing you is not enough Kwanele. I needed you to tell me that what you did was wrong but you failed.

Kwanele: So there's no way you can guide me to a better place with you?

She kept quiet.

Kwanele: I fucked up Nolwazi and I regret what I did.

Nolwazi just looked at him.

Nolwazi: Things will never be the same.

Kwanele: I don't want to lose you. I can't lose you Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: It's too late now...

She avoided his eyes and he stared at her belly.

He wanted to tell her that he knew but his lawyer instincts told him to keep it shut.

Nolwazi shook her head lightly.

Nolwazi: It's too late.

Kwanele: So you love him?

She finally bucked up the courage to look at him. Her eyes glittered with tears.

Kwanele chuckled very quietly and nodded.

Kwanele: So you've obviously been in love with him for a while now...

He said that as if he was having a conversation with himself.

Nolwazi looked at him in confusion.

Kwanele: Knowing you, you've probably been in love with him all this time...

Nolwazi: No-

Kwanele: You've never been one to love easily so I know for a fact that this love didn't just appear miraculously. Obviously you two have been secretly in love.

Nolwazi: Kwane-

Kwanele: You both needed a reason to be together... Why else would you run straight to him before you even got the chance to get rid of me?

Nolwazi was now sobbing in shock.

Nolwazi: You're wrong!

Kwanele: Am I, Nolwazi?

Nolwazi: Yes!

Kwanele: It sure looks like you've both been waiting for such to happen.

Nolwazi looked at him in disbelief and sobbed even more.

Kwanele: I'm not even trying to put the blame on you but I also can't help but question your love for me.

Nolwazi stood up and so did he.

Kwanele: So it took my actions for you two to realise that you love each other? I doubt... You've known for a while that you're in love. Why else would you pick him as rebound before we even separated?

Nolwazi: Kwanele no!

Kwanele exhaled loudly.

Kwanele: I can't even have a conversation with you without him popping up like the MVP. He's already overprotective over you... Like you are his woman now...

She kept quiet.

Kwanele shook his head lightly.

Nolwazi: You've got it all wrong.

Kwanele kept quiet and looked at her intently.

Nolwazi: You pushed me to him!

Kwanele: And I made you fall in love with him?

Nolwazi tried to compose herself.

Kwanele: This is obviously deeper than I thought...

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Kwanele: And you know what pisses me off, Nolwazi?

She looked at him nervously.

Kwanele: The fact that deep down, you KNOW VERY WELL that you did something wrong. You did something that not only affected you but this marriage as well. How are you able to live with yourself?

Nolwazi: What??

She looked at him in confusion and nervousness.

Kwanele: I have to go... I don't want to make you feel bad for anything and I'm afraid that if I stay here any longer, I'll end up digging a deeper hole.

Nolwazi stared at him as he walked back inside the house and disappeared.

She immediately sat down and allowed the tears to come out. She continued to focus on her breathing and hoped the cramps would subside...

INSERT 85

After 2 hours of driving, Dean finally got to his mother's house. He parked his car and then made his way to the front door which was open. He got in and went to the kitchen where he found Lindelwa busy with the pots. He stood behind her for a while, watching her hum quietly.

After a while he finally cleared his throat.

Lindelwa turned sharply and then looked at her son in shock.

Lindelwa: Langa!

Dean smiled lightly and stepped closer to his mother and hugged her tightly.

Lindelwa: Watch it now! My bones are fragile.

He chuckled quietly but still didn't let go of his mother. He held on to her and sighed heavily. Lindelwa immediately sensed that he wasn't okay and so she hugged him tightly as well.

Lindelwa: What's wrong baby?

Dean kept quiet and soaked in his mother's scent. He allowed her warmth to fill his cold aura. They stood there for a while until Dean finally let go of her. Lindelwa reached up to his face and cupped it in her hands.

Lindelwa: Talk to me.

Dean: I'm afraid of what I'm going to do...

Lindelwa: Is this about Nolwazi?

He nodded and looked at his mother in defeat.

Lindelwa let go of his face and then took his hand and led him to the lounge.

Lindelwa: I'll dish up for you first.

Dean nodded lightly as he sank on the couch and Lindelwa walked away. He rubbed his eyes furiously and then took off his shoes and switched on the TV. He changed through the channels absentmindedly until he got to the food network. He huffed in defeat as he watched Nolwazi's favourite show.

After some time, his mother walked back in with a tray. She placed it on the table and then sat next to him.

Dean: Ngiyabonga.

Lindelwa: Eat up. You look drained.

She took the plate.

Lindelwa: Sit properly Langelihle.

He sat up and then took the plate and began eating.

Lindelwa: Why do you look so drained? You were the opposite of this the last time I saw you.

She kept quiet and watched him eat. She'd occasionally wipe some food from his chin.

After a while he finally finished eating and then put the plate aside.

Dean: Thank you.

She looked at him concernedly.

Lindelwa: Yini kanti?

Dean huffed and looked at her.

Dean: I hate feeling like this.

Lindelwa: How are you feeling?

Dean: All my life I was okay with being selfish and living in my own bubble...

Lindelwa nodded lightly.

Dean: Nolwazi changed my whole perspective and turned it all around.

Lindelwa: And that's a good thing.

Dean: But it comes at a price. I'm no longer just concerned about myself. Living by and for myself was the easiest way of living but now I'm attached to someone else and I can't go a second without thinking about her, whether she is safe, happy and satisfied wherever she is.

Lindelwa: It's a huge adjustment.

Dean: To top it off, she's now carrying my babies.

Lindelwa looked at him weirdly.

Lindelwa: Babies??

Dean nodded lightly.

Dean: She's carrying twins.

She looked at him in shock.

Lindelwa: Are you serious??

Dean nodded.

Lindelwa: Oh my goodness!

She smiled and Dean looked at her seriously.

Dean: I love Nolwazi ma.

Lindelwa: And she knows that.

Dean: I'm not experienced when it comes to this feeling. The only person I have loved and will continue to love is you.

Lindelwa kept quiet.

Dean: Now with you, I don't have any problems. I know that my place in your life is stable and I will never have to question whether you will abandon me. I'm not scared of being vulnerable with you because I trust you with my life.

Lindelwa nodded.

Dean: What worries me with Nolwazi is that she might not understand my inexperience with this whole thing. I'm in a very conflicting place right now and I've been trying to suck it up but I'm struggling.

Lindelwa: Yini?

Dean: I'm insecure.

He looked at her intently.

Dean: I don't feel secure in Nolwazi's love and it's driving me mad.

Lindelwa: You need to understand-

Dean: I know her life is complicated and it's unrealistic for me to expect her to give in as much as I'm giving in at this moment.

Lindelwa: As long as you are aware of it.

Dean: I am very much aware of it and that's why I will never show her how insecure I am feeling right now.

Lindelwa: That will just burden her even more.

Dean nodded lightly.

Lindelwa: Unfortunately, you have to suck it up for now. As much as you don't want to admit it, these people have been married for years and you might not be aware of this Dean, but it's impossible to "unlove" someone.

Dean kept quiet.

Lindelwa: They shared a life together and you can't compare yourself with the husband because trust me, you will die.

Dean: What am I supposed to do?

Lindelwa: Stay in your lane. It's that simple...

Dean kept quiet.

Lindelwa: The woman is already dealing with a lot. She found a place of comfort in you so the last thing she needs is for that place to be tainted by other things. You need to keep that space pure as possible for her so she can always find solace in you. Don't be the person who adds on stress to her life. Work with her to ensure that she is happy as possible, regardless of her chaotic life at the moment. A woman needs a man who can provide a safe place for her while the rest of the world is going crazy. Once you have established that place you need to make sure that it is never tainted by anything. Keep it clean and pure. Her life is already a mess- don't you think it's lovely for you to be the person she walks to when she needs peace?

Dean: It's not as easy.

Lindelwa: You are a man. You suck it up even when it hurts the most. You cannot fall apart while the woman you love is obviously going through trials and tribulations. Your job is to provide a solid support structure for her. Don't complicate things for her even more by adding feelings of envy, anger and insecurity. Yes, it's not easy to watch her go back and forth with this man but at the same time you need to know your place. This man came way before you and once you fully accept that they share deeper memories than you and her, you will be much better. Accept his position and grow comfortable in your own position.

Dean huffed and scratched his head lightly.

Lindelwa: Don't show her your insecure side for now. It's too early for that. You'll just push her away. If she says she needs space, give her the space but at the same time don't abandon her.

Dean kept quiet.

Lindelwa: If you feel like you are going crazy, call me. We'll deal with it together... At this present time, Nolwazi is still too hurt and broken to be able to deal with your baggage. Help her release her baggage, show her that you are strong enough to hold her down when she needs you to. Otherwise you'll just push her away...

Dean sighed heavily and nodded.

Dean: Love comes with a price...

Lindelwa: Don't try to complicate love. It is the purest of them all. The only cost it has is the willingness to drop your guard and trust that the person will not harm you in an emotional way. You can either believe that love is a currency where you lose some when you give it, or believe to have unlimited amounts to give... What's your choice?

Dean looked down.

Lindelwa: Because I can tell you right now, if you think you lose when you give it, then you will never be happy. You will live your life denying yourself the joy that comes with loving and being loved.

Dean: I hear you...

Lindelwa: Now man and be the soldier this woman needs. Don't be a cry baby. You're no longer living for yourself now... You obviously have three people who will start finding solace in you so you need to start building that safe place for them. Be the rock that Nolwazi needs right now and just be aware that sometimes, you might need to support her from a distance...

Dean sank on the couch and nodded lightly...

INSERT 86 (Couldn't edit)

Tholi, who had passed out in Mdu's arms while watching the movie, woke up and blinked a couple of times. She put her head up and looked at Mdu who had also passed out very close to her. She carefully wiggled her way out of his hold and then got out of the bed and walked out of the bedroom.

She made her way to the kitchen and took some of the left over pizza that Mdu had ordered and

then put it in the microwave. Once it was heated, she made her way to the balcony and then sat there as she ate... She felt very weird. Somehow she felt calm and at peace. Just as she was about to let herself drown in her thoughts, she took a deep breath and blocked it all out. There was no use crying over spilt milk...

She sat there for a while until she heard the sliding door open and Mdu walked out. He stretched and walked over to where she was sitting.

Mdu: Shifta phela.

She moved a bit and he sat next to her and placed his arm around her shoulders. He eyed her humorously.

Mdu: So you ate my pizza now?

Tholi rolled her eyes.

Mdu: When did you wake up?

Tholi: About 30 minutes ago.

Mdu: Are you well-rested?

Tholi was about to nod when he pinched her and she winced.

Tholi: Mdu!

He chuckled.

Tholi: Stop treating me like I'm your 10 year old son.

Mdu laughed.

Mdu: What??

Tholi: You like playing with me like I'm your son.

Mdu: Angiyazi ke le oyikhulumayo sisi.

Tholi: You're rough.

Mdu: You think I'm rough?

She nodded angrily.

Mdu: We still have a long way to go, I see...

Tholi looked at him, clearly annoyed.

Mdu: Ngoba you obviously don't know what rough is...

She gasped in shock and Mdu looked at her innocently.

Mdu: What's wrong?

Tholi: You are filthy!

He looked at her in false shock.

Mdu: Angazi yini inkinga yakho yazi.

She stood up and walked back inside the apartment while he laughed at her.

Nolwazi dialled her mother's number and it rang for a while but she eventually answered.

Thandeka: Baby wami.

Nolwazi: Mama.

Nolwazi burst out and cried uncontrollably.

Thandeka: Nolwazi??

She cried for a good five minutes and once she had stabilised, she exhaled.

Thandeka: Kwenzenjani??

No words could describe the concern in Thandeka's voice.

Nolwazi: Mama I need you.

Thandeka: What's going on??

Nolwazi sighed heavily and kept quiet.

Thandeka: I'm booking a flight as we speak!

Nolwazi: Okay.

Thandeka: Where are you right now??

Nolwazi: The house.

Thandeka: Are you by yourself? Where's Bhenju??

Nolwazi: Angazi.

Thandeka kept quiet for a while.

Thandeka: There's a flight for tonight. I'll be there soon, okay?

Nolwazi: Okay ma.

Thandeka: Don't go anywhere Lwazi!

Nolwazi: I won't.

She dropped the call and lay on the bed till she dozed off into a hazy sleep...

Kwanele got back to the house and went to his study...

He had to take a shot of something just ease himself up.

He took a seat and closed his eyes just to get stabilised...

It had taken everything in him not to burst out and tell Nolwazi he knew everything... He thanked his lawyer instincts from preventing him from messing everything up.

It was now clear that he had to calculate all of his moves because Nolwazi was confused at the moment. He had to remind her just how much they both loved each other... The one thing he did notice was that she wasn't over him yet. He knew he had to use that window of opportunity...

Just as he was drowning in his thoughts, he heard a loud banging sound coming from downstairs. He quickly rushed out of his study and made his way downstairs only to find Thenjiwe...

She looked at him angrily.

Titi: Kanti ungenwa yini Kwanele??!

Kwanele kept quiet and looked at her blankly. All his energy had evaporated into thin air.

Thenjiwe: I have some news for you and wena you're busy ignoring me!

Kwanele: Ufunani Thenjiwe?

Titi paced up and down the room. Kwanele watched her intently and realised just how much weight she had actually lost... Obviously her sins were stressing her out.

Titi: Lalela la Kwanele.

Kwanele looked at her blankly.

Thenjiwe: That girl has been cheating on you!

Kwanele's facial expression didn't even change. He even looked bored.

Titi: DID YOU HEAR ME?!! THAT WHORE HAS BEE-

Before she could even finish, a loud piercing sound filled the room. The earth may have shaken slightly. Thenjiwe touched her cheek in complete and utter shock.

Titi: WHAT?!!

The after-effects of the slap filled her face and she winced as the burning sensation attacked her furiously.

Titi: WHAT?!

Kwanele looked at her coolly.

Kwanele: Phuma.

Thenjiwe breathed in and out like she had just run a marathon from the kitchen to the lounge.

Kwanele: Ngithe phuma.

She looked at him dead in the eye, stared at him for a while and then stormed out of the house.

Kwanele walked up the stairs again. His phone rang and he answered it without checking the caller id.

Kwanele: What?

Person: Kwanele...

Kwanele: Dr Smith?

Dr: Yes, it's me.

Kwanele sighed and sat on the edge of the bed.

Kwanele: Is there a problem?

Dr: I'm afraid I'm going to leave the country...

Kwanele: What? Why? Why do you sound weird?

Dr Smith cleared his throat uncomfortably.

Dr: Personal reasons...

Kwanele: Hmm...

He knew this man was lying but he decided to let it go.

Dr: So before I leave my practice, I wanted to tell you about your results.

Kwanele's jaw tightened.

Dr: We got them earlier than expected.

Kwanele: I'm listening.

Dr Smith sighed heavily.

Dr: Kwanele there is nothing wrong with you...

Kwanele sank on the bed and swallowed hard.

Dr: Hello? Can you hear me?

Kwanele: What??

Dr: All tests are clear.

Kwanele covered his face with his free hand and sighed.

Dr: I will leave your file with Jennifer...

Kwanele: Do that, Smith.

Dr Smith sighed heavily.

Dr: For what it's worth, I hope things work out for you...

Kwanele: We'll see...

Dr Smith sighed again.

Kwanele: Did you get the transaction I made to your account for these tests?

Dr Smith: But I told you, you didn't have to.

Kwanele: It's the least I could do...

Dr Smith: It was wrong of me-

Kwanele: This is me we're talking about... Stop stressing...

Dr Smith: Alright, I have to go...

Kwanele: Bye Smith.

Dr Smith dropped the call and Kwanele continued to lie there, processing what he was told...

Thenjiwe made her way to the undisclosed area...

Thenjiwe: What do you want?

The person looked at her weirdly and stared at her swollen cheek.

Thenjiwe: You fool! Are you here to stare at my damn face??

There was silence for a while until the person cleared their throat.

Person: I got some intel.

Thenjiwe: What?

Person: She's pregnant.

Thenjiwe: Who is pregnant????

Person: Nolwazi.

Thenjiwe almost fell to the ground but the person tried holding her... She hyperventilated for a long time until she calmed down.

Thenjiwe: How???

There was silence.

Thenjiwe: But...

She started sweating and breathing heavily.

Person: Are you okay?

Thenjiwe: Fokoff maan!

She huffed for a good five minutes and then stared at the person.

Thenjiwe: How sure are you?

Person: 100%.

Thenjiwe touched her chest and grunted loudly.

Thenjiwe: Bullshit.

She swallowed hard.

Thenjiwe: She won't give birth...

Person: What do you mean?

She hyperventilated once again and then puffed.

Thenjiwe: Fokoff!

Person: I th-

Thenjiwe: Futsek maan wena!

Person: My job is done here anyway...

The person walked away and left Titi there...

INSERT 87

Nolwazi dialled Mdu's number and it rang for a long time but he eventually answered.

Mdu: Lwa?

Nolwazi: Hey.

Mdu: Is everything okay?

Nolwazi: Hmm.

Mdu: Yini?

Nolwazi: I miss you, ukuphi?

Mdu: A friend's place.

Nolwazi: What happened to taking care of me?

Mdu chuckled.

Mdu: Usendodeni sisi so am I supposed to wait on you?

Nolwazi grunted quietly.

Mdu: Are you okay?

Nolwazi: No.

Mdu: Yini?

Nolwazi: Come back.

Mdu: Usendlini?

Nolwazi: Yes.

He sighed heavily.

Nolwazi: Are you busy?

There was silence for a long second.

Mdu: A bit...

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Mdu: But I'll be there shortly.

Nolwazi: Okay.

She dropped the call and then made her way downstairs to get some yoghurt. She then walked back upstairs to the bedroom and sat on the bed. She opened her laptop and began browsing for information about twins and how they actually come about. She sighed heavily and then put

the laptop aside in defeat. She glanced at the huge picture of her and Kwanele that was on the wall, she had forgotten to remove it... She looked at it for a very long time and thought back to their "meeting" earlier.

She sank in the bed and closed her eyes as she took a nap...

Just then, she heard footsteps and then Mdu walked in and she smiled lightly. She blinked a couple of times and sat up, balancing her back on the headboard.

Nolwazi: You look just like dad.

Mdu looked at her weirdly as he took off his shoes and got in bed next to her. They shared a hug and she held in her tears.

Mdu: What's wrong?

Nolwazi: My life is a mess.

Mdu: How so? You're getting a divorce angithi?

Nolwazi: That's proving to be something else nje...

Mdu looked at her intently.

Nolwazi: I just want to curl up and die.

Mdu: Yin'ndaba?

Nolwazi: I'm too overwhelmed. I don't know what to deal with k'qala because there's too much on my plate.

Mdu: What else is there to deal with?

She looked at him sadly and just shook her head lightly.

Nolwazi: It's too much...

Mdu: Well the Nolwazi we all know would not be fazed by anything.

Nolwazi: It's not that easy anymore. It's too much.

Mdu: What's happening?

Just then, her phone rang and she answered.

Nolwazi: Mama?

Thandeka: Baby I'm outside.

Nolwazi: Hawu why ungashongo ukuthi ufikile? I would have fetched you.

Thandeka: Hai man it's fine. I called that driver of yours.

Nolwazi: Oh.

Thandeka: Konje what's the code?

Nolwazi told her the gate code and then dropped the call.

Mdu: Mom is here?

Nolwazi nodded.

Mdu: Why??

He looked at her in confusion and shock.

Mdu: Heeh kanti what's going on here?

Nolwazi: Let me talk to her first and I'll fill you in, okay?

Mdu looked at her intently and nodded.

Nolwazi: Thank you for coming. What have you been up to?

Mdu chuckled.

Mdu: I've been out and about little sis.

Nolwazi smiled lightly.

Nolwazi: As long as you're protecting yourself.

Mdu: Haike angazi ukhuluma ngani.

Nolwazi: Hmm.

They chatted for a while until Thandeka's voice filled the house.

Thandeka: Lwazi!

They both smiled as they jumped out of bed, running out of the bedroom. They rushed downstairs and both jumped at Thandeka.

Thandeka squealed as they both clung to her.

Thandeka: Oh hai kodwa!

Mdu: I hate to admit that I've missed you.

Thandeka giggled and hugged both of them properly.

Thandeka: Bhenju why haven't you shaved?!

Mdu frowned and brushed his chin seductively.

Thandeka: Sies.

Mdu: The people love it.

Thandeka: The people should tell you that you look unclean.

Mdu: That's because I've been indoors.

Thandeka shook her head lightly and then focused on Nolwazi, who seemed much better, but Thandeka could tell that she definitely wasn't fine.

Thandeka: Hello baby.

Nolwazi: Hey.

Mdu: Do you see how weird she looks?

Thandeka: No man I think it's because I haven't seen you in a while.

Nolwazi: No, I'm definitely gaining a bit of weight. Haven't been watching what I eat or going to gym.

Thandeka hugged her again.

Mdu: Kanti why didn't you tell us you were at the airport?

Thandeka: Wanted to surprise you.

Mdu hissed.

Thandeka: Have you cooked dinner?

Mdu: Buza uNolwazi.

Both Thandeka and Mdu looked at Nolwazi and she pulled a face.

Nolwazi: I'm very busy.

Thandeka: Hehe.

Nolwazi: And Mdu is never around so who am I cooking for?

Thandeka looked at Mdu sharply.

Thandeka: Why haven't you been around??

Mdu: Haibo I'm also busy.

Thandeka: Busy with what? Mdu you said you'd come this side for your sister!

Mdu mumbled something.

Thandeka: Uthini?

Mdu: Nothing.

Thandeka sighed heavily and looked around.

Thandeka: I'll prepare something. I've never missed or dismissed a proper dinner and I'm not about to start now.

Mdu: Can I go now?

Thandeka: Uyaphi?

Mdu: Geesh I'll be back, relax.

Thandeka looked at him suspiciously.

Mdu then leaned closer to her face and gave her a kiss.

Mdu: See you soonest.

Thandeka: Mxm.

He laughed as he rushed out of the house.

Thandeka then sighed and looked at Nolwazi.

Thandeka: Do we talk now or after dinner?

Nolwazi: After.

Thandeka: Alright then.

She shivered dramatically.

Thandeka: I think we need to get new furniture yazi. This house is cold.

Nolwazi: Ouch.

Thandeka chuckled.

Thandeka: Oh shame baby askies.

They both walked to the kitchen...

After about an hour or so, Mdu finally got back to the apartment and found Tholi watching TV.

Mdu: Did you miss me?

She glanced at him.

Mdu: I got you some food.

He put the paper bag on the table and then threw himself on her.

Mdu: Missed me?

Tholi looked at him weirdly and he leaned closer to her and planted a kiss on her lips.

Tholi: You're disturbing me...

Mdu: Oh please.

He repositioned her so she could be on top of him. He placed his hands on her butt and then squeezed it.

Tholi: Hey!

Mdu: I missed you.

Tholi: Unamanga.

Mdu: Serious.

He planted a feather kiss on her lips.

Tholi: You left me here.

Mdu: I had to get you food angithi.

Tholi: Hmm.

He planted another kiss and smiled.

Mdu: You complain when I feed you. You complain when I don't feed you.

Tholi pulled a face.

Mdu: Did you also miss me?

She giggled as she shook her head.

Mdu: Mxm.

He squeezed her tightly and they shared another kiss. He stroked her butt gently and she stopped kissing him and he chuckled.

Mdu: Come, you need to eat now.

He let go of her and then reached for the paper bag and took out the take-away.

Mdu: Go get a plate.

She stood up and walked to the kitchen. She came back shortly after with two plates and Mdu only dished up in one plate.

Tholi: Aren't you eating?

He shook his head.

Tholi: Why?

He looked at her intently.

Mdu: My mom is here.

Tholi's face immediately became serious and tense.

Mdu: Yini manje?

She kept quiet and looked away guiltily.

Mdu: Relax.

She sighed and looked at him as he finished up dishing up for her. He then gave her the plate and she mumbled a "thanks". He watched her eat silently and after a while his phone rang and it was Thandeka telling him to come back.

Mdu: I'll be back in 2 hours tops okay?

Thuli: Okay.

He kissed her cheek before standing up and making his way out of the apartment once again...

Kwanele made his way to the door and Thuli walked inside.

Thuli: Hey.

They shared hug and he closed the door.

Thuli: What's up?

Kwanele: I wanted to ask you something...

They made their way to the lounge and sat down. Thuli looked at him worriedly.

Thuli: Yini?

Kwanele: I'm tired.

Thuli: What's wrong?

Kwanele: I don't even have enough energy to be mad anymore.

Thuli: Hai Kwanele, what's going on?

Kwanele sighed heavily and looked at Thuli intently.

Kwanele: Thuli, did you know that Nolwazi was on contraceptives?

Thuli looked at Kwanele in shock and he sank on the couch and huffed in defeat.

INSERT 88

Nolwazi, Mdu and Thandeka sat at the table and began eating.

Thandeka: Bhenju where were you?

Mdu: Haibo so now I have to explain myself?

Thandeka: Nolwazi says you've been out and about.

Mdu looked at Nolwazi and she stuck her tongue out discreetly.

Mdu: So you snitched?

Nolwazi: Hai I didn't say anything to her. She came to that conclusion without my help.

Thandeka: Usuyajola Mduduzi?

Mdu laughed.

Mdu: Can we respect each other's privacy though?

Thandeka: As long as you're using condoms. We don't want illegitimate children here.

Nolwazi's juice went through the wrong pipe and she began to cough uncontrollably.

Thandeka: Yini?

She coughed and Mdu passed her some water. She drank it slowly and then stabilised.

Mdu: U-right?

She nodded.

Thandeka: So are you dating just one girl?

Mdu: Mama!

Thandeka: Yini? I want to know.

Mdu: Nolwazi please change the subject. I can't deal with this.

Thandeka chuckled quietly.

Thandeka: I wonder...

Mdu: How is Ivy? I miss that thing.

Thandeka: You know your sister...

Nolwazi: She needs to come over soon. I also miss her.

Thandeka: She will do no such! Nomzamo needs to get a degree!

Nolwazi: Mama we've all accepted that she's going a different path. Don't force a degree down her throat.

Thandeka: Oh so wena you will take care of her for the rest of her life?

Nolwazi sighed.

Nolwazi: She's still young.

Thandeka: Hai suka. We all made a deal angithi? Every one of you should have at least one degree and then you go and do whatever you like.

Nolwazi: Let her be...

Mdu: Because you're wasting your money by paying for all these courses she keeps changing up. Use that money for something else ngoba she will never finish school, I tell you.

Thandeka: I'll ask Ma'Moloi to have a serious conversation with her. I'm sure she can change her mind.

Both Mdu and Nolwazi shrugged their shoulders.

Nolwazi: Anyway, how is dad?

Thandeka: He's good hey.

Nolwazi nodded lightly.

Thandeka: Wena Bhenju is your boss still fine with you being in Durban for this long?

Mdu nodded.

Mdu: I've been working from here.

Thandeka: Hai then it means things are serious with you and this girl.

Mdu: Don't start...

They continued to chat and eat for over an hour and then Mdu stood up and decided it was time to leave.

Mdu: Uhamba nini?

Thandeka: As usual, I leave when I am no longer needed.

Mdu chuckled.

Mdu: Nolwazi is such a little girl.

Nolwazi: Mxm.

Thandeka: Hai suka just go.

Mdu leaned down and kissed her cheek.

Mdu: Good seeing you.

Thandeka: Shap.

Mdu: See you around.

He looked at Nolwazi and she nodded. He then walked off and disappeared.

Nolwazi: Go freshen up, I'll clean...

Thandeka stood up.

Thandeka: Okay sisi.

She walked upstairs to her room and Nolwazi began to clean up...

Mdu finally got to the complex and he found Tholi cleaning up.

Mdu: Why are you even cleaning up because this is not my apartment?

Tholi: That's exactly why I'm cleaning.

She finished.

Mdu: Let's go.

Tholi: Where?

Mdu: I've just had a picture of all the girls who've probably been shagged in that bed and there's no way we're staying here any longer.

Tholi looked at him blankly.

Tholi: You're overreacting.

Mdu: Hehe so you don't mind crashing in that bed?

Tholi: Mdu...

Mdu: Tholi.

Tholi: You worry about the weirdest things.

Mdu grunted.

Tholi: I don't have the right to criticise anyone's bed at the moment.

Mdu laughed quietly.

Mdu: Because you're homeless?

She looked at him sadly and nodded. He then stepped closer to her and wrapped his arms around her.

Mdu: I'm here now.

Tholi shook her head lightly and didn't say anything.

Mdu: Yini?

Tholi: You think I enjoy having to depend on people?

Mdu: Your family is to blame for that.

She kept quiet.

Mdu: Unlike all these people who've toyed around with you, I'm going to help you constructively. I've been cracking my skull lately.

She looked at him weirdly.

Mdu: I'll help you apply to university and find a scholarship because I know you won't allow me to pay your fees...

Her face softened up.

Mdu: Getting an education is the first step to empowerment. I also don't like the idea of having you depend on people for everything. At least once you have an education, you have options.

Tholi's eyes watered up.

Mdu: You need to take charge of your life. The reason you have such a low self-esteem is because you're not the captain of your ship.

He smiled warmly.

Mdu: I understand it won't be easy because you've been conditioned to believe you're not worth it but I think we'll manage... You just need to trust me.

She hid her face in his chest and sobbed quietly.

Mdu: Why are you crying now? These are good things I'm telling you.

She continued to sob and they stood there for a while until she was fine. She finally looked up at him and he smiled.

Mdu: I'll help you out kiddo.

Tholi: You're two years older than me Mdu!

He wiped her tears.

Mdu: On a serious note though, I think you need to talk to someone.

She looked at him in confusion.

Mdu: A psychologist.

Tholi looked at him seriously.

Mdu: There is no way you can ever move on without dealing with all the things you've kept in for years.

Tholi: I'm fine.

Mdu: Uyabona ke? Don't do this.

She kept quiet.

Mdu: I'm really rooting for you Tholi so don't doubt my efforts.

Tholi: Don't overwhelm me.

Mdu: Okay.

She sighed heavily.

Mdu: How about we draw up a plan of how we'll go about everything? I'm a man of action and thorough planning. The only reason I'm successful is because I always set targets and goals for myself with time plans as well.

Tholi: You're business oriented.

He chuckled.

Mdu: We need to have little goals for you and have time frames as well. At least if you're working towards something then you'll wake up feeling slightly more motivated than just going through the motion, you know?

Tholi: What kind of goals?

Mdu: Firstly, we need to research all universities and the different courses they offer.

Tholi: But...

She kept quiet.

Mdu: But what?

Tholi: Never mind.

Mdu: Uh-uh.

She looked at him embarrassingly.

Tholi: I want to go to Johannesburg.

He laughed and looked at her lovingly.

Mdu: Of course you do kiddo...

She rolled her eyes.

Mdu: So you need to decide which university appeals to you in Jozi.

Tholi: UJ.

He looked at her in shock.

Mdu: Heeh so you want to be a bad bitch?

Tholi laughed.

Tholi: No, it offers good hospitality and catering courses.

Mdu: Hmm.

Tholi sighed.

Mdu: So you already know what you want to do?

She nodded.

Mdu: Good so that puts us a couple of steps ahead.

She looked at him.

Mdu: We need to research all the scholarships available.

She nodded and he planted a kiss on her forehead and sighed.

Mdu: We'll talk about all of this kahle ksasa. I'm actually tired for some odd reason.

Tholi: But we've been sleeping for the whole day.

He grunted.

Mdu: Let's pack up and leave this place.

Tholi was about to protest when he gave her a look and she sighed in defeat. They walked to the bedroom and packed up all the things they had...

INSERT 89 (Very short)

Nolwazi and Thandeka were now in bed together.

Thandeka: How are you really doing?

Nolwazi shook her head and Thandeka pulled her closer and Nolwazi started crying in her mother's arms.

Thandeka: Let it all out Lwazi...

Nolwazi: You're going to be disappointed in me.

She continued to cry and Thandeka kept quiet and comforted her.

After a long time, she finally looked at Thandeka. Her mother wiped her face and then looked at her lovingly.

Thandeka: Talk to me. Tell me everything from the beginning.

Nolwazi sighed heavily and then closed her eyes.

Nolwazi: I've been seeing someone...

Thandeka: Okay...

Nolwazi opened her eyes.

Nolwazi: And I'm in love with him.

Thandeka nodded lightly.

Nolwazi: At first I was convinced that it was just a fling.

Thandeka: Rebound?

Nolwazi nodded lightly.

Nolwazi: But the way we've connected...

She sighed.

Nolwazi: He's been so supportive and loving and we genuinely click.

Thandeka nodded.

Nolwazi: I love him but I don't want to get him involved in this battle with Kwanele. I don't want to taint my relationship with him.

Thandeka continued to nod.

Nolwazi: So I've been pushing him away... But I always find my way back to him. We're that close now.

She sighed.

Nolwazi: I just want to deal with one thing at a time. I'm not fully comfortable with him because I'm still tied to Kwanele.

Thandeka: Are you still tied emotionally?

She nodded.

Nolwazi: He was here today... As much as I'm angry, I still care about him.

Thandeka: As you should, realistically.

Nolwazi: So the fact that I'm still married to him makes it more difficult for me to allow the relationship with Dean-

She kept quiet.

Thandeka smiled lightly.

Thandeka: Carry on...

Nolwazi sighed heavily.

Nolwazi: It's Dean...

Thandeka: I know...

Nolwazi looked at Thandeka in confusion and disbelief.

Nolwazi: How?

Thandeka: I figured it out the time we came back from Dundee and I was staying with you...

Nolwazi looked down shamefully.

Thandeka: I wanted to ask you but I figured I should step back and you'd reach out when you needed me.

Nolwazi: Mama...

She said that quietly and shook her head.

Nolwazi: You should have told me...

Thandeka: It's none of my business...

Nolwazi looked at Thandeka nervously.

Thandeka: Something deeper is bothering you Nolwazi.

Nolwazi sighed heavily and closed her eyes once again.

Nolwazi: I'm...

She sighed and looked at Thandeka.

Nolwazi: I'm pregnant.

Thandeka's face immediately changed and her eyes popped out.

Thandeka: What?!!

Nolwazi sighed and nodded shamefully.

Thandeka: What???!

She got up from the bed and looked at Nolwazi in complete shock. Nolwazi just sat there and looked at her mother. She felt so ashamed.

Within seconds, Thandeka was on the bed, crying. Nolwazi got closer to her and didn't know what exactly to do. She tried comforting her but her tears were also making her weak.

Kwanele got to his study and his phone rang. He answered.

Kwanele: Hello?

Thuli: It's me.

Kwanele: Ufike kahle?

Thuli: Yes, I'm still thinking about you said.

Kwanele: Hmm...

Thuli: Well you could easily use all this information you have to delay the divorce...

Kwanele: I'm tired now and I don't think I can be with Nolwazi anymore.

Thuli kept quiet.

Kwanele: I need to swallow this pill...

Thuli: I never thought you'd actually say that.

She said that with a lot of disbelief in her voice.

Kwanele: I just need to do one thing before I sign the papers...

She sighed heavily.

Kwanele: Listen, thanks for coming. I'll see you at the office on Monday.

Thuli: Are you coming?

Kwanele: I need to finalise my resignation.

Thuli: Kwanele come on...

Kwanele: See you soon.

He dropped the call and began typing an email.

Thandeka put her head up and looked at Nolwazi with swollen eyes.

Thandeka: Shit, I need tablets.

They both looked at each other and ended up laughing quietly.

Thandeka: I haven't cried like this in a very long time.

Nolwazi looked at Thandeka sadly.

Thandeka: You're pregnant?

Nolwazi nodded.

Thandeka: How sure are you?

Nolwazi: Went to the doctor.

Thandeka rubbed her eyes gently and sighed.

Thandeka: So all this time you've been fertile?

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Thandeka: Dammit maan Nolwazi.

She wiped the remainder of tears.

Thandeka: I don't even know what to say...

Nolwazi: Are you angry?

Thandeka: I'm too shocked to think straight.

Nolwazi kept quiet and Thandeka stood up and walked to the bathroom. Just then, Nolwazi's phone beeped and she reached for it and it was an email.

Her heart rate increased as she opened it.

—

Dear Nolwazi,

Hopefully this email finds you well, considering how we ended off our reunion earlier.

First and foremost I want to say that I love you and will continue to love you. I hate the fact that I could not protect you throughout our marriage. I allowed people to cloud my judgement and as a result, I have lost you. This loss is proving to be a bitter pill to swallow but after careful consideration, I think it is time I swallow it. It is clear that your heart is no longer mine and I am the only one who is still hanging on unnecessarily. At this point I do not want to be the enemy of progress so it is with great hurt and regret that I let you go. Hopefully someday I will be able to accept that you deserve better than me because at the moment I am still convinced that you and I were meant to be, I know it's egotistical of me but I honestly cannot help it. You have obviously made up your mind about what you want and I know there is no stopping you when you are in such a state. I can only hope that you will be able live with whatever choices you make...

Before I sign the papers however, I would appreciate it if we could meet one last time. There is no need to bring our lawyers because this is going to be the last discussion we will ever have. I need to get some things out of my chest and I would like to think that you will not have a problem with affording me this request. I give you my word- this instant- that I will sign whatever needs to be signed as soon as this last meeting is over... It is time I let you live anyway.

Enjoy the rest of your night.

Kind regards,

Kwanele

—

Nolwazi read the email over and over again and sank deeper in the bed...

INSERT 90

The following morning Nolwazi got up very early and went to the bathroom. When she walked

back to the bedroom, she found Thandeka sitting up.

Thandeka: Are you okay?

Nolwazi: Yes I am...

Thandeka: Did the doctor tell you that you're going to experience pregnancy symptoms 10 times more than the usual pregnancy.

Nolwazi sat down and huffed in defeat.

Thandeka: I think what makes it worse is that you found out very early. Now your mind is playing tricks on you.

Nolwazi: But I'm already gaining weight.

Thandeka: You need to exercise.

Nolwazi grunted and Thandeka chuckled.

Thandeka: I just can't believe that you're pregnant Lwazi.

Nolwazi: So you're not mad at me?

Thandeka shook her head.

Thandeka: I'm just shocked that's all.

Nolwazi smiled lightly.

Thandeka: You know I could never be mad at you.

Nolwazi: Perks of being the favourite child

Thandeka laughed.

Thandeka: Don't let Bhenju hear you say that.

Nolwazi: Hai he has his father angithi.

Thandeka smiled warmly.

Thandeka: God really works in mysterious ways... This is amazing.

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Thandeka: As per tradition, you can't tell anyone about this. Not even Slindile can know.

Nolwazi nodded.

Thandeka: I just need to butter up your father...

Nolwazi: Maybe I should tell him after the divorce has been finalised.

Thandeka: Heck even Kwanele can't know about this. I'm sure there's an agreement in your prenup that stipulates what will happen if something like this happens.

Nolwazi: No, he doesn't know.

Thandeka nodded.

Nolwazi: Anyway, I need to get ready for a meeting.

Thandeka: Okay sisi.

Nolwazi went back to the bathroom and got ready.

Tholi was in dreamland when she was startled by her phone ringing. She blinked a couple of times in confusion because her phone never rang in life, like ever. She lazily reached for it and answered without checking the caller id.

Tholi: Hello?

Zani: Friend!

Tholi frowned.

Tholi: Zani?

Mdu growled as he lay comfortably on her chest.

Tholi: Hello?

Zani: Babe, where are you?? I miss you!

Tholi frowned in confusion.

Tholi: Uhm-

Zani: I miss you man! Are you at the house?

Tholi: Uhm-

Mdu: Tholi man.

Tholi kept quiet.

Zani: Ohhh you're with hubby??

Zani giggled dramatically.

Zani: I'll call you later boo!

Tholi was about to protest when Zani dropped the call. She stared at her phone in confusion and

then put it aside.

Mdu: Block that bitch.

Tholi: She was ju-

Mdu: I'm not interested.

He immediately dozed off and Tholi lay there, thinking about why Zani would call her out of nowhere more especially because things didn't go well between them the last time they saw each other.

Just then, her phone beeped and she took it and read the message:

Zani: It must be so nice to be you... You took my man and now you're even sleeping with him? Uzonya sfebendini.

Tholi gasped as soon as she read it. She quickly switched off her phone and tried going back to sleep...

Nolwazi got dressed and made her way downstairs.

Thandeka looked at her as she dished up and whistled dramatically.

Nolwazi: Oh hai ke uqalile.

Thandeka: Uyohlangana noDean?

Nolwazi chuckled.

Nolwazi: No.

Thandeka: Hmm you must be trying to impress whoever this client is.

Nolwazi: Not really.

Thandeka: Aren't you going to eat k'qala?

Nolwazi shook her head.

Nolwazi: I want to enjoy your food properly when I get back. I won't be long.

Thandeka: Okay then.

Nolwazi grabbed an apple and a packet of nuts and then made her way out of the house to the car.

She drove out and prayed everything would go well...

Kwanele arrived at their mutual lawyer's firm. He had asked if he could use one of their empty offices and they obviously agreed because they knew him. He made his way to the office he and

Nolwazi had been at when they were signing all their marriage documents years ago. He saw it fit to end things there as well...

He got there, sat down and then browsed through his phone...

Just then Jake, a friend of his in the law field, walked in the door.

Jake: Hey man.

Kwanele: How's it?

Jake: I'm doing well...

He looked at Kwanele pitifully and Kwanele chuckled.

Kwanele: You feel sorry for me?

Jake: It's just unfortunate, you know?

Kwanele: Things happen...

Jake: It is what it is...

Kwanele: Exactly.

He said goodbye to Kwanele and then disappeared. Kwanele walked over to the large window and looked down at the view... He sighed heavily as he found himself drowning in his thoughts.

Out of nowhere, he heard the door close lightly and he snapped out of it. He turned around and Nolwazi stood by the door. He didn't need an interpreter to tell him she was reeking of nervousness.

Kwanele: Hi.

Nolwazi cleared her throat.

Nolwazi: Good morning.

He nodded lightly and then sat down, Nolwazi also sat down opposite him. He looked at her and smiled lightly.

Kwanele: You look good.

Nolwazi: Thank you.

He chuckled quietly.

Kwanele: I guess pregnancy looks good on you.

Nolwazi froze completely. The world may have stopped for just a couple of minutes.

Kwanele watched her closely but he didn't react. He continued to look normal while Nolwazi's face turned pale.

After a long time, she finally took a breath and then stared at him in disbelief and shock... Within

seconds, the shock and disbelief turned into sadness.

Kwanele: I've said this time and time again, my love for you will never change... Despite everything that we have gone through lately, I think you know for a fact that I love you. No one knows the depths of my heart like you...

Nolwazi looked at him.

Kwanele: We've shared the best moments of our lives together and I don't think I'll ever lose those memories. Your love for me has pulled me through so much shit that I honestly don't know how I'll deal with starting over. You've taken care of my health, something I'll always be grateful for. When you said those vows, you meant them with all your heart and for the past four years, you have proven just how sincere you are. I can't thank you enough for being my rock...

He sighed heavily.

Kwanele: Sadly, I've messed up big time and it's very clear that there's no turning back from this. Now that you're pregnant, I know for sure that I've completely lost you. I don't want to put you in a situation where you stress yourself and your new family.

Nolwazi: But...

She looked at him in confusion.

Nolwazi: How?

Kwanele: Medical aid...

He watched as she made sense of what he said.

Kwanele: For the past couple of weeks I've been cracking my skull, thinking about ways to make sure that this divorce gets delayed for years... Trust me I could pull it off if I want but now...

He shook his head lightly.

Kwanele: Now I'm just wasting all of our time... What's the use of delaying the divorce if it won't guarantee having you back in my life?

Nolwazi swallowed hard.

Kwanele: I've decided to let it go... To let you go...

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Kwanele: For years I was convinced that you couldn't have children...

Nolwazi avoided his eyes.

Kwanele: We'd try and try again but shit, nothing would happen.

He looked at her for a long time and they sat in silence for a while.

Kwanele: My mother would insult you but somehow you never really showed it, on the outside especially, that you were affected by those insults. I knew they affected you to some extent but you never really showed just how much you were affected. You kept it in.

Nolwazi fidgeted with her hands.

Kwanele: Yes, you were sad and hurt but somehow those insults didn't really affect you that deeply. You always seemed to look past them.

Nolwazi finally looked at him.

Kwanele: Personally, I always thought it was because you were strong and my mother's insults were not taken to heart by you...

Kwanele sighed.

Kwanele: I was partially right though because you're strong vele.

He sighed once again.

Kwanele: But when you found out you were pregnant, the whole theory that you're infertile went out of the window.

He smiled lightly.

Kwanele: I can only imagine how happy you were... Finally, you proved everyone wrong... All these people who belittled you were going to swallow their words.

Nolwazi tried saying something but words failed her.

Kwanele: Then suddenly the wheel changed... Kwanele was the infertile one... The shooter of blanks.

Nolwazi sighed and he chuckled.

Kwanele: I have to be honest with you, I genuinely thought I was fucked up for a second there.

Nolwazi continued to stare at him.

Kwanele: But that was until our dear Dr Smith confirmed that I'm fertile.

Nolwazi fidgeted with her hands again.

Kwanele: And now the question arises... How is it that after four years of unprotected love-making, we are sitting here today, childless as fuck?

Kwanele looked at her calmly.

Kwanele: How the fuck is it that I'm sitting here with sperms that function properly, and you are sitting there with ovaries that function just as well?

Nolwazi: Kwanele.

Kwanele: Yes, Nolwazi?

She kept quiet.

Kwanele: Let me go get some water...

He stood up and walked out of the room, leaving Nolwazi in there...

INSERT 91 (Couldn't edit)

Nolwazi sat there in complete shock. Her body was close to defeating her but she had to keep it together for her sake. Kwanele had completely bombarded her and she couldn't even believe that any of this was happening. Above anything else, she was still caught by the fact that he knew about her pregnancy. All this time he knew yet he didn't do or say anything...

Kwanele: Nolwazi.

She quickly snapped out of it and glanced at him as he put his hand out, with a glass of water.

Kwanele: Bamba.

She cleared her throat and shook her head.

Kwanele: Yini?

Nolwazi: I'm fine.

Kwanele: Who are you trying to fool?

Nolwazi: Kwanele you knew about my pregnancy?

Kwanele nodded lightly as he sat comfortably in his seat and stared at her calmly.

Nolwazi was speechless. She tried to say something but words failed her...

Kwanele: I wish you the best of luck...

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Kwanele: But here's one thing I want to know...

He stared at her intently.

Kwanele: You were contracepti-

Nolwazi: Kwanele!

Nolwazi felt herself snap and Kwanele tried to hide his disbelief.

Nolwazi: Have you been investigating me? What is wrong with you??

Kwanele kept quiet.

Nolwazi: Why are you doing this?

Kwanele: Do you blame me?

Nolwazi: It just seems like you're turning all of this on me.

Kwanele chuckled quietly and shook his head.

Kwanele: I'm sorry if it's coming across like that. I probably got in my lawyer zone and forgot that you're my soon-to-be-ex.

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Kwanele: So you never wanted my children to begin with?

Nolwazi: You seem to have made your own conclusions. What's the use of asking me?

Kwanele kept quiet.

Nolwazi: You bring me here, attack me and then expect me to answer to your accusations?

Kwanele: I apologise for angering y-

Nolwazi: Don't patronise me Kwanele!

He kept quiet and Nolwazi's anger became apparent.

Nolwazi: First of all, your mother is not responsible for the end of this marriage.

He tightened his jaw.

Nolwazi: I hate to break it to you, but it's you for fucks sake!

He didn't say anything.

Nolwazi: You failed me Kwanele!

She huffed in frustration.

Nolwazi: The one person who had the power to change all of this bullshit was you. All it took was for you to defend my character. That's all! I fully understand that you were not responsible for what came out of your mother's mouth but for fucks sake Kwanele, you could have tried to defend me!

He didn't say something.

Nolwazi: I don't even know what you thought delaying this divorce would do for you. Why would I want to come back to you when I now have someone who is not scared of standing by me?

Kwanele's face changed completely.

Nolwazi: Even if you were to delay this for 10 years, I wouldn't come back to you. You don't deserve any loyalty, not when you yourself cannot be loyal to anyone else but yourself!

Nolwazi took the glass of water that was on the table and finished it within seconds.

Nolwazi: And for your own information, I was on contraceptives.

There was silence in the room as Kwanele processed this. He looked flabbergasted.

Nolwazi: And for your own clarity, I stopped after the first year of our marriage.

Kwanele still didn't say something.

Nolwazi: Is there a problem?

Kwanele rubbed his eyes gently.

Kwanele: Are you stupid?

Nolwazi: Excuse me?

Kwanele: Are you fucken stupid?!

Nolwazi looked at him in confusion.

Kwanele: You do understand that that could have been the reason you couldn't conceive right??

Nolwazi: Don't be stupid.

Kwanele: Why were you even on contraceptives to begin with??

Nolwazi: Why would I want to have a child in our first year of marriage?

Kwanele: Wow!

He looked at her in disbelief.

Kwanele: So you never saw it fit to tell me all of this?

Nolwazi: Kwanele both of us didn't want kids when we first married. Are you suffering from amnesia now?

Kwanele was speechless.

Nolwazi: Did we not discuss this? Did we not agree that we would focus on all of that after we had settled in as a couple?

Kwanele: You were on fucken contraceptives! So you still don't think you should have told me??

Nolwazi: Did you find it necessary to inform me that my inability to conceive was affecting you?

Kwanele kept quiet.

Nolwazi: Did you find it necessary to tell me that I was not woman enough for you so you would marry someone else?

Kwanele still didn't say anything.

Nolwazi: You know, had you come here and dealt with this appropriately, I'd probably feel bad but after you've flaunted all those accusations, I don't see why I'm even sitting here. So you thought guilt-tripping would prevent me from wanting to separate from you?

Kwanele: Wow.

Nolwazi stared at him boldly.

Kwanele: I don't know if I am pissed or disgusted.

Nolwazi: No, you are bruised. You failed to sit down with me while we were together to try to figure out why I was not falling pregnant.

Kwanele: Wow.

Nolwazi: Where was all of this courage when it was most needed? Ungangibhori Kwanele please.

Kwanele looked at her angrily.

Nolwazi: You are bruised by the fact that someone else beat you to it. Kwanele I'm done feeling guilty about anything. You failed me-

Kwanele: Heyi heyi heyi!

He stood up and Nolwazi looked at him in shock as he stepped to her seat and bent so his face could be closer to hers.

Kwanele: Don't you dare pull that bullshit with me!

Nolwazi's body tensed up fearfully.

Kwanele: You hid something serious from me!

She kept quiet.

Kwanele: You even asked Dr Smith to keep this shit from me!

Nolwazi: Wait, how-

Kwanele: We are beyond that now. I know how twisted you are now so there's no use playing the innocent wife.

She kept quiet.

Kwanele: The very same Dr Smith you trusted, was the one who told me about this shit.

Nolwazi didn't say anything.

Kwanele: He is the very same person who is convinced that that's why you couldn't give birth. Your body was obviously taking its sweet fucken time to adjust to not being controlled any FUCKEN INJECTIONS.

Nolwazi's face went blank.

Kwanele: So what do you have to say now, innocent Nolwazi?

Nolwazi: My body was perfectly fine.

Kwanele: Hawu?

Nolwazi: Don't make your issues my issues.

Kwanele: Love, I don't have any issues. I went to three fucken doctors to confirm Dr Smith's results. MY body is perfectly fine.

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Kwanele: You disgust me. I can't even look at you.

He moved away from her and walked to the big window... He stood there and tried to calm down.

Nolwazi: If turning this around makes you sleep at night then go ahead.

Kwanele: You have some nerve...

He said that while still facing away from her.

Nolwazi: Sign the papers please.

Nolwazi: Not until you sign the prenup arrangement.

Nolwazi: Excuse me?

Kwanele turned to look at her.

Kwanele: Now that you've slept with another person and fell pregnant, I get half of your assets.

Nolwazi looked at him in shock.

Kwanele: Umangazwa yini?

Nolwazi: Excuse me?!

Kwanele: You heard me. Go check that agreement and see what it says about us whoring around.

He walked over to the table and got his phone and car keys.

Kwanele: I'm so disappointed in you.

Nolwazi was still processing what he said about her assets.

Kwanele: I don't even need those assets but TRUST that I will make sure I get half of every single thing you have. I don't give a shit about being petty. I'll show you what petty is...

He walked out of the office and slammed the door. Nolwazi sat there, beyond dumbstruck...

INSERT 92

After driving for over an hour, Nolwazi finally made her way back to the house. She got in and found Thandeka re-arranging the furniture.

Thandeka: Woo yazi I was starting to wonder where you are!

Nolwazi looked at her blankly and Thandeka became serious.

Thandeka: Lwazi.

Nolwazi just stood there and Thandeka quickly walked to her and then led her to the couch.

Thandeka: Yini baby?

Nolwazi bit her bottom lip and looked at Thandeka sadly.

Nolwazi: I'm just tired...

Thandeka nodded lightly.

Nolwazi: I need to sleep.

Thandeka: Okay sisi.

Nolwazi stood up and walked away. Thandeka sat there and sympathised with her daughter. No one ever said divorces are easy. It's unfortunate that she had to go through all of this when she was pregnant.

Kwanele made his way back to the house after his long drive. He went to take a long shower and just as he was about to sleep, his phone rang and he answered.

Kwanele: Thulisile.

Thuli: How did the meeting go?

Kwanele: I'm not in the mood Thuli.

Thuli: Hai phela don't snap at me.

Kwanele huffed.

Kwanele: I'm divorcing her. What else do you want to know?

Thuli: How is she?

Kwanele: Thuli uxakwe yini ungamthinti ngokwakho uNolwazi?

Thuli: Listen here, the reason I'm shut out is because I am friends with you! Don't you dare turn on me as well!

Kwanele: Mxm.

Thuli: Have you no sense of loya-

Kwanele dropped the call and switched off his phone angrily. He got in bed and began dozing off.

In his dream he felt someone tap him. He kept trying to push this person off but this person proved to be strong. Just as he was about to try push again, he felt a piercing pain on his cheek and he quickly opened his eyes and grunted angrily.

Kwanele: What the hell?!

He blinked a couple of times and Thenjiwe stood there with her hands on her waist.

Thenjiwe: You seem to enjoy fighting me these days.

Kwanele rubbed his eyes angrily as he processed his mother's presence.

Kwanele: What are you doing here?

Titi: Haibo Kwanele.

She was so calm that Kwanele had to stare at her intensely to try and figure out what was happening.

Titi: You slapped me.

Kwanele: And you deserved it.

Thenjiwe chuckled quietly and shook her head lightly.

Titi: Get up, I need to talk to you.

Kwanele: Ngani?

Thenjiwe walked out and left him there. After a while he eventually got out of bed and walked out of the bedroom and made his way to his office. Titi sat on Kwanele's seat and kept twirling around in it.

Titi: It's such a pity that you're all alone yet you look so good son... Hai ngizalile phela la I don't care what anyone else says.

She giggled happily and Kwanele went to sit on the couch that was on the other side of the office. He sank on it and looked at Thenjiwe as she twirled happily.

She then looked at him warmly.

Titi: Have you told that woman that you know everything?

Kwanele kept quiet.

Titi: Would you believe me if I told you that I am fond of Nolwazi?

Kwanele was about to say something when she put her hand up, preventing him from speaking. She sighed heavily and then chuckled.

Titi: It's a mother in law's job to test a wife...

She sank on the chair and smiled.

Titi: I had to make sure that she would stick by you regardless of the tests along the way...

Kwanele couldn't even say anything at this point. He just looked at her dumbfounded.

Titi: She was doing so well dammit... She was doing so bloody well...

She grunted.

Titi: And now she's throwing it all away... Nxa.

Kwanele stared at her.

Titi: All I wanted was a grandchild... Four years yonke kodwa Kwanele? Am I wrong son?

Kwanele was too dumbstruck at this point.

Titi: Now that she is pregnant, she will understand why mothers go crazy most of the time... In time, she'll get why I'm such a mad woman when it comes to my children.

She chuckled quietly.

Titi: Now my poor son is the one who is suffering...

She sighed heavily and became serious.

Titi: I will make things right for you, baby.

Kwanele: What?

Titi: I will fix your life... It's the least I can do.

Kwanele: Get out of my house.

Titi sighed and nodded.

Titi: I'm still figuring out how I will deal with that crying pig, Tholi.

Kwanele: Phuma.

She nodded once again.

Titi: Take care of yourself ke.

She got up from the chair and made her way out of the office and disappeared. Kwanele sat there for a while, trying to process what just happened.

Nolwazi made her way downstairs. She felt slightly better after the nap she took. Unfortunately the stress was doing the opposite of what it would normally do to her. Usually she would deal with such craziness headstrong but somehow, this particular situation weighed heavily on her. She couldn't find any form of strength in her... It was all too much to handle.

She got downstairs and found her mother dishing up supper for her.

Thandeka: Right on time!

Nolwazi smiled lightly and walked over to Thandeka. Thandeka opened up her arms and they shared a long hug.

Thandeka: No one ever said this would be easy.

Nolwazi: Ngikhathele.

Thandeka: I understand. I just don't want you to stress yourself into having a miscarriage. This is a very sensitive stage in your pregnancy.

Nolwazi looked at her nervously.

Thandeka: You need to take care of yourself.

Nolwazi sighed heavily.

Thandeka: And the first thing we have to do is feed you.

Nolwazi: I might as well get fatter anyway.

Thandeka laughed.

Thandeka: Alright then!

They sat down and began eating.

Ntsiki made her way to the complex and sent a message. Minutes later the gate opened and she made her way in and walked to the apartment.

She knocked on the door and shortly after, Richie opened the door.

Ntsiki: Took you long enough.

She grunted and Richie looked at her blankly.

Richie: You seem to forget that I have a woman.

Ntsiki: Mxm.

She pushed past him and made her way inside. Richie closed the door and went back to the kitchen where he was busy heating up food. Ntsiki was about to take some when he gave her a deadly stare.

Richie: Did you cook that?

Ntsiki: Gosh calm the fuck down.

Richie: Don't touch that shit.

Ntsiki: It's funny how you keep putting this woman of yours in a high pedestal that time you're busy fucking me.

Richie: Right.

He dished up the food Sly had cooked for him earlier and then began eating.

Ntsiki: Nxx.

Richie chuckled quietly and walked to the lounge as he continued to eat. Ntsiki followed him angrily and sat next to him on the couch.

Richie: How was your day?

Ntsiki: As if you care.

Richie: I'm being nice. Don't spit on my face.

Ntsiki grunted and kept quiet. She had to always remind herself of the bigger picture every time she was with Richie... In her mind, there was no way Nolwazi would get away with taking Dean from her. She just had to find a way of getting back at her...

INSERT 93

Tholi was beyond uncomfortable.

Mdu: Yini manje Tholi?

Tholi: Mdu how am I supposed to shower?

Mdu looked over at the transparent glass that separated the bathroom and the lounge area of the hotel room. He chuckled quietly.

Mdu: Angazi.

Tholi: Did you know that these hotel rooms are built like this?

He shook his head and looked at her innocently.

Tholi: Argh.

He lay on the bed and chuckled.

Mdu: Yazi une-drama.

He switched on the TV and focused on it while Tholi unpacked some of her things. She walked over to the kitchen area and poured herself some water. She then looked at the bathroom that glared back at her. The wall was built with bricks till halfway and then from that point to the top, it was glass. The shower stared right back at her and she looked over at the bed area and there was no way she could hide. Even peeing would be a mission because the toilet was right next to the shower.

She hissed and cursed at whoever was responsible for building such a weird hotel room. Clearly it was meant for lovers...

She sighed heavily and walked to her suitcase and took out her toiletry bag. She glanced at Mdu who was on the bed and realised that he had dozed off. She quickly rushed to the bathroom and got in the shower. As soon as the water touched her body, she relaxed and allowed herself to enjoy the sensation it brought.

She was slowly allowing herself to open up a bit and she vowed to keep trying, despite how difficult it was.

She finished up, got out of the shower and then dried herself. She bent down to lotion her legs and the second she stood properly to lotion her arms, she remembered the transparent glass and squealed when she saw Mdu sitting on the bed, at a distance. She quickly kneeled down and stayed on the floor for a while.

Mdu was laughing quietly as he watched from a distance. He stood up and walked over to the bathroom and opened the door.

Mdu: You're so dramatic. What are you doing down there?

Tholi: Get out!

Mdu: Mxm.

He walked in and pulled her up and she quickly grabbed her towel and covered herself.

Mdu: Can I shower now?

Tholi: Suit yourself.

She pushed him out of the way and walked out dramatically.

Mdu: Please bring my stuff.

He looked at her through the glass as she walked to his bag and took out his toiletry bag. She walked back in the bathroom and gasped in shock. She quickly looked away and Mdu chuckled.

Mdu: Mxm.

She put the bag down and quickly got out of the bathroom. Mdu got in the shower and began cleaning himself up. Tholi walked to the bed area and quickly got into her pyjamas. She then cleaned up and sat on the bed, avoiding Mdu over on the other side. She would occasionally take a glance at him and then hiss at the sight.

Mdu walked out of the bathroom while drying himself. He lotioned himself at the kitchen area and Tholi lay on the bed and focused on the TV.

Mdu: Should I switch off the air-conditioner?

Tholi: Hmm?

Mdu: It's getting stuffy.

Tholi kept quiet.

Mdu finished up doing whatever he was doing and then walked over to the bed and laid next to her.

Mdu: Did you die ke?

Tholi huffed and he pulled her closer to him till half of her body was on him. He kissed her neck gently and she wiggled. He continued to kiss her till her body relaxed and she eventually giggled.

Mdu: You know how cute you are when you try to hide the fact that I make you blush?

She hid her face in his neck and took in his scent. He gently slid one hand under her pyjama top and she sighed quietly. She then lifted her face towards his and they kissed one another tenderly. Mdu's hand run up her back and the other one slid down her waist. She backed her head up a bit and then looked at him. Mdu looked at her adoringly and seconds later, they were back to kissing. She repositioned and Mdu got on top and balanced himself on his elbow. He leaned his face towards her neck and began planting light kisses slowly. She moaned quietly as she wrapped her legs around him. For a long time they got lost in that kiss, moaning and touching each other... Tholi's body was now heating up and Mdu's body was tensing up.

Tholi couldn't believe what was happening to her. Her senses were all over the place, probably because it had been so long since she had experienced anything close to intimacy. The rush of heat and intensity filled her and she squirmed as Mdu's hand covered her breast. He managed to take off her top and was now touching her breast as he continued to kiss her.

The second she comprehended what was happening, she quickly tensed up and Mdu stopped what he was doing and looked at her calmly. She was suddenly very self-conscious. The thoughts that went through her mind were telling her that they had better stop right now because they had gone too far.

Mdu got closer to her face and planted a kiss on her lips but she didn't respond.

Mdu: Talk to me.

She looked at him uncomfortably and his face softened up even more.

Mdu: I don't think you understand how I feel about you.

She bit her lower lip uneasily.

Mdu: I love you.

They stared into one another's eyes and then embraced again, their bodies pressing against each other. She sighed quietly and he smiled and leaned in for another kiss and she slowly relaxed again. She responded and Mdu's hand touched her breast once again. She stopped kissing him because the moaning was too much. She shut her eyes as he continued to rub her nipple tenderly.

Tholi: Mdu...

Mdu: Yes?

She moaned as she felt his warm tongue circling her nipple slowly. She placed a hand on her mouth because she was afraid that the moaning would be too much. Mdu made his way to the other breast and sucked the nipple gently. She bit her bottom lip as her breathing became shorter and lower.

Mdu trailed kisses up and got back to her neck. He bit her lightly and she squirmed. He placed his lips on her ear and kissed her lightly.

Mdu: I love you.

The sound of his voice resonated deep within and she couldn't sustain the heat anymore. She wiggled underneath his weight and let out a slight cry. He trailed more kisses down her neck, to her chest and then got to her waist. He carefully removed her pyjama pants and she tensed up again. He looked up at her and saw that she had now opened her eyes and was looking at him nervously. He carefully got on top of her and looked at her lovingly.

Tholi: Maybe we should switch off the lights.

Mdu: I'm not crazy.

She looked at him pleadingly.

He then repositioned again and made Tholi be on top of him. She hid her face in his neck and they lay in silence for a long time, both paying close attention to their low breathing. Tholi eventually put her head up and looked at him.

Tholi: I don't love myself.

Mdu: That's a damn shame.

She sighed.

Mdu: Kodwa ke uthandwa yimi.

She stifled a blush and he laughed quietly.

Mdu: I'm not about to do shit in the dark. I'm not that psychotic.

Tholi huffed and grunted.

Mdu: Huff all you want.

He repositioned them again and was on top once again. They kissed gently and her body very slowly relaxed.

Mdu stopped and the look on his face had changed. He smiled seductively and she shivered.

He planted a kiss on her cheek and got closer to her ear.

Mdu: The succulent full breasts...

Tholi shivered as he went down to her breasts and cupped one with his hand.

Mdu: With their dark coral nipples standing ever so erect...

She shivered once again as his tongue landed on one nipple and sucked on it gently.

Tholi: Mdu...

He went to the other nipple and sucked on it as well and then trailed kissed to her belly.

Mdu: The indented waist...

He planted feather kisses around her waist area and then touched her hips.

He stroked her gently and just as she was about to say something he quickly turned her around and spanked her butt. She squealed in shock.

Mdu: Those perfectly rounded hips with that tantalising butt...

She giggled quietly as she hid her face in the pillow. He turned her around again and then got on top of her, balancing himself with his elbow. He stared at her as her face turned completely red. He kissed her cheeks...

Mdu: The flushed cheeks that defeat your attempt to act tough.

She pouted and he planted a kiss on her lips and smiled as she reeled him in for a deeper kiss. He then broke it.

Mdu: Those lips that talk a lot of shit.

Tholi: Hey!

He chuckled as he kissed her again. He gently broke the kiss and then went up to her nose and went to her left ear. He kissed it.

Mdu: These ears that have definitely heard and processed some despicable things... Probably why your self-esteem is so fucked up...

She closed her eyes as he trailed kisses around her face and eventually got to her eyes. He kissed them gently and she opened them and they stared at each other.

Mdu: These eyes that have definitely seen some crazy shit...

He placed his lips on hers and they stayed like that for a while.

He trailed more kisses and eventually got to her forehead.

Mdu: And this head that's hard and stubborn as fuck.

She giggled as he trailed even more kisses. He went down her neck, got to her chest and

focused on her left side. He kissed that whole section and looked at her.

Mdu: And this heart that refuses to let go...

She bit her lip as she tried to hold in the tears and Mdu kissed that section again.

Mdu: This heart that needs to open up and allow love to happen.

She pulled him up and they stared at each other for a while. He wiped her tears and she closed her eyes. He planted kisses on both eyes and laughed quietly and she opened them.

Mdu: And these eyes that need to stop producing these damn tears.

Tholi: Hey!

He pressed himself harder against her and she wrapped her legs around him.

Tholi: I love you too.

Mdu: Of course you do. I was about to turn into a poet for you...

She giggled.

Mdu: Now can we do this shit? There's only so much waiting a man can survive...

Tholi chuckled quietly and nodded as she reeled him in for another kiss, but this time it was deeper and more passionate...

INSERT 94

It was now Monday and Nolwazi was getting ready to go to work. She hated how inconsistent her work life currently was and she decided that she would stop taking these unnecessary off days. She made her way downstairs just as Thandeka was dishing up.

Nolwazi: Can't you stay with me forever?

Thandeka laughed and they shared a hug.

Thandeka: I wouldn't mind. I'll probably move in once you give birth.

Nolwazi smiled.

Nolwazi: Of course you'll stay with me.

Thandeka: How are you feeling about work?

Nolwazi: Overly excited.

Thandeka: At this point, it's the only aspect of your life that is still intact.

Nolwazi sighed heavily as she began eating.

Nolwazi: I guess...

Thandeka: UKwanele yena uthi uzosign-a nini lamaphepha?

Nolwazi: I'll tell you about the new developments tonight.

Thandeka: Is it bad news?

Nolwazi nodded.

Thandeka: Yoh uh-uh this is too much now.

Nolwazi: Tell me about it.

Thandeka sighed.

Thandeka: Anyway, I'm spending the day with Nomi.

Nolwazi frowned.

Thandeka: Yini?

Nolwazi: I haven't spoken to her...

Thandeka: Haibo why?

Nolwazi: Angazi ma. I've been a good friend to all these people yet when the tables turn abantu bayanyamalala... Sly is the only one who's been keeping tabs.

Thandeka: Hai ungasho njalo. Even Thuli?

Nolwazi nodded.

Thandeka: I'll speak to Nomi.

Nolwazi: I have bigger things to worry about anyway...

Thandeka: True.

Nolwazi finished up her food and got up.

Nolwazi: Thank you ne?

Thandeka: Anything for you baby.

They shared a kiss and Nolwazi went to get her things.

Nolwazi: Enjoy your day ke.

Thandeka: You too love.

Nolwazi made her way out of the house and got in her car and drove off.

She finally arrived at work and as she was walking to her office, she bumped into Alex.

Alex: Look what the wind blew in!

Nolwazi rolled her eyes and they shared a hug.

Nolwazi: How are you Alex?

Slowly but surely, all the power she carried in her workplace began to creep back in her system.

Alex: I'm good. We've missed you... and Dean.

Nolwazi chuckled quietly.

Nolwazi: I have missed you too... Unfortunately I can't speak for Dean.

Alex laughed.

Nolwazi: Is Phiwe in?

Alex: The poor girl has been restless since you disappeared.

Nolwazi: Shame.

They walked to her office and before she knew it, Nolwazi was already bombarded by Phiwe.

Phiwe: OMG OMG OMG!

Nolwazi: Miss Phiwe!

Phiwe squeezed Nolwazi lovingly.

Alex: Why aren't some of us given such hugs?

Nolwazi ignored Alex and continued to hug Phiwe.

Phiwe: Boss ladyyyy!

Nolwazi chuckled quietly.

Phiwe: Arghhh I've missed you!

She finally let go of Nolwazi and then looked at her with tears in her eyes.

Nolwazi: Aww don't cry.

Phiwe: You look...

Phiwe looked at Nolwazi from head to toe.

Phiwe: You look...

Alex: Amazing.

Nolwazi eyed Alex and he put his hands up playfully.

Phiwe: Yes, you look amazing!

Nolwazi: Well that's encouraging...

Phiwe: How have you been? I thought of calling you but then I knew you were probably busy.

Nolwazi chuckled and looked at the adorable Phiwe.

Just then, Alex cleared his throat and Nolwazi glanced at him as he became serious.

Nolwazi: And then?

She frowned as she looked at the direction he was looking at and then realised why he was acting weird.

Dean was walking towards them... Phiwe turned around and hissed as she also saw Dean...

Nolwazi had to try by all means to ensure that she kept her face straight. Dean looked so ravishing in his usual tailored suit.

Phiwe: Oh my...

They all looked at him, with his dead-ass-serious-as-fuck-face. He was only focused on Nolwazi. He finally got to them and then glanced at Alex and Phiwe.

Alex: Ah Dean... How's it?

Dean looked at Alex blankly.

Dean: Good, you?

Alex: I'm great man...

Dean then glanced at Phiwe and she shuddered.

Phiwe: Good morning Dr Hlongwane...

Dean: Morning.

Phiwe sighed dramatically.

Dean then looked at Nolwazi intently.

Alex: Ah Phiwe, we should get going...

Phiwe: Okay.

They walked off and Dean and Nolwazi stood there for a while. Eventually, Nolwazi snapped out of it and led the way to her office. She opened the door, walked in and Dean followed her and closed the door. She put down her things and then turned to look at him.

Nolwazi: Hey.

He stepped closer to her and pulled her to his arms.

Dean: Hey.

She wrapped her arms around his neck and leaned closer to his face.

Dean: Still want space?

Nolwazi laughed quietly.

Nolwazi: You think I was being dramatic?

Dean: I won't respond to that.

She chuckled and hid her face on his neck. He planted a kiss on her ear and sighed quietly.

Dean: I miss you.

Nolwazi: I miss you too.

Nolwazi lifted her head and looked at him.

Nolwazi: I'm sorry.

He tightened his grip on her and she leaned closer to his face and they shared a kiss. She felt

herself smile involuntarily and then broke it.

Nolwazi: How are you?

Dean: Could be better.

Nolwazi: And this is all because I was being unnecessary?

Dean: Your words, not mine.

Nolwazi kissed him again.

Dean: How are my kids?

Nolwazi shot him a look and he chuckled.

Dean: Banjani?

Nolwazi: Mxm.

They kissed again and he lifted her and carried her to her desk. He carefully placed her on the edge of the desk and then stood in between her legs.

Nolwazi: I've been having cramps.

Dean looked at her seriously,

Nolwazi: Been stressed...

Dean: Yini?

Nolwazi sighed heavily.

Dean: Nolwazi.

Nolwazi: It's Kwanele.

He tightened his jaw.

Nolwazi: He wants 50% of everything that has my name on it.

Dean looked at her in confusion and Nolwazi went on to explain everything to him.

Dean: Uyanya.

Nolwazi kept quiet.

Dean: The son of a bitch is the one who went whoring around and now he's going to turn this shit around? No, fuck that.

Nolwazi sighed.

Dean: You do understand that there's no way he's going to get away with this right?

Nolwazi: Maybe it's what I need to do just to cut him off permanently.

Dean: Not when you've worked hard for your shit. Iyanya lenja.

Nolwazi: I'll recover...

Dean: Mxm.

Nolwazi: Anyway, we need to find a new doctor.

Dean: Definitely.

Nolwazi: You were right about Dr Smith...

Dean looked at her intently and she went on to tell him all about that other saga as well. He chuckled in disbelief.

Dean: So people are just going to walk all over you now?

Nolwazi sighed.

Dean: Give me permission to find that old sag of a doctor...

Nolwazi: It's water under the bridge now.

Dean shook his head.

Dean: If he's buck enough to not obey and respect his professional ethics then he should be buck enough to face my wrath.

Nolwazi looked at him in disbelief.

Dean: Nolwazi I've been very patient with you and I will remain so till you're back on your feet. But you see that husband of yours?

Dean let go of her.

Dean: That epileptic piece of shit needs to be taught a proper lesson. Now everyone has to pay for him not being a man?

Nolwazi: Dean.

Dean: I hate being tested. You don't come for what's mine and think you can waltz around freely.

Nolwazi sighed heavily and just looked at him in defeat. Her main concern at the moment was all these cramps that she was getting... She needed to find a new doctor ASAP.

INSERT 95

Tholi made her way to the bathroom and tried peeing but her thighs were in pain. She eventually tried squatting and finished up. She then made her way back to the bedroom and slipped back in the covers and Mdu turned and glanced at her.

She hid her face and Mdu lazily pulled her closer to him.

Mdu: Chubby cheeks.

Tholi frowned and he kissed her.

Mdu: Ulale kahle?

She nodded and he kissed her again. She rested her head on his chest and closed her eyes. Just as she was about to doze off again, her phone rang and she put her head up and looked at Mdu weirdly.

Mdu: Your phone actually rings?

She punched him lightly as she reached for it and checked the caller id. Her eyes popped up when she saw Zani's name pop up.

Mdu: Yini?

Tholi: UZani.

Mdu grabbed Tholi's phone annoyingly and answered it.

Mdu: What?... Ufunani kuTholakele?... Manje ungenaphi wena?... Don't test me Zanele... This will be the last time you contact her, understood?... Mxm.

He dropped the call and looked at Tholi angrily.

Tholi: What did she say?

Mdu: If this bitch calls you again, let me know.

Tholi: Don't call her a bitch!

Mdu: Mxm.

Tholi: No Mdu!

Mdu: Angazi yini inkinga yakho.

Tholi: You can be so disrespectful Mduduzi.

She was about to get out of bed when he pulled her.

Mdu: One thing I will never do ke is argue with you about nonsensical things...

Tholi: You calling a woman a bitch is nonsensical?

Mdu: Is she not a bitch?

She tried getting out again but he pulled even harder.

Mdu: Tholakele yini manje?

Tholi: You're rude.

Mdu: So you're fine with Zani telling everyone about your business?

Tholi kept quiet.

Mdu: Stop holding on to people who do not deserve you.

Tholi: But calling her a bitch was uncalled for.

Mdu: I apologise.

Tholi looked at him suspiciously and he smiled innocently.

Mdu: Can we stop talking about irrelevant people now?

She sighed heavily and he grabbed her face and kissed her.

Tholi: Hmm.

Mdu: Let's go shower...

Tholi looked at him uncomfortably and he squeezed her.

Mdu: What? I've sucked the daylights out of you so angazi why uzenza shy.

Tholi: Mdu!

He chuckled and kissed her again.

Mdu: Woza.

He got up and then pulled her out of bed. They walked to the bathroom and he took off his sweatpants. He then pulled her and took off the t-shirt she was wearing, which was his... Tholi's body was now exposed and she wanted to die. Mdu walked inside the shower and pulled her in. He turned on the water and Tholi groaned.

Tholi: It's too cold!

She folded her arms and stood there while Mdu adjusted the water.

Mdu: Is this fine?

Tholi: Hai it's still cold.

She pushed him aside and began adjusting the water.

Mdu: So I guess it's true what they say about women...

Tholi: What?

Mdu: That you all love showering in hot water because it reminds you of hell, where you all come from.

Tholi looked at him and laughed.

Tholi: Where did you even hear that?

She giggled as she adjusted the water so it became hotter.

Mdu: Tholi this shit is too hot!

Tholi: No, this is perfect.

Mdu shivered dramatically and Tholi punched him playfully and he pulled her into his arms.

Mdu: Umuhle yezwa?

Tholi: No, please stop.

She quickly turned around and reached for her soap.

Mdu: Letha la.

He grabbed the soap and began applying it on the washing towel. He then started rubbing her back and she stood there, beyond rigid. He went down her back and then turned her around and smiled.

Mdu: Awuse-tense nje.

Tholi frowned.

Mdu: Put up your arms.

She reluctantly did as she was told and he gently rubbed her stomach and she growled. He carefully went around her breasts and she bit her bottom lip uncomfortably. He stared at her as he focused on one breast at a time.

Mdu: Ewu kodwa!

He smiled brightly.

Tholi: Watch it.

Mdu: I'm just admiring.

Tholi: Argh.

They went back to being silent and he slowly went down her stomach. She stared right back at him as he got below her belly...

Mdu: Uyangibheka...

He slowly bent down and was soon kneeling on the ground. He made her open up her legs slightly and then rinsed the washing towel.

Mdu: Vula kancane phela.

She looked down at him nervously but eventually opened them up a bit. He slowly cleaned her up... Very gently...

Somehow this ignited something that was buried deep within... The intense feeling crept in and she moaned quietly. Mdu looked up and smiled when he realised the effects of simply cleaning her... He continued to rub the towel around her clit and she moaned loudly.

Tholi: Mdu...

Mdu: Hello baby...

She looked down at him and gave him a weird look and he chuckled. He put the washing towel aside and then placed his hand on her vagina.

Tholi winced and closed her eyes as he slowly began to stroke her clit.

Tholi: Haa...

She sighed quietly and he tapped her slowly around that area.

She lost her balance and held on to his shoulders. He slowly slid in one finger and she let out a scream

Mdu: Ungawi phela chubby cheeks.

He chuckled as he looked up and saw how defeated she looked. It really didn't take much to get her to such a place. Tholi acted tough and closed off but her body always defeated her when it came to Mdu. He used his thumb to rub her clit and his middle finger to delve deep within her walls. The water pierced through her back and the steam made it even harder to breathe.

He made her open her legs even wider and she let out another scream when she felt his tongue on her clit. He nibbled on it very tenderly at first but within seconds he was buried deep between her thighs and was putting in the work. Tholi tried holding on to the sliding glass but it was too slippery. She placed one hand on the soap holder and the other hand on Mdu's shoulder. He slipped in one finger as he continued to lick and within seconds, she was panting and squealing.

Mdu gave her one last lick and she winced loudly.

Tholi: Mdu!

He held her as she lost balance. She stood up and she collapsed in his arms. She hid her face in his neck and panted uncontrollably.

They stood there for a while until Tholi was stable again. She eventually lifted her face and sighed heavily.

Mdu: Hey there.

She blushed and he leaned closer to her face and they shared a kiss. The second she felt his erection, more intense feelings crept up in her and she moaned.

Mdu: And then?

She blushed and Mdu chuckled.

Mdu: You're so greedy.

She giggled shyly and he kissed her again.

Mdu: Clean your man up ke khona ngizoku-setta kahle.

She stifled a laugh as she took Mdu's soap and began cleaning him up...

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Nolwazi: Manje you're going to spend the rest of the day all grumpy?

Dean looked at Nolwazi intently.

Dean: I'm annoyed.

Nolwazi sighed and focused on her take-away meal.

Dean: No one will touch you, okay?

She chuckled.

Nolwazi: I doubt it will ever get to that point.

Dean: You'd be shocked...

Nolwazi kept quiet and ate.

Dean: How are the cramps?

Nolwazi: They've calmed down.

Dean: I don't want you to stress about outside factors. Focus on yourself and the babies and I'll focus on the rest.

Nolwazi: What are you planning on doing?

Dean: Angazi, I just need to make sure that you're out of harm's way.

Nolwazi chuckled.

Nolwazi: I'm convinced this pregnancy has turned me to an emotional weakling. All I do is cry and sleep.

Dean looked at her seriously and then his face softened up. He took her food, placed it on the table and then pulled her closer to him on the office couch.

Dean: I don't want this to be a miserable experience for you. I hate that all you do is cry and sleep.

Nolwazi: No man, I'm just exaggerating. I'll be fine once this divorce is over.

He looked at her softly and she sighed.

Nolwazi: Dean.

Dean: This past weekend has been tragic for me Lwazi.

Nolwazi smiled.

Nolwazi: Ngoba?

Dean: Ngoba ungivalele ngaphandle and you know I hate that shit.

Nolwazi: I'm sorry.

Dean: You and I need to be a good team from now onwards. You see all these people who are against us?

Nolwazi nodded lightly.

Dean: We won't survive if we're not a good unit.

Nolwazi: I understand, I just needed some space.

Dean nodded.

Dean: I can't have you sad and all alone while I'm also responsible for putting you in this tight situation.

Nolwazi sighed.

Dean: So let me help you...

Nolwazi: I love you.

Dean nodded and she kissed him tenderly.

Dean: I love you too Lwazi, more than you'll ever know. I'm forever indebted to you for blessing me with these two boys.

Nolwazi: Hai hai Dean!

He laughed and rubbed her belly.

Nolwazi: A boy and a girl.

He sighed and nodded in defeat.

Dean: As long as there's a boy in the mix then kulungile.

Nolwazi: Hawu u-wrong yazi.

They laughed as they kissed and he repositioned her so she could lie on her back and he balanced himself on top.

Dean: I've missed you so much my love.

Nolwazi smiled warmly.

Nolwazi: Show me then... Daddy.

He chuckled as he leaned closer to her face and kissed her gently.

Dean: I'm about to rip you apart Nolwazi... You'll never attempt to have space after this yezwa?

Nolwazi laughed and nodded as he began to take off her heels...

Kwanele made his way to the office, ever so gracefully. The receptionist looked at him in shock and he smiled kindly.

Kwanele: Kunjani Khaya?

Khaya: Oh my goodness!

Kwanele chuckled quietly as he made his way to his boss's office. Before he got there, he decided to pass by Thuli's office first. He knocked and heard her say come in.

He walked in and Thuli looked at him blankly.

Thuli: Fuck off.

Kwanele smiled.

Kwanele: You're still mad at me?

Thuli ignored him and carried on typing.

Kwanele: Haike you'll contact me once the childishness has subsided.

He walked out and closed the door and then proceeded to make his way to his boss's office.

He knocked and stood there for a while because there was no response. He knocked again and he was told to come in. He opened the door and his boss Griffin, a middle-aged white man, looked up from his paperwork.

Griffin: You piece of shit!

Kwanele chuckled as he walked in and closed the door.

Griffin: Give me one good reason why I shouldn't chase you out!

Kwanele: Because you need me.

Griffin shook his head in disbelief.

Griffin: You disappear for weeks on end and come back thinking I'm going to beg you??

Kwanele sat down opposite him and smiled.

Griffin: You idiot!

Kwanele: This firm needs me... If you feel like I'm replaceable then go ahead and fire me. I have

tons of offers in my pocket.

Griffin: And here I thought you were a humble farm boy!

They laughed.

Kwanele: The city changes a person, old man.

Griffin: Where have you been?

Kwanele: Let me fill you in. Maybe you'll understand why I've been MIA.

Griffin: More like AWOL.

Kwanele chuckled as he began to tell Griffin everything that happened from the beginning.

When he was done, Griffin looked at him in disbelief.

Griffin: No shit!

Kwanele shook his head lightly.

Griffin: Lawyers are very petty and bitter people in general. We hate losing.

Kwanele: Spot on.

Griffin: This woman is obviously underestimating you.

Kwanele: No, she is not the one who is underestimating me... It's that boyfriend of hers who thinks he's running the show.

Griffin: Well he sure as hell needs to know his place.

Kwanele: I'm actually hoping his ego will make him involve himself more.

Griffin: That just makes a stronger case for you.

Kwanele nodded.

Kwanele: Nolwazi knows how cut throat I am when I'm in my element. Hopefully she'll tame her baby daddy for their sake. Being a street-thug won't benefit him in court. I'll fuck him up Griffin and I'll do that shit with a smile on my face.

Griffin laughed boldly.

Griffin: You young boys never cease to amaze me...

Kwanele: I'm wifeless and childless... I have some spare time in my hands so why not have a little fun?

Griffin: Especially if your wealth is going to be doubled in the end...

Kwanele chuckled.

Kwanele: It's such a pity that she's from a wealthy family. Had she been poor like this young one I took in, I would have probably enjoyed it more.

Griffin: Man, you are pissed aren't you?

Kwanele: The contraceptive thing really threw me off. I was really feeling bad but after she looked me dead in the eye and told me I'm overreacting, I realised that she obviously doesn't love me...

Griffin shook his head lightly.

Kwanele: I haven't felt a woman's softness and moistness in weeks Griffin. I'm an angry man at the moment.

Griffin: Emotions running all over the place.

Kwanele chuckled.

Griffin: I have tons of contacts in that department.

Kwanele: I don't do hookers Griffin.

Griffin laughed boldly.

Griffin: Well that's a shame!

Griffin opened one of his drawers and took out a card and handed it to him.

Kwanele: And then?

Griffin: Listen, if you're really going crazy then dial that number and ask for Jeff...

Kwanele: Is he white? Now why the hell would you send me to a white whorehouse?

Griffin laughed.

Griffin: No, he's not white. Stop being stupid...

Kwanele: So this Jeff guy is a pimp?

Griffin chuckled.

Griffin: Once that urge hits you hard, dial that number boy and you will not regret it.

Kwanele: I doubt.

He stood up.

Kwanele: Let me go find that assistant of mine so I can get going.

Griffin: One more stunt from you and you're fired, understood?

Kwanele chuckled and walked out of the office.

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Kwanele made his way to his office. He switched on his laptop and went through all of his work emails.

Just then there was a knock on the door and he told the person to come in. He chuckled when he saw Thuli walk in. She came and sat opposite him.

Kwanele: How may I help you?

Thuli growled angrily and crossed her arms.

Kwanele: Haike.

He continued to focus on his laptop.

Thuli: What did Griffin say?

Kwanele: Nothing much.

Thuli: So I'm guessing your slick self managed to get out of trouble?

Kwanele: I guess...

He glanced at her.

Kwanele: You should probably call Nolwazi and apologise for whatever you did.

Thuli looked at him in disbelief.

Thuli: Excuse me??

Kwanele: You obviously miss her...

She kept quiet.

Kwanele: Call your friend and mend things.

Thuli: Why should I go back to people who constantly question my loyalty?

Kwanele shook his head lightly.

Kwanele: That Sly has a smart mouth.

Thuli: She's the one who keeps flooding Nolwazi with all these things about me.

Kwanele nodded lightly.

Kwanele: Nolwazi and I are similar in so many ways but somehow she manages to hide her shit well...

Thuli: Definitely.

Kwanele kept quiet.

Thuli: She's just as gullible as you. She allows people to flood her mind with rubbish. She's easily influenced, just like you.

Kwanele chuckled.

Thuli: Even with this Dean thing. She's going to realise later on that this relationship or whatever they have is a joke. Dean jumped for this opportunity. He took advantage of her in her vulnerable state and then convinced her that they were meant to be.

Kwanele: Well I'm starting to believe that they've always loved each other.

Thuli: Dean took advantage of her... Nolwazi is still not thinking straight. She didn't take the time to reflect on what has happened. Her emotions are still all over the place.

Kwanele: Well at this point there really is no turning back.

Thuli sighed heavily and shook her head.

Thuli: I have to get back to work.

Kwanele: Sure.

Thuli: See you around.

She got up and walked out of the office.

Thenjiwe: Richie, I do not have time for nonsense.

Richie looked at Thenjiwe in disbelief.

Richie: Listen here old lady, I don't do that shit.

Thenjiwe: Will R300 000 motivate you?

Richie's expression changed and Thenjiwe smiled.

Thenjiwe: Thought as much...

Richie: I'm not an expert in that department.

Thenjiwe: It's not a big job. Just a little tease nje.

Richie looked at Thenjiwe intently.

Thenjiwe: What?

Richie shook his head lightly.

Richie: You really hate these people don't you?

Thenjiwe: Don't ask me stupid questions boy!

Richie kept quiet.

Thenjiwe: Now this is what you will do... Clearly your stupid self needs step by step guidelines...

Nolwazi was busy in her office when she heard a knock and she told the person to come in.

Phiwe walked in with a man.

Nolwazi looked at both of them expectantly.

Phiwe: Hey boss lady.

Nolwazi: What's up?

Phiwe glanced at the man and smiled kindly.

Phiwe: You have a delivery.

Nolwazi: Oh.

She stood up.

Nolwazi: Sawubona.

Man: Sawubona sisi, unjani?

Nolwazi: Ngiyaphila, wena?

Man: Siyaphila sisi.

Nolwazi nodded and the man handed her a brown A4 envelope.

Nolwazi: Couldn't you give it to our usual delivery guy?

The man shook his head.

Phiwe: Apparently this had to be handed to you specifically.

Nolwazi: Oh alright then.

She signed for it and then thanked the man and Phiwe led him out of the office. Nolwazi closed the door and walked back to her desk.

Her heart rate was on another level.

She sat down and slowly opened the envelope. She took out the letter and put the envelope aside...

She opened it and sank on her seat:

All she saw was this...

...

NOTICE OF INTENT TO DEFEND DIVORCE

The respondent (Kwanele Buthelezi) intends to defend this action.

TO: Nolwazi Camilla Buthelezi

...

She put the letter down and sighed heavily in defeat.

Her whole world was on a standstill for a long time. She poured herself a glass of water and finished it within seconds and then stood up. Just then, her phone rang and she reached for it and answered.

Nolwazi: Nolwazi, hello?

Person: Good afternoon Mrs Buthelezi.

She sighed.

Person: I am calling on behalf of the divorce between you and Mr Buthelezi.

Nolwazi: Okay.

Person: Mr Buthelezi has sent the court a request to bring the court date sooner as he has to undergo a medical surgery in the following days.

Nolwazi kept quiet. She didn't even know what to say.

Person: Mrs Buthelezi?

She finally snapped out of it.

Nolwazi: Yes.

Person: This call is to confirm whether you are fine with this new development.

Nolwazi: So when exactly is the new date?

Person: We are still awaiting the judge's decision. I will call you as soon as he has informed us about his decision.

Nolwazi sighed heavily.

Nolwazi: Okay.

Person: Enjoy the rest of your day Mrs Buthelezi.

Nolwazi: Bye.

She dropped the call and poured herself another glass of water. She gulped it all up with seconds and then made her way out of her office. She walked to Dean's office and got in without knocking.

Dean: Hehe wena na.

She closed the door and he sensed her mood and stood up.

Dean: What's wrong?

He looked at her concernedly.

Nolwazi: I've just received his intention to defend.

Dean nodded lightly and opened up his arms and she walked to him and he wrapped his arms around her.

Nolwazi: Dean I really don't want to fight this.

Dean kept quiet.

Just then, Nolwazi let out a scream and Dean had to hold her because she had lost her balance.

Dean: Nolwazi??

She let out another scream and held on to her belly.

Dean processed what was happening and then led her to the couch. She squirmed and rolled up into a ball as she held on tightly to her belly.

She let out another painful scream and then shut her eyes as the piercing pain rushed through her abdomen area.

Dean quickly rushed out of the office and seconds later he came back with Alex.

Alex: Fuck, what's wro-

Dean: Just pick her up and follow me to the car.

Alex: Shouldn't we call the ambu-

Dean: One more word and I'll fuck you up Alex.

Alex quickly ran to the couch and carefully lifted Nolwazi. He held her properly and then carried her. She let out another scream as Dean rushed out and Alex followed...

Everyone in the division was now staring at them as they rushed out and made their way to the lifts.

Nolwazi was now crying.

Dean pressed the lift but it seemed to take its own sweet time. He slammed the buttons in frustration and seconds later the door opened and they made their way in and proceeded to go down.

Nolwazi held on to Alex but also tried to hold her belly at the same time.

Alex: You're going to fall Lwazi, calm down.

She screeched painfully till the lift finally got to the ground floor. They rushed out and made their way to the car. Alex carefully placed her on the back seat and then he and Dean got in the front and Dean drove off...

Tholi and Mdu were busy lazing around. Mdu took out his laptop and went to UJ's website.

Mdu: So you want to go to UJ?

Tholi nodded lightly and Mdu chuckled.

Tholi: What's so funny?

Mdu: Nothing. Manje do you want to study part-time or fulltime?

Tholi: Fulltime.

Mdu nodded.

Mdu: Let's see what they have to offer.

They began to browse through the online brochure...

Tholi suddenly had the urge to pee but she groaned when she thought about the pain in her thighs.

She got up from the bed.

Mdu: Yoh chubby cheeks.

Tholi: What?

She turned around and gasped in shock as she saw all the blood that was on the white covers.

Mdu: Shit.

Tholi: I'm so sorry! I didn't feel anything!

Mdu: Why are you apologising?

He got up from the bed.

Mdu: Let's take this out.

Tholi looked away ashamedly and Mdu looked at her from the other side of the bed.

Mdu: Haiké so now you're ashamed of being on your period? Choose a struggle man Tholi.

Tholi kept quiet and he sighed heavily and walked over to her side.

Mdu: Come on.

Just then, she moved just a bit and realised that there was now blood on the floor.

Mdu: Geesh.

Tholi gasped in shock.

She quickly ran to the bathroom, feeling so humiliated. As soon as she got there and realised that she still didn't have any privacy in that transparent bathroom, she felt her face burn from humiliation.

As she stood there, more blood flowed and she looked closely at the blood.

She grabbed her towel and tried wiping herself but that seemed to trigger it more.

Just then, Mdu walked in.

Mdu: Do you have sanitary pads or tampons?

Tholi shook her head vigorously.

Mdu: I'll go buy some.

Tholi covered herself with the towel and tried holding in the tears as Mdu walked out of the bathroom very casually.

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Tholi managed to clean up all the blood in the bathroom. She went over to the bed and took out the sheets and covers and was thankful that the blood didn't actually get to the mattress.

Her phone rang and she answered it after seeing Mdu's name.

Tholi: Hello.

Mdu: Chubby cheeks.

She kept quiet and Mdu chuckled.

Mdu: Listen, I'm a bit overwhelmed by all these products. Should I get you tampons or pads?

Tholi sighed in defeat.

Tholi: Pads.

She said that quietly.

Mdu: And which brand do you want?

Tholi grunted and Mdu chuckled.

Mdu: You were flowing quite heavily so I should probably get you these large looking ones neh?

Tholi: I use Always.

Mdu: Which colour?

She sighed.

Tholi: The ones in the blue packet.

Mdu: Alright then. Do you need anything else? Pain killers for the period pains?

Tholi: I don't have pains.

Mdu: Okay ke bye kiddo.

He dropped the call and Tholi huffed in defeat. She folded the sheets and covers and then went back to the bathroom to change the toilet paper she had used as a pad. She cleaned herself up and winced as more blood came out.

After over 30 minutes, Mdu walked in the hotel room.

Mdu: Baby girl.

She kept quiet.

Mdu: There you go.

She opened up the plastic and there were 6 packets of Always Ultra night time sanitary pads.

Tholi: 6 packets?

Mdu: Better safe than sorry.

Tholi looked away embarrassingly and Mdu pulled her into his arms.

Mdu: Tholi I grew up with 3 women... I am not fazed by any of this.

She looked at him sadly.

Mdu: Nakhona only a boy would react childishly to something as natural as menstruation. Honestly kanti ungithatha kanjani? I have bigger things to worry about.

Tholi frowned.

Mdu: Honestly.

Tholi: It still doesn't make bleeding all over the place okay.

Mdu: So now I must judge you for having no control over your cycle?

Tholi kept quiet.

Mdu: Tholi we have some deeper issues to deal with. Blood coming out of your vagina is the least of my worries.

She sighed and he smiled kindly.

Mdu: Come on.

Tholi: Ya well I'm sorry.

Mdu: Okay.

He tightened his hold on her and they shared a hug and she leaned closer to his face and they kissed.

Tholi: You're weird.

Mdu chuckled and kissed her again.

Mdu: Ngiyakuthanda yezwa?

She nodded and kissed him.

Tholi: Thank you.

Mdu: You're welcome.

He kissed her forehead and then let go of her. She then took one packet of pads and made her way to the bathroom. She was thankful that the bleeding had slowed down. She did what she had to do and then made her way out again.

Mdu: I got us some food.

Tholi: Thank you.

He dished up for them then they went to the sitting area and began eating.

Dean paced around the waiting area and Alex sat on one of the seats, looking very pale and shaken.

Dean: For fucks sake.

Alex: What's wrong with her?

Dean ignored him and continued to pace around the area.

After a while, Dr Sheppard made his way to the area and Dean walked to him. He had to make sure that Alex couldn't hear a thing.

Dean: Sheppard.

Dr Sheppard sighed heavily and Dean shot him a look.

Dean: Why the fuck are you breathing heavily?

Dr Sheppard shook his head lightly.

Doctor: Nolwazi is under a lot of stress Dean.

Dean: Tell me something I don't know.

Doctor: But that is not good for the babies.

Dean bent down and let out a huge sigh of relief.

He stayed like that for a while and eventually stood properly and looked at Dr Sheppard.

Dean: All three of them are fine?

Doctor: They're fine but that's not to say they are healthy. Nolwazi was close to losing those babies hence the extreme cramps.

Dean balanced himself on the counter and took a couple of deep breaths.

Dean: So the babies are alive?

Doctor Sheppard nodded lightly.

Dr: Another reason she's having these cramps, besides the stress, is the fact that she's having twins and this is the first time she is having a baby. Her body is stretching itself, preparing for

the twin's home for the next couple of months.

Dean sighed once again and then nodded lightly. Just then, Alex emerged from out of nowhere.

Alex: Is she fine?

Dr Sheppard looked at Alex weirdly.

Dean: Yes, she's fine.

Alex nodded.

Alex: What's wrong?

Dean: Mind your fucken business Alex.

Alex put his hands up in defeat and walked back to where he was sitting.

Dean: Can I see her?

Dr Sheppard nodded.

Dr: Come...

Dean followed him along the corridors and they eventually got to where the private rooms were. They got to the specific room and Dr Sheppard led the way. Dean got in and Nolwazi was in bed. Her eyes were swollen and bloodshot. He walked over to the bed and Nolwazi started sobbing

when he got to her. He pulled her up so he could hold her properly as she sobbed in his arms.

Dr Sheppard: I'll give you some space...

Seconds later the door was closed and Nolwazi's sobs were the only thing audible in the room.

At this point, Dean was completely lost for words. He too was stressed and freaked out but he couldn't show any of that for Nolwazi's sake.

After a long time she finally calmed down and he wiped her tears.

Dean: How are you feeling?

She shook her head.

Nolwazi: I can't describe the pain.

Dean: Is it still painful?

Nolwazi: Not as much...

Dean nodded lightly and kept quiet.

Nolwazi: It felt like someone was continuously stabbing me with blazing knives.

Dean took a deep breath and kept quiet.

Nolwazi looked at him sadly and realised just how worn out he was.

He touched his face.

Nolwazi: I'm sorry.

Dean shook his head lightly and soon their lips were locked. Both of them released all the fear and sadness through that moment. Dean held her a little too tight and she winced. He broke the kiss and looked down ashamedly.

Dean: Ngiyaxolisa.

Nolwazi sighed and he let go of her and she lay properly.

Nolwazi: Please call my mother.

He looked at her weirdly.

Nolwazi: She knows everything.

Dean: Okay...

He took his phone and he told her Thandeka's number. He walked out of the room as the phone rang. Suddenly he felt hot and bothered. He unfastened his tie and unbuttoned the top button of his shirt.

Thandeka: Hello?

He cleared his throat nervously.

Dean: Sawubona ma.

Thandeka: Hi, ngikhuluma nobani?

Dean: Uhm this is Dean, Nol-

Thandeka: Hello Dean, I have been waiting for this call ubona nje!

Dean tried not to chuckle. She was obviously so clueless.

Dean: Unfortunately this is not a good call...

Thandeka: Haibo what's wrong?

Dean told her everything and she gasped in shock.

Thandeka: Name of the hospital!

Dean told her.

Thandeka: I'll be there shortly.

She dropped the call even before Dean could say goodbye.

He stood there for a while and decided to also call his mother. He needed to release all the shock and fear he had bottled up. Nolwazi couldn't see him in such a state at the moment.

He dialled Lindelwa's number and it rang for a while.

Lindelwa: Langelihle.

Dean: Mama.

Lindelwa: What's wrong??

Dean: Nolwazi almost had a miscarriage.

Lindelwa: What?! Oh my God, where are you??

Dean told her.

Lindelwa: I'll be there in 30 minutes okay?

Dean: Okay.

Lindelwa: Stay strong, okay? Stay by her side!

Dean: Okay.

Lindelwa: Bye baby.

Dean: Bye.

He dropped the call and stood there for a minute, gathering his thoughts and emotions. Once he felt better, he walked back inside the room and closed the door.

Nolwazi looked at him.

Dean: She'll be here soon.

She nodded lightly and shifted on the bed. He carefully climbed in and she rested her head on his chest and closed her eyes. She allowed the tears to continue to flow as they both lay in bed in silence.

Both of them drowned in the trauma they had just experienced...

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There was a knock on the door and seconds later, Dr Sheppard emerged and Thandeka pushed him to the side and rushed to the bed.

Thandeka: Lwazi!

Nolwazi had now dozed off. Dean's body tensed up and Thandeka analysed him.

Dr Sheppard: I think its best we don't disturb her...

Thandeka nodded lightly and went to the chair that was close to her. She sat down and huffed.

Thandeka: Get me some water please.

Dean quickly jumped out of bed and rushed out of the room. Thandeka rubbed her head gently and sighed heavily.

Thandeka: So my daughter is fine?

Dr Sheppard: She's under a lot of stress.

Thandeka: There's no denying that.

She looked over at a sleeping Nolwazi.

Thandeka: And the babies?

Dr: They are not babies yet-

Thandeka: Don't be too technical with me. I am not in the mood please.

Dr Sheppard sighed.

Dr: They'll be fine if she rests.

Thandeka nodded lightly.

Thandeka: How was she when she got here?

Just then Dean walked back in with a whole jug of water and a glass. Thandeka looked at him as he poured some for her.

Thandeka: Ngiyabonga.

Dean looked at her in the eye as he handed her the glass.

Thandeka: Why are you looking at me like that?

Dean stifled a smile.

Thandeka: Pour me some more, please.

Dean did as he was told and Thandeka nodded lightly.

Thandeka: Awusho ke, how did all of this happen?

Dr Sheppard disappeared as soon as he realised that he was no longer needed.

Thandeka: Grab a chair.

Dean did as he was told and then looked at Thandeka.

Thandeka: What happened?

Dean told her everything.

Thandeka: Wait, so Kwanele wants to fight Nolwazi?

Dean: I thought she told you.

Thandeka: Haibo I didn't know!

She put down the glass and grabbed her bag.

Thandeka: Yazi umuntu uzofa yi-stress.

She took out a hand sanitizer and began to sanitize her hands.

Thandeka: UKwanele kanti unjani?

She put down her bag and looked at Dean intently.

Thandeka: So he wants 50% of Lwazi's things?

Dean: Yes.

Thandeka sighed heavily and shook his head.

Thandeka: It's clear that he is being spiteful. The Kwanele I know wouldn't have the guts to do such.

Dean hissed and Thandeka looked at him weirdly.

Thandeka: Yini ngathi une-beef?

Dean tightened his jaw and Thandeka chuckled.

Thandeka: Cute.

She sat comfortably in her seat and sighed.

Thandeka: My poor baby. I can only imagine what she is going through.

Dean: She's really not handling it well.

Thandeka: It's too much.

Dean kept quiet.

Thandeka: So I hear you've been supportive in many different ways...

She looked at him with a tint of humour and he looked down.

Thandeka: I guess I have you to thank...

Dean: Wel-

Just then, there was a knock on the door and seconds later, Lindelwa walked in.

Before she could even process anything, she went straight to his son, pulled him up from his seat, and hugged him.

Lindelwa: I'm so sorry Langa.

Thandeka watched intently at their interaction and kept quiet.

Lindelwa finally let go of Dean.

Dean: Don't cry.

Lindelwa: No nkosi yami, she can't lose these babies. Not when things are not going well for her on the other side.

Thandeka: How sweet.

Lindelwa looked at Thandeka weirdly.

Dean: Oh...

He cleared his throat.

Dean: Ma, this is Nolwazi's mother, uMam'T-

Thandeka: Haibo do I look that old?

Dean exhaled and smiled lightly.

Thandeka: You must be Dean's mother.

She looked at Lindelwa warmly and Lindelwa nodded.

Lindelwa: Yes I am.

Thandeka: It's nice to meet you sisi. I'm Thandeka.

Lindelwa smiled lightly and Thandeka stood up and they embraced briefly.

Thandeka: We should probably go out because we might just wake her up.

Lindelwa: Okay but I think Dean should stay with her.

Thandeka chuckled quietly.

Thandeka: Alright then, baba wekhaya.

She and Lindelwa chuckled some more as they made their way out and left Dean in there. Dean went back to the bed and got in next to Nolwazi. Nolwazi was completely out of it at this point...

Kwanele made his way out of his office and bumped into Griffin.

Griffin: Where the hell do you think you're going?

Kwanele: I'm going to seal a deal.

Griffin looked at him suspiciously and he chuckled.

Kwanele: You really need to relax old man.

Griffin grunted as he walked away. Kwanele made his way out of the premises and got to his car. He started it and drove off...

After a while he finally got to the restaurant. He looked around and sighed.

Just then, he spotted a young man, probably in his early or mid20s, sitting by himself. He took a chance and made his way to where he was sitting.

Kwanele: Jeff?

The guy looked up from his phone and nodded.

Kwanele chuckled quietly. This guy was really too cool for school. He even seemed a bit high.

Jeff: Have a seat, mate.

Kwanele sat down and loosened his tie.

Jeff put his phone down and looked at Kwanele intently. Kwanele felt like he was being assessed somehow.

Kwanele: Is there a specific reason I'm being assessed?

Jeff chuckled lazily and flashed a smile.

Jeff: Standard procedure...

Kwanele raised an eyebrow.

Kwanele: Oh?

Jeff chuckled and shook his head.

Jeff: I'm kidding mate. It's a force of habit.

Kwanele called the waiter and ordered a glass of water.

Jeff: To what do I owe the pleasure? I hope you do understand that my shit is based in Jozi.

Kwanele: So I've heard.

Jeff: But we're in the process of expanding.

Kwanele: Hmm.

Jeff: Anyway, this process is not as black and white as you think.

Kwanele: Care to explain?

Jeff: We need to do a brief background check on you and get all the necessary tests done, you know?

Kwanele looked at him in confusion.

Jeff: We offer A-class shit mate. We do things the proper way.

Kwanele: Getting a hooker shouldn't be this complicated.

Jeff: Then go and find some other shit at some dodgy area.

Kwanele chuckled.

Jeff: I hear KZN has some of the coldest shit. Is that why you want a piece of Jozi? That urban cookie will keep you begging, buddy.

Kwanele laughed boldly.

Kwanele: Listen here, do your shit and let me know.

Jeff nodded.

Jeff: So what do you do for a living?

Kwanele: Lawyer.

Jeff: Of course.

Kwanele chuckled.

Jeff: I'm actually in need of some legal advice right now.

Kwanele: Is it?

Jeff nodded.

Jeff: We're dealing with a nosy client and funny enough, he's also a lawyer.

Kwanele: Hmm... We'll see, maybe I might just help you.

Jeff: All in good time...

Just then, Jeff's phone rang and he took it.

Jeff: Can I take this?

Kwanele: Sure.

Jeff answered.

Jeff: Lulu... No baby I'm in Durban... I know, but I'll be there tonight, I promise... Baby come on... How is the baby? Have the cramps calmed down?... I promise I'll be there tonight, okay?... I love you...

He dropped the call and sighed.

Kwanele: How does your girlfriend feel about you doing this shit?

Jeff laughed quietly.

Jeff: Man, I could write a book about that whole phase...

Kwanele shook his head lightly.

Jeff: Anyway, I'm glad you contacted me. I'll get back to you when I'm back in Jozi, yes?

Kwanele nodded lightly.

They carried on chatting for a while...

INSERT 100 [FINALE]

Nolwazi: Dean.

Dean: Yes?

Nolwazi: I'm fine now.

Dean glanced at her and she sighed.

Nolwazi: Can we go home now?

Dean: No, you're far from fine.

Nolwazi grunted as she lay on the bed. It had been 5 days since she was admitted at the hospital and Dr Sheppard didn't want to release her until her blood pressure had stabilised.

Nolwazi: Can I at least take a walk?

Dean stopped eating and looked at her.

Dean: Okay.

Nolwazi: Let's go.

Dean: Haibo I'm still eating.

Nolwazi shook her head.

Nolwazi: I've been in this room for 5 days straight Dean. Wena you can leave whenever you want.

Dean: It's not like I've left much.

Nolwazi: Hai asambe.

Dean put his food aside and Nolwazi stood up and went to pull him up.

Nolwazi: Woza.

Dean: You're acting like a child yazi.

Nolwazi: I don't care. Asambe.

She wore her ugg boots and gown and then opened the door. Dean walked out and she closed the door. He put out his arm and she held on to him and they strolled down the passage.

Nolwazi: Now I'm being made to feel like a prisoner.

Dean: Blame your blood pressure.

Nolwazi: Mxm.

They made their way to the garden and went to sit on one of the benches.

Dean: You know, as worn out as you are, you are actually glowing a bit.

Nolwazi chuckled.

Nolwazi: A bit?

Dean touched her face and brushed her cheek.

Dean: Very much.

Nolwazi: Ohho.

He leaned closer to her and they shared a kiss.

Nolwazi: Hmm.

She broke it quickly and laughed.

Nolwazi: 5 days is a very long time. I'm not about to be left horny at a hospital.

Dean chuckled.

Dean: I've been dying.

Nolwazi kissed him again.

Thandeka: Hehe akumnandi!

They broke the kiss and watched as Thandeka and Lindelwa walked towards them, carrying plastics.

Thandeka: We've been looking for you.

They finally got to the bench and placed the plastics on the table. They sat opposite them.

Lindelwa: Yoh uh-uh my feet hurt.

Dean looked at his mother and chuckled.

Thandeka: We got you more food Lwazi.

Nolwazi: Thank you.

Dean: I hope it's all healthy.

Thandeka: Hai awume Langelihle. We'll deal with vegetables after.

Nolwazi laughed.

Nolwazi: He's a health freak. I'm sure he wants to say something but he's reserving his comments because he's scared of you.

They all laughed and Dean frowned.

Thandeka: These babies need some sweet stuff. Relax man.

Dean: There should be a limit though.

Thandeka: Hai ke ukhulumile ubaba.

Lindelwa laughed.

Nolwazi: Angsathandi manje.

She punched Dean playfully and he grunted.

Thandeka: Anyway, we have to go...

Nolwazi: Tell Mdu that I want nothing to do with him.

Thandeka: No man, I'm the one who prevented him from coming to see you.

Dean: When are you planning on telling him?

Thandeka: Once this divorce is out of the way.

Dean nodded tightly.

Lindelwa: We'll see you tomorrow sisi.

Nolwazi: Thanks for the food.

Lindelwa: You're welcome.

Both Lindelwa and Thandeka stood up and they both hugged Nolwazi and Dean.

Thandeka: Nisale kahle ke.

Nolwazi: Goodbye.

Nolwazi and Dean watched their mothers walk away and then carried on chatting...

Mdu: My boss has flown this side and she wants to meet.

Tholi: Is it?

Mdu nodded.

Tholi: Is everything okay?

Mdu: Ya I'm sure she just wants to catch up face to face phela we've been communicating via

email for weeks on end.

Tholi: Makes sense.

Mdu: So I'll see you later neh?

Tholi nodded and Mdu gave her a feather kiss.

Mdu: Let me get ready ke.

Tholi: Okay.

He got up from the bed and went to take a shower. He got dressed and once he was done he went to give Tholi another kiss and she turned it into a deep one.

Mdu: Heeh I have to go njalo.

She giggled and looked at him innocently.

Tholi: You look nice.

Mdu pulled a face.

Mdu: Nice? Ngicela ungadlali ngami.

She laughed.

Tholi: You look good.

Mdu: That's much better.

He gave her another kiss and then walked away and made his way out of the hotel room.

She lay there and reflected on the last couple of days. She had never been so happy in her entire life. Mdu made her feel so special that even she couldn't describe the impact. Waking up was no longer a struggle and going to sleep was no longer an effort... Everything was effortless with him...

She sighed happily as she crawled to his side of the bed and held on to his pillow. She felt herself doze off into a peaceful sleep.

She had never been loved like this. No one had ever cared for her this much. Mdu treated her like a-

Suddenly someone snatched away the covers and Tholi sat up immediately. She blinked a couple of times and her eyes widened.

Thenjiwe laughed boldly.

Thenjiwe: YOU HAVE SOME NERVE!

Tholi's heart rate increased and as she tried to move, Thenjiwe gave her one blazing strike and Tholi screamed painfully.

Thenjiwe: Do I kill you or let you live??

Tholi was now crying hysterically.

Thenjiwe: Shut up!

Tholi tried holding in her tears.

Thenjiwe: If I hear a single sound!

Tholi quickly bit her lips. Her chest heaved fiercely as she looked at Thenjiwe.

Thenjiwe: Uyanya sfebendini! Did you really think I would let you go that easily?? After everything my son has done for you?!!

Tholi's eyes burned furiously.

Thenjiwe: Sies man!

Thenjiwe stepped closer to her and gave her one hot clap and Tholi screamed internally.

Thenjiwe: Sfebendini!

Tholi's hiccups defeated her and Thenjiwe gave her one more clap.

Thenjiwe: I said SHUT UP!

Tholi bit her lips again and tried not to burst.

Thenjiwe: Get dressed!

Tholi quickly got out of bed and looked for something to wear.

Thenjiwe: Tikiline ndini!

Tholi finally got dressed.

Thenjiwe: Nondindwa!

She gave Tholi one more clap and Tholi couldn't help but fall to the ground. Thenjiwe then stood over her and kicked her on her stomach. She bent down and began smacking her uncontrollably.

Dean: Alright then...

Nolwazi: Is it time to leave?

Dean nodded sadly and they kissed.

Nolwazi: I don't want to be here.

She sulked and he wrapped his arms around her.

Dean: Don't make this hard.

Nolwazi: Okay.

She wrapped her arms around his neck and kissed him.

Nolwazi: I love you.

Dean: I love you too.

He then bent down and kissed her belly.

Nolwazi: You're going to be a good father.

He stood properly and smiled warmly.

Dean: And you're going to be a good mother.

They kissed again and he finally let go of her.

Nolwazi: See you soon.

Dean: Bye.

Nolwazi sighed heavily as he walked off and disappeared.

Kwanele: And then?

Thenjiwe pushed Tholi to the couch and then looked at Kwanele.

Thenjiwe: Did you know that she was seeing Mduduzi?!

Kwanele nodded calmly and glanced at Tholi who seemed to have a swollen face.

Kwanele: Why is her face swollen?

Tholi was still biting her lips, tears all over her face.

Thenjiwe: She's been crying as usual.

Kwanele: Hmm.

He kept quiet and just looked at Tholi blankly.

Thenjiwe: Ye wena Tholakele! Speak for yourself!

Tholi looked at Thenjiwe nervously and Thenjiwe gave her a threatening look and she quickly exhaled.

Thenjiwe: What do you have to say for yourself?!

Tholi looked down ashamedly.

Tholi: I'm-

Thenjiwe: Hee maan!

Tholi exhaled and tried to speak louder.

Tholi: I'm sorry.

Thenjiwe: Now you listen here and you listen VERY carefully. You seem to forget that you signed documents before you got into this marriage.

Tholi glanced at Kwanele.

Thenjiwe: Have you forgotten?!

Tholi shook her head.

Thenjiwe: Good! Now go upstairs, get that man's stench off of you and be the wife you're supposed to be TO THIS MAN!

Tholi's chest heaved once again.

Thenjiwe: Sies man! Have you no shame?! HAVE YOU NO SHAME?!

Tholi kept quiet.

Thenjiwe: We all vowed to never say a word about that vegetable of a brother of yours didn't we?!

Tholi kept quiet.

Thenjiwe: DIDN'T WE?!

Tholi: Yes.

Thenjiwe: And part of the deal was that you marry Kwanele angithi?!

Tholi nodded tightly.

Thenjiwe: DAMMIT!

Before Tholi could even breathe, she was bombarded by another hot clap.

Kwanele: Thenjiwe.

Thenjiwe pushed Kwanele away and gave Tholi another clap.

Thenjiwe: You SLUT!

Kwanele: What is wrong with you?!

Just as Kwanele was about to walk up to her, she slid her hand underneath her skirt and before they all knew it, Thenjiwe was pointing a gun at them.

Thenjiwe: HOW DARE YOU DISRESPECT MY SON?!!

Kwanele stood there in complete shock. Tholi on the other hand had now fainted...

As Dean drove, his phone rang and he answered.

Dean: Ya?

Person: I have some new intel.

Dean: Speak. I'm driving.

Person: So this is what is happening...

Dean: Khuluma man.

Person: I think the problem-

Dean: You are wasting my fucken time! Do you really think that I have the time to sit here and listen to you tell me bullshit stories?!

Suddenly he felt his anger rise up.

Dean: This son of a bitch is giving Nolwazi a hard time and you think I have time to sit here and listen to you waste my time?! The court date is fast approaching and I am yet to get constructive information from you bastard! I swear to God the second I see you I'm going to-

Dean's eyes popped out and his heart rate increased.

Dean: Fuck!

He had completely disregarded the traffic light.

He tried to swerve but as soon as he did, another car came full speed and delved straight into his passenger side of the car. His car swerved uncontrollably and within seconds another car came crashing from the back. This caused his car to head straight into another car.

A disharmony of sounds hit Dean's ears like a tidal wave. The tinkling of glass as it shattered pierced through his ears.

Then the pain... The horrible, unimaginable pain...

The pain crushed in him and it claimed him for its own. He could smell smoke...

His mind was still functioning. It wouldn't give in to the pain. It was urging him to grapple with the airbag and do something... His body had completely defeated him. His mind kept pushing him but somehow the pain managed to creep up on the mind and for a couple of seconds there was a struggle in his head.

His thoughts were trying to keep him alive, to make sure he stays conscious.

Unfortunately the pain was more powerful...