

A woman with dark, voluminous curly hair is the central figure. She is wearing a dark green, sequined top. Her hair is adorned with several monarch butterflies. A bee is perched on a fern frond to her left. The background is a warm, golden-yellow color. The overall composition is rich and detailed, with a focus on nature and beauty.

# My Life Portrait

Let me love and cherish you

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# \*PROLOGUE\*

\*Okoye\*



He looks at me and sighs

Me : I'm sorry

He flashes me that dimpled  
smile of his

Mtho : please eat

Me : sorry

Mtho : this is still about the  
bursary thing ?

I nod

Mtho : what are you going to do now ?

Me : I'm going back home

Mtho : it's holidays yes , but will you come back next year ?

I won't

I know I won't

There's no coming back , unless  
I can get another bursary

But I don't see that happening

So if I come back , it means I  
have to pay for myself

And I cannot afford that

Unless I find a job , but that will  
take a toll on me

Having to balance school and  
work

If I work , I should stick to it

After all , I do need that money

It can do a lot , also help my  
mother back home



She's already carrying me on  
her back , all by herself

If school fails for me , I might as  
well find a permanent job and  
work

Me : no

Mtho : don't say that , you're  
breaking my heart

Mine is already broken

Mtho : come home with me

I laugh

Me : for what ?

Mtho : I know you have to go  
home , and I know how  
important it is that you go

Me : yes it been two months ,  
you know my reasons why I  
can't take long not going home

Mtho : true , but don't give up  
yet on your studies . That's also  
important , and you need this  
education

I sigh

Me : i know

Mtho : then hear me out , I  
might just help you out

Me : I don't want hand outs , so  
please let's not even do that

He laughs

Mtho : I know , and I'm not  
doing that

Me : okay then , I'll listen

Mtho : our helper has gone home to Lesotho , so mom usually asks for temps . So now , you can fill that up . If you're up for it , it's just laundry and cleaning . She cooks for herself , so that won't be your job

Maybe it won't be so bad

Though I must admit , I've never  
seen nor thought I'll amount to  
cleaning for people

Beggars can't be choosers ,  
unless something happens to  
you you'll always judge those  
who are doing what they can

Wait until you're in their shoes ,  
so you can understand better

Mtho : I'll talk to her , if you're cool . It's 3.5K

Wow that's a lot of money , not a lot for a student who has outstanding fees

And other commitments for money

Mtho : I know it's not much , it'll be just until we're back to varsity . But it's something , and when you're this side we can look for jobs together .

Something that will be able to carry you monthly , maybe for a week or so you can go home

That's not bad , and it might actually just work



The 3.5K can do a lot , and it'll be better than just sitting home doing nothing

Me : talk to your mother first , and if she agrees I'll take it . But I'll go home for a week yes , and explain the situation to my mother

Mtho : don't worry , she will . So don't pack to go back home , just pack to crush at my crib

We laugh

Mtho : please eat now , that  
food is very expensive

Me : leave me alone , but I am  
famished

I pull my plate closer and start  
eating

He loves doing these random outings , and just spoils me

I appreciate them , because I never get to do any of these things with my own money

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\*Mthobisi\*

**Athobisi**



Mom : what ?

I laugh

Me : I'm asking nicely

She looks at me

Mom : Mthobisi what do you want ?

Me : I know Maria went home , and she won't be back until next year . Basically you need someone to help you for two months

Mom : I'm going to get a temp  
as usual , and I think the last  
one will do well . I liked her

That's not good

I don't want her to be liking the  
last one , because my girl needs  
this job

Me : can you please give my friend that job ?

Mom : what friend ?

Me : just a friend

Mom : that's not saying much , what's just a friend ?

I sigh



Me : she lost her bursary , and she needs money to continue paying her fees . She's a third year student

Mom : she ?

Me : friend , her name is Okoye

Mom : she's okay coming to be a maid ? Like isn't she young for that ?

Me : helper rather say , and like I said . It's just until Maria is back , it's not a permanent thing . She still has to go back to varsity when we open in February

It just sounds very uncomfortable hearing someone else say maid

Mom : will she even be able to manage Mthobisi ? Your brother and his wife are coming to spend the holidays with us

Me : she'll do fine , and use the cottage

Mom : I better not regret this

Me : you won't

I trust my girl , I know she won't  
flip this

I can pay for half her fees , but  
knowing her she won't like it

She's the independent type

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\*Bukhosi\*

**Bukhosi**



Voice : where is Bukhosi ?

The door opens and he walks in

I dart my eyes to him

Mondli : oh , you're in here

Me : why are you shouting my name , like you're falling off a ledger ?

He laughs

Mondli : we're ready to dispatch and leave

He pulls a chair and sits down

Mondli : now I know you're not so pleased about leaving , but our time is done here . We have to go home , I had to seek for you so you don't hide away from me . I'm not leaving you here , all your men are leaving

I chuckle



Mondli : let's go , a life of settling awaits us

Me : for you ?

Mondli : us all , we've been in the wilderness for far too long

Me : you're going to start speaking nonsense , let's pack up

I get up , closing the laptops

He laughs getting up , packing  
the guns

Mondli : don't tell me , you  
don't want to give your parents  
grandkids before they die . Have  
a home and settle down , be  
served home cooked meals . Go

to bed holding someone , into  
your arms ...

He smiles shaking his head

Mondli : peck her forehead ,  
when she starts moving a bit ...

Me : fuck no ! We cuddle guns ,  
not human beings . At least ,  
your gun won't turn and betray  
you one day

He picks the bag

Bursting out with laughter

Mondli : you will die a lonely  
man , I so hope civilization  
changes your mind-set

I grab the bag , heading to the  
door

We walk out , heading to the truck with the other men

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\*INSERT 01\*

\*A WEEK LATER\*

\*Mthobisi\*





I look at her

She doesn't look happy at all

Me : babe I love you

She just stares at me saying  
nothing

I chuckle

Me : at least you know that ,  
and I know you love me too . So  
even if you don't say it back it's  
fine

She sighs

I grab my jacket

Me : I will call you later , please  
if you're going out tell me . I  
don't want to be stressed , not

getting a hold of you on the  
phone when I call . Best I know  
you're out

I grab my phone from the night  
stand

Annie : you're really leaving ?

Me : I have to go pick Okoye  
from the station

Another sigh

Me : I told you she's coming back today , and she has to go home . I can't let her go home on her own , she doesn't know my family

She gets off the bed , and stands in front of me

Annie : can't you pick her , and come back ?

Me : I'll be leaving her with people she doesn't know , she won't be comfortable . I have to be there , and make sure she gets settled

Annie : Okoye is not a child

Me : I know that

Annie : and she's going there to work , and not befriend your family

I sigh

Me : now you're just being unnecessary babe

Annie : really ?

I shake my head slowly

Me : I spent the whole week  
with you , and you knew I was  
going to leave today

Annie : we're supposed to  
spend the holidays together ,  
how will I see you when you're  
busy babying your friend ?

Women !

Me : my brother's will be home  
, I barely get to see them . I will  
be spending time with them ,  
and I'll still come see you when I  
can . It's not like I'm saying we  
won't see each other

Annie : I'll get you when you  
avail yourself

Me : can we not do this please



I peck her lips

Me : I'll see you

She holds my arm

Annie : let me come with you ,  
when you pick Okoye . Then we  
can spend the night together

What's the use to stand around here and just argue , back and forth

Me : you'll find me in the car

Annie : just wait , I'm putting my shoes only . I still have clothes at your place

She grabs her shoes and put them

We walk out , she locks the  
door

We hold hands walking to my  
car

I drive off , calling Okoye

Okoye : champ

I laugh

Me : have you arrived ? I'm on my way

Okoye : 5 minutes

Me : I'll be there in 10 , order some ice cream I'll pay

She laughs

Okoye : I'm tired dude

Me : okay I'm sorry , I'll be there  
now

Okoye : cool

I drop the call

Annie holds my hand as I'm  
driving

We get to the station

Me : you coming with ?

Annie : why would you want to  
leave me in the car alone ?

What's with the drama ?

Me : it was just a question , let's  
go

We get off

She holds my hand as we walk  
inside

I spot Okoye by the benches

Poor thing , she does look tired

My mother should let her rest  
when we get home

Me : hey you

She looks up

And there's that look seeing  
Annie

If she wasn't in the car , I would  
have told Okoye she's coming  
with

Okoye : Annie



Annie : Okoye

I chuckle

Me : let me grab your bag

I don't know why Annie has her  
arm hooked on me like I'll run  
away from her

I grab the bag

Me : how was home ?

She smiles

Okoye : good you know

Me : I'm glad

We walk out heading to my car

Me : I hope the princess loved  
her gifts

Okoye : she went crazy over the doll , mom said you're spoiling her too much

I laugh

Me : that's good , let us be

I open the doors for them , they get in the car

I move to the boot , putting her bag inside

Heading to my side , I get in and drive heading home

Annie : Okoye , couldn't you have taken a taxi to his home ?

Me : babe !

Annie : we're just talking , I mean really I was enjoying spending time with my man

Okoye : I didn't bother him , he should have told me

The awkward silence that fills the car

I don't get what's with the insecurities , just because

Okoye is coming to be living  
with us

This is just crazy

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\*Okoye\*

Mtho : ready ?

I nod

And I'm not sure if I am ready or  
what

But I think I am

Me : why didn't you say she was  
coming ?

He sighs



Mtho : she just caught me off guard , I was overwhelmed .  
And she was making arguments

I shake my head slowly

She walks over , he opens the door and we walk in

I'm stunned by the beauty of this house

Mtho : my mother is probably in  
the kitchen

Annie : give me the key to your  
room , you'll find me up

He takes it out , and hands it to  
her

She walks upstairs

Mtho : she's just going to spend  
the night , she'll leave  
tomorrow

He says looking at me

Me : what is she , 5 maybe ?

He laughs

Mtho : I'm sorry

We walk to the kitchen

Mtho : ma (mom)

She turns and looks at us with a smile

Mtho : uhm ...this is my friend  
Okoye , toots this is my mother

His mother laughs

Mrs Ngidi : Mtho you've already said she's your friend , there was no need to repeat it

We all laugh

Mrs Ngidi : welcome baby , I hope your stay with us will be great

Me : I hope so too ma , and that I don't disappoint you

Mrs Ngidi : I like you already , I am ma and not ma'am . We'll get along very fine

Oh well , we're off to a good start

Mtho : can she please rest ? and she'll start working tomorrow

Mrs Ngidi : of course , she must be tired . You'll be eating with us , so I'll call you before dinner

She's very sweet , I guess I was just scared for nothing

Mtho : let me go show you your room , and get you settled .  
Rest before dinner

We walk out using the kitchen door

Heading to the cottage

Mtho : you won't be scared being outside right ?

Me : don't be silly

He opens the door , we walk in



Mtho : Maria uses the room inside the house , but I just figured you'll need your space

This is good

There's a TV , so I won't get bored

There's a small lounge , and a double bed and a closet

Me : this is perfect for me

Mtho : let's cuddle

I laugh

Me : stupid ! Your girlfriend is waiting for you . In your bedroom , leave me alone

He sighs

Mtho : we're being robbed of  
our moment

Me : shame , leave me

He frowns

Mtho : I'll come call you for  
dinner

He walks out , I close the door  
locking

I strip naked walking into the  
shower

I could use one

My mother was very worried  
about this

I had to tell her why I couldn't  
stay home for long

I'll just have to make this work ,  
and make the money I need  
while I can

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\*INSERT 02\*

\*Bukhosi\*

Me : yes

She looks at me and sighs

Her : if you don't talk , I really can't help you

Me : who said we need help ?

Her : special forces , isn't that why we're here ?

I shrug

They're just fucking with us



For 8 years , I've been in the  
game

We leave , and a few days later  
we're subjected to stupid  
therapy

Like what the fuck is wrong with  
us ?

I do not see the need for this

Her : this is a safe space for you  
, and you can be open here  
about anything

This woman !

I still haven't kept up with her  
name

I take my phone out

Me : my wife has an appointment with our daughter to the doctor , we have to cut this short . I can't spare you more time , than I already have

I get up

Her : there's nowhere your file says you're married , and you have a child

Me : I protected your country ,  
so you can sit there and ask us  
stupid questions and get paid  
for that because apparently it's  
a job . That should tell you , I'm  
capable of keeping my life safe  
and away from force business

Her : oh , is something wrong  
with your daughter ?

I frown

Me : just routine check up ,  
babies do that

Her : I see , well maybe next  
time I see you we can talk about  
your family

Me : no

I open the door and walk out

Mondli laughs as I get inside the car

Mondli : you walked out on her again didn't you ?

I start the car driving out

Mondli : what did you lie about this time ?

I shake my head

Me : leave it

Mondli : you still need help

Me : force needs help , who  
fucking gives orders for soldiers  
to attend stupid therapy ?

Mondli : apparently they think  
we need it

Me : they can go fuck themselves , they'll pay her for nothing . She won't get shit out of me

Mondli : let's go and get drunk

My phone rings , and it's my father

I sigh answering



Dad : I need to see you  
tomorrow , we have to talk

Me : okay

I drop the call

Mondli : going out ?

Me : I don't need to be going to  
clubs , go have fun

Mondli : yes we're going

I won't go back and forth with him , I probably won't even stay long there

He thinks he can get me into civilization , just like that stupid therapist

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\*Mthobisi\*

Annie : I think I'm going to go out

She can do whatever the fuck she wants to do

I don't care at this point

Because I don't understand why she's this grumpy

Me : okay , I love you

Annie : I love you too babe

I cup her face and we kiss , after  
a few minutes I break the kiss  
moving back

Me : be safe tonight okay ?

She nods

I open the door for her , and  
she gets in

The Uber drives off

I sigh walking back inside the  
house

Skhu : your girlfriend is okay  
with you having a friend like  
that ?

He says looking at Okoye  
outside by the washing line

Me : what are you trying to say  
? You're a married man , and  
your wife is pregnant

He laughs

Skhu : yeah , but you say she's  
your friend

Me : that's because she is

Skhu : you must really be blind  
brother , or something is wrong  
with you

Idiot !

Skhu : you know what they say  
about her kind ?



Me : I'm sure you're going to  
tell me

He chuckles patting my  
shoulder

Skhu : the darker the berry , the  
sweeter the juice

Me : sies !

He laughs

Me : don't even think about getting Okoye , she doesn't need drama from a married man

Skhu : I'm loyal as they come , I'm just looking out for you

I get away from him going to my room

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\*Bukhosi\*

Mondli : cheer up , it's not so bad . You know , it's been a while since we've been in this kind of a set up . But we fit in just fine

I chuckle

He grabs the bucket of booze ,  
and we walk to the other guys

There's like 3 girls now in their  
midst

Mondli : please , some of us  
better behave . I know I will find  
my wife in church , not at a club

They laugh

We sit down , I feel something  
on my back as I sit

I reach back , and it's a bag

Voice : oh sorry , that's mine

I lift my eyes and look at her

She's standing besides me

I place the bag on the table ,  
and ignore her presence like  
she's not even here

She reaches for her bag off the  
table taking it

Her : my name is Annie

I nod without even looking at  
her

She places her hand on my shoulder , I remove it before she even gets comfortable

Me : don't put your hands on me

She blinks , I know I have a tight hold on her arm

Her : uhm....



I let go of her

She looks at her friends

Her : I'm leaving

She walks out , more like  
running away

Mondli : that was .... O-kay

The guys laugh

I reach for a glass of scotch

I never like clubs , because of  
whores nothing else

Cheap easy useless women !

Who will throw themselves at  
men

Without even shame

It's just disgusting , and very  
annoying

This is how they get raped , and  
trafficked

How do you throw yourself at  
just some strange man you  
don't even know ?

And be comfortable doing that

Next thing , these men sleep  
with them by force for buying  
them booze

They cry rape

Women don't really care about  
their safety

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\*INSERT 03\*

\*Bukhosi\*

I drive in , and park by the drive  
way

I haven't been home since the  
day I got back

And I just came to see them

I never came back

I know my mother will be on my case

I'm just here because my dad wanted to talk , I don't even know about what

But I know him

He's not a man to hold conversations over the phone



He would rather see you in  
person

Getting out of my car , I notice  
the girl by the washing line

She's removing the laundry  
from the line

She must be standing in for  
Maria until she's back

I just pass her and go inside the house

Skhu : the prodigal son

Me : don't annoy me , where is dad ?

He walks down the stairs

Dad : my study

I follow him in to his study

We get in he closes the door

I sit down , while he pours  
himself a glass of water

Dad : you're back now , when  
are you taking your company  
back ?

I sigh

Dad : I'm old , I really should  
just sit down and retire

Me : I'm dealing with a lot right  
now

Dad : like what ?

Attachment issues

Me : just a lot

Dad : that's not saying much , I will tell the board you're coming back . I was just doing you a favour Bukhosi , now I need a break

Great !

If I didn't care so much about my company , I would sell it

Because I don't think I'm ready  
to stay behind a desk

A 9-5 really ?

Me : fine

I get up

Dad : I hope you don't take this  
bad

I shake my head , and walk out

Walking back into the lounge ,  
my mother walks in from the  
kitchen

Mom : you can't even come to  
greet your mother ?

Me : I just walked in here ,  
please

Mom : like ...

Me : mom hi , hi

Skhumbuzo laughs

Skhu : that was double

Mom : I .....

The girl I passed outside walks  
in



Mom : oh you're done ?

She smiles and nods

Mom : you can leave those ,  
and just rest . You cleaned a lot  
this morning

She walks away heading  
upstairs

Skhu : that's Okoye , she's  
Mtho's friend

He laughs

I dart my eyes to him , I know  
he caught me staring at her

Mom : you should come for  
dinner tomorrow

Me : I am ....

Mom : not too busy for your family , we still have dinner at 19:00 in this house

Wow !

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\*Okoye\*

The door opens Mtho walks in

Mtho : toots

Me : what do you want ?

He laughs

Mtho : someone pissed you off

I sit down on the bed

I've just taken a shower ,  
wrapped in a towel

Me : are you from the house ?

Mtho : yeah

Me : there was a guy in there ,  
who is he ? Not your brother

He laughs

Mtho : he's also my brother

Me : really ?

Mtho : yeah , his name is  
Bukhosi and he's a soldier or  
was . I really don't understand  
the concept right now

Me : he's very rude

He walks in and takes my lotion

Me : dude !

Mtho : I know he's very rude ,  
like that's just how he is . He's  
half a human being , he lacks  
human traits and all

What the hell ?

Mtho : what did he say to you ?

Me : nothing



Mtho : so why do you say he's rude ?

Me : you just agreed that he is

He laughs

Mtho : yes because I know him

This one is always laughing ,  
he's just like the other brother  
Skhumbuzo

And their parents are very nice ,  
I've been here for three days

And I have nothing to complain  
about

Me : he just drove in , and  
passed me without a greeting

Mtho : you know he's not  
accustomed to that

The hell he's not

Me : not accustomed to that ?  
It's greetings everyone knows  
how to greet , unless they are  
just rude not to . Like him

He laughs

Me : he lacks manners like you ,  
get out I want to lotion

Mtho : oh yeah ! So mom said  
you rest tomorrow , and you're  
having dinner with us . Special  
occasion

Special occasion ?

Isn't that something that's for  
family

And I've already left the laundry  
she said I'll sort it out tomorrow

This woman !

I feel like I'm not here to work

Me : family coming ?

Mtho : no , we're not very big  
on that

I heave a sigh of relief

Me : okay

Mtho : I'll come check you  
before I sleep

Me : I'm not your child

He laughs handing me my lotion

He walks out , and I close the  
door locking

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\*Mthobisi\*

Me : do you want to tell me  
what's bothering you ?

Annie : I'm fine



She doesn't sound fine , and I know my girlfriend when she's fine and not

Me : since you came back last night , from your outing you haven't been sounding okay . Did something happen at the club ?

She just heaves a sigh

Me : okay fine , I won't press .  
You will talk when you are ready  
. That's if you want

Annie : maybe I'm going to have  
my periods babe

Me : okay , I'll order food for  
you

Annie : thank you

Me : I love you bye

I drop the call , I won't force a conversation at all

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\*INSERT 04\*

\*Bukhosi\*



I sit down

And she hasn't taken her eyes  
off of me

Ever since I walked through the  
door

I dart my eyes looking at her

Her : you came ?

I say nothing , like what kind of a stupid question is that ?

She can see I'm here so exactly what is she asking me

Her : I didn't think you were going to come

Me : hey ...stop okay , don't make small talks with me . My wife and I , are going home for

dinner . So I don't have time to spare for you , I'm here so

Her : that's nice , are you looking forward to the dinner ? I'm sure you must have been missing your family ...

Me : what's your name again ?

Her : Angela , this is the third time I've told you my name



Me : you don't matter to me ,  
that's why I just can't keep up  
with it

She sighs

Angela : you don't have to be  
rude and mean , I already know  
you don't want to be here . You  
don't have to make an  
emphasize on it , each and

every time you come in . I  
already get it

Me : good , finally it has sunk  
in . It took me , not caring about  
your name to finally understand  
this

She frowns

Me : it won't be a while until I  
see you again

I get up

She sighs , and looks at me  
shaking her head

Angela : this is for your own  
good , you can't keep pulling  
these stunts

I chuckle

Me : be careful , I might just walk out of this door and not know who you are again

Her facial expression changes

I hold the door knob

Angel : you know I am well within my right , to report you to your superiors that you're refusing to cooperate .

Me : right

She shakes her head flapping  
her eyes lashes

Angela : right ?

Me : no like right , go tell them .  
And last I checked , I'm not  
under special forces again . So  
spare me

I open the door and walk out

Bloody annoying woman !

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\*Mthobisi\*

Skhu : where is your guest ?

We're just waiting for that  
ghost son of this house

And well , I know my girl is  
doing final touch ups

Me : you know she's helping  
here right ?

Skhu : yeah so ?

His wife laughs



Zanele : so babe , you can't really say she's a guest

Skhu : why not ?

Zanele : because she's not visiting

Me : at least , between the two of you one has brains . You kids won't suffer that much

Skhu : mom I'll beat him

Mom : don't involve me into things , I did not start

Dad : why don't we just eat ?

Okoye walks in , and well at the same time the ghost walks in

I chuckle

I do not like the way his eyes  
are just boring at her

Me : toots come sit down

She looks at me and walks over

I pull a chair next to me , she  
sits down

I look at Bukhosi as he walks in

His eyes are stuck on her ,  
Skhumbuzo laughs

I look at him , and he's also  
looking at Bukhosi

I heave a sigh , slightly shaking  
my head

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\*Bukhosi\*

What the fuck is wrong with this boy ?

I know it was said she's his friend

Doesn't he have a girlfriend ?

But guys are fucks

I sit down , and stare at her

She has her head bowed

I dart my eyes to him , and he's  
staring at me

He better not start shit with me  
, I'm not his friend

Maybe I should understand this  
relation between them

So that there are no rifts here

Me : what ?

Mtho : I said nothing

Skhu laughs

Me : move your eyes from me

Skhu : this is going to be lovely



Mom : Bukhosi thank you for coming

Me : mhm

I dart my eyes back to this dark dindy

Dad : why are you thanking him ? He's back home , he should come more often . We don't

even have to ask him to come home

Me : I have a house

Dad : you missed the part , where I said this is home

Okay , I'm not doing this with him or them

Dad : I think we can eat now

Mom dishes up for him

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\*Okoye\*

Why didn't Mtho tell me he's going to be here , but I should have thought he's coming

This rude man !

He hasn't taken his eyes off of  
me

And it's very uncomfortable , I  
don't want to lie

I can't even hold a conversation  
, because he's just looking at  
me

Well , more like staring at me

If I knew he was coming ,  
honestly I would have made an  
excuse

I wouldn't have come to dinner

Even a sandwich was going to  
be fine

The dinner is lovely , but I'm not  
even enjoying my food

Because of his stare

Can I just say that he  
intimidates me ?

And the fact that Mtho said he  
or was a soldier

That just makes him look  
somehow , he's barely even  
making conversation . He just  
talks when he's asked

something , or talked to directly  
. Not just conversation passing

I don't know if it's how he was  
trained , or that's just how he is

Skhu : Okoye what are you  
studying ?

Me : Business Management

Skhu : ah ! That's big



Not really , but okay

Mtho : it's beauty and brains

I smile looking at him

Bukhosi : what happened to  
your skinny girlfriend ?

Ouch !

Mtho looks at him

Mtho : Annie that's her name ,  
and she's still here

Bukhosi : mhm

Okay ! Now that was very  
awkward

Mtho : you're such a mean  
person

He chuckles

Bukhosi : thought I saw  
someone like her , throwing  
herself at me the other day the  
club

This guy !

Mtho : what ?

This is getting very awkward ,  
and in front of parents

Bukhosi : but I can never keep  
up , because every time you  
post her she looks different

I want to laugh so bad but I  
can't

Bukhosi : she must be using too  
much filter , it doesn't match

her in real life . Hold her off a  
bit on that

Jesus !

Like how mean can one person  
be

Mtho : I am going to eat , and  
ignore you before you get  
under my skin

Bukhosi : it's too thin brother

We need some saving grace ,  
like right now

I take my words back saying he  
doesn't talk much

Because he just said a mouthful  
right now dissing Annie , and for  
what ? Like that's his brother's  
girlfriend

What happened to being nice ?

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\*INSERT 05\*

\*Bukhosi\*



Mom : thank you for helping

She smiles walking to the  
kitchen with the glasses

Zanele already helped her in  
doing the dishes

She and Skhu have retired for  
bed

Dad : I need to do something ,  
I'll find you in bed

Mtho : euwww !

Dad chuckles placing a kiss on  
Mom's cheek

Mtho : you parents are ...

Mom : you didn't fall off a tree

Mtho : right , let me go make a  
call

He gets up and walks out

Mom : you're sleeping over ?

Me : no

That will never happen , unless  
there's a reason to make me  
spend a night here

Mom : okay , I am going to bed

She gets up

Mom : so please , make sure  
your brother and his friend lock  
my doors

I chuckle

Me : I will

She walks up

I'm on my feet in seconds  
walking into the kitchen

And she's busy wiping the  
glasses

I walk over and stand behind  
her

She moves back very  
uncomfortable , hitting my  
chest

And she leans with the sink

Her breathing increases , I lean  
my hand over looking at her  
grabbing a glass

She tries to move , I move my  
other hand to her side

And open the tap , my eyes  
looking at her

She swallows hard

I move back slowly , drinking  
bits of the water

She moves a bit further ,  
keeping her eyes away from me

Voice : toots please be done .....

I put the glass down , and he  
walks in pressing on his phone



Mtho : what ...

I walk over

Me : Mom said you and your  
friend should lock her doors

I walk past him going to the  
lounge heading out

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\*Okoye\*

Something must be wrong with that guy , like very very wrong and it's serious

He's definitely not a man of few words , he can speak fine

And what was that stunt he pulled there ?

Couldn't he just excuse me ,  
and ask for water nicely ?

He didn't even drink half that  
water

Maybe a sip was what he took

I doubt he wanted the stupid  
water

Mtho : what was that ?

Me : awkward situations

He frowns

Me : is your brother married ?

Mtho : Bukhosi ?

I nod

Mtho : no

Me : o-kay !

He laughs

Mtho : you want him ?

Me : are you out of your mind ?

Mtho : what can I say ? Why are you asking if he's married ?

Me : I'm just asking

He was way too close for  
comfort

And if he's married , he must  
never ever come close to me  
like that ever again

Not that , if he's not married he  
should . He shouldn't

We don't know each other like that

I am not stupid though , the way he was staring at me during dinner

And that water stunt of his

If he wants something he better not be belonging to someone



I don't want drama

And I didn't come here for the  
boys of this house

Me : it was an ask , really

Mtho : I don't believe that , but  
like he's old . He's actually older  
than us , he's 30

Okay !

He's old , I'm only 23

Me : there was no need to tell  
me his age

He laughs

Mtho : you're done , let me lock  
and walk you to your room

Me : I can walk

Mtho : don't be mean , I'm  
going to cuddle you and we  
watch a movie

I won't argue with him

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\*Mthobisi\*

Someone fell asleep through  
out the movie

I slowly get off the bed , and  
cover her up

Placing a peck on her forehead

I put on my shoes , leaving the  
light on

She hates the dark , or she's  
scared of it . I don't know

She would freak out , if she wakes up and the light is off the room is dark

I switch off the TV , and place her key on the night stand so she can see it when she wakes up

I walk out , and lock using my spare key

I walk into the house , and make  
sure all doors are locked

Just double checking

As I walk up the stairs , my  
phone rings

And I have two missed calls  
from Annie

Me : yeah

Bukhosi : do not forget yourself

I laugh getting into my room ,  
he's being aggressive for no  
reason

Me : why was Okoye asking me  
if you're married ? What did  
you say to her ?

Bukhosi is bad news



He has a very bad temper ,  
honestly I wouldn't want him  
for Okoye

She's dealing with a lot in her  
life

The last thing she needs , is a  
boyfriend like Bukhosi

Bukhosi : what's it to you ?

Me : leave Okoye alone

Bukhosi : am I holding her ?

Wow !

Me : you clearly didn't call me  
to throw stones

Bukhosi : I want you to come  
take my car for service

tomorrow , and use it for a few days . It's been sitting around for a few months

I laugh

Me : the sports car ?

Bukhosi : be here by 8 , not later . I have commitments

Fuck !

He drops the call

But I'm ecstatic , I've been dying  
to drive that car

And he's very attached to his  
things

I sit down on the bed and call  
Annie

It rings unanswered , I call again

When I'm about to hang up she  
answers

Annie : so you're still alive ?

Me : babe loose the attitude , I  
was having dinner with family  
and it took long

Annie : I see

Me : ah come on ! It's not like I didn't tell you about it

Annie : mhm , and was Okoye part of the dinner ?

Annie has always known about Okoye , and she's never been intimated by her

This is nonsense

Just because now , she's staying  
at home with us it's suddenly a  
problem

Me : I am not entertaining this  
nonsense , goodnight . I love  
you

I drop the call

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\*INSERT 06\*



\*A WEEK LATER\*

\*Bukhosi\*

General : how are you holding  
up ?

Me : I'm fine

He chuckles

General : I would like to believe so , because even in the midst of everything it's okay for your man to find adopting being hard for them

Me : mhm , they're doing good .  
Better than expected

General : that's good and now that you have changed posts ,

should we expect you anytime soon to base ?

Me : no

General : something wrong ?

Me : no , there's nothing wrong . I'm also trying to find a balance here , and maybe I also need that as much as my men do .

General : oh well , that's good

He gets up

General : it will always be an honour to serve with you , I'm glad you're still seeing the therapy through . Out of all the guys , I know it's not mostly easy for you . Because you don't think you need it

I know , I don't

General : we care about your well-beings , society needs human beings . People they can call men , and not soldiers . Full of anger , and still suffering effects of war

I nod

He turns and walks out

I sigh shaking my head slowly ,  
he can be so annoying

How inconvenient that I just  
had to bump into him , when I  
was going to the office

It's been three days now , I'm  
trying to keep up with that



My father really resigned , and  
I'm trying to find my feet now  
running the company as CEO

I don't even think I'll hold in for  
long

I just don't have the energy for  
that

I don't feel it at all

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\*Okoye\*

Me : I really don't understand  
what's the hype about this car ?  
Like make me understand

I've never seen Mtho as happy  
as he's been this whole week

And it's nothing else , but just  
this car of his brother

I find it very hard to even  
believe , that his brother gave  
him this car

For a whole week , and he  
hasn't wanted it back

Bukhosi seems like a person  
who doesn't just give

Mtho : do you know what's  
under the hood of this this ?

I frown

Me : what hood ?

He laughs

Me : like .....

The gate opens and his brother  
drives in

We're on the driveway , and  
this is my time to excuse myself

I only saw him once , after what  
happened or didn't happen in  
the kitchen

But we never even exchanged  
words that day

Me : don't come wake me up ,  
it's my day off . And I'm using it  
productively

They're having a family braai

It's the 16<sup>th</sup> today

From what I heard , even Annie  
is coming

I really don't want to be a part  
of this

Especially because this one is  
also here , I don't want to be in  
the presence of this guy

As he gets out of his car , I turn  
walking away heading to my  
cottage

I need this peace



I lock myself in , and lay on the bed flipping over channels to find something to watch

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\*Mthobisi\*

Me : why did she run away  
when she saw you ?

He just stares at me saying  
nothing

Me : o-kay , everyone is that  
side

Bukhosi : you're gawking over  
this car , instead of helping  
around

I laugh

Me : I'm waiting for my girlfriend

Bukhosi : I thought this was a family braai , but girlfriends are also invited ?

Me : yeah well , it's not like you were going to bring someone

I duck a very hot slap that was coming

Me : like ....can you loose the temper , and loose the violence

My phone beeps , it's Annie she's here

I use his gate remote control , and open the gate for her

I didn't ask her anything about what he said that day

And if it's true ...

Oh well , what am I saying ?

He would have never lied about that

And she was different after she came back from her outing , but I won't ask her shit . She can do whatever she wants

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\*Bukhosi\*

My boy is dating a whore here

He really needs to start opening  
his eyes



And find someone else , a  
decent girl

And not someone who'll throw  
themselves at his brother in a  
club

She looks at me , like she's just  
seen a ghost

I'm glad she still remembers her  
deeds

Mtho : babe , this is my brother  
Bukhosi . The soldier ,  
remember I told you about him  
?

She clears her throat , after  
catching a slight cough

Annie : Uhm yes baby , I  
remember

Mtho : let's go , I was just this  
side waiting for you

He takes her hand , and they  
walk away

Getting a bit further from me ,  
she turns her head back looking  
at me

I'm left shaking my head

There's no dull moment in this family

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\*Mthobisi\*

Mom : is Okoye not coming to  
eat ?

Annie holds my hand

And I'm like she better not start  
with her drama

Especially after her reaction ,  
when I told her that Bukhosi is  
my brother

I just want to see if she'll be  
honest , and tell me what she  
did

If she doesn't , I won't ask

Me : she said she was going to sleep

Skhu : but it's been over an hour

Me : who's counting ? but maybe she's tired

Dad : go see if she doesn't want food

Me : uhm dad , she hates it to be woken up from sleep . She won't be happy with me

Mom : it's already late now

Me : don't worry , she'll make a plan when she wakes up

I don't want drama



Especially from this one who's  
holding my hand like this

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\*INSERT 07\*

\*Okoye\*

The knock , I know it's not Mtho

I know his knock

But who could it be ?

I'm so comfortable , I don't  
even want to get off this bed

Voice : Okoye open this door , I  
know you're not sleeping

Oh shit !

Not him

But I'm on my feet in seconds ,  
fixing my t-shirt and shorts

I'm barefoot

I unlock the door slowly , and  
move back a bit opening the  
door a bit slightly

He opens , and walks in opening  
the door wider so he can fit in  
through

He closes it behind him

I swallow hard , just looking at  
him

As I feel his eyes roaming all  
over my body

Bukhosi : why are you not  
coming to eat ?

Me : I ....I don't want food

It comes out as a whisper

He places his hand on my waist ,  
and pulls me closer to him

Our bodies touch , I gasp letting  
out a loud breath

Bukhosi : mhm , what do you  
want then ?

Gosh what did he say ?

My eyes are just so stuck on his  
lips , I see them moving yes

Buy I didn't make out what he  
said



He chuckles

Bukhosi : mhm ?

Me : whaa....

I try moving back but he  
tightens his grip on my waist

Bukhosi : if you don't want food  
, what do you want ?

He leans down , I place my  
hands on his torso

I'm on my toes , my lips gracing  
his

Oh my God!!

What kind of a hoe do I have in  
me ?

Did I just do that ?

I quickly back down

He still has his hand on my waist

Me : I'm .....I'm sorry ...

Bukhosi : no you're not

I look down , he tilts my chin  
with his fingers we lock eyes

Bukhosi : you're not sorry , you  
wanted to kiss me

And why did I kiss him again ?

Bukhosi : and I want you

I gasp fisting on his shirt

Bukhosi : I want you to kiss me ,  
kiss me

Jesus !

I lean over , and within a second  
he picks me up into his arms

I place my hands on his neck ,  
aiming for his lips with a kiss  
which he gladly welcomes

He turns and locks the door ,  
not pulling out of the kiss

He has me pressed against the  
door

I wrap my legs behind him

He lifts my t-shirt , and silly me I  
have no bra on

I was in my comfort zone , and I  
didn't think anyone would come  
in here

I mean , Annie is here so I knew  
Mtho wasn't going to come

I loose myself as he rubs on my  
nipple with his thumb

I throw my head back pulling  
out of the kiss

He trails down , burying his face  
in between my boobs

He slightly moves to the side ,  
sucking and nibbling on my  
nipple

His one hand slides in between  
my thighs

I should stop him right now

I've seen his thing inside his  
pants , and he looks to be  
packing



I don't think I want it inside of  
me

But he slides my shorts and  
panty to the side

I feel him rubbing himself on  
me

I don't even know when he took  
it out of his zipper

I brace myself as I feel him  
pushing in

He's tearing me up , and it's a  
bit of a struggle sliding in one  
shot

I cling my hands to his back ,  
leaning down I bite slightly on  
his neck

As he thrusts through , and he has his hands on my ass cheeks balancing me well

I'm literally just feeling him going in and out of me

I'm clinging to him for dear life

I try releasing my legs from his back , to subside the pain

But he grabs them both

I let out a slight scream with a  
moan

He moves walking to the bed

He gently places me down ,  
taking his clothes off

He pulls my shorts along with  
my panty off

Pushing me back a bit , as he  
positions himself in between my  
legs

He moves up

Trailing kisses from my lower  
stomach to my boobs going to  
my neck

He slides his crotch in

I gasps as he fills me up , I lift  
my leg up to accommodate him

He thrusts in

It's not rough , but not gentle  
either

I place my hands on his neck as  
he continues to thrust in

I feel a wave of pleasure coming  
, I lock my legs behind him

He slides back a bit , as I reach  
an orgasm

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\*Bukhosi\*

She's sleeping so peaceful



But I want to leave now

I slowly shake her , so she can  
wake up

She slowly opens her eyes

Me : I'm leaving come lock the  
door

She pulls the sheets

Me : come

Okoye : lock me in

I chuckle

Me : then who will open for you  
in the morning ?

She goes quite

How does she sleep when I'm still talking to her ?

I shake her again , she opens her eyes

Me : if I lock you in , who will open for you ?

Okoye : Mtho will

Me : I don't like that

She says nothing

There's no winning here

I take my clothes off , getting  
into bed again . I'll rather sleep  
in here , than take her option

I bring her closer with my arm ,  
snuggling her

I lift her leg up , sliding my dick  
inside of her

Okoye : I have to be up in the  
morning

It comes out as a whisper

She moans softly , I thrust a few  
times placing a kiss on the back  
of her neck

She holds my arm

I chuckle

Me : let's sleep

I place my arm on her tummy  
going to her boob grabbing it

Closing my eyes to sleep

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\*Okoye\*

I open my eyes to a wave of  
pleasure hitting me

I look at him , he's on top of me

Me : Ohhhh .....

He shuts me up with a kiss



As he deep grunts , sliding his  
dick out slowly

Some of his cum landing on my  
thigh

We kiss for a few minutes , he  
pulls out of the kiss

Bukhosi : good morning

He pecks my lips a few times

Bukhosi : I'm leaving now , it's still early though . You can sleep , just come lock the door

Me : why can't you just leave it ?

He was leaving last night , I don't know why he changed his mind

Bukhosi : so Mtho can walk in here , while you're naked ?

He gets off the bed picking his clothes getting dressed , I turn and look at him

Bukhosi : come lock

Me : he's still going to come

Bukhosi : the door will be  
locked , you'll get up and be  
decent to open for him

Oh yeah

I get up and sit on the bed as he  
finishes getting dressed

We walk to the door , and kiss  
before he walks out

Bukhosi : I'll see you

I just nod , he walks out

I turn and lock the door , going  
back to bed

I'm tired ! I do need the sleep

Like what is wrong with me ?  
Why did I kiss that man , now  
we ended up doing things

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\*INSERT 08\*

\*Bukhosi\*

Mondli : how are you holding  
up ?

I throw the pen down on the  
table



Me : fine

Mondli : you look and seem like  
you're drowning

I chuckle

Me : mhm-mhm

Mondli : office work ?

He walks around the office

Mondli : this is what we are  
now ?

Me : civilization

He laughs

Mondli : you're not even  
wearing suits , you still have a  
long way to go

I chuckle

Mondli : skinny jeans and sneakers , like really ?

Me : fuck off !

He pulls a chair and sits down

Mondli : this is nice , very nice

Me : hah , let me give you the  
CEO position

He laughs

I just stare at him until he's  
done

Mondli : say what ?

Me : come on ! I hate this , I  
don't even want to be here

Mondli : wait ....is there anything you're keen on doing , except missing the veld and guns and wars ?

I shake my head no

Mondli : force messed up with you

Me : the position

Mondli : me a CEO ?

Me : I'll pay you 35k monthly

Mondli : what ? I made double  
that at force

Me : fuck off , this is not force .  
There's no danger here , just a  
desk and files

He chuckles

Mondli : you're not kidding ?

Me : no

Mondli : why do you even have  
a company , that you don't even  
seem so interested in handling ?

I sigh

Me : I had just left the life of crime , a fucked situation forced me to take the fall for someone . And well , that lawyer king Hawu Bangani was representing me . He did get me out , so he forced the straight and narrow on me

He laughs

Me : but it wasn't for me , that's why I joined the military . Asked



my father to handle the company for me , and just two weeks back home . He thinks I'm ready to take over my duties , he leaves my company

Mondli : give it a try

Me : mxm ! Are you not hungry ? Let's order food , and you have an hour thinking about my offer

He laughs

Mondli : who said I can deal  
with this ?

Me : you're doing better than  
me , okay ! And the therapy  
nonsense as well , I'm still  
finding my foot into it . But  
you're doing great , and well  
you're hungry for civilization

more than I am . So this is  
perfect for you not me

I grab my phone ordering food

Mondli : but with therapy  
you're not even trying , poor  
Angela !

I laugh

That woman annoys me

Mondli : it's sad cause she gets paid , and is keen on helping .  
So she keeps up with you

Me : you're still thinking right ?

He turns with the chair

He'll be better at this CEO  
nonsense better than me

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\*Mthobisi\*

Annie : maybe I should also go home and visit my father

Me : okay

Annie : just okay ?

I look at her

Me : what ?

Annie : you won't even miss me  
babe ?

I chuckle

Me : and you know that how ?

Annie : you just said okay

Me : yhoh babe ! Can we just go eat , I missed breakfast . I don't know about you , but I'm hungry

I get off the bed

I know my parents are not around

I don't mind taking her down with



As much as they know her , I  
just don't want them to think  
I'm disrespecting their home  
parading her in their house

We walk down , and I see Okoye  
outside by the washing line

I doubt she has eaten , I'll make  
enough food for her as well

Annie sits down on the high  
chairs

The door bell rings

Me : please attend that

She goes on to get the door

Annie : okay thank you

She walks back in with a food  
paper bag

Annie : oh baby , you ordered  
food ?

Me : no

She laughs

Annie : what do you mean no ?

She puts the bag on the table

Me : I did not order that

Annie : then who's it for ?

I open the bag , and chuckle to myself

Annie : what ?

Me : this is for ....toots !

I call her out

Annie : so she ordered food and  
did not order for us ?

Okoye : what ?

Me : hey you

I smile

Okoye : I'm busy dude what's up ?

I laugh

Me : you're glowing today , but very moody and sour . And your food is here . Can I have a bite ?  
Just a bit

Okoye : what food ?

Annie : oh well , if it's not hers  
and she didn't order it let's eat

She tries to grab the bag , I  
move it

Me : stop ! What's it with you ?

I look at Okoye

Me : this is for you

Okoye : from ?

Me : girl ! I wouldn't know , I  
don't know the company you  
keep

She walks over and looks inside

Okoye : oh gosh I'm famished

Me : can I ....



Okoye : you have no idea why  
I'm getting this food

She laughs taking her bag going  
out

Fuck Annie for being here

Now I'm missing out on food  
and gossip

Who ordered her food ?

Annie : well , at least order for  
us

Me : I'm not hungry anymore ,  
make yourself something to eat  
if you're hungry

I turn to walk away

Annie : babe are you tired of me  
already being here ?

This girl !

Me : what are you ...

Annie : why are you walking  
away from me ?

Me : why are you angry for  
Okoye's food , that you don't  
even know where it's coming  
from

Annie : I'm not

I shake my head slowly

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\*INSERT 09\*



\*Okoye\*

He walks in , I laugh

He's being a baby right now

Me : what do you want ?

Mtho : food

Me : dude get out , where is  
your greedy girlfriend ?

Mtho : bathing , she's going to leave

He sits down on the bed , taking out a burger

There was two burgers and a pizza , with some sweet treats

Mtho : if you're dating a rich man , please tell him not to



spoil you in front of Annie  
because I cannot afford all this

Who is he kidding ?

He's just stingy to spoil Annie ,  
she loves acting like a spoiled brat  
at times

Mtho : who is he ?

Me : who ?

Mtho : come on

I don't even know who is he to  
me

I enjoyed the sex , I don't want  
to lie

I haven't been dating much ,  
finances stress me so much

I really don't have time for boys  
, because I actually don't just  
want that degree but I need it

It's my way out of poverty

In hopes that I won't be one of  
many graduates sitting at home  
with my job

Bukhosi probably wouldn't even  
want a relationship with me

It was just sex

Me : no one

Mtho : since when are there  
secrets between us ?

I laugh

Me : do you want food or news  
?

Mtho : eish , I'll settle for the food right now

Me : good , now please keep quite because there's nothing

Mtho : fine , be secretive

Imagine telling him that I slept with his brother last night

And that he even slept here

Mtho : you're glowing today

Me : oh well

Mtho : if you weren't a nun I  
would think you got some

We laugh

Mtho : you're sneaky girlfriend

Me : I'll kick you out , I need to go iron

Mtho : sit down , you're even getting lunches

That was a shock !

A nice surprise though , cause I wasn't even expecting it

But I don't want to read much  
into it

That man is very weird

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\*Bukhosi\*



She takes her glass of water and  
takes a few sips

And puts it down

Angela : I had a very interested  
talk with your general

Me : you don't say ?

She smiles

Angela : he is so impressed ,  
and he thinks you're getting all  
the help you need

I nod

Me : that's good

Angela : is it ?

Me : yeah , he forced therapy  
on us . So imagine if he's happy  
and impressed , then it's all  
good

She sighs

Angela : except there's no help  
you're getting

Me : at least we both know that  
, but then again what help do I  
need exactly ?

Angela : I don't know how you  
managed to fool that man ,  
because you walk in here and  
don't even spend 10 minutes  
then you insult me and leave

Me : spare me , I won't feel bad for you

Angela : what you're missing to understand is that you went to the military very young . But this is a very different world

Me : yeah you're right , it's the very same world me and my man risked our lives protecting

Angela : that was a choice , no  
one forced you to go fight wars

I chuckle

Angela : so what are you  
expecting now ? That we be  
grateful for you , as if we  
begged you to go risk your life  
for us ?

Me : that's the nice thing about choices , like me walking in here insulting you and leave

I get up , she also gets up

Me : I never get tired , and your bitchy attitude doesn't faze me either . I'll still stand tall

I open the door and walk out

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\*Okoye\*



Mrs Ngidi : am I not disturbing ?

Me : no , I am almost done

Mrs Ngidi : you work very hard ,  
and I must say I was very  
worried if you'll be able to keep

up with the work load .

Especially because Skhumbuzo is home with Zanele , that's more people . And because you're friends with Mthobisi , I thought you'll just play us and take advantage of that

Me : I would never , I need this job . And he did me a great favour

Mrs Ngidi : it's been amazing having you here , and I hope you're as dedicated to your school work as well

Me : I try

Mrs Ngidi : good , it's holidays now . Your peers are home with families , and having the time of their lives with parties . So here is a little something , I know it's not yet month end . I'll still give

you your full payment month  
end , this is just for you to spoil  
yourself as well . And to thank  
you for the great work you're  
doing

She hands me a brown  
envelope

Me : thank you ma

She smiles

Mrs Ngidi : let me not keep you  
, get done and rest

She walks out

Being raised by a single mother  
, who worked as domestic  
worker to make ends meet

I grew up , knowing that home  
situations are not the same

And I cannot compare myself to  
other teenagers , or my peers  
out there

I learnt to be content , with my  
home situation

To be happy and appreciate  
what I have

Knowing where I come from

And not to compare myself with anyone , not knowing their home situation

While I know mine very well , and when Kamaria came a lot of things changed . And I also had to grow up

I open the envelope counting the money , and it's R2500

Me : wow !

With this much money , I can be able to send my mother the R2000

And just keep R500 for toiletries

The fact that I eat in the house , saves me money



I know she will appreciate this money

And will be able to buy Kamaria clothes for Christmas and New year's

I'll definitely tell her to buy them at pep , she will only spend about R300 and not more

Girls clothes are very cheap ,  
and less expensive

I wipe the tear that runs down  
my cheek

I fold the envelope , placing it in  
my pocket

I could have long been done  
with ironing , Mtho kept me.

And then he left to be with his  
friends

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\*INSERT 10\*

\*Okoye\*

He hasn't come around for like  
two days

And he just rocks up here

It's very awkward

I'm in the laundry room , with  
his mother and he just walked  
in

Bukhosi : nozala (mom)

Mrs Ngidi : don't come here  
with that

He chuckles

Bukhosi : I'm here what's wrong now , like what did I do or who did I wrong ?

Mrs Ngidi : for two days you have been quite , so you coming here is strange

He leans against the door

I'm trying so hard not to look at  
him

Bukhosi : I shouldn't come  
home ?

Mrs Ngidi : you love your house  
more than every other house

Voice : unless he has a reason  
bringing him here



Says Skhumbuzo walking in with  
a laugh

Mrs Ngidi : like what ?

Skhu : a sister in law cousin

What the hell ?

Mrs Ngidi : what's that ?

Poor woman ask confused just  
as me

I dart my eyes to Skhu , he has a  
smirk on

Skhu : he knows

Bukhosi : things that have  
nothing to do with you

Jesus !

Can this nice woman take her  
awkward sons and leave me  
alone

Mrs Ngidi : I'm not complaining  
that he's home though

Skhu : I have a feeling he will be  
home more often

Mrs Ngidi : that's nice

Skhu : until February yes

He laughs

Mrs Ngidi : there's even a  
timeline ?

Skhu : something like that

Okay I am not stupid

Please lord !

Don't tell me Bukhosi discussed  
me with his brother

I dart my eyes to him , and he's  
looking at me

Gosh he better have not

How will I ever look at  
Skhumbuzo again ?

And this guy is just like Mthobisi  
, they seem to be the clowns of  
the family

Always talking and laughing

He might just blurt all of that  
during dinner

Mrs Ngidi : Bukhosi ?

Bukhosi : don't ask me about things I don't know , I came to eat

He says walking out

Skhu : yeah sure he's come to eat alright

He looks at me and winks , laughing while he walks out

Like euwww !

That's creepy

Mrs Ngidi : these boys !

She slightly laughs

At least they make her happy ,  
and she's always glad to see  
them



Mrs Ngidi : let me go cook , I'll see you at dinner

I nod with a smile , she walks out

I breathe out

I didn't even realise I was holding my breath in , I almost suffocated

I am missing that dinner and  
going to sleep

I am not going to sit around the  
table with them

I might just end up as the talk

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\*Bukhosi\*

Why is she not having dinner  
with us ?

I won't stay around this table  
while she's not here

Mom : you haven't touched  
your food

I chuckle

Me : excuse me , I have a call to  
attend to

Skhumbuzo laughs

This fool is so in my business , I  
wonder who invited him

I walk out , and head to the  
kitchen

Lights are still on in the cottage

I doubt she's asleep

I get out using the kitchen door  
walking to the cottage

I knock

And she doesn't answer

I knock again , a bit louder this  
time

Okoye : champ go away

Me : Okoye open the door

It goes quite for a while , and  
she opens the door

I get in and close the door  
behind me

Okoye : I want to sleep

Me : you were not at the dinner  
table

Okoye : people who are at the dinner table , are people who want to eat

I chuckle , walking closer to her

Me : using my words against me ?

I pick her into my arms , she places her arms on my neck



I smash my lips on hers she  
welcomes me , I walk over to  
the dressing table

I place her down , getting in  
between her thighs as we kiss

I slide my hand in between her  
thighs , she sighs and pushes  
me away and slides down the  
dressing table

Me : what ?

Okoye : I'm going to shower ,  
lock the door on your way out

She walks to the bathroom

I'm life like , lock the door how  
? Lock her inside and leave with  
her key

Nakhona ngihamba ngiyaphi ?  
(and I'm leaving going where)

Abafazi ! (Women)

I sure lock the door , and take  
my clothes off walking to the  
bathroom

I walk in , and her back is turned  
against me

I walk closer , placing my hands  
to her front going up to her  
boobs

Okoye : I said ....

I lift her leg up , sliding my dick  
inside of her

She places both her hands on  
the wall bending her back a bit ,  
as I thrust in from behind

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\*Okoye\*

Mrs Ngidi : you missed dinner ,  
so much for saying you came  
here to eat

Skhumbuzo laughs

I don't understand why are  
these people always having  
awkward conversations

At awkward moments

Bukhosi : I got caught up

In my room , spending the night  
in my bed

That's where he was caught up

Skhu : but he ate

Mom : his plate was empty this morning

That's because he ate it this morning

Skhu : he did eat , most definitely



Mrs Ngidi : I feel for the woman who's going to get married to you , you really have a big appetite

Skhumbuzo chuckles

Skhu : yeah sure he does , he has a huge appetite for everything . There's nothing he doesn't eat

Yhoh !

Skhumbuzo is just torturing me  
, it's like he sees right through  
us what happened

Sure his brother with a big  
appetite ate me

That's just what he meant ,  
plain simple

I get up with my plate and  
Mtho's walking to the kitchen

I lean by the sink counter taking  
a deep breath

Voice : toots are you okay ?

I almost jump

Me : stupid ! Why would you  
scare me ?

Mtho : I'm sorry , what's up ?

Me : nothing

Mtho : come on , I see the  
tension between you and  
Bukhosi . What's going on there  
?

Me : tension ?

Mtho : he's been staring at you ,  
and you're definitely avoiding  
making eye contact with him

Me : stop reading into things  
that are not there

Mtho : Did he say something to  
you ?

Me : something like what ?

Mtho : I don't know , anything  
to make you feel somehow

Me : I don't even know your  
brother like that , he said  
nothing to me

Mtho : okay , good . Because he  
doesn't even stay here , his  
word shouldn't bother you

I laugh

Me : since you're here , bring the plates . So I can get on with my chores

Mtho : yes ma'am

He walks out , I grab a glass and fill it with water taking small sips catching my breath

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\*INSERT 11\*



\*TWO WEEKS LATER\*

\*Okoye\*

It's after the new year

The Ngidi's had friends and  
family over

I'm glad they hired a cleaning company and did not have me do crazy cleaning duties , after their celebrations

But I am tired today , fatigue is just doing it's best

I got paid and sent my mother R2500

And I just kept a R1000 , of  
which I still have

I didn't have much use for it

It'll be safe for rainy days

In the past two weeks , I only  
saw Bukhosi once

Well he came twice

The only time I got to spend  
time with him , if I can even say  
that

Was on Christmas day

Then he left and disappeared

He was around on new year's  
eve , he didn't even stick  
around for an hour and he was  
gone

That guy is too weird honestly

And I hate that I can't stop  
thinking about him

Because I don't know what we  
possibly can have together

I barely know him , and well he  
doesn't know me at all

I'm in the cottage doing my  
braids

I can't afford to take the money  
to the salon , I'll rather do my  
own hair

And save the money

My phone rings and it's my  
mother , I smile putting it on  
loud speaker



Me : mom

Mom : hi baby , how are you ?

Me : I'm okay , how are you  
guys ?

She sighs

And I can just feel it , something  
is wrong

Me : what's wrong ?

Mom : Kamaria is not feeling well

My heart shutters

Mom : don't cry now , she's just teething and has a bad fever

Oh my God !

Me : uhm , how much is a doctor that side ?

Doctors are very expensive now , but I'm sure it's better than here in Joburg

Mom : I'll take her to the clinic tomorrow , if she doesn't get better we'll go to the doctor

Clinic is the most useless place  
ever

They never give anyone  
anything that works there , I  
can't trust she'll get help

I sigh

Me : okay , you'll let me know  
how it goes

Mom : don't worry , she's going  
to be fine I just had to tell you

Me : yes thank you

She drops the call

Now I wish I was home , and  
closer to her

Voice : toots I ....

He walks in as I wipe my tears off , he comes to where I'm seated on the floor

Mtho : what happened ?

He's next to me in seconds holding my hands , I look at him he looks worried now

Mtho : what's wrong ?

Me : Kamaria is sick , mom says she's teething and has a bad fever

Mtho : your mother still uses the same account ?

I sigh

He better not

Me : don't do that

Mtho : toots , this is not about you but my princess

Me : she said she'll take her to the clinic

Mtho : uh no ! She needs a doctor , someone who will examine her . And give her the right medication for teething , so subside the pain



He takes out his phone

Mtho : same account ?

Me : I have money , I can send her

Mtho : look at you crying

Me : because I just wish I was home , much closer to her

Mtho : okay I'm sorry , I know  
you wish you were home now .  
But you're doing this for them ,  
and I'm here to support you .  
Let me send the money , and  
we'll hear what the doctor says

I just nod

Clearly he wants to send the  
money

Mtho : done , come let's go  
cuddle . We'll wait to hear what  
your mother says

I slightly laugh

Me : I'm doing my hair

Mtho : we need cuddles now ,  
but I'll help you finish let's go

There's no winning here

I get up , and pick everything up  
from the floor

I tie a doek on my head , there's  
no help he's going to offer here  
. That much I know

I might as well finish myself  
tomorrow

We walk inside the house going  
to his room

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\*Bukhosi\*

Beats me why I still don't have  
her number to this day

I barely think about anything ,  
or putting it into consideration

I should have long gotten her  
number

It's been weeks now

I knock in the cottage , and the  
way it's so quite it's clear she's  
not in here

I knock quite a few times

And there's still no answer

Where could she be ?

I mean , they said she was going to be here until they return to campus

And they're not open until next month

She wasn't in the lounge or the kitchen in the house



It's late now , like after 20:00 . I  
don't want to think that she's  
not around

I walk back inside the house

Me : where is Mtho ?

Zanele : I think he's been in his  
room

He can give me her number ,  
even though he might get  
clever with me

And ask me stupid questions ,  
or maybe he knows where she  
is

I hope not at a boyfriends

I head to his room , and knock  
slightly

He doesn't answer , now I know  
that skinny girl can't be here

And he's not asleep , it's unlike  
him he stays up very late

I open the door and it's not  
locked

What shocks me is seeing them  
cuddled up on the bed sleeping

Like what the fuck ?

Is this still just friendship or  
there's more going on ?

I have a good mind to wake  
them up

But Okoye is grumpy when  
she's woken up from sleep

I walk out and close the door

Now I don't even feel like  
leaving

And I wasn't planning on  
spending the night here

But my room is not occupied

I walk back down

Skhu : you found him ?

I nod

Skhu : we hardly see you , what have you been busy with ?

Me : this and that

Skhu : that's basically saying nothing

Me : please don't become your  
mother leave me alone

Skhu : she should hear you

We laugh

He's stupid , so he might even  
tell her I said that

Skhu : tell me something , like  
don't you miss people around

here when you disappear for so long ?

People being Okoye

Me : don't annoy me

Skhu : just asking

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\*INSERT 12\*

\*Okoye\*

Mom : she's much better , the injection did her well

That's a relief

Me : thank you

Mom : I'm sorry I worried you

I smile

Me : no you didn't , I just wished I was home near you guys . I hate it when she's sick and I'm not around

Mom : don't worry , she's a strong girl . She was playing and eating this morning , she's sleeping now

Me : okay , I'll call when I get a chance . But if something happens , please call me . I mean anything

Mom : don't worry , but I'll call you

Me : okay , I love you guys

Mom : we love you too

I drop the call , and immediately  
his presence graces me

I heave a sigh

I don't even know where he  
comes from

He walks closer and stands  
behind me , hugging me from  
behind

He places a kiss on my neck

Me : just stop

It comes out as a whisper

Bukhosi : I missed you

I don't know what does he think  
I am

Or what this is

After doing his disappearance ,  
he just shows up like nothing

Me : I'm trying to work here

Bukhosi : why are you sulking ?

Men will always be men

Me : I am not



Bukhosi : then give me a kiss

Hell no ! That's not happening ,  
okay I don't know , but it  
shouldn't

Me : no

He chuckles

Bukhosi : I want to see that  
you're really not sulking

Me : I don't ....I won't prove anything to you

Bukhosi : it's not even about that

He turns me to face him , his hand griping tight on my waist

Me : I ....

He shuts me up with a kiss ,  
pressing his body hard on mine

I feel his crotch pressed hard  
against my lower stomach

Me : not in your parents house  
please ....

I mumble through the kiss , and  
push him off slightly

I heave a sigh

He just stares at me caressing  
my cheek

That silence for a few minutes

I finally gather myself and walk  
away walking out

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\*Mthobisi\*

Bukhosi to be home , day and  
night

This is very rare , it's so not like  
him

I watch him as he walks over

I'm washing the car

I could have taken it to the car wash , but if something happens to his car

He's going to blame me

I'm surprised he still hasn't wanted it back

After so long

If he wasn't Bukhosi , I would  
have thought he's given it to me

But that would never happen ,  
not in this lifetime

Bukhosi : do you love Okoye ?

I look at him

Me : yeah



He frowns , I laugh

Me : what do you mean love ?

Maybe I need to understand his  
question

Bukhosi : like to fuck her

I cough , choking on my own  
saliva because what the fuck !

Me : dude not so blunt !

Bukhosi : well ?

Me : couldn't you say like to  
have her in between sheets ?

Bukhosi : just answer me

Me : no I don't , she's a friend  
okay . And that's all I see her as  
, more than that just as a sister

nothing else . Damn ! You're disgusting , I don't see Okoye like that

Bukhosi : right

And he turns back going inside the house

Like what was that about ?

Wow !

To be honest , I did want to fuck  
Okoye when we first met

It wasn't feelings , it was not  
love

Just lust nothing else

I've never held any romantic  
feelings for her whatsoever

But the day , we started talking  
and all

We just clicked , and I didn't  
feel anyhow anymore

I have never even tried anything  
with her

We share a bed together , and I  
never touch her inappropriate ,  
and I never will

I love her too much , as a friend  
and a sister . And I wouldn't  
wanna ruin what we have

I mean trying a relationship  
would be something else , or  
even just wanting to fuck her !

Fuck ! I don't even look at her  
like that . That happened almost  
two years ago

And I didn't even know who she was

I just saw a beautiful girl at campus , and I was like I wouldn't mind tapping that ass

We met , and that was just gone

She knows how many girls I've fucked and played

I mean , for over a year now  
going on two

We have been friends

It wouldn't make sense to want  
to fuck her , and ruin us

I can be myself with her ,  
without trying so hard to please  
her



Such friends are very rare

And she's one friend , I want to  
have in my life forever . I don't  
ever want to loose her

She can be vulnerable with me ,  
and not be ashamed about it

She knows I have her like no  
other has

That's not something you fuck  
up , over a fuck that might not  
even be worth it

I will never go there

Very strange of Bukhosi to ask  
me that though

As if he knew my initial  
intentions , that maybe lasted

for like a day and not more than that

That was strange , especially because I don't think the two of them even talk to each other

Unless he thinks we're fucking , and I bought her to come help around here . So I can have my fuck closer to him

I mean , anything is possible  
with him

You never know what he's  
thinking

I chuckle at that thought

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\*Bukhosi\*



She looks at me , I grab the lotion from her placing it next to her

Me : do you love Mtho ?

I lower my pants , taking my dick out

Parting her legs , I rub my dick on her pussy before I slide in

She places both her hands on  
my chest

Me : do you ?

I lean over pecking her lips ,  
taking slowly deep thrusts

Okoye : mmmh ....he's a friend

Me : just a friend ?

She bites her lower lip nodding

Best I know that I'm not tripping  
over my little brother here ,  
that would be insane

Me : I walked in on you two  
cuddling on his bed last night

She grabs my lower waist , I  
thrust in harder



She drags her one leg up , giving me better access

Okoye : I .....I was .....Ahhhh

I peck her lips

Okoye : just a bad day

Me : next time you have a bad day , I'm your cuddle

She leans forward taking my lips  
into hers , deepening the kiss

I move closer slightly ,  
increasing my pace

Me : I don't like you cuddling  
with him , don't ever do it again

She whimpers as her walls close  
in , she grabs tight on my arms .  
I slowly move back

Okoye : no ....please don't do that

Me : did you hear me ?

She nods throwing her head back

Okoye : yes ....yes I heard you

I tilt her chin bringing her face

We lock eyes , as she wraps her  
legs behind me having an  
orgasm

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\*INSERT 13\*

\*Mthobisi\*

I call her again , and same thing

She's not answering my calls

I'm sure now this is deliberate

I can't be calling from morning  
until now , and still there's no  
answer

I won't beg anymore

Because I don't get what's the  
problem

We've never had this much  
drama in our relationship

Just until Okoye came home to  
help us

And things changed , Annie is  
always nagging and snapping

Just seeking attention from me ,  
and just the wrong way



I put my phone back in pocket  
bumping into someone

Me : I'm sorry

She looks at me , I smile

Me : uhm ...sorry

She smiles

Her : it's okay

Me : I know you

She frowns

Me : you're Lethabo Theo

The frown disappears

Me : Mthobisi Ngidi , we were  
in first year together

Lethabo : I would hardly  
remember you , don't take  
offence

I chuckle

She lies , she remembers me  
how can she not ?

But it's fine

Let me indulge her

Me : of course , because you  
hardly and barely talked to  
anyone

Lethabo : and I still am like that

I chuckle

Me : at least , I got to talk to  
you

Lethabo : dude ! You bumped  
into me

Me : I'm sorry

Lethabo : for the third time you  
have apologized

Me : yeah , coffee ?

Lethabo : it's scrotching hot

Me : juice ?

Lethabo : mhm , what do you  
want ?

I smile

Me : your number

Lethabo : player much

I laugh

Me : come on , that can never  
be me

Lethabo : your dark dindy

Me : she's a friend , a very good  
very . More like a sister

Lethabo : if she dares come  
after me , you best believe my  
father will cut you open

Ouch !

Me : girl why the threats ?

Lethabo : come on , give me  
your phone

I hand it to her

Lethabo : there you go



I take it , and she's saved her  
number

I smile

Lethabo : and it wasn't a threat  
but a promise , my father will  
do away with you

Shit !

I frown

Lethabo : and most importantly  
, don't make me cry ever .

Unless I'm happy , but he still  
won't like it

She says with a smile , and  
pats my shoulder walking  
away

Me : psycho !

I turn and look at her , only to  
find her looking at me

She laughs

I shake my head smiling

What the fuck ?

She just threatened me with her  
father , and I'm smiling like for  
what ?

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\*Lethabo\*

**Lethabo**



Mom : what's with the silly  
smile ?

I laugh

Mom : out with it

Me : don't you want to go and play with your son's ?

She wipes her hands and sits down with me

Mom : tell me

I laugh

Me : that silly boy Mthobisi bumped me into me today

She laughs

It's no lie , I've always had a  
crush on him since our first year

But he's never seemed  
interested , nor like even  
noticed me

I was surprised he even knew  
my name



And still remembered we were  
in first year together

I remember him well

Like he used to just throw nasty  
silly comments randomly in  
lectures

I used to tell my mother about  
him

Until one day she fetched me  
from varsity , and I showed him  
to her

We do have random  
conversations about him  
sometimes

I know he has a girlfriend ,  
Annie

Okoye and him , they seem to have quite a bond

But I also know it's harmless

Mom : he didn't scratch you ?

I laugh

Mom : he might just get killed , just because he bumped you

Me : no , but he asked for my number and I already warned him about my father . He knows not to mess with me

She laughs

Mom : poor guy

Me : oh he better not , like he knows the truth from the get go

I don't know , I feel excited  
somehow

I have a strong feeling by just  
that meaningless conversation  
with him

I sound like a stupid 14 year old  
right now

But it's whatever

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\*Okoye\*

I walk in on him , and he's  
smiling

Looking on his phone

Bukhosi left early again , taking  
my number

I wonder if he will ever use it

Or he was just taking it just for  
the sake of taking it

I don't understand that guy

I also don't understand why I'm  
always just melting into his  
arms

As soon as he holds me , I loose  
all my sane senses . It's crazy !



I stand behind him , leaning  
over placing my chin on his  
shoulder

He laughs

He's looking at a number

Me : who's that ?

Mtho : Lethabo Theo

Me : whoa ! That cute sexy  
mami with blue eyes , and the  
tattooed father with a rose on  
his neck ?

He laughs

I end up laughing with him

Mtho : yes

Me : Champ please no , his  
father looks very scary . And I  
doubt it's just looks

Mtho : she's already told me he  
will cut me open if I dare make  
her cry

Me : what are you doing ?

I sigh

Me : don't hurt this girl , don't use her . You have Annie

Mtho : I feel like we're forcing things , so I'm going to break things off with her . I've already asked to meet her , she's been ignoring my calls all day today . But she read the message , and didn't respond . Honestly if she doesn't want us to meet , then I'll just dump her with a text

I laugh

Me : that's low

Mtho : she's acting childish and it's annoying

Me : wow , I know nothing about relationships . So I won't even say anything , just don't hurt Lethabo . Her father will finish you , I swear that man is

scary . You don't want to mess  
with his daughter

I move back

Mtho : I won't

The silly smile again , I guess  
he's in love

I wouldn't know , I don't have a  
man who smiles like how he

smiles just looking at her phone  
number

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\*INSERT 14\*

\*Mthobisi\*



I pull a chair and sit down

Me : why am I here ?

Annie : you dumped me over a text ?

Me : I've been calling you yesterday , I texted you . And you ignored me

Annie : and so you were expecting me to answer your calls so you can dump me ?

Me : did you know I was going to dump you , or you just didn't want to answer my calls ?

She sighs and leans forward touching my hands

I move them

Annie : baby no please don't do this , whatever this is we can fix it . And if it's about what

happened , at the club with  
your brother . I didn't know he  
was your brother , not that I  
throw myself at men when I go  
out . It was just a mistake , and  
he sure told me off I even left  
the club in shame

Wow !

That was a mouthful , and it  
took us to be here before she  
even tells me

I get up

She looks at me with her eyes  
glistening

She better not cry because I will  
not comfort her

I'm walking out of here , and  
out of this relationship

Me : you're just childish that's why I'm breaking up with you , and your behaviour since Okoye came to my house has been annoying . You've been acting like a jealous girlfriend , I just can't . So we're done , don't call me again

Annie : Mthobisi .....

She raises her voice causing us stares

Me : I'm not kidding with you

I grab my phone off the table  
and walk out heading to my car

She comes out running out of  
the restaurant

I drive off before she even gets  
to my car

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\*Bukhosi\*



Mondli : don't you get tired ?

I sit down on the couch and  
chuckle looking at him

Me : of ?

Mondli : coming in here  
everyday , like you're here to

work . And you sit down on that couch , all day long doing nothing just staring at me . It's creepy

I laugh

Me : I don't bother you

Mondli : why are you even here ?

My phone rings , I take it out  
and just get annoyed seeing the  
caller

It better not be because of that  
therapist woman

Me : general

General : are you free for a talk  
?

Me : I feel like I'm giving a lot of those lately , trust me I'm still attending those sessions

Mondli chuckles

General : I am sure you are

I am sure we all know I am not

I haven't gone there , since the last time I want and she thought

she can trick me by using  
attitude

General : this is about you  
coming back ?

Me : what ....what do you mean  
?

General : I mean , out of all your  
men you're the only one who's  
not keen for this change .

You're a great commander ,  
force will always be in good  
hands having you . So Ngidi , if  
you're interested you have your  
post

What the hell ?

General : I will wait to hear from  
you

He drops the call

Mondli : did he just say he  
wants you back ?

I look at him , he laughs

Mondli : your face just says it all

Why go through all this  
nonsense , only to offer me my  
post back ?

Mondli : I guess now you'll finally give me a break , the civilization God's have heard and answered

He's crazy !

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\*Lethabo\*



Why am I stalking this guy ?

I do not know

But relationship status on  
Facebook is gone

The few pictures with Annie are  
gone

And worse , she's deleted her  
Facebook account

Her and I used to be friends on  
Facebook

Even though we've never talked  
, like not even once

We just have .....well ! I just  
have random people on my  
Facebook I do not know

I would probably have Okoye  
too , if she was on social media

But she's not

I just admire her beauty ,  
nothing else

That girl is an African goddess

You look at her , and you  
understand the whole concept  
of being an African really

She's just flawless

I'm brought out of my thoughts  
by my ringing phone

I smile , seeing it's him

He only texted me last night ,  
that's how I got to have his  
number

Me : hello ?

Mtho : don't do me like that

I laugh

Mtho : I'm single now , dinner  
at my parents tomorrow ?

Honestly , I feel like I will be  
marrying you soon

Dude !

Me : you don't say

Mtho : I can stand up to your  
father

Me : oh you must be a very  
brave man

Mtho : for you yes

I let out a slight chuckle

Me : I am not a rebound

Mtho : never , it wasn't that deep . That's why it didn't take a strain on me to just end it

Me : dinner it is

I may look crazy right now

But trust me



When the heart knows and it's  
at peace , there's no need for  
back and forth

Well , my father used to say

And he also said , if a man is for  
you and he wants you

Most definitely , he will take  
you to his mother

That's the most important part  
of knowing where a man stands  
with you

However this may be seen or  
viewed , I know what I know

Mtho : I am marrying you

We laugh

Mtho : I'm serious

Me : you need help

Mtho : you don't marry a man  
you don't know his roots , trust  
me I'm already preparing you

Mrs Ngidi

We laugh

Me : your parents better like  
me

Mtho : they will , just don't  
mind my brothers

I hope they're not as silly as he  
is

Mtho : I will pick you up , let's  
say at 18:00

Me : that's perfect

My father might just be my  
bodyguard for the night

With Monga Theo you never  
know

I'm 20 , but I'm still 10 to him

Yes !

He views me like I'm half my  
age

And that's how he treats me

I don't mind

I'm the only girl , in a family of 4  
kids

The 3 is boys , I don't even like  
them

Only because they do sports

And when that happens , they  
take my dad away from me

I hate sharing my dad

Honestly my brother's are my  
mother's kids

She knows it too

I call them her kids

So I'm the apple of my father's  
eye

He's a very strict man , but he  
also let me be me . Like he  
doesn't have me caged

That's why I'm not so uptight ,  
and I don't have fears of asking  
them to let me go to the dinner



My parents are many things ,  
but they're cool

Just as long as Mtho believes  
me on what I said , and he  
makes sure he doesn't step  
there

My father will have no issue  
with him

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\*INSERT 15\*

\*Mthobisi\*

Me : I have a guest tonight ,  
please be nice

They all look at me

Me : mom

She laughs

Mom : you have plans to be  
marrying Annie ?

Me : what ? ....no !

Mom : she seems to be  
attending a lot of family affairs  
into this house

I sigh

Me : Annie and I broke up , okay  
. It wasn't working , that's done  
. And please , let's not be like I  
invited her home to be  
introduced . You met her by  
chance

Skhu laughs

Skhu : and she just thought ,  
just because she's known she

can come around . I get you  
small

Me : leave me alone , and no  
more asking me about Annie or  
mentions of her to me

Skhu : when did that happen ?

Why is he the one questioning  
me ? He should go back to his  
house , holidays are over

Me : why does it matter ?

Skhu : because already there's someone ?

He must mind his business

Me : please , this one means a lot to me . I mean no disrespect at all , but if it's somehow too soon for the family after Annie .



Mom can you just meet her ,  
just you alone it's fine

Skhu : when did you fall in love  
so hard and quick ?

Dad : at 21 , does he still even  
know what he's doing ? What's  
love Mthobisi ?

He shakes his head with a  
chuckle mom laughs

I guess they're having a good laugh at my expense

Me : okay , let's not do that to me . Please , this one person is very special and means a lot to me . That's all I'm just asking , be nice . Or mom just see her alone

Yeah that's fine by me

They don't have to meet her really , especially if they're going to be coming at me

Dad : she better not be pregnant

Me : wow ! No she's not

Dad : good , because you're really keen on us meeting her

Me : actually no I'm not , I've already made a suggestion

Mom : don't be silly , we will be nice and welcoming to your guest

Me : thank you

That wasn't so hard at all ,hope dinner won't be awkward

I turn heading upstairs to my  
room

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\*Bukhosi\*

Okoye : what's wrong ?

I tilt my head and look at her

Me : with ?

Okoye : you today

Me : with what ?

She sighs

Okoye : you just seem a bit off ,  
and you're most definitely not  
your usual self when you're  
here

I heave a sigh sitting up

Maybe I should tell her , or not

I don't know

Okoye : was the sex not that  
good for you ?

I turn looking at her , and she's  
still on the same position



Okoye : I mean you weren't  
your usual self ....

Me : no please , you're the only  
one I've been sleeping with ever  
since I got back

Next thing I'll be told my sperm  
count was low

Okoye : I wasn't accusing you of  
anything

Me : mhm , I have to go

Okoye : fine

She turns covering herself

Me : now are you angry ?

Okoye : you're nothing of mine ,  
for me to even feel a certain  
way

Me : what .....

My phone rings , I reach for it  
and it's the general

This man !

He lacks timing , now how do I  
ignore what I've just been told  
and attend his call ?

Me : can you just look at me  
and we talk ?

Okoye : please answer your  
phone , it's annoying and  
making noise

Me : let's ....

Okoye : answer your phone and  
leave please

Okay !

Her tone says she's not kidding  
with me

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\*Lethabo\*

Dinner was great

And I'm glad it was early , so I'll  
still get home in time

His brother's seemed chill ,  
except the big brother

But I'm used to his kind , I am  
my father's daughter after all

So his aura did not scare me at  
all

His mother is just a sweetheart ,  
a very nice lovely woman

His father didn't stay that long for dinner , because he had a business meeting to get to

But he wasn't somehow towards me

Basically , I have nothing to complain about coming to this dinner



I didn't know Okoye stays here ,  
but Mtho said something rather  
very vague

And I didn't ask much

I am not unsettled by her

Me : thank you for inviting me

He holds my hand

Mtho : I'm glad you came , it was lovely having you babe . So thank you

I smile like a retard , it was but a pleasure coming

Me : babe ?

He pulls me closer to him with his hand

Mtho : I've already said I'm  
marrying you , should I still wait  
to court you ?

I laugh

Me : I don't think so

Mtho : most definitely , so from  
today at this moment hereon  
you're mine . And that's that

He leans down , I place my  
hands on his lower back  
meeting him halfway as our lips  
lock and we kiss

Lord !

This feels so right , please let my  
gut not be fooling me

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\*Okoye\*

Mom : did you manage to get in  
?

Me : yes , and I've paid for  
registration and  
accommodation . Of course it  
doesn't cover much

Mom : maybe you should have  
come home , we would have  
worked out what to do

Me : you don't need that stress  
, don't worry . I sent a few CV's  
out , I haven't been getting  
replies . But I know something  
will come up

I'm just saying , I doubt I'll find  
any job

Maybe it's for the best , how  
will I even manage with varsity

I will try and secure a bursary or funding if I can

I don't mind working for it , if I must when I'm done studying

It's my last year after all , I'm ought to find work at the end

Mom : school and work Okoye , my child that's too much



Me : I just have to do what I  
have to do mom , Kamaria  
needs me to do this

She sighs

Me : it's okay now , I'm going to  
be fine . At least I'm going to my  
forth and last year , I'm almost  
there

Mom : I know

Me : so it's not so bad , I just have to push this one last chance . If only I can have my outstanding fees paid , before I can do my in-service training . Then I'll be able to graduate

Mom : I wish there was something I can do

Me : you have no idea how much you're doing for me right now , please don't worry .

March holidays I will be coming home to be with you

Mom : I know Kamaria will be very excited to have you home , she hasn't seen you in a while

Me : I miss her so much

Mom : she knows , I'll call you  
early tomorrow so you can talk .  
She's all asleep now , she was  
playing too much

I smile

Me : okay , you get some sleep  
too . I love you guys

Mom : we love you too

I drop the call

I cuddle myself up

I thought hearing her tiny voice  
would cheer me up

But serves me right that she's  
asleep

I don't even know why I'm sad  
that he left

And it'll probably be a while  
before he's back again

I told him to leave me alone ,  
without even hearing what he  
wanted to say

I don't know why I care

If I never seen him again , I  
shouldn't be surprised

The way he was just so off today , it was evident he wasn't in his moods

I should just forget this

With all the stresses of life that I have right now , I most certainly don't need to be stressing about a man . A man that's not even mine

Because I don't even know what we are

It was nice while it lasted

I mean , it always is

My focus should be on my job now , and leaving here going back to campus finding my feet and figuring out what to do next



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\*INSERT 16\*

\*A MONTH LATER\*

\*Okoye\*

I am screwed , like totally

I swear , I am the dumbest girl  
ever

Something must be very wrong  
with me

To an extent that I can't use my  
logic , and just common sense

Lord help me

Dumb as I am , I know this is  
happening

I damn feel it

How am I even going to tell my  
mother this ?

I can't even tell Mthobisi

Like my boy is so happy , I've  
never seen him so happy

Lethabo is good for him

He's loving her , he's loving her  
so right and loud

He really doesn't need me and  
my stress right now

So I can't tell him , in fact I  
won't tell him

This is my burden to carry alone

I'm going back to res in a week

Hopefully my mind will be cleared by then , and I can think of what to do

I haven't seen nor heard from Bukhosi in a month

Since the last time he left , he never came back . His family has no idea where he is



He hasn't even called me

I really do attract drama and  
trouble wherever I am

Maybe that's why I'm so good  
with making bad decisions

Nothing I ever do works out

Look at how my job has turned  
out now

I'm sure his mother will never  
want me in her house ever  
again

If they find out , I don't know  
how I'm going to look at them  
ever again

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\*Lethabo\*

I have never been this happy

Especially being made this  
happy by a guy

I thought his ex was going to be  
a problem

But not at all

I don't know now that we'll be going back to campus , maybe she'll act out when we meet

But so far , it's just been so good and amazing

I love him

I didn't even think , that would happen so soon

The whole saying that a crush is only meant and supposed to be a crush

The don't date your crush thing

I must have missed it , or it missed me

I'm happy here , it might only be a month

But I will acknowledge the fact  
that he makes me happy

Me : can I ask ?

Mtho : mhm

I feel like he's going to fall  
asleep on me

We're cuddling on his bed

I chuckle

Me : it's about Okoye

Mtho : okay

Me : I don't mean to overstep

He slightly laughs

Mtho : babe this is me you're  
talking to



Me : okay , what's the reason for her to be helping your family ? Not that there's anything wrong with that

Mtho : I hear you , but it's just financial issues

Me : school ?

Mtho : yeah

Me : how bright is she ?

Mtho : 80 up percent

I smile

Me : my father can fund her , if  
it's funding she needs

Mtho : whoa !

He laughs

Mtho : Okoye hates handouts ,  
trust me that won't work

Me : it's not a handout , it's a  
bursary . One that she will work  
for , for a year she will work for  
my father's company . Or  
however they decide to work it  
out

Mtho : mhm , I don't know

Me : how about I talk to her ?

Mtho : I don't want her thinking I'm talking about her financial issues

Me : don't you want to help her ? She will drown in fees , she won't graduate and will not have the degree she worked so

hard for . I'm not feeling pity for  
her at all , just lending a hand .  
To her future that is

He sighs

Mtho : I hate that you're  
speaking sense

Me : talk to her , and you'll let  
me know what she says

Mtho : okay , can we cuddle  
now ? Like really

I laugh snuggling closer to him

Mtho : I love you

Me : I love you too

He places a kiss on my forehead

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\*Mthobisi\*

Me : toots , can we talk ?

She's doing dishes , but she  
looks so out of it

I hope she doesn't feel  
neglected now



I can admit , ever since I met  
Lethabo things have changed a  
bit

Because I've prioritised my  
relationship

Okoye : what ?

Me : I still love you

She laughs

Okoye : dude what do you want ?

Me : it's about your school situation , what if I tell you there's a way you can get a bursary ?

Okoye : I got no replies , just like when I sent out CV's

Me : I know that , but this one is  
a guarantee . If you want it ,  
then it's yours ...

Okoye : how legit is this ?  
Bursaries don't just fall off the  
sky

I laugh

Me : very legit ...

My mother walks in

She looks at Okoye and sighs

Mom : Mthobisi come here ,  
Okoye leave the dishes and go  
rest don't overwork yourself

I follow her to the lounge

Me : uhm .....I did nothing

She laughs

Mom : stop , I didn't accuse you

Me : that's a relief

Mom : tell me , was Okoye  
already pregnant when she  
came here ?

Me : what ?

I raise my voice a bit out of shock

She just stares at me.

Me : I'm sorry , but mom what ....what do you mean pregnant ?  
Okoye is not pregnant

Mom : I know a pregnant woman when I see one , and I just hope this doesn't get me

into trouble with her mother .  
Her daughter came here to  
work , and she leaves pregnant .  
Do you have any idea who the  
father could be ?

Me : mom no ! No , no Okoye is  
not pregnant

Her look says she's very sure of  
what she's talking about , but  
she can't be

Like fuck no !

I don't believe this

She's not even dating , surely  
she's not Mary

I look at my mother hoping  
she'll say , she was just saying

But no , her look is stern



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\*INSERT 17\*

\*Bukhosi\*

I walk in , and it's so quite

But I saw the cars outside

So I know they're home

I wonder where they are

I head to the kitchen , and her  
scent graces me before I can  
even look up

She turns and her eyes meet  
with mine

I know she can't be happy with  
me right now

I walk closer , and she moves away heading for the door

Me : Okoye please don't ....

Okoye : I don't ...

Oh shit , she goes down but I'm quick to catch her into my arms

Fuck !

She feels so light , and she  
doesn't look good at all

I rush out to my car , heading to  
the hospital

Should I even call and tell them  
at home ?

That can wait

I get to the hospital , and rush in  
with her

Two nurses and a doctor attend  
to her

And for like an hour or so , I  
don't hear nothing

My phone rings , I take a look at  
it and it's Mtho

Me : yeah

Mtho : were you home ?

The door opens the doctor  
walks out

Me : we'll talk

I drop the call

Me : doc is she okay ?



He smiles

Doc : don't worry , she and the baby are well . Yes it's still early , just almost at 8 weeks . But they're good

The baby ?

Me : she's pregnant ?

I ask shocked

Doc : you didn't know ?

I lied and said she's my fiancé ,  
so they could attend to her

Me : uhm ....I wasn't home , I  
just arrived today . I'm sure she  
was still planning to tell me , I  
serve with special forces

Doc : I see the military chains  
yes , my brother was special  
forces as well

Me : great , can I please see her  
?

Doc : of course , she is awake

He walks away , I walk in and  
the two nurses walk out

Me : I'm sorry

She doesn't even look at me

Now I feel like shit

I dispatched to Afghanistan ,  
and left things sour between us

I didn't even call , or even send  
a message at least . And she's  
carrying my child

Me : the doctor tells me you're pregnant , just a little closer to 8 weeks

Okoye : what happened to doctor patient confidentiality ?

I sigh

Me : I lied when I bought you in and said you're my fiancé

She says nothing

She doesn't seem shocked nor surprised

Me : did you know you're pregnant ?

Okoye : of course I knew

I sigh

Me : when were you going to tell me ?

I know I wasn't around , and I didn't call

But she could have left me a message , I would have gotten it before I got home

Me : were you ?

She slowly turns , and gives me  
her back as she sleeps on her  
side

Me : I'm talking to you

Okoye : my back is painful

I sigh

Me : okay I'm sorry



I walk over to the side she's  
facing

I pull the chair and sit down

Me : were you going to tell me  
though ?

Okoye : no

I sigh

Okoye : I want to rest , I'm  
being kept overnight . Please  
leave

Me : where am I going ?

Okoye : I don't know , maybe  
you can go back to where you  
were the last month

Shit !

Me : I'm not a deadbeat father

Okoye : I asked to rest

Me : okay fine

If she wants space , I'll give her  
that

I get up and walk to the couch  
near the window sitting down

I'll give her the space she wants  
, but I'm not leaving her here

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\*Okoye\*

I don't understand why he's not leaving

Because that's the one good thing he's good at

# Leaving

He went out to buy food , more like ordered and just went to fetch from the delivery guy

I was hungry , so I did eat

My phone rings , lucky thing it was in my pocket the whole time

And I'm glad he didn't drop it

Me : champ

He goes quite

I can feel that something is  
weighing him

Me : what's up ?

Mtho : is there something you  
want to talk me ?

I frown

Me : what ....

Mtho : where are you ? I've  
been looking for you , and it's  
clear you just left the dishes you  
were doing just as they were



Me : one doesn't choose when they collapse

Mtho : what ?

Me : I'll see you tomorrow

Mtho : wait ....!

I drop the call switching my phone off

No ways Bukhosi told them  
already

No ways !

I know I'm out of that house as  
soon as I'm back there

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\*Mthobisi\*

Great !

She switched her phone off

Now it's like she doesn't wanna talk to me

Like after what my mother said

I haven't been myself , it's just hard to believe that Okoye is pregnant

Like I don't understand this at all

To be honest , I didn't even know that she was seeing someone

This came as a shocker

And now she says she collapsed

Okay , she collapsed but where is she ?

A lot of things are just not  
making sense right now

And I just feel all left out

How come she didn't tell me ?

And knowing Okoye the way I  
know her

She's aware of her pregnancy ,  
if she really is pregnant

And my mother wasn't just  
seeing things that are not there

I don't even know what to  
believe right now

How did I even miss all of this ?  
Could it be because I've been so  
focused on Lethabo

And she felt she couldn't tell me

I mean , I've always been the first person she runs to about everything

I hope I am not loosing my friend

I've been waiting , hoping maybe Bukhosi will walk in or something . Because it's clear his car was around



After a whole month  
disappearing , and hearing  
nothing from him

He seems to have disappeared  
again , lord knows to where

I'm worried about Okoye right  
now , how does she collapse  
and disappear ?

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\*INSERT 18\*

\*Okoye\*

Me : do you really think that I  
want to have a child with you ?

Bukhosi : we already made one ,  
so we are having a child

Me : I don't know how you're thinking , but this is not happening

He chuckles

Bukhosi : I also don't want to say those words back to you , because I don't know what you think is happening

I sigh

Me : kids need love Bukhosi ,  
they need parents . They need  
to be cared for , as for me I am  
not signing up to raise your kid .  
While your out there doing God  
knows what , disappearing for  
days weeks and months . I am  
not doing that , no !

Bukhosi : I will be here for my  
child

Me : spare me , what you know best is disappearing . You disappeared for days , then it was weeks and now a whole month . What's next , a whole year ?

Bukhosi : I am not going anywhere

Me : I'm not doing this with you really

He holds my hand

Bukhosi : I am not , I wasn't happy being back . And they offered me to go back to the force , I thought I could do it . But then , my mind kept trailing me back home . I had met you , and I was really starting to settle . I figured , I should just come back and take things one day at a time . Force doesn't



work for me anymore , okay I  
really don't know what works .  
But I'm here for this , back now  
to make this work . I'll find my  
feet , I just have to . Might take  
me time , but one day at a time

He places his one hand on my  
cheek

Bukhosi : I am here

I don't even know he's here as  
what

Maybe just as a father to his  
child and that's it

I messed up , no lies

This pregnancy shouldn't have  
happened , this is just the worst  
thing that could have just  
happened to me right now

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\*Mthobisi\*

She walks in

My parents are out ,  
Skhumbuzo and Zanele are  
watching TV in the lounge

I'm on my feet meeting her  
halfway

Me : toots

Okoye : I am sorry

We hug

I don't know what this means

Is she going to stop studying ,  
and go back home ?

Like what's going to happen ?

Who is the father of this baby ,  
and does he even know ?

Me : let's go cuddle , I know you  
need cuddles . But I am not  
happy with you

We pull out , I wipe her tears  
and walk upstairs to my room

Me : you have so much to tell me and explain , none of this makes sense at all

Okoye : I know

She sits down on the bed

Me : but let's start here first , are you pregnant really ?

She nods

Me : and I don't know toots ?

She sighs

Okoye : I have a fucked up situation right now , one that does not allow me to be bringing a kid into this world

I sigh



Okoye : you don't need my stress honestly , you have your own life going on right now . And right now I have to figure out a plan of what to do , because this is here now

Me : wait ....you can't be all alone , where is the guy ? Who is he ? He should take responsibility , you can't be alone in his . You didn't make the baby alone

The door opens Bukhosi walks  
in

Me : like ....I called you  
yesterday , you never got back  
to me . Next time , knock !

Bukhosi : what's going on here ?

Me : nothing that's concerning  
you , please get out

He looks at Okoye

Bukhosi : you're about to give him cuddles again , so he can confuse my child ?

Shut the front door !

Bukhosi : my room has a double bed , let's go cuddle

He walks further in , and takes  
her hand she gets up

I'm shocked beyond the word  
shock

Okoye : I'm sorry

They walk out

At this moment , I don't even  
know what she's sorry for

Like what the hell just  
happened ?

He just said his child , like I  
heard Bukhosi say his child

Fuck no !

When and how did that happen  
? Oh shit !

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\*Okoye\*

Bukhosi : why would you want to cuddle with my child with him ?

He must not start with me

I left him in the car annoyed , because we left the hospital

and he was adamant he's not going back to this stupid special forces of his

As he drove in his phone rings , as he said it's the general

If the man knows you really have no interest going back

Then why is he calling you ?



He better not make me be okay  
with having this baby

And then he switches up on me

Me : you said you won't go back  
there

Bukhosi : I won't , he was asking  
me if I'm sure . And I told him I  
am , but he asked to meet  
tomorrow . I'll go see him ,

maybe face to face he'll finally  
get it . And you can come with  
me , if that will assure you that  
I'm really done

Me : I just want your word and  
you stick to it

Bukhosi : I will , and you have  
my word

I heave a sigh

Me : you shouldn't have blurted out just like that to Mtho that it's your baby , he didn't know about us . And I hadn't told him who the father is , now it's going to be like I've been keeping secrets from him

Bukhosi : Mtho is not a child , he will get over this . And you're entitled to secrets

Me : he's my friend

Bukhosi : yeah , and he's the  
uncle to this baby

Bukhosi is a mean person  
though

Bukhosi : come lay on my chest  
, and stop being angry at me

What's the point ?

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\*Bukhosi\*

I reach for my phone , making  
sure I don't wake her up

She fell asleep

I don't want to leave her in bed

I dial his number

Mondli : yeah

I chuckle

Me : can you believe that I  
made a whole human being ?

He laughs

Mondli : what ?

Me : yeah like , I made a person

Mondli : no ways , you're one man who's always played it safe . Women love taking chances , how old is the baby ?

This idiot !

Me : don't be stupid , my wife to be is pregnant . Still early days , but you just had to know .



Seems like civilization has  
welcomed me , more than it has  
you

He burst out laughing

Mondli : wait no ....you really  
got someone pregnant with  
your child ?

Me : best news ever to come  
home to , but of course she's

not happy with me . Because I  
left

Mondi : buy her treats , she will  
forgive you . But please , don't  
make a pregnant woman angry .  
You can't survive wars , only to  
die by the hand of a woman

I chuckle

I'm excited about this

I've never fathered anyone , but  
it's of rocket science

Surely I can survive

I just need to get this woman to  
forgive me , and see that I'm  
here for them

I'm not stupid to leave her with  
our child , just to chase war

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\*INSERT 19\*

\*Okoye\*

He's holding me so tight

I'm wondering if he's not  
suffocating this baby , what's  
with the tight hold ?

I try to move his hand , he grips tight

Me : Bukhosi !

I say annoyed

Bukhosi : where are you going ?

Me : to do my job

Bukhosi : no , sleep

Me : just let go

He didn't want me leaving his  
room last night

He even brought me food in  
here

I just wonder what lie he said to  
his family , bringing food to his  
room



About me not joining them for dinner

Or maybe they didn't ask

Or maybe , Mtho lied on his behalf

Me : I don't want to get into trouble with your mother

Bukhosi : stop making noise ,  
you'll wake up the baby

I frown

The baby can go to hell for all I  
care

I need this money , he and the  
baby don't

I try removing his hand

Bukhosi : don't bore me please

What now !

I look at him , and he has his  
eyes closed

Me : what did you say ?

Bukhosi : mhm

Me : what did you say ?

Bukhosi : don't bore me

Jesus

I laugh

Me : please

Bukhosi : no

So we're going to go back and forth about this ?

Me : I am here to work

Bukhosi : not anymore ...

I am not doing this with him

Me : I can't afford not to , I need this money to pay my fees

Bukhosi : I'll pay them

Me : no ...no please don't annoy me , I don't want your money . I did not even ask for it

I hate handouts just because I'm low class

Hell no !

Bukhosi : don't transfer your  
anger to the baby

Me : you can take your baby

He slowly opens his eyes , and  
they're so bloodshot red

Bukhosi : it's a good thing I can't  
, can I please get some sleep . I  
haven't been able to sleep well

He snuggles me closer , not  
even leaving a tiny bit of space  
between us

Mrs Ngidi is going to fire me

I'm not working , I'm in her  
house on her son's bed

I'm pregnant with her  
grandchild



No kidding ! She's going to fire  
me

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\*Mthobisi\*

Skhu : you look like you've seen  
a ghost

If only he knew half the things I  
know

Okoye and Bukhosi ?

Like when and how did that happen ?

Fuck !

They're having a baby !

That baby is going to call me uncle

Like what the fuck !

My brother and best friend are  
having a child who's going to  
call me an uncle

This shit is fucked up

Mom : where is Okoye ?

Mhm , I'm sure she's with her  
baby daddy

He took her last night , and I  
had to lie why she missed  
dinner

Because mom knows she's  
pregnant , she didn't make a  
fuss

But emphasized that she must  
eat

For the sake of the baby

Even though she didn't say it  
out loud in front of everyone

Skhu : where is your friend ?

Me : yhoh angazi (I don't know)

Mom : but .....

Bukhosi walks in

Bukhosi : molweni (good morning)

I can't even look at him

Like imagine him and Okoye

It doesn't make sense at all

Mom : have you seen Okoye ?

Poor mom , she's really worried

Bukhosi : mhm , can we talk ?

He says to mom

I'm wondering if he's going to  
tell her the truth or what

Mom : where is she ?

Bukhosi : let's go talk



Skhumbuzo laughs

And his laughter says he knows something

Mom : what's going on ?

Bukhosi takes her hand , and they walk out

Skhu : you sure bought us a film in this house

I frown

I never understand anything he says

Skhu : look where we are now  
huh ? And it's all thanks to you ,  
for bringing in that cousin sister  
in-law

What the hell ?

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\*Bukhosi\*

Me : has dad left for his  
meeting ?

Mom : yes , what's wrong ?

I rub my knuckles together

Me : okay , I'll see him later .  
Can I just start by saying I am  
very sorry

Mom : with ?

Me : uhm , sometime in  
December I took an interest  
into Okoye .....

Mom : wait ....you're the father  
of that child she's carrying ?

Me : how do you know she's pregnant ?

Mtho is not a snitch , that one I know very well

Mom : I saw her , and I even asked Mtho if she came here pregnant already or what

Okay

Me : I am responsible

Mom : do you love her Bukhosi ,  
or was this just a fling ?

Me : can I just speak about that  
with her ?

I don't think I want to be  
discussing my feelings to a  
woman with my mother

Mom : I appreciate you telling me , but this is a big thing

Me : I know , I'll talk to dad

Mom : that child came here to help us , not for you to see a woman and worse give her a child

Me : mom I know , but ....



Mom : there are no buts ,  
honestly I am not happy with  
you right now . And you better  
man up and do the right thing ,  
Okoye deserves that much

I nod

Mom : she has her whole future  
ahead of her , and you go on to  
give her a child . Where were

condoms Bukhosi ? I mean  
you're old enough to know that

Me : mom please , let's not do  
that . I'm sorry , but the child is  
here now . And we can't do  
nothing about that

She's most definitely not  
pleased with me at all , now it's  
like I've ruined Okoye's future  
by giving her a child

I get up , this wasn't as crazy as I thought it'll be

Especially with her , even though she's not happy right now

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\*Okoye\*



Mtho : I knew I'll find you in  
here

He says as I walk out of the  
bedroom

Now I'm sure the whole family  
is down there

He didn't want to wake up , but  
when he did I was asleep and he  
left me in bed

Me : I was going to tell you

Mtho : when ?

Me : okay , I don't even know what this is or was . It's not like I planned to get pregnant , I was just stupid and naïve for not thinking I'll fall pregnant

He sighs

Me : it's a lot

Mtho : did you tell Bukhosi  
about Kamaria ?

Me : no

Mtho : toots , don't you think  
it's only right that you tell  
Bukhosi you have a child ?

Voice : what ?

Yhoh !

These brother's are going to kill  
me

I look at him , and he has a look  
that says he needs answers

Me : what's wrong with you two  
? You just can't give me time ,



to do and say things on my own  
. It was you bursting that this is  
your child to him , before I even  
tell him . Now he's burst news  
about my child , before I tell you

I take a deep sigh and walk  
away from them

I greet Skhumbuzo and his wife  
in the lounge going into the  
kitchen

And I stop on my tracks seeing  
Mrs Ngidi

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\*INSERT 20\*

\*Okoye\*

Mrs Ngidi : how are you ?

I rub my hands on my dress , I  
feel all sweaty right now

Me : I'm ....good

She smiles

Mrs Ngidi : come sit down , I'll  
make you something to eat

I slowly pull a chair and sit down

Mrs Ngidi : no cravings yet ?

She knows ?

But how ?

Mrs Ngidi : I saw you , but the  
culprit just spoke to me now

I let out a slight laugh

I didn't mean to , but the  
woman just called her son a  
culprit

Mrs Ngidi : I don't know how  
this happened between you two  
, I know he's not gay . But I've  
never seen him with a girl , ever

Oh well , he wasn't a virgin

Mrs Ngidi : I'm just worried  
about you

She places the plate in front of  
me with juice

She pulls the opposite chair and sits down

Mrs Ngidi : have you told your mother this ?

I shake my head slowly

She's going to be so disappointed , I don't even know how I'm going to tell her



Mrs Ngidi : he said he will speak with his father , I don't know what they'll decide on . But you must tell your mother this

She sighs

Mrs Ngidi : is this a relationship , or he just came too hard on you and you couldn't resist ?

Yhoh ! Woman , how do I answer you ?

Mrs Ngidi : I don't want your mother thinking , you were taken advantage of here . This was mutual and agreed on ?

Me : not falling pregnant , I was just careless . But he most definitely didn't take advantage of me , in any how

Mrs Ngidi : I guess we can make things right , these things happen

I wonder what will they say when they find out I have a child

I'm sure even Bukhosi now regrets that I'm pregnant with his child

What man wants a 23 year old  
with two kids ?

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

Because I can't live with a child  
at campus

I've gotten myself in a situation  
, that I could have easily

prevented by just being on  
contraceptives

Stupidity at its best is asked  
from me

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\*Bukhosi\*

I walk in the kitchen , she's by  
the sink doing dishes

I stand behind her , placing a  
few pecks on her neck

Okoye : stop , my hormones are high . This pregnancy makes me too horny

I chuckle

Me : and I want you so bad

She turns and faces me , she doesn't look okay

I hope it's not by my reaction

I followed her , but saw she was talking with my mother

So I turned back

Me : I can't believe I slept with you last night , and I didn't have my cake

She just stares at me



Me : I'm sorry , if I reacted somehow

Okoye : please leave me , I'm trying to work here

Me : and I told you , you're not doing that anymore

Okoye : I told you I need this money

Me : I said I will pay for your fees , it's not like I'm throwing money on you to sponge on . It's for your education , and that's important

Okoye : I don't want your money , and Mtho said he got me a bursary

Me : no , I'll be your bursary

She frowns

Me : and don't even think I'm kidding with you honestly , because I am doing this for the future of our kids . I don't have an education , my parents sent me to school . But I resorted to crime , they need a better parent they can look up to . And that will be you , and don't

think I want an uneducated  
baby mama

She turns giving me her back ,  
but I caught that smile

Okoye : it's never too late to get  
an education , one can never be  
too old for it

Me : maybe you missed the part  
, where I never mentioned that I

want it . I don't want to be  
educated , but you do . Bare in  
mind I'm not your sponsor , I'm  
doing this for our kids

I hug her from behind

Me : when am I meeting my  
daughter ? I hear she's a  
princess , and loves finer things

She smiles

I peck her cheek a few times

Okoye : are we even there ?

Me : we're so there , she's going to be a big sister . And well , it's only right I know her

She takes a deep breath

Me : I'm not hurrying you

Okoye : I can't go home now ,  
only in March holidays . I still  
need to settled at res

Me : that's too far , and you  
being at res . That's talk for  
another day .

Ain't no child of mine that's  
going to stay at res

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\*Okoye\*



Why am I in the family meeting ?

And with the father

This is too serious , and too  
tense

It's just the four of us

Bukhosi has told his father that we're expecting , I'm shit scared . This man has very few words

Mr Ngidi : and what's the way forward with this ?

Bukhosi : you should be advising me Ngidi , I've never had a child . I don't know what's the right way to go about this

Mr Ngidi : there's damages ,  
and of course lobola for the  
baby if you want him or her to  
take up your surname . And  
you're not married to the  
mother

Not marriage , that will never  
happen . Not with Bukhosi

I don't even know what we are ,  
just having a baby

So imagine him saying he will  
marry me

It will never happen , most  
definitely not in this lifetime

Even though he did take the  
news about Kamaria better than  
I thought he would

That wasn't bad

Bukhosi : okay , so Okoye hasn't told her mother . I think it would be wise to go there , going to do right and tell her .

I am already scared , so what will she do or say when people just rock up there ? And tell her I'm pregnant

This is a lot

Mr Ngidi : I will talk to your  
uncle's about this

Both his parents get up , leaving  
us

He holds my hand

Bukhosi : when are you leaving  
?

Me : tomorrow

Bukhosi : you're moving in at  
my place

Me : what ?

Like hell I am !

Bukhosi : you can't be going to  
live at res while you're pregnant

Me : I am not doing vat n sit  
with you , and I've already paid  
for my accommodation for this  
semester

Bukhosi : I'll fix that , but you're  
going to my house

He gets up , leaving me fuming

We didn't even talk about this



And he just tells me I'm going to his house !

Like who said I'm homeless ?

Who gave him the right ?

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\*INSERT 21\*

\*A WEEK LATER\*

\*Okoye\*

Mr bursary paid for my fees ,  
for like the whole year

He even paid the previous year ,  
outstanding fees

I'm at his house , against my will  
of course

I should just clarify that

He used his baby card

That no child of his was going to  
stay at campus

Nonsense if you ask me

It's not like I'm showing and all ,  
like I'm flat

Well , unless you know me and  
my body . And you take a closer  
look , then you can see

But it's fine

It's far from campus , but he drives me there and picks me up every time I have classes

It's not bad living with him

Even though it does feel like vat n sit

I mean , we share a bed . Like we're a couple of some kind

And I still don't even know what we are

It frustrates me , I don't want to lie . Because I don't know what I am to him

Except being his baby mama currently

Besides that , we might as well be people living together and



having sex . Because we do that  
like every chance we get , it's  
insane

Insane if you ask me

We're going home this  
weekend , and I have told my  
mother there's people coming

I didn't even tell her why

I sent her money , and asked that she gets a few things for the house

I don't want them getting there , seeing our home situation

And they think I trapped their son with a baby , after seeing their home situation so I can elevate myself with his wealth and all

Me : did you tell your family  
about my daughter ?

Bukhosi : no

Me : why not ?

He looks at me

Me : you can't take your family  
there , and they only find out

from my family that I have a  
child

Bukhosi : me and you have  
things to discuss before I can  
tell them about the big sister .  
Sit down

Me : what things ?

I ask with a frown

Bukhosi : things like where is  
the sperm ? Is he in her life ?

The sperm ?

Like really !

Bukhosi : so ?

Me : I don't know him

He squints his eyes

Me : first year , I went to a party and I got raped . Bad choices of friends , turned out my drinks were spiked by one of them . I had no idea who raped me , so I couldn't even open a case although I did get medical help . I didn't even know I was pregnant , it was cryptic pregnancy . 9 months later , she was born

I turn and walk away

I haven't told anyone this , since  
the last time I told Mthobisi

He knows the truth , only he  
and my mother know

I love my daughter , no matter  
how she came about

But I love her

If I wasn't meant to have her ,  
then I wouldn't have

I don't look at her and see a  
product of rape , because she's  
more than that to me

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\*Bukhosi\*



How does she leave me alone ,  
when I'm talking to her ?

And she comes to bed

I lay down next to her , placing  
my arm on her tummy

Me : why do you walk away  
when I'm talking to you ?

Okoye : you asked a question ,  
and I answered

Me : so ? I don't remember  
saying I'm done

Okoye : what else did you want  
to ask ?

I chuckle

Me : who said I want to ask ,  
what if I wanted to talk ?

Okoye : about what ?

I don't know what's this about  
her

It's like every time she tells  
something about herself , she  
thinks I'll see her somehow

Or maybe that I'll judge her

First it was about the baby , and  
now this rape this

I cuddle her , I might just say  
what I want to say and she  
takes it somehow

Me : then when I pay damages ,  
I'm paying for both kids . And  
I'm paying lobola for both to  
take my surname

Okoye : yhoh ....yhoh Bukhosi  
what is wrong with you ?

I laugh

Me : I'm perfectly fine , there's nothing wrong with me

Okoye : how do you go on to ....yhoh ! Good luck to you , my mother will never agree to that

She sighs

Me : we will raise our kids  
together , in a home that has a  
mother and a father . And no  
child will feel like an outcast  
here , both these kids are mine

Her silence says a lot , but now I  
can talk to my family

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\*Lethabo\*



Back at varsity , now in third  
year

It's only been three days , but I  
am already tired and worn out

Me : hey uncle

He laughs

Mtho : hah babe o tlo mbora  
(you're going to bore me)

I place my bag on the couch ,  
and lean over giving him a kiss

Me : gosh I missed you, school  
is going to kill me

He laughs

I get on top of him , straddling  
him

He places his hands on my waist  
, going down to my ass

Me : did you miss me ?

Mtho : want me to show you  
just how much ?

I smile pecking his lips

Me : when last did you speak to  
Okoye ?

Mtho : she's a house wife now ,  
she's always moody . That beast  
baby is driving her crazy

I think he's allergic to the fact  
that his best friend , and big  
brother made him an uncle

Me : it's hormones

He sighs

Mtho : do you know she called me crying , because there was no liver pie at cafeteria . I had to run out of class , and across the street to buy her pie .

Me : you're so sweet

Mtho : don't even say that

I cup his face kissing him

Mtho : mhm-mhm , baby . I  
didn't get her pregnant , she  
should cry to Bukhosi yhoh !

I am dating a drama king here ,  
but gosh I love him

Me : just entertain her , if you  
don't she will think you don't  
love her anymore

Mtho : babe she's only on two months , and she's already crazy . When will she give birth ?

I laugh

Mtho : let's get married , so she can leave your husband alone and cry to hers . I mean they're basically housing each other right now , he's taking duties

Me : wait sir ....you're saying we should get married ?

Mtho : yeah

Me : we don't joke like that

He laughs

Mtho : who's joking ?



He grabs my hand , and I almost  
fall down off of him seeing the  
ring on my finger

Me : when ....how ?

Like when did he even put it on  
?

That I didn't even feel it

Me : oh baby ?

He smiles

Me : no .....please don't let this  
be a prank , I will kill you

He captures my lips into his , I  
kiss him back with tears  
streaming down my face

I can't believe this

My heart is beating so fast , like  
it'll pop out of my chest

Like who gets a marriage  
proposal like me ? Is it even real  
, or just a bad joke ?

I mean this is Mthobisi after all

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\*INSERT 22\*

\*Mthobisi\*

Okoye : you're seriously getting married ?

I nod

I don't know what's going on with me

But I'm just a man in love

And I don't want to loose that  
woman in my hands

I just can't let her slip through  
my fingers

If we make it , we make it

And if not , then I'll hold no  
regrets . Knowing I didn't pass  
any opportunity of keeping her

Okoye : wow , I've never seen you as the marriage type

I laugh

Me : I'm all kinds of types , I never saw myself as an uncle . Especially right under my nose , from my own brother and best friend

She goes silent , I look at her



And it's the pregnancy look

Lord !

She better not cry with me

Me : I'm sorry , it was a joke .

And I promise you , I'm very  
happy that I'm going to be an  
uncle

It's still an awkward situation  
for me , but what the heck !

They can't return the baby back

Me : I already have mega love  
for my nephew or niece , don't  
mind me

And she gets up

Shit !

I've done it , me and my big  
mouth

Me : toots wait

I'm rushing after her like I'm a  
crazy person

Voice : sorry sir ....you haven't  
paid the bill

It's the waitress coming after  
me

Me : I'm not running away ,  
pregnant woman here  
hormones are on steroids .  
We're coming back

Does she listen ?

No

She's following behind me

I finally catch up to her , and  
she's crying

I don't like Bukhosi for this ,  
because it's like I'm getting the  
worst side of this pregnancy

This won't be a normal baby at  
all

Me : I'm sorry , I know I am  
stupid I know

I hug her , and she sniffs

Okoye : if you don't want my  
baby , you should just say . I  
won't bother you

Me : this is our baby , how can I  
not want him or her ? I'm sorry ,  
please forgive me . Let's go back

and talk , I'm getting married I  
need you on my side

I pull back and wipe her tears  
off

Okoye : oh ! I hate what your  
brother did to me

I nod

Me : I hate him more

She gives me an ugly eye

Like wasn't she hating him now  
?

Me : I mean for what he did to  
you

She nods

I take her hand



Okoye : why is she following you ?

Me : uhm ....we didn't pay ?

She looks at the poor waitress

Okoye : so ? It's not like we were running away , do you really think we can't afford the bill to pull stunts ?

Yhoh !

This baby needs to come here  
now , and lord save us all

I just smile to the waitress , so  
she doesn't get offended

As we walk back to the  
restaurant , she takes her  
phone out and makes a call

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\*Bukhosi\*

Mondli : you're taking this civilization , more serious than me now . Soon you'll be telling me about marriage , and that's so not you . But here you are with a baby , and living in situations with the baby mama . Like you're a secured man

I chuckle

My phone rings , and I hope I  
am not late to pick her up

Me : m.....

Okoye : we're being chased

I'm on my feet in seconds

Me : chased by who ....where ?

Okoye : a waitress , at a restaurant . She thinks we can't afford to pay the bill , honestly you must come and pay so we can continue to eat in peace

What ?

I'm at the door holding the knob ready to go out

Thinking this a serious matter

Even Mondli is on his feet

Me : oh o-kay

Okoye : o-kay ?

Why is my baby making her  
crazy ?

Me : I mean , I am on my way there now . Please eat , I'm coming I'll pay

She drops the call on me

Mondli : and now ?

Me : please , stay in your lane .  
And don't ever do , what you wished for when we left force



I sigh , turning back grabbing my jacket

Me : I'm being called to go pay a bill , doesn't even make sense to me how a waitress chases people thinking they won't pay . Like no , this is madness

He's dying of laughter as I get out of the door

I am so defeated , I don't even  
have energy for shit

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\*Mthobisi\*

Was that necessary ?

Of course , it wasn't

But who's going to tell her ?

Most definitely not me

I brought her out , so we can  
talk and eat

Because I thought about what  
my fiancé said

I should entertain her , so she  
doesn't think somehow

I think I neglected her a lot ,  
when I started dating Lethabo

And that's why she kept things  
to herself , and didn't tell me  
about her and Bukhosi

Maybe she thought I didn't care  
anymore

So I don't want that

Toots is one of those friends , I  
want to keep forever in my life

I look at her , she's eating like  
she didn't just summon a whole  
man to come pay the bill

As if we can't afford to pay it

I understand the waitress  
following us

If we had run away , that was  
going to be taken away from  
her pay

But I can't say that , cause yeah

Okoye : congratulations champ ,  
I'm happy for you

Me : I know you are , and you  
should ask me for marriage  
advice before you get married

She laughs

And for once , I know I didn't  
say something stupid or silly as  
always

Okoye : me ? Marriage , oh well  
maybe in my next life time

Me : why would you say that ?

Okoye : what man is going to  
want to marry a woman with  
two kids ?



Does she think her and Bukhosi  
are not going to get married

Or am I missing something here  
?

Me : what brave man will want  
to marry , Bukhosi's baby mama  
? He will be dead , before he  
can even ask if you can marry  
him

Okoye : well then brace yourself

Me : we have cows kwaNgidi ,  
trust me they're enough and  
can afford you

Okoye : oh wait .....your brother  
is never going there

Okay !.

Maybe I'm the one who doesn't understand this relationship between them

But are they not together ?

I mean , they made a baby together . And I'm sure it didn't happen once

And they live together

I don't think she stays in the  
guest room

Just then he walks in , and walks  
over to our table

The way he looks so defeated , I  
know he's gotten the memo

And he's just avoiding drama  
right now

He pulls a chair next to her , and  
places a peck on her cheek

The silence says a lot from him

I hope when my turn comes , I  
have a sane kid

Cause this , is too much for any  
man if it's even too much for  
Bukhosi

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\*INSERT 23\*

\*Bukhosi\*

Mom : how are you ?

Me : I'm fine

Mthobisi chuckles



I don't even know why he's  
here

Couldn't he break his own news  
in his own time ?

I left Okoye packing , she's  
going to her home today

On Saturday , my family is going  
there

I'm taking her myself , I'll drive  
back if I have to

Or maybe get a guest house or  
something

They'll find me there

I wanted to get her a plane  
ticket , well more like we fly  
together

But she refused

And now I have to drive from  
Joburg to Limpopo

That's just insane

And I'm not talking about  
Polokwane , I mean to Musina .  
Like that's an insane drive

But I didn't want to argue ,  
obviously I can't drive the whole  
day

She will just have to see for  
herself , and there'll be a need  
for us to find a place and spend  
the night

Me : I'm going to Limpopo  
today , I don't want Okoye  
taking the bus

Mom : that's good

Me : yeah , the reason why I came this early . Is because there's something , I need to talk about

Dad : what ?

Me : she has a child , a daughter she's 2 years . And the father is

not in her life , I want to pay for  
both kids

It goes silent

I can even hear my own heart  
beating

Skhu : pay for both kids how ?

Mtho : like damages for both ,  
and they both take his surname

Dad : our surname you mean

Okay !

Dad : how do you go on to claim another man's child ? To an extent to giving her our surname ?

Me : can we please not say that

Dad : no don't ! You want to give this child , we don't even know our surname ?

What's the big deal ? It's just a surname , it's not like I'm asking for their blood

Mom : Bukhosi

She sighs



Me : like if you don't agree it's fine , I won't give her your surname because it's yours . But I will pay damages for her still

That will be my money , he can't fight me for that

Mom : are you intending on marrying Okoye ? Because I would understand in that case , you wouldn't want her daughter feeling left out . While

the three of you , are using the same surname ?

Me : either way , she will feel left out . She's older , she will question why her sibling is using a different surname than hers . And why she doesn't have my surname

I don't know what their silence means now

Mtho : it's very tense with the parents , I guess I might as well share that I'm engaged

Great !

Mom : no ..... Nkazimulo please deal with your kids . Because I can't , one wants to give another man's child his surname . And another is

getting married in a relationship  
of a month

Mtho : almost two actually

She gets up and walks away

Skhu : yeah ! Big brother is  
running away from marriage ,  
and the young one is very eager  
for it

He laughs

Mtho : you would know

Skhu : I was 24 when I got  
married , not 21 . Like what's  
the rush ?

Dad gets up

Dad : you two do what you  
want to do , you want to be

man right ? Hopefully you will  
be able to deal with the  
responsibilities , of what you're  
starting

He follows his wife

I know he's going to be with her  
until she's okay

Not to say he's walking out on  
us

I get up

Mtho : survive on the road ,  
better you than me . With hours  
and hours of crazy hormones on  
the road

I slap his head so hard he  
screams as I walk out , with  
Skhumbuzo laughing at him

I can't wait for that baby to get here

Okoye is not a crazy person , she's very much sane

But now , she's on a roll . And it's uncontrollable

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- .
- .
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\*Lethabo\*

No , this engagement is a true  
thing

To an extent that he told his  
parents

That's why I came home so I can  
talk to my mother

Knowing my father is not  
around

I don't know how he will take it

Mom : marriage ?

I nod

She's looking at my ring

Mom : and this a real  
engagement ring , it's not even  
fake

I laugh

Me : fake or not , why are you even there ?

Mom : your father would literally be on your case , if you dare put a fake engagement on your finger . Like you know what real diamonds are

Me : yes I know , that's why I have it on

Mom : wow , I am shocked . I don't know what to say

Me : I don't know how I'm going to tell dad , I know he knows about Mtho and I . And he's chilled about it , but in his own way . This is something else , just another level . And I'm afraid , he might not agree .

Mom : you have to tell him , you know I can't tell him on

your behalf . He would feel very  
hurt

I nod

I am my father's apple of his  
eye

Which is why I'm this scared  
and afraid , that man doesn't  
wanna let me go

And if he says no , I don't know  
what will happen

Mthobisi and I had agreed to  
tell our parents first

Before we announce the  
engagement to everyone else

My mother seems okay , I just  
hope I can get through my  
father

Especially if he gets too hard

One never knows what happens  
with Monga Theo

Mom : stay for dinner , so you  
can be able to talk to your  
father when he gets home

I guess it's now or never



And if I wait , and just drag this  
out

He might find out , and he  
won't be happy

And Mtho might think  
somehow as well , as to why I  
just can't tell my father

Me : okay , dinner would be  
lovely

I opted for moving to my apartment this year

My father actually bought me an apartment when I turned 18 , and we moved to South Africa

The apartment was a bribe

Because I didn't want to move here

And I've never lived in it

But this year I just chose to ,  
and Mtho comes around

So it gives us more time  
together as a couple

Also it's much closer to campus  
for me

So less stress

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\*INSERT 24\*

\*Okoye\*

My mother has been throwing hints , wanting to know who's coming

And why are they coming here

I just can't bring myself to tell  
her

I know she's going to be very  
disappointed

I wish I can turn back the hands  
of time and just do things  
differently

But I can't

And there's nothing I can do  
about this baby now

Me : asambe (let's go)

She looks at me

Me : buya (come)



Kamaria : saphi ? (Where are we going)

Bukhosi asked to see her

His family is coming tomorrow

He's at the guest house , that's where we slept

But he called and said he's coming , I should bring her

I take her hand , she grabs her  
doll

We can't go anywhere without  
this doll

Mthobisi made me a  
grandmother when he bought  
her this doll

My baby loves the doll

My mother is with our  
neighbour , I already told her  
I'm going somewhere I'll be  
back

We walk out , and he's parked  
just a few houses down the  
street

The scrotching sun of Limpopo  
is doing a number on me

Kamaria : ngu Mtho ? (Is it)

I laugh , she's been asking me  
about him

Me : cha (no)

Kamaria : uphi yena , shiyile  
futhi ? (Where is he , did you  
leave him again)

I don't know if he's coming  
tomorrow or what

But I don't think he will

He said his parents weren't  
exactly thrilled that he's getting  
married so soon

In a new relationship

And he's only 21

But either way , he's still going ahead marrying his love

I support him , because well don't we all deserve some happiness ?

And Lethabo loves my boy

Bukhosi opens the door for us , I pick her up and we walk in

He smiles , someone is all shy  
now

Seeing someone she doesn't  
know

Me : sorry for making you wait

Bukhosi : it's okay , can we go to  
the guest house ? I'll bring you  
guys back

Me : okay

He drives off

I wonder if they'll get along

Bukhosi : she's beautiful , took  
after her mother

Oh wow !



That's how I get a compliment ,  
I've never gotten

But that's true , she took after  
me

That's one thing I'm grateful for

She looks like me , and not  
some random guy I don't know

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\*Lethabo\*

Dad : marriage ?

I nod with a smile

I'm not really scared of my dad

He's my best friend , there's  
nothing we don't talk about

I'm more closer to him , than I  
am to my mother

But because of the kind of  
person he is

Sometimes I just start by talking  
to my mom first

So she can be able to speak to  
him , if he ever gets too hard

Dad : too soon

Me : I know , but I love him .  
And I know he loves me , also  
he treats me good . Honestly , I  
do want to marry him

He sighs

Dad : if he marries you , then he  
takes you away from me

Me : dad !

I laugh

Me : I'm your number one , and  
mom doesn't know that . You'll  
still be my number one , Mtho  
doesn't have to know

Dad : does he have cows ? I  
want real cattle

Ah ! What now ?

Me : who wants cattle in this  
day and age ?

Dad : I do

Me : dad no !

Dad : for real , I want cows not  
money

He's being difficult , and just deliberately

Me : where is he supposed to get cows ?

Dad : I don't know , you're my pride and joy . I'm giving him something he doesn't have , so he needs to give me something I don't have . I have a lot of money , I don't need his



Wow !

Me : is this how you stop my dreams of getting married ?

He laughs getting up

Dad : if you're really getting married to a real man , he will do what I want

He walks out of the lounge , I  
feel like screaming

My mother walks in laughing

Me : talk to him

Mom : no , tell Mthobisi to give  
your father his cows

She puts the juice next to me  
and walks out as well

Some parents I have

I pick up my phone and call him  
, and on the first ring he  
answers

Mtho : motho wame (my  
person)

Me : Theo wants cows

He laughs

Mtho : of course he wants cows

Me : no I.... mean like he wants  
cattle

The silence !

Me : babe !

Mtho : like real live cattle ?

Me : yeah , he doesn't want money

Mtho : yhoh !

Me : babe are you still marrying me ?

Mtho : yes , I don't know where I'll steal the cows but I'll make do

I sigh

Me : now I'm scared

Mtho : don't be , your father  
loves you . And I will give him  
what he wants

This one is just saying , where is  
he going to find cows ?

Me : oh baby I love you

He chuckles

Mtho : I love you too baby ,  
don't worry okay ?

Me : okay

But I am worried

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\*Okoye\*



I put her down

They played a lot , she's tired  
and sleeping now

Bukhosi : she really is beautiful

I look at him and smile

Bukhosi : did you name her ?

I nod

Bukhosi : what does Kamaria mean ?

Me : moon child

Bukhosi : now that's beautiful ,  
you should name our kid too

Me : really ?.

Bukhosi : yeah , I love these names that have meanings . Not just naming a child , just for the sake of having a name

I laugh sitting down

Bukhosi : take Zanele for an example , she's an only child . Doesn't make sense why she

was named Zanele , when she's  
the only one

But this guy !

That's his brother's wife

But I find myself laughing , I  
should be ashamed of myself

Me : I'm glad you two get along

I guess it was a good thing  
coming to the guest house

She was tense at first , but she  
finally just opened up to him

And I have no doubt , he will  
make a great dad

Bukhosi : yeah , but she's  
confused as to who am I

Yeah !

Me : I really don't know what she should call you , I mean she calls your brother Mtho

Bukhosi : yeah that's fine , that's his name . But I wouldn't want my own daughter calling me with my name

He shakes his head

He sighs and walks over sitting  
down next to me

Bukhosi : I'm going to do right  
by her

Me : I ....I can't say she should  
call you dad , if that's not  
something you'll be  
comfortable with

Bukhosi : but I am her dad

This awkward man , he's just so weird I don't get him

Me : I still don't know if my mother is going to agree to let you do what you want to do

Bukhosi : we'll cross that bridge when we get there



I hope he knows what he's  
doing

Because my mother has always  
been more of a mother to  
Kamaria more than me

Me : okay , we'll talk to her  
when she wakes up

Bukhosi : thank you

I guess if he wants to be called  
dad , then there's nothing  
wrong with that

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\*INSERT 25\*

\*Mthobisi\*

Me : she says her father wants  
COWS

She laughs

Me : you're laughing at my  
misery ?

Okoye : what misery ? Isn't that  
what happens when people  
marry ?

Me : he wants real four legged  
COWS

She turns and looks at me

Me : yeah , go on laugh again

Okoye : sheesh ! Isn't that  
insane ?

I smile

Mxm !

I love it when my girl starts speaking with her accent and all

Me : toots , where am I going to get cows ?

Okoye : eh ! Just buy them , don't you know someone who has a farm and has cows ? Just buy them

Oh wow !

Me : why didn't I think of that ?

She laughs

Okoye : whatever would you do without me ?

Me : don't flex , but that's a great idea . I don't even know how much a cow cost these days



Okoye : prices differ , but you'll just have to find out from your father in-law to be . How many cows he wants

Me : I think we'll attend to that as soon as we get home

Okoye : problem solved , at least yours was way much better than mine

I came with my parents and  
uncles

Skhumbuzo didn't come ,  
Zanele is heavily pregnant and  
could give birth any day

So no traveling for them

But I came , because I needed  
to see my princess

I heard she wasn't happy , I  
wasn't here

Me : don't worry , you're going  
to be fine

She throws the doek on the bed  
, and sits down tearing up

It breaks me to see her like this

Okoye : I don't know , I'm not blaming anyone but myself . I should have known better ....

Me : hey don't do that

I sit next to her , brushing her back bringing her head on my shoulder

Okoye : I'm not a child Champ , I should have done better . But I

was too stupid , now I've  
brought home my mother a  
second child

She shakes her head , and tears  
are just streaming down her  
face

She's even wetting her dress  
now

She's really sad

Okoye : with Kamaria , she understood and supported me . But with this one , it's like I just went out there and came with a child . I disappointed her , I don't know how I'm going to make her trust me after this . I'm only 23 , and I have two kids . This is crazy

Me : Bukhosi is here , and he's going to take responsibility .

Toots , you're not alone here ,  
see how oNgidi travelled all the  
way from KZN and Joburg  
coming here ? You're not alone  
, and this is not a burden . Your  
mother might be disappointed ,  
but she won't be so hard on you

I hope everything is going well  
in there

Because this right here , is not  
good for the baby at all

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\*Okoye\*



I wipe my tears , my mother  
walks in

And she looks like she's seen a  
ghost

Mtho : I'll give you space

He walks out , she closes the door

Mom : Okoye what's going on ?

Me : uhm .....I'm sorry , I was scared to tell you that I'm pregnant

Mom : child ! I saw something was different about you , when

you got here . But how is that  
man Kamaria's father ?

Oh now , I get it

Me : he's not

Mom : what ?

She asks looking a bit confused ,  
I really should have told my  
mother before they got here

Me : If I could see that guy ever again , or know who he is . I swear , I would want him dead . I would never let a man like that in my life , like ever . Bukhosi knows how Kamaria came about , and he said he wants to do right by her . And accept her as his own child

Now I see I should have talked to my mother

Because this now is a lot

Me : I should have told you this  
, I know . I was just scared ,  
because I know I've  
disappointed you

Mom : what happens now ?

She sighs sitting down

Mom : are you even still in school ?

Me : I will never leave school , I'm doing my last year . Of course I will finish

Mom : your uncle's are left stunned in there , because they know Kamaria's father to have denied her

Yes !

That's what we told the family when the baby was born , we didn't tell them the truth

Mom : he said , he was just very scared because it was a cryptic pregnancy . And all those months , he didn't know you were expecting . So it came as a shock

Poor man , now he has to say  
and tell a bunch of lies

In front of his family , just to  
protect me from mine

Mom : let me go , finish  
dressing and stop crying . I wish  
you could have told me this , it's  
shocking hearing from people  
that their son has gotten my



child pregnant . And I as a  
mother , I didn't even know

Me : I'm sorry , I was just scared  
to tell you the truth

Mom : I hope that man will  
never mistreat my child ,  
because I swear if he won't be a  
father to Kamaria he should  
leave her as she is . She's not  
crying for a father

I nod taking a huge swallow

I doubt Bukhosi would ever  
mistreat my daughter

She gets up and walks out of  
the room

I take my phone and text  
Bukhosi

Just apologizing , for putting  
him in such a position

He text back , I open the text  
with a smile reading

“I got you , and our kids”

I grab my doek with a smile now  
, and wrap it on my head

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\*Bukhosi\*

Mom : what was that Bukhosi ?

Me : I am sorry , I didn't know  
they would want to bring the  
paternity of the child

Dad : why did you lie and say  
the child is yours ?

I sigh

They won't understand

And it's not my truth to tell  
them

Me : I can't tell you

I didn't know that the uncles  
didn't know how she came  
about

But as soon as I caught on that

I just had to play along ,  
because I couldn't expose  
Okoye

I'm sure there's a reason why  
they don't know

But her mother seemed to  
know the truth

Mom : I hope these lies of yours  
were worth it

I think they were

I mean , we're done and  
everything went well

I paid damages for both kids ,  
and married them into my  
surname



As time goes on , I think before  
the baby is born

We will have to look into me  
adopting Kamaria as mine  
legally

So she can take my surname

Okoye walks out of the house ,  
carrying her

She was asleep when we arrived  
, so I didn't get to see her

I walk away from my parents ,  
and walk to them

Me : hey

She smiles

Okoye : she's finally awake

Me : let's go sit in the car

It's very hot in Limpopo , I don't even want to know how people survive in this heat

We walk outside the gate to my car , I take Kamaria as we get inside the car

Me : is she okay ?

She's very quite , and just laying  
her head on my chest

Okoye : she tends to be grumpy  
when she wakes up

I chuckle

Me : takes after someone

She laughs

Okoye : thank you so much for what you did , I'm sure your family has many questions

Me : don't worry about it , your truth is yours to tell . This is all done now

I hold her hand placing a kiss at the back of her hand

I'm happy all went well , I hope  
she is too

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\*INSERT 26\*

\*FIVE MONTHS LATER\*

\*Lethabo\*



I walk in a rush , almost tripping  
because the water on my  
sandals

It's raining cats and dogs  
outside

I don't know , my uncle said this  
is good luck

What kind , I do not know

I take my shoes off , and take  
my doek off drying my feet

I rush upstairs to my room ,  
taking a very needed hot  
shower

I don't want to catch any flu

I walk out of the shower , to my  
phone ringing

Me : baby ?

Mtho : are you home ?

Me : yes

He sighs

Mtho : I was getting worried

Me : I'm sorry , I was going to call after showering . I caught a bit of rain , the cars are all over the drive way

Mtho : it's okay , we'll talk later

Me : okay , are you on your way  
back ?

Mtho : not yet

I sigh getting worried

Me : but babe , it's already late .  
Will you be here tomorrow ?

Mtho : don't worry , I'll be there

Me : I hope you're right

Mtho : let me go , I'll call later

Me : I love you

Mtho : I love you more

I drop the call

Tomorrow is the day of the negotiations

I'm so scared , yet excited at the same time

I can't believe I'm going to be someone's wife

It feels like a dream

The way I am so excited , we're already planning our white wedding

It'll be just a week away

Mthobisi assured me that things will go according to plan with the negotiations

So we might as well plan ahead



All this is just exciting

I just can't wait to start our lives together , as husband and wife

I'm ready to brace marriage with my all , and just give in everything

I'm home , I've been home the whole week

It's a good thing we're closed ,  
and only opening next week

It gave us time to plan things  
out perfectly on our own pace

I put my phone down , saying a  
little prayer that all goes well

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\*Mthobisi\*

Skhu : I can't believe you're making us buy cows

I laugh

Me : still complaining , I just need the last 8 cows . And I know everything will go well to tomorrow

We're in Mokopane , buying cows

I spent the last five months ,  
looking for cows

And not a lot of people were  
willing to sell more than five  
cows at once

So I had to buy from quite a few  
buyers

Theo wants 19 cows

I just need 8 , I already have 11 .  
My brother's did their bit , and  
helped me in getting the  
enough amount of money

Skhu : Bukhosi should have  
been here

Me : he wanted to , but you  
know the situation with toots

Skhu : yeah , how is she ?

Me : she was very down  
yesterday when we spoke , I  
don't even think she will make it  
to my negotiations tomorrow .  
And I so wanted her to be there

He sighs

Skhu : don't feel bad , you  
should understand

Me : yeah I do understand , I'm just sad she's going to miss it

He pats my shoulder

Even though with everything else that's going on

I know I have their support , and that's all that matters



Skhu : let's go , seems like he's done

I look at the time , and it's nearing 22:00

We have to drive to Joburg , with these cows

This late

I hope we make it fine

And I need to speak to my wife  
to be , I'm sure she's worried  
now

It's very late

Skhu : the rain has subsided ,  
we should just make it fine

Me : yeah

He's a better driver than I am ,  
and the man is sending us with  
two of his herd boys to help  
with the cows

The truck has its own driver ,  
we're sorted going back home

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\*Lethabo\*

Mom : why do you look so  
worried ?

It's late now , Mthobisi hasn't called me back

Most of the relatives , are in the lounge watching TV

I'm in the kitchen , having a cup of tea

My mother just walked in

Me : Mtho is in Limpopo , I've been trying to call him . But it's not going through , I think it's network problems

Mom : Limpopo at this time ?  
But his family is coming tomorrow , shouldn't he be here ? What's going on ?

My dear good woman , we can thank her husband for the cows he wanted

Mtho is really going out of his way , just to please my father

And give him what he wanted

Me : to get cows

She smiles

Me : no mom please , I'm really worried here . If he doesn't get

here , all of this won't happen .  
Do you understand what that  
means for me ? I'll be shamed  
and embarrassed

I feel tears burning my eyes ,  
this situation is crazy

She sighs

Mom : baby don't ...



Dad walks in , as I wipe the tear  
that runs down my cheek

Dad : what's going on ?

Mom : she's worried Mtho  
might not make it , because he  
went wandering looking for  
cows for you

Now that she says it like that , I  
want to blame my dad for this

He insisted on this

Even when he was sent a letter asking for my hand in marriage

His response had what he wanted

I get up , and walk to my room

I get in bed , and call him again

It's voicemail

I sigh

Right now I just want to cry

And I can't even call Okoye , it's  
late now

And she doesn't need my stress  
right now , she has her own

This is just messed up

The door opens and my father  
walks in

I want to tell him to leave , but I  
won't

He takes his shoes and jacket  
off , getting into bed

Dad : I'm sorry , come here

I snuggle closer to him , tearing  
up

He pulls me with his arm , and  
caress my back

Dad : don't hate your old man ,  
tomorrow will happen for you . I  
promise

I really hope so

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\*INSERT 27\*

\*Bukhosi\*

Me : uyangizwa ? (Do you hear me)

She giggles , it's too much

I turn over looking up

Me : can you look at me ?



She turns and looks at me

Me : this person is not talking to me , she's laughing

She smiles

Okoye : because she doesn't see you , she's only hearing your voice . It's funny for her

Me : I feel like since she's turned 3 , she thinks she's an adult . We're supposed to be conversing right now

She laughs

Okoye : leave me alone

Me : please text your mother , let me video call

Okoye : you're becoming a lot  
of work

Me : I'm sorry , but my airtime  
can't be finished on giggles .  
Have mercy on me

Okoye : you can call

I turn over dropping the call ,  
and I video call

After a few rings , the call is answered

Me : hi baby

She laughs , I love the rabbit teeth . It's so cute , and just makes her adorable

Me : unjani baby ? (how are you)

Kamaria : Phila baba (I'm good daddy)

No feeling beats this , of being called a father

And it didn't take her long to say it

Me : mhm , ngiyaphila nami (I'm also good)

Kamaria : uphi ? (Where are you)

Me : ekhaya (at home)

She smiles

Me : ngiku khumbulile (I miss you)

She plays with her hair bun

Kamaria : Khumbula nami nje  
baba (I also miss you daddy)

Oh my baby

Me : uvakasha nini ? (When are  
you visiting)

She giggles

Kamaria : anazi (I don't know)

I miss my baby , it's not even  
funny

I haven't seen her face to face  
in a month

Things have been hectic on our  
side

Honestly , I know Okoye can't  
travel to Limpopo



So we can't go there to see her ,  
and it's painful

Me : ngizokulanda kusasa (I'm  
coming to pick you up  
tomorrow)

The scream that follows

Kamaria : Gogo uyeza ubaba  
(granny daddy is coming)

The poor phone is on the floor ,  
she's no longer there

I laugh dropping the call

I'll call her grandmother , and  
ask for her right

I get up , and sit on the bed

Okoye : I will not be helping you  
take care of her

Me : I know

Okoye : do you think that it's wise she comes here ? With everything that's happening ?

Me : I miss my baby

She sighs

Okoye : I know , I miss her too

Me : she will be my  
responsibility , really you don't  
need to worry

I move over giving her a kiss

Me : I love you

She pulls out of the kiss slowly

Me : what ?

I ask with a chuckle

Okoye : what did you say ?

I lean over for a kiss again

Me : I love you

She's shocked , but she'll get  
over her shock

I'm sure she's never thought ,  
she'll hear those words out of  
my mouth

But I know she hasn't been too  
oblivious to see how I feel  
about her

Even though I sucked at  
expressing it with words

My actions spoke volumes

I guess she didn't catch on that

Me : I hope now that's clear  
enough

She's still looking at me stunned

I chuckle giving her a deep kiss

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\*Lethabo\*



Me : hello ?

There's no answer

Like why call me and then go  
quite

Me : who's this ?

Voice : you must be very happy  
, you broke us up . And now  
he's marrying you , just after  
months of being together . And  
we've had a year being together  
, I hope you know karma is a  
bitch . And how you got them ,  
is exactly how you lose them .  
So don't get too comfortable ,  
just like me you're irreplaceable

She drops the call

Ouch ! Okay

I let out a laugh

Like for months and months  
she's been quite

Suddenly out of nowhere , like  
on my negotiations day she calls  
me

I don't even want to know  
where or how she got my  
number

I block her

She must never

I don't feel bad for her at all

I didn't snatch Mtho , he  
decided to leave

And I won't feel bad that he left  
her for me

No !

He wanted to leave her , that  
was his decision he wasn't  
forced into it

So why must I feel bad ? I'm  
happy , he loves me I love him

So I should have refused love ,  
just because there was Annie  
there

Hell to the no !

I don't do that

And well , men settle where  
they want to . Because men  
know what they want

There's no such thing as how  
you got them , is exactly how  
you lose them

All that is nonsense

Men choose where they want  
to act right , and you don't even  
have to tell them anything

Men are not stupid

So she can take her sorry self ,  
and cry there

My happiness doesn't depend  
on her

If Mtho deals me , it'll  
absolutely have nothing to do  
with how he left her for me . Or  
even karma as she said



It'll be because he wanted to  
deal me

Period !

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\*Mthobisi\*

Bukhosi : all the best , I wish I  
could be there

Me : I know

I walk away from the crowd

Me : how is she ?

Bukhosi : she was in pain last night , I don't know how long she can keep up

I heave a sigh

Me : she's strong

Bukhosi : this is taking a toll on  
her

Me : I know , but she'll pull  
through

Bukhosi : I'm bringing my baby  
home

I smile

Me : about time

Bukhosi : I want her to move in with us , but I don't know how to approach her mom about it . I also don't want her grandmother to think , we're taking her away now

Me : think this visit is good , and she likes it here they won't have a problem letting her stay this side . It's her home after all , and she'll be with her parents

Bukhosi : that would be nice , I think we need that . She brings the best out of us

Me : true that I'll come by later , if I do get a chance . Or I'll pop in tomorrow

He chuckles

Bukhosi : I'm proud of you

Oh well , that's a first . At least  
I'm doing something right  
getting married

Me : I should have long married  
, just to hear those words out of  
your mouth

We laugh , and he drops the call

I text Lethabo that we're here

I hope she's calm and better  
now , I had to call her midnight

And she was just a mess

But I know today things will go  
well for us

I just wish my brother and  
Okoye were here , but I know  
we have their full support



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\*INSERT 28\*

\*Bukhosi\*

Me : I wanted to go get her myself , but I can't leave Okoye on her own . What if I'm gone and something happens ? I don't want to take chances

Mondli : you have a negative mentality , but I understand

Me : can you just go fetch my child for me ?

Mondli : yeah , I'll be on the next flight out . I'll bring her

I heave a sigh

Me : thanks

Mondli : no sweat

I drop the call

Her grandmother agreed that she can come and visit , she didn't have a problem

And she's a child , I know she's impatient

I can't take days before I go get her

She might end up thinking that I am not coming anymore

Since I'm sceptical about going , I don't mind having Mondli go on my behalf

She knows him , they've met a few times

So I know it won't be a problem  
coming back with him

I walk back in the bedroom ,  
and she's in bed

Me : Mondli will bring her back

Okoye : okay

Me : how are you feeling ?

Okoye : I'm tired

Me : we should go see the  
doctor

Okoye : you think it's necessary  
?

I don't know , but right now I'm  
just thinking about her health



Me : maybe

Okoye : okay

Me : we'll go tomorrow

My phone beeps , and it's an  
email

I open it , my lips curve into a  
smile

Okoye : you don't say you love me , and then you smile like that with your phone

I laugh looking at her

Me : guess who's officially mine legally , and a Ngidi at that

She laughs

Okoye : congratulations

Me : thank you sweetheart , I'm so happy

Okoye : I think she will be happy too

Me : yeah , I'll take her for a mini outing so we celebrate

Okoye : lucky some people

I chuckle

Me : your time is coming please  
, let her shine in her spot light

Okoye : I am done , can I sleep a  
bit ?

Me : okay , but tomorrow we're  
seeing the doctor right ?

Okoye : yes

Me : okay I love you , give me a  
kiss

I leans down and we kiss

Okoye : I love you too

I chuckle

Me : you've always loved me

She laughs

I take my shoes off getting on  
the bed

I cuddle her up into my arms

I'm glad the adoption is finally  
finalized , and now my daughter  
is legally mine

Some good news we needed

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\*Okoye\*

I'm woken up by my ringing  
phone

I lean over and reach for it

Me : hello



Mtho : did I wake you ?

I laugh

Me : what do you want ?

By the noise and ululations  
behind him , I can tell  
everything went well

Mtho : I want you to see this

He drops the call , I'm left  
smiling

Bukhosi still has his arm on me

It feels good waking up next to  
him

I'm glad he didn't leave for  
Limpopo , I just prefer him  
being here with me

Mtho finally video calls , I  
answer and he has the camera  
flipped

He's showing me everything  
that's happening there

I'm so happy for him

Like I am proud , and happy that  
he's found this happiness

He's happy and loving loudly ,  
it's beautiful just watching their  
love story

I so wish we could have been  
there with them , just to  
support them and everything

But the situation , just doesn't  
allow us to . I hope they don't  
feel bad

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\*Mthobisi\*

She straddles me , placing a kiss  
of my lips

Me : I love you so much

Lethabo : I love you more

She cups my face , we lock eyes

Lethabo : thank you for making  
a wife

I chuckle

Me : my wife

Lethabo : this feels so surreal

Me : well , brace yourself . Next week , you'll officially be Mrs Ngidi

Lethabo : babe , whatever it is that I said or asked to have you

I laugh

Me : you threatened me with your father



She giggles , hiding her face on  
my neck

Me : I just had to show you that  
, you're mine

Lethabo : I'm glad you did ,  
because I am the happiest  
woman ever

Me : you are huh ?

Lethabo : mhm-mhm

She moves down a bit ,  
unbuckling my pants . I chuckle

I trail my hand inside her dress  
to her back , grabbing on her  
ass cheeks . And slightly parting  
them

Lethabo : be quick

It's late now , I'm parked down  
the road on their street

Lights are off , but celebrations  
are still going on at her home

She slowly slides my dick inside  
of her , I deep grunt as her  
moist welcomes me

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\*Bukhosi\*

Kamaria : baba ! (daddy)

She exclaims , opening her arms  
running to me.

I laugh crouching down to her  
level , picking her into my arms

Me : baby

She laughs

Kamaria : nifikile (I'm here)

My baby is happy , I'm happy

And maybe having her here , is  
exactly what we need

I look at Mondli

Me : thank you

Mondli : don't worry , she's no hassle at all . And she was very happy to be going on a plane

That one I know very much

She's not scared of planes , the first time we boarded a flight together from Limpopo to Joburg

She was awake the whole time

I have one brave princess here

Me : she's brave this one

Kamaria : baba uphi untana ?  
(Daddy where is the baby)

I chuckle

Me : endlini no mama (in the  
house with mommy)



Kamaria : ithi nombona (let me go see her)

At least she's very excited about being a big sister

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\*INSERT 29\*

\*Okoye\*



Bukhosi : asambe siyogeza  
amazinyo (let's go brush our  
teeth)

He holds his hand out , she  
looks at him and shakes her  
head

He laughs

Bukhosi : awufuni ukudla ? (You  
don't want to eat)

She pouts

Kamaria : baba ! (Daddy)

Someone is sulking

I laugh

Me : ziyakhala sisi (you're being  
dealt sister)

She crawls to him , he picks her  
off the bed

And they walk to the bathroom

They're happy

I guess it was a good thing to  
bring her around

Even though , I was a bit against  
it somehow

I just didn't want to voice it out  
to Bukhosi

But seeing him this happy , it  
takes the stress of the  
complications of the pregnancy  
away

I'm at 7 months , and I'm fearful  
if I'll make it to 9 months full .  
It's just scary

Things just took a turn out of  
nowhere

Even being put on bed rest  
didn't help

My high blood pressure is  
always high

My sugar levels are something  
else



I even thought maybe I have  
sugar diabetes

But I tested negative on that

Honestly , I feel like even the  
doctor doesn't know what's  
wrong me

Like he has no clue whatsoever

Because even the medication  
he's giving me doesn't help  
much

Even though I am still taking it

It doesn't help much to  
complain , because it's not like  
he can do anything about it

I get up and walk to the  
bathroom

I lean by the door watching  
them brush their teeth

Bukhosi makes a great father

That's the one thing I've noticed  
these past months

He looks at me through the  
mirror as they laugh

I flash him as smile

I'm so in pain today , I don't  
even want to do anything

If it were up to me , I would  
take every pain medication and  
sleep

Bukhosi : I'll run you a bath , it'll  
be better than the shower

I nod , turning back walking to  
the bedroom

I force myself to make the bed  
slowly

I know he won't be happy

He doesn't want me doing  
anything , but even being  
treated like a kid I feel like I'll  
lose my sanity

They walk back in , he just gives me a very disapproving look

Me : will you come help me take a bath ?

Bukhosi : yeah , I'll go make her something to eat and come help you

Me : thank you

He walks over , and pecks my  
lips

Bukhosi : I love you

Me : I love you too

He picks her they walk out

I sit down on the bed

I feel like just tearing up

The way we were so happy ,  
when we both finally accepted  
we're having this baby

And now , it feels like  
everything is just going wrong

We have the support of our  
families



So I know we're not alone

We should be happy right now ,  
Kamaria is finally his

He filed for adoption months  
back

He's finally declared his love for  
me , I know I've always loved  
him

But a lot is just going on , we  
can't even be happy about  
anything

Our worry is the baby

He walks back in , I get up he  
rushes to me

Me : what ?

Bukhosi : wait ....wait sit down

I sit down confused , but  
worried at the same time

What's going on ?

Kamaria walks in

Me : isn't she supposed to be  
eating ?

Bukhosi : wait ....

She walks over , and she's  
holding a plate with a slice of  
red velvet cake

That's my favourite , I hope  
she's not having cake this early

She hands me the plate

Me : thank .....

I am stunned seeing the ring on  
the cake

A single one with diamonds  
around it , lord it's beautiful

Bukhosi : please marry ?

I look at him tearing up , is he  
being for real ?

My eyes are burning with tears

Bukhosi : you're the only Ncube  
here , we just want to welcome  
you into our family

That's shade

I laugh taking the ring out

He hands me the glass of water  
on the night stand

I put it inside the glass , the  
cream washes off I take it out

Me : it's beautiful

Bukhosi : uyavuma (she's  
agreeing)

He says to his small friend who  
laughs , does she even  
understand what's going on ?

But did I agree ?

I don't remember saying yes

Me : you and your brother are bad at proposals , I hope Skhu did Zanele better than some of us

He laughs taking the ring

He places it on my ring finger



Bukhosi : it's not tight ?

I feel it

Me : no , it's perfect . And a bit loose , but it won't fall off

Bukhosi : we can resize it , it's okay . But not yet , cause some days your hands do get swollen

I look at him , just holding my  
emotions in

He smiles

I never thought , this can be me  
and him

He's never even hinted that we  
could get married , and now  
we're engaged

I am stunned , this was just  
unexpected

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\*Bukhosi\*

I keep looking at the doctor

And I don't appreciate his  
expression right now

He looks somehow , and it's  
scaring me

I'm holding her hand , she looks  
so pale it's worrying

It's like she's been sick ,  
undergoing treatment

My baby is focusing on the  
monitor

This is the third scan , we come  
for with her

I think she understands now  
there's going to be another  
baby

Doc : we have a problem

We both look at him

The worry on Okoye is not good

Me : what ?

Doc : Mr Ngidi , Ms Ncube has  
to go for an emergency C-  
section right now

I'm on my feet in seconds

He's already paging for two  
doctor's and a nurse

Me : what ....why ?

I ask raising my voice a bit

Doc : the baby is in distress , if we leave her she won't survive in there . The heart rate is very low

Shit !

I look at Okoye tearing up , I hug Kamaria so she doesn't see her mother like this



Me : please save them

Doc : we'll do our best sir

The other two doctors rush in  
along with the nurse

I just watch as they wheel her  
out to theatre

I want to be in there with them  
, but I have my baby here

My phone rings , I take it out  
and it's my father

Me : baba (dad)

Dad : I ....wait , where are you ?  
We're at your house , we want  
to see Okoye

I sigh

Me : at the doctor , and she's been admitted . They're taking her for an emergency C-section , they say the baby is in distress . If they don't operate , she won't make it . Her heart rate is very low

Right now I don't even know what's going on in her mind

I know , I'm a mess

Dad : send your location we're coming

Right now I'm just praying they get here fast , so I can go in there and be with her

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\*INSERT 30\*



\*Lethabo\*

Mtho : are we looking at getting a place after the wedding ?

I love my apartment

And I don't want to sell it

Me : if we can agree to keep my apartment still , or just stay here

He laughs

Mtho : I will not stay in a place  
your father bought you

I smile

Me : I guess you're answered  
them , we'll get a place

Mtho : okay



I laugh

He lifts his head and looks at me

Mtho : what ?

Me : you know your ex called me yesterday , and said Karma was going to deal with me

He frowns

Mtho : who's Karma ?

I laugh

Me : I know now you have  
brains

Mtho : she ....

His phone rings

Me : it's your dad

Mtho : please put it on loud

I grab it and answer putting the phone on loud speaker

Mtho : dad ....

Mr Ngidi : can you meet us at the hospital ? Okoye has gone into emergency C-section , the princess is here you know she

knows you better . Bukhosi  
rushed in to go be with her

He's on his feet putting on his  
shoes

The worry on his face has me  
cold in my stomach

I hope everything goes well ,  
Mtho wouldn't be able to  
handle anything bad happening

to Okoye or the baby . Those  
two are his go to people

The relationship between these  
two , is that some of us only  
wish and pray for but never get

I get up grabbing my jacket , I  
have on just slippers

We rush out to the car

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\*Bukhosi\*

My heart is pounding

Right now I'm trying to be  
strong for them , like just doing  
my best

But it's something else when it's  
your child too

And the woman you love , and  
you just don't see this life  
without her

Doc : we .....

I look at them as he takes the  
baby out

Me : she's not crying , why is  
she not crying ?



I lean over , my heart shatters

Me : no .....please do something

He looks down , the nurse  
hands him a sheet her covers  
her with

Me : please .....

They move over , as one cleans  
and closes up Okoye

I can't even look at her right  
now

I feel like I failed her , if only we  
came here yesterday

They attend to the baby , just  
plugging machines and doing a  
lot of shit I don't even  
understand

Her tiny body , can't take what  
their doing

She's already gone , they won't  
magically resuscitate her

Me : leave her alone please !

I raise my voice a bit , Okoye  
breaks into a sob

Doc : it's a still born

He says to the other doctor ,  
who takes a file and writes on it

Doc : we have to sedate her

One picks a syringe , and puts it  
in the IV

I turn and look at her , she looks  
like she's suffocating as she  
slowly closes her eyes

But tears still streaming down  
her face

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\*Mthobisi\*

We have been waiting

And the wait is just driving me  
insane

The longer we wait

And we're not hearing anything  
, it's just building up anxiety

And fear of the worst

I can't even keep still

This waiting is making me feel  
like I'm losing my mind

Me : how long will we wait for ?

Dad : I'm sure they're still busy  
with her

Mom : yes , once there's an  
answer or something to tell  
they will tell us

At least , they seem to be better  
than I am right now

I take a deep breath



The door opens , and I dart my  
eyes to him

I look at my brother walking out  
of the ward , and he doesn't  
look good at all

His eyes are bloodshot red

Not that he's been crying , but  
it's pain and he's fighting it

Lethabo has Kamaria sleeping  
on her lap

I know Bukhosi , now he has  
that face of his shutting his  
emotions out

I know it's bad

I feel tears burning my eyes

Mom : how are they ?

She asks getting on her feet

I feel like we shouldn't even be asking

Considering just how he's looking like right now

But best we don't conclude , and just hear from him

He looks at them , like nothing  
is going on

Well more like nothing , that  
can rattle people's emotions  
and all that

But I know something is wrong

Bukhosi : she was a still born ,  
they've sedated Okoye

My tears fall down

I've been holding them on ,  
since I laid my eyes on him

Now I feel that pain he's  
fighting , unfortunately I'm not  
a soldier like him

I can't fight nor hide mine

He walks over to Lethabo and  
takes Kamaria

Mom : Bukhosi .....

Bukhosi : mom please not now

He walks away from us

Lethabo gets up and hugs me

Lethabo : I'm so sorry baby

Like why did this happen to them ?

Yes she was annoying me with her crazy hormones

But I love her , and I loved the baby

I was looking forward to being an uncle

My brother was so happy , he  
was going to be a father of two  
now

This is fucked up !

And it's not fair

Mom : Bukhosi can't leave right  
now , maybe we should go  
check on him



Dad : let him be , he needs to cool down he will be back with the princess . Don't worry , come sit down

Everyone right now is in their own feelings and emotions

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\*INSERT 31\*

\*A WEEK LATER\*

\*Okoye\*

I feel like I'm drowning

Waking up in that ward , on the  
bed

Being told my baby didn't make  
it

She was gone coming out of my  
womb

A part of me was gone , I've  
never been so shattered

I don't know how to deal with  
this

I don't know what to do

It's like my whole world has just  
been on a standstill

We buried the baby a few days  
ago

My mother came , and she left  
yesterday with Kamaria

She felt that Bukhosi and I  
should be left on our own

Without the pressure of dealing  
with a toddler

Especially because I don't think  
she understands

She kept asking her dad where  
is the baby , why is my tummy  
small again

It was just a lot

And it hurt even more , because  
she was so looking forward to  
having the baby

I haven't seen him today , since  
morning

I've been cooped up in this  
room



It's been one hell of a week for  
me

Looking at my daughter's  
lifeless body , she looked so  
pale like a doll

I will never forget that sight

I named her Taraji

Bukhosi still asked me to name her

Her father loves it , I think I do too

Taraji means there is hope

I don't know , but I think the name is fitting

We do need the hope

I look at my ring , to think this  
was supposed to be a great  
happy moment for us

We didn't tell anyone about the  
engagement

That's if it's still there

I take it off , placing it on the  
night stand

I get up grabbing my bag , and  
walk out

I'm stunned seeing him in the  
lounge , I thought he's not  
around

He looks at the bag

Bukhosi : where is your ring ?

I look at him

When did his eyes even dart to  
my hand ?

Me : in the bedroom , on the  
night stand

Bukhosi : why ?

My emotions get the best of me

He walks over and hugs me

I just tear up

Bukhosi : why are you leaving  
me ?

He's hurting

He's really hurting , and I don't  
even know how to comfort him

Because I feel like I failed him as  
a woman

Why would he still want to be  
with me or marry me ?

He cups my face , wiping my  
tears making me face him

Bukhosi : why are you leaving  
me ?

I shake my head slowly

Me : the baby is gone ?

Bukhosi : were you only with me because of the baby ? What about our other baby , doesn't she need both her parents ? I am with you because I love you , I wasn't marrying you because of the baby . Why are you leaving me ?



I break down into his arms

It hurts so bad

And I thought he doesn't want  
me anymore

Because now his child is gone

Bukhosi : go back up there ,  
unpack this bag and put your

ring back . Don't ever do this  
ever again , not in this house

A crying mess as I am

I pull away from him heading to  
upstairs

When this man talks , you listen  
and do as you're told . Because  
he barely asks anything

I put my ring back , before I  
even unpack the bag

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\*Bukhosi\*

She's laying on my lap , we're in  
the lounge on the couch

Me : you want to go to therapy  
with me ?

I slide my hand through her afro

Okoye : Therapy ?

Me : yeah

Okoye : you want to go to  
therapy ?

Me : I am already attending

Okoye : I didn't know that

Me : when I left the military ,  
they scheduled us for therapy

She laughs

And it's the first laugh I've  
heard the whole week , she  
hasn't been herself at all . The  
loss of our child shattered her

Okoye : that doesn't sound like  
you

Me : yeah , I don't even talk to that woman . I hate going there

Okoye : but you want us to go ?

I sigh

Me : mama , I don't know

I lean down pecking her lips

Me : I think maybe if you're  
there holding my hand I'll talk

Okoye : no you won't

Of course I won't

Me : don't judge me before  
you're even there with me

She lifts her hand up brushing  
my beard



She flashes me a smile

Me : what happened to people  
supporting their people ?

She giggles

Okoye : I'll hold your hand to  
therapy , it's fine

It sucks being mocked

But I'm doing this for her , in  
hopes that she will open up

And I will change that annoying  
woman , and just go to  
someone else

I don't want her to bottle up her  
feelings

This loss shouldn't swallow her

I have a wedding to give this  
woman

And she deserves all the  
happiness I can ever give her

I don't ever want to see what  
happened today happen again

Where she takes her ring off ,  
packs her bags ready to just

leave me . I don't ever want  
that again

We have a child who needs us ,  
just because we lost one  
doesn't mean we should  
neglect ourselves for the other

She still needs her parents ,  
she's a child and has no idea of  
what's happening . We're not  
breaking our family up

Me : I love you mama

Okoye : I love you more

She turns and lifts up

Okoye : thank you for loving me

Me : hey ....the heart wants  
what it wants

I hold her hand intertwining our  
fingers

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\*INSERT 32\*

\*Okoye\*

Today I just woke up feeling  
very bad



Especially thinking about my  
acts and actions of yesterday

We're both hurting , we both  
suffered a loss here

It was very hard having to bury  
our hope

Like , having to see her father  
carrying a small casket

It was the most heart breaking  
thing ever

He got inside that hole , and put  
his daughter to her final resting  
place

Yes I am hurting , I carried her .  
She drove me insane with  
hormones

We bonded and all

But that sight , seeing that was  
shattering

I never took the time to just  
think how that has affected him

He was the first to cover her  
with soil

I wipe my tears , looking at  
myself in the mirror

He needs me , just as much as I  
need him

And I was so ready to walk out  
on him

I really do feel bad

He's been the one carrying me  
through the past week

He's the one who sat Kamaria down , and explained to her that her little sister is now her angel

I couldn't even bring myself to tell her

I just couldn't

Like , how do I tell my 3 year old that her sister is no more ?

But he did it , better than I  
could have ever imagined or  
tried to do

This man is my rock , and  
yesterday I let him down

I walk out of the bathroom ,  
he's sitting by the small table  
near the balcony

I've just taken a shower , I have  
on just a towel wrapped

I walk to him , he has his laptop  
on the table

Me : hey

He looks at me , and pats to his  
lap moving his laptop further on  
the table

I straddle him

Bukhosi : don't hurt yourself

Me : I won't

I place my arms on his neck ,  
leaning over for a kiss

As his hands grab on my ass  
cheeks



Me : I miss you so bad

I say breaking the kiss briefly

Bukhosi : I miss you more mama

And his crotch says so , as he  
expands inside his pants

Bukhosi : you haven't healed  
yet

I cup his face looking into his  
eyes

Me : please let me

I'm pleading right now

He says nothing , I slowly move  
back

Getting off him , I unbuckle his  
pants lowering the zip

I part his knees getting in  
between them

I look at him , his eyes are just  
full of hunger and lust . He lets  
out a slight chuckle

I slowly strike his dick , this man  
is gifted . This thing of his ,  
barely even fits into my hand

Like it goes to his bellybutton ,  
like that's just how long it is

But it's damn perfect , I love it  
when he stretches me apart

And I feel him filling me up

Damn !

I do miss him

I'm brought to my thoughts ,  
when I feel his fingers on my  
chin

Making me look at him , I focus  
my eyes on his

Bukhosi : I will have you on all  
fours as soon as you're healed

Me : Mhm-mhm !

I say with a nod , he smiles

Am I really that hungry for him ,  
I just gave my thoughts away

I smile , he pecks my lips

I lean over , licking the tip of his  
dick with his precum

He moves back on the chair , I  
grab his balls playing with them

While my tongue is licking and sucking on his tip

His slight groans are not helping

I feel his dick expanding in my palms

I brace myself , taking him in my mouth while my tongue is licking on his tip

Bukhosi : fuck mama !

Nothing like a man groaning  
because of pleasure

Slowly I suck on him , while my  
other hand is still playing with  
his balls

I'm honestly drenched down  
there



He gets up , and fist on my hair

Oh my poor afro !

At least I don't lose my pace

And slowly , he holds my head  
in place as he starts thrusting  
into my mouth

Fuck no !

I can't take my mouth being  
fucked

It feels like my throat is burning

I grab tight on his thighs , and  
push my head forward

I deep throat

Tears form in my eyes

Bukhosi : ah shit !

He slowly moves my head back ,  
as he shoots his cum still inside  
my mouth pulling out

And I sure feel the load , it's a  
lot

This man hasn't been relieved ,  
in close to two weeks

Trust me , that's very long for  
him

A few days he can do

When his dick finally pulls out of  
my mouth completely , only  
drops of his cum drop down

He's panting and cursing under  
his breath

I look at him , he leans down  
and stops his face inches away  
from mine

Bukhosi : I fucking love you  
woman ! Please don't ever  
doubt that

With my sore throat , I smile  
like a retard

He chuckles leaning closer , our  
lips touch and we kiss

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\*Bukhosi\*

Me : ubaba uya kuthanda  
(daddy loves you)

She giggles

Kamaria : thanda nam (I love  
you too)

I drop the call with a smile

Talking to her always puts a smile on my face during these time

My phone beeps , and it's an email from the therapist Nonhle

I heard she's very good at what she does , I think it won't hurt for us to just try



As much as I'm doing this for  
Okoye on the sly

I think it'll be good for her

I just hope she will be more  
fruitful , than the annoying  
therapist I was seeing

I walk to the bed , putting my  
phone on the night stand . I get  
in bed slowly

Making sure not to wake her up

She's been asleep for quite a while now

We were watching a movie , and she slept

I don't mind , because it gives her body time to just relax . And not be tense

I hug her from behind ,  
snuggling her closer to me

Closing the gate in between us

Okoye : is she okay ?

I chuckle

Me : I thought you were  
sleeping

Okoye : woke up a few minutes ago

Me : she's okay mama , don't worry

I place a kiss on the back of her neck

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\*INSERT 33\*

\*Lethabo\*

My husband hasn't been okay

Like it's been a very rough week  
for him

He keeps to himself

I'm just glad that he's not  
shutting me down , or pushing  
me away

Even though most times , he  
would just ask to be on his own

I am worried about him

Because he can't even bring  
himself go see Okoye and  
Bukhosi

He says he doesn't know what  
he'll say to her

It's just a mess of a situation



My heart goes out to Bukhosi  
and Okoye , what they're going  
through is a lot

And just too painful

I can only imagine the pain of  
loosing your child in that  
manner

I'm sure no pain is greater than  
the other

But in this case , I would say  
even a miscarriage is better  
than what happened to them

Like having your baby come out  
of you out of life

That's haunting

I just hope they can find each  
other again

And live up to the beautiful  
name they have given their  
angel

That there's hope

Mtho : have you thought of a  
new date for the wedding ?

I look at him

We've even had to postpone  
our wedding

How could we have had a  
wedding in the midst of the  
great loss the family went  
through

Me : no baby

He nods

I move over and sit next to him ,  
I hold his hand

Me : we're not in a rush , I need  
you to be okay . I want Okoye  
and your big brother at our  
wedding . I need them to be  
okay , for us and for them . So  
the wedding can wait , for as  
long as it takes my love

He smiles

Mtho : you're the best do you know that ?

Me : hubby makes sure I'm let know at all times

We laugh

Mtho : whatever I did to deserve you

Me : mhm , you Mr you just  
love me right

I lean over giving him a kiss

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\*Bukhosi\*

We walk in , and I'm stunned  
that we're welcomed by an old  
woman

Me : you're old



I say as we sit down

The look Okoye gives me , but  
she must excuse me

Cause I wasn't under the  
impression that the therapist is  
old

Nonhle : well Mr Ngidi , I'm  
mature

I chuckle

Sure my dad is mature , she's  
literally his age if not more

Okoye nudges me

Me : ouch !

Okay

Someone is not pleased with  
me

Me : sorry , it's just that my last  
therapist was young . And she  
was annoying

She gracefully smiles

Nonhle : it's okay , please feel  
free and comfortable . Let this  
room be a safe space for you , a

space you can pour out your emotions .....

Okoye : sorry , can you just spare us that ? Like respectfully , I would just appreciate it if we can just talk about why we're here .

Nonhle : okay

Right now I'm a bit confused

Okoye stands up , and walks to the window looking outside

Nonhle looks like someone who's about to pay attention attentively to someone

She even has on a smile , like she's impressed and not offended by what Okoye just said

With her note book in hand ,  
and pen between her fingers .  
Her legs folded

Okoye : you know life is unfair ,  
it's very much unfair . And no  
one , can ever say they know or  
understand why .

She takes a deep breath and  
looks at us

Okoye : a week ago , we lost our  
baby girl .....

Tears stream down her face , as  
she turns again facing the  
window

I get up to walk to her , but  
Nonhle stops me

Me : she's crying

Nomhle : please sit down , she's  
not here for you to baby her .  
You do enough of that at home

What the fuck ?

I stand on my feet

Nonhle : take all the time you  
need



She says to Okoye

Okoye : time ?

That's accompanied by a bitter  
chuckle

Okoye : time is something I do  
not have , I will loose what I  
have because of what I've  
already lost . I never planned  
for a baby , especially while I'm

still trying to figure my life . But I had accepted , and I loved her so much . Funny thing is that , she had a father . A father who was looking forward to seeing her , but saw her as a corpse . A father who was going to love her , like he's never loved . He was there , he's always been there from the beginning . I had the best support , throughout the pregnancy and it was a hard one . One day I went to bed fine

, and I woke up I wasn't fine .  
Suddenly there were  
complications , and that  
resulted in a dead baby being  
taken out of my woman

She breaks down , letting out a  
heart wrenching sob

And this woman has a very  
sharp eye on me , like she's  
daring me not to even touch  
Okoye

I don't approve of her methods  
, how do I watch her cry like this  
and do nothing ?

Okoye : sad thing , I was able to  
carry a baby of rape for nine  
months in my womb , and I  
didn't even know . Everything  
was just so perfect , I never had  
a single struggle . I wasn't given  
a choice to give up my virginity ,  
it was taken from me . And a

child resulted in that , and I wasn't given a choice either . Because I didn't even know she was coming , I had no choice to keep her or not . But I birthed her still , despite everything . The one child that I get , and I'm actually excited knowing I lose her . Trust me , I love my daughter , I love her very much . Despite of how she came about , I don't hate her . But for two years in her life , she didn't have

a father . My mother struggled raising her , while I try to get my life in order . I just think it's unfair , why did I have to carry my baby only to lose her like this ? Why couldn't my womb be strong enough to carry her ? I feel like I failed , I failed her and I failed her father . I had no pressure , I wasn't stressed about anything . But my stress levels were high , my sugar levels were high . Why couldn't

I keep the baby in for 9 months  
? Why was she in distress at just  
7 months , and she couldn't  
make it

She goes on to sit down on the  
carpet

Okoye : I've found a man who  
loves me , and I love him . Even  
after loosing his baby , he still  
wants to marry me . There's no  
day I go by , I don't ask myself if

I'll ever be woman enough for him and carry him a child . I have been so selfish , and so self centred that I've ignored his pain and focused on mine . As if I'm the only one who lost a child , like I didn't watch him carry that small casket that had his baby inside and placed it inside a grave . I feel like this pain is swallowing me , I was ready to walk out on him and leave ....



She buries her face on her hands , all this time she's crying

Might be a mess of things she's saying all at once , but she's pouring those emotions out

Okoye : it hurts , it hurts so bad . And I don't know how to go forward , I don't know how to just go on . I feel like , I'll be

very selfish if I move on with life  
. It'll be like I'm forgetting her ,  
just because she's not here . I'm  
scared to try and be happy  
again , I don't want .....

She shakes her head , sure sobs  
are painful

But there's no pain that hits like  
a silent cry , I can't bare nor  
stand this right now

Okoye : how do I mother my daughter , without feeling like I'm forgetting the other one ? I don't know , I just feel like I'm sinking . At the same time , I feel like I'm going to hold off everyone from just moving on with life . Because I'm scared to let go and move on

It's silent for a few minutes

Nomhle : Mr Ngidi

I look at her

Nonhle : do you have  
something to say ?

Me : can I please just go hug the  
mother of my kids ? Do I also  
need your permission for that ?

She nods

I heave a sigh walking to her

I feel like she's said a lot of  
things

And now I understand better  
exactly just how she's feeling

I crouch down , and hug her . I  
think she'll be reluctant

But no , she hugs me back

Me : I love you

She nods against my chest ,  
clinging onto me for dear life

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\*INSERT 34\*



\*Bukhosi\*



Me : you want to talk about  
what happened in therapy ?

We're cuddling in bed , she has  
her head on my chest

We barely talked yesterday

And she's been like way too  
quiet , I didn't want to bother  
her

Okoye : I ....don't know

She slightly shakes her head

Me : you said a lot

She sighs

Me : I think I understand better now , and I'm not judging you

She lifts her head looking at me

Okoye : you don't ?

I shake my head no

Me : no , I don't

Okoye : but you heard me ? Like everything I said , even about Kamaria and all that

I smile

Me :I did , and I'm glad you spoke about that . It shows you never got the help and healing you needed after it happened , so now tackling all of that

I caresses her cheek

Me : it means you're human , to only question everything that

has happened . Also the fear of just moving on , I also get it

Okoye : really ?

I nod with a smile

Me : but I'm here and not going anywhere , one day at a time . I know you love our daughter beyond limits , I'm glad you're not holding those feelings that

you have inside anymore . I  
want this healing for you ,  
completely . And I want you to  
be okay , without feeling like  
you have to cage yourself for  
Taraji to see that you haven't  
forgotten her

Okoye : I just think that maybe  
....maybe talking will help . Like  
talking to someone different ,  
someone who's not in pain with  
us

Me : I'm proud of you , like  
you're taking a step . And  
definitely doing this therapy  
better than I was , or am . But  
you're doing it for both of us , I  
swear I will heal through you

She laughs

I hope she knows I mean it ,  
cause she's holding us both now

She's doing better , I know she  
will get herself back together  
again

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\*Mthobisi\*



Me : hey

She turns and looks at me

I'm leaning against the door  
frame

Me : you are stunning , are you  
going on a date ?

She smiles

Okoye : you're so awkward ,  
why are you standing there ?

I chuckle

Me : I am so not coming inside  
Bukhosi's bedroom , come here

She laughs

I've been derailing to come  
around

But today , I've finally gathered  
that strength

We have to put the pieces  
together , and try moving on  
together

She walks over , I engulf her  
into a tight hug

Okoye : I missed you

Now I feel so bad , and so guilty

Like I've abandoned her in her  
time of need

Me : I won't go anywhere again  
, I was very weak being babied  
crying like a child . I was really a  
mess of a person

She laughs

Me : yeah it's fine , laugh at me  
if it makes you feel better

She moves back and pats my  
shoulder

Okoye : I'm glad you cried , I  
really am . Because now I know  
, I'm going to have my friend  
back . Unlike that man , I  
haven't seen crying not even  
once

She heaves a sigh

Bukhosi is Bukhosi , but I saw  
him and he's not falling apart

Me : it's ...

The diamonds on her finger  
catch my eye

I quickly lift the hand , and my  
jaw drops

Me : this is most definitely not  
fake !

This ring goes on for about 35K ,  
as simple as it looks

I know it doesn't come cheap

Me : he proposed ?

She nods



Me : like when ?

Okoye : the day we lost Taraji ,  
he uhm ....he proposed with  
Kamaria in the morning before  
we left

Fuck !

This is not fair , they couldn't  
even share the news with  
anyone

Because of what happened that  
day

Not even their own families

I hope they get through this ,  
using that hope

No one deserves to be happy  
more than Okoye

We've all had our fair share of  
life , yes

But I think she's just been  
through the most worst kind

Me : wow , so who's getting  
married now ?

She laughs

Okoye : leave me alone

Me : you're being fed your words with a fork , in my next life time because your brother will never wife me . What's this now ?

Okoye : stop !

We burst out laughing

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\*Lethabo\*

Me : how is she ?

Mtho : better I think , she says she's attending therapy . It's been a few days , but she seems well

Me : that's nice

I hand him his sandwich

Mtho : thanks baby

I sit down next to him

Mtho : I'm glad she's doing it  
and getting better

Me : you want to as well ?

Mtho : to what ?

Me : see a therapist

He smiles

Mtho : do I need therapy baby ?

Me : I don't know , do you ?

He smiles , and I just want to  
laugh so bad



Mtho : baby I'll be fine , one day  
at a time but I'll be fine

Me : okay , just know you have  
my support

Mtho : some of us are highly  
favoured , like a whole angel  
just descended for me

I laugh

He better not start with me

I just want to see them all  
better , and back to their lives .  
Being supportive , really costs  
nothing

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\*Bukhosi\*

Dad : how are you holding up ?

Me : fine

Dad : your mom says Okoye  
says she's attending therapy

I laugh

Me : that's a lot of says

Dad : well ?

Me : we are

Dad : that's not how she put it

Me : well , in a nutshell I did  
want the therapy for Okoye .  
But I go there with her

Dad : don't bottle up

Me : I..... I won't

The door opens and she walks  
in

Me : uhm , thanks for checking  
on us . We'll talk

I drop the call , she walks over  
crawling on the bed

She gets on top of me ,  
straddling me

Okoye : you need a hug

I chuckle , lifting up a bit . She slides her hands underneath my back , hugging me

I place my hands on her back

Me : you're babying me

Okoye : a little babying , don't hurt . You need it

I place a kiss on her cheek

Me : thank you mama

Okoye : because I love you now

We laugh

I have my support here

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\*INSERT 35\*

\*Okoye\*

I take my shoes off , throwing  
them on the floor

I'm catching up with varsity  
work

And I had a therapy session

I can't say us now can I ?

Because this one doesn't even say anything when we get there

But I don't mind , I feel like he tricked me into it

He just wanted me to attend , not necessarily us

But it's fine , I don't mind . I feel  
so much better

Me : have you eaten ?

Bukhosi : no

Me : okay , let me make  
something

I had lectures and all , and he  
was home all day

He only came to pick me up , for therapy

Bukhosi : mama

I look at him walking to the kitchen , and he follows behind me

Bukhosi : do you want a big wedding ?

Me : no , I want to go sign in court . Come back home , and celebrate with our family

Bukhosi : that's it ?

Me : yes , why spend money on a wedding . It's R75 getting married at home affairs

He laughs

Bukhosi : you love cheap things though , and we have money

I laugh taking meat out of the freezer , just moving around the kitchen grabbing things I need

Bukhosi : mom said after three months , they'll do the cleansing . You shouldn't be dressed like this for long



I nod

I'm dressed like a Makoti of  
some kind

But you can tell I'm in mourning  
, and not doing bride duties

It's in Jeremane dresses , they  
got me two and matching blue  
towels

His mother said I can't wear a single outfit all the time

But then again , I'm not supposed to wear any other clothes except these two dresses and the towels

Until the time placed has passed , and then we can cleanse

Bukhosi : I want my daughter  
home

I turn and look at him

Bukhosi : don't cut yourself

I put the knife down

Bukhosi : I mean , I get your  
mother raised her and all . But

mama , I did right by my child  
and I want her home with her  
parents . She'll visit her  
grandmother , whenever she  
wants to

I did not see this one

Me : you wanted her to visit , so  
you can keep her ?

Guilty as charged

Me : You go talk to my mother

He gets up and walks to me

Bukhosi : are you okay ? I mean  
with her coming home ? I need  
you comfortable , and in that  
space

Me : I am getting help , I'm fine

He smiles

Me : thank you for considering me , but I still know in the midst of this all I'm a mother . I can't neglect her now , cause I'm in pain

Bukhosi : I'm going to ask my mother to speak to your mother

I laugh

Me : coward !

He hugs me from behind as I  
continue chopping the peppers

Bukhosi : I love you

He pecks my cheek

Me : I love you more

I wonder how I'm going to cook  
, with him hugging me like this

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\*Lethabo\*



Dad : the wedding is going on ?

Me : yes

He chuckles

Me : Okoye seems and sounds so better , I don't wanna say she's there yet . But she's good , so we can go ahead , well Mtho said we can

Dad : alright , I can't wait to walk you down the isle

Me : papa (daddy)

I snuggle closer to him

Me : thank you so much , you made things so easier . I didn't think you will be so easy

He laughs

Dad : what do you take me for ?

Me : you sir are very hard-core

Dad : your happiness matter to  
me , you know I'll always put  
you first no matter what

True that

I'm so glad things are starting to  
look up now

And the wedding is back on  
track

Hopefully we can get a date  
that's sooner

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\*Bukhosi\*

Mom : I'm happy seeing you ,  
but where is my baby ?

I chuckle

Me : at campus

Mom : I'm glad she's getting herself back

I nod

Me : I want my baby home , can you talk to Mrs Ncube for me ?

Mom : you want the princess for good ?

Me : she will still go visit her ,  
but I want her to come home  
and live with us

Mom : Did mommy agree ?

Me : she said I should speak to  
her mother , but she's okay with  
her coming

Mom : okay , I'll call MaNcube



Me : thank you , and I asked her to marry me . And she agreed

Mom : when did that happen ?

Me : on that fateful day , before going to the doctor

Mom : wow ! So all my son's have finally grown up , and ready to settle down

Me : I've long been grown

She laughs

Mom : now you're a father , and about to be a husband . That's growth , I'm really proud . And Mtho will be having his wedding soon

They should do that , so it can get out of the way

I was feeling bad in a way , that they had to push their wedding because of us

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\*Mthobisi\*

Okoye : you're a very brave  
champ

I laugh

Me : can you stop saying that ?

Okoye : but why ? I mean , you went and got that Theo woman

Me : I love her , it's the heart

Okoye : and that's why it was only created to pump blood and nothing else . Stupid organ

What the fuck ?

We laugh

Me : should my brother even  
hear you say this ?

She laughs

Okoye : don't bore me , your  
brother is very awkward . He  
might just brush me off

Me : and punish you in many other ways

Okoye : you're just disturbing , keep quite

Me : when are you getting married ?

Okoye : after my exams , I'm just focusing on that and

therapy now . But he wants to pay bride price while we wait for November , and I'm fine with that . At least after all that is done , then I can find where I'll do my in-service training . Then job hunting starts

Me : don't rush it , what I know is that you'll graduate next year

She smiles



Me : come give me a hug

She leans over we hug

Okoye : I love that even in  
marriage , you haven't forsaken  
me

Me : never , that one will  
happen in hell

This is my forever girl

I love that my wife knows

Okoye : I think I'm okay

I brush her back

Me : that's good , and you have  
a man who loves and cherishes  
you . You're that life Portrait to

him , one that's in his heart and  
not hanging on the wall

She laughs

Slowly , but surely my girl will  
find herself

I have no doubt about that , and  
I know my brother is here to  
stay

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\*INSERT 36\*

\*TWO YEARS LATER\*

\*Lethabo\*

I get out of my car

It's drizzling a bit , I can't even  
walk faster to the door

I knock , and let myself in

Junior walks in from the kitchen  
holding a plate of food

He laughs looking at me

Me : that smells nice , and I am  
hungry

Junior : mom ! The eater is here



He screams on top of his lungs ,  
it's echoing

And he turns right there walking  
upstairs

Me : are you running away from  
me ?

Junior : my food is not safe near  
you

He disappears , now I feel like  
crying

He always does this to me

I take out my phone sitting  
down

I make a call

Mtho : mommy

Me : baby Junior ran away with his food again

Mtho : he's an idiot don't let him get to you please , what should I send ?

Me : Buffalo wings , and dunked wings

He laughs

Mtho : they're coming my love ,  
you arrived home safe ?

Me : yes

Mtho : okay , let me order your  
food

Me : I love you

Mtho : I love you three

I drop the call smiling

Voice : ah my girls are here

I look at him smiling , he walks  
over and sit down next to me he  
looks so happy

He brushes my tummy

Dad : how are my girls ?

Me : these babies are driving  
me crazy , mom's son ran away  
from me with his food

Yes

That man knocked me up , with  
not just one but two girls

I'm 8 months pregnant now

I look like an elephant

But I'm loving my pregnancy ,  
and I'm not ready yet for them  
to leave my tummy

Dad : that fool , what do the  
girls want to eat ?

Me : beef burger , some triple  
decker pizza .

Dad : on it

He takes his phone

I smile

Me : where is mom ?

Dad : taking a shower , she'll be  
down here . She knows you're  
coming , she's very excited  
she's going to see you



I haven't been home in a week

Just a week , and that woman is making it seem like a whole year

Mtho doesn't like it when I'm all over

This pregnancy has made him very over protective

The door monitor goes off , dad gets up and attends to it

After a while he comes back with a paper bag of food

Me : that was fast

He chuckles

Dad : this is not the one I ordered

He puts it on the table , I reach  
for it and take everything out

I eat

Me : he knows his kids and food  
didn't fight

Dad : good , I also don't want  
you starving because of these  
girls

Someone is very low key very  
happy

He's going to spoil these two

I just hope they don't take my  
father away from me

Who knew marriage was going  
to bring me so much happiness

I'm being loved , and loved right

I don't regret that day when  
someone bumped into me

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\*Mthobisi\*

Me : what ?

Lethabo : dad bought us food ,  
we're eating

I laugh

Me : okay baby , I'll come pick you up after work . Just three more hours

Lethabo : I drove here

I know she did

Despite me hating it so bad ,  
having her drive in her  
condition

Me : I know , but I'll come pick you up . One of the uncles will drive your car home

Lethabo : okay baby , I can't wait to see you . I love you

Me : I love you three

She laughs dropping the call



After this there's no getting my  
wife pregnant again

She eats a lot

It's only been like half an hour  
I've sent her food

But her father got them food

And she's going to finish it

No one's food is safe with her  
around

She attacks food , but none the  
less . I love my girls so much

All three of them , they  
complete me . I'm content

Marriage has done me good ,  
two years down the line

And I would do this over and  
over and over again

Best decision I've ever made ,  
was bumping on that woman  
and marrying her

My phone rings , and it's a video  
call

I smile picking up

Me : my princess

She giggles

Kamaria : Mtho ukuphi ?  
(Where are you)

I chuckle

Me : girl ! Please just call me  
your uncle

Kamaria : sorry uncle

She says with a frown

Only Skhumbuzo is uncle SK

I don't get why I'm not uncle  
Mtho

Me : I'm at work

Kamaria : baphi abantwana  
bakho ? (Where are your kids)

Why do we have to have a  
conversation about kids , who  
are in someone's tummy ?

Me : with aunty

Kamaria : I miss them

Wow ! Okay

Me : I'll come get you on weekend , then you can visit and spend time with them

Kamaria : okay bye , I love you

Now that melts my heart

Me : I love you more my princess

Kamaria : Mkhulu yangibiza  
(grandpa is calling me)

I laugh as she drops the call ,  
this one is a big girl now

My father would rather he  
watches cartoons with her

Than have her on the phone  
calling us



He says we're ruining the  
princess

I don't know about that

She got the phone on her 4<sup>th</sup>  
birthday

This kid is too smart for her own  
good

And Bukhosi spoils her crazy

And going to that mixed  
preschool , having white and  
Indian friends

Just makes her worse

But she's one bubbly child , she  
just brightens up for everyone  
in this family

Really she is our moon child

I turn to my laptop so I can  
finish up

But now I just feel like I should  
go fetch my wife

I don't feel like working  
anymore , I just want to leave

And go home , spend time with  
our girls

I get up grabbing my things ,  
and I walk out heading to the  
parking lot

I get to my car and drive out

As I'm about to pass the line of  
street vendors , I see some  
really nice looking avocados

My wife loves these

And I blame Okoye , she  
introduced her to these things

There's avocados everywhere in  
Musina

I stop the car by the side of the  
road

I head to one stall , and buy two  
packs

As I turn to leave , I'm stunned  
seeing Annie

Like I am shocked ! I almost  
didn't even see her

And she looks very much  
pregnant , with a toddler in  
hand

Who doesn't even look that old

And a very old man , with white  
hair on the other hand

I pass , because I really have  
nothing to say to her

After breaking up , I never saw  
her again

And she never called my wife  
again

I thought she disappeared

Annie : Mthobisi !

She says sounding very shocked

But I turn and look at her , just  
for the sake of it

Me : hi Annie



She smiles

Annie : oh my gosh ! It really is  
you

Oh well , she can see that

Annie : wow , you look really  
good

The man nudges her , I think  
she's forgotten herself

Him : babe who is this ?

Now I am finished with shock

This could be her grandfather ,  
but he's just said babe

Annie : uhm ...someone I used  
to go to school to

Him : oh okay

Annie : Mtho this is my husband

She looks down in  
embarrassment and just shame

If I die , is it safe to say I was  
well within my rights ? Because  
this is not it

What's this ?

She's wearing a worn out flower  
dress , with flip flops

Her hair is braided in wool

Thee Annie I knew , was a make  
up girl with weaves

Your typical slay queen

Not this person I am seeing ,  
indeed people change

Me : uhm well , okay I have to go

Annie : still married to Lethabo ?

This man doesn't look happy now

She should just ignore me , and keep on walking

Me : yes very much so

The hurt on her face cannot be missed

But honestly , I believe karma deals you if you believe in that shit

Annie : she's one lucky woman

Me : no , I'm the lucky one

I turn and jog to my car

As I get in driving out , I see on  
the mirror she's looking back  
but the husband is dragging her  
by hand

This is a shame

I get on the road driving off

Even Okoye with her creche  
doesn't look like that

No !

Life has dealt Annie , but the old  
husband was a finish

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\*INSERT 37\*

\*Bukhosi\*

Mondli : General

I laugh

Me : don't annoy me

Mondli : tired of guns and  
bombs ?

He gets up walking over , we  
shoulder bump

Me : I see this building is still standing

Mondli : it's new , have faith on us . And the leadership , rules with an iron fist

We laugh

Me : I'm glad , I thought you'll have a tough time adjusting to a new company

Mondli : never ! I love the challenge

Me : you're doing good man

Mondli : when did you get back ?

Me : just this morning , I was with BDF for a week before dispatch

Mondli : you will die at Force

I chuckle

Me : office space will suffocate  
you

I look at my wrist watch

Me : I just came to check on you  
, I see you're still good

Mondli : I have found my feet very fine thank you , see how we've all just adjusted . Life as normal human beings is not so bad after all

We laugh

Me : let me get going , I have go by the parents to pick someone up . Before she calls me for the

umpteenth time , and pass by  
home

Mondi : I told you buying that  
child a phone , was going to  
give you grey hairs

Me : I already have one , all  
thanks to her

And it's no joke , it's there . That  
one grey hair



He walks me to my car laughing  
his ass off from his office

Me : I will see you around

Mondli : when you get the time

I drive to my parents house

And as I open the door , she  
screams running to me

I crouch down to pick her up ,  
but she just laughs standing still  
on her tracks

Me : what's this now ?

Kamaria : general

And she salutes

Me : girl I will shoot you

She laughs , placing her hand on  
her mouth muffling her loud  
laugher

I pick her up , and give her a kiss

Me : daddy missed you

Kamaria : I miss you daddy

We hug

This one knows just how make  
me feel like I've been gone  
home for ages

This reaction of love , just pure  
love never gets old

Every time she sees me after  
being gone , this is how she  
welcomes me

Me : where is granny ?

Kamaria : cooking

I chuckle

Let me see them and maybe I'll  
get a plate before we go home

We won't even stay there , so  
there won't be time for eating

I walk with her in my arms to  
the kitchen , the aroma  
welcomes us

I really am here for food , not  
necessarily to spend time with  
my parents

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\*Okoye\*

Looking at the time , I sigh

This day is just not coming to an end , and I'm tired

Right now , I just want my bed and nothing else

These annoying heels , are killing my feet

Ask me why I bother to slay



The things we put ourselves through , I should be having flat shoes right now .

Slippers even better , cause they're comfortable

Me : please , reschedule my last two meetings for the day

I close my laptop

Me : I think I'll call it in early today

Palesa : okay , is there anything I can get for you before you leave ?

Me : no , that will be all Palesa thank you

She nods and gets up with a smile

But the small tiny thud of a  
knock on the door , gets my  
attention

She walks over , and there's a  
giggle out there I know very  
well

Followed by that chuckle

Jesus !

I'm on my feet , hoping that I  
am not dreaming

Palesa opens the door

Nala : mama ....(mommy)

She stops on her tracks and  
frowns looking at Palesa who  
laughs

Palesa : Mr Ngidi

She walks out , the door opens  
wider

Me : baby

She looks at me and tries  
running over to me

This one just can't walk like a  
normal human being

I laugh , because she might  
even fall before she even gets  
to me

I meet her halfway and pick her  
up

Kamaria : hi mama (mommy)

Me : baby

She smiles and looks at her dad

Kamaria : general is here

I laugh

Bukhosi : I'm taking you to the  
military

Kamaria : no , Mkhulu  
(grandfather) says war is bad

Yes baby

She walks over to the couch ,  
Nala slides down me and walks  
to her sister

Me : where is the other one ?

Bukhosi laughs

And just then she walks in ,  
sucking on a lollipop



She looks around and laughs

Me : baby

Hibo : mama (mommy)

I crouch down and give her a  
kiss

They look so cute , in matching  
pink outfits

She walks to her sisters ,  
Kamaria picks her up on the  
couch

I look at my husband , just  
getting all emotional that he's  
back

Bukhosi : don't just stand there  
, come greet your man

I laugh walking to him

He engulfs me in a tight hug ,  
placing a few pecks on my neck

Me : is it just me , or since you  
became general every time you  
come back you're just more  
buff ?

He laughs pulling out of the hug  
, and we briefly kiss

Bukhosi : you're so beautiful

I blush like a love sick teenager

Me : thank you , this is a nice  
surprise

Bukhosi : yeah , I got the whole  
gang

I laugh

Me : I see that

He places his hand on my  
tummy

Bukhosi : how is he ?

I smile placing my hand over his

Me : he's a good boy , he's been  
behaving

Yes !

I am carrying another being  
inside of me , this man is not  
giving me a break with his  
sperms

Mthobisi calls my kids a creche

Kamaria is a big sister now ,  
who's at preschool

There's the twins

Hibo and Nala , our gifts

When we found out we were expecting , I was planning on calling the baby Hibo

Meaning gift , but then there was two . And Nala was named , meaning here's another gift

After loosing Taraji , it was only fitting to name the kids coming after her like that

Because really they're our gifts , indeed there was hope

They're 1 year 7 months now

And there's this champ in here



This one who survived a whole  
contraceptive pills

Honestly after the twins , the  
plan wasn't to have more kids

But he happened

And we couldn't take him  
anywhere

I'm 4 months pregnant as it is

But , I am holding my own even  
if I say so myself

And the support of my husband  
, is just unexplainable . He just  
makes everything so easy

Even with his role now as  
General at special forces , it's  
family first

You can't separate a man with  
what he loves , that much I  
learnt as a wife

Not that anything was lacking ,  
he was very much happy

But he didn't want to do  
anything , like no work  
whatsoever

Because it wasn't guns and wars

That's why , I was the one to encourage him to go back to serving after I graduated

He ranked up , within three months of being back . He was general

I have no complaints , as much as his work takes him away from home

We are still not neglected , like  
in all forms

Even with my demanding CEO  
position at our company , we  
make this family work

And include our kids in  
everything , and we give them  
all that we can

He wasn't all for having me work for someone else , and looking for a job

I did my in-service training here , while he started another company on the side

After graduation , I got 70% shares of the company and the CEO position . The shares as a gift from the husband

There was no denying , nor  
arguing with him

And I am here today

Mondli is CEO to the new  
company , that's registered on  
the girl's names

Now , we're just waiting for  
champ here

Bukhosi : see this

He hands me his phone , I look  
at the email there and laugh

Me : we're really doing this ?

Bukhosi : yes

Me : wow



Bukhosi : maybe after 5 years  
we'll revisit again and have  
them untied

Me : that's fine by me , so we're  
really having my tubes tied ?

He nods with a smile

Bukhosi : yes , as soon as he's  
born

Yeah !

Since he survived  
contraceptives , we've just seen  
this

My husband is too fertile his  
sperms are just too strong

And I'm so there with him with  
my very much fertile eggs

Bukhosi : are you having doubts  
?

He leans over and pecks my lips

Bukhosi : because honestly , we  
can still have a soccer team I  
don't mind

I laugh

Me : nice try

Bukhosi : no one died

I am not falling into his trap ,  
we're tying these tubes . I don't  
want him having a vasectomy ,  
we looked at all options

And the email is a confirmation  
from our doctor , that he will do  
the procedure after the baby is  
born

Bukhosi : please knock off ,  
come spend time with your  
people

Say no more !

I was already getting out of here

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\*THE END\*