

Ndandatho the village girl

(CONTINUATION)

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Gezekile Jali

Mota is not doing well, the passing of her children took a toll on her. Her eyes are sunken one would swear she hasn't slept in days, her weight has slimmed down. My daughter is not doing well, it's a pity there's nothing I can do to take away the heavy load that's on her shoulders. We watch as the villagers pour sand over her children's graves, the sob she blurts out cuts so deep. Nozibele is comforting her but Mota isn't taking this any easier. I locate Ngcolosi and make my way towards him. Zikhali steps aside as I move closer, I pat his shoulder and smile at it. I hope they find their Princess.

"Ngcolosi can I have a word with you son"

"No problem ma"

We move away from the sobs and crowd.

"Son I want us to discuss the Fuze saga"

"What about it mama?"

"Don't demand them cows"

"MaJali they were at fault, that needs to be punished. Failure to do so all the other maidens will pull the Ngelosi stunt"

"Do you have eyes Ngcolosi?"

"Of course I do ma"

"What do your eyes see? Darkness or smoke?"

"Mama.."

"Ngcolosi you can't demand cows from Fuze, not when you haven't heard the whole story.. Doing that will come back to bite you son"

I cough and walk away. I find Bonisiwe's mother and walk towards her.

"Mama how are you?"

"Drained and weakened, such events drain me."

"I can imagine."

"And how are you MaJali?"

"The chaos that's happening in my house is draining me and pressing me down, it's suffocating"

"I'm sorry about that. How's the illness now?"

"I haven't died as yet and I don't know why."

She giggles.

"You not going to die sisi, not when there's so much hidden under carpets"

"I want to die Mama, I'm all grey I can't be playing the mesmerized game each time the past catches up with us. Ngapha it's Nhlonipho's mess what's next mama?"

"Nhlonipho's mess"

"What mess?"

"Like I said it's too soon for you to meet your maker. You still have so much to uncover."

"Is this the price we pay for being royals?"

"So many things are happening around these thrones."

"I wonder what storm is coming"

"Give it time you will know soon"

She says staring the graves of my grandchildren..

Ndandatho

I wasn't allowed to go to the graves. It's culture that a woman whose with child doesn't set foot in the graveyard reason being, the unborn baby will inherit bad spirits. After all so many things happen in the graveyard. Some people bewitch graves and turn our peaceful ancestors against us. They negotiate for their lives to be longer and ours being shorter. Some goes as far as seeking for our lucks and us inheriting their bad lucks. The list is long and endless, but a pregnant woman mustn't set foot in that place unless she longs to have an abnormal and complicated gestational process not forgetting having a child that is very challenging and difficult to reprimand and caution..

I'm doing laundry, my laundry and that of Zimele. I've already swept our house and yard, that's all there is to do. Most chores are done by servants and I get to do the little ones. But today I want to cook for everyone, I miss doing that and getting my hands busy. I have Gatsha on my back, this boy is clingy lately and on the other hand my belly is giving me discomfort . I'm starting to feel pregnant unlike before.

"Ndandatho"

"Khethiwe how are you my sister?"

"I'm doing great thanks and yourself?"

"I'm hanging in there. Do you need a chair maybe?"

"No I will sit on the veranda"

"Okay, I will join you shortly let me wrap up here"

"Bring Gatsha here."

"Thank you my sister"

I unbuckle Gatsha and give him to Khethiwe

"His growing Ndanda, what are you feeding him?"

"Porridge and how is Mlingo doing?"

"His growing thank you for asking"

"Pleasure. You glowing Khethi"

She blushes.

"Wrap up there, we have so much to discuss"

"Definitely"

I make my way to my laundry, I spot Ngelozi wheeling a barrow. A couple of girls point fingers at her, they gossiping and laughing behind her backs. They actually mocking her and turning her into some gimmicks stunt. This is uncalled for.

"I'm coming Khethiwe"

"No problem" I walk towards the girls.

"Young girls how are you doing?"

"We doing great my Princess"

"Thats good to hear and why are you pointing fingers at Ngelozi?"

"We did not point fingers at her"

"So you saying I'm lying young girl?"

"No my Princess."

"Then what are you implying?"

They look at each other.

"Dare gossip or make a joke out her I will deal with you personally you hear me?"

They nod.

"Here's what you gonna do, starting from today all three of you will befriend her and you will help her with her chores you hear me?"

"My Princess we can't befriend her she's gonna teach us an abomination"

"What abomination?"

"We gonna learn adults stuff and we gonna be pregnant like her. Ngelozi is a bad example to some of us. "

"Young lady you will only learn and practice those things if you intend too or decide upon it. Ngelozi made her choice and you discussing her over her choice and decision is uncalled for. A donkey can only drink water if it's thirsty, if it's not thirsty nothing can make it drink water instead it will go away slowly distancing itself from the river bank but not from the other donkeys. So here's what's gonna happen you all gonna apologize to her and better yet say the things you were saying behind her back right on her face. Isn't it if it was a pleasant conversation you won't shy away from saying it in front of her? "

They all look aside.

" Ngelozi!!! " I call out.

" Sisi Ndanda "

" Sweetheart these ladies have something to say to you, please lend them your ear. Come closer" They all swallow hard.

"I'm coming"

"So here's what's gonna happen ladies you gonna say everything you were saying behind her back or you will tell her you want to be her friends and help her with her chores the choice is up to you"

"Sisi Ndanda you called me"

"Yes sweetheart, ladies get on it"

"Hello Ngelozi?"

"Hi"

"We would like to be your friends, and we want to be of help on any department of your life."

"Why do you want to be my friends? So you can gossip about me?"

"No we sorry about gossiping about you, we were very much out of line"

"You just have bubble fish mouths, you talk plenty like polygamous wives" Ngelo-

I giggle.

"We sorry Ngelozi. Can we wheel the barrow for you"

"We can be friends if you willing to do that"

"Fine ladies work on your friendship" I say walking away. Khethiwe laughs.

"You're a bully Mrs Jali junior."

"I had to my sister. This act of women labeling and tarnishing other women over such things is a disgrace and it's shattering. Women are supposed to be pillars and a unity, they need to be supportive and caring towards each other. Not judging one another, yes Ngelo lost her virginity but she hasn't lost her value and beauty or better yet the qualities we all know she has. This hate against woman to woman is

very sickening my sister, it's parasitic.. How will men see value in us as women, when do not see value amongst ourselves? If we need men to respect us as women we need to practice that amongst ourselves. Whether a woman has plenty of children or she's barren all women matter and they all important and worth respecting or loving. I hate this discrimination amongst women"

"Indeed the hate is deep sisi. For starters some date our husband's knowingly we are there Ndandatho. They even go as far as agreeing to being second wives, not knowing a second wife is nothing but a stress relieving pit. A whole option. "

"Are we talking about Bubu and Siziwe maybe?"

"Hawu included his the instigator after all."

"I'm sorry Khethiwe"

"I will heal sister and besides I like someone now"

"Better not be Fuze Khethiwe"

She glares at me.

"Khethiwe!!"

"What?"

"You like Fuze? No way girlie his old"

"And handsome too"

"MaFuze will kill you, snap out of that thought. I thought you liked Buthelezi the gates man"

"His not my kind of tea. His too slow for my liking. "

"Khethi.."

"Nda."

"Thunder fire will strike you woman."

"I can't help it"

I cover my mouth in shock, Fuze?

"Khethiwe I'm getting you out of that compound immediately!"

"That won't destroy the feels I have for him"

"Khethiwe!"

She giggles. I look at her with worry, I'm moving her to my Kingdom. She can't be home wrecker, not on my watch.

Nhlonipho

We are having buns when Zimele pulls me aside from our parents.

"Nhlo"

"Yes"

"I saw Ngelozzi leaving your chamber this morning"

"She slept there"

"With you?"

"Yes"

He looks at me like his waiting for me to confess something.

"She slept in your bed the whole night, yet you do not remember her?"

"I remember her Zimele. Something about her tears touched me, when she kissed me I remembered that sweetness."

"Just like the Princess and the frog?"

"Something like that"

"That means you back fully?"

I nod.

"Now these are good news Nhlonipho, I'm glad you remember"

"I'm glad too."

"So what's the way forward?"

"We gonna wait for Fuze to punch me, he wants to know whose behind her daughters invaded kraal"

"Rest in peace brother, you were a loving and respectful yet sneaky brother. I will always love you Jali. Just like they also say King's do not die, they multiply. Rest easy Nhlonipho"

I playfully punch his shoulder.

"Thats not funny Zimele."

"Welcome to adulthood."

"It sucks already."

"Next time you see a woman naked run away brother"

"You should've told me sooner."

"Congratulations Jali"

"Thank you brother."

"Boys.." Mom-

"Mom" We say in unison.

"Can I have a word with you Nhlo"

"Me?"

"Yes you"

"Oh!" Zimele walks away. My mother glares at me

"I tried to cover up your mess Nhlonipho"

I keep quiet.

"When were you planning on coming clean?"

"Mama I'm sorry, I didn't mean for her to pregnant"

"She's what?"

She asks surprised.

"She's pregnant mama with my child, I thought you knew already isn't that what you talking about?"

"I was talking about you deflowering her Nhlonipho not you being a father!!"

"I'm sorry"

"Your father is gonna kill you, how could you be so irresponsible Nhlonipho Jali?"

"Mama I wanted to prevent that happening but she locked me in"

She gives me a deadly stare.

"Tell your father the truth, today. I can't be blamed for this too. I was barked at quite a lot with Zimele and Ndandatho not this again Nhlonipho! What is wrong with you Jali offspring with impregnating out of wedlock? Can't you control your erecks?"

I glare at her.

" I want to marry her "

" Maybe in hell, that's the venue of your so called marriage! " She walks away fuming...

Fuze

" What do you mean she didn't sleep home? "

" Her bed was empty all night long "

" So you saying she sneaked in the wee hours to go to that boy who made her a mother? "

" I saw the boy when he came to drop her over after an epic night"

"So he had the bull balls to set foot on my yard?"

"Fuze Ngelozi is out of hand, she even insulted me when I called her out about the boy dropping her off right in front our gate. My husband where did we go wrong with her?"

I glare at her, I should've listened when she told me she was seeing someone.

"We raised this girl with love and respect. We warned her against men but look at what she did. What did King Ngcolosi say about our penalty?"

"He wants two fat cows"

"We can go to my father's house and loan those two cows"

"No Mangcobo I will make a plan"

"Baba you need to punish her honestly, this is too much. Already people are insulting us as her parents saying we are the one who taught her these shenanigans"

"Today she will show us the way to the house she lost her virginity. Those people will be the ones paying for those cows, isn't it was them that made the cows to flee from the kraal? Ngelozi will show us her boyfriend's home. Today I'm going with her"

"We're you serious about kicking her out of home?"

"She's my daughter Mangcobo"

"Meaning?"

"I said that to scare her, but I want her to show me the boy's home"

"Baba why don't you kick out her out for good?"

"Thats not happening"

"Fuze!"

"Mangcobo that's not happening, I will punish her but kicking her out of home is uncalled for. You are her mother if you throw in towels whose gonna shelter her and support her throughout?"

A knock comes to the door. Ngelozi appears.

"Greetings mama no baba, mama I came to ask what to cook"

"Before you touch my pots tell me where did you sleep last night Ngelozi?"

"Baba I slept home"

"Ngelozi stop lying! Tell the truth for once"

I say standing up

"Baba I..." She fiddles with her hands.

"You bring your boyfriends in my compound huh Ngelozi?"

"I did not baba"

"Your mother is lying huh?"

"Baba I did not bring a man home."

"Ngelozi Ngcobo you and I are going to your boyfriends house now!!"

"Baba..." She says crying.

"Just give us a name of that dog Ngelozi and stop crying!" Mafuze-

"Where did you sleep last night?"

"I slept here" She's lying, I guess a little whooping will have her talking. I quickly reach for my whip.

"Baba I will talk!!"

"Who is he?"

"His from Thuthukani"

"Thuthukani is a big village, we want a name and surname Ngelozi!"
Ma Fuze -

"Who is he Ngelozi?"

"Baba don't beat me I will pee on my self"

"Just like you peed when that boy was putting things inside your kraal!" Mafuze-

"Ngelozi talk!!"

"I would rather tell my mother baba. "

"She's here tell her"

"I meant my biological mother"

"Excuse me? You say what Ngelozi? "

"I want to know who my mother is!" She says as she cries, I loose my cool and whip her out. Her screams fill the room.

"You talking rubbish!!"

"Baba Ngiyaxolisa!!!"

"Who made you pregnant!!"

"Baba you hurting me!! Mama!!!"

"Who made you pregnant!!!"

"It's Nhlo...its Nhlonipho!!! Nhlonipho Jali!!!"

Hawulesizwe

Makhehla has left his hut, meaning I can take Gabi out of this place. Depending on how far his gone.

"Gabi"

"Warrior"

"Look I want you to step back if possible. I want to open this door"

"Please hurry up"

"By the count of three you should be ready okay?"

"Yes"

I do the counting and kick down the door. This place is too dark, how does one see in this hut. Yucky look at these animals skins, they smell so bad. Is makhehla really a human being?

"Gabi where are you I can't see you? It's dark in here."

"Over here"

I follow the voice, God knows it's dark in here. I unchain her, She jumps on me and wraps her hands around my neck.

"Thank you for keeping your word"

"It's all my pleasure"

"Thank you so much!!" She says perking my cheek. I scoop her up and make our way outside. I hear sounds of footsteps, that's him.

"Don't make noise even if you see something creepy and scary. Don't scream Gabi"

"I promise"

"Better" She's adorable just like the sister. Makhehla walks inside his shack immediately he slams the door, I make my way towards his hut

and set it alight. I wait for the fire to pick up. As I make my way towards Princess Gabi. I find her glaring at me, in a strange and awkward way. I kneel in front of her.

"I'm sorry you had to see that"

"You saved me that's all that matters"

I faintly smile.

"You look handsome, you not ugly just like many warriors"

"Is that a compliment?"

"Yes it is"

"Thank you Gabi"

"Your body and height matches that of King Ngcolosi"

I giggle.

"Stand up and let's get moving"

"My legs are killing me, I've been chained for a while now"

"No problem I will carry you on my back, come hop up"

"I'm hungry"

"We will find bush meat"

"I don't eat bush meat, I want to eat one of my chickens I have twenty four of them. I will give you two of them"

"No need let's go"

I carry her on my back.

"Do I smell bad?"

"Blame it on those ugly animals in that hut"

She giggles.

"I like you warrior Hawu"

"And I like you too Princess Gabi" She rest her head on my back and tightly holds on unto me. "

Ndandatho

Khethiwe and myself are having a little chit-chat when mama Maseko walks towards us.

" She's surely here for me"

"You are still her bride after all"

We softly giggle and smile at her.

"Girls"

"Ma how are you?"

"I'm tired and hungry. I've been walking since morning."

She says sitting on the stoop, she holds Gatsha and playfully pull his cheeks.

"Ndandatho Is your husband around?"

"Cha"

"Where is he?"

"They went to a funeral, but I can pass the message"

"Has he made the initiative to finding my son?"

"Mama nobody banished Hawu from grounds, he left willingly and willingly he shall return. His a grown man and im certain he knows his way home"

She glares at me.

"Zimele needs to find Hawulesizwe. My son cannot stay in the bushes like an owl"

"Mama Zimele has so much on his plate, he can't abort everything to sought for Hawu not after the stunt he pulled here. My husband has important things"

"And his friend is not important?"

"Mama have you forgotten what Hawu did to Khethiwe?"

"But to me his still a son Ndandatho regardless of what he did. Yes it was inhumane but everyone deserves a second chance"

"Him returning home and owning up to his mistakes will be the sign that indeed his deserving of our benefit of doubt"

"Ndandatho Hawu is your brother"

"And his a woman beater ma we mustn't forget that too"

She heaves a sigh.

"Tell Zimele I was here"

She says standing up and giving Gatsha back. She walks away, Khethiwe looks at me.

"You were mean and rude towards her Nda"

"Where does she get the entitlement that my husband is responsible for babysitting Hawu? Not when he has seven children who were born on the same year. Zimele is not an errands boy, his a Prince a whole future King of Thuthukani. Mama is making it seem like Zimele is an errands boy and Hawu is a Prince, that was mean too"

"Why are you angry Ndandatho? You are worked out"

"I guess what mama said repulsed me. You here and she cared less about how you feel but that cassanova son of his"

Khethiwe giggles.

"It's not funny Khethiwe"

"Let her be please"

"Fine but she must never ever think like that about my husband"

"Sorry MaJali"

She giggles. I roll my eyes.

Ngelози

"Baba please stop!! You hurting me!!"

I wail as the whip lands on my legs.

"Mama please help me!!! Baba!!!" I cry out covering my face with my hands.

"You and I are going to Jali's house immediately!!"

"Baba I'm sorry"

"Sorry won't fix this Ngelози!! Wena you are out of hand the audacity to bring that puppy into my yard while knowing you are undressing each other behind bushes. Let's go!!!"

My father says dragging me outside.

"Baba please stop it! Don't drag me in public, people are watching"

"You embarrassed me in public this is nothing compared to what you did"

"Baba Ngiyaxolisa!!"

I cry hysterically as my hand is roughly being grabbed.

I cough till I vomit.

"Ngelosi you wasting time!! Actually take your clothes and move in with Jali. Isn't it he wanted this? To make you his commoners wife? Take your rags and leave my house!!" He says storming to my private chamber, he packs up my clothes and puts them under his armpits for balance.

"Baba you can't send me away please, not when I do not know my biological mother! "

"What mother rubbish are you talking about? Who said anything about you not having a biological mother Ngelosi?"

"Mama said so, this morning. At least tell me who my mother is so I can go to her since you kicking me out of your house and out of your life. "

"When did you start back mouthing Ngelosi? A penis is making you a rebel over a night huh Ngelosi ?"

"You hate me baba so does mama, at least tell me who my mother is!!"

"Let's go and stop talking rubbish!!"

He says dragging me out of the compound, attracting eyes on us.

Ngcolosi

We finally home supper is served. The table looks beautiful, that I give it to my daughter in law. My mother is glaring at me making me uncomfortable. Nozibele too is looking at me. I hate how they both looking at me, it's making me uncomfortable. Maybe I should tell them the truth about Hawulesizwe, after all I've kept this a secret for a while now. But I'm concerned about my mother, these findings might take her to an early grave.

Now Ndandatho is looking at me, having that one look at you can mean many things and right now she's making me way too uncomfortable.

"I've regained my memory" Nhlo-

"Those are good news son, welcome back" I say sipping from my glass.

"Meaning I remember everything about my past baba" Nhlo-

"Hence I'm saying it's a good thing"

"Nhlonipho please pass me the salt" Nozi-

"Here ma"

"Thank you."

"So baba I wanted to..." Nhlo-

"Zimele we still waiting on wedding date, Boni and Zikhali were asking about it. Remember son you haven't paid fully as yet for Liyana" Nozi says, Nhlo heaves a sigh. Could it be she's trying to prevent Nhlonipho from saying something?

"Ma we were waiting on Nhlo to fully recover now that it is done we can agree on any date" Zimele-

"Better and please stick to the gold theme it's exceptionally good and elegant" Wife-

"I love it too mama" Ndandatho adds.

As we seated a strange sound and movement fills up the entire passage leading to the dining area.

"Baba I'm sorry!!!! You hurting me!"

"Ngelozhi shut up!!"

"Baba I beg of you please"

"Today you will reap what you sow!"

Before their faces appear, my mother and wife are both standing on their feet. Nhlonipho too is standing.

"Fuze please don't hurt her" Mom-

"My Queen right how I'm her parent don't dictate what I should do and not do.. Wena come here!" He says staring at Nhlonipho while roughly holding Ngelozi.

I clear my throat and walk towards them.

"Hey you boy I said come here! Or you think I won't do anything to you because we standing inside your house?" Fuze -

"Fuze this is not a circus this is my house!" I say

"Ngcolosi don't interfere, I'm handling my family affairs I would really appreciate it if you stepped back" Fuze says making me more confused.

Nhlonipho

"I said come here!!!"

"Fuze I'm sorry, from the bottom of my heart I humble myself before you apologetic"

Fuze let's go of Ngelozi and walks towards me. In a blink of an eye he slaps me across the face not once but a several times. My father grabs him but Fuze is too strong, his a beast.

"I will kill you Nhlonipho!! I'm gonna reunite you with your ancestors. Who gave you permission to turn my daughter into your pit?"

My father glares at me.

"Fuze calm down, let's talk about it in a much calmer tone not over fists" Mom-

"My Queen I'm very livid and infuriated by your sons behavior over my daughter!"

"What did he do?" Dad-

"Baba please stop embarrassing me please" Ngelo-

"Shut up!! Wena Nhlonipho I'm giving you her free of charge, you can do to her whatever you please just like you have started" Fuze-

"You did what Nhlonipho?" Dad-

"Baba I'm sorry"

"Sorry yani? What did you do huh?" Dad-

"Can you two stop this bickering, it's not taking us anywhere.. Fuze sit down and adress this like an adult!" Gogo-

"Adress what mama? Nhlonipho wenzeni?" Dad-

I look at Ngelozi then Zimele whose pressing his lips against each other preventing a laugh from coming out.

"I... I.. I" I stutter and swallow hard.

"I what? Talk at the pace you went when deflowering my daughter and leaving her pregnant!!" Fuze says. Ngcolosi glares at me, with red eyes.

"Is this true Nhlonipho?"

"Baba I'm sorry"

"You not answering my question dammit!! Did you or did you not sleep with Ngelozi?"

"It was a mistake my King, it happened once" Ngelozi says

"I wasn't talking to you shut up! And wena start talking!" My father says walking towards me. My mother blocks him.

"Nozi move!!"

"We don't solve problems by implementing a problem Ngcolosi"

"You knew about this rubbish didn't you?"

"Don't pin this on me!!"

"Nozibele move before I slap you along your son and his pregnant girlfriend!"

"Ma it's okay I got this"

Zimele laughs.

"You got what? Don't annoy me Nhlonipho, I'm already annoyed as it is back off and stop getting things you do not got!!" Zimele laughs even more.

"Come here, I want to twist your testicles and feed them your pregnant girlfriend isn't it you feeding each other adult stuff" Fuze says.

"I'm sorry"

"Sorry won't fix this Nhlonipho!!"

"Can you all shut up this noise is uncalled for. Ngelozi go sit down and you to go your chamber, Fuze and Ngcolosi discuss this like men and wena Nhlonipho dance to your tune just like you did when you made this baby"

Gogo says.. Ndandatho and Zimele carry food and walk away. Leaving me with my angry father and Fuze whose yet to swallow me, Ngelozi is crying. Wait did they beat her up? What are those marks?

84 Finale

Gabisile

His roasting a rabbit, that's our supper. I'm staring at him, taking lessons. On the other hand he is boiling water he said he will make me a soup so I can be warm throughout the night. We still in the bushes hence I need the warmth.

"How old are you?"

He glares at me.

"I'm 18"

I'm lying of course.

"I see.. Don't you want to know how old I am?"

"Please tell me"

"I'm 31 years old"

"Wow!"

"I'm old right?"

"Very old, you are twelve years older than me"

"Yeah."

He smiles and continues with the meat.

"I like your eyes"

"Another compliment Gabi?"

"They beautiful"

He glares at me and smiles, showing off his white teeth.

"You beautiful yourself"

"Thank you." I smile.

"So can you fight? You once told me you are a warrior in training"

"Sure I can fight."

"Show me a trick or two"

"Now?"

"Yes"

"Fine" I stand up so does he.

"I want you to punch me, I want to see how you fold your fists"

"That's easy and doable. Like this" I roll my fists, he smiles.

"Now throw in your best punch"

"Don't wail"

"Not a chance"

"Fine" I throw in a punch or two.

He cringes in pain.

"Did I hurt you?"

He nods while holding his stomach, I move closer to introspect him.

"I'm sorry I didn't mean too" He scoops me up and puts his hand around my neck not too tight though.

"Rule number one Gabi, you don't check up on your opponents. Whether they're in pain or negotiating for their lives, you don't show them care or worry. You don't sympathize with them. They might use your worry or pain in advantage, that is inappropriate my lady"

He says staring at me, I nod.

"So you faked that?"

"Definitely, I was testing your skills"

"I'm sorry."

"That too is not proper for a warrior, a warrior must have a heart of a stone. A warrior is emotionless, we do not feel Gabi."

"Okay I got it."

"Never repeat this mistake"

"I promise"

"Fine.." He glares at me then slowly puts me down.

"Supper will be ready any minute from now."

"Do you need help?"

"Not at all."

"Fine" I sit on down and glare at him.

"Your punches are good, I wish you used them on the witch"

We giggle..

Ngcolosi

"Fuze, I kindly apologize for the inconvenience caused by my son and your daughter. I wasn't aware of their little shenanigans. This is new to me just like it is to you"

I swallow my saliva and glare at Nhlonipho.

"Had I known my son was responsible for tainting your daughter I would've handled everything accordingly and different. I had no knowledge of this.

"Your immoral son must pay for what he did to my daughter Jali, what he did was a pure insult to us as the Mapholoba clan. That brings me to wonder what kind of a father are you that cannot reprimand and instill morals into your kids? What kind of future leaders are these boys of yours who go around impregnating maidens out of wedlock,

Zimele did the same thing with that girl Ndandatho now this thief!"
Fuze -

"Mapholoba I'm still your King and Nhlonipho here happens to be the Prince of Thuthukani, most importantly he is my son. I would really appreciate it if you changed your tone and minimized with the insults that you throwing in. What these kids did has got nothing to do with my parenting skills, or how I've raised them. I'm your King and I deserve to be treated with respect regardless of what is going on currently. You insulting me won't change the fact of your daughter opening her legs for my son. Right now you being out of order and disrespectful towards your King. "

"I careless about your blue blood Ngcolosi. Not when my daughter was stripped off from her pride and purity by this dog that you call your son."

I clench my jaw.

"Nyuswa I don't recall giving birth to a dog. Don't insult my son and my seeds and my wife's womb, I didn't call your daughter names for allowing a man into her sacred places, because only a loose canon does that. A whole shameless woman allows a man to play with her privates instead of playing with sand. Don't label my son because your daughter is not a saint, she might be an angel to you but in my eyes she's a sneaker. Another thing pinning this whole predicament only on Nhlonipho is uncalled for, my son didn't lure your daughter to his chambers but she came here willingly. If we want to solve this we need to tame down on being biased and provocative. They both at fault not only him. "

" His older than Ngelozzi, I won't be surprised if he used his blood type to having my daughter under his spell. " Fuze

" Fuze can you stop barking at the wrong tree. These kids are both at fault, Ngelozi attends Reed dance classes that alone sheds light on her knowing what is wrong and what isn't it. If she didn't want this none of this would've happened and we wouldn't be here today having this conversation. Ngelozi is old enough to make her own decisions. Right now you painting my son as a pervert or a retard. I won't tolerate these insults not under my chapel Ngcobo. "

" So you saying it's a good thing for your sons to prey around people's daughters and leaving them with babies? "

" Fuze we will discuss this when you less emotional or infuriated. Right now you seeking a punching bag not solutions. "

I say standing up.

" Nhlonipho take your pregnant girlfriend to your chamber, isn't it you have balls to make babies? Come morning I want you building your own house elsewhere not on my grounds you hear me? "

" Kodwa baba I.. "

" Shut up! " He glares at me, so does the girlfriend.

" You both young, you still feasting on your mucus what were you doing and thinking huh Nhlonipho no Ngelozi? Why didn't you blow clouds or roast grasshoppers instead of climbing on top of each other? Do you even have pubic hair huh?"

They both swallow hard.

" You exasperating and nauseating Nhlonipho. You are a disgrace!! "

Nozi will know me well tonight, I know she knew about this rubbish and stupid her decided on keeping it a secret. Today I'm gonna slap her for the first time in forever. I've been way too soft on her so much she has forgotten whose the head here and who she submits to.

Ndandatho

"My love"

"Yes"

"Can I ask you something?"

"I'm all ears"

"Did mama Maseko stay here previously or worked here?"

"Yes she used to stay here and work here."

"On which department was she rendering her services in the palace?"

"If I recall well she was a cleaner in the royal house"

"I see.. And whose the eldest between you and him?"

"Hawu is a year older than me"

"Where was he born?"

"I don't know honey, I wasn't born by then, even if I was I wouldn't have known"

"I see"

"Why are you asking about him?"

"Just that his mother came here earlier on the day in search for you"

"For?"

"Apparently you are Hawulesizwe's babysitter"

"I don't follow my Princess"

"She wanted you to go search for Hawu."

"And why would I do that?"

"You friends"

"Hawu will come back when his sober minded.. How's the pain now?"

"Better my love thank you."

"Pleasure.." He says kissing my cranial area of my head, as my head is resting on his chest and his hands on my belly. We snuggling.

"Baby"

"Yes Liyana"

" How was Mama Maseko as a worker?"

"Baby I recall much but she was always against my friendship with Hawu growing up. One time we were playing with wire cars that a servant had made for us, She showed up out of nowhere and roughly pushed me then scolded at Hawu for playing with me. Till this day I can't erase that memory. "

" Do you think she hated you? "

" For what my flower? I never gave her reasons to hate me, I was peaceful just like Nhlonipho. I only changed when pubic hair grew longer and more coarse other than that I was always respectful "

" Something is strange don't you think? "

" How so? "

" I think mama has a deep dark secret. It's somehow related to Hawulesizwe's paternity "

" I don't follow"

"Hawulesizwe is not a Maseko"

He gently pushes me away from his chests.

"Ma ka Gatsha what do you mean?"

"Hawulesizwe is not a Maseko."

"And how do you know that?"

"I had a vision of what you just told me, you and Hawu playing with wire cars and mama pushing you away. There's more, I heard Maseko confronting mama about the man behind Hawulesizwe's paternity."

"Liyana I don't like where this is going. I really don't like it all"

"I mean honey what if Hawu is your sibling?"

He hops off from the bed and stares at me.

"Ndandatho can you stop with these sinister thoughts of yours, you hallucinating"

"Honey I said what if, I didn't say he is your sibling"

"My father would never betray my mother like that. There's no way Hawu could be my sibling"

"Why didn't you kill him the day you both fought? Why didn't he beat you up? You've said it yourself Hawulesizwe is one of your best fighter's, but why did he not fight you full force on that day he lied to Nhlonipho about those leaves?"

"Ndandatho you mumbling"

"It's possible Zimele"

"What's possible its you being sleepy and hallucinating. Please sleep before you create more scenarios in your head"

"Jali in not fighting or something, I'm just sharing my thoughts and visions with you. I mean no harm"

"How do you think I will view my father after this information?"

"Bhengu..."

"Liyana sleep please" I glare at him, so does he..

Mama Ngelozzi

"Fuze!!!" I blurt out a scream as my husband throws me thunder fire on my face. I'm trying with everything in my powers to block him but his a man. In split second I fall on the bed, he puts his hard hands around my neck.

"Makhosonke!!! Khethiwe help!!!"

"Why did you tell her about her mother huh?Do you hate her that much?"

"It was a mistake I'm sorry! Please stop Fuze, you hurting me and you gonna kill me!"

He doesn't stop instead gives me more beating, till I taste a thick fluid coming from the corners of lips.

"Makhosonke I'm sorry!!!"

"Do you know who her mother is huh?"

"No... No I don't know Fuze and I'm sorry"

"Her mother is a heartless witch, she feasts on people's blood. How could you disclose this information ? Ngelozzi is better off without her mother, but you had to bring her to existence why mama Ngelozzi?"

"I was angry Fuze"

"Angry at who and what?"

"You and her. I'm jealous of the love you give her Makhosonke. She's way too precious and dear to you than I am"

"Thats because I'm her father and mother MaFuze. I do that to protect my daughter from her mother and to fill all the empty spaces that were meant to be filled by her mother. Unlike her other siblings they

have you and me, but she has me alone. You didn't have to bring Thabile Mzilikazi in the picture."

"Thabile Mzilikazi?"

"The former Queen of Ngwane is Ngelozi's mother. "

"What and you didn't tell me?"

"You were very stupid to tell her she's not yours. How am I gonna tell her about that witch? See where your delusional goes? "

"I didn't know she was her mother you never told me"

"You just pushed Ngelozi away and stupid me had to to join heads with you in destroying my daughter"

"I'm sorry"

"I'm tired of this nonsense Mangelози. I think it's about time I let you go to your parents house"

"Fuze I'm sorry, there's no need for that. I can't be a returned soldier please"

"You hate me, you hate our marriage and you hate my daughter. What's there to fight for MaFuze? You've been saying you are unhappy in our marriage, I guess you should leave and go find a better husband than I am."

"Fuze please I didn't mean for this to happen, we can't end things"

"You ended our marriage when you allowed jealousy over a child to get under your skin. You made it look like Ngelozi was my mistress other than my kid. See how far your jealousy made you nasty? Now I have to tell my child about the most dangerous creature there ever lived all because of you. You were supposed to fight me not my daughter. "

"Fuze I'm sorry"

"I need a breather"

He says walking out and slamming the door, leaving me aching and weeping. I didn't know Ngelozi is diluted and that her mother was a witch's daughter.

85 FINALE

Ngelozi

Once upon a story I once was a little chirpy girl who loved laughing and saying senseless things that I myself never understood. I once was in the stillness of my calmness mind and its earnest heart. I didn't know falling love came with a baggage like this one. I lost my virginity, I lost my freedom of being a child and now I've lost my parents and the life I grew up appreciating the most. So much has been lost and I'm certain more is still to be lost. Maybe his next or maybe this baby is next. I mean already I've lost so much my integrity included. To think I once was this happy little girl who only longed to dance in the rain and run freely and wild in the open fields of Thuthukani village and have the sun kissing my skin. I remember how life was peaceful and harmonious but all that changed the day I let a tongue drive me crazy. I know I shouldn't have allowed him to touch me in that manner but I too I shouldn't have asked him to do it time and time again, my addiction to his tongue got us here in this cold and empty hult. I can't even look at him the way I'm so broken and hollowed.

"Oh!! Mafuze.." I let my tear hit the pillow. Today this act is not bringing me comfort I just feel numb, my body is numb too. I don't

even know how to describe how I feel right now. He collapses besides me, panting. I close my legs and turn my back on him.

" Mafuze.. "

I keep quiet and sniff.

I can't believe my whole world has turned into shambles and ashes so suddenly so fast. I mean I've lost so much within a couple of months, I mean things I've had for a lifetime only lost by the blink of an eye. I really fumbled, I messed up so much. Where am I even gonna raise this baby? I mean King Ngcolosi said he wanted us gone by tomorrow. Meaning my baby will grow up in bushes like tortoises and chameleons. I can picture him fighting other people for his spot or turf in the bushes. Something like "Hey you that tree with brown leaves is mine, Its been mine from when I was only zero days. I challenge you to get off immediately that's my house." Poor thing will survive in the jungle just like the animal - human super hero I grew up hearing stories about from my mother, how I miss her the mother who once loved me. I wish I didn't disappoint her this much. She's been nothing but a good mother to me, I've never left like she wasn't my biological mother well apart from when she would discipline me. I deserved that but hey no child loves their beaters but with Mafuze she loved me and she was doing that out of love. I miss her..

He moves closer to me and presses his naked body against my exposed body that he stripped of himself. He better not want more. Doing me more won't change the situation at hand, actually how does that thing of his want to play on such a very discomfoting moment? Stupid penis.

"Ngelosi are you okay my love?"

If course I'm okay my child will be George of the jungle, his family will be chimpanzees, jackels and bush pigs. How the hell can I be okay? Stupid father...

"Mafuze please talk to me"

I don't want to talk to you Nhlonipho Jali,not today.. Let me cry in peace please, till my eyes gets all swollen and heavy like I was punched.

He rests his chin on my bare shoulder, he peels off one of my leg and moves closer to me. His hand plays with my now tender breasts.

"Sweetheart come on I hate this silence"

Just do whatever you want to do and let me cry in peace. I'm mourning my parents, my virginity and the good food my mother always cooked by my house another thing I'm mourning my innocence of being a child without mothering a child. I have a serious conversation with my brain and heart. I feel him groan on my ear, his doing me again.

"I can't get enough you, I will do this till you talk to me. Even if it's a simple" it hurts Nhlo" I won't stop, I miss you my flower. I know we having so much on our plate but I need to know you happy with me besides you"

You are the reason tomorrow we will turn into bush meat how can I be happy with that Nhlonipho? Do your thing and sleep afterwards. Stop talking with food in your mouth. The pain I've been ignoring since last night is slowly intensifying but it's nothing major

Ngcolosi

"Ngcolosi you hurting me!!"

She manages to say with her voice quivering. My grip around her arm is too tight. I know what's next, I'm probably gonna slap her or strangle

her. I'm very much infuriated and by now I'm certain my eyes are cutting her sharper than a blade has ever slit her finger. She's seen me demented before but she's never seen me this livid before. The man whose holding her arm today, is not the husband she married but a monster who has taken over her marriage.

"How could you Nozibele?" I bark so much she jumps in fear. This act is all new to her and myself.

"How could I what? You hurting me Jali please let me loose!" She whimpers.

"How could you keep this abominable act from me huh Nozibele? How could you cover up and conceal this imbecile act of Nhlonipho and that Fuze girl? Do you have an idea of what you've done? "

"Ngcolosi uyangilimaza!"

"Shut up! And stop whining about being pained! You embarrassed me in front of the villagers, with your lies! You share a bed with me what was hard about you telling me this?"

"I knew you would do this and act like this. You once did it with Zimele you acted impulsive I couldn't allow you to do the same with Nhlonipho. But all if this is your fault!"

"How is it my fault Nozibele?"

"You teaching our children about intimacy Ngcolosi and now they putting your words into action!! You brought the embarrassment upon yourself!"

"Excuse me?"

"Beat me knowing the truth Ngcolosi!! It's your fault these kids are making children out of wedlock!"

"And it was my fault when you had Zimele out of wedlock?"

She glares at me.

"For your information I'm not sick in the head Nozibele! I taught them responsibilities too and how to avoid certain things from happening within their marriage not on their courting days. I taught them those things to practice them in marriage not this nonsense. You are at fault for keeping Ngelozzi's tainted kraal away from me. I would've handled this differently had I known my son was the culprit but you decided on being sneaky and untrustworthy! You embarrassed me in front of Fuze and the villagers. Now people will know my son was responsible for that! "

" I told you not to charge Fuze anything"

"Reason being? I hate that you taking me for a fool Nozibele since when do we keep secrets from each other?"

"Since you've decided on being secretive Ngcolosi! If you dare beat me up I'm gonna stab you to death fool!!"

I immediately lift my hand, after the four letter word "Fool" I glare at her with my lips pressed against each other she does the same too.

"Ngcolosi you want to beat me?"

She softly says contemplating what nearly happened.

"You know I won't do that to you, I'm just angry that you lied to me and top of that you calling me names that's uncalled for Nozibele. "

"Angry enough to scare me off with your hand Bhengu?"

I keep quiet.

"Me Ngcolosi? Your wife of many years?"

"I'm sorry maJali"

"You wanted to beat me up after you hated it when your father did it to your mother?"

"I'm sorry I don't know what came over me"

"As much as you complaining about me keeping secrets what are you doing Ngcolosi? Are you letting me in or pushing me away? I didn't tell you about the sheet I've found in Nhlonipho's chamber because you were also acting strange and you still are. Now you raising your hand at me like really Jali? "

" You called me names, while I didn't with you"

"Ngcolosi what are you hiding from me?"

"The next time you call me names I will slap you"

I let her loose and go lean by the window sill. I need to disclose this to my mother before I do to my wife.

Nhlonipho

" My love please say something. You've been quiet Ngelozi and now I'm getting worried. "

She glares at me and says nothing.

" Ngelozi we will be okay stop worrying and crying. Talk to me, say something even if its hilarious please."

"How can I stop worrying and crying Nhlonipho while we have nothing to our names?"

"I will make a plan, I'm a man"

"Your father said we must leave his premises come morning! We are doomed and so is this baby"

"My flower stop worrying, I know Mvelincangi and my Jali descendants will be with us every step of the way just trust the process please my love. "

"Where are they now huh Nhlonipho? Are they gonna build us a house by morning? Are they gonna bring back my once happy family? "

"Ngelozzi can we not fight, that won't fix anything"

"And your Mvelincangi and Jali descendents will fix everything? Nhlonipho I've lost so much for this shame of ours, do you know what could go wrong shall I leave these grounds? "

"Eat before we fight, this conversation is gonna brings us more problems than we already facing. "

"There won't be a need for us to fight because we are doomed and we are alone, this baby and myself are gonna die and suffer in the bushes and you on the other hand you wont lose so much just like I have because you have blue blood and everything worships you"

"Ngelozzi can you stop it okay? Stop this madness"

"I can't and I won't Nhlonipho, are lives are over and we won't survive all by ourselves out there not when you can't even fight to save a life"

I stand up and cover my naked body. She was better off quiet than uttering this garbage.

"Where are you going? You said you wanted us to talk! Now this is it Nhlonipho!"

"Can you shut up! Or better yet go back to your crying and endless worrying because right now you annoying me Ngelozzi"

"I can't annoy you Nhlonipho, not when I have this belly because of your bloody sperms!"

"Did I beg you to lock me with your legs? No! Did I force you to make love with me? No! So don't you dare sit over there and say bullshit Ngelozi you brought this upon yourself. You had an option to keep your legs closed and yours was to open them don't pin this on me alone. You annoying me right now!! "

" I don't have a penis it's all your fault!! "

" Ngelozi I said shut up!! Shut up woman! I'm also stressed out and patronized by this. Buy blaming me you not making this whole situation better than it already is!! "

" I hate you Nhlonipho "

" Fuck yourself! " I say heading for the door.

She sniffs while holding her tummy. I close the door before I could move any far I hear groans behind me, that can only be Ngelozi. I jog back to my chamber. I find Ngelozi sweating and panting. She's screaming while holding her belly.

"Ngelozi are you okay?" I say panicking.

"My tummy... My tummy is ouch!!!!"

"What about your tummy Ngelo? What is going on Mafuze?"

"I think my baby is not okay Nhlonipho, something is wrong with my baby, it's painful Nhlo"

"What is wrong with the baby? Are you sure it's the baby that's in pain but not your tummy? "

"I don't know but i'm having excruciating pains, it feels like my insides are burning or better yet someone is slicing my intestines with a sword! Please help me!" She cries. I shouldn't have shouted her maybe it's all my fault she's in state.

"Try to stand up Ngelozi"

"Please call Ndandatho!!"

"I can't leave you here alone my flower not when you looking like this."

"I feel wet, I think i urinated on myself"

"You scaring me Ngelozi, if it's my fault I'm sorry my love.. I'm very sorry"

Zimele

I'm peacefully sleeping when Ndandatho profusely shakes me up, panting hard. The first thought to come in mind is my baby being in danger. That's the only reason she would wake me at this hour, if not for my wand.

"I'm sleeping Liyana"

"Dress up, something bad is happening in Nhlonipho's chamber"

"Huh? Meaning?"

"Hurry up and dress up Zimele!"

Gatsha starts crying hysterically so.

"And soldier why are you crying?"

"Something evil is parading these grounds Zimele, there's a force that wasn't meant to come here. His sensing that."

"Do I need a spear maybe?"

She glares at me, okay shut up Zimele.

I quickly dress up so does she.

"Ngelozi needs me"

With that said she walks out leaving Gatsha and myself behind. As we approach Nhlonipho's chamber I'm met by sobs.

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Ngelozzi

"Sisi Ndandatho what is going on?"

I manage to say after a little while of succumbing these excruciating pains are threatening to grate up my womb.

"I don't want to lose my child to death."

"I don't want to lose my child, the baby is okay right?" Nhlonipho says glaring at Ndandatho, searching for assurance and relief that everything is going well and that our child's life will be spared. After all babies are too young to die, only the likes of gogo Jali die often not innocent kids.

She glares at me, then Nhlonipho without saying anything.

"Can somebody tell me what is happening?" Nhlo-

"Ehm.. Everything is, everything is, the baby is.."

She stutters and presses her lips together. She moves her eyes to me, then to Nhlonipho. I'm worried by her hands profusely trembling, sweat is covering her face. I think she's struggling to swallow. I shift my eyes from Ndandatho to Nhlonipho's parents who've been standing by the door since they walked in. The mother is covered in tears and holding tight on the fathers hand. As for the father I can't read his facial expression or body language. As for the grandmother she's been staring on the floor since she saw the blood stains on the bed sheets. I guess I should ask again Ndandatho about what is happening and if my child will be okay or not. I mean she's been here

way before these people. She's been holding my hand and brushing my stomach surely by now she's certain and has clarity as to why I had these cramps and why blood stains are spotted on the bed. I need answers.

"Ndandatho please say something. " Nhlo-

"The baby is unharmed isn't it sisi Ndandatho?" I manage to say.

She blinks repeatedly, before gashes of water escape her eyelids.

"Sisi Ndandatho.. "

"I'm sorry Ngelozizi.." that comes as a whimper.

"Sorry for what? Why are you sorry?" Nhlo-

"I.. I tried to..." She stutters.

"Just say what you need to say Ndandatho and stop stuttering!" Nhlonipho hauls.

Ndandatho blinks endlessly, more tears leaves her eyes. When I think she will talk she slams "Please excuse me" line across my face, sprinting outside.

Ndandatho

I couldn't say it. I could bring myself to being the bearer of bad news. She's so young for this experience. This cross will be hard for her to bear. This is too much, given I've tried everything in my powers to prevent such a thing from happening. I've tried the Jali gods are my witnesses. I made her a waist beaded band to lessen the chances of such predicaments, then this happens? Right under my nose? How could I fail her like her in this manner? Do I even possess the powers that I think I have, if couldn't save a baby? Nhlonipho's baby to be quiet frank.

"Liyana.."

"Please leave me alone Zimele"

That is accompanied by tears and a trembling voice.

"Ndandatho I just wanna hold you tight that's all"

I stop walking, he pulls me in his arms. I scream sorrowfully.

"It's okay my love, it's okay"

"It's not okay! A baby is dead and I couldn't save him!" I blurt out as I tremble and wet his shoulder.

"At least you tried"

"Not enough! Not enough Zimele! Her child is gone and never coming back!"

He holds me tightly and brush my back, while I die a silent, slow death.

"I'm sorry my love I really am. But we need to break down the news to them. This confusion and worry needs to put at ease. I know it's hard and weighing down on you but please tell them what happened"

"I can't bring myself to doing that. This is gonna break Ngelozi"

"Tell her the wait, is doing more damage please my love"

"I should've saved the baby Zimele"

"It's not your fault, you tried Ndandatho. Don't be hard on yourself"

"How am I gonna face them knowingly I failed to save their baby?"

"Shhhhh..." He squeezes me in.

**

Nhlonipho is holding and carefully brushing Ngelozi's hand when I walk in, after crying myself a river on my husband's shoulders. Everyone glares at me, making this more hard. I sat beside Ngelozi and

held her loose hand. Her eyes, those angelic eyes are yet to glimmer with tears. Her precious soul is yet to be detached from her. She will never be the same.

"Ngelozzi"

I glare at her then Nhlonipho whose waiting for me to carry on.

"Nhlonipho.."

"Ndandatho it's okay, I will tell them what is happening." Gogo says walking towards Nhlonipho. She heaves the longest sigh before clearing her throat.

"As you both saw the blood, that means our little soul detached from its mother's womb" gogo-

"I don't follow Gogo what do you mean?" Nhlo-

"The baby is late Nhlonipho" I say whimpering yet again. Nhlonipho glares at me so does Ngelozzi.

"The baby is dead, I tried to save him or her but it was too late. I'm sorry" Ngelozzi yanks off her hand from me. Nhlonipho stands up, shots me a strange look then walks out..

Fuze

My wife has been crying since I broke the news about her leaving to her family. I know I said things I wasn't supposed to have said here and there but she betrayed me and our promise to Ngelo. We both promised none of us was gonna disclose Ngelozzi's biological mother but cruel her slammed the truth on my daughters face. She shouldn't have told her that not now especially.

"Fuze I can't go home, please"

"What hurts me the most, is you betraying our promise. Ngelozi has been nothing to you but your daughter. Why did you bring that up kodwa Mafuze?"

"I was angry"

"All thanks to you I've lost a chance to mending things with my daughter. Her falling pregnant would've been forgiven and forgotten but me keeping her mother a secret will make everything unfixable."

"Fuze Ngiyaxolisa"

A knock comes to the door, after all its morning.

"Coming" I make my way to the door. It's Khethiwe.

"Mapholoba good morning" Khethi-

"Morning"

"How are you and mama?"

"We doing fine and yourself?"

"We doing very well thanks"

"Better"

"Eehm.. I brought you breakfast. I saw mama not leaving her chambers hence I made it upon my stride to get to it"

I glare at her then the tray she's holding.

"Thank you my darling"

"I made you water to bath too."

"Thats kind of you, thank you my child"

"Pleasure.. Greet mama for me"

"No problem"

She shyly bows and hands me the tray. My long fingers accidentally touches hers.

"My apologies"

She smiles and walks away. MaFuze is trying to get dressed but she's struggling. I reckon I left her covered in scars yesterday.

"Breakfast is ready"

"I will pass"

"Why?"

"My body and face is numb and stinging Fuze"

She looks at me, so do I. I heave a sigh. "I'm sorry I did that to you"

"I deserved it"

At least she's aware of that.

"Khethiwe will bring in bathing water"

I say before biting my peanut buttered bread. A knock comes to the door, that's Khethiwe I guess. I attend to the door.

"Buthelezi"

"Nyuswa good morning?"

"Morning Shenge. To what do I owe the visit?"

"Mapholoba I was sent by the King and Queen to summon you to their Palace, they said its important"

"What could be important?"

"They just told me to summon you in their chambers"

"No problem Shenge, I will make my way there after wiping my body and face"

"Mapholoba.." He says bowing his head as a symbol of respect towards me.

Mama Maseko

I just wish Nozibele and Gezekile could find themselves a new supplier. I really can't stand them not anymore. For years I've been licking their toes and forcing a laugh over their lame and unfunny jokes, all in the name of what? I really can't do this anymore. I wish my son could come back from whatever hole he's hiding in. I think it's about time I told him who his father is. I think doing that will remind those two women who think the world is theirs, about who I am and what I am. By the time the truth comes out they will view me and see me differently. I will be more than a royal servant.

"Mama you need to see this"

"Lungelo I told you to stop shouting in the morning. I hate noise"

"My apologies but mama you need to see whose outside"

"Whose outside?"

Maybe it's Ngcolosi. I don't want to argue with him, it's too early for that.

"Give it a guess ma"

"Lungelo talk!" I snap. Her once visible smile disappears.

"Brother Hawulesizwe is outside"

"My son is outside? Did you say Hawu is here?"

She nods and walks out. I leave my body butter containers on the floor, I run outside. I find Hawulesizwe seated on the veranda. He flashes me his beautiful smile, I bury myself in his embrace.

Nhlonipho

How do I feel about my first child's passing? I feel every single feel that's related with pain. I'm confused and questioning myself as to how it happened and why it had to happen to me and my Ngelozi. I'm so dishearted and hollow. I was looking forward to having this baby and being there every step of the way. I know I wasn't sure about fathering a baby while I'm a kid myself but I was sure I was gonna make a good father to my baby and a good partner to the mother but right now that dream is far fetched. It looks nothing but an obnoxious nightmare and a total ridicule of an hallucination. I've survived many things, memory loss included but this I don't think I will survive nor do I think I will ever look at Ngelozi the same way. This is the hardest pill to swallow.

"My Prince I brought you breakfast"

"Excuse me" I say walking past her leaving Ngelozi sniffing on the same bed where our child's blood was shed, being in this chamber is suffocating and draining me.

Hawulesizwe

It's pretty obvious I was missed. My mother was never an affectionate being, I'm surprised by the hugs and kisses I'm getting. On the other hand Lungelo is scouting for a fat live chicken to be slaughtered in celebration of my return. It's such a pity Khethiwe and Mlingo are not here to welcome me home, not that they will be excited and all jolly upon my come back after what I put them through.

"In the mean time let me give you a mealie porridge fermented drink, to quench your thirst"

She says standing up. "Mama"

"Khuboni..".

"Can you please make those two"

"I don't follow Hawu"

"I didn't come back alone ma, but a beautiful young lady."

She widens her eyes. "What lady Hawu?" I glare at her, I know what she's thinking but it's nothing like that. Not after the Khethiwe stunt.

"She's a kid mama"

"Whose kid? You didn't describe her as a kid long ago but a beautiful lady"

"It must've been a slippery of the tongue"

"Who is this girl and why did you bring her here?"

"Mama can we be kind enough to welcome her warmly and give her the heart of a home. She will leave as soon as she's healed. I can't take her to her family looking like this." She glares at me, then my hut where Gabisile is standing, yawning and stretching her arms. She just woke up.

"Isn't that Gabisile Buthelezi? "

"That's her" She blows her nose. "I want her gone by the crack of dawn"

She walks away, leaving me staring at Gabisile's direction. Her eyes are on mine. My mother brings the fermented porridge jag with two mugs. Gabisile walks towards us.. She sits beside me then greets my mother who gives her a sly "Hi" and walks away.

"Your mother doesn't like me" She says softly.

"As a warrior lady you should care less about how a person views you or think of you. You not gold and silver to be loved by many, if a few people love you to hell with the majority thats hating on you"

I sip from my mug. She rests her head on my shoulder.

"Thank you Ngcamane"

I chuckle.. "What?"

"You just called me with my clan name, that's so unlike you"

"You've been good to me" Gabi-

"Gabisile Buthelezi what are you doing? All flattery over my son, remove your head from there" My mother says annoyed. Gabi shifts immediately. I glare at my mother and press my lips together.

"What do you call that?" Ma

Gabi says nothing but rather fiddle her hands.

"Keep the distance" Ma-

"Mama come on, she meant no harm"

"Shush!! I let out a soft sigh.

Ngidi

I had no choice but to visit Mota. I've been missing her quite a lot lately. I know she's going through the most right now but I could use her attention and company. A King without a Queen is a miserable leader. I don't want to undress her but rather to gaze into her beautiful eyes.

I find her staring into blank air space, besides her there's a glass of water and nuts. She has lost weight and she has eye bags. She's a living corpse, from a man whose suffered like she is right now, showing her a little support won't hurt. This is the saddest moment ever.

"Majali"

She glares at me and shifts her eyes back into staring into a blank space.

"Majali I miss you"

She keeps quiet.

"I know the pain you feeling right now. It never goes away especially at night time. I know suffocating it gets on devils hours. I've been there Majali with my daughter Iminathi, I still think of her and call her name in the middle of night with tears rolling down my cheeks. I love her so much, just like you loved your kids and still do. But Majali we can't go on like this, we should share our pain and burdens. Sometimes pain is better when shared. I know I sound crazy right now but I want you back. "

A tear escapes her eye.

" You don't have to go through this alone. Share your pain with someone else, it can be your brother's wife Nozibele. She's a good listener I must say, she's a blossoming garden that I believe you can find peace in. You can also share with your mother or brother, after all you had a good bond with Ngcolosi "

" I want to kill Thabile, only then I can know peace and find healing"

"She's already dead. Living in the bushes is enough torture than death"

"I want to her killed Ngidi, I wanna see her suffocating till her last breath. I want her to die just like she killed my children. My kids had nothing to do with me sleeping with you, she was supposed to kill me instead not them"

"She's not worth it Mota"

"You defending her don't you?"

"No I'm on your side"

"If so, I want you to do everything in your powers in sending warriors to the bushes to kill her"

I glare on her.

"I want to fight fire by fire"

"Mota this is not who you are"

"Then I guess who I was all these years was nothing but pretense."

She stands up. I heave a sigh. Thabile is still Mkhuleko's mother. Having her killed would break my son.

Ngcolosi

Fuze walks in. He greets and occupies the empty chair facing mine. He glares at me, at least today he looks a little calmer than yesterday.

"You called for me"

"Indeed Mapholoba"

I heave a sigh, Nozi squeezes my thigh. As a symbol of support.

"Mapholoba you were summoned here because of what happened last night, regarding your daughter Ngelozi"

"What happened last night King Jali?"

"Nyuswa something awful befell both our clans. Mostly our children."

I swallow my saliva.

"What happened my King? What do you mean by something bad befell our children?"

"Eehm Mapholoba, last night a black cloud casted a spell on us. A very dishearting and agonizing omen was dropped on our doorstep. My son and your daughter lost their child."

He glares at me, without giving me an expression that I can read into.

"They lost their child?"

"Yes Fuze, we lost our grandchild last night. This is the cloth the little one's blood shed on" Nozi hands me the bed sheet covered in blood. Fuze stands up and rolls a fist, his now showing me pain and worry.

"Mapholoba I've put it upon my stride to clean up the mess left by my son, by appeasing your ancestors. I want to apologize for the inconvenience caused by these two. Meaning I need you to meet me half way in fixing things"

"Ngelozu miscarried the baby? All that blood is came out from my daughter's body?" He manages to say with his eyes semi closed, his pushing his tears away.

"Fuze we are very much sorry for everything. This knife is cutting deep inside, we also feel ripped apart. The pain is suffocating and loud, it cannot be ignored. Hence we want to pay you for your daughter's kraal two cows for that and two more cows for the damages, and one cow for this bad omen of having a Jali offspring die in her womb. We know it's not gonna fix anything or bring back what you've lost but we need to tackle this the traditional way. We also gonna need you in the process of burying the child, which here will be this sheet. Please Fuze" Nozi says with a sincere voice. Fuze goes back to his sit, he hides his face in his hands while facing the ground "

" Nyuswa we apologize for everything, we are sincerely sorry no words can explain how deeply sorry we are"

I hear a sniff.

"Can I see her?"

He says with his hands trembling.

Ndandatho

"I still don't understand why the baby died"

"I believe there's a valid and strong reason behind it"

"What could that be Zimele?"

"Ndandatho the gods see and understand things differently from us. What makes sense to us doesn't make sense to them, so blaming yourself won't undo what has already happened. Go check up on Ngelozi, she would really appreciate it"

"I'm not ready Zimele"

"Ndandatho go there, you staying in here locked up will send off a very bad message. She needs you more than ever"

"I will try"

"Don't try just do it" He says applying petroleum gel on Gatsha's body, he just washed him.

"I will ask gogo to sew few baby clothes for the baby"

"Which baby?"

"Ngelozi's, we gonna need those for the cleansing ceremony"

"I see."

"Zimele are you okay? I mean you've been asking me if I was okay but I didn't do the same with you"

"I'm fine Ndandatho" He says quickly like his blocking me from asking any further questions.

"I meant regarding Hawu's case"

"I don't want to talk about it, please"

"But we need to"

"I don't want to discuss it Ndandatho, having this scenario playing vividly on my mind makes me wanna punch Ngcolosi on the face. It's a constant reminder his been sneaking around my mother's back to bend slaves down, the thought of it irks me"

"The throne is my biggest concern Zimele"

"The throne is mine then Nhlonipho's or Gatsha's not that illegitimate son who goes around beating women and dropping their underwears"

"Like you said Jali what's makes sense to us doesn't make sense to the gods. What if the gods bless him but not you just like they did with my fathers situation? Let's remember Zimele every child is born with a gift enveloped in their hands, what if his the chosen one wether his a blue blood or purple blood. What if Thuthukani is his to rule? "

" Over my dead body. That can only happen in their eternal sleep not in reality, that throne is mine! "

" We can't be sure of that "

" Go to Ngelozi or something Ndandatho!" He snaps." I'm sorry"

"I told you to drop it!"

"Sorry Jali. I guess my mind was running wild"

I say and look outside the window, I should go check up on Ngelozi for real.

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Fuze

Have you ever found yourself wandering in a cage of "What if's" or "I should've" or "I shouldn't have" kind of a situation? Right now I'm playing that endless song of blame and regrets on the back of my

mind. I feel very much responsible for every little contributing factor that led to my daughter's predicament. I shouldn't have added more pressure on pushing an already collapsing building. I should've done so much better than being an adding factor to her baby dying. I know feeling guilty and sorry won't change anything but I can't help it. I don't even know what to say or where to begin. I can't even face my daughter without guilt trapping me. Right now I'm no different from the woman I've been trying so hard to prevent her from knowing or having around her life, I'm no different to the woman I've been trying forcefully to protect her from. She doesn't deserve this not at all.

I knock yet again, nobody permits me entrance. Do I see myself inside? Maybe..

—

Gezekile

I've never been broken before, nor have I ever experienced such a predicament. Honestly I don't know how comfort Nhlonipho and Ngelozi, for I do not know how deep and far the knife cuts. I don't even know where it hurts the most, I might think the pain is cutting deep in their hearts only to find its worser in the brain. I can't even say "It's gonna be okay" because that is a big fat lie. These kids are going through the most sadly there's nothing I can say nor do to numb the pain nor can I make it subside or bring back their innocent and angelic smiles. I guess I will have to watch them vanish into the unknown.

"How is Ngelozi doing Ndandatho?"

"She's.. She's a mess Gogo"

I heave a sigh filled with sadness.

"Did she eat?"

"She's still in the very same position she was in yesterday, the only difference today is the wetness of her pillows. You could mop floors with the tears she's cried"

"Poor thing.."

"I wish I can tell her the reason behind her fate, but it will sound like mumble she won't understand any of it."

I lift my eyes to look at her.

"Why wouldn't she understand Majali?"

"Gogo it's complicated"

"Do you by any chance know the reason behind her dilemma Liyana?"

"Yes gogo, it's one thing I would rather not say for safety reasons"

"You beating around the bush young lady what is going on Liyana? Was the fantom related to the ancestors or her anxiety?"

"Gogo all I can tell you is that the ancestors did whatever they did to protect Ngelozi to the forces that surround her or haunts her. There's so much you all don't know about Ngelozi and it would be very wrong of me to tell you information related to Ngelozi without telling her first. "

" But we somehow related to her, we need to know Maka Gatsha"

"Just a snippet of it then. Mafuze is not Ngelozi's mother. Her biological mother has a very bad and polluted aura that is seeking a home in Ngelozi. You know how these spiritual warfare works gogo. What happened to the baby was to protect this Kingdom from evil as it was warming its way in through the pregnancy "

" Is this Spanish you just spoke MaJali? Cos I don't understand any of the things you saying"

"See why I said Ngelozi won't understand any of the things I would say? This is very confusing yet clear it's just that I need to explain all this to her father at least"

"Who is this mother you talking about? Because from your sentence I was only able to grasp bad and evil."

A knock disturbs us, Ngcolosi comes in.

"Ma I should leave, take care"

"We not done talking Ndandatho"

"I need to attend to a couple of things." Liyana says glaring at Ngcolosi, there's a little stare contest till Liyana walks out..

Ngcolosi

What a long stare she just gave me. I don't even recall what it was that I needed to tell my mother.

"Ngcolosi you didn't come here to stare at the door, speak up"

"Eehm.. Yes mama. I came to discuss the Ngelozi dilemma"

"What about it?"

"How do we go about everything?"

"We need a traditionalist to lead the ceremony cos I myself I don't know where the baby will be buried, since you know. Blue blood mixed with red blood"

"The baby is a Jali though"

"But the mother wasn't royalty Ngcolosi"

"Doesn't a child deserve both rights from both sides?"

She looks at me.

"Ngcolosi an illegitimate child can never ever be recognized as a royal child no matter what happens. That child might not be buried with our forefathers no matter how much we would like for that to happen."

"So you saying an illegitimate son can never ever have a say in the Kingdom?"

"Definitely"

I glare at her and heave a sigh.

"Ma.."

"Yes"

"Can I ask you something personal"

"Shoot"

"Has father ever cheated on you previously and if so how did you feel about it?"

"Your father was a very honest man Ngcolosi, anything he did or said behind my back he would come home and share with me. He wasn't that kind of a man."

"So you saying he never cheated?"

"You know him he was your father, did you ever see a manipulator in him?"

I swallow hard.

"Had he cheated where you gonna leave him or stay or better yet treat him like a none existing being?"

"I wouldnt have left, but he would've left."

I swallow hard, this is getting much more worse. At least I'm certain on the other aspect of him ruling these grounds.

"Why are you asking me these questions Ngcolosi? Did you by any chance" I cut her short immediately. "No mama, I would never. I was just asking"

"Nozibele is a good wife Ngcolosi, keep that In mind"

"Thank you ma. Let me go fetch a Maine to help us with this ceremony"

"Better"

I walk out, bumping into Ndandatho holding spring onions and spinach leaves. She looks at me.

"Princess Ndandatho how are you?"

"I'm very much well my King, and yourself?"

"All is well."

"I see."

"Ndandatho you've been giving me stares that I'm not comfortable with, is there anything you would like to share with me? Maybe my ancestors passed a message to you for me."

"Nothing at all my King, the only vision I had was that of Ngelozzi but all other things, I'm certain the frog's nakedness will be seen by everyone after a rainy season"

I swallow hard.

"I see.. Anyway I need your help on informing Ngelozzi to clean up and all that, we have a guest"

"A guest?"

"A Maine"

"No problem my King, please excuse me" She turns to walk away.

Nhlonipho

She's still in the same position as she was when I left the house. Two plates are still stuffed with food, flies are dancing on it. I glare at her and take the plates outside to discard the food, I walk to the kitchen. Where I bump into my brother's wife.

"Prince Nhlo"

"Hi sisi Ndandatho"

"How are you doing today?"

"Is there any hot water in the urn?"

"Eehm, yes"

"Can I have some"

"Pleasure." She says pouring some in a bucket, she hands it over. "Is Ngelozi awake?"

"Yeah"

"Nhlonipho how are you feeling with everything?"

"I don't want to talk about it, thanks for water"

I walk away bumping into Zimele who greets and I greet back then walkway before I get yet another interrogation. I find Ngelozi wiping her eyes. She glares at me and I return it.

"Sorry I let the food go to waste"

"I brought you water to bath"

She keeps quiet and tries to stand. My bed sheets are bloody, again. I stand up to change them, I can feel her eyes piercing on my skin.

"I'm sorry"

"Sorry for what?"

"Everything"

"And what is everything?"

"The baby and the blood stains. I'm sorry"

"How are you feeling?"

"I don't know" She says sniffing.

"Regardless of everything you need to eat and bath"

"Am I smelling Nhlonipho?"

"Did I say that?"

"What are you implying then?"

"I don't want to talk because it might get ugly before it's gets beautiful Ngelozi"

"You saying I'm smelling Nhlonipho?" I ignore her and throw the sheets on the floor.

"I'm talking to You!!"

"Don't scream at me! You hear me?"

"And don't raise your voice at me! You insulting me and you want me to be cool about it?"

"Didn't I say you need to eat and bath huh? Ngelozi I just lost a child! A child I didn't get a chance to hold nor name don't nag me about odors that I'm not smelling, dammit!"

"And I didn't lose a child?"

"Fighting me is pointless Ngelozi you need to bath and stop justifying bullshit"

"Don't use that tone with me! I'm in pain okay! I lost my baby and I feel empty Nhlonipho for I've lost another treasure blessing on top of losing my family!"

She starts crying again. I sit on the bed and scratch my hand.

"I wanted my child alive not dead! I know I'm dumb and childish but I would've loved my baby, for this baby would've been my family since my own parents abandoned me and disowned me!"

I glare on her as she cries.

"I'm sorry Nhlonipho that I couldn't save your child but this was above me, I'm sorry you won't get a chance to hold your child, I'm sorry okay!!!"

"Ngelози"

She cries hysterically forcing a tear out of my eyelids.

"Why didn't Ndandatho save my baby though?"

"It was above her just like it was with you" I say with a trembling voice.

"This hurts!! This hurts!!!" She blurts out a sob, stand up Nhlo and embrace her. You love this woman, it's nobody's fault that you lost the baby surely the gods had a valid reason.. You saw the marks on her body, you were there when her Reed broke, you were there when everyone pointed fingers at her and curses her. Nhlonipho you were there when she was struggling to accept her pregnancy, you've seen her cry quite a lot. Even when she wasn't okay she let you in her warm folds, Jali hold this woman. At least tell her you love her and that everything will be okay in time, or maybe you will be by her side no matter the storm and quakes. At least tell her no natural disaster will make your love for her waver, just do something don't watch her trembling all by herself. Cry on each other's shoulders if needed be.

She's in pain and so are you, embrace her even if she suffocates and dies in your embrace just do it...

"It hurts Nhlonipho"

"I'm sorry my flower, I know how you feel and I love you still"

I manage to say as we both cry on each other's shoulders.

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Hawu

"Gabi can we talk"

"Sure thing warrior" She walks towards me with a bright smile painted on her face. She sits besides me. "I'm here now. What do you want to talk about?" She looks at me, with her beautiful eyes. "I want to know if your wounds are healing, i think we need to embark on a journey to Umthombo. Your family needs to be informed about your suddenness condition"

"Are you trying to send away warrior?"

"No but you really need to go home Gabi, keeping you here might put me in trouble. People will think I'm behind your kidnapping. I'm not sending you away."

"I hear you warrior Hawu"

"Are you angry maybe?"

She flaps her long, beautiful eyelashes.

"Gabi"

"After all this is not my home"

She stands up. "You also dont like me, just like your mother. I will leave"

"Gabi its not like that, i like you so much but you cant stay here not without your parents permission"

"Whatever Hawu" She walks away. I swallow hard, my grandmother limps to sit besides me.

"Sizwe"

"Gogo"

He looks at me, then heaves a sigh.

"Who is this little girl?"

"Gabisile Buthelezi"

"King Zikhali's daughter?"

"Yes"

"She's beautiful"

"Very beguiling"

I say still glaring at her legs as she walks to one of the chamber's. I feel my grandmother's eyes cutting me deep. "What gogo?"

"Nothing"

"Better"

Nozibele

I put the teapot and mugs on the table, one of the royal helpers comes with cookies. "Thank you my darling" She semi bows and walks away. I glare at mama Maseko "Please help yourself maKhuboni" My friend and in law- Bonisiwe Buthelezi is here. She caught me off guard by popping in, when I'm undergoing such tribulations and stressing

dilemmas. I was so delighted to see her, its been a while without seeing her and i somehow feel guiltily for not coming in numbers to show her support regarding her last born's missing predicament. I feel like a horrible friend honestly.

"You made this for me MaJali?"

"Yes maKhuboni, help yourself my sister"

"I'm sorry my Queen but i will pass, i have no room for this treat in my belly."

"Oh!" i say disappointed, She has never refused our food, maybe she's full. So thoughtful of me.

"More for me" Boni says pouring herself a cup of tea. "I should've told you my Queen" Mamaseko adds. "Its okay, next time i will ask even though my mother warned me against that" I smile. "So when will you manage to make deliveries for me?" Boni asks. She was charmed by my lavender body butter. "I will come to your Kingdom my Queen" My mother in law glares Makhuboni. "Please do, i could use this body butter to enhance my mood" Boni says biting her cookie. "No problem my Queen i should get going"

"I will walk you out"

"No need, i know my way around this house and compound" She says smiling, Boni glares at me. I look at Makhuboni "I once was a cleaner remember?" She smiles. "I will walk you out, its always a pleasure to do so" I walk her out. "Ew! Boni how are you my friend?" i say sitting besides her "Excuse me kids, i want to knit in my private room" My mother in law says standing up, it feels like she knew i needed privacy with my friend. We have so much to discuss, starting from the pregnancy of Nhlonipho all the way to its ending. Not forgetting my husband acting strange lately. She looks at me. "What?"

"I dont want to talk Nozi"

"You already talking, just say it already"

"Who is that woman?"

"She's a very important person in Kingdom. She is our supplier"

"Mmmm.." A vey important person, She us our supplier" So you say my friend"

She looks at me someway.

"Yes she is our supplier nothing much"

"A supplier that knows all corners of your house?" Why am i getting uneasy with this conversation? "Aargh! She was a cleaner before she became a supplier"

"Those are the only services she rendered in this Kingdom or there's more?"

"Boni.."

"Your cookies are good that i give you." i look at her "is your supplier a baker too?"

I roll my eyes. "Are there any improvements on finding Gabi?"

"Mehlo told us she is safe and that she will return home soon"

"And you satisfied with that information"

"Just like you satisfied with your supplier supplying for your entire family" Okay what is going on here? What's with her obsession with ma Maseko? "Greetings elders" Ndandatho says walking in with little Bangi, she shares a long hug with her mother. "She knows her way around this house and compound?" Mmmm something feels wrong about her statement.

Nhlonipho

"How are you feeling?"

"Numb"

"Mom made you a vegetable soup, please eat up even if It's two spoons."

"I've lost my appetite."

"Ngelo you losing weight and your eyes are sunken, you need to have something please"

"Nhlo im not hungry please don't force me"

"Ngelozzi if you love me, you will eat this soup"

She heaves a sigh "Fine just one spoon"

"Make them five"

"Four"

"Six"

"No six is too much i will vomit"

"Okay four it is"

"Okay"

"Now say aaah!" She slightly opens her mouth, i shove a spoon inside her mouth, it comes out food less. I shove another till the bowl is empty. I wipe the corners of her mouth and then smile.

"I still love you a lot and I'm proud of you"

She smiles. "Can we please bath now"

"I will wash myself" She says faintly. "I can help till you strong enough"

"No Nhlonipho i will wash myself"

"You afraid of me touching your blood?"

"Its dirty blood, i cant watch you touch it"

"I will fix you water then"

"Thank you" I gently brush her hairy cheek with my thumb. I walk to the kitchen to mix water, i walk out bumping chests into Ndandatho.

"Hey Nhlo how is she?"

"She ate today"

"That's awesome, here please put these in her bathing water, they gonna help with soothing the pain"

"Thank you sisi Ndandatho"

"Pleasure, and how are you feeling?"

"Its too soon to tell but with time the pain will subside and we will move on"

"I'm sorry though about everything"

"Its okay and thank you"

"I will pop in soon and please wear decent clothes a Maine will see to us later"

"No problem" I faintly smile and walk away. I find blood rolling down her legs, theres some on the floor. She glares at me. "My apologies, i will clean up especially the bed." I shift my eyes to the bed, sweet Jesus this is too much honestly. "I will take care of it" i say with a sting on my chests. I remove the bedding and toss it on the floor. I mix bathing water for her adding the herbs i received from Ndandatho. I take her messy clothes, along the bed sheets. I wipe off the blood thats on the floor, i step outside to burn those. Theres no way I'm touching blood,

i will get new sheets in the house. I think i need to walk to the river bank, this is too much for me. "Excuse me"

I call one of the helpers "Please get me new bed sheets and sanitary towels in the royal house, get them delivered to my chambers" My Prince " She says walking away" checha Nhlo we miss school, we even forgot how to count to 100"

I smile and pick her up, i gaze into her beautiful eyes. "I'm sorry my angel"

"Are we gonna have a class today?"

"Not today Mimi"

"Why not, we miss school and singing with checha Ngelozi"

"Both Checha Ngelozi and myself are not feeling well, we cant teach you for now"

"Are you sick?"

"We broken"

She covers her mouth. "How bad?"

"Very bad mimi"

"Like a cup?" i nod and faintly smile. "Are you gonna collect the pieces and try to glue them back together? When i break my mothers cups, i try to glue back the pieces or sweeping them then discard them somewhere far!" I feel tears build up in my eyes. "So you think i should sweep away these pieces if gluing them back isn't working?" She nods and adds "Yes, so nobody will know and see that you broke the mug." I squeeze tiny Mimi into a hug, tears overwhelm me "Thank you mimi"

"Are you crying?" i smile, she uses her tiny hands to wipe my tears away "Im sorry checha Nhlonipho, you will be okay."

"Now that you guaranteed me i will be okay"

"Minenhle!!!!" Her mother shouts "I have to go" i put her down and kiss her chubby cheeks "Thank you"

"Tell checha Ngelozi i said hello" She says waving, i kiss her tiny hands and nod. "Minenhle come clean after mess!! Greetings my Prince" Her mother says holding a whip,. "Greetings mama and please dont hurt her" She smiles and Mimi walks away, i guess she just advised me to pick myself up such a smart little girl.

Ngcolosi

I'm pacing around in the middle of nowhere, waiting for Mrs Maseko to appear i know she uses this road when going home. Finally she appears eating nuts, i pull her hand. She drops her nuts. "Ouch Ngcolosi!!"

"What did i say to you about coming to my house on a regular?"

"Ngcolosi you need to stop threatening me, i didn't go there to stir up trouble. I'm working"

"Phoxile you better not say anything"

"My son is a Jali too Ngcolosi! its unfair for him to live in this manner!"

"Jali my foot! Have you forgotten how you conceived him? Dont make me remind you"

She glares at me. "Soon our little lie will be out Ngcolosi, people will know the truth about Hawu, you couldnt even send a hunt out for him when he left the palace. You were supposed to have done something Ngcolosi!"

"Hawu is not my burden and i careless about him. Shall my family know about Hawu i swear i will banish you from these grounds i let you stay because you are mutual friends"

"You meant family?"

"End whatever business you running with my family"

"And you think that will prevent the truth from coming out? It wont Ngcolosi! Hawu is a Jali wether you like it or not!"

"You mean a diluted jali?"

"It makes no difference but his flood and your blood and that of your sons runs deep in his veins"

"The throne will never be his in case you want to secure that"

"But he will be recognized as Jali because thats who he is!"

"Get lost before i lose my cool"

I walk away leaving her standing.

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Nhlonipho

The maine came to attend to us, of which we didn't get answers to the questions we had. He didnt say much on that but rather "We mustn't question the doings of the gods" Thats all he gave us, and obviously herbs for Ngelozi and i to bath with. The other one we were told to bite, chew and spit it out without swallowing. The baby's ceremony will be nothing major or exaggerated, less people will be part of it solely, Ngelozi and myself and the person who will be doing the ceremony.

We gathered in my hut, reading a book. I'm reading the book and she is listening attentively. It's her favorite William Shakespeare's book. A knock on my door snaps me out of it "Come in" I shout putting the book down. Ngelozi raises her head from my chest, but I pull her back. The door swings open. "Fuze" I say to myself in shock, Ngelo immediately removes her head from my chest. She resorts to sitting on the edge of the bed, I swallow hard and glare at her father who is exchanging eyes with us. "Hi"

"Greetings" We say at the same. He clears his throat. "I brought you fruits and nuts, your favorite" I look at Ngelozi, another face appears as Fuze shifts a little from the door. "Greetings my Prince" Her mother says with a broad smile.

"And daughter" She adds. We greet her back. They sit on the two chairs opposite my bed "Let me excuse you" I say standing up "You are needed as well for what we about to say. "Fuze says, he better not say I'm needed so he can slap me again. "Oh.. Okay" I say sitting on the bed. "Thank you for the fruits and nuts" Ngelozi -

"It's always a pleasure" Mafuze says smiling. Fuze looks at us without saying anything.

"Let me get drinks for everyone"

"There won't be a need for that Prince" The father says, the gods know I'm not comfortable with sharing a tiny space with the likes of Fuze.

"Eehm we came to pass our condolences. We heard about the aftermath of your little one leaving us before turning into a full human being. We don't know how you feel but our hearts pour out to you and your family Jali. We are sorry for everything." Fuze says, Ngelozi and myself glare at each other. "My children we very much sorry about this omen that has befallen you. Our hearts pour out" The mother says looking at Ngelozi.

Ndandatho

My beautiful mother hasn't left the Palace, as we speak I'm laying on her bed, with my head resting on her lap. While brushing my back and hair. We are discussing Gabi and how horrible we all feel about her absence but on the contrary we both at ease knowing she will be home soon, alive and unharmed. "Hows the pregnancy Liyana?"

"Tiring mama. Its starting to kick in that I'm pregnant. The fatigue and laziness has spiked high ma"

"Sorry my baby, in few days time we will be holding and kissing delicate little lips and cheeks." i smile and brush my bump "Lets hope you not fighting the poor guy Ndandatho" I look at her "I'm not fighting him" She looks at me and giggles "That look is selling you out young lady"

I roll my eyes. He bores me lately, but when his not giving me his attention it hurts big time. Poor Zimele now dedicates his time on his son, to avoid having a catfight with me. He doesnt even bother with asking the forbidden fruit, he just sleeps without getting erected, thats exactly what we've become and sadly we dont see a problem with that. "Ndandatho dont push your husband away"

"What if he is the one doing the pushing away, ma?"

"I dont follow"

"There's something going on mama in the royal house"

"You mean that body butter selling woman with your father in law?"
I lift my head to glare at her "You know that mama?"

"That woman sold herself out, poor Nozi doesnt see what's happening right under her head"

"Mama there's more"

"What more?"

"I think there's a child involved"

She pops her eyes out in shock. "Tell me you joking Ndandatho"

"I'm not mama"

"Nozi will not survive this, yooh uNgcolosi naye!"

"Can we not say anything till we certain ma"

"Of course my baby" She says still surprised.

"How's dad and Busani?"

"Your father is handsome as always" She melts at the mention of father "And your brother is still single and he doesn't care. "We giggle." "I should visit you soon"

"Please do, your father will be jolly so is your brother" I smile
"Ndandatho it's rude for a woman not to be with their husband at this hour. Zimele needs water to bath and a little body massage and cuddling"

"I'm still enjoying your company mama, besides he has Gatsha"

"Liyana , Gatsha is not a wife but you are. Go to your husband Ndandatho"

I glare at her. "No leave"

"Mama you sending me away?"

"Leave! That boy needs you more than i do"

"Kodwa mama" I say standing up. "Come see me tomorrow during the day, besides you need a new hairdo. I will plait your hair" I smile then kiss her cheeks" I love you"

"I love you too" She genuinely smiles and walks me outside.

Zimele

Nhlonipho and myself are gathered on the veranda, apparently Fuze is having a private conversation with Ngelozi. "Where is Ndandatho?" i glare at him. "I dont know"

"Thats strange for you not to know where your soon to be wife is." He says eating nuts.

"Liyana is forever angry lately, if not snapping"

"Don't you have a tool to fix that?" i glare at Nhlo with narrowed brows" What tool? "

" Duh warrior" i chuckle. "Her moods swings are making it hard to get erected brother"

"Is it that bad?"

"Very bad"

"Damn! Give her a body massage or do something intimate, you can bring Gatsha to my chamber for a night sleep"

I look at my brother "Are you sure?"

"Definitely, i need all the distraction in the world brother. Ngelozi is no different from a zombie. All she does is sniff, sniff and sniff. I know shes hurt just like me but i miss her crazy self,sadly i cant bring that back."

"Thats bad brother, she will come through be patient with her. Women bore me at times" I say eating Nhlonipho's nuts. "They really boring at times" We both gaze on the stars. I miss my wife not the stranger I'm sharing a room with. "These nuts are delicious where did you get them?"

"Ngelozzi's parents. They are the reason i was fond of going to Ngelozzi's house."

"That explains the sex drive" He looks at me. "Nuts make you fertile brother"

"Really? I didn't know"

"And now you know.." Ndandatho appears, singing, that belly my Lord. Did i really make it look this big? "Greeting Jali Prince's"

"Greetings MaJali" Nhlo says. "What are you two eating? Can i have some?" She's on her happy side today come morning she will be grumpy and all ugly. I glare at her "We having nuts ma'am"Nlo-

" Eew! They taste like sand" i narrow my brows. "You haven't tasted them though"

"But they taste awful, that i know"

"Your opinion right?"

"Fact"

"These nuts taste good, they actually the best thing I've ever tasted" She blows her nose, i smirk "Excuse me? Are you comparing me to nuts?" Nhlonipho laughs "I said the nuts taste good" i smirk again. "Better sleep with those nuts for the next coming ten years" Nhlonipho cracks up even more. "Lets go inside."She looks at me, i look at Nhlo."Massage" He whispers. Ndandatho is long gone, thats a snippet of what i deal with lately but i still love her.

Hawu

We staring at the moon while making corn on the fire. The compound is silent, only crawling inserts are making the loudest noise and obviously the fire flames. "So do you want yours with salt or pepper

or just plain?" i say trying to break the ice, tomorrow she's leaving.

"How about dont talk to me?"

"Gabi come on, you can't stay mad at me for the whole day"

"Well i can Hawu"

"What wrong did i do?"

She looks at me, then her corn. "Gabi you mad at me for taking you home?"

She looks at me and says nothing. "I hate what you doing, friends talk Gabi"

"I'm not your friend warrior"

"Okay siblings talk, is that convincing?"

She folds her hands and glares at me. I swallow hard and look away. She keeps quiet and so do i. She's giving me a long stare, i return it back.

"I think you should go sleep it off"

"I dont want"

"Okay" i pull my corn from the fire. "Must i pull yours?" She nods. I pull it out and hand it over to her. "Here you go"

"Thank you"

"Pleasure. Salt or no salt?"

"Salt, please excuse me"

She stands up heading elsewhere. Its dark wherever she is going.

"Gabi"

"Mmmmm.."

"Where are you going?"

"Im coming"

"Its dark, you gonna trip and fall or better yet get a snake poison"

"I got this"

"Fine" i eat my corn, in a split second she screams. I immediately jump and run to her direction, with my heart beating faster than a rocket scientist's. I kneel in front of her "What happened"

"I don't know, i just stepped on something cold and slippery it made my skin cringe and i.." I put my finger on her full lips "Shhh!!! Dont panic, it was a wrong" She looks at me, i return it. "Come let me carry you inside"

I pick her up, She wraps her hands on my neck and looks at me. She decides on resting her head on my collar, i feel her lips press gently on my neck. I close my eyes, She does that again "Gabi, please don't do that"

"Why not?"

"I.. Well i.." i stutter. She looks at me, i tilt my head and look at her "Your eyes are watery"

"Wind just.. Just blew on my eyes"

"I see" She smiles and does what i warned her against. Why is my heart beating this fast? This beating is accompanied by gashes of fear, and shivers that strikes hard on my spine. Something is wrong with me. "Good night"

"Good night" She embraces me then kisses my cheek. I watch her disappear inside the house. I go sit by the fire, i eat my corn with so much wondering in head. I miss Zimele in times like this.

Ngcolosi

The scent of her body butter always makes me weak. I sneak up on her, then cup her boobs. I kiss her neck while inhaling her aromatic fragrance. "Sthandwa sami"

"Ngcolosi Jali"

she says soft. "How are you my love?"

She heaves a sigh

" I'm fine."

In my history of knowing my wife her "I'm fine" Means the opposite and if i dont get to the bottom of it now, she will sink ships the day she explodes. I nibble the back of her ear.

"Mommy do you want to talk about it?" She exhales deeply.

"kaMaseko was a bit rude towards me today."

"What did she do?" She heaves a sigh

"Its how she said it Jali."

"Said what?"She chuckles. " She mentioned something that got me mesmerized and uncomfortable."

"Such as? " I say still holding her.

"She said "I know my way around this house" its like she was trying to tell me something that i wasn't aware of, like she's been or still a royal mistress." I hold her tightly and plant sloopy kisses on her neck.

" She even refused my food after so many years of licking plates clean without leaving a trace of crumbs, she was rude"

"She thinks its our fault that Hawu left the Kingdom"i say." That's rubbish,that Maseko boy left willingly, we didn't tell him to beat up his wife."

I caress her belly."Majali dont mind kaMaseko,shes not a threat."

"And how do you know that?" She says staring at me. "Thats because she's nobody of significance, her thoughts only carry value in her mind not that of everyone. Dont let her get to you, she's bitter, not having another home to wreck is driving her crazy,"

she looks at me somehow." Another home to wreck? Meaning?"

" Honey i will narrate everything some other time,for now can we make the most of this moment and time?"

" I'm afraid i cant let this slide, not when she said out loud that she knows all corners of my home."

"You think i would have motives of undressing her?"

"She's a beautiful woman Ngcolosi."

"Yes she's a beautiful woman but not for me.The only beauty my eyes see is this beauty, not that of another woman."

"Jali stop flirting, I'm concerned about you and the chances of you committing adultery with ka Maseko"i chuckle.

" Would you love me still if i did commit adultery at some point in my life?"

" Over my dead body,i will leave Ngcolosi."

She says setting herself loose. "Why would you even consider doing that?"

She says wearing her night garment. "Majali, I'm a man."

"Rubbish!! Ngcolosi if that woman meant what i think or suspect, i swear I'm leaving.I'm too pretty to be played by you.Ngidi would jump puddles and cross oceans to have me as Thabile's replacement,if not Mota. Look at me carefully before you think im desperate."

" You have your eyes on Ngidi? "

" I'm a woman, figure that on your own what it means."

" Nozibele i dont have my eyes on anyone but you."

" Then how does mama Hawu know all corners of this house if not stripping her nakedness for you? It cant be Nhlonipho or Zimele whose showing her all corners of this house but you."

I giggle,

" Majali you really think i would do that to you?" I chuckle. Its not funny Bhengu."

"Come here my love and stop creating non existing scenarios in your head."

I say pulling her toward me. "Ngcolosi if you cheated tell me," i heave a sigh."I didnt cheat on you and never had i thought of it. The only thing I've ever cheated on you with, was the brandy i would sneak out at night to sip while you were fast asleep.I love you MaJali."

I embrace her and close my eyes....

Ngelozi

Nhlonipho walks in carrying Gatsha, he is grown and all cute. I haven't seen him in ages,his delicate and delightful little face still captivate me.My lips slightly move to form a smile. Bangi say hello mommy Ngelozi.

"Yeyo mama" I pop my eyes out in shock, Bangi talks? Isn't he little to be speaking? I stand to kiss his forehead. Nhlonipho glares at me, our eyes lock for a little while. He puts his hand on my waists. "Hello little Zimele" he smile and stretches out his tiny hands for me to pick him up, "hey stranger." I move to the bed with him on my arms.

"His grown" i manage to say, Nhlo looks at me as his leaning against the wall staring at us. "Very grown and handsome too. I just don't like this afro hair, its too much."

"His fine like this, you want to turn him into a potato." He giggles. "He will look good in bald, not this bushy hair."

"Leave Bangi alone, if you want to cut your hair do it alone without involving him." He smiles, "little Gatsha they want to turn you into a silver, sparkling dog bowl, imagine?"

He smiles, i smile back. Nhlo moves to sit besides me.

"He is spending a night with us."

"Oh! Where are his parents?"

"In their chamber."

I look at him, "no problem" .We keep quiet and both glare at Gatsha, Nhlo brushes his brows and i move his hand on my cheeks. He looks at me and i look at him. "Are you okay?" I ask.

"Are you okay?"

"Seeing my father kinder of revived me."

"What did he say?"

"His sorry for beating me up, he misses me and loves me and that i should come back home, so we can talk." He narrows his brows. "Come home?"

"Yes."

"Oh!" He says glaring at me differently from previously. "What? Are you okay?"

"Yeah.. Sure."

"Is it about me considering going home?"

"The anguish will suffocate me should you leave, atleast in your presence the pain and grief was shared but i understand Ngelozi."

"I can stay two more days, if its fine by you."

"I would really appreciate that. Did you eat?"

"I forced myself to eat two fruits,"

"mango and banana" i smile, so does he. "How do you know?"

"I know your favorite fruits Ngelo, you always bullied me to bring you mango each time i came to your house."

"I wasn't bullying you but asking you politely."

"She said bullying is being polite" I glare at him, he narrows his brows.

"I wont agree with you Ngelo, you were bullying me and that's it."

"I guess i knew you were gonna put me in serious trouble someday hence the bullying. I drank guava leaves at some point and.."

"You shitted the baby fluids for two days?"He laughs and i narrow my brows ."Its not funny. "

"Do you ever think before you talk Ngelo?"

"Of course i do. "

"Mmmm... I see" ,he smiles showing off his beautiful teeth. "Seems like Zimele Jnr is sleeping."

"I will tuck him."

"Let me bath, have you bathed already?"

"Yes."

"Fine," I remove the few things that are on the bed, and put Gatsha then cover him with a blanket. I glare at him and date back to my days of being pregnant, it was short-lived but the idea of carrying a little human being inside me was very exciting and cultivating. It was worth all the struggles and misery. At some point i had already figured what i was gonna name my child. Its a pity my baby didnt cease to be born but rather to give in on death. In a spilt second i feel his arms around me and his thumb wiping my tears.

"Its okay my daisy, we will survive this. The pain will subside with time, all this misery will be gone with the wind."

"Its hard to believe though Nhlonipho."

"We will be okay. We might have lost our baby but not the love we hold for each other. We've been through a lot before we lost this baby and we came out of those without a doubt, that we did everything in our powers and we conquered whatever triumph. This too shall pass"

"I wish it passes tomorrow,"

"Or we can try again when we both ready and married."

I look at him. I no longer want babies, what if they will all die? I'm not trying anything.

"Fine,"

"Don't cry my petunia, we will be okay, that i promise you." He plants a soft kiss on my forehead. We remain in each others arms.

Ndandatho

The massage is very soothing and recuperating, this little treat sounds nothing like the man I fell in love with. Zimele is sweet and all, but being a man with soft hands, I've never seen nor known about that one. But here I am with oil greased on my naked body and his hands kissing the pain and fatigue away.

"Who taught you this technique?"

"I suppose you wanted to say, thank you my beloved husband, not that"

"I just want to thank the person warrior, nothing much."

"I'm self taught, before you I had a toothless, gray haired, old hag as a girlfriend, so she taught me these things."

"Thinking I will freight and get all jealous sorry lover."

He chuckles. "I was telling you whose behind this skill."

"I appreciate her late self." We giggle.

"This human being is turning us into strangers MaJali."

"You planted her in here."

"So I have to succumb the sticks and stones?"

"Like a warrior that you are."

"It would've been better if I was with Hawu the pain would've been shared."

"This is the second time you mention him, do you miss him?"

"His been a part of my life since we were kids Ndandatho. I shared everything with him, so did he. The only thing we didn't share was the obsession of women."

"I understand Jali, the bond you had was inseparable."

"Even though my ill mannered father could've been responsible for his existence."

"How do you feel about the probability of that being true?"

"At the end of the day Hawu took after his father to be a cassanova, sadly my mother married a pimped penis."

"Zimele dont talk ill of your father."

"I can't stand him, he annoys me for lying for so many years. He has been sleeping besides my mother for years but never had the decency of coming clean,his a cock."

I keep quiet. "How's the pain now?"

"Better," i tilt my head to face him, he leans over to smash his lips on my mine. He gently and carefully flips me over to face the roof. He slightly lays on top of me with is manhood erected. He kisses the back of my ear, my neck, my jaw line, my collarbones he moves to my tits and moves the tip if his tongue in circular on my hard nipples, i bite my lower lip and grab on the bed covers. He moves his tongue to my bellybutton then that sacred place. He teases my clit till the pleasure and pressure is unbearable. He taps his hard, mamba on it.I moan softly, when i least expect it, he slides in gently till his all in. He glides on me with his eyes closed.

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Ndandatho

I sleep on my side, catching some breath.

"Liyana"

"Honey"

"I'm not done" He says with his smoky voice, while massaging his huge mamba. I glare at him shocked by all this, he just cum. He should be done already. I think he wants me to deliver this baby right here and right now. "Zimele I'm tired"

"Dont do any of the work, i will do it myself"

"I'm satisfied already"

"That was just a warm up MaJali, the actual match resumes right now" I think tears will bail me out of this one. "Please get on your knees"

"Zimele I'm pregnant"

"Liyana I've been starved for days, can i quench the thirst please " I force myself up to do as he instructed "Chest down and buttocks up"

"Zimele, consider the baby's safety.."

"I would never put my baby in danger MaJali"

"Are you punishing me maybe?"

"I thought you loved this joy candy"

"I do, just that I'm tired"

"We only had one Ndandatho"

"This one is my final one Zimele"

"Fine my beautiful, sexy Princess."

"Dont call me that" I say resting my chest on the pillow. In a blink of an eye, his going in and out, slapping hard against my butt cheeks. Poor pregnant Liyana, all she does is screaming Zimele's name and grabbing hard on the bed sheets. When his destination reaches out to him he lays on my back, panting hard and his rod throbbing within my kraal. "That was epic my love. I loved it" He what? Loved that? This man hates me honestly, if he wasn't my husband and the man who

makes me weak i would've long shouted abomination or rape. That's how discomfoting this position was. But in the midst of that i reached my planets. "I love you"

"Please love me enough to get off from me"

"Fine" He says laying besides me, he flashes me a smile and kisses my forehead. "I love you"

"I love you too. Can we sleep now?"

"Definitely"

Ngelози

Gatsha looks innocent in his sleep. I love his brows and complexion, Ndandatho has a beautiful baby. I wonder how mine would've looked like or whom they would've took after between Nhlo and myself. I just wonder if i was gonna have a girl or boy, if they were gonna be big headed as i had always pictured them as. I really wonder, i wonder so much. "Nhlo"

"Mmmm.."

"Are you sleeping?"

"No, I'm thinking"

"About what?"

"You dont wanna hear about it."

"Try me"

"I'm thinking of a name for the baby"

"I think Khanya would be a beautiful name"

"Here i was thinking of Skhanyiselwe"

I smile. "They kinder sound similar and cute"

"Yeah they do, so do we use both?"

"Lets save Skhanyiselwe for the next one"

No Ngelozi, i thought you said you didn't want to try again. What is wrong with you? Again what?

"So there's gonna be "Again" Mafuze? "

I blush. "Yes. After getting married though. " I quickly say.

"Let me run the idea to my parents tomorrow"

"What idea?"

"You and i making Skhanyiselwe within marriage. I will talk to my mother and she will talk to my father"

"No Nhlonipho, isn't it too soon to do that?"

"There's no such thing as too soon my flower, any time is always the right time."

"No Nhlo"

"You scared of being Mrs Jali junior?"

"I'm unafraid Nhlonipho"

"You lying" He says moving closer to me. "Can you feel that?"

"Feel what?"

"Bhengu's rage." i tilt my head to stare at his eyes. He smirks then licks his lower lip, i swallow hard. He rests his chin on my shoulder, his way too close and his angry Bhengu is poking me. Do men really have to be erected even when its not necessary? I mean i didnt torture him or do anything to make it rise and grow harder.

"His so peaceful and cute to watch" He says brushing my arm. "He is"

"Mafuze.." He says with a husky voice.

"Mmmm.."

"Can i kiss you?"

God. He wants what's between my legs and i cant give him that, I'm still bloody and all that. What baffles me he knows my predicament but here he is, making Bhengu to rise.

"MaJali.."

"Nhlo I'm.. I'm still not okay, i cant give you what you want"

"Mafuze its only your kiss i want nothing much, i know you still sick and all that. But your kiss would put me ease"

"Nhlonipho dont change your mind please"

"I wont i promise"

"I would believe you had this snake not woke up"

"Dont mind the snake, just mind my lips"

"A snake bites in case you've forgotten"

"Mapholaba.."

"Fine" i turn to face him. He presses his sweet lips against mine. He pulls my lower lip gently, i pull his upper lip. Our lips dance to a rhythm of their own. He invites his tongue forcing me to mine reciprocate his own. He squeezes my bums. "Nhlo.."

"Ngelози yami" He says with a husky voice, while kissing my neck.

"Can we stop kissing, this is escalating to something else"

"Please give me a hand"

"I thought we agreed for not getting that far"

"A hand wont hurt please"

"Fine.." i get a reach of his wand and give it that hand he requested. He closes his eyes and bites on his lower lip. In a split second, my hands are sticky and wet. "Sorry about that" He says.

"Its fine" Hell to no, it's not fine. These hands touch food not sperms. "Let me get a cloth to wipe that" He hops out of the bed, he looks at me "Thank you, i loved it"

"Loved a hand?"

"It was good, it made the job done"

"That was gross though, these hands touch food"

"What do you say about my immaculate tongue, licking places that are.."

"Just stop!" I say, he giggles.

Khethiwe

I spot Fuze smoking outside his veranda i didnt know he smokes. This came as a shock. I walk towards him with my basin stuffed with used up bathing water. "Mapholaba you still awake?" He faces my way. "And you still awake?"

"I just finished bathing and besides Milingo took ages to sleep" He puffs while facing the galaxy."I see"

"Anyway i came to say goodnight."

"Thank you, sleep well yourself" He says still facing the stars.I look at him for a while before i go spill water, I'm disappointed honestly. By the time i make my way back to the hut i find him long gone, but for some weird and strangest reasons i feel piercing at the back of my body. You know that instinct that tells you someone is behind you? That's exactly what i feel right now. I look behind me but i find no one. I enter the chamber to my surprise i hear the door closes behind

me, i jump in fear. I face door and what i see makes me cringe and my insides to tie knots. "What do you want?"

I say quivering, with my voice breaking in between. "Khethi"

"Hawu leave! Get out!!"

"Dont make noise please, i come in peace"

"Peace my foot, get lost before i shout abomination!!" i say taking careful steps backwards. "Hawu please leave"

"I'm sorry for what i did Khethiwe."

"What exactly are you sorry for? Nearly killing me or leaving me laying on the floor bloody and aching, and unconscious? What are you sorry for Hawu? Cheating on me with two women?"

He heaves a sigh and walks towards Mlingo. "Leave my son! Stay the hell away from him, i will shout and Fuze will kill you not forgetting Zimele"

He leans over to hold Mlingo's hand. He brushes it then kisses his forehead. "I'm sorry Khethiwe for everything that I've done. I know it cant undo what i did but at least i want you to know that hurting you wasnt in my best interest, it just happened and I'm sorry it left you bruised and bleeding. All i need from you is your forgiveness nothing much. "

I laugh and clap my hands.

"Had i died on that night whom were you gonna apologize to? Whom were you gonna be telling this nonsense Hawu?"

"Khethiwe I'm sorry and i mean it."

"In case you thinking i still care about you, forget it.I'm done with you, Mlingo and myself are done with you Hawu"

"Its not a relationship mending i require from you Khethiwe but your apology."

I look at him, why is he gentle out of nowhere? My Hawu was never like this , he was a true definition of a warrior. "Hawu leave and dont ever show your ugly face here ever again. Guess what you have my blessings to marry that girl as your first wife. I as Khethiwe im done with you"

"No problem, take care Khethiwe. At least can i be allowed to be a part of Mlingo's life"

"Not a chance, Mlingo is my son"

"And my son too"

"You are a disgrace, not when you were beating me in front of him"

"I'm sorry"

"Shove it in your anus Hawu, now leave!" He stands up and glares at me. I take two steps backwards. He looks at me again, then heads for the door. He shuts it and finally i can breath.

Zimele

She's snoring peacefully besides me. I've been glaring on her beauty since she fell asleep. The more i look at her its the more i realize how blessed and favored i was to having her as my girlfriend, then fiance and wife. I really love this woman as complicated and stubborn she is. I can boldy stand on rooftops and declare my love for her for the whole world to see. It wasn't easy but here we are.

I sneak out of bed, cover up and go outside. I need to stretch my legs and besides I'm battling with sleep, i slept during the day so you know the struggle. I'm walking around the compound when i spot someone who has features that i strongly believe are those of warrior

Hawulesizwe. Its dark outside and the land is quiet but i know my friend of many years. I even know the sound of his footsteps. That tall and athletic body is his. I find myself following this person till he reaches the gate.

"Warrior" I call out. He jumps in fear. There's a stare contest for a little while, the little distance between us serves as proof something has changed between us. Previously we would bump into each other's shoulders, that's how close we were. "Traveling at night, whats going on?" i ask. The aim is to be hard on him but sadly i find myself being gentle, i mean he could be my brother one whom might a stir up in my life shall he find out about his true identity. "I dont want trouble Jali, i only came to apologize to the women I've hurt after that I'm never setting foot back her." He says gentle. "Why come at night though?"

"Its for the better, i cant risk you and your people stoning me to death after what i did."

I glare at him, trying to gather if he took really his a Jali. The only resemblance is his athletic body, height and skin colour but other than that he looks nothing like me or Nhlonipho or my father." Shouldn't you be in bed with the wife? "

I chuckle "She's sound asleep"

"Sang her a lullaby or rocked her up till she got tired?" We glare at each other and chuckle. "You know me Khuboni"

"I missed you Zimele"

"Not seeing your face on my negotiations cut so deep warrior. I hate to admit but i was longing for you"

"You still my friend, one that i cherish the most my Prince."

We are brothers warrior not friends. I wish i can tell him "Its such a pity things turned out this way"

"I'm sincerely sorry warrior,for everything.I should've listened when you advised me against such. Look warrior i need to get going, i have a journey tomorrow morning"

"You still my friend Warrior and i adore you"

"You still my friend and the brother i never had Jali, i still admire you"

We look at each other and share a brotherly embrace. "I've been searching for you!" A voice says behind us. We both turn, my beautiful wife is standing there glaring at us. "Princess.. Greetings" Hawu says. "Greetings Jali" i look at her with warning eyes. She looks at me "I guess I've been a distant memory for you to forget my surname Liyana" Hawu says smiling. "I know your surname and surname is Jali" My wife says.

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Ndandatho

I had no choice but to spill the beans.Isn't it when i give people the opportunity to coming clean, they ridicule me and belittle me, and adress me like a delusional and abstract little thing, that holds no emotions or feelings. If the storm comes so be it. I know it wasn't my place to say it but Gabi's return is highly depended on this revelation. Zimele and Hawulesizwe are giving me ugly stares if not miffed facial expressions, honestly i did the right thing.

"I think its best i leave" Hawu-

"Spend a night warrior"

"No Zimele, its best i leave." He says glaring at me. "Travel safe and see you in the next coming days". I turn to walk away, i feel my hand hanging upon something. "Liyana what was that?"

"The truth Zimele"

"The truth Ndandatho? "

I glare at him.

"Do you really enjoy this Ndandatho? Being selfish and inconsiderate of other people's feelings all in the name of your gift huh?"

"Zimele i wasn't selfish but i did what needed to be done!"

"Rubbish! It wasn't your cross carry Ndandatho!

I dont know how things work in your world but what i know, spiritual gifted beings do not do what you just did Ndandatho. That was wrong and unprofessional! "

"Zimele i did the right thing! Hawu deserves to know the truth. I dont see any wrong in what i did. "

"Right thing for who?"

"Zimele you being dramatic right now and its really unnecessary. "

"It wasnt your place to tell Hawu this information, especially in this manner Ndandatho. What you did was unkind and unjust, you can't just disclose such news in this manner. You were supposed to have sat down with him and asked him questions before you spew that venom! That was absolutely hilarious and demeaning maka Gatsha! "

"Its not like your father is a saint Zimele, the truth was meant to come out either way. "

"Stop justifying rubbish and admit you were out of line!" he barks.

"My sisters return depended on that truth Zimele! My parents want Gabi back, and the only way to achieving that was by doing this."

"See what i mean? You selfish and inconsiderate of others feelings. Your focus and motives were only one-sided, your focus was your sister only, but not Hawulesizwe. You were biased and unfair Ndandatho. You hated it when your identity was revealed in that manner, you wanted and wished it was revealed in a good and respectful manner but here you are doing to others what you hated when being done to you. You are a hypocrite!"

I swallow a huge lump.

"Why are you angry at me kanti Zimele? "

"Dont tell me your hormones are blinding you from differentiating between wrong and right. You using your gift for selfish reasons!!" I blink profusely, pushing back my tears.

"Zimele i was trying to help!"

"Who asked you to help?"

I keep quiet and blink endlessly.

"This wasnt your business Ndandatho, you had no right to disclose that information. You should've waited for the right time. What you did is no different from telling a pregnant woman that their child is gonna die tomorrow morning, while they are surrounded by many people. You should've kept quiet and let the Jali's elder to disclose this information not you. Ndandatho let me remind you. You are a bride here not a goddesses or an ancestor or anyone fit to voice your opinions or worries concerning my family. Such things are to be discussed by family not the likes of you, in case you've forgotten these premises belongs to the Jali not Buthelezi or Mamiwata damns, you do not include yourself on such family matters Ndandatho. You

couldn't even read through my eyes, when i was warning you against that. "

" Zimele i.. "

" Whatever Ndandatho!! "

My tears slide down. Zimele walks past me, disappointed." Please wait for me Zimele "

" You managed to get here, now see yourself home"

"Zimele you being unfair right now!!"

"And you being fair?" I opt for silence.

Fuze

I find my wife seated on the bed.

"Mapholoba can we talk"

"Talk about what?"

"Everything baba"

"Mama Ngelozi I'm tired"

"I'm sorry Fuze"

"Sorry for what?"

"Fuze please sit down, we can't talk while you standing please baba.
"

I heave a sigh then make my way towards her.

She looks at me, then fiddles with her hands.

"Makhosonke our home has turned into a battlefield, there's chaos and discomfort around us. Peace and joy have been playing far from our doorstep Fuze. "

"And whose fault is it again?"

"Fuze all three of us are at fault. You, me and Ngelozi" I look at her.

"Fuze I dont like what we've all become. Most importantly seeing Ngelozi in that state broke me because i failed her as my child and failed you as my husband. Fuze I raised Ngelozi with tenderness and warmth, when she had wounded knees as a toddler she always ran to me and seeked comfort in my arms, mostly because she knew i was her mother and i had her in my best interests. I shouldn't have stood with the crowd that was ridiculing her and labeling her, i was supposed to work on her side against all odds. "

" But you didn't do that Mafuze, actually we both didn't do that. We both were the root of her pain"

"My husband we need to fix our home, our marriage and our relationship with our eldest daughter. We both need to admit our wrongs and apologize to Ngelozi till she forgives us, we failed her when she needed us the most"

"You right mafuze but i did plead with her come back home"

"We need to do more than that"

"I think its best i disclose who her mother is"

"Makhosonke that's risky and dangerous"

"We have no choice, already she knows you not her biological mother, dragging this will be the reason we still in discomfort. I'm tired of this hollowness myself"

"I'm sincerely sorry for everything Fuze"

"I understand maka Ngelozi, i guess i myself i should apologize for making you feel inferior and less significant which wasn't true. Mafuze we men love differently from you, and the fact that there

were things i wasnt saying or doing it didn't mean i love you lesser. In my heart i loved you, i guess my biggest mistake was not assuring you. "

" Fuze its okay, we both were delusional and selfish here. I let jealousy to drive me crazy to such an extent i treated my daughter as threat that's yet to destroy my home. On your side i just wanted to hear these words "I love you and i appreciate your efforts" Thats all i needed to hear Makhosonke "

" Maka Ngelozi i love you, if i didn't love you i wasn't gonna find your nakedness captivating and alluring. If you paid attention, i couldn't resist you each time i saw you i just wanted to hold you and make love to you mama Ngelozi. On the other department i felt like Ngelozi was too exposed to danger, given i knew the kind of woman whom borne her. I knew she was evil and that she would corrupt Ngelozi's head shall she get an encounterment with her. I did all that to protect Ngelozi but MaFuze you knew my heart when we were locked behind doors and sweating on top of each other"

"I wanted to hear the words Fuze. "

"I'm sorry MaNgcobo, i will do better starting from today"

"You promise Fuze?"

"I promise my love"

"I love you still Makhosonke, in you i still see the man who captured my heart, by risking to go to work with a baby on your back. I still love you Fuze"

"I love you too MaFuze and I'm sorry for everything" She looks at me. I move closer and kiss her..

Hawulesizwe

I've been trying to articulate and digest what Ndandatho said last night but the dots are not connecting there's no way that i Hawu would be a Jali, not in a million years. She's trying to cloud my mind and confuse me, but why would she make up such a lie? No man! This is confusing and worrisome. I mean I look nothing like Ngcolosi, Zimele or Nhlonipho. I just look like my father, uKhuboni. Ndandatho is misleading me, she's pushing a mission of her own..

I wish Lungelo could stop banging the door, I've been ignoring her by now it should've clicked i dont want their mundane breakfast.

"Hawu please open"

That stupid and strange feeling crawls in yet again. I dont understand what it is or what it means but it is accompanied by a pinch of fear, strange noises and movements in my stomach and a slight thunder on my back. My body changes in a split second, feeling foreign things and weakened. "Warrior!"

"I'm coming" I slowly make my way to the door, i turn the handle. There she is radiant as always.

"Can i come in?"

I make a way for her. She sits on my bed and i stand behind the closed door, glaring on her.

"I'm ready"

"Ready?"

"To leave"

I look at her. "You made yourself clear yesterday about wanting me gone, now let's go"

"Gabi i didn't mean it in a bad way" I say making my way to the bed, i lay there facing the roof. "Hawu you want me gone and I'm leaving"

"Can we go there later"

"Why not now?"

"Because I'm tired"

She flaps her eyelashes while squinting her eyes. "What is wrong with you? First you skipped breakfast and locked yourself up. What's going? Are you sick maybe?" I flap my eyes while glaring on her. "Hawu I'm talking to you"

"How old are you again?"

"17"

"Didn't you say you were 18?"

"Of course i lied. I will be 17 soon"

"I see."

"Now back to my question what's wrong with you?"

"I think I'm sick"

"Really?"

"Yes"

"Let me see.." She says climbing my bed, she puts her hand on my forehead. Stupid me is looking right inside her eyes, she's so beautiful just like Ndandatho. Her soul is so sweet and lovable. "Your forehead is not hot" She says laying besides me. "I will stay here with you till you loosen up"

I swallow hard, as she puts her hand around my waistline those hilarious feels crawl back. "Gabi can you please remove your hand"

"Why?"

"Its making me uneasy"

"How so?"

"Gabi just remove it"

"Okay" She removes it, i turn my back against her. "Why are you facing that side?"

"Because its comfortable when laying on this side" I'm lying, I'm erected.

"Okay"

"Yeah... Did you eat?"

"Yes"

"Is my mother around?"

"No she mentioned something about going to the market"

"I see"

She moves closer to me. "Warrior"

"Mmmm"

"Please face this side"

"No"

"Please"

"Gabi you still a kid" That slips out of my mouth. "I know I'm kid, just look at me plesse"

"Okay.." I turn to face her. Her eyes make me weak, my heart beats faster than ever. "Can you kiss?"

"Huh?"

"Can you kiss?"

"Yeah i do know how to kiss why asking?"

She narrows her brows and flaps her eyelashes. "Teach me how to kiss" i choke on my saliva. "What?"

"Teach me how to kiss"

"Gabi i cant do that. I think we should get out of here, what do you think?"

She cups my face and puts her leg on my waistline. Sweet jesus, deliver me from temptations. "Gabi stop it"

"Please teach me how to kiss, i wont tell please"

"You and i are going outside for a walk."

"Hawu please"

"No Gabisile Buthelezi!"

"Hawu open this door!!" My mother shouts from outside, Gabi jumps in fear. "Is that girl in here? Open this door before i kick it down!!"

We both look at each other.

Ma-maseko

I hope Hawu is not up to no good or his mischievous doings of stripping girls naked.He really cant do that on a kid, i dont want trouble not when things are this bad. He opens the door, the Gabi girl is seated on the edge of his bed. "What are you doing in here Gabisile?"

"Mama i.. I wanted to"

"Shut up!! Just shut up and get out of here. Didn't your parents teach you about men making babies? Do you want to walk in your sister's steps?" I bark. My son glares at me with his brows narrowed and his eyes looking at me in the most discomforting way." GET OUT NOW!!!

"Gabi runs outside. " What is your problem Hawulesizwe? Do you want to leave all these girls pregnant? What is wrong with you huh?"

"You tell me"

"Tell you what? Dont annoy me Hawu, if you dare touch that girl i will kill you, you hear me? You can't go on whoring and moaning even on toddlers"

"Who said i wanted to sleep with her"

"Why was your door locked?"

"I didn't touch her ma!"

"You think i believe that? You've always had cases of sleeping with people's children since childhood!!"

"Maybe none of that would've happened had you not been a harlots yourself!" I slap him so hard. "What did you call me Hawu?"

"A slut!"

"Excuse me?"

"You busy labeling me, while everything is your fault."

"How is your whoring and obsession on women my fault huh? Did i make you sexual active Hawu?"

"Maybe i take after you, after all an apple doesn't fall far from it's tree!" I choke on my saliva.

"You are a conniving harl" He doesn't finish his sentence because of the thunderstorm that has landed on his faces. My hands are trembling, so are my lips. I'm trying to gather my thoughts as to how does Hawu hold such information, like where is it coming from? Knowing King Ngcolosi he wouldn't bring himself to telling the truth about Hawu. He struggled for years to come clean about what Hawu

is to him or his family instead he promised he wasn't gonna allow Hawu to lack anything, he promised he was going to cater for his needs only if i agreed upon keeping him a secret. Now that information is leaked i might be in trouble with both Queen's.

"Hawu i will pretend we didn't have this conversation"

"Who is my father Phoxile?"

"Pardon?"

"Dont give me that bullshit pretense whose my father? Actually why am i Jali? How did i become one instead of a Maseko"

"I dont have time for this rubbish!!"

"Well this rubbish is the reason I'm acting like this mama! Your rubbish is the reason I've been hurting all these girls , i didn't know my true identity explaining why I've been acting like a dog, all thanks to your whoring!!" I raise my hand with hopes to slap him yet again but he blocks it and tightens his grip around it.

" I dont know what you talking about, this is madness Sizwe"

" Well maybe Ngcolosi will know what I'm talking about!"

"Hawu stop with this madness, we gonna be casted with stones. You are not a Jali such accusations and allegations will put us on dire straits"

"All this time you've been quiet mama while i turned into something you knew i wasn't all because of your lies and lacking morals! You are a disgrace!!"

He yanks my hand and walks past me. "Gabisile!!! Gabisile come, We going to the royal house" He shouts from outside.

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Kamaseko

"Hawu!!"

I call out panting and coughing.

"What?"

"My son please! Please Hawu i beg of you not to do anything drastic. Can we sit down and discuss this like adults without allowing emotions to get the better of us my son please"

I cough up badly and kneel before him.

"Please my son, please Hawu. I'm very much aware you infuriated and burning fire but my son what we do now or say will be a biggest regret in the future. Please sit down and allow me to explain everything please"

He glares at me with his eyes, reflecting flames.

"I beg of you my son please." He looks at me.

"I will only do that mama on one condition"

"I will do anything to prevent you from the shame and embarrassment"

"I want to know everything mama"

"No problem i will do that Sizwe"

"Fine! Get up" He says stretching out his hand. I stand up with sweat and tears covering my entire face. We walk to a tree shade, he lays a grassmat for me and a bench for himself.

"I'm all ears"

Where do i begin?

Nozibele

We having lunch as a family, Ndandatho and Zimele are very quiet today and its so unlike them. They even seated further apart from each other. Its pretty obvious there's tension between them.

"Nhlonipho please pass me the jag of juice" Zimele-

"Brother its far from my reach, sisi Ndandatho please pass it over"
Nhlo-

Ndandatho hands it over to Nhlonipho. "Thank you" Nhlo says passing it over to his brother.

I glare on both sides of these of individuals.

"Zimele dont give him mango." Nda-

"Why not?" Zimele asks with an annoyed tone.

"His gonna have a runny tummy"

"But he wants it"

"Dont be stubborn Zimele!"

"Are you talking to me with that tone Ndandatho?"

"I'm asking you nicely and politely not give my son mango but you doing it regardless!"

"Dont yell at me Liyana!" He says with a stern voice. "You playing deaf to what I'm saying, what am i supposed to do for you to hear me!!"
Ndandatho -

"I said don't raise your voice at me!!" Zimele roars so much that Bangi weeps. "Can you two stop it already! Cant you see you scaring off the baby?" Ngcolosi says glaring at Zimele who is huffing and Ndandatho who is weeping.

"What is wrong with you?" I add. They both look at each other. "Ndandatho what's going on?" My husband asks. "Please excuse me my King." She says standing up, making her way towards Zimele to take Gatsha. "Bring my baby"

"Do i look like a lion?"

"Zimele can you snap out of it already you attracting eyes over something stupid and hilarious!!"

"Something stupid huh?"

"ZIMELE, NDANDATHO STOP IT!!!! this is not the right place to discuss and solve your bedroom problems!! Yini ngani?" Ngcolosi shudders. "Actually the both of you must leave this table. We trying to have a decent meal after a long morning of putting Khanya to rest. This nonsense is exasperating!" Ngcolosi says with his stern voice. "My apologies Bhengu" Zimele says softly. "Ndandatho apologize" Boni says glaring at her daughter "My apologies." She says sniffing, she later walks out of the door. We all move our eyes to Zimele "What was that all about Zimele?"

"Excuse me" He says following Ndandatho. "Nhlo please take fruits to your chamber so Ngelosi can snack"

"I will mama, thank you."

We all eat in silence.

Ndandatho

I accidentally bump into Khethiwe, spilling her bucket of water. "Ndandatho!"

"My apologies Khethiwe" I say storming to my private chamber, with my lips quivering. I can't believe Zimele addressed me in that manner, in front of his family. He had no right to ridicule me, actually I'm

packing up my luggages going home. After all he made it clear I'm not needed here throughout the night. He's been giving me a cold shoulder since morning, guess what I'm leaving with my mother. I get a hold of a cloth, I stuff my clothes and that of Bangizwe. I even get a reach of my toiletries, tears are dropping mercilessly so is mucous. The door swings open, I don't even bother to take a look at what is happening or whose here. I continue packing.

"What are you doing?"

I keep quiet. "I'm talking to you Ndandatho, what the hell are you doing?"

"Doing what I should've done ages ago!"

"Excuse me?" I ignore him and pace around the room searching for anything that belongs to me.

"So you gonna pack up each time we have a fall-out Liyana?" I ignore him.

"So you think running away will undo the mess you've caused?"

"Zimele I'm sick and tired of having this conversation. I've apologized for having a gift that makes me do things that I never intend of doing. I'm sorry okay!!!"

"That's where your problem is, playing victim each time you mess up Ndandatho instead of apologising and seeing things from a different view, which isn't parasitic."

"I've been apologising what more do you want me to do Zimele? Strip myself naked so you can see I'm sorry huh?"

"Shouting at me won't make your points valid, talk in a calmer tone instead of screaming. Another thing you apologising to a wrong individual, you owe Hawu an apology not me"

"Apology of telling him the truth?"

"Liyana stop being stubborn and take accountability of your actions!"

"I dont have time for this, I'm leaving!!"

"Fine, go ahead. You think I'm going stop you? Go on, but my son is going nowhere!!"

Now that hurts, so very much. He cant even debate me out of it? Wow Zimele is evil, no wonder he is warrior.

"Where i go my son goes!!"

"Do you have a sperm? Can you impregnate yourself? If the answer is no dont repulse me, if you want to leave Liyana do it alone without my son!!"

"Did you push a head out of your vagina Zimele? If not you have no damn son!!!"

I roar on his face. He glares at me with his jaw clenched. "Liyana dont push me you hear me? Dont challenge me, you wont like the monster you will see. Leave alone and when you give birth to that child, I'm fetching her as well. As for you i care less about you!"

"I hate you Zimele!!"

"And i hate you more!!"

"What did you say Zimele? You hate me?" I cry hysterically, then start punching him. He stands still glaring at me. "You are evil!!"

"You are a beautiful devil"

"Zimele you insulting me!" I stop punching him and embrace him.

"Hold me moron!"

"That will delay your trip to your father's house"

"Damn you!!!!" I unhook myself and roughly pull the stuffed luggage attempting to pull it, i accidentally trip and hit the corner of the bed so hard. I blurt out a loud scream. "Ndandatho!!" He runs towards me. "My baby Zimele! It's your damn fault!" I curse wincing in pain.

Hawulesizwe

"I was young, beautiful and full of life, and your father was so handsome and all charming. Falling for him was the easiest thing to do. I knew our little taboo wasn't going to last and that he would choose his family over me but it felt like a right thing to do Sizwe. Maseko was very abusing towards me and your father was able to kiss away the pain, by touching me and whispering sweet nothings. Hawu hurting you wasn't my intention, i was young and at the stage of making mistakes, its unfortunate you became a visible reminder of that careless mistake "

I swallow hard.

" So Ndandatho was right? "

" Ndandatho told you this? "

" Yes.. Last night"

"That girl!!"

"Why didn't you tell me all along ma?"

"Because it was the best thing to do Hawu"

I look at her and heave the longest sigh.

"Does he know about me?"

"Yes"

"Wow! So all these years he said nothing to me knowing this information ma?"

"It wasn't his place Hawu"

"But still mama!"

"Hawu appreciate the little he gave you and did for us, had it been someone else they were never ever going to look back and offer a helping hand. Remember son you not royal you are deep dark secret!"

"But it doesn't change the fact that he knew about me and that he watched me play with Zimele thinking we were friends while we were more than that mama!"

"Hawu like i said it wasnt his place"

"You taking sides mama and that hurts deeply"

She swallows hard. "Sizwe I'm sorry my son"

"Lets go to Thuthukani, i want this truth out of the closet so i can move on with my life as Hawulesizwe Jali not Maseko"

"Hawu that will invite trouble"

"I'm tired of living a lie, I've been doing that for years. Now i understand why Zimele couldn't bring himself to killing me that day. It's because we are family"

"Hawu can we not do this please. "

"Mama we doing this today!"

"Kodwa Hawulesizwe"

"Mama lets go please"

"Fine" I look at her with my palms sweating, i cant believe mom and Ngcolosi hid this for years. As for Gabi I'm gonna take her to her parents tomorrow right now I'm focusing on me. "Lets go"

She says standing up..

Ngcolosi

I'm seated on the sofa sipping whiskey with thoughts wandering in my head. I think tonight i should tell my entire family about Hawu, i really kept this lie for years now. I can't take it anymore, its weighing on me. "Son you can always talk to me" i look behind me.

"I've been observing you for the past few days Ngcolosi, you not your usual self. Share the load with me if you cant share it with your wife"

"Eehm ma theres no easy way to say this"

"You committed adultery isnt it?" She faintly smile."I wont judge you Ngcolosi" She says coming to sit besides me. "I'm a good listener, i once lended you my ears when you wanted to confess impregnating Nozibele. I'm still that mother or friend Ngcolosi. "

I look at her with worry. "Mama can i narrate everything after finishing this whiskey?"

"You slept with mama Maseko didn't you?"

"Excuse me?" A familiar voice says behind us.

My eyes land on my beautiful wife. My mother and i glare at each other. "You did what Ngcolosi?"

"MaJali please calm down"

"Dont tell me to calm down Ngcolosi!! You did what?"

"Mama please excuse us"

"Fine" She says standing up "You did what? start talking Ngcolosi!! Before i bash you with that whiskey bottle!!"

"Nozi calm down"

"Dont tell me to calm down not when you cheated on me with my beauty product provider!! Dont tell me to calm down!!Yazini if you wont say anything, that harlot will!!" She says storming outside.

"Nozi can you hear me out please!!"

"Did you or did not sleep with her Ngcolosi?"

"I didn't"

"Stop lying!!"

"Nozibele i didn't sleep with her!!"

"Do you see a board written stupid on my forehead huh?"

"My love i did not sleep with her, just hear me out!!"

"If you didn't sleep with her who did?"

"Nozi come on, you blowing things out of proportion!!"

"I will show you proportions Ngcolosi watch and see!!!" She walks towards Buthelezi. "Buthelezi take me to Hawulesizwe's house"

"Buthelezi dont do that"

"Ngcolosi dont annoy me!!! YOU TAKE ME THERE NOW!!!"

"Buthelezi if you still love your job here you will do no such thing"

"You protecting your mistress?"

"NOZIBELE JALI STOP THIS MADNESS OKAY!!"

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Ndandatho

Zimele is massaging my belly, Worry is written all over his face. We both haven't said much after my little hiccup which was something

not huge but because i want him to feel a pinch of care and love for me, I'm pulling some gimmick stunt explaining why his massaging my belly.

"Is it better now?"

"Not yet"

"Ndandatho you need to be careful, please"

"You were yelling at me Zimele, so i missed a step and fell"

"I'm sorry okay?"

I nod. "But next time be careful with my daughter Ndandatho"

"I will Bhengu and I'm sorry for everything"

He heaves a sigh. "I mean it Zimele."

"MaJali junior, the problem will be Hawu disclosing who told him these news to my father. My biggest fear is my father insulting you for meddling in his business, you know how brutal he can be. I'm not against your gift and all that, I'm sorry if i made it sound like i hate it. "

"I know, I was wrong with my style of approach, maybe i should've done what i did with Fuze"

"Maybe you need to be initiated properly, you need an instructor or mentor Ndandatho"

"Come to think of it, i never had one"

"See? You need a proper training with cons and pros"

"I guess my grandmother will guide me"

"I thought of such things a person meant to shape you will appear in your dreams"

"Thing is i dont understand how my gift works"

"Be patient with it but the next time you are assigned to assist someone, use a different approach to helping them. Ask questions my love, instill that sense of confusing or introspection, leave people asking themselves questions shall they need clarity from you only then you can dish out what you know out of their will Ndandatho."

"That was my rachel sin Jali and I'm sorry about it because honestly the truth was gonna come out with or without my control. After all the gods have ways of revealing the unknown"

"I understand you did it for Gabi of which you knew she wasn't going to suffer in the hands of Hawu. Her safety was guaranteed Ndandatho, all you needed was a proper approach after all we must have empathy as humans"

"I'm sorry Jali, i guess i will dance to the tune soon. Can we never argue again please"

"Fine, no argument and no stubbornness Ndandatho"

"I promise to do better. I will allow you to be a head"

"I would love that. I'm sorry for being hard on you"

"I love you"

"I love her more"

"She's in my belly"

"And she is my sperm"

"This baby is so gonna take my spotlight"

"Definitely" We chat a little till a peaceful slumber knocks on our doorstep.

Nhlonipho

I'm leaning against the wall, watching her pack up her clothes. I really wish she could stay here with me. I've gotten used to sight of seeing her face first thing in the morning and last thing at night. Her leaving is really saddening. "Mafuze"

"Jali"

"Is there something i can do for you stay a little longer two more days please"

"Nhlo"

"Please my flower, a night with you is all i ask. I want us to sneak on the moon and stars like we always did. I want us to take a walk like the old times, before you go please"

"Nhlonipho we both know i shouldn't be staying here out of wedlock"

"I understand and i will fix that but can we make tonight about us and our love please"

"Fine Nhlo" I smirk then make my way towards her. I wrapped my hands around her waistline, then slowly and carefully nibbled her neck and the back of her ears. With my hands squeezing her boobs.

"Baby girl"

"My Prince"

"Is it safe to make love to you?"

"I dont follow"

"Is it dry in there?"

"We can try"

"Try?"

"Making love"

"You not bleeding?"

"Today it's safe and clean"

"Fine." I turned her slowly to face me, our eyes locked taking me to memory lane. This how she looked at me the night I took her virginity, her eyes gave me comfort and permission to do as I pleased with her body, soul and mind. This is how she looked at me when I gave her a first kiss, this is how she looked at me when she asked me to touch her and give her that strange yet pleasuring feeling, I had given her in the bushes. This is how our love story began. It was these eyes that captured my heart, just like her name. I saw an angel in her, and in her wings I am safe and sound.

My mother has shown me love a countless times but the love I found and drank from the lips of this woman, is a greatest love of all. She's been my strength when I was weak, my voice when I couldn't speak, My eyes when I couldn't see. She saw the best there was in me. Like the angel that she is, she gave me wings and made me fly. It's been hard but living without her was more harder.

"Why are you looking at me like that Nhlonipho?"

"I just remembered our childhood memories." She giggles shyly. "Just yesterday we were skinning our knees and learning ABC's and climbing trees and hills" I say with a smirk. "Running freely in the fields and arguing over stupid things." I add.

"Stupid things like what came first between an egg and a chicken. I remember arguing with you till you cried, that day you swear our friendship was done Ngelozi not knowing it was only the beginning" She blushes, while I brush her lips with my thumb. "I remember when your boobs were maturing, I laughed at you."

"You were stupid and annoying Nhlonipho"

"But you loved the annoying me"

"No way, i loved eating your lunchboxes. I still dont understand why your mother made you lunchboxes just to get your skin roasted by the sun. You had food just to go play"

"I guess you would've done the same thing for Khanya"

"I suppose so."

"We had joy, we had fun, we had seasons in the sun. But the hills that we climbed were just seasons out of time." I say pressing my forehead on hers. "As much as we were taught ABC's but i was taught how to love you, care for you and tolerate you as annoying as you were. I loved you the very first time we started arguing over silly stuff, how you would insist to walk me home even when we had fought and got each other angry. If given the chance to choose a lover again, i would still choose you as my biggest mistake. I love you Nhlonipho Jali"

A tear escapes her eye lids, i wipe them with my thumb. "I love you more Ngelozi, i would succumb more and more slaps just for you. I love you maka Khanya"

"And i cant live without you baba kaKhanya"

She cries. I pick her up and carry her to my bed. "Dont cry my flower. Through the lies you were the truth, My world is a better place because of you Mafuze" i press my lips on her damp lips, i gently pull her lower lip and carefully suck on it, she goes for my upper lip. I slowly lay on top of her so i can enjoy the kiss even more.

Ngcolosi

"You cheated on me Ngcolosi and it hurts!"

I said sobbing, Ngcolosi decided on embracing me. "I'm sorry my love, hurting you wasn't intentional but trust me when i say i did not sleep

with her. Can we go to our private space please?" I nod and continue crying. We sit on our bed with both of us quiet. "Ngcolosi tell me the truth please"

I said glaring at him with tears rolling down my eyes "Majali i love you, the truth is I've never ever slept with ka Maseko. "

"Ngcolosi you lying and that is frustrating me, just be honest no matter how brutal the truth is, just slither it like a serpent"

"Honey stop wrecking your mind, there's no threat okay?" I stood up from the bed, headed for the door. "Majali!"

"I wont attack your mistress if that's what you thinking" I slammed the door behind me, walked to the kitchen i need whiskey.

"My Queen the are people outside who would like to see you and thd king"

"What people?"

"Warrior Hawu and his mother"

"The Maseko's?"

"Yes my Queen"

"See them in"

"My Queen" She walks away leaving me tightening my grip around the wine glass that I'm holding. Gods so help me, can i be calm in the presence of these people because my gut tells me there's more to this than i know. Hawu better not be Ngcolosi's son!!

Mrs Maseko

The lady servant's sees us in. My heart is beating on my throat, my legs are wobbly and my entire body is sweating. I'm getting all cold feets, a part of me wishes i didn't come clean. The poor lady will die

after hearing such news. Nozibele walks in to welcome us, she's wearing her beautiful smile as always.

"Bo Ngcamane please come inside, make yourself comfortable. Hawu how are you?"

"I'm very well thanks my Queen and yourself?"

"I'm doing great my boy. Must i bring you something to drink ka Maseko?"

"Yes please"

"Coming" She says swaying her curves and hourglass figure. Ngcolosi appears, with his mother following him behind. He squints his eyes when he sees Hawulesizwe and myself seated on their leather couches. His mother glares on us, then Ngcolosi. Nozi walks in with a tray of cookies, glasses and juice.

"Ka maseko and Hawu.." Ngcolosi says looking uneasy. "Greetings King Jali" Hawu says with his husky voice. "To what do we owe the visit?" Ngcolosi asks glaring at me. "Ngcolosi its time"

"Time for what?"

"The truth"

"What truth?" He says staring at his mother. "Hawu knows" He blinks endlessly. Nozibele looks at me, then Ngcolosi with her arms folded and her lips pressed, her eyes reflect pain and disappointment if not discomfort. "Phoxile this is not the right time"

"When is the right time Ngcolosi huh? So you want this little shenanigan of yours to go on even longer?" Nozi-

"Nozibele can you stop okay?" Ngcolosi -

"No i cant do that Ngcolosi, not when i do not know what is happening!" She says with tears dropping. I suppose she's been suspecting something and poor her pushed back her tears for a little while longer and right now she's bursting. "Nozi please"

"Phoxile have you been sleeping with my husband?" Nozi-

"My Queen can we all calm down please"

"Calm down? Gosh she's saying i should calm down just like her boyfriend said" She says calmly. Ngcolosi looks at me then her mother.

"Ngcolosi i think it's about time we both tell the truth, this pretense and deceit cannot go on" I say.

"What is going on here?" Gezekile.

" Ngcolosi start talking already! "Nozi

We both look at each other for a little while.

"Mama i dont have time for this, I'm leaving" Nozi says attempting to walk away. Ngcolosi grabs her arm "Nozibele sit down"

"Let go of my arm Ngcolosi, what is hard about confessing your cult? Huh?"

"I told you several times that did no such thing as that, sit down and stop acting up"

"I would be acting up if you were honest and never deceiving Ngcolosi, I've been asking you about all the worst case scenario but you still denied it, even now!!" She roars.

"My Queen please sit down" I say softly glaring at Queen Gezekile who is staring at me to my discomfort, Hawu looks at me. "Is he a Jali?" Gezekile says, suddenly Nozi standstill. "Yes"

Nozibele blinks endlessly, till she breaks down so sorrowful. "And you kept it a secret?" Gezekile says with a stern voice and tight face.

"I'm done Ngcolosi! I'm leaving! How could you? Both of you how could you do such a thing to me huh? Do i deserve this? Wena Phoxile I've been nothing to you but a good friend, i treated you with love and respect, i cared for son like he was mine not knowing you were showing my husband your nakedness "

" Nozibele can you please lis... " She cuts Ngcolosi short" Dont you dare Ngcolosi, dont you dare tell me to listen! You cheated on me and Hawu is a product of it"

"Nozibele i never slept with her why dont you listen kanti?" Ngco

"If you didn't sleep with her, how come Hawu is a Jali Ngcolosi? You still denying as lucid as it is!!" Zimele walks in. "Ngcolosi dont make us fools, just admit your wrongs!" Gezekile -

"Mama i did not sleep with her"

"If not you then who?" Gezekile -

"Mama just say it already please" Hawu-

"Queen Nozibele, your husband is telling the truth. He has never touched me" They all look at me, mostly the mother. "Talk Phoxile!"

"Mama, ubaba wasn't the Saint you thought he was." Ngcolosi -

"Queen Gezekile, I'm sincerely sorry for.. For" I swallow hard. "Hawu is not my son but my brother" Ngcolosi -

"What??" They all say.

She looks at me panting, while covering her naked body.

"Well its time Nhlo"

"Do you really have to leave today instead of tomorrow?"

"My love, i want hear what father has to say. I'm very much certain it has everything to do with my mother"

"Your mother? What about her? Shes the one who gave you the beating that left marks on your body?"

"I meant my biological mother"

I lift my eyes to glare at her.

"What biological mother Ngelo?"

She blinks endlessly, then moves to my direction. I rest her egg head on my chest "Isn't it i have a big head, hers is an egg head"

"My flower talk to me"

"I found out MaFuze is not my mother but my step mother"

"What?"

"Yes.. So i think by going back home my father will tell me the truth"

"Why am i hearing about this now?"

"Its not like you would've known who my mother is" I look at her. Does she really have to be this blunt and brutal? Some partner i have.

"Ngelozi I'm not fighting okay?"

"I wasn't fighting too"

"Can we drop it before we fight, are you gonna bath or something?"

"I cant go home smelling like a goat"

I narrow my brows "So i smell like a goat?"

"That's not what I said"

"Ngelozzi?" She giggles. "We've been bathing with awful things so we smell like goats"

I chuckle. "How did I fall for you exactly?"

"Do me again and stop talking a lot"

"Do you what?"

"You know Nhlonipho"

"Know what?"

"This" She says demonstrating with her hands. "A normal kid would be anxious about knowing who her mother is instead of asking scary things"

"You complaining?"

"Not at all but you weren't comfortable Ngelo. I don't want to see you in pain"

"A good pain Nhlo"

"There's no such thing, let me bring you water"

"Come on Nhlo"

"Ngelo not when you were in pain, I love you so much my love to watch you in pain"

"You sound like a father now"

"I could've been one" I say jumping out of bed, I reach for my clothes.

"You look good"

I chuckle "I'm no longer ugly?"

"I never said you were ugly Nhlo, I said you had a big head"

"Yours is tiny like a bean"

"Which bean?"

"Yooh! I'm out Ngelo" She giggles..

Hawulesizwe

Queen Gezikile is glaring at my mother, i can't describe how she looks like but confused is a better word if not denial.

"Ngcolosi repeat what you just said, you said Hawu is what?"

"Ma kiyng Jali the second was not a saint"

"Stop telling me rubbish and get straight to the point!" She lashes out.
"Ka Maseko and dad had an affair and Hawu is my half sibling. " Queen Gezikile glares at me then my mother.

"I once eavesdropped on fathers conversation with grandpa. Father told Mkhulu about his adulterous act, and that a child was involved. Khulu advised father to keep Hawu a secret and the little shenanigan of his with Mrs Maseko. It didn't stop they kept on seeing each other from time to time, at night father would sneak to her room while you slept peacefully. They dated till father's last days "

"Is this true Phoxile?"

My poor mother blinks profusely, while fiddling with her. "I'm talking to you!!"

"I'm sorry my Queen"

"You sorry? For what exactly? Seducing my husband and conceiving this disgrace or sorry for being a royal harlots and destroying people's home's? What are you apologising for exactly?"

She called me a what?

I glare at Zimele, then his mother.

"Talk dammit!!"

"Queen mother I'm sorry, i never meant to harm you"

"So you not denying it?" My mother keeps quiet. "So that was my thank you Phoxile, for treating you like family and a daughter of mine? Was it really necessary for you to strip naked in front of my husband? Knowingly i was feeding you, clothing you and putting butter on your table? Was it necessary for you to bite the hand that was feeding you?"

" My Queen I'm sorry, i was young and crazily in love"

"Crazily in love with my husband huh?" She shouts, so much that starts coughing.

"This witch has the nerve to say she was crazily in love with my husband! The same man i had to beg with my knees on the ground for her to be a bitch on these premises!!!" She yells again.

My mother though, couldn't she keep quiet instead of rubbing it in? Some liver she had to parade naked for an old man.

Ngcolosi

"Ma calm down"

"Dont tell me to calm down not when you helped this witch in keeping her little secret!You get out!! "

"I did it for you ma."

"Did it for me by siding with witch?"

"Ma i knew how much you loved dad and how you saw an angel in him. I couldn't bring myself to watching you die a slow poison death"

"Did i ask you to do that for me? Did i ever portray myself as weak for you think and feel on my behalf? " She roars with a trembling voice.

"You didn't have too ma, but my love for you pushed me into doing it ma "

"Phoxile you still here? I said GET OUT!!!!" She barks yet again, making her to cough evenmore. Ma Maseko stands up, so does Hawulesizwe.

"I'm sorry my Queen, i sincerely am. "

"Sleep with your eyes wide open, because failure to do so. I'm gonna kill you!!"

"Ma can you please calm down please"

"LEAVE MY HOUSE!! ACTUALLY PACK YOUR LUGGAGES AND PISS OFF FROM MY GROUNDS, YOU ARE BANNED!!! "

"My Queen I'm sorry, I'm very much sorry. Please dont send us packing please my Queen. We have nowhere to go please"

"You should've thought of that before moaning for my husband!"

"My Queen please! At least send me packing but not my children. I beg of you"

"Leave them for what? So they can fight my blood for this throne? Everyone knows about what illegitimate kids do on fertile soils. Take your rubbish and leave. These grounds belongs to the Jali's and as a Jali, I've spoken! Take your garbage and leave!!"

"Ma lets go" Hawu says with his jaw clenched, he is livid.

"Listen to your little immoral sin and piss off. This ill mannered son of yours is no Jali, get lost!!"

Hawu steps outside fuming in anger.

Zimele glares at me, so does Nozibele. Zimele rushes outside, surely his running after Hawu.

Ndandatho

I'm humming a song while walking to the royal house with a basket of spinach, balancing under my armpits when Hawu roughly pushes me over, so much that i stumbled upon a wall. I'm left trying to catch a breath, while glaring at him.. I've never seen Warrior this angry. In a split second i spot Zimele running after Hawu. I'm standing here wondering what could be going on.

"Warrior wait up"

"Zimele i dont want to talk, not now or tomorrow!!" Hawu roars. "I'm on your side not against you, come on"

"I dont need your pity, just met me please" He says storming away. Zimele heaves a long sigh while glaring on Hawu. He has his hands on his head, i slowly move away from the wall. Zimele turns to look behind. "And now what are you doing there?"

I look at him and say nothing. "Who plastered you on that wall?" I blink endlessly. "And what happened here? Why are these spinach leaves on the ground?" I heave a sigh "Warrior Hawu accidentally walked passed me so I dropped those"

He chuckles. "Poor thing" He says bending to pick up my leaves. Mama Maseko walks out crying hysterically. She looks at me then Zimele.

"You should be proud of yourself Ndandatho, all thanks to your mighty gift my children are outcasts and we will have no home. Go on and clapped your hands, Your mission is accomplished" I swallow hard. "Ma i dont follow"

"I should've known, i was harboring a snake that was gonna bite me. I regret the day I met you and gave you shelter. Now i see why your step dad wanted to sacrifice with you, you would make a great and poisonous medicine because you are evil and selfish!!"

I blink endlessly" I will pray to my forefathers to for your gruesome pregnancy delivery, see my tears Liyana? They will plant a very bad omen on you and that baby you carrying "

" Whooa!!! Whooa!! Just hold it right there mama Maseko. Dont curse my baby not when you brought this upon yourself " My husband says, walking towards me as tears are rolling out of my eyes." The hills have eyes, Ndandatho " She walks away." She cursed me! She just cursed me Zimele! "I cry." Dont mind her, shes bitter because her little secret came put"

"Zimele there's power in words, she just cursed me and i might die delivering this baby"

I say paranoid and frightened..

97 (finale)

Few months later

Ngelози

Its been a couple of months since i found out the truth about my mother, it was heart breaking at first but now its all healed. I would've wished and wanted to have a relationship with my mother had she been gentle at heart and all generous to other human beings, sadly the version I've seen or experienced of her isnt a pleasant one hence i was motivated to living life without her just like she managed to live hers without me. I'm content and happy with my life and family as it is. Mom apologized for everything, same thing with dad. Life has been harmonious and recuperating, especially with Nhlonipho loving me more than ever and treating me like an egg. I've been happy and at peace throughout the previous months. I've even forgot i lost a baby along the way, that's how peaceful my life has been.

But lately something has been happening to me again but this time around its different from previously. I'm always active and less hungry, i hardly sleep and hardly weep. I'm forever happy and longing of him. The only similarity is that i haven't had my periods in three months now, Nhlonipho is happy and I'm scared of history repeating itself, while the father is doing everything in his powers to make sure we end up wife and husband. My parents don't know as yet, i was advised to keep quiet but obviously mothers knows best. She's being inquisitive lately, saying how I'm gaining weight and how my skin tone is changing. My father says a simple "Should i be worried MaFuze" and when i say "No" He faintly smiles like he doesn't buy it.

Surely you know what it is happening, there's bun in the oven and right now I'm forced to eating bread and butter because he doesnt want his baby to be "Skinny"

"Ngelo finish this sandwich"

"I'm not hungry nje"

"My flower please, my baby will be tiny"

"Nhlo I'm full"

"Ngeloz..." I glare at him and have his sandwich either way. While brushing my belly and myself seated between his legs. "Fine, but shall i be fat you will carry me wherever i want to go"

"Why are you bullying me though?"

"Because i love you"

"Some dangerous love you have"

I giggle. "Cant wait to be Mrs Jali"

"Those people are fighting me left, right and center. You know how hard it is my love"

"I'm just glad you fighting for our love."

"I love you MaFuze"

"Me too"

"Are your parents suspecting you?"

"Yes, mom mostly"

"I'm sorry i brought you here yet again"

"Its my fault too."

"I just want these people to grant me permission to marry you. I cant take it any more"

He says brushing my arm as we glaring on nature. Like i said we now love each other more than ever.

Ndandatho

Milani, whose name means "Growing/growth" is very a handful baby. She cries for no apparent reason, even after having her nappy changed or being fed. This baby girl doesn't mind crying for hours without stopping. Its even worse when Zimele isn't around, she happens to love the father more than me which I've made peace with. To think i nearly died when bringing her in this world, only for her to prefer a person who can't even push a peanut, anyway its okay, I'm happy mother. Who am i kidding? My little owl birdie is using me for my milk and not happy about it. On the other hand she betrayed me by taking her father's looks just like her brother. All my kids want to look like their father but not me and that is another betrayal. Why are the gods doing this to me? So much hate for such a beautiful lady, but I'm Fine! Yes i am fine. ***Rolling eyes ***

Bangizwe is now a year old, this father of his that happens to be a warrior, is already giving him tutorials on how to fight, my poor kid

fumbles everyday. But i am lenient with him, after all his only a year old not twenty something. He can't be good at it as yet, but with time he will be better. By the way i have a little bit of a hiccup here with this human being that i happen to call my son. Gatsha is my son but saying i know him or understand him , is a difficult thing to attest. I mean this boy talks less, smiles less, socializes less, he hardly plays nor touches his sibling or better yet kiss her cheeks. Gatsha is so detached and so uptight, even i as the mother i dont get hugs not even kisses. My baby doesn't have friends, he just loves his space, my biggest concern is with his eyes. That kid doesn't have calming eyes, his eyes carry this energy that i cannot describe. If i were to describe them in one word i would say "Lion" His eyes are freaking me out. They beautiful eyes but they also not beautiful. What worries me the most is how quiet he is, Gatsha doesn't talk not that he can't talk but he doesn't talk. I wouldn't say having Milani contributed to it, i feel like his a rude kid. A very attitudinal filled young man. Zimele thinks I'm paranoid but i know my son is not the friendliest species of the world.

"Ndanda my baby is crying"

I glare at him and feed his little spoilt brats. "Where is my son?"

"Where is he? He was here not long ago"

"Zimele please find my son, i hate it when my baby is out of sight"

"Gatsha!!!!"

"Zimele go outside and stop shouting"

"Fine maka Mila"

He stands to go outside. "His here on the veranda"

"Doing?"

"Nothing, his alone. "

I heave a sigh, then stand up.

"His probably hungry" Zimele glares at me. "Warrior"

"Baba"

"Are you hungry?"

"No"

"Come play with Milani"

"No"

"Gatsha she's your sister"

He looks at me, then his father. He walks inside the house, glares at Milani whose laying on the bed. He holds her hand for a second then goes outside. "Zimele i dont like this, i really dont like how my son is"

"There's nothing wrong with him Ndandatho, you worry too much, by now you should've noticed your son is not a socialite"

"I'm forcing him to have friends, i cant allow a loner cow of a child"

"Ndandatho leave my son alone, he is okay and besides his a man. You can't expect him to be a sissy, imagine what kind of a King he would make?" I glare at Zimele. "Dont worry my love, his perfectly normal"

"I can't help but to feel guilty, for giving him a sibling sooner. Maybe his not happy with me"

"Honey relax" I swallow hard then embrace my husband.. "Bangi a very unique baby Nda, it has nothing to do with us having a second baby. If you remember correctly, we once found him playing with a snake. Meaning he is a different kind of a child"

"That alone scares me Zee"

"Honey, our boy is a warrior. Warriors dont smile apart from me"

I smile. "His perfectly normal."

"Fine"

Hawulesizwe

I still haven't gotten used to this truth or reality thing of me being a Jali. I can't even act like one, nor walk like one. This title feels so huge for me to fill in hence I've been against people knowing about it. Ngcolosi has begged me time and time again not to be a stranger at the palace but i can't stand those grounds. They always leave me feeling like a pandemic virus, that is sweeping lives away and leaving children as orphans. I really cant stand the hate in Gezekile's eyes. Queen mother doesn't like me, She can't even hide it. In her eyes I'm the culprit but not the victim. She's making me carry the cross of my parents sins, which is unfair and disheartening because both her and i are victims on this matter. If it wasn't for Ngcolosi, my family and i would've long left these grounds because the Queen was vouching for us to leave to no return. But luckily we had support from Zimele and his father and our home was saved and extended. I now have two cows, Ngcolosi gave them to me. He is trying to play the big brother role which i find suffocating and absurd. I mean I've always been the big guy here not a sibling, having someone play that role to me is bizarrely tiring.

"Hawu"

"Ma"

"Didn't you say you were going to the market?"

"It must've slipped my mind"

I quickly get up, to freshen up. I wear a better looking outfits. I leave my house heading to the depths of Umthombo. By the time i get there, its getting dark but fortunately i find her seated on our little rock,

glaring at the trees and the rivers. She has a flower on her hands, plucking out the petals uttering that "He loves me, he loves me not" Kind of a game. I cover her eyes with my hands. "Don't do that!"

"Hello beauty"

She blushes and glares at me. "Hey stranger"

"How are you?"

"I'm mad and yourself?"

"I'm happy to see your angelic face, I have a gift for you"

She turns to face me with a smile on her face. "And what is that?"

"This" I plug in a flower on her beautiful, long, plaited hair. "Ow! Thank you warrior"

"Do you like it?"

"A lot"

"There's another one"

"What is it?"

I smile. "Come on just say it"

"This"

"Beads?" She says with her eyes popped out and her jaw dropping on the ground "Not just any beads, but beautiful beads for a beautiful Princess" She glares at me with a smile. "Thank you"

"Can I?"

"Yes" I gently pull her hand, then put the wristband on her hairy hand.

"I see you still have my lucky band"

"It's my favourite"

"I see" I kiss her hand then sit besides her. "You look good and you smell good"

"I tried hey." She rests her head on my shoulder, we both glare at the waters. "I missed you"

"I hate to admit but i missed you too"

"Really?"

"I promise"

"That's kind of you"

"I know" I rest my chin on her head. "I love my gifts hey, i should get you something soon"

"I dont like gifts Gabi"

"No way silly, i will get you one"

"No problem then" Our hands interwine, those strange feelings have gotten worse with time. "You are a good friend Hawu"

"And you are a good friend too Gabi. Its strange how the past few weeks you have been my coping mechanism"

"You were there for me when i was kidnapped, its only fair i do the same."

"You've done way too much"

We keep quiet, she lifts her head and her eyes to glare at me. I glare at her. "Can i ask you something?"

"Yes"

"Why do you refuse to kiss me"

"Friends don't kiss"

"Okay" She shifts her eyes. "Do you want me to kiss you?" Damn Hawu! "I would appreciate it"

"Are you sure?"

"Yes"

"Fine" I gently draw her face to my face, our eyes lock for a little while. "I'm gonna teach you how to kiss. First thing first, slightly tilt your head to the side. Making sure our foreheads dont bring forth friction so with our noses, they mustn't rub against each other that will result to the kiss suffocating and.." She presses her lips on my lips, i gently pull her lower lip and suck on it, she does the same thing with my upper lip. We let our lips dance to a tune of their own, she cups my face and deepens the kiss. My hands make their way to her boobs. I gently brush them "Gabi can we stop?"

"I like this"

"Gabi, we friends"

"I dont want to be your friend Hawu i want to be your wife"

"I'm old Gabi, I'm eleven years older"

"I dont care, culture allows a man to be ten years older than a woman. Besides love has no age limit"

"Gabisile, you are a beautiful looking girl, cant you marry your age mate's?"

"Kiss me please"

"Gabi" She sucks on my lips yet again. My stupid organ beats faster than it ever had, i kiss her back.

98(Finale)

Nhlonipho

"Try to eat tonight Ngelo"

"I will"

"Ngelozi I'm dead serious"

"Fine, bye and i love you"

"I love you too"

"I love you"

"And i love you"

"Bye"

"Candy dreams okay?"

"Okay" She smiles, i peck her lips then watch her leave. I turn to go home myself. I find my entire family gathered on the table, they all look at me as i occupy a seat besides my mother. "Greetings elders"

"Greetings Nhlo" They all say, then continue laughing over whatever. My father is glaring at me, which is making me uncomfortable. Since my plea of marrying Ngelozi, things between us have been awkward.

"Where did you go? I've been looking for you."

"I went for a walk"

"With miss Fuze?"

"Zimele please"

"Come on brother, i care. You're my baby brother"

"The pollen on his hair serves as proof that he went somewhere, with someone" Mom adds, they all laugh at me. "Can you all let my son be" Dad says glaring at me. "How are you Jali?"

"I'm doing great baba and yourself?"

"I'm very much happy son"

"Good" I dish up for myself. "So you want to marry Ngelo because you made her twice again?"

"Zimele dont..." I say between my teeth. "Zimele would you please let my son be!" Mom says, Dad pecks her cheek. "We know Nhlo and guess what Son" Dad says. "What?"

"You have twenty two cows remaining in your kraal, meaning your lobola is ready"

"Excuse me?"

"CONGRATULATIONS SON!" I immediately drop my fork. "Meaning baba?"

"You slow Jali, like a tortoise!"

"Zimele can you stop teasing my last born please" Dad says smiling
"You have my blessings Nhlo, marry your woman. You've fought hard in that meeting, now be proud of yourself." I heave a long sigh and cover my face, i cant believe this. "You joking right baba?"

"Not a chance my boy. You love the girl and there's nothing we can do to stand on your way. Besides I've changed a few customs. You are the first royalty to marry a diluted being. Meaning on my grounds, blood wont stand between true love"

"BHENGU!!! THANK YOU SO MUCH BABA, I'M VERY MUCH GRATEFUL AND!"

"Thank your brother mostly" I glare at Zimele "What did he do?"

"He vouch for you to the elders, they blessed you."

"Thank you so much Jali, thank you brother so much"

"Pleasure. But dont be excited brother, marriage sucks trust me"

He says glaring at Ndandatho "Dont start with me Zimele" They all giggle, i cant believe Ngelo and i are gonna be married. "Am i allowed to marry her this weekend?"

"Next weekend"

"Thank you so much."

"Congratulations son" Mom says embracing me.

"I cant wait to see Ngelozi as a wife" My grandmother giggles,the others join. "My poor brother will have a tough time, trust Ngelozi with complicating life. Shes a lunatic that one" Zimele says giggling. There i wont side with her, she's something else. "She will make a great wife honestly" Dad says. "True that my love" Mom says. "Mama Ngelo is telling a story tonight, lets go there please" Ndandatho says excited.

"The kids?"

"We will go with them"

"While you do that my husband and i will go to bed" Mom says, We all shift our eyes to them. "Let me finish my meat sweetheart, then we go to bed" They give each other flirty looks.

"Dont take long, You will find me there"

"I'm coming beautiful " They wink at each other, Zimele and i roll our eyes.

"Goodnight my beautiful people" Mom says standing up jolly. "Good night kids, enjoy your story. Honey wait for me"

"You two are gross"

"Leave us alone Zimele" Mom says pecking dad's lips. "I love you"

"I love you more sthandwa sami" Mom says glaring at dad. Gogo is looking at me with a smile on her face, she's the one who told my little secret. "I will go freshen up so we can go to Ngcobo's house"

"No problem"

"Night Gogo"

"Night my kids" I jog to my private space with joy in my heart, i never saw this day coming anytime soon. The elders were really not hearing anything about it. I'm so happy right now.

Zikhali

"Where is Gabisile?"

"She's probably in her chamber"

"Busani"

"Baba"

"Please go call her, her food is getting cold"

"Fine baba" My son stands up. I glare on Boni. "What?"

"Your daughter is getting out of hand"

"Zikhali not this again"

"This whole stage thing is starting to annoy me. Since her return that girl is acting strange"

"Its adolescence my love, I've noticed that"

"She better not be doing stuffs Boni, i will kill her just like i made her"
She glares at me. Busani walks in "Uphi?"

"She's not in her chamber"

"What?"

"Its dark baba, there's no one"

"Its already dark outside, where could this girl be?"

"I dont know baba"

"This i wont tolerate!" I stand to make my way to her chamber, i knock then open her door. "Khali"

"Honey she's not in here!"

"Surely she's with a friend my love"

"What friend Bonisiwe? That kid will rue the day she started acting like an adult in my chambers. She has curfew Boni"

"Honey surely there's a valid reason for this, can we please wait for her to get back please Shenge"

I glare at her, then calm down. "She better not be on that stage of messing with boys"

"I will talk to her"

"Please do"

"I promise honey"

MaFuze

My children, husband and myself are gathered around a blaze eating corn, while listening to the little ones chatting. I promised to tell them a story tonight and any minute from now i will start narrating the story. "Mafuze"

"Ma?"

"Please go collect more corn from the kitchen"

"No problem mama" She stands up, heading to the kitchen, Makhosonke looks at me. "Is she okay?"

"She's very much okay baba"

"She's changing my wife"

"Alot"

"Is she?" I giggle. His been saying this "Are you gonna kick her out again?"

"I will kick her out after delivering"

"Hhaa Khosonke?"

"I'm joking, I'm just scared Mamakhe."

"Thats my biggest fear as well"

"She is right?"

"She is baba, let's wait for her to come clean"

"Definitely, i dont want history to repeat itself"

"We really cant afford to have that" Ngelozi appears with the corn. I hear voices from the gate, i smile when i see the Jali's. "They here for a story"

"Thats my quest to go hide in my bedroom"

"Fuze come on"

"I will stay then."

"Greetings elders" Zimele says. I spot Ngelozi and Nhlonipho glaring at each other, Young love. We greet each other and do all the formalities.

"Ngelo"

"Ma"

"Please fetch chairs my daughter"

"I will help ma"

"Its okay Prince Nhlo, i got this"

"A pair of hands is better than one"

"But i got it"

"Ngelози its just chairs my daughter, dont be fussy please " I add.

"Fine" They disappear to fetch the chairs. "Gatsha, come to gogo" He comes to me, i put him on my lap. Ndandatho has a rude one with this one. Unlike Milani, the sweetheart who cries endlessly and smiles often. "Nda"

"Ma"

"Are we gonna have more of them?" I tease.

"Hell no mama, these two are enough"

"Zimele isn't attesting to that"

They glare at each other "We not done mama, she's fooling you. We gonna have more"

"No way Zimele"

"This is a warm up ma"

"As long as his joystick still works, more babies are gonna be made"
My husband adds, we giggle. "Thank you Mapholoba"

"If so he has my blessings to have a second wife"

"Hhaibo Ndandatho!"

"Serious Mama"

"Are you willing to share?"

"Already I'm sharing with this jealous little girl"

"Hhayi Liyana dont wish for that."

Hawulesizwe

"Gabi you should get going"

"I like it here, with you"

"Your parents are surely worried"

"No dont mind my family"

"Its windy and dark, i need to go home myself"

"Shall you leave today i know you gonna come back after days
Warrior"

"You staying far remember, i cant walk such miles everyday."

"But still, when granted the opportunity to be together i should make
the most of it"

I heave a sigh. "But its cold now"

"Your arms are warming me"

She says squeezing herself in my embrace yet again. I hold her tight
and kiss her hair. "Tell me a story"

"What story?"

"Any story"

"Mmmmm... I'm not a good story teller "

"At least try"

"I really cant tell story but rather singing. "

"You can sing?"

"Something like that"

"Please sing for me"

I chuckle "Dont you think that will invite witches to our dean?"

"I dont fear witches, please sing"

"Dont laugh"

"I promise"

"Sure?"

"Pinky swear"

"Fine"

I clear my throat, then close my eyes. "I'm joking i cant sing"

"Come on warrior"

"I dont have a talent Gabi"

"There's no such thing as that"

"I promise i cant sing"

"Dance then?" I laugh. "That's even worse"

"Come on"

"I'm being honest, i only fight. Do you have a talent?"

"I can fake one"

"Fake one how?"

"Like singing"

"No way Gabi, you are horrible at it"

"I'm not bad"

"You are horrible, birds will have an accident shall you sing" She laughs. "Then we gonna sit here and do nothing?"

"More like it"

"Boring"

"Let's count the stars"

"I will pee"

"Dont tell me you believe in that"

"Each time i counted the stars i woke up to a wet bed. " I giggle "Sies Gabi"

"Let's walk you home"

"Fine"

"Stand up"

"A want a good night kiss"

"No problem." I kiss her lips for the longest time. "My underwear is damp"

"Its normal" I kiss her neck. "Warrior" She says with a smocky voice. "Yes"

"Why is my body feeling like this?"

"I dont know" I smirk and kiss her neck yet again, she arches her back and puts her hands on my shoulders as she's seated on my lap with her legs on either sides. I move my hands on her back, massaging her shoulders while nibbling her neck. "Ooh!!"

"Are you okay?"

"Yes I'm fine"

"No problem" I kiss her lips yet again, the kiss is getting more and more warmer. My gent rises. "Gabi let's stop"

"Why?"

"I dont want to make you a woman"

"Why?"

"Gabi you are a Princess in case you've forgotten"

"But you kissed me"

"We leaving now"

"You dont like me don't you?"

"I like you"

"Then why are you refusing me this pleasure?"

"This pleasure complicates lives Gabi, especially Princesses hence they call it adults stuffs"

"I wont make a baby, like my sister "

"Gabisile the answer is no"

"Why did you kiss me then?"

"Because you asked me too"

"Had i not asked you, you were not gonna kiss me?"

"I'm not gonna argue with you Gabi, get up now"

"I dont want"

"You want me to kiss you again?"

"No"

I chuckle and kiss her again, she gives in. "I will come back tomorrow, dont be angry okay? For now this adult act is off limits Gabi. You will do no such thing okay? "

"But you gonna kiss me?"

"Yes"

"Fine"

"Now lets go home."

"Fine" I walk her to her palace then jog home.

Ngcolosi

"You will be the death of me someday Nozibele"

"Dont act like you dont like it"

I smirk. "How do you feel about your last born getting married?"

"Honestly i love how responsible and accountable he is. Most boys wouldn't have bothered, they would've done what Hawu did to those girls Bubu and Siziwe. "

"Are you ever gonna forgive the guy?"

"He played those ladies Ngcolosi"

"They were also stupid for allowing him to do that to them.They both knew he was married, why did they have feelings for a married man?"

"You gonna side with him because his your brother"

"Honey sex never benefits one person, but two people. Those girl gave him permission to use them, they had all the power to refuse being used but they allowed it. The only victim here is Khethiwe not those girls"

"Ngcolosi..."

"A person can only use you if you allow it"

She looks at me. "Maybe he took after your father" I giggle. "Maybe"

"So what's the way forward?"

"In terms?"

"Your relationship with his?"

"I wont suffocate him. My focus now is on my son getting married. So proud of him for standing up for what he believes in, I'm a proud father"

"That means two weddings?"

"Yes"

"We are old Ngcolosi"

"Don't include me, I'm very much fresh"

She giggles. "You are Jali. I mean you have two grandchildren, doesn't that spell old "

"Dont remind me, these boys are naughty"

"Your teachings"

"At least their wives will be happy wives"

"Bad father"

"Good father"

"Ngcolosi!"

"What?"

"Dont teach Gatsha those things please"

"I wont."

"I love you still"

"Even though you were acussing me of cheating"

"You acted like a guilty person"

"But i told you repeatedly i wasn't guilty"

"You too handsome okay"

"So being handsome automatically makes you guilty?"

She shyly nods, i roll my eyes. She giggles. Tomorrow I'm writing a letter to Ngelozi's home.

99(Finale)

Hawu

I've touched so many girls in my life, kissed so many, spoken to so many and showed so many my nakedness but I've never felt this way with any of them just like i feel about Gabisile Buthelezi. That kid has this hold on me, i cant go a minute without thinking about her. Each time i call her name my blood boils, a pinch of fear creeps in, bringing shivers down to my spine. Sometimes i feel butterflies dances on my body. She is my ticket to hell, if really what i feel for her is a sin. I've tried for a while now to keep a distance from her and to ignore this foreign feels but they overpower me.

Because everywhere i turn i hear her soft voice, her laughter, i sometimes smell her fragrance in my room. Everything reminds me of her even a bowl she once touched. This little girl is driving me crazy and it's beyond my reach. I once liked Siziwe and felt like she was my world but since my paths crossed with that of Gabi I've realized those feelings were not true but the truth is Gabsile.

"Such a big smile, Your cow delivered?" My smile fades immediately.

"Delivered what? Stay out of my business Lungelo"

"What a grumpy and boring brother you are"

"Dont you have friends or something?"

"I had one, and that was sister Khethiwe. But all thanks to you she left"

I look at her. "I wasn't cut for her"

"Who were you cut for?"

"Lungelo, just get lost please!" I say standing up heading to my house.

"You weird brother"

I ignore her. I switch on the candles to brighten my room. I lay on my bed, replaying the kiss. I bite my lower lip. "Gabisile"

Mrs Maseko

"Lungelo who is that?"

I say pointing at the gate. "Where ma?"

"There's a shadow, look closer"

"I dont see anything"

"Hhayi suka!" I say standing up, making my way to the gate. "Ma its dark where are you going?"

"I'm coming" Before i could go far, i hear baby sobs. "Khethiwe is that you?"

"Yes mama"

"Hhaibo! So late at night? What is going on? Bring the baby here" I say taking the baby from her. "Hhaibo Khethiwe why travel at night with the baby?"

"My apologies ma"

"Wozani" I lead the way to the elders house. She makes herself comfortable on the grass mat, with her head bowed. I wipe Mingo's mucus with my cloth. "Yini Khethi?"

"Nothing ma"

"Why would you travel this late with a baby? It cant be nothing my daughter. Lungelo bring your sister food"

We look at each other. My daughter brings the food and a basin of water. Khethiwe eats without stopping, its evident she is hungry.

"Khethiwe yini?"

"I came to visit ma, besides Mlingo misses his Father"

"Oh! I see. I thought it was something bad sisi"

"Cha ma, i just want to bring Mlingo over"

"Oh okay"

"I will go fix a chamber for you"

"No need ma, i will use Mlingo's father's."

I look at her "No problem" We converse a little till she leaves to her chambers. I missed my grandson, his all grown now.

Boni

"Gabisile i wont repeat myself again!"

"Gabi talk, where were you?" I say with fear of what Zikhali might do to her, cos his breathing fire. "I went to friends house"

"What friend?"

"I went to Buhle's house" She says facing the ground. "You lying!"

"Baba I'm telling the truth"

"Gabisile Buthelezi!! Gabisile Buthelezi stop lying!!" I glare at Zikhali.

"Sthandwa sami where were you? Tell the truth please" I negotiate.

"I was at Buhle's house mama, i lost track of time"

"I see she's still lying! Busani!!"

"Ba"

"Woza lana"

"Oh!! Gabi tell the truth my baby please. You know how your father gets when lies are being told, just come clean"

"Mama i was with Buhle i swear"

"Zikhali she's telling the truth"

"And you think i dont know my daughter when she's lying Boni?"

"Zikhali children lose track of time when playing"

"Bonisiwe let me deal with my daughter, i wont tolerate this rubbish."

"Dont beat her Zikhali"

"Boni step aside!"

"I will talk to her"

"Shes lying cant you see that?"

I keep quiet. "Shenge you called for me"

"Fetch Mduduzi"

I pop my eyes out immediately, Gabi brushes her arm. She's much aware of what's going on.

"uMdu baba?"

"Yes"

"As in the whip you used on us growing up?"

"Hurry up"

Busani walks away. I look at Zikhali "Honey let me talk to her, theres no need for this please"

"Only Mduduzi will force the truth out of her mouth"

I look at my baby with fear and pain. My husband is not a fan of beating up kids but when he does it just know his angry over whatever

that happened. With Gabi its even worse, she's her father's little Princess. He wants nothing with his last born. "Gabi abdicate already just talk"

"I'm telling the truth"

"Here baba"

"Thank you son. Before i start with comforting her with this rod, go fetch Buhle"

Gabi lifts her eyes. "No problem baba"

"Nana where were you?"

She keeps quiet. "Gabi you dont have a mouth?"

"I do"

"Now talk"

"I went to Xoli's house Baba"

"Now its no longer Buhle?" I ask. "See what i meant when i said she's lying"

Busani walks in with Buhle. "Buhle"

"My King"

"When last did you see your friend?"

"I dont follow my King"

"When last did Gabi visit you?"

"Two days ago"

"You didn't see her during the day?"

"I did not my King"

"And Xoli?"

"Xoli was with me throughout the day"

"That should be all, young maiden" Zikhali glares at Gabi "Where did you go?"

"I went to train"

"I went there Gabi stop lying"

"You are the one whose lying Busani"

"Dont scream at me, i will slap you Gabi"

"Slap who? Do you a child her age Busani?"

"But ma she's disrespecting me and top of that she's lying"

"Leave Busani alone, Wena talk"

I look at my husband. "Baba i went to train" Zikhali pulls her hand
"Zikhali hhayi"

"Mama i didn't do anything please"

"Zikhali you gonna hurt my child"

"Gabisile talk or i will tell the truth!" Busani says. "What truth hippo!"

"What truth Busani?" I say glaring at him.

"Ask Gabi"

"Will you talk Busani!!"

"She was with a guy baba"

"You lying Busani!"

"I'm not lying"

"I hate you big foot!!"

"And i hate you more!"

"I wish you were never my sibling! I hate you for lying in my name"

"Weren't you kissing anyone in the bushes? A tall guy huh?"

"She did what?" Zikhali says ready to whip her butt "Mama his lying!! His always been a liar just like he did when he stole my chicken!"

"Uyajola kabi?" Zikhali-

"Cha bo"

"Uyajola?"

"Cha baba"

"Shes lying baba, they were kissing in the bushes, i saw them. I even saw him when he left her by the gate!"

"You lying asshole!!

" What did you just call your brother? "

"Baba I'm sorry"

"Zikhali no" Did he listen? No. My baby's sobs fill the house, my heart is bleeding.

Ngelozi

My mother is a good narrator i love her stories with everything in me.

"And that's how Ndunduma and Phawu ended up" She says.

"So this Phawu married her sister's husband regardless of how Ndunduma felt?" Zimele-

"Yes Prince Jali, she chose to stay"

"I would kill Gabi yooh! Imagine the nerve?" We all giggle. "Like really though, this Phawu girl was sick in the head. Who becomes sister wife with their sister's? Imagine sharing Gatsha's father with Gabi? I would chop her, not my husband"

"Such a jealous lover you are sisi Ndandatho" Nhlo-

"Would you share Ngelozi with Zimele?" My parents look at us, i shyly look down. "I bet you wouldn't agree to that" Dad says. "But culture allows that" Dad says.

"Only when the wife is infertile or in a case of death baba Fuze"

"But still Nhlonipho Jali, it changes nothing. The sisters can share a husband. Mafuze lets go to bed"

"Good night kids and thank you for coming over, next time i will make goodies for everyone "

"Thank you for having us"

They stand up with my siblings sleeping in their arms. We eat corn while glaring on the fireplace. " MaJali let's get going, its already late and my kids are sleeping uncomfortably"

"Why did i become a mother again?"

"You love men" Zimele adds. We giggle. "Nhlo we going home, get up"

"I'm coming Zimele"

"I will walk you out"

I say standing up. Ndandatho and Zimele are the first to leave the yard. Nhlonipho and myself follow them. He joins our hands together "Hey again"

"Hi again"

"You look beautiful at night" I flap my brows. "Its not about the hours, I'm always beautiful just that you haven't been able to get time to admire me"

"Really?"

"Really"

"Thats not true. "

He stops walking so do i. He pulls me to his body "I wonder what kind of a wife are you gonna make"

"A good one. I will serve chicken as breakfast and porridge as supper"
He giggles. "You capable. I wish we were going to bed together"

"Same here. I wish they bless our union"

"It's a pity they against it"

"Lets elope then, thats the only way to make it happen" He furrows his brows "Serious Nhlo"

"Not a chance, Hows the baby in there?"

"Gentle and sweet"

"Thats great. Lets talk tomorrow my love, I'm tired and sleepy"

"Alright good night my love "

"Night" He pecks my lips. I wish they grant us their blessings. I love Nhlonipho and marrying him is my wish.

Khethiwe

"Khethiwe..." He says shocked by my presence.

"Hi"

"What brings you here?"

"I thought you wanted to see your son"

"Of course i do but why this late?"

I keep quiet and glare at him.

"Thank you, i missed my son" He says playing with him. "When are you leaving?"

"I dont know"

"What do you mean by that?"

"I mean just that Hawu. I might stay for a week or so. " His face changes from smitten to worrisome. "What?"

"You can't stay here Khethiwe. "

"Reason being?"

"We separated"

"But you not separated from your son,our son to be specific. "

"Khethiwe i dont have any problem with my son being here dont get me wrong. Its you I'm concerned about"

"Hawu I'm only here to bring your child, you said you missed him so we are here. There's nothing to be concerned about. "

"I wasn't fighting Khethiwe. "

"I wasnt fighting too but you sounded like I'm here to bring you trouble if not discomfort. "

"I'm sorry if i offended you."

I glare at him. This man has changed, he was never like this before. I guess my departure kinda knocked some sense in him to be honest, I'm charmed by the new him.

"I will take the floor and you two can use the bed"

"Excuse me?"

"I said i will make a place for my self on the floor while you and Mlingo take the bed"

"I heard that but i dont understand as to why you would sleep on the floor while your bed is big enough for all three of us. What is wrong with you actually?"

"Wrong with me how?"

"You acting strange Hawu."

"I will go fetch more blankets from mama's house"

"We gonna share the bed Hawu, in case you think we will be intimate forget it, it wont happen."

"I wasn't thinking of that Khethiwe, but rather your comfort especially after what happened the last time you and i were in the same room."

"You mean hurting me?"

He says nothing. "I'm over that"

"Why dont you go sleep with Lungelo?"

"Since when do you suggest such? Hawu yini?"

"Nothing"

I glare at him once again.

"Since you comfortable its fine, we will share a bed but tomorrow please move to another room" I chuckle. "Your bed is a sacred isnt it? Actually only your new fling is allowed to sleep in here but not the mother of your son huh?"

"I dont have time for this. Good night" He jumps on the bed with Mlingo. I undress then join them. "Cant you cover up or something?"

"I hate sleeping with clothes, as my ex husband you should know such"

I move closer to him, making sure my skin sends vibes on his. "You too close"

"Too close for what? I know you want me, you've always had an appetite for me, now here i am do what you please"

He keeps quiet, for a while. To such an extent i have to question if his awake or sleeping.

"Hawu"

"Mmm"

"Are you sleeping?"

"Not yet"

"Can i get a warm welcome, please. "

"No Khethiwe. "

" Hawu i miss your touch. I'm a woman and i still have feelings and needs, needs that only you can help me with."

Or maybe Fuze, i really love that man and i cant hide it anymore. My feelings for him have grown rapidly along the month's, its such a pity i now don't get to see him often like i used too because i now have my own space in the premises.

"Khethiwe i cant. "

"Why not?"

"I dont want to take advantage of your body"

"But I'm asking you right now, it wont be you taking advantage of me but both of us having fun."

"Khethiwe you are a beautiful woman, with a good heart. You don't deserve me or anything involving me. Someone out there loves you and sees you as gold, dont waste your time on me."

"I dont want your heart but your penis Hawulesizwe. "

"And my answer is no."

"Hawu yini ngawe? Since when do you think with your brain and not your penis?"

"Khethiwe you shouldn't be asking such from a man who once hurt you, this is ridiculous. "

"Hawu just spread my legs open and stop bickering, i came here for that"

"Khethiwe i love someone else now"

"Let me guess Siziwe?"

"No"

"Bubu?"

"No"

"Hhayi ke whose the new victim?"

"I will sleep on the floor"

"Hawu please"

"I said no"

"Hawu please" I say planting wet kisses on his back, while intertwining our hands. "Its tempting but i cant"

"Hawu please"

In a blink of an eye the roosters are crowling outside, morning has come but Hawulesizwe hasn't touched me not even once but rather he said a girl's name in his sleep. I know i said i was done with him but these couple of minutes kinder awakened certain things, i got jealous over this "Gabisile" Lady he called in his sleep. His moving on and poor me the victim of his cheating and abuse I'm not moving on but rather

stuck on stupid feelings. Buthelezi once said "You will miss this love, that you throwing away Khethi" I guess that love is catching up with me...

100(Finale)

Mafuze

Have you ever woke up with a broad smile on your face? Feeling like the world is cupped in your hands, like a little limping moth that is depended on your zeal to either aiding it or just letting it die in your hands. Lately i wake up with excessive joy, i cant help it but to flaunt. My husband is now a changed man. I'm treated like an egg the whole me, my feelings and worries are now taken into consideration, i even get appreciation words and randomly kisses that i fail to understand the meaning behind them. The old Makhosonke i met a two decades ago is finally back to the living and its safe he say his giving me good, sweet love and I'm satisfied. This tranquility and excessive joy is the reason i wake up with a broad smile..

"Hhaibo Ngelo lately you beating me to it my baby. The compound is already looking like this?" She swept it and its dazzling. "I woke up early ma and decided upon it"

"Siyabonga ngane yami, but your father will want his cows back saying he married a lazy woman because lately i wake up to such" She shly giggles. "Its no big deal ma. You taught me well i guess"

"Unless this little one is not a lazy baby" She drops her head and fiddles with her hands, She does that when she's frightened or uneasy.

"Ngelo" I lift her chin up with my hands, careful not to bruise her. "Its okay sisi, i know. You can never hide a human being my child. Its alright"

"I'm Unmarried ma and already I've disappointed you"

"Ngelozi look around you, dont you see cows in that kraal?"

"I do ma"

"You know what that means? His family respected us enough to present those cows to us, regardless of who we are and what we are. They treated us with respect, showed us humanity. No royals would do such for the likes of us Ngelo but the Jali's. Married or unmarried I'm happy for you and I'm proud my baby okay? " With that said i gently rub my hand around her cheek. " Thank you mama"

"How far are you?"

"Close to four months i guess"

"Hhaibo Ngelo mosi uyobeletha kungekudala?"

(No way, soon you will be giving birth) She faintly smile. "Ekhaya ka Ngcobo!" Buthelezi says entering my yard with a smile on his face, such a handsome man. "Shenge morning"

"Morning mama, how are you doing today? Ngelo hi"

"We doing great my son we can't complain, that smile tells me you doing great too"

"We hanging in there ma. I was sent to bring this letter to senior Fuze, is he around?"

"Yes but his bathing, you can leave it with me my son i will give it to him"

"Thank you ma, and stay well"

"Be blessed my son" He turns to walk away. "Sabelani"

"Ma"

"Please have tea my son" He smiles. "Thank you ma"

"Ngelo please make Sabelani tea, i wanna go give your father this letter"

"No problem ma"

Fuze

"Baba are you done?"

"Come in MaFuze"

"Is it safe though?" I softly chuckle. "Come in MaFuze, you know everything that's on my body" The door slightly opens, her radiant smile is the first thing i see. I purse lips then glare at her. "Khosonke you not properly dressed" She covers her eyes. "Hhaibo MaFuze ihhaba. Come in woman" She giggles. I put on my underwear, then make my way to the bed. "Baba i brought you this letter"

"What letter?"

"Sabelani just brought it here"

"I hope my sister and her family are doing fine. Letters can be worrisome. Thank you" I peck her cheeks. "Do you mind reading it? I wanna dress up quickly and prepare for work"

"No problem" She opens the letter, i fix my eyes on her facial expression. "What does it say?"

"Greetings Mapholoba, i hope all is well in your home and family. We as the Jali's are writing this letter concerning your beautiful daisy, it has come to our attention you have a beguiling eden with enchanting blossoms. We would really appreciate it if you could give us a date as to when we can come to discuss this further more in person. Please don't keep us waiting, the sun might burn our flower with it's bursts. BABA!!!! "

She covers her mouth, i reread the letter then look at her " Baba!! Baba they asking for Ngelozi's hand in marriage!! Nhlonipho wants to marry Ngelozi!!! Baba!!!! " She jumps on me with excitement. " That boy want to marry my daughter? " I utter in a shock filled tone. "My daughter is getting married baba!! Kuhle okwethu!!!! Halala!!" She ululate in joy..

Khethiwe

Mama walks towards me with a broad smile on her face. "Makoti how are you"

"I'm very well thanks ma"

"Good. Come here lets gossip" She gently pulls my hand leading me to the veranda. She genuinely smiles. "Spill the beans, how was your night?"

"My night was.. Was fine ma"

"You dont have to be shy Khethiwe, i know you adults and that your blood is warm. My biggest concern is, did you mend things?"

I faintly smile. "Well mama it was a just a peaceful night." She smiles. Hawu makes his way towards us, he has our son on his hands. Such a handsome man. "Morning Khethi and Mama"

"Morning son, how was your night?" She says chirpy. "It was just a night" Hawu says glaring at me. "Must i prepare for another baby?"

"No mama we.." We both say in unison. "You still waiting on Mlingo? I understand my children, I'm just happy you put this tension to rest and working on your marriage. I should slaughter for this one" She says standing up, leaving Hawu and myself glaring at each other. "What is going on? Did you tell her we mending things?"

"No.. That's her version of events"

"I see."

I glare at him, so does he. "I'm leaving today"

"Going to Thuthukani Kingdom?"

"No.. My uncles place"

He looks at me. "He hated you Khethi"

"Not anymore, we spoke about it."

"Oh! That's beautiful"

"I'm leaving Mlingo"

He glares at me. "Leaving him how?"

"His a Maseko and as a Maseko he will be raised and shaped" He glares at me. "I want your mother to raise him Hawu."

"You abandoning our child?"

"If his with his father and family its not abandoning"

"Why would you do that Khethiwe? His still depended on breast milk"

"Hawu, i have my own life to fetch. People to mend things with, the last thing i want is another marriage with Mlingo"

"Securing a marriage? What marriage is that?"

"Its not your business"

"It is my business when you ditching our son for a man"

"Like you didn't ditch us for another woman, well women."

He looks at me. "If you found love its fine, i will raise my son Khethiwe"

"Gabisile will surely make a great mother to my son. I mean if she loves a man like yourself , she has to love you with your two kids that's if that Siziwe lady is not pregnant wherever she is because if she is it

means three babies." He looks at me, his slowly getting agitated. I want to mend things with Sabelani, surely he wont hesitate to take me back with Mlingo staying with his father. " Congratulations on your marriage Khethiwe, i wish you well"

"Tell your mother we didn't mend anything"

"You can do that as well, the last time i checked you were friends"

He walks away. I heave a sigh.

Gabisile

I sure hate my father, actually i hate my entire family especially after yesterday. Busani takes a cup. "I want to visit sisi Ndandatho"

"Are you telling us or asking us?"

"Can i"

"You going nowhere"

"Zikhali you being hard on her, let her visit please"

"No, She's going nowhere. Doing that will give her more time to smooch men in bushes" I heave a soft sigh, this backstabber is glaring at me. How i hate Busani right now, i wish i can use my spear on him.

"Dont give me that look" My father says with a stern voice. I look at my food then play with it. "Gabisile finish your food"

"I'm not hungry"

"Gabisile dont make me force you to it"

I open my mouth, then start eating with father giving me ugly eyes. "I should get going my love, i will see you soon" Dad says to my mother.

"I will quickly collect your luggage my love"

"Thank you my wife"

"Gabi please clear out the table"

"Dont we have servants for that?"

"Gabisile do as your mother says" I get up to get my way around it. Where is dad going with a luggage bag? Busani is looking at me to my frustration. Mom and dad walk away "What is wrong with you?"

"Are you talking to me?"

"Maybe the monkey behind you"

"Busani you repulse me, just be transparent. Your face disgust me"

"Why are you getting yourself into trouble Gabi? Since when do you kiss men in bushes?"

"Its not my fault you not getting any kisses, you bitter Busani"

"Have you ever heard of the phrase"Boys bring babies?" Ignore him
"You still pee on your blankets Gabi, you want to embarrass yourself by peeing on a man's blankets?"

"Dont insult me Busani"

"You are crazy wena, actually there's a missing screw in your head. How do you kiss a guy whose taller than a giraffe?"

"Drop it Busani"

"Imagine yourself pregnant with a giraffes baby, what a disgrace. Actually where did you buy those feelings that led you to a grown arse man? Gabi you are sick!! You have a screw missing up there! Sies Gabi"

"Shut up asshole"

"Your boyfriend is ugly too"

"And your father is handsome?"

He giggles. "That guy is father's age. You are a disgrace young lady. I'm starting to think you faked this whole abduction, just to be with that ladder boyfriend of yours that i can i draw with my left foot, even Gatsha can draw that man. That's how grammatical he is" I get a hold of a mug and throw it on his face. "GABI OUCH!!!"

He groans loudly, so much that mom and dad walks in.

Ndandatho

If there's anything I spite the most about being a mother, are the sleeplessness nights of having to breastfeed and rock up a crying who has no reason at all to howl. While their maker is snoring with no damn care about their little business. Its morning, poor me already i feel exhausted and drained, Milani is taking much of my energy. Gatsha was peaceful baby honestly unlike this sister of his. Talking of Gatsha i woke up to him staring at Milani, if not mistaken he was holding her hand but he immediately let it go when Zimele and myself were glaring at him. I know my son is creepy but like any mother i would kill a person who would label my baby as creepy. Only i have the right to call him that. Oh last night i soaked Milani's nappies meaning i have yet another chore as tired as i am.

"Sthandwa sami dont you wish to pamper me today?"

"I'm always ready to pamper you my love, what do you want?"

"Please wash your daughter's nappies"

"Hha Ndandatho! I love you and i would do anything to help you but not nappies baby"

I narrow my brows. "I'm serious Ndandatho"

"Wow I'm hurt."

"You will heal honey"

"Where was i again when women were blessed with good men?"

"You were moaning somewhere in the bushes, at some old abandoned house, asking me to make you a mother"

I playfully punch him. "That hurts woman"

"That's for being handsome and crazy. Did my baby eat?"

"Which one?"

"We both know i have one baby"

"He is refusing to eat, had to take him to his grandmother"

"I think i should run this to my mentor, Gatsha is troubling me"

"At least he loves his sister"

"Yet his shy about it"

"His a true man. I think you need to visit your parents, surely he will be okay. Besides you haven't shown your parents the second baby"

"You right Jali"

"I'm always honey"

"Keep fooling yourself"

He giggles, then kiss his daughter. "I love this girl, I've never loved a woman like i do with this one" I narrow my brows "Excuse me?"

"What?"

"Please repeat what you just said?"

"Wamuhle uMaJali kababa, lana ngoshaya abafana"

"Let me go wash her nappies babe"

"And go to Umthombo"

"What about you?"

"Go without me babe"

"Yooh"

"Thank you" He stands up, heading outside with the baby. I've noticed something, the randomly kisses that were once mine have decreased to none, all thanks to Milani.. The only person he snuggles with is Milani, not me. I didn't know a baby girl takes one's shine. Of course I'm jealous, this is my man. I've sweat for him alone, sharing him hurts.

"Mama"

"Yes" i didn't see him come in. "Manzi"

"Okay baby mommy will give you water" I scoop my son up. "Did you eat?" He nods.

"Are you full?" He nods. "Do you love me?" He narrows his brows. "Gatsha kiss mommy"

"Angifuni" With that said he faces the other direction to prove he doesn't want. Mama smiles. "Greetings ma"

"Greetings koti, you look exhausted"

"I am ma. Mili hates my peace of mind"

"She's a woman, you wont know peace as long as the father is still in the picture"

"Little home wrecker" She giggles. "He ate sisi"

"Thank you ma"

"Gatsha bye bye"

"Bye gogo"

"Kiss granny boy" Little rascal kisses his grandmother, today I'm certain i dont have any kids. Both these kids aren't mine, such betrayal.

101(Finale)

Zikhali

I'm seriously concerned about Gabisile, this girl is getting out of hand and its bad honestly. I know adolescence is knocking on the door but with her its heading South. My daughter just turned 16, i dont understand where the obsession is coming from.

It's even worse things have escalated to her calling her brother names and getting all aggressive on him. I'm very much concerned i dont wanna play pretense. I dont think i will cope in that trading business meeting, I'm going to. Surely she's gonna beat up my wife next time, i mean she's already turned into a hooligan over a stupid kiss. Busani is bleeding profusely from his nose, all thanks to yours truly Gabi. The more i glare at her the more i wanna kill her.

"Luckily his nasal bone is not fractured"

Boni says heaving a breathe of relief.

"Gabi just vacate the room, i seriously dont know what to do or say to you." My wife says in defeat. I sit besides her, intertwining our hands together. "Zikhali we losing our Princess, I'm afraid Gabi is falling deep in this trap. She's changing into this girl that i do not know."

"I will kill that girl honestly, for the first time i look at my child and regret ever making them. "

She glares at me.

"Ndandatho has to talk to her, other than that we lose her to this boy."
"

"My guess too but she can't go to Thuthukani, she might use the opportunity to doing her shenanigans"

"Right now I'm tempted to locking her inside the house like rapunzel"

"That will make her more worse but we have no choice to do that"

"This guy is bad for my daughter, actually who is he and what he want from my daughter?"

"My guess is good as yours. If only that Maseko Samaritan knew, he wouldn't have saved her from the witch because her coming back is a curse in a blessing. I'm starting to think, she's being used by that witch."

"Zikhali don't awful you cant say such about our child"

"I'm sorry, but she's freaking me out."

"My love let me not delay you, travel safe okay? I love you okay?"

"I love you more my Queen, summon Ndandatho here so she can knock some sense in her sister and make sure she doesn't leave these grounds not even to train. Accompany her to the rest room, if needed be"

"I will honey. Do me proud wherever you going"

She smashes her lips on mine, we share a passionate kiss. "Tell Busani to tighten the security around here, i dont trust this girl not anymore"

"Consider it done"

Nhlonipho

"When are the lobola negotiations again?" She says fanning herself.

"In two days time gogo"

"Beautiful. Are you happy with the proceedings?"

"I'm satisfied , i just cant wait"

"I've always known you are a responsible person, I'm proud of you honestly. I love how you've been supportive of your girlfriend throughout Nhlonipho unlike your brother who kept things in the closet until a maine came here to spill the beans. Yazi Nhlo not that I'm taking preference or anything, But Jali you are my favorite grandson ever, one that I'm proud of till this date " I glare at her.

" I've been observing you throughout your upbringing, In you i see a reflection of my late husband, its such a pity he left me in the dark about his shenanigans but other than. You are a replica of him. He was exactly like you in his living days , he fought for what he believed in, he always stood his ground no matter what prevailed. Just like you did with Ngelozi "

" I guess love makes everything doable and worth fighting for " She smiles.

" Thats fair anyway there's a blue box in my cabinet please bring it here"

I make my way to her cabinet.

"Here you go"

"Please open it"

I open it, there's plenty of coins. "Take all of it"

"What? No way gogo, this is a lot."

"Consider it as your wedding gift and your child's lifetime insurance, you can save up too adding on what's already in there."

"No gogo, i cant take it"

"But your future children need a life time legacy Nhlonipho." I embrace her. "The brown one please give it to Gatsha" I look at it, it has lots of coins. "Thank you gogo"

"Oh! I forgot something, please bring that container" I pass it on her.

"Give this to your mother, tell her to share with her daughter's"

"Thank you gogo, you are a darling" I kiss her cheek. "I love you Nhlonipho"

"I love you too"

"Please excuse me, i want to wrap up with my sewing."

"What are we making this time around"

"A blanket for your unborn baby"

"Awesome, i cant wait to cover my little one with it" I kiss her cheek.

Ndandatho

Zimele is staring at me as i wash up, its a bit uncomfortable to wash that sacred place with him drooling over my nakedness, but i succeed eventually. I wipe my body then lotion with him glaring at me. "Your numnum is bushy, it needs some trimming"

"Zimele mind your business"

"I can trim it down if you dont mind, after all its not like i have something to do. Let me be useful what do you think? "

"Do you want to trim or plant something new? Since we showing much interest on gardening."

"What kind of a question is that again?"

"One that should be answered warrior. "

"Your hair is disturbing ma'am, can we please get rid of it"

"Zimele i need to be home before sunset. I can't travel late with the kids"

"I would be done by now" He steadily walks towards me, pulling my dress underwear from my hands. "Cant we postpone? Its not like i will walk around naked"

"We can postpone but not this" He unhurried moves my hand to his privates. "Zimele you need to do something with your spare time, go to war or something" I move away. "I will but for now i would rather be here with you and doing you"

"Milan is only two months old, i dont want another Gatsha saga"

"I will be extra careful this time around i swear"

"Tempting but no, they said six months Zimele"

"You fine now, all healed please my love. I promise i will be careful"

"Can we save that for when i come back, please" I peck his lips "I love you" I take my underwear from his hands "I love you too" He says that in pauses, poor thing has an erection. I quickly dress up, Nhlo drops off a brown box saying its Gatsha's gift from gogo. "Please pass my gratitude to gogo" i instruct before climbing on the cart. "I will. And Milani be a good girl don't trouble mom" He pecks her lips "Warrior Bangi, look after mom dad loves you okay?" He nods. "Can i kiss you?" I narrow my brows, little rascal kisses his father. I guess I'm the enemy here, maybe having two more kids wont hurt. "Bye baby i love you"

"I love you too sthandwa sami" We share a kiss, i wonder what awaits me in Umthombo.

It doesn't take us long before we arrive at the Buthelezi premises. I'm surprised by the green pastures, so much has changed around here. I've spotted quite a lot of existing things that were never there previously, i must say Umthombo is blooming. I spot my mother from afar watering her plants, i feel joy in my heart. I didn't realize i missed my family till now. "Need a hand my Princess with the luggages?"

"Yes please and thank you brother Sabelani"

"Pleasure." He starts by helping Bangi, then Milani and myself. He offloads the bags too. Her broad smile and her stretched out hands serves as proof we've been missed too. "Sawubona bhuti" She greets Sabela Buthelezi, the royal trusted service provider i hate the name "Servant" hence i refer to him as a service provider. "My baby hello"

"Greetings mama, i missed you"

"I missed you too fatty, look at you. You so enchanting my baby, Zimele is doing a good job. You dazzling. Where are my manners, Gatsha hello boy boy. Come give gogo a bear squeeze" She picks him up, they hug and kiss. "I will greet Mila properly, for now its hot out here. This heat is not good for her"

"Not you rocking the Gogo role ma, I'm blessed"

I tease. "Stop silly" she gently bashed my arm. We walk inside the house "Wow! ma this place has changed, oh look at Bangi on the wall."

"Isnt it you ditched us my baby"

"Mila wasn't lenient on me ma, its been a bumpy journey"

"Sorry my angel. Please make yourselves feel at home, i wanna carry these to your chamber"

"No problem" She disappears, i feed Zimele's daughter. I dont know how I've survived not going lean with this child sucking me dry like i promised to pay up her loan. Gabi appears "Hello baby sisi, look at you all beautiful and so like me" I say excited. "Hello" Okay.. What a warm welcome, i wasn't expecting that. "Hi Bangi" She says in a tone that I'm not happy about nor satisfied by. Mom appears, Gabi excuses herself.. "There's a new baby on my lap in case you haven't noticed Gabi" She flaps her eyebrows then faintly smiles. "Hi new baby" I look

at her annoyed by her sudden change of hearts, she's always been chirpy and lively and all welcoming not this beset newly personality.

She doesn't even bother to pick my baby up and I'm excited about it.

"Bring the little one here" Mom says with a broad smile, i hand the baby over then stand up to go make myself something to drink because its obvious mrs "grumpy face wont consider"

"Excuse me ma, I'm coming"

"Where are you going my baby?"

"I could use a drink ma"

"I spoke to Liziwe she will bring it soon"

"Thank you ma"

"She's so adorable Ndandatho, ow! She reminds me of your little self"

"Ma i look nothing like Mila"

"I know Zimele is dominant but there's a bit of you here and there especially the hair"

"Ma you trying to make me feel better, and my dearest loving mother its okay.. I've made peace with it" She giggles. "Excuse me" Gabi says walking away, Lizi brings something to quench the thirst obviously i ask about her child and all that. "Mama"

"Sweetheart"

"What is going on with your daughter? Why is she beset and all gloomy?"

"Yooh Nda i dont wanna talk about it my baby, i was about to write you a letter to come cast out a demon if not spell from her"

"What's going on ma?"

"So much is going on with your little sister. Since she came back from wherever she was, she's being like that. She back mouths and say distasteful things to his brother, it's alot sisi"

"Hhaibo ma what's going kanti?"

"Apparently she's seeing someone, Busani spotted them kissing in the bushes. He suspects its someone old my baby, about Zimele's age. Not long ago she bashed her brother with a mug can you imagine?"

"Hhaibo mama what is wrong with Gabi? Adolescent is getting the better of her"

"And its using a very dangerous and sticky situation"

"This is hilarious i need to talk to her or maybe slap her till she comes back to her senses. Shes only 16 for christ sake"

"That's what we dealing with here, your father was even forced to give her a beating. I'm scared she will fall pregnant"

"Maybe she's idolizing me ma, you wont know what's happening in that porridge head of hers"

"Talk to her other than that Zikhali will kill her or better yet she will kill everyone in this house isn't it she's trained as a warriress"

"That's obnoxious ma, i will deal with her"

"Thank you baby. Hows marriage?"

"My kids hate me mama"

"Why? Do you yell at them or beat them"

"Not all ma, i treat them like eggs"

"It will blow off baby its normal"

"Yeah.. Where's dad and Busani?"

"Busani i dont know, his scarce lately i think there's a girl involved. Dad left for a business trip"

"Busani and dating?" I giggle. "Trust me"

"That's weird" We giggle.

Siziwe Thwala

She's glaring at me with a nauseated face. Her hand resting on her waist is evidence of her in fury.

"Siziwe get up!"

"Ma I'm exhausted" I belch.

"Dont give me that, get up and stop belching!"

"Mama i cant, my legs are killing me. Cant we go back home?" I pants
"Are you crazy? Don't make me force you up, stand up now!" She hurriedly comes my way, i force myself up. I swallow nothing, that's how exhausted i am. "Hurry up, i want this done and dealt with"

I look at her, annoyed and infuriated. I dont understand why she's forcing me to doing this. My grandmother agreed to sheltering me in since she wants me out of her house, I dont understand why she would drag me like this, I hate it. I force myself up the hill with my hands balancing my back. "Better not give birth here!"

"Lets go"

"Kodwa mama"

"Siziwe!!! Dont test me, hurry up!!"

I roll my eyes and tail her, as hot as it is.

102 (Finale)

Khethiwe

Sabela is sitting on a bench opposite me, with that "Talk, I'm all ears" Kind of look on his face. Honestly i dont know where to begin but rather "You were right about me making a terrible decision, by turning your proposal down. Honestly you came into my life when i wasn't myself, i was a living mess Sabela"

"And now, what are you Khethiwe?"

"A beautiful mess that is willing to give us a try, only if there's still room for us" He heaves a sigh. "Sabela i never intended on hurting you, i was just trying to recuperate from my suffering situation, that my then husband had put me through. Trust me i haven't been with any man for the past months, i was healing and working on myself. I did not turn your proposal down because of a man, i wasn't okay nor ready for a new relationship but now i am. "

"Khethiwe"

"Shenge please forgive me, please take me back. I can even go down on my knees begging you to please take me back"

"That won't be necessary Khethiwe"

I swallow a huge lump down my throat, he has moved on and he doesn't want me, at least not anymore. "Alright, We can try and see how it goes. I wont rush you into anything, after all a baby crawls before walking, so I'm cool with anything."

"What did you just say?"

"I wont repeat myself Khethiwe, you know how challenging it is for me to compile words. So please beautiful lady dont make me repeat myself"

He smiles genuinely "You mean that Sabela?"

"I've always had hope Khethiwe , that one day you would be mine" I smile. "Thank you"

"Where is your son?"

"At his father's place"

"Why didn't you bring him with you?"

"I prefer he stays with his father, given he paid dowry for him"

"That's fair."

"Can i hug you?"

"You don't need to ask" He envelops me in his buff arms.

Ndandatho

I have rested fully, Milani is sleeping so is Gatsha. Its safe to leave the room to go have a word with that adolescent driven young lady, whom I've heard has developed feelings for grown men. The thought of Gabi kissing a man, is enough to make my insides cringe. If this was Milani, I'm dead sure Zimele would've killed her. I sneak out of the room, heading to her chamber. I knock once without her responding.

"Gabisile!! Gabi can i come in?" She keeps quiet, i know she's in here. I guess invading her privacy is my last resort, oh! scratch that, no kid has privacy not when they still under their parents roof. "Gabi didn't you hear me knocking?" She looks at me, then ties her hair while humming "Hello I'm talking to you"

"I'm busy"

"Busy preparing to go in the bushes to kiss men who are older than your sister?" She looks at me, in a very disturbing way. I'm talking to you"

"So they sent you to come here, to act all smart on me?" I chuckle.
"Ndandatho leave me alone"

"Gabisile what is wrong with you?"

"You interfering on my business!! Why cant you people let me be huh?" She roars on my face. "Wena you possessed! And I'm gonna snap you out of it by slapping you, you hear me Gabisile?"

"What are you again? My mother or the sister who was ditched in the bushes then returned acting all mighty and holier-than-thou, while she had a child out of wedlock? What are you again?"

"Are you talking to me Gabisile with that tone?"

"What are you going to do rain Queen? Are you gonna use your powers on me and try to destroy me like you did with Queen Thabile and her mother? I'm not scared of you Liyana."

"What is wrong with you?"

"Get out before i do the unthinkable!" She turns to face the mirror, she continues humming and brushing her hair. Something is not right with this girl. "Gabisile you gonna regret this"

"Why dont you just go back to your husband?"

I glare at her for a little while, for the first time in forever i cannot read my sister's mind or invade her memories, its like I'm blocked from reaching her inner self. Something is wrong here...

Ngelози

I spot him waiting for me by his chamber, i cant help but smile. He shows me inside his chamber. Immediately after slamming the door, i smash my lips on his making sure he tastes the sweetness of my lips.
"And now?"

"Thank you"

"For what?" He smirks. "For the letter, i really can't believe it. It feels like I'm dreaming Nhlo"

"How about we go sit on the bed so we can try to sleep, then maybe wake up to confirm if we dreaming or its a reality. What do you think Mrs Jali junior?"

"I'm willing to take you up on your offer Jali junior"

"Come here" He says biting on his lower lip, luring me to his bed, the very same bed that made his baby making fluids, make another baby its a pity this time around we didn't make use of guava leaves. It's safe to say its something we both wanted. He puts me on the bed, unhooks my upper garment while staring at me. "Does it have to rise every time i walk in?"

"I dont know my flower"

"Are we gonna make love?"

"What else do you want us to make?"

"Its hot Nhlonipho"

"That place only knows one temperature, dont mind the external temperature" He says parting my legs, standing between them. "Did i tell you i love you MaFuze?"

"You tell me always"

"Today i mean it" I narrow my brows. "So you didn't mean it previously?"

"I was stupid and naive then, i thought i knew what love was unlike now."

I keep quiet "Going through the hazardous seasons made me realise what love and being in love was. Its crazy how your tears brought back my sanity, when i was suffering a memory breakdown. I think that was the first day i realized that i loved you and you loved me too"

He says removing my lower garment, then my soaky underwear "I love you Mafuze i mean it"

"I love you too, big head" He scoffs. "I'm about to bury this big head of mine between your legs" i feel a itch immediately. "Thank you for choosing to fall for me, its really a blessing Ngelo" I blush, then pull him closer to me. I want to kiss him already, maybe today i should be the one giving him the privates lick, he has always gave me those. He really deserves my freshly brushed tongue, down there. "Nhlo"

"Yes"

"Can i lick you as well?"

He narrows his brows "Can i trust you not to bite me?"

"I love meat but that meat i wouldn't eat it, not in a single day." He giggles. "Come give me the lick"

"Fine" I go on my knees and look at it, i furrow my brows then glare at him. Why is he looking at me like that? "What?"

"I'm waiting"

"Do i have to swallow all of it? As in deep down my throat?"

"Yes"

"It wont stuck inside or fall out?"

"No"

"Mmmmmmm.... Fine but if i die tell my father i swallowed your snake"

"I will, now go on"

"This is my first and last time Nhlonipho, I'm only doing this for the cows that you gonna bring at my home"

"No problem my love"

"Let's make a truce?" He rolls his eyes. "Ngelo its gonna bow down, eat then talk later"

"What if i want add sauces on what I'm eating? For example the salt, what if its little and i need more?"

"There's plenty of it there, just eat please"

"Fine! But this is an abomination, a whole rachel sin!"

"Ngelo please" I heave a long sigh, in a split second he is holding my head so tight forcing me to go up and down on his snake that's choking me. Surprisingly he is enjoying it while I'm dying. Surely my throat will be left a borehole, i wont be able to chew food ever again, i will just swallow because of this act..Okay what did i just swallow? I felt something going down inside my throat, its salty and... No!! He deposited his seeds inside my mouth? That's gross..

Siziwe

"Mama there's really no need for this please"

"I wont harbor a mother in my compound Siziwe nor will my mother harbor an ill mannered girl who donated herself freely to a man and conceived! You really embarrassed me Siziwe, not when I'm one of the virginity testing chiefs! I always motivate girls about keeping themselves till marriage then my own daughter saw it fit to stray and open her legs for that woman beater a whole cassanova! Come!! " She roughly pulls my hand, i stumble trying so hard to keep up with her pace. We find a group girls carrying buckets on their heads." Greetings

young ladies. Do you by any chance know where warrior Hawulesizwe resides? "

They look at each other. " Lungi they going to your house" I look at the Lungi girl "Can i have water, please" The girls look at each other. "Here" One of them says, i drink up then eat my remaining mango. I didn't know carrying a child makes one tired and ever hungry if not spitting out saliva profusely. Lately i can barely touch my toes, washing up is a challenge too. I really hate Hawulesizwe for putting me in this situation. My life was going just fine before he forced me into womanhood, bloody cassanova.. "This is it" The girl says offloading her bucket "Mama!!! Mama!!!!"

"What? I told you not to shout my name Lungelo!"

"Mama you have guests!!" She says going to what i believe is a kitchen, i must say this yard looks beautiful. Its spacious and clean. The houses are beautifully designed i love it, no i hate it. Its Hawulesizwe's dean, so i hate it because of him. "What guest's?" The mother says appearing from one of the rondavel, such a beautiful family. She looks at me then mymother "Greetings"

"Are you Hawulesizwe's mother?"

"Yes, Why are you asking?"

"See this" She says roughly poking my huge belly. "Ma uyangilimaza" I wince in pain. "This is your son's mess ka Maseko and guess what? I wont harbor it."

"Excuse me?" The mother says. "Your son tainted my daughter and this huge belly is a result of your son's sperm! I'm leaving her and her big belly here. She's no longer my burden but yours!!" Ma Maseko looks at me then my mother. "You look tired sisi, come have a seat"

"I'm out of here! Sala maphana!!" She storms away. "We mama dont you need water to quench your thirst?"

"Stay with your water, i want nothing of yours!!!" My mother says walking away, the woman chuckles. "You must be Siziwe right?" I swallow hard. "Yes ma"

"Come." I follow her. As i follow the mother, his face appears from one of the huts. He still looks more like i remember him, handsome, tall and sun-kissed. His still makes my knees wobbly, and my body warm. He still makes me experience butterflies, regardless of that i hate him still. Okay his looking at me, of course I'm pregnant and all swollen. He better not give me that look, he made me look like this, its his fault my nose is huge and my neck black he better not judge me. Its a stare battle for a little while...

Ndandatho

I'm seated on my bed trying to crack my skull about my sister. Me not being able to reach into her means something awful is happening, something that could put my entire family in great danger. Her aura was clean but now she's.. She's "Milani baby stop crying, i know you miss daddy but please dont cry" Bangi wakes up too, panting and all sweating. His eyes wander faster scanning the room. Okay what is happening with his eyes? Why are they like that? Why are his in this color? "Mama"

"Bangi are you okay?" I say in grasping, his eyes are still different from their normal color. I swallow hard "Gatsha close your eyes and open them" He ignores me and looks around the room. "Bangi!! Bangizwe what are you looking for?" The door swings open, his eyes suddenly change to their normal color. Those are lion's eyes, i think I've seen that pair of eyes before. "Nda"

"Ma"

"How did it go?"

"Awful ma, she's not her normal self ma. I couldn't even get far with her, something is going on with her and i think its more than adolescence"

"I dont follow"

"I can't read her ma, i dont know what she thinks, how she feels or what her intentions are. Its like she's neutral mama"

"Ndandatho you scaring me"

"Hey mama and hi sisi Ndandatho" She says smiling genuinely, fixing her eyes on my little girl. "Can i hold her?"

"No" Gatsha says, standing in front of Milani. That's strange. "Gatsha" Gabi says smiling. "Mila woza"

"No" Gatsha protests. "Bangi" I say softly. Gabi leans over to scoop Milani, surprisingly my son does the unthinkable.....

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Ndandatho

He aggressively gnaws Gabisile's hand, using his very last strength. Gabisile is belching on full blasts, cursing and screaming Gatsha's name with hopes to tame him down but my son is not having any of it. "Ndandatho get your little rascal off me, snap him out of it!!!" She howls.

"I'm trying okay! Bangizwe stop it!! Gatsha!!"

I'm trying everything in my powers to negotiate with this child but his not backing down, his very much stubborn and persistent on hurting

Gabi. Of which i find very perplexing and questionable, my son has never shown aggression behavior before, he is not violent. I cannot even pin this on the fighting tutorials that his father has been giving him because honestly Gatsha is never like this even when his demented. I know every parent likes protecting their children by acting surprised by an act they familiar with, but on my case its different because i sincerely dont know where this violence derives from. Gatsha is not a violent person but a peaceful one, this is all new to me.

"Ndandatho tell him to stop sisi"

"Mama i cant, i just dont know how to. He wont snap out of it" I say feeling embarrassed and all terrible or better yet all responsible for not instilling morals on him. "Bhengu please stop my boy, stop fana kagogo please Mepho" My mother tries to negotiate with him, that tends to calm Gatsha down. Gabi glares at me with fury in her eyes and hate. "I'm sorry Gabi, i really am. I dont know what came over him, he doesn't normally do such.

"You dont teach him manners! He doesn't have any morals! His a spoilt, little mischief!" She roars. "Gabi your sister is apologising there's no need for you to say such" She looks at me yet again, with bloody eyes if there's such a thing.

"Sorry Gabi.." I say glaring at Bangi whose holding his sisters tiny hand, while brushing her hair backwards which is strange too, given Bangi is never this affectionate with his sister.

"Sorry wont undo this!" She points to where Gatsha was biting him but i see no mark "There's nothing nje Gabi"

"Excuse me Ndandatho? Dont you see I'm bleeding? There's blood coming out! Your creepy child bruised me! You would swear he has canines, bloody vampire!"

"Gabisile dont use that tone on my child, I've apologized on his behalf. There's no need for you to spew insults, Bangi is just a kid and besides you making a mountain out of this, there's no blood there you exaggerating Gabi"

"If he wasn't a kid, i was gonna decapitate his head and leave him headless. "

I shift my hands to my eyes to Gabi, that's a very very disturbing remark especially directed to a kid.

"Excuse me Gabi, what did you just say?"

"I said if he wasn't a kid, i was gonna yank his head off and bash it against a huge rock, till it turns into mince and "

Lord forgive me for what I'm about to do.

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I feel a numbing sensation on my cheek, for a moment i see stars and my sight goes blurry, she just slapped me and my mother is not doing nor saying anything about it.

"Repeat what you just said? I dare you to say it again Gabisile? You threatening my child huh? What is wrong with you? So now you are a murder Gabisile? You want to kill my child huh?"

I glare at her with no damn care, massaging my cheek is my worry for now.

"Dare use that tone on my kid ever again, i swear Gabisile i will be the one ripping off your head you hear me?"

She barks, i fix my eyes right into hers. I move them to Milani, then the brat whom i find is glaring at me with eyes that have changed colour.

I swallow hard, then look at my hand I'm bleeding heavily. "Ndandatho leave her please"

"Gabisile dont wish to earn me as your enemy, its gonna end badly you hear me?"

"So you wont reprimand your child but rather insult me and beat me up?"

"After the nonsensical stunt you pulled? No, my son did a great job." I scoff. "I hear you mrs rain maker. Here's what i will do, i will back off big sister" Mom looks at me then Ndandatho "Get lost immediately" I look at Ndandatho from head to toe, i scoff again then slowly walk outside..

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Ngcolosi

"Nhlonipho"

"Mama"

"Please call grandma, supper is served."

"Alright" My son stands, i clear my throat. "Sit down Jali, i will go call her myself" He sits, i make my way to her chamber. I knock once then see myself inside. Its too dark in here, i thought mama hated darkness. I lit the candles. "Mama" She didn't close her windows too, i see this old lady wants to share her bed with mosquitoes. I close the windows, then go sit by her legs. "Mama food is ready" She doesn't say anything, i heave a sigh. "Mama i know the truth has been nothing but a bitter pill to swallow. I know this Hawu dilemma is taking a toll on you, given you only saw a saint in dad, not the wolf he was hiding under that sheepskin. Ma i really understand how you feel, i really do. Kodwa

mawami you need to eat and step outside to inhale fresh air and sniff the smell of the sun bursts and your flowers scent. " I say brushing her legs. " Mama you cant continue like this, locking yourself behind doors and dark rooms. This is not a life, you cant allow this pain to cage you. Maybe i dont know how you feel but i know you are wounded and hollowed, this is the reason i kept him from you because i knew you would be this way" I heave a sigh and look at her. "Mama wake up, you need to eat" I say gently shaking her, she doesn't respond instead the wool and knitting sticks she was holding falls on the floor, this knitting thing of hers, she even doze off doing it, some love she has. "Majali wake up or you want me to carry you just like you've always done with me, after giving me a long bubble bath when i was still a kid?" I chuckle recalling those day's, i was six years old then and my sister was three years old. "Mama vuka, Nozi will come for us shortly you know how your daughter in law operates."

"Of course i will come for the both of you if, and here i am" She walks towards me with a smile. "She's sleeping"

"Let me cover her then" She sways her curves reaching for a fleeces blanket "She's a mess MaJali especially with this Hawu saga. She now loves darkness can you imagine" I say to Nozi whose is standing like a statue. "Ngcolosi"

"My love"

"Did you see this?"

"See what?"

"The blood on her pillow?"

"What blood?" I say standing up walking to the other side of the bed where I'm met by excessive blood stains on my mother's pillow and her mouth. I look at Nozi "Mama!!" I say shaking her gently. "Mama!!"

Nozi puts her hand on my shoulders. "Mama vuka!! Please wake her surely she will respond to your message" She looks at me with glassy eyes. "Ngcolosi she wont respond"

"Why not Nozibele?" A tear escapes her eyelids, it better not be that. I really cant lose yet another parent, not this pain again.. "Jali I'm sorry, mama is gone" i ignore her "Mama!!! Mama!!!" Now I'm shaking her a bit roughly, i want to prove my wife wrong..

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Siziwe

Lungelo fixes a bed for me, she brings me water to bath too. I look around my room yet again, i heave a long sigh as reality kicks in, that i have nowhere to go and no one to call my family but rather the child growing inside my stomach. To make things worse, I'm realizing how stupid and naive i was to have participated in the mediocre that brought me here. None of this wouldn't have happened had i not interfered on another woman's marriage, i should've stayed away from Hawu for the betterment of his family. I shouldn't have allowed these stupid feelings to drive me to such depths, i mean now I'm pregnant. I lost my family and i lost the man too, adding on that I'm now staying in the same compound with the man who broke me and introduced me to this pain that going and dying through. I really messed up, sadly i can't blame this on anyone but my self. Ndandatho warned me but i never listened.

I heave yet another sigh, i need to bath and rest. I've traveled a far distance to get here, my feets are killing me. I'm half way to undressing when a soft knock lands on my door, i cover up and shout "Come in" The first thing i see, it's his scar and athletic, well structured body before i could see his face. I swallow hard, i mean there's this stupid

organ called a heart, its good a betraying one on last minutes. Actually putting your trust and hope on it, is a waste because after seeing those eyes and those full lips and his tall body, its gonna forget that you said you hated him and his ugly self but rather remind you of his touch, the feel of his skin against yours and how his eyes shine when gazing into yours and.. And how you've been missing him and wishing for him to return one day and for you two, be a one big happy family and.... "Hi"

"Hi" And live happily ever after. "Can i come in?"

"You already in Hawu" He looks at me then my tummy. "Its big"

"Just like the penis that made it big" He chokes on his saliva. A stare contest begins. "Anyway i wanted to ask if you okay"

"I'm fine Hawu"

"Great.. I should get going"

"Where is your wife? I mean i saw your son"

"Get some rest Siziwe, good night"

"Good night" He looks at me, like he forgot something. "I knew you were pregnant"

"Of course you are a baby making machine"

"Dont insult me Siziwe"

"What we going to do? Beat me up and leave me laying on the floor unconscious?" He looks at me with a facial expression i cannot read.

"That will actually be a good thing to do, i mean i would die and rest"

"I'm no longer that man Siziwe, I'm sorry for everything I've put you through"

"Will your sorry and new man reimburse my virginity and bring back my smile? And my less big belly?" My pitch changes, he stands by the

door and look at me. "I hate you Hawulesizwe! Everything that you touch turns into dusts if not crumbs, you are a curse in people's lives!! Why didn't you die at birth huh?"

"I know how much of a curse i am Siziwe, even my father felt cursed with my existence and its okay. I'm sorry you feel that way and I'm sorry i didn't die at birth, surely Thuthukani village would've been blessed and more richer than it is had i not been born. I know how cursed i am and i hate myself too, but for your own sanity I'm sorry that i was born a curse, I'm sorry my cursed blood runs in your child's blood you dont deserve any of this, sorry Siziwe " I shouldn't have said that, i just brought him pain."Goodnight"

"Hawu" He looks at me with glassy eyes, words fail me. He walks out...

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Finale

Ndandatho

After my little altercation with Gabi, I've been tossing and turning all night long, sleep was playing was far from my reach. I've been trying to crack my head on the "I'm bleeding and bruised" Phrase, i saw nothing honestly so did mom. I'm now certain my son saw or sensed what I've been suspecting of. She's possessed, there's something controlling her and sadly i cant do anything about it, its above me. If Mehlemamba wont tackle this then it will mean we will be stuck with this version of Gabisile for good, and its ending is not a pleasant one.

I breastfeed Milani, i doze off and wake up the following morning to Busani playing with Milani. I didn't see him yesterday, meaning he didn't sleep home. We greet each other and catch up on the latest. "Mom told me about what happened Ndandatho" I heave a soft sigh.

"Its awful Busani"

"She's getting worse by day, you wont believe who the boy she was kissing was" I look at him. "Who was it?"

"Promise not to scream?"

"I promise"

"Hawulesizwe, the guy who saved her from the witch" Now that explains the sudden attitude, she tasted the penis that drives three women that i know crazy, meaning now it's four. "Hawulesizwe?"

"Yes"

"That guy has babies everywhere, what was Gabi thinking and besides his old"

"Does Gabi ever think?" We both keep quiet "I think she's possessed" Busani speaks my mind. "My guess exactly"

"Cant you help her Ndandatho? Because failure to do so will make this Kingdom extinct. Not long ago she was aggressive on me, next time it will be mom if not dad. She might kill everyone Ndandatho" He says with worry, i heave a sigh. "Lets go to Mehlemamba surely he will help"

"Please.. I'm glad you came, because this Gaba saga has been the reason i avoid this house."

"It's okay brother we will fix this"

"Better.. She looks like the father"

"Aren't they? Bloody back stabbers" He giggles "Try a third one maybe she will look like you"

"Definitely, as soon as she turns two years old I'm having another one."

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After a couple of minutes we locate his house. We find him busy with herbs "Greetings great one" He smiles at us. "Your father was here with the same concerns as yours" He says faintly smiling "Please tell us how to put an end to this"

"I'm afraid only the hair used can fix this"

Busani and myself glare on each other "What hair great one?"

"Your sister was abducted isnt it?" We nod "The person who saved her, once had his hair stuck on a tree branch in the bushes. His biggest mistake was leaving it behind, making it easier for the witch to use it against you"

Okay this is confusing "I dont follow Mehlo"

"In short Gabi will be herself once the hair used to cast the spell is retrieved, other than that I'm afraid you will be stuck with this version of her"

"How can we find the hair?" Busani-

"Cant we ask Hawu to cut off his hair and give it to us to reverse the curse?"

"He can do that but it wont work Liyana."

"I dont follow"

"The witch gained power by using that hair, its more like Gabisile has more power than you or any other healer. Given your grandmother was the one who failed the warrior"

"I dont understand, how does gogo come in this?" Busani asks with worry.

"When the warrior was attending to Gabi, he wasn't himself but Nomanzi was controlling him and living inside him. Meaning your grandmother was tricked into giving a sacrifice, which was the hair. Physically the hair belongs to Hawu but spiritually it belongs to Nomanzi. Meaning the witch managed to dribble the mamiwata, explaining why you cant help your sister nor read her mind because the Mamiwata kinder gave up your rights or powers to doing that" I immediately sweat and stand up. "So are you telling me Ngelozi's grandmother is living within my sister?"

"And she wants her kind to multiply and Hawulesizwe is gonna help her in achieving that" Busani stands too and starts pacing around.

"That cant happen!! My sister cannot do any of this. This is rubbish!!" Busani says.

"Its a pity there's nothing we can do. "

"I need to do something about this! Like going to have a word with my grandmother" He looks at me. "Like i said your grandmother gave up your powers and rights to partaking on such."

"Meaning i wont have my powers anymore?"

"When last did you dream or have a vision?" I try to calculate. "No! I've lost my powers?"

"You only have one last remaining vision Ndandatho, sadly you gonna have it after a little while, thereafter your powers and rights will be extinct"

"That cannot happen! So i wont be a rain Queen because of Nomanzi's carelessness?" He heaves a sigh. "You wont be one but one of your kids will inherent the mamiwata gift, She is not yet born but you will know her as soon as she's born. I'm sorry maButhelezi"

"I didn't know hair was this strong in witchcraft!" Busani-

"Not only hair my Prince. Any portion or sample of your body makes muthi, starting from breast milk all the way to your nails. Even simple tears my Prince, can you cast a spell on a human being, you do not need an alligators liver to kill someone but a simple and tiny thing as hair, you should be careful on how you discard samplings of your body my Prince to prevent such. " I swallow hard after hearing that, because my gogo from Ngwane village used to warn me against leaving my fallen hair, after combing. She would advice i pick it up or burn it even with old clothes she would scream" Burn it or deep it inside the toilet pit" i guess she meant such. But what about my gift?

"And my last vision when will i have it?"

"In the next coming years"

"What?"

"Be patient its gonna come, even if it takes twenty years eventually its gonna come. My time is up, i have a client from SOMLOMOTI KINGDOM"

Busani and myself glare at each other.

oooooooooooooooo

Its been fifteen years since i last had a vision. I haven't been being hearing voices in my head nor seeing things in my sleep, like the late Mehlemamba once said, it was gonna take a while for me to have my last vision of which i haven't had for the past few years till now, I'm still anticipating after so many years of so many things happening in my life and my family. I've lost gogo Gezekile a couple of years ago, it didn't take long for gogo- Mama to follow her.

Mind you all these things happened prior to my big wedding and that of Ngelozi and Nhlonipho. It was really a devastating and draining phase in my life. But on the contrary i married so did Ngelozi and Nhlonipho who didn't have it easy to having people supporting and blessing their marriage, given Ngelo was a diluted blood and her mother was a daughter of a witch, one that's living within my sister till this date. Regardless of the harsh words and ill treatment they married and grew stronger and more magically in love with each other, so much that the Jali ancestors blessed them with three beautiful, big headed Nhlonipho's, who resemble their father, to Ngelozi's frustration. They named them "Skhanyiselwe, Sphamandla and Sphesihle" They all boys, hopefully the unborn one is a baby girl. Ngelozi threatened and promised to "Fry her womb and patch her vagina" Shall her fourth baby be a boy instead of a girl, she's still that crazy and i still love her even though my parents dont like her anymore, especially after the Gabi saga.

On the other hand my brother Busani fell in love and found love in "Nobantu" a very humble, shy and kindhearted woman from a not popular Kingdom. They were blessed with twins a boy and a girl who fight over anything and everything, most people claim they look like me but i disagree with that. Gabi? I would rather not dwell much on her brief of moments, it will take me decades to seal.

I'm now 39 years old, Zimele is 45 years old. We still crazily in love and complimenting of each other. I must say we doing well as the leaders of this Kingdom, its safe to say to we bringing so much change in Thuthukani village, our people cant stop praising us and worshipping us for the right things of course.

My son Bangizwe is now a grown-up, tall and tantalizing, 16 year old looking guy, with mustaches and a husky voice not forgetting his beautiful, yet strange eyes.. He is now a qualified and trained warrior

who handles a spear like Shaka Zulu, i dont know how many reports have come forth about him and Mlingo terrorizing people. When confronted about it, they say nothing, his still that strange kid who isnt understood by many. He hasn't changed, actually it got worse over the years. He talks less, smiles less, he just does everything else less but not on throwing fists. Gatsha uses three languages to communicate "His eyes, Body and hands" nothing else but that.

Milani has complained a several times about Bangizwe not treating them like their siblings, but strangers. When Zimele confronts him about this he gives us a sly and cold off shoulder response "I love them a lot and i protect them a lot, they just childish." with this said and done the young man walks away with his jaw clenched, no smile no nothing, Bangi is very rude and very unapproachable. With him you dont just say anything, you just need to choose your words carefully. I'm certain he will make the most feared and respected King, husband and father. He has that serious face and aura that demands you to respect him and submit to him effortlessly, other than that his a good brother to his siblings but his overly protective of them. **

Well Queen Ndandatho Jali, now has five beautiful, naughty, chaotic, challenging, rude and sweet children. Already you know Bangi and Milani. Well there's an addition of three on that number "Nethani, Ncedani and Lungisani"

I have three boys and two girls. Ncedani is the sweetest child in all five, he talks alot, laughs a lot, he is respectful and smart, giving and humble, his very soft at heart. I can say he took Nhlonipho's personality and characteristics.

Milani is my replica, stubborn and blutant, when she says she's not gonna do something trust her she's definitely not gonna do it. She's bossy and all demanding. Then there's Nethani, daddy's precious girl

wherever Zimele goes you will find Netha tailing him, she's a sweet yet picky baby. My baby girl is forever sick, her grandmother used to say she's carrying a certain ancestor spirit but i haven't been taking that into consideration until she started talking to rocks, trees and stars. Nethani is my weirdo, she sometimes laughs at nothing, or see things that are not visible. One time she mentioned something about Gatsha being a lion and her being a water animal that doesn't have a face. She says and sees the most abstract things. Lastly there's Lungisani. He loves books and animals, not forgetting his space. He is more like Gatsha as little as he is, i like his less demanding attitude. I can do anything and galavant anyhow without him nagging me, unlike Ngelozi's son Sphesihle. This boy loves his independence, sometimes i forget his my last born.

Ngelozi and myself are seated underneath a tree shade, having mango and paw paws. We watching the kids as they playing soccer, and screaming above our hearing frequency. More like Milani, screaming above all pitches, bossing around other kids. My focus is on Netha, i dont trust that girl she might baby a serpent that one. "Milani can you shut up already!" Ngelozi's eldest utters. "I wont shut up not when you cheating us! We have 5 points not four!" Milani-

"We have 5 points not you Milani" Ngelozi laughs. "Why dont you start afresh, we will count on your behalf, isnt it Nda?" She smiles glaring at me. "Hha mama you gonna miscalculate" Ngelozi's eldest says "I taught you that word njalo" I chuckle.

"I can't believe we made it this far, who would have thought? " I say looking at the kids. "It wasnt easy honestly, especially on my side" She says faintly smiling.

"I know and I'm sorry Ngelozi about your siblings, may they rest easy"

"It never gets old hey, its been six years since they passed on but my mother isn't doing well Nda" I brush her thighs. "But its okay, i have you, the kids and my beloved big headed Nhlonipho" We giggle. "Are you ever gonna call him with a pet name?"

"Maybe big foot if not mbazo" I chuckle. "Hhayi Ngelozi why are you like this?" She shrug and eats her mango. "Hows the baby in there?"

"Dont ask Ndandatho, I'm never ever showing him my nakedness ever again. "

"That's what i said after delivering Gatsha but look where i am. "

"I'm not like you mama ka Lungisani, i will keep my word. No Nhlonipho formed against me shall prosper" I laugh. "I pray this one has a small head, or else she will wont enjoy playing hide and seek like the others, these bus heads sell them out when playing hide and seek, by being all visible. "

"Leave those angels alone, they beautiful with their buses. "

"These mosquitoes?"

"I love those mosquitoes"

"You wasting your love with those mischievous boys. They very very naughty, one said i swallowed the entire earth planet, explaining why tummy is this big. Then Nhlonipho doesn't want me to beat them" I laugh "Who said that?"

"Sphamandla" i laugh, he took it from her.

"I guess that's a Jali thing" I say eating my mango. "What thing MaJali?" He makes his way towards me, with Sihle on his hands. Nhlonipho appears empty handed. "Its our secret Zimele" "Maka Gatsha..." He glares at me, with his lips pursed. "Loving their women wholeheartedly, isnt it Ngelozi?" She looks at me and smiles "They

really love us, even though they refuse us the privilege of spanking their little rascals tinny buttocks, like real mothers do." Nhlo narrows his brows "By little rascals you mean my kids?" Ngelo furrows her brows "Majali" Nhlo says. "Sorry sthandwa sami" Zimele and i glare at them "The kids are playing, let's go inside we will be quick" He whispers in my ears.

"I need to prepare supper Zimele"

"The hungriest of them all will the do the cooking" I giggle. "Are you hearing yourself?"

"Let's go" I fix my eyes on Ngelozi and Nhlo who are arguing, over what i dont know.

"Ngelozi my peace hurts you isn't it?"

"Why must you know peace while im not at peace?" They argue yet again "Lets disappear before it gets far"

"You right, they wont stop now"

"You go first i will follow you, i dont want Netha tailing me"

"What if Lungisani follows you instead?"

"Milani is a big sister, she will strap him on her back"

"Fine" I stand up then look around me "Ngelo i have a laundry to remove from the washing line do you mind?"

"Please take Sihle with"

"No way Ngelo" Her pregnancy makes her not to want a kid next to her, even her last born Sihle. "Nhlo take your son" She says.. "Khanyiselwe!!!" Nhlo calls for his first born "Baba" The young man runs towards us "Look after your brother, Sihle. Your mother and i are going somewhere" Ngelo glares at Nhlonipho with those "Dude, i dont

want to be naked" Eyes. Zimele chuckles. "But I'm playing soccer baba, i wont manage"

"Khanyiselwe..." He says with a stern voice, poor kid carries his brother. They both stand to go wherever, i spot Bangizwe and Mlingo whispering in each others ears from afar, for a moment i see my son's teeth, that's a rare view with Gatsha.

My husband and myself go to our private chamber, we do what we haven't done in ages blame it on load over shoulders. Juggling between all five of them and their needs is not a childsplay, the royal back to back meetings and projects too take up much of our time too. Its just too much, making love is something we dont get much time to do we just kiss and cuddle. But when an opportunity like this one prevails we make the most of it, just like now.

His strokes are deep and sweet. His hitting all the spots I've forgotten they existed. His giving me a heaven on earth, his quenching my thirst and combating my hunger. I feel good right now, i need more and more of this. "Dont forget to pull out Jali" I say biting hard on my lower lip, holding him much more closer "Dont lock me in"

"Fine" We make love till a fever pinch takes over us, he pulls out. He glares at me the same way as he did when we made Gatsha "I love you Majali"

"I love you more Jali" In a split second im snoring...

[Ndandatho's last vision]

"Mama you need to go in hiding, all of you."

"Why Bangizwe?"

"I would love to tell you more but i can't! You need to follow Mlingo and Khanyiselwe, they will take you to a safe place. Leave ma"

I start crying hysterically "What is that noise I'm hearing Gatsha?" He look at me then his sibilings "I love you, all of you and i will do anything and everything for our grounds to be restored from the thieves. Look after each other, Nethani do your part and i will do mine! Make sure they all safe you hear me?" I look at him confused of what is happening, more and more anger beaming voices shudders from a distance." Bangizwe! They are here! "

" I'm coming warrior"

"Hurry up, they already killing people, our warriors are decreasing in number hurry Bangizwe!!"

"Fine!!!... Mama, baba, babomncane and mamncane please go. You will be safe."He says glaring at us with pain In his eyes, and maybe fear. We all confused on what's going on,.

The commotion I'm hearing from afar tells me a humongous, life threatening war has emerged. By the look of things it is here to destroy, kill and steal from the grounds of Thuthukani Kingdom. In a split second we running and stomping on lifeless bodies. I tilt my head to look at what was once my home, sadly i see nothing beautiful but a holocaust. The once green grass is covered in red, the once blue waters are turned into red waters, stones are replaced by dead bodies of many innocent souls. On the other hand fire is engulfing the entire village, women and children are crying and begging for their lives to be restored, i walk away with a bleeding heart and haunted mind. Their sobs and fear accompanies me to wherever Mlingo is taking us. Suddenly i feel someone shaking me profusely, immediately after opening my eyes. I shout "IGAZI" then collapse. This confusing synopsis was my last vision and i strongly believe its a future prediction of what's yet to strike Thuthukani village or maybe all other surrounding Kingdoms.

THE END.....