



**RENEILWE**

*"Unforgivable*  
**TRUTH**

FADZAI MODESTER MATSIKITI

# RENEILWE

# Truth

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## ***Preface***

I could see Mandisa in my head, the time something happened at the party she was at. She had snuck out as usual. I had told her no, but as always she never listened to me. She had come over at my house the following day talking about she had just slept only to wake up naked in the middle of the street. I had wanted us to call the police but she refused.

It was useless. So the fact that she had been raped was just buried like that. When I asked her how she felt she said she was ok. She always said she was ok because she was older than me.

Today it was me. I was the one who was in that position. I wanted to cry but I was too weak to even move. I could feel his hands around my body. I was here because of friends, the kind of friends Mama warned me about. The type of friends Papa said I should stay far away from.

DEDICATION

For you Carol, I love you

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I just want to thank my followers, you guys are the realest. You are my ride or die, who knows where I would be if it wasn't for you.

Then Mom, thank you for the information and support and courage.

To my best friend, Carol, for your undivided unconditional love and support.

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# ONE

## RENEILWE

I sat on the table with Papa and Mama together with our church friends. I kept quiet with my smile on. Papa taught me table manners so well. I kept my shoulders squared because Papa taught me that when you slack your shoulders, you show weakness. My hands were knit perfectly on my lap, the way Mama taught me, like a lady does. Looking around the table, I took notice of Mr. Michaels. He was not a church friend, the pastor said he owned our church though he was based in London. Mr. Michaels laughed a lot, splitting saliva all over. He talked while chewing, something Papa didn't like. He said it's disrespecting the table manners but he didn't say anything to Mr. Michaels. No one said anything to him, he is like God. Our pastor, Isaac, said we should treat him with unconditional respect and he said Mr. Michaels is much closer to God.

My eyes went also to Mama who ate nodding to whatever Mr. Michaels said. That day she was extra careful. She ate with a fork and knife but struggling though she didn't show it. I looked down on my food. It was macaroni and chicken. I took a deep breath as I started eating, quietly. Papa taught me only to speak when I'm told to do so. As I ate, my mind pondered on the call Papa received a week ago when he said, 'Praise the Lord,' after hanging up the call. Sitting on the table with my parents, Mr. Michaels and some church friends, I felt the excitement reel of that call. Papa had told me I was admitted into the university in Johannesburg, after dropping that call. 'God has done it, he has done it!' He exclaimed, but at that moment when the news came into my ears, I became the most excited and happy.

"Reneilwe, go and get Mr. Michaels a glass of water." Papa's loud deep voice brought me back to reality. I smiled.

"Yes father," I responded. Papa had also said I shouldn't call him "Papa" in Mr. Michael's presence because Mr. Michaels is not familiar with that word. I stood up and walked to the kitchen. I took the water jug from the fridge and a water glass from the glasses that Mama kept for special guests. I placed the jug and glass on Mama's new kitchen tray that she bought from Mrs. Dlamini the previous day. When I returned back to the dining room, I found Papa telling Mr. Michaels about my admission to the university. Mr. Michaels kept saying, 'that's good,' over and over again as he gobbled his food. Sitting down on my chair, I resumed eating. Thinking

about going to Johannesburg for the first time. I knew I am yet to receive the talk about how Jo'burg is bad and will destroy me if I let it to. I foresaw it and knew I'm yet to hear a lot more as I was their only child left. I lost my sister when I was 10; my twin sister, Keneilwe. She got kidnapped and was never found.

After lunch, while Papa and the church friends together with Mr Michaels stood up to leave, Mama and I cleared the table. She was quiet and I didn't know why. She's never quiet like that though. I worked by her side silently. After washing the dishes I walked to my room. I knew Papa would not be back till late. I sat on the bed and started imagining my journey. Mandisa, my best friend, had told me that Jo'burg is a nice place. She goes there frequently to visit her mother.

Just then Mama walked into my room. She smiled as she sat beside me. Mama is so beautiful no doubt during her days, she was described as the most beautiful girl. She has a dimple on her right cheek and very big eyes that I inherited. Mandisa likes calling me Morubisi; an owl, because of my eyes. At first it was annoying and offending but I got used to it and now I'm Ruby. Mama takes my hand into her forever soft hand.

"You have grown so much baby," she said smiling. Her voice so deep and husky, it sounded so soft and soothing to my ears. "Look at you, so beautiful." She brushed my cornrows that she did yesterday. It was so thin that I knew it would last at least three months before I unplait it. But it was so painful, too painful and it felt as if my scalp was on fire.

"Your Papa and I are so proud of you. We know you are going to make us proud. As always. We believe in you. When it gets hard, get in the bus and come back. Our arms are always open for you Renei, *re a go rata ngwanake*." She said smiling with tears in her eyes. I got emotional too. I knew I was about to leave behind everything. "Don't let the life of Jo'burg, derail you. Know your purpose. There will be girls with make-up. Girls with red lipstick. Girls with short skirts or dresses. Don't let them get in your way, have a vision. Go and get that degree and make us proud." She said then chuckled lightly.

"I know you know about boys now. Have you ever had a boyfriend?" I looked at her feeling mortified because I don't like this talk, it's uncomfortable to me. "Renei don't be shy. I'm your mother. If you once had a boyfriend or if you have one you can tell me. It will be our little secret." I shook my head, 'no.' I have never had a boyfriend before but Mandisa has and she has done the deeds. She told me it's nice but I won't even think about it. I'm still a child to be thinking about the unforgivable sin.

"Ok, that's still ok. You are grown up now, you're 18 years old, your Papa and I have to give you space so that you grow into your own person. So that you make mistakes and learn. We believe we have taught you enough, you know what is right and wrong. If you have sex, unprotected sex, you will get pregnant and have a baby and

sometimes to an HIV and AIDS baby." She looked at the door briefly while taking something out from her bra. She produced a packet of condoms and placed it in my hand. "Use this and protect yourself. HIV and AIDS is real. Do you want to be drinking ARVs for the rest of your life?" I shook my head, 'no.' I didn't understand why she was giving me condoms. It was not like I would have sex before marriage. Papa had said it's a sin, a sin that God won't forgive me for. I didn't want to be thrown into the lake of fire but I took the condoms silently. It felt so wrong to be holding them in my palm and so heavy. I wanted to throw them away but I nodded and kept them. I did not want to disrespect Mama, it was wrong.

"Use that to protect yourself. Always keep the Lord on your side. Know yourself Renei. The Lord will never forsake you nor leave you to walk down the shadow of death alone. He will protect you. On Monday as you get in that bus to Johannesburg, remember that we love you. That God loves you."

"Yes Mama."

She hugged me briefly before standing up, then she walked out silently closing the door behind her. I went to my bag which was already packed then slid the packet of condoms inside. 'I will throw them away when I get the chance,' I whispered to myself. Then I heard Mama calling me. I quickly rushed to the kitchen where she was. "Mandisa is outside," she said. I then went outside. She was on the veranda wearing her shorts and crop top.

Mandisa is Mma Lebo's granddaughter. The lady who stays across the street. She is one of Mama's friends but she doesn't like Mandisa. They don't like each other and Mandisa told me that soon she will be gone to Jo'burg to stay with her mother full time who works as a nurse there. She told me her mother has a nice house with a huge TV. Sometimes I coveted though I knew this is a sin. We do not have TV at home because Papa said it encourages evil things.

"Chomi!" She said as I sat beside her. She laughed and continued, "I hope you have new clothes packed. These long dresses chomi will embarrass you. They're long and shapeless. You look like a granny in them." She whispered so that Mama doesn't hear her. "Mama said long skirts and dresses shows that I respect myself unlike other girls who let the devil use them," I responded.

"They will laugh at you," she added.

"I don't care. I'm going to learn not to impress anyone." I responded confidently.

She laughed louder, "You are going to be the laughing stock of the school. Look, I will be here tomorrow early in the morning. I will come by your window and give you some of my nice clothes. Couldn't you plate braids though Renei?"

"I like the cornrows."

She shook her head then smiled. "I'm going to miss you."

I took her hand and held it. "Me too, but I will be back before you know it."

"If I were you I wouldn't come back. Being the Lord's messenger's daughter is like prison. I'm so glad your degree takes a lot of years. You will be able to enjoy your life freely."

I sighed. "I am so excited yet so nervous."

"Don't be nervous. You are going to love it. They have big malls. Big shops. Wide roads. And handsome guys!" She whispered the last part giggling.

"I want a man who loves Jesus and.."

"Can you stop talking about Jesus Renei? Don't do it when you get there. You will embarrass yourself. And you need to stop sitting like that. I wish you can just move on with the times."

"Mama said this is the way a woman should sit."

"You are so naïve, they're going to fuck you up there I swear. They are going to fuck you blue black."

"Mandisa can you stop insulting me?" I whispered harshly and I continued, 'your tongue is loose, it needs to be fastened and Mama will hear you."

"I'm sorry. Some of the men.. They drive cars. Go for the greener pastures." She said and I sighed, as I looked at Papa who was coming our way. He didn't say anything but just walked inside the house silently. I knew the moment Mandisa leaves, I was going to get a lecture on how I should choose friends wisely.

Mandisa laughed as soon as Papa disappeared into the house. "Look I have to get going. Remember what I told you. Tomorrow in the morning I will be here." She said while standing up. I also stood to hug her.

"I'm sure your parents are going to give you a phone. Call me when you get it."

"Ok,"

"Bye." She said then walked away in her too short pants, her thighs exposed. I exhaled deeply then walked back inside the house. I knew I was about to hear it.

Mandisa is that girl parents warn their children against. She's wayward and she doesn't care. She always says she doesn't owe it to anyone to act in a certain manner. Papa was in the living room reading his Bible when I walked back in. He then closed it and called Mama while he signaled me to sit down. I sat on the sofa the

way I was taught to.

"My husband you called me," Mama said while sitting beside him.

"Yes, I want us to talk to Reneilwe and pray for her. Mr. Michaels said we should pray for her and protect her from evil spirits." Papa said. He looked determined and I wanted to tell him that I once caught Mr. Michaels drinking alcohol in his car but I didn't. I just kept quiet as Papa started talking about how Jo'burg is horrific. I listened carefully, I wanted to follow Papa's orders. When he was done talking, he started praying for me. He kept hitting my head with the Bible as he prayed and the tight cornrow was hurting me so much but I kept quiet. The moment he said, 'Amen,' I was relieved.

"Your mother and I bought you a little gift. It will make things easier when we want to talk to you." Papa said while handing me a small box. I quickly opened it then took out a phone. It was a Nokia 1200. Not the smart phone Mandisa uses. It was not a touch screen and I got disappointed but I didn't dare to show it in my gesture. I was taught to appreciate even the little things God blesses me with. So I thanked my parents. I then excused myself after that then left for my room. Switching on the phone, there was a SIM card already and there were only two contacts written 'Mama' and 'Papa'. I wasn't bothered by that because besides my parents and Mandisa, who could I possibly want to talk to?

I felt huge as I thought about my journey tomorrow. Papa had already spoke to the school and I'm staying at Res sharing a room. I felt a tiny bit of galling as Mandisa's words rang back in my head. My eyes skimmed over my skirt and I wonder if it's embarrassing. I liked my clothes, their comfort and the way they didn't make me feel naked.

While I was in the kitchen with mom preparing supper, a simple supper for just three people. We were once four but now we are three and when Keneilwe went missing I was not home. I had visited my Aunt in Polokwane. Papa and Mama were sorrowfully devastated but now it's been eight years and they have gone over it but her image still remains vivid and loud in my mind and she visits my memories more than often.

Then there was a knock on the door and it was accompanied by Mma Lebo's voice. This is the woman who sits on her veranda all day long, holding a Bible while keeping a close eye on everybody's life. Sometimes I wondered if she ever reads her Bible because she always has it everywhere she goes. Mandisa does not believe in God because she always argues that if God can entertain her grandmother then why do people say He's good. Till this day, I also don't know why Mma Lebo goes to church, she always has a testimony to tell every Sunday. Like today, she gave a testimony about her teeth which had been giving her problems this week but now she is healed.

Perhaps next Sunday it will be her ankle which was painful.

"Mma Maseko!" She called loudly. Mama immediately stopped chopping the veggies and paced up her walk to the door. I knew she was never going to go back to her house till she eats. Papa always told me that we are a kind and generous family that always welcome everyone. We're not a rich family but we manage to get through life. Papa does own a car, an old Mercedes Benz with problems enough to fit a page but it still moves. Mandisa called it *sekgoropa*, and Papa called it 'his inheritance' because he didn't buy it.

Mma Lebo walked inside the house with Mama, I could hear her loud screech voice from the kitchen. I took a dish towel and wiped my hands to go and greet her.

"Good evening grandma," I said as I approached Mma Lebo with my head slightly bowed.

"Oh good evening Renei, I wish Mandisa was like you. That child has failed me. I don't know what I did to deserve such punishment. God has truly deserted me." She said beginning to cry. I then excused myself immediately feeling amused. She never cease to amaze me.

As I knew, she stayed until we ate then left immediately after that. Mama and Papa walked her out but when they return none of them dared to talk about Mma Lebo's dramatic ways. I quickly washed dishes then we had a family prayer before I went to sleep. Always when we pray, Mama and I kneel down while Papa prays for us and Papa's prayer was longer that night. He kept anointing me with the blood of Jesus while hitting my head with the Bible. After our prayer session I bid my parents good night and went to sleep. I changed to my nightdress that Mandisa calls 'Granny nightdress' but I really didn't care. I stopped caring at some point. I fell into a deep sleep while thinking about Johannesburg.

# TWO

## MAX

I was born with a silver spoon in my mouth. When I woke up, all I had to do was bath, eat, go to school, come back, eat, and sleep. It was simple actually. I never did anything for myself, why would I when my dad was a famous and revered businessman who owned businesses left, right and center. From birth I never did anything for myself. Everything was always done for me, and it is still being done for me.

Being 27 and still in the university may sound weird to some but what actually happened is that I went to varsity when I was 21 because I had taken two years not going to school. Then I froze my studies when I was 26 and being the only son of Senzo Buthelezi is the worst shit that must never happen to anyone. I wouldn't wish it even on any of my worst sworn enemies. See, my life is already planned for. It doesn't matter if I study medicine or not, my fate still awaits me. I'm not a prince but just that I'm the only child, Senzo has made every turn and stop of my life.

As I sat up straight and reached out to my phone which was ringing, it was Alicia. I didn't understand why girls think one night, only one night of sex guarantees a relationship. I didn't answer my phone but I knew soon enough she will call Sean so that he talks to me. I got up from bed then walked to my bathroom. I took a quick shower thinking of where to go. I had Sean but I couldn't go there, especially not with Dolly there. We had almost fucked the previous week, and things were rather awkward. The fact that she's my friend's sister made it all worse.

After the shower I quickly dressed up. Looking at myself on the mirror I realized I needed a new haircut. I couldn't have the same haircut for over two weeks. I took my car keys then walked to my Audi RS5. Its two months old and I couldn't get over the fact that it was actually mine. I didn't buy it of cause, Senzo had bought it for me so that I could attend some functions with him. That was bribery at its best.

I started the engine then drove straight to Sandile's house who stayed with his brother, Carl. Sandile and I had been friends since grade 6. He was that friend who always encouraged bad behavior. Still he was that friend. I arrived at his house 20 minutes later and he was with Kamila. His new fuck buddy. Unlike Sandile who allowed them to stay for a month or so in his house, I never allow them to stay for more than a day, better yet a few hours. Once I had my nut you had to go

immediately, the cab would be outside.

Ndile gave me a handshake and I eyed Kamila. She had a slim figure, big titties. With the way she was looking at me I knew she was an easy target. I looked at my homie. He understood the look I gave him.

"Not until I hit it first!" He said, making me laugh.

"Hi baby," I greeted Kamila, then I continued, "we have met a couple times at parties." She smiled batting her eye lashes. I knew I got her.

"Or maybe a threesome?" Ndile asked.

"I don't know," I responded. Kamila smiled. I knew my morning was about to be very interesting. But we sat there until it was late afternoon and I left them and drove back home for dinner prepared by the maid. When dinner time had arrived, I sat there with Senzo.

"I'm going out of the country tomorrow, your mom called me. She says she misses you so much." Senzo said as I ate my dinner. It was Sunday. I chewed carefully. I had not seen mom ever since the time I got arrested for drinking and driving.

"You have to visit her, you know you are her only child." He continued. Emotional blackmail. I knew it, that's how they would both get me to do anything they want.

"I'm moving out." I said. "I've found a house."

He stopped eating and looked at me. It was like he didn't expect it but then again I was 27, it was about time.

"Moving out where?" He asked, slowly. I knew he was trying to digest what I just said.

"To some flat." I said. He put his fork down.

"I don't think that's a safe place for you to stay." He started. There we go. I knew it.

"Then where do you prefer I stay father?" I asked with a frigid voice.

"I don't care, I'm concerned. I can't let you make any decision big like this on your own without being sure of your safety first. Let me call someone, Nathan actually. He will sort it out." He said.

"Nathan! The estate agent?" I asked myself as I sighed. There was no use for me to argue with him. I then lost my appetite. Talk about a mood killer.

Unlike Senzo I knew mom was proud of me and would support me on that. Although I was an embarrassment to her she loved me dearly. She was a very quiet person, too kind and soft. I didn't understand how she was once married to Senzo.



They were two different people. When they divorced he managed to get full custody of me though I visited mom from time to time.

I stood up and walked away to my room. Immediately I got into my room my phone started ringing. It was Sean. I didn't see him the last Friday, for I had spent the day with Kamila and Ndile then the previous day I was nursing a very dangerous hangover.

"Bruh!" I said answering the phone.

"Yoh Max! There's a bomb ass party held by D, we should land!"

"Who's there?" I asked while walking to my closet. I was always ready for anything.

"I heard Busi will be there," Sean responded. Busi, the girl I had meant to fuck for a while now. She was one of the campus slay queens. I had never slept with her but I knew she had a crush on me. Every girl wanted me though rumors had it that she was a virgin but I strongly doubted that. These whores lie.

"Look I will be there, where's the party being held?" Sean laughed then told me he will send the directions. Dropping the call I then pulled a T-shirt and a jean with my versace sneakers. They were new. I put on my cap with my name printed on it then picked my car keys and walked out.

Dad was watching news when I passed in the living room. He didn't say anything. I didn't expect him to anyway. It was not like his words would stop me either way. I got into my car then put the location of the party on the GPS.

When I arrived at the party, a lot of cars were parked. I was forced to park a bit distant from the venue. I got out of my car after a while, I knew the effect I had on women and it was not even a secret. I knew I was handsome. I knew other niggers didn't like me but I didn't care. After all I was Max. As I walked inside the house I was welcomed by a very loud music. All eyes fell on me. I could already feel some relationship breakups as I passed by. I walked straight to the supposedly VIP section, I didn't need to pay to get in, I even never paid. There was no party without me. Getting to the VIP section I quickly spot Sean, he was with Ndile. Honestly, Ndile was everywhere. I walked up to them. The VIP section was boring, it was always boring. I gave them handshakes before Sean gave me a drink.

"Where's she?" I asked looking at Sean. He chuckled.

"Downstairs."

"Where's who?" Ndile chipped in.

"Busi," I gulped down my drink and it burned my throat. "I'm out!" I said while giving Sean the glass and walking out leaving them laughing behind me. I gave some girl a

wink who was busy giving some guy a lap dance. She blushed.

Getting downstairs I walked through the crowd till I found her. She was with this other two girls. Busi was pretty but the girl who was sited beside her was dressed contrarily to the occasion but she was extra beautiful. Busi was wearing some short dress, her thighs all exposed. The other girl was on some shorts and a drop top then this girl who seemed like an oddball was in a T-shirt and a jean. She might have been looking like a misfit but she was so beautiful, beautiful enough to deserve my second glance. She had braids while the people she was with had long weaves. She even appeared uncomfortable.

When I approached them, they all stared at me. I smiled my smile and Busi couldn't take her eyes off me, the other girl just looked at me with her jaw on the floor.

"Ladies!" I said as I sat on the unoccupied seat. Busi smiled. My eyes were on the misfit. She was drinking coke.

"Max hi," Busi said.

"And why are you looking so hot?" I asked as my eyes landed back on Busi. She laughed. I wanted her to introduce her companions.

"Max stop! Ummh guys this is Max Buthelezi, Papi B, and Max this is Neo," she said pointing at the other girl who had now recovered from her shock state. She smiled at me. I nodded slightly at her. "And that is Vanessa," she lastly said pointing at the misfit. Vanessa. Not bad. She just looked at me then looked away. My ego was bruised. That was not the reaction I hoped for.

"Nice meeting you Vanessa," I said staring at her. She looked at me then nodded before whispering something to Busi and walked away.

I watched her as she walked away, she was beautiful and thick. She was size 36 probably. She walked out, and went outside. I wanted her. There was just something about thick girls I loved.

My mind was already made up. I looked at Busi who fixed her look at me smiling.

"Babe excuse me for a while, I'm coming." I said as I stood up and gave her a peck on her lips. Quickly I followed after Vanessa. I was putting my mojo in place as I approached her. She looked frustrated, stressed or so to say.

"Vanessa?" I said. She jumped a bit before turning and looking at me. I smiled.

"Startled you?" I asked with my eyebrow raised. She looked around and there were few people outside. Her eyes finally looked at me. She was annoyed I could tell.

"How can I help you?" She asked, I was taken by her tone. So sharp. I couldn't tell if

she had an attitude or not.

"You know it's not safe to be alone at places like this, anything can happen. Is it your first time?" Her teary eyes looked at me before she nodded a bit. I was turned on, not because she wanted to cry but because she was damn cute. I took a deep breath. She was too emotional for my liking though.

"I want to go home," she said.

"Who did you come with?"

"My sister and her friends, I can't find them anymore." I smiled.

"Want a lift home?" I asked.

"Is this your way of telling me you want to sleep with me?" I looked at her. Really looked at her. I wasn't expecting that. I composed myself. She was not like the rest but I was not really sure. The emotional ones are mostly easy targets.

"No, this is me trying to help you out."

"I don't want to sleep with you and I don't want you." She said sternly. I looked at her for a while in silence. I couldn't comprehend the fact that she didn't want me. She didn't want Papi Max. She was rejecting me.. Max Buthelezi.

"I just wanted to help you Vanessa,"

"Ohh!" She said. I thought she was getting there. "Thank you but I'm fine thanks." She continued. I was turned off. I took a step away from her as the other girl approached us. I thought I would catch this one, she was the third one in Busi's crew. She was pretty, petite. Reminded me of someone. I shook my head, I sighed spotting Sandile and he was walking towards us. I looked at Vanessa, such a turn off.

"Hi, I'm Neo." She introduced herself. There's nothing more interesting and exciting than a confident girl.

I then took her home after sipping a line of bottles and it got me on highs. But before I could take her to my house I discovered Busi wasn't a virgin, we fucked in one of the rooms that same night before I finally left with Neo. I drove her to my house and when I was done with her the cab was already outside.

When I woke up, the maid was already up. I could hear her cleaning, her broom kept hitting my door from time to time. She was sweeping. My body was tired. Too tired to get up. The hangover was just life threatening. I wanted my morning shake. That was what was going to help me but I didn't want any lecture from my dad. I wanted to just sleep but then the headache forced me to wake up. I was still in my last night clothes and I was stinking.

"Fuck!" I groaned as I got up from the bed. Quickly I changed into my sweatpants and walked out. Walking to the kitchen I ignored Senzo who was drinking his coffee while reading a newspaper. The same way I ignored him, he ignored me. I didn't want to say anything. I was too tired for that. Suddenly he stood up and walked out with his briefcase. I thanked God! I knew he was not coming back. From work he was going to wherever he said he was going.

I needed a blunt. After I made the shake for the hangover and I gulped it down then walked to my room, I didn't see Memory, the maid. Getting to my room I took the roll of blunt that was on my chest of drawer then started smoking. I ignored the smoke that was filling the room. After a while I was done so I walked to the bathroom to take a shower. The cold shower woke me up fully. I needed to go to school but I was late. I was missing the first lesson.

'I will go for the second one or not at all,' I said to myself. Quickly I changed into a skinny Jean and Armani T-shirt, sprayed my cologne and combed my hair. I grabbed my phone and car keys then walked out. I passed Memory who was busy with the dishes. She had been with us for a few months and she was a nice lady.

"Morning," I said to her as I walked out swiftly not even waiting for her response. My phone started ringing as soon as I got into the car. It's Ndile.

"Bruh!" He said.

"Dawg ssup?"

"Nah.. Are you landing or what?"

"I will be there in a few minutes,"

"Busi dawg was here.. says you left her yesterday with Neo."

"Left her?"

"Yeah left her going to her friend. What games are you playing? You know she feels you."

"I wasn't in a relationship with her. Neo is a friend. Simple," he laughed.

"Friends who fuck?"

"We are special friends,"

"Special friends for how long?"

"Nah dawg. Give me a break!" He laughed and I hung up. I started the car then pressed the remote to open the gate. With a higher speed I drove to Ndile's house. I knew he was there, he didn't have anything to do anyway. Unlike me Ndile long got

his degree; Mechanical Engineering. Getting to his house, I didn't knock. I just got in.

"Yoh Max!" Carl said as I walked into the sitting room.

"Bruh!" I gave him a fist bump as he walked out to school. Carl was focused unlike me.

I walked to Ndile's bedroom. He was putting on his jacket.

"Eyyy!" He said as I walked in.

"And where to?" I asked.

He responded, "I'm going to see Busi, wanna come with? Vanessa will be there."

"Nah I'm good with Vanessa! I don't want her anymore. I'm going to go hang out with Sean for a while."

"I'm joking, she won't be there but anyways it's aytt."

I walked out leaving him doing his hair. Getting in my car I drove to Sean's house. It was so quiet when I arrived. I had left him at the party the previous night. His father wasn't in. His pretty step mother, petite woman, was there. If I dared, she was the type I could keep. Not cuff but just keep. She was beautiful. Had beautiful eyes. Full lips. Slim figure. I knocked and she opened the door. She immediately brimmed her beautiful smile. My heart skipped a bit but I gave my body a composure.

"Ma," I said courteously.

"Max, come in.. Sean is sleeping," she said while opening the door wide. She looked so young but she was not that young. I walked in trying not to contemplate about her sexiness. Dammit!

"I'm already leaving for work. Make yourself comfortable,"

"Ok Ma." I watched her as she collected her bag then walked out. Her round ass was matching her body size. Not too big and not too small. Fuck! I shook my head then walked upstairs. Before I could get to Sean's room there was Dolly. Right in front of me.

"Dodo," I said trying to walk past her but she blocked my way.

"Max," she gave me a smile. That smile I knew it. She let her towel fall to the ground and ooh boy, her body was heaven. I might have seen it once but..! I wanted to touch her perky nipples but what about my best friend. What about him? I couldn't fuck his sister right in his house. My dick was already twitching. I could feel it in my pants. She was naked. She looked glamorous as ever.

*You can't have a crush on the mother and fuck the daughter.* My subconscious said

to me.

Dolly started massaging her breast. My dick was now throbbing in my pants. Her left hand went down to her navel, down to her clit and started massaging it. She was making tiny sounds that had me breathing hard.

"Daddy you sure you don't want this?" She whispered in a low and seductive voice. She had me wanting her right there. Right on the floor.

"Sean?" I whisper back and my inner man whore was surfacing.

"Sleeping."

I glided over to her and kissed her placing my hands on her breast. I squeezed them as she moaned in my mouth. I wanted to be in her now! I pushed her to her room and locked the door. She was already on the bed with her fingers gliding in and out of her pussy. I crawled on the bed then opened her legs wider. She was wet already. I buried my head between her moistened thighs. My tongue grazed on her clit and she was all screaming. I started teasing her with my tongue. She was grousing, pulling my head against her. I finally put in two fingers deep in her and started going in and out slowly. She looked at me with her eyes burning with lust. I felt her convulsive muscles and I took out my fingers. She mumbled disappointedly as I got off bed pulling my pants down. I was hard as a rock and I needed to be inside her! That moment! That minute!

"Condom?" I asked her.

"Last drawer" She said pointing at her dressing table.

I got back on top of her with the condom on. Slowly I filled her up. She was moaning softly. She was so warm. I went into her depth. I could feel her caressing pussy bumps as I looped the inner court. Her pussy walls tightly cuddled me to welcome me home. I went into the inner cell, leisurely, fighting the craving to just rip her pussy. Her mouth began to slightly open. I pressed my dick in and in, her hands went to my chest trying to push me but I took them and held them hostage on top of her head and I pushed my dick deep down. Her eyes widened. I got in until I was fully in. She wanted to cry but I was yet going to make her cry. I pulled out then ram in back. She cried.

"Max... gentle," she said while numb and electrified. I couldn't be gentle. Not that day, I was giving her what she wanted. I started thrusting. Fast. Deeper. She was so sweet and I didn't want to quench the appetite. She started moaning after a while. Prisoning me with her legs. I went in full force. I could feel it build up. I could feel her intensity. After few more thrusts she was crying out my name. Tears pricking her eyes. She was exploding.

# THREE

## RENEILWE

I hugged my parents one last time, the quantum was waiting for me already.

"Take care of yourself Renei," Mama said as she tried blinking away her tears. At that moment I felt tears foaming in my eyes and mama hugged me once more. I looked at my parents one last time before I rushed inside the quantum. The driver had already packed my bag in the boot. My heart pounded as I occupied the sit. The sit just by the door. I watched my parents through the tinted window as the quantum started moving.

Closing my eyes I took a deep breath. It was hard to believe it was finally happening. Everything felt surreal. I felt mixed emotions; sadness and excitement at the same time. And then an enormous relief swallowed me. I couldn't wait to see the malls that Mandisa talked about. As I left Turfloop my mind began to prepare me for the new life I was going to start. I contemplated anxiously on the type of roommate I was going to have. I prayed and hoped it would be someone like me, someone we would make really good friends.

My mind immediately went to the previous day, Sunday at church. Papa had stood in front of the congregation and testified about my journey to the university. Pastor Isaac had called me out to pray for me. The pastor and Mr. Michaels prayed for me. Mr. Michaels was stinking alcohol and nobody said anything that moment till we got home.

Mr Michaels had drank wine, Papa had said, and he drank it because God told him to. Mama and I just nodded, we didn't have to say anything but rumors about Mr. Michaels being an alcoholic had already circulated in the whole street. Papa had been livid about it, in his eyes Mr. Michaels was a saint.

I inhaled deeply as I continued starring outside through the window. Time flew, in a few hours we were already in Jo'burg at Park station. I got out of the quantum and received my luggage. My bag was not that big because I had not packed a lot of clothes, generally I didn't have a lot of clothes.

I took out my phone then dialed the number Papa wrote down for me. It was for the cab driver who was supposed to take me to school. 'Now, I'm in Jo'burg,' I exclaimed mutely to myself. My heart thrashed faster than before as everyone walked in every

direction. The tall buildings scared me a bit. All the horrible stories I heard about that place increased my heart beat as I had now come face to face with the city. I then forced myself to take a deep breath as the cab driver's number rang. It rang for a while before it was answered. Papa had said I should trust him. I told him I had arrived and he was already on his way. I put my phone inside my bra then waited. I was wearing my green summer dress, it was long but so pretty, and not embarrassing, I hoped.

I held my bag tightly as more people kept passing by but no one even had the time to greet me. I kept reminding myself that 'this is not Turfloop. This is Jozi and really no one cares, expect thugs and thieves and rapist.' Then I felt a tap on my shoulder. Quickly I turned and there was a man staring at me. A man old enough to be my father. I was startled but I didn't show it.

"I'm the cab driver, let's go." He said while he walked away. I stood and wondered if he won't help me carry my luggage, surprisingly he kept walking. I dragged my luggage and followed him until we reached the car. He opened the boot and started loading my luggage. I occupied the backseat and he drove away.

It was quiet in the car except the weird music which was played on the radio. Some funny music was playing and it was horrible. There were big roads like Mandisa had said, with lots of cars; modish and elegant cars, driven so fast. The cab finally arrived at the bus terminal and the driver got out of the car without saying anything and he went to the boot. I got out, took out the fare from my bra. I gave him as he put my bag before me. He took the money without a word then got into his car and drove off.

'He is rude,' I thought to myself. I looked around in amazement, numerous people of all kinds. My nerves were tense, I tried to relax by squaring my shoulders to gather some confidence. Then dragged my bag inside the huge school. I didn't stop nor turn to look at the beautiful girls who kept walking in every direction. I walked to the reception and found the receptionist standing there eagerly waiting to help. I felt anxious but I tried so hard not to show it. The lady smiled at me, she was probably my mother's age or so.

"Child, how can I help you?"

"My name is Reneilwe Maseko," I said.

"Ok wait," she pressed on her computer for a while then looked at me smiling.

"Welcome Reneilwe," she said then handed me a key.

"This is the key to your room. You know that you will be sharing right?"

"Yes."



"Good, good luck."

I smile then responded, "thank you,"

"Please let me escort you." She said while dropping whatever she was doing. I wanted to tell her no. I looked around, there were so many students in the building and I wondered how many of them had come to pursue MBA; Business Administration, like me.

"My name is Gertrude Shange, but you can call me Mma Shange." She said. We finally stopped in front of a door.

"Ok, this is your room child."

"Thank you Ma'am,"

"If you need anything you can always come to me."

"Ok, thank you."

She walked away. Then I unlocked the door. When I stepped in I could see that my roommate had already moved in. I kept hoping and praying that I was sharing with a first year student like me, someone I would enjoy her accompany. I closed the door then carried my stuff to the empty bed.

The room was big, it was even bigger than my room back at home. The other side, which I believed was my roommate's side was clean and nice. There was pink everywhere. Even her blankets and the Teddy bear on her bed. I put my bag down then opened it. Firstly I took off the new sheets and duvets Mama bought for me. They were both brown. I made my bed then sighed looking at the closet. I knew we were supposed to be sharing it but as I opened it, my roommate's clothes took the whole space. I decide to wait for her. Anxiety and fear grabbed me, I was scared of what that place was going to offer me. I had the worst scenario already playing in my head.

Then the door flung open and two girls sauntered in. They were all wearing expensive clothes. The first one looked like a mixed breed. She had long curly hair and she was pretty.

"Uh friend?" The other girl said. She was pretty but shorter than the mixed race girl. And she was a bit thicker than the other one. It seemed like the mixed race girl was really starving, the way she was so thin seemed as if she suffered from anorexia. She looked at me then took off her sunglasses. She was so beautiful, I felt so ugly.

"Who are you?" She asked, her voice sharp. I found myself standing up. She was so tall.

"I'm Reneilwe, your roommate." I said and I thought I said a joke because she started laughing. I felt perplexed as I looked at her. 'What's so funny?' I wondered.

"Wait, you mean you are my roommate? You?" She prompted making me nod my head positively. She laughed for a while then stopped.

"Wow!"

"She looks like she's from the village." Her friend said. I then concluded that the two ladies are friends.

"Where are you from?" She asked.

"Turfloop." I answered whispering.

"Ooh ok, I'm Alicia and this is my friend, Belinda." She said rolling her eyes. She was mean, and I didn't think she was someone I wanted to share a room with. She continued. "I'm studying Fashion and Linda is studying Accounting. If you stay in your lane, we won't have problems hopefully." She said then threw her handbag on the bed. She was wearing what looked like a skin tight with a crop top and heels. 'She can make a good friend with Mandisa,' I thought. Belinda rolled her eyes then sat on Alicia's bed.

"I mean I have been trying to call him, he's ignoring my calls." Alicia whined while taking off her shoes. I sat down on my bed and started wondering how my stay was going to be like, I wondered if it was possible to change rooms.

"Why don't you just go to his apartment?" Belinda enquired.

"I have to do more than that. Apparently he was with Busi yesterday!"

Belinda laughed. "You are lying!"

"I'm serious. Max is my man and I'm not going to allow any bitch to take him away from me." She said while changing the clothes she was wearing. I looked away. "I'm going to call Sean. I think he can help me." She continued.

"Do that, you can't lose Max."

"I can't. I really like him."

Belinda laughed. "Most people really like him. I mean, he's hot, sexy and rich. And that's why you must get him. Let's go." I looked up as they left. Alicia was now wearing a dress. The shortest dress of all time. I felt a cringe in my body as I looked at her. She looked as good as naked. This are the type of girls my parents warned me against. The ones which lead the fake life.

Orientation was that same day so I stood up and shrugged off my jacket. I walked

over to the mirror which was on Alicia's side. I looked at my reflection. My face was oily, as if I had just bathed in a bucket full of oil. I quickly walked to my bag then I took out my towel. I wiped my face then applied vaseline on my lips. Slowly I walked out of the room and locked it with my key.

I gave myself a tour. I walked back to the reception. Mma Shange was no longer there so I just passed. The school was big, I walked slowly to avoid getting lost. I didn't want to look foolish.

"Hi," a male voice stopped me. I stopped walking and looked behind me. One guy was walking towards me.

"Hi, I'm Prince." He said with a friendly smile and I smiled back.

"I'm Reneilwe."

"First year student?"

"Yes."

"I'm a third year student. What are you studying?"

"MBA."

"Guess what! Me too.." I sighed audibly.

"I didn't think I could actually find anyone who is studying MBA." He chuckled then he started walking. I walked by his side, at least I had finally found someone.

"Well MBA is easy, it just needs your focus. But you look focused."

I smiled. "I'm only here to take the degree."

"That's good, so when did you arrive?"

"Today."

"Orientation starts what time?"

"At 10, this school is so big."

"It is, there's a variety of things offered here. You are going to enjoy your stay I promise. You just have to make the best out of everything you do."

"Is it possible to switch rooms?" I asked.

"You want to switch rooms?"

"Yeah. I don't think my roommate and I will click."

He chuckled. "Why?"

"She's mean. Too mean."

"What's her name?"

"Alicia."

He started laughing. I wondered, 'what is it with this people and laughing. I'm starting to wonder if I possibly look like a clown.' I waited for him till he finished laughing.

"First of all, she's the Queen of slay Queens. Secondly she's the devil himself manifesting in the flesh. Just ignore her because switching of rooms is a very long process."

I sighed feeling tired already. "I hope I will survive this term."

"Don't worry, you will. You just have to know the reason why you are here. In this place, not all that glitters is gold. I will see you around Reneilwe." He said then scurried off. I was left standing in the middle of the school not knowing where exactly to go. I wanted to believe I had found a friend.

I continued to walk looking around. My eyes fell on one girl. She looked scary, black lipstick, black eye-shadows. She was even wearing black clothes. I tactfully watched her as she walked past me. If Papa saw her no doubt he was going to say she's the devil. I shook my head and gathered my wits.

My phone started ringing as I walked around. The ringing tone was loud and I felt all eyes were on me. I pressed my lips together not willing to take it out from my bra. It kept ringing and I muttered, 'why does it have to be so loud?' The moment it stopped ringing I took it out. I didn't care who was looking. It was Papa. Before I could decide what to do, it rang again and I immediately answered.

"Papa,"

"I tried calling you but the phone just rang."

"I'm sorry Papa, I was unpacking my things."

"Ok, I hope you have arrived well by God's grace."

"I have."

"To God be the glory. So how is your roommate?"

"She's fine, she's a nice person." Immediately something poked me for lying. I was not raised to lie but I found myself having done it.

"That's very good Reneilwe. I will call you tomorrow."

"Ok." He then dropped the call. I held my phone tightly in my hand then started walking back to my room. As I was too engrossed in getting to my room, I stepped onto someone's toe. It was a lady and she looked at me burning in anger.

"Can't you watch where the fuck you are going?" She screamed. I shivered and took a deep breath. She was fuming with anger.

"I'm sorry." I said sincerely.

"You are sorry? Look you village girl next time I will slap the stupidity out of you. Nx!" She said then walked away. I felt mortified. Few people were staring at me. I then started walking to my room with extra caution.

Entering the room I threw myself onto the bed and covered my eyes. I felt humiliated. I just lay there on my bed and stared at nothing. Right at that moment I wished Mandisa was there beside me. I took out my phone to call her and realized I didn't have her number. I wanted to tell her about Alicia and her friend and also about Prince. But I couldn't. At that moment loneliness gripped me.

# FOUR

## MAX

"Bruh, what time did you arrive?" Sean asked as I was chewing the last bite of my sandwich.

"An hour ago. What kind of man sleeps till this time though?" I asked imitating his father's voice. He clicked his tongue then opened the fridge.

"I've heard what you did to Busi.. Boy you are going to hell I swear. Hell is for you." I laughed as he sat next to me with a bottle of water.

"What did I do? That girl is not even a virgin."

"What? Nah hol'up.. What?"

I laughed. "She's just ordinary."

He laughed the more then put his water bottle aside. "I can't believe all along.."

"I'm not even concerned."

"Hook me up with her." Sean begged.

"Ok." I said with an assuring gesture. I don't care. Once I've fucked it's over. Once I've tasted the pussy then well.. We move on. There's nothing more to do. I then took out my phone and scrolled down my contacts till I came across Busi's number. She didn't take time to answer.

"Max," she said coldly. I chuckled because I knew she was not mad at me. She couldn't really stay mad at me.

"Babe"

"What do you want?"

"Babe I'm sorry"

"You know.."

"Babe please I know what I did yesterday was stupid. I'm really sorry. I'm sending you some money for shopping as a peace offering." She kept quiet for a while, I knew

I got her. "Will 2k be enough?" I heard her gasp.

"Max... That's a lot of money."

"It's a peace offering. I'm sending it now. Shop then we will meet up in a few hours today."

She giggled. "Ok"

"Bye," I said then dropped the call. Sean was just looking at me.

"What... 2K?"

"She won't say no to you. We will meet up with her later before I check on my mom.

"Hey guys!" Dodo greeted while getting inside the kitchen. She was putting on a very short black flared dress, wearing boots which reached her knees. Obviously she took that sexiness from her step-mother.

"And then wena?" Sean asked looking at his sister with a disgusted face.

"What?"

"You look like a prostitute Dodo. Where are you going like that?"

"First of all I'm 22 years old. Secondly I'm going out with my friends, so bye.

"Hi Max." She said smiling as she left the house. Sean was agitated.

"I swear one day, just one day!" He said while standing up and walking away. I took out my phone, there was a text report. It was Nathan proposing to meet me the following morning. I got excited about moving out. I was tired of living with someone who was constantly finding everything wrong in what I did. Got tired of his lectures.

I was kind of nervous about finishing school. I was to be done with it in a few months and when I started at varsity dad had agreed with me that when I finish was going to work at his company and there was nothing much I could do about to resist that.

Sean came back after a while. He looked fresh.

"Let's go. Didn't you have a morning lesson?" He asked as we walked out of the house.

"I bunked." I said while unlocking my car. We drove to the restaurant and we arrived before Busi.

"Where's your girl?" Sean asked as I sat down. Before I could even open my mouth to answer, I saw her entering the restaurant. She was wearing a red jumpsuit that

hugged her slim figure perfectly. I could see she did her hair and man she looked so hot. She walked swaying her hips to us and by the time she was by our table I was already up with my arms open. She swiftly got inside and we shared a brief hug.

"Hey babe, you look so beautiful." I complimented her making her blush. She sat down then smiled at Sean.

"Ok Busi this is my friend, Sean and Sean this is my good friend Busi." As I was introducing I gave Sean a wink. He smirked before taking her hand to kiss it. Just then a waiter arrived at our table.

"Hello my name is Nolwazi and I will be your waitress today." She said while giving us the menu card. There was a table opposite ours, with three girls sited there and I could see them staring at me. As much as I wanted to fuck, they were just not my type. I gave them a wink before I focused on our waitress.

"Help me with water please." She smiled then walked away.

"So babe I was thinking that maybe you..." I cut myself short as I took out my phone from my pocket. I looked at it for a while then I stood up smiling apologetically.

"Babe there's an emergency at home. I have to go." I said.

"What! What about..."

"Don't worry.. Sean is not in a hurry or are you?" I asked while looking at him. I tried so hard not to laugh.

"Nah.. I am still here."

"Great. Babe you can eat lunch with Sean.. Don't worry about transport, he will drop you off." Then I left. Got into my car and drove straight to my mother's house.

"Fuck breathe Max!" I said to myself. I pressed the hooter when I pulled up by her gate. The gate opened and I drove in. I took few minutes while inside my car trying to pull myself together.

I walked inside the house, she was in the kitchen and it looked like she had been waiting for me. She smiled then I hugged her. I missed her, but I couldn't withstand her situation. What she had become broke my heart excruciatingly. No woman on this earth was like my mother. She is a true angel. I loved her for who she was. She did not let the fact that she was on a wheelchair to discourage her. She smiled and laughed always on that wheelchair but I couldn't endure it. Seeing her on the wheelchair broke my heart.

"Hey baby.. I missed you. Look at you.. My baby.." She said letting me go. I couldn't help but released my silly smile. She looked so beautiful. I noticed the new hairdo



and even the nails.

"You look so beautiful.." I said making her laugh.

"Haai suka wena! How's school? Your dad tells me you are moving out. I'm so proud of you."

"Yes.. Let's go to the sitting room." I walked slowly to the sitting room while she followed behind on her wheelchair. She was immobilized by a car accident. She was with Senzo. He pulled through while she became immobile. Sometimes I wished it was vice versa. She had been like that for the past three years. I hated seeing her like that, I hated God for doing this to her. She deserved none of it. We got into the living room, she made me sit down then she took my hand. It was a habit.

"I'm so happy you are here.. With me. I missed you."

"I missed you too.. You know how it is with school." She knew I was lying but she couldn't say it. She knew just how much I hated Senzo for doing this to her but everyone was an angel in her eyes and I hated it.

"Well.. I'm glad that you are now here. I bought you something." I could see the excitement in her eyes.

"I made you something too.." I said while taking a bracelet from my pocket. I made it personally for her. She smiled brightly.

"Oh baby! This is beautiful.. You are so sweet. Whoever you are going to marry will be so lucky." She said as she put it on. I wanted to tell her I will never get married. What's the use of getting married to only divorce?

"That's not happening anytime soon."

"I know but when you are ready."

"It looks beautiful on you.." I said caressing it gently on her wrist. Her hand was so soft. I wanted to always be there for her but seeing her on the wheelchair never settled well in my heart.

Before she said anything else a girl joined us. I held my laughter when I realized it was Vanessa from the party. I couldn't help but to wonder what she was doing there.

"Ooh, Vanessa this is my son, Max, and baby this is Vanessa. She's Mma Sibeko's second born daughter." My brain struggled to understand whether she was the maid's daughter or not.

She smiled, didn't she remember me? But she did. I saw the slight shock in her eyes. She remembered me. No one forgot Max. "It was nice to meet you." She said then

looked at mom, "I'm now leaving."

"Ooh take," mom said while taking out money. She walked towards mom to receive the money. I was now standing beside my mother just looking at Vanessa. "Give your mother, the other R300 is yours." Mom said and Vanessa smiled before she walked out quickly.

I looked at mom. "She's your helper's daughter?" I asked.

"Yes. She's lovely and sweet."

"Wow!" I muttered while sitting down.

"It's getting late. Eish call her back Max baby.. I will get a cab for her. Yesterday I heard that some girl was murdered."

"Where does she stay?"

"Soweto.."

"I will drop her off." I said already standing up. Mom gave me a look with a smile. She always did that whenever she suspected something.

"Vanessa is a very good girl but baby I know how you live your life. I don't think you are ready for commitment and Vanessa is the committing type. I don't want you to hurt her or vice versa." I looked at her. She was right. I was not ready for commitment but that didn't mean I shouldn't have fun. I kissed her cheek before rushing after Vanessa who was by the gate holding her phone.

"Mom said I should drop you off." She turned and looked at me.

"Ooh, it's ok really. I can manage." I was slightly annoyed. I smirked walking towards her.

"I don't want to sleep with you if that is what you are thinking." I said making her flush.

"It was the first time ever being at a party, I was just scared. There are a lot of rumors about the things that happen at parties." She said while looking down on her phone. A tiny overly cracked phone.

"It's ok.. Mom said I should drop you off, should I tell her you don't want?" I asked, with my eye brows raised. She sighed.

"I hope I'm not making you uncomfortable," I said as I drove to their house. She was quiet the moment she entered my car and the only time she spoke was when she was giving me directions.

"I think we started at the wrong foot yesterday. Can we start over?" I asked glancing

at her. She looked at me.

"I don't think there's any reason for us to start over." She said while looking down on her fingers. "But I'm sorry if I offended you in any way yesterday." I chuckled, I didn't expect that. Then my phone rang. I took it out and answered. It was Sean.

"Boy!"

"Hey look, Busi and I are landing some party. Are you coming?"

"No, I'm with my mom tonight."

"Ok sure boy.." He said then dropped the call.

After a while I stopped in front of Vanessa's house. Not a big house, just big enough.

"Thank you," she said getting off the car.

"Welcome.." I responded as she closed the door. I don't waste time driving away. 'I want to fuck her and I'm going to,' I said to encourage myself.

That night I didn't do much than watch a movie with my mom. She was the only woman I loved, the only woman I ever loved. Sometimes I just wished to take the burden off her shoulders and carry it for her. The following day I woke up early. I couldn't miss class that day or I could but I didn't want her to know about it.

"Hey baby.. I made breakfast.." She said as I entered the kitchen. She did almost anything with her electronic wheelchair. "Sit.." She said softly while singing a joyous song.

"Someone is happy.." I said as I sat down on the kitchen stool. She laughed. She had this beautiful contagious laughter.

"It feels good waking up knowing that you're here. I missed you so much so I woke up earlier to make for you breakfast before you leave for school."

"Thank you first lady." She smiled then handed me a plate.

"So.. Your present.. The one I bought you.. I have thought about and I'm only going to give it to you when you find the right one." She said excitedly.

"You might want to keep it forever."

"Soon enough you are going to find her, I prayed to God about it.. What time are you meeting the estate agent?" She asked trying to keep the good mood.

"We postponed, it will be during the lunch hour."

"Great. Give him my number after you manage to get the house you want."

"Ok?"

"Don't worry, I just wish only the best for you." She said smiling.

"Thanks mom."

"Eat babe, don't be late for school." I smiled then ate.

I left the house immediately after eating but on my way to school I receive a call.

"Yoh?"

"Hi Max, it's Sean's mother."

I cleared my throat. "Uh how are you Ma'am?"

"I'm fine. Is it possible if you pass by the house after your lessons? I was thinking maybe we can throw your friend a party for his birthday."

"That's a good idea. I will come later."

"Ok," She then hanged up.

I then decided not to go to school. I wanted Neo. I just wanted to fuck her hard to get rid of my frustrations and who was a better candidate than Neo? I knocked on the door and her sister opened. I swallowed saliva as I stared at the half naked sexy woman before me. She only had a towel wrapped around her, she was dripping wet.

"Hello."

"Hi, I'm Max.. Is Neo here?"

"No. Who are you?" I smiled and I knew she had fallen.

"Can I come in?" I asked.

"I don't know you.."

"I'm Max. I have an issue I want to discuss with you."

"Ok, come in." we both giggled at the same time, I shook my head as I walked in. it was my first time to get into that house. Thank God I had been listening when she said her house address. The house was small and suffocating but I didn't care.

"You are beautiful.." I said with a lustful look.

"Uh what did you want from Neo?" She asked fidgeting.

"Nothing anymore. I want you." She laughed.

I tenderly pulled her close and kissed her. She didn't resist. Slowly her hand went down to squeeze my dick. I had to kiss her electrifyingly. Fuck! Her mouth tasted good. She moaned in my mouth. I picked her up and held her against the wall. I wanted to be inside her.

"Do you have condoms?" I asked breaking away the hot kiss.

"Yeah.." I placed her down then watched her walk away. She came back holding a box of condoms. I knew what I was doing was partly wrong but Neo and I were not in a relationship. We just happened to have fucked once.

# FIVE

## RENEILWE

I only had three lectures and I didn't get lost as I attended them. The orientation had gone well the previous day. But in those two days I had seen it all. I had seen the beautiful girls who led fake lives like Alicia. I had seen fake people like Belinda, seen demons that wander in two legs. But the homosexuals shocked me the most; gays kissing each other publicly unashamed. Seen the nice people and those who just don't care. I kept seeing scary things every moment. The other night I couldn't sleep, Alicia and her two friends were smoking and drinking. The smoke filled the room and it was suffocating though I had covered myself with blankets. It felt so strange.

At six in the morning I woke up and prayed after reading the Bible. Usually at home we did it as a family but now I had to do it alone. I then left Alicia still asleep as I left for my morning class. I didn't blame her, she had drunk a lot the previous night. All because a guy called Max didn't want her anymore. She was so heart broken, her friends tried to calm her down but she drank all the more. These were the kind of problems I was never going to face in my life. Every day I prayed for God to bless me with a good guy, a guy who loved Jesus and who would genuinely love me too. I knew the guy was there and all I had to do was wait for God's time. There was really no need to rush.

When my last lesson ended I walked out immediately. I kept my head down as I walked, I needed to get textbooks. Papa had given me the money for them. I then felt a hand on my wrist grabbing me. I panicked, then I looked, wow, it was Prince.

"Hi!" Prince said smiling.

"Hi,"

"So how was it?" He asked.

"I can't wait to attend more lectures!" I said failing to withhold my excitement. Prince smiled.

"If you can keep this spirit throughout, then you will conquer every obstacle."

"Yes. I'm so excited."

"I'm sure you are still meeting new people."

"Yes I am and new things too. Strangely, I saw a gay couple kissing. It shocked me and tortured my brain. But nothing compares to my first lectures."

We started walking towards the library. I didn't know what Prince wanted from there but I just followed him. I was also glad about going to the Library. I used to find myself in the high school library most time when I was still a student there.

"Ok, this is the library." Prince whispered. "It has everything you might need." He continued. The library was so huge, they were books all over and I just wanted to open each and every book.

"You can check out the MBA side over there." He said pointing at another section. "You are allowed to borrow at least two books at a time." Prince whispered from behind me. I took one, prescribed by one of my lecturers. I then borrowed it and settled on an empty table with Prince. He had assignments and needed to finish them up. I sat across him and browsed through the book as he took out his laptop. He did his assignments while giving me pointers on how to read. By the time he was done it was already late. I was hungry, I didn't have food. I didn't even see a stove in my room. My stomach grumbled, I hadn't eaten since the previous day. I shifted my gaze when I felt Prince's eyes on me.

"Have you eaten?" He asked. I tried to hide it but I just couldn't.

"Don't be shy. It's ok. Do you have food?" I shook my head. He smiled then quickly packed his things.

"Let's go." I hesitantly stood up. He then took all my books and put them in his bag for I didn't have one for my books.

"Hey it's ok, I can carry my books. You don't have to bother yourself." He ignored what I said and took my hand and led me out of the library. I didn't know why I felt safe with him though he was just a stranger. Something in me told me he wouldn't hurt me. He took me to some nearby restaurant. He bought some fat cakes and soup, for me and for himself.

"I hope you don't mind fat cakes," he asked as we walked from the restaurant back to the school.

"I don't mind. Thank you so much. You are kind."

He laughed. "It's ok. With the kind of roommate you have I don't mind." I chuckled.

"You really don't have to do this every day. Tomorrow I have to buy a cheaper stove or something."

"Great idea. So tomorrow how many lessons do you have?"

"One," I answered.

"Ok well considering the fact that..." his sentence got cut short by a certain girl.

"I'm really sorry. I'm lost, I want to go to the Fashion Department.."

I looked at Prince because I also didn't know anything. I listened as he directed the girl where she was supposed to go. She appeared relieved after Prince finished directing her.

"Thank you. I'm Vanessa by the way." She said smiling.

"It's nice to meet you. I'm Prince, and this is my friend, Reneilwe." He said smiling back.

"Do you think my dressing is funny?" I asked him as I started walking. Prince followed after me.

"No. Why would I think like that?"

"My friend.. Mandisa back home said I'm going to be the laughing stock when I arrive here because of my dressing. Do you think people laugh at me behind my back?" I asked but afraid of what response I would get. I didn't think I wanted to hear it. Prince stood in front of me.

"What you wear really doesn't matter. You are not like other girls, you dress for yourself not for anyone." He said.

I smiled. "I'm sure Papa would like you." I said but regretted it.

"I mean.. Well.. I.."

"It's ok. My parents would love you too. And I like your skirt." He said as we walked. I looked at myself, putting on my long jean skirt. I didn't have anything short apart from the clothes Mandisa gave me. I didn't plan to ever wear them. They are not my style.

Prince dropped me by the reception as he left for his last lesson. The room was already unlocked so I just walked in. Alicia was in the room and she was standing in front of her mirror. I didn't say anything when she rolled her eyes on me. I just walked over to my bed. After a while her phone rang.

"Hey, I'm meeting up with Max... Yeah." She said then hang up. She then left, as soon as that I started eating my fat cakes. It was around five so I ate as I went through what I learnt today. I sighed as my phone started ringing on the bed. I glanced at the screen and quickly answered.

"Mama!"



"Renei, how are you?" She asked.

"I'm fine Mama, and you?"

"I'm ok, we are going to Mma Lebo's house right now."

"Why?"

"Mandisa didn't come back yesterday when she went out with her friends."

"Is she not at those evil gatherings of hers she normally goes to?" I asked arbitrarily.

"Mma Lebo was woken up by the police today early in the morning.."

"Mama what are you saying?" I shrieked.

"She was shot by the police as they suspected them to be dealers of drugs or some sorts. They raided the place they were gathered in. The police stated that they suspected they were armed so they had no choice.." she paused as she sucked in air and then exhaled thickly.. "Mma Lebo is in agony right now. What is she going to tell Thokozile?" Mama said as sadness lanced her voice.

"Ngwanake we will talk, let me go and offer my condolences to Mma Lebo." She said as she cut the call. Slowly tears flooded my cheeks. Reality sluggishly crept into me. A colossal pain assembled in my heart. I zoomed vivid memories of her in my mind. I was seething and shaking in disbelief, as her voice of advice started playing in the back of my mind. These bad news tortured me. Her death pierced me, she was too young. Just too young. Too young like Keneilwe. Too young like Gabriel. Death, I felt the strident sting of death. The cops, they kept killing and nobody said anything. 'Where is justice?' I muffled.

# SIX

## MAX

I arrived. Sean's mother opened the door. She was wearing a dress that day, a flared dress. I conjectured what was under the dress. She looked so young though she was in her early forties. I was sure her husband was no longer that active in bed. He was in his late fifties. Sean's mother smiled then opened the door wider. I walked in smiling.

"Max, hi!"

"Good afternoon," I greeted.

"Sean just left with Dolly, they went to buy me some grocery." She said. At that moment I envisioned her naked, in my arms. I shook my head.

"I think this is the perfect time to discuss his birthday plan. I know the birthday is months away but I believe in preparations. He has a lot to celebrate this year, his new course... I was thinking of a party.. Well, his father and I will not be there the whole night. This can work." She laughed shaking her head.

"Ok."

"So how much do you think you will need?"

"If you will provide snacks it will be fine."

"Snacks only? Will you not need beer?"

I laughed. "No. We don't drink." She joined my laughter.

"Can I then leave this up to you to organise?"

"Yeah.."

"Ok."

I walked to Sean's room while his mother walked to the kitchen. Feeling tired I threw myself on top of the bed. My day had just started on a bad note, I had to deal with Alicia. Honestly if I didn't know better I'd say she has a mental disorder. I even regretted going to school after fucking Neo's sister. As I was laying there I heard a scream.

Quickly I got off bed and followed where it was coming from. It was from the main bedroom. I took a deep breath before I opened the door.

"Ma'am?" I said as I looked around in her bedroom.

"In here Max, come!" She said. I walked to the ensuite. I opened the door and she was all wet. The bathroom tap was open and a lot of water was gushing out.

"I don't know what's going on. Can you fix it?" She said with a panicked voice.

"Ok, though I'm not a plumber let me try," I said after a deep breath. After a while I said to her, "I think this will do for now, though I suggest you call a professional plumber as soon as possible." I said as I got up. She laughed.

"Thank you so much, I don't know what I would have done if you hadn't been here." She said.

"It's ok."

"Look, you're all wet." *So are you.* I inwardly said. She looked sexier than ever. The dress was now clutching on to her body.

"It's ok Ma'am."

"No it's not. You should change into Sean's clothes. I don't want you catching a cold."

"Come," she said taking my hand. That had my dick jerking. I took a deep breath and tried to control myself.

"Max are you ok?" She asked looking at me. She was close to me, too close I could easily breathe her breath. I closed my eyes for a bit. I was craving for her. Her lips were so soft.

She looked at me for a while before she started undressing. My jaw was on the floor. She took off her wet dress followed by her bra then her lace panty. I was skipping breaths.

"Don't be.." She said walking to me. My dick was rock hard, it was painful. I couldn't believe it was happening. She knelt down then pulled my pants down a bit. She also pulled down my briefs then my dick sprang free.

She licked her lips staring at me. I swallowed saliva. I couldn't believe she was really doing that. She rubbed me slowly then opened her mouth and pulled me inside. I gasped. Her mouth was warm. She took me slowly. I grabbed her braids then started fucking her mouth. I pulled out my dick when she started gagging. She caught her breath for a second before I pushed it back into her mouth again. I closed my eyes as I pumped faster. I could feel it coming. I pulled her braids as I released right in her

mouth. Slowly I slid it out. She was breathing so fast as she looked at me.

"Stand up!" I commanded.

She stood up. I took her hand and led her back to the bedroom. I locked the door then pushed her on top of the bed. I opened her legs wide then inserted my finger. She was already dripping wet. She wanted me and me she got. I quickly removed my wet clothes and took out a condom from my sweatpants' pocket. I had gotten it from Neo's sister. Got on the bed after putting on the condom, separated her legs with my knee. I pushed myself in as she moaned. By the time I was fully covered by her warmth I felt like exploding. She was so tight. I pulled out slowly then pushed back in. She whined softly. I wanted her to yell my name. I started going fast and then faster.

After I had fully discharged myself she had reached her climax. Guilty consciousness hovered over my mind as I dressed in my wet clothes. She was just lying there looking at me. I wanted to leave immediately after dressing up. I wanted to run away from her room to my car. Silently I got out. I paced up. Sean was not yet there. I quickly drove out from the yard and went straight to my mother's house.

I got into my mom's house and she was watching television, not really but she was looking at Senzo on the television. I didn't know what he was talking about and I didn't care.

"Max!" She called as I passed by. I turned and looked at her. She smiled.

"You know we love you right?"

"Then can I decide my own future?" I responded.

"Max your father built his legacy for you. Everything he has is yours. His hard work of sleepless nights belongs to you. He loves you so much. You might not be seeing it but he does." She said softly.

"Then why did you leave?"

"Max some things are just not meant to be." Carefully she said.

"I'm going to lie down for a while." I said walking away. I could smell Sean's mother on me. I regretted sleeping with her. I shouldn't have done that. I needed a smoke and a strong drink. I stood up and took a shower. After that I changed into my black sweatpants and hoodie. When I was done putting on my sneakers I walked out of the room. She was still in the sitting room.

"I'm going to see my new house."

"Please come back tonight. I want us to have dinner together." She wheeled herself

towards me and held my hand. I took a deep breath then I kissed her hand.

"Ok I'll come mom."

"Max you still remember Vanessa?"

"Yes."

"She's a very nice girl," I sniggered.

"Mom girls like Vanessa don't go for guys like me. They go for more determined guys."

"Haibo!" She exclaimed. "You are determined too. Vanessa is a very good girl than those girls you are always in magazines with."

"No, Vanessa is just too much for me. She probably dates guys from church." I said cringing.

"Let me go, love you." I said kissing her cheek then walked out. I drove to the hotel where Nathan was to look at the penthouse. When I got there I walked in to the receptionist who was just staring at me. I smiled.

"Hello,"

"Mr Buthelezi welcome," she stammered.

"I'm here to view the penthouse."

"Top floor." She said. I eye winked her before I walked away. I left her blushing. Inside the elevator I wasn't alone. I was with a man and a woman. I recognized the woman. She looked at me with a surprised face. When we got to the second floor the man walked out and she remained. She looked so calm, so composed.

"Simpfiwe," I said.

"Max." She said as the elevator door opened then she walked out. I met Simpfiwe at one of my father's business dinners. She was a daughter to my father's business associate. She was bold, beautiful and sexy. Honestly she made me nervous.

When I got to the top floor I turned towards the penthouse's door and opened it. It looked beautiful but I didn't care. All I wanted was to move out from Senzo's house. I looked around. It had four bedrooms, two lounges, ensuite in each bathroom. The kitchen was so big. There was a small pool by the other lounge's balcony.

I liked the house. I sent Nathan a text telling him I liked it and I intended to move in as soon as possible. I didn't forget giving him my mother's number. I went back to the receptionist.

The receptionist smiled at me.

"Hey, does Simphiwe Mkhize work here?" I asked.

"Yes, she's the COO and she partly owns the hotel." I marveled.

"Ohh, ok." I said as I took my phone out. I still had her number. I looked at the receptionist.

"Call the manager, I want to speak to him," she immediately called the manager on the phone.

"Hello?" I said as I put the phone on my ear.

"Mr. Buthelezi," the male voice called.

"Can Ms Thulani be released from work right now?"

"Yes Sir."

"Great." I said handing back the phone to the receptionist. I walked outside then waited by my car. After about 30 minutes she walked out. She looked gorgeous.

"Whoa! Wait." I said as I grabbed her hand. She looked at me.

"Hi," I said.

"Max." she responded and I knew she didn't like me. She made it clear at the business dinner when I tried my charm on her.

"I'm sorry about last time. I was just being a jerk." I said.

"It's ok but I still don't want to sleep with you." She said. After she rejected me at the dinner I had called her an ass licker.

"I never said I still want to sleep with you too."

"Want a lift?" I asked.

"There's my car." She said pointing at the BMW. I ran out of ideas.

"Ok.. Wanna go out for dinner?"

"No thank you." She responded quickly.

"Geez you really don't like me."

"I'm glad you know." She said sternly.

"I like you.." I said.

"But I don't."

I looked at her for a while then I laughed. "Now you are lying."

"Whatever Max.. Can I go now?"

"I just want to have dinner."

"No!"

"Please.."

"No."

"Please.." She looked at me for a while and I knew I had won. Hesitantly she gave in and I followed her behind as we both drove to another nearby restaurant. After the dinner; which lasted a short while she insisted to leave.

"Thank you for the dinner." She said standing up.

"You are welcome." I paid for the dinner then we walked out. I accompanied her to her BMW.

"Look," I tenderly pushed her back against the car and my lips covered hers. She stilled for a while then kissed me back. My hand went to her thighs and rubbed them softly. She pulled me much closer. Our lips separated after a while. She was breathing stiffly and crying. I wondered if I hurt her.

"Babe are you ok?" I asked wiping her tears away. She shook her head then covered her face with her palms.

"Simphiwe talk to me." I said as I took her hands off her face.

"Please just leave me alone."

"Ok," I whispered. She looked at me for a while before she unlocked her car and got inside. I walked to my car and drove away.

# SEVEN

## RENEILWE

Mandisa's death brought trauma into me. I couldn't sleep that night. I was visited by nightmares, one after the other. I was sweating and breathing heavily. Yesteryears' memories engulfed me. Memories of the dead and the fate that lied ahead. I couldn't sleep. My mind flashed back, joining the dots of the past. As if I was watching a scary movie. I remembered the day when I came back from my aunt's house in Polokwane where I had visited, nobody told me Keneilwe was missing. Nobody said anything, they just stared at me with sadness in their eyes. I was only ten and I didn't even know what was going on. Days passed and sometimes the police would come home and sometimes they wouldn't but I could feel something was wrong. Soon I overheard Mma Lebo and Mama talking about the works of the devil. Then I understood. When I did, I cried. She had been kidnapped and had been killed perhaps for rituals. After that we joined God's Children Church leaving Methodist church.

Five years later it was Gabriel. Mma Ndlovu's son. He was shot by thugs. We were together at the nearby supermarket. They demanded everyone who was inside to lay down. Only if Gabriel had listened. I wished I could pull him and yank him down with me but he was too fast. He decided to run away and they shot him. Twice. When his body fell to the ground nobody attended him. No one wanted to die. The police didn't do anything other than cautioning us to be extra careful henceforth. I then developed a resenting anger but Papa rebuked me. God didn't want us to be angry. It was wrong.

But that bitter anger came back to me again when I heard of Mandisa's death. So far it was three people and I kept wondering how many more I was going to lose. That moment when I opened my eyes the room was bright. I didn't even bother trying to be quick. I knew the shared showers were already full. I sat on my bed wondering what would happen if I miss my classes. I shook my head, something that Mandisa desired was that I attend my classes and pass. Sometimes we would lay in my room and talked about our future. She wanted to be filthy rich. She always said she liked greener pastures. That moment I felt she had been robbed of her dreams and life. The same way as Keneilwe's and Gabriel's dreams were.

When we joined God's Children Church, we hoped they will help us find Kenei. Mama had so much hope. Pastor Isaac always said giving to God guarantees blessings. Every month end we gave tithes and offerings. The little penny Papa made from



working at the pawn shop and the money Mama made from being a potter at the hospital, half of it went to tithes and offerings. Pastor Isaac always said my family was blessed, and their blessing was me. He always told them I was their angel and because of that, I had to act in a certain way. The way my parents raised me made other parents yearn to have a daughter like me. However, my age mates didn't think so, they just thought I was the boring church ruby. Though I always had Mandisa by my side. They didn't talk to me like that in her presence. She liked calling herself Mama Gangster! She once had a gun in her room. I got so scared when I saw it but she assured me it wasn't hers. And it damn wasn't. It was Desmond's. The dangerous Gangster guy. He owned the steets of Turfloop and no one talked about him, even Mma Lebo.

I stood up and turned, Alicia was sited on her bed looking at me. She looked sad. Very sad. I had no doubt her plan on getting Max had failed. I found myself walking towards her. I sat next to her. "Are you ok?" I asked and she just looked at me. I sighed then stood up and left for the shower. Coming back to the room Alicia was on the phone dressing. Her phone was on loudspeaker so I heard their conversation;

"So he just gave you money and left?" Belinda asked. I was now familiar with her voice.

"Yeah.. Max thinks I'm all for the money." Alicia answered.

"Did you take the money?"

"I did. I was not supposed to?"

"Well you could have just returned it if you didn't want it?"

"Look, that doesn't matter now. I'm almost done, maybe I can go to him at his class. He has an early lesson today."

"Good luck. You know he doesn't attend most of his early classes."

"Yeah, let me go." Alicia said then hanged up. She looked so annoyed. When I finished applying body lotion I put on my floral purple dress. Then brushed my cornrow. It was no longer that painful. I brushed it without wincing in pain. After that I grabbed my bag and Alicia was now in front of her mirror doing her makeup. I just glanced as I walked out.

"Child," Mma Shange said as I passed by the reception. She gave me a broad smile and I tried smiling back.

"Mma.."

"How are you child?"

"I'm fine and you?" I lied.

"I'm fine. Good luck today."

"Thank you." I said as I carried on and my thoughts were all about Mandisa. I had two hours before my first lesson started so I walked to the library. It was very quiet when I got there. There were just five people and all of them had laptops in front of them. I just took out the textbook I borrowed then started reading. Visiting thoughts about Mandisa distracted my concentration.

Two guys then walked in and they were talking loudly. The librarian then shushed them and one of them rose his hands in an apologetic manner. They walked past me and I could clearly see them. The taller one was good looking. Well, overly handsome. He was very handsome and had pierced his nose. He also had a curled haircut and his complexion was lighter than mine. Not as light as Alicia's though. He was the type that Mandisa would say, 'don't go for them. They only use you and throw you off immediately.' His friend though, the other guy, was not ugly, he was just ok.

"Hey.." A voice startled me. Prince. He laughed then sat next to me.

"Hey, I knew I would find you here."

"My lesson starts at 12."

"I cooked today." He said pointing at his bag.

I feigned a smile. "You didn't have to."

"Well I already did. Come, let's go and eat." We stood up then walked out and sat on the benches under a shade in the middle of the school. He took out two lunch boxes and two cans of coke.

"I hope you don't mind coke." Prince said.

"I don't..." I said then sighed, "my friend Mandisa... is dead. She was shot by the police." I said making him pause what he was doing.

"What?" He asked remorsefully

"She's dead. They shot her." Uncontrollable tears drizzled on my cheeks

"My sincere condolence.. so sorry to hear that. But I'm here for you." He said as he stood to give me a hug. I thought about resisting it but I gave in. My first hug since I entered the school. For the first time I felt so tranquil in someone's arms. First time being hugged by a male person who's not my father. I relaxed in his arms and it felt like a soothing ointment. At that moment I felt peace being transferred into me.

Softly we parted the hug then he smiled at me.

"Take and eat." I received it with meekness. To ease my heart Prince diverted from talking about the sad news and began to talk about where his background, where he comes from; Kwazulunatal. He really loved KZN but at the same time he loved Jo'burg. His parents resided in KZN except his cousin, Sfiso.

"You should really visit KZN sometime. You would really love it." He begged.

"Yes," I agreed though I knew my dad wouldn't allow it. We then walked to my lesson.

"Today my last lesson ends at three. Wait for me at the library ok?" He said as we stood by the door.

'Alright," I said as I walked inside the lecture hall. Most students had already sited. The moment I sat down the lecturer walked in. I wished the lesson could go on and on. But as soon as time was up I found myself walking to the library.

"Excuse me!" A voice came from behind me. I turned in panic. It was one of those two guys I previously saw in the library. Not the overly good looking one.

"Me?" I asked. He smiled. I got confused.

"Yeah... You. You dropped something."

I looked at him feeling more confused. "Something?"

"Yeah..." He said while giving me a piece of paper. I reluctantly took it from him and opened it. It was a cell number. I looked back at him, even more confused.

"Excuse me I think..."

"Oh no don't think anything. I'm Sean you are?"

"What's your name?" He repeated.

"Reneilwe," with a trembled voice.

He smiled then took my hand and shook it. "It's nice to meet you Ms Renei.." He said.

"I've never seen you around. First year student?"

"Yes." I nodded.

"Well... have they showed you around?"

"Yeah, during orientation."

"Surely they didn't show you other places like ZukuZuku."

"Zukuzuku?" I asked.

"Yeah... Do you know where that is?"

"No..." He looked at his wrist watch then smiled.

"This will only take 10 minutes..." he grabbed my books from me then took my hand. He led me across the school till we were at some place I couldn't have possibly known. It was a nice shaded place with a huge round bench. Nothing else to it. Just the bench and shade. I looked at him.

"This is the Zukuzuku..." He paused, then continued, "You can chill here and read."

I smiled kindly. "I will remember that next time. Thank you. I really have to go now."

I took my books from him then quickly walked away. I took my phone from the pocket of the jacket then dialed Mama's number.

"Renei," she answered.

"Mama... did you go see Mma Lebo?"

"Yes. The burial is this weekend. Thokozile is here and she is brokenhearted. I know Mandisa was your friend but be strong Renei, it is well my daughter." I took a deep breath. "Your Papa and I will keep praying for you."

"Mama I have to go. Bye." I said then hanged up and rushed into the library where I met Prince. It didn't take long till he was escorting me to my class and walking out of the class after the lesson, I found him right by the door.

"Are you sure this is allowed?" I asked in quiver.

"Nobody will know. Sit." I looked around the room. There were two beds and a tiny fridge with a tiny stove. I knew I was not allowed to be in there but Prince had managed to convince me otherwise after we left the library around lunch. I had fallen in love with the library that I always found myself there.

"I will prepare dinner. It's nothing much, just noodles."

"It's ok. Your room is small." He laughed.

"Yeah... I share it with this other guy called Mandla. It's big enough for us."

"What will happen if he finds me here?"

"Nothing. Renei relax please. Look how you have goggled your eyes now." I blushed.

"Please I'm coming. I will be back just now." He said.

"No, you can't just... leave me.." I begged.

"Hey.. Relax. I'm going to the room next door. I will be back just now." He said then left. After a minute I quickly stood up as the door opened and my heart skipped some beats. Sean's friend walked in. I could see him clearly now. He was really good looking and attractive. Really eye-catching. I looked at him and asked for God's mercy as I shook my head. He looked at me for a while. Something told me he was not Mandla.

"Sup?" He finally opened his mouth.

"Hello." I managed and he smiled.

"Is Mandla here?"

"No he's not. You know how scarce he is at the beginning of each semester." Prince answered as he was stepping in and he really saved me by getting in at that moment. He was holding a tomato sauce.

"Dawg, when did you come?" The handsome guy asked.

"On Sunday." Prince said looking at me to say something. "This is Reneilwe. Renei this is a friend, Max."

# EIGHT

## MAX

I was captured by her eyes. Goggle and bright. I felt so exposed under her eyes. I could see the innocence of her eyes. The out of this world beauty. She was so beautiful I couldn't get over it. My eyes slowly moved down her body. She had a short yet pretty height. I shook my head.

"Well tell Mandla I was here," I said to Prince. "And nice to meet you Rene."

"Renei... Reneilwe... Renei." She corrected. My God! Her soft voice melted my heart as I swallowed the air. I had to leave. As I walked to my car I saw Vanessa walking ahead of me. I paced up a bit to catch her.

"Hi Vanessa good to see you."

"Nice to see you too Max." She responded.

"Are you done for the day?"

"Yes I'm going home."

"Vanessa I can drop you off."

"Oh no it's ok."

"No. I can drop you off. How many taxis do you have to take to reach home? Two right?"

"Yes but I'm Ok."

"See... let me go drop you home." I insisted sympathetically.

"Ok." She then agreed. We walked to my car. I opened the passenger door and she got in. She was really thick. I imagined myself between her fat thighs. Just that imagination got my blood boiling. I started the car and drove off.

"So what are you studying?" She asked.

"Medicine and you?"

"Fashion."

"Great!"

"Yeah."

There was silence again. She didn't ask me anything when I parked the car in the hotel's parking lot.

"Look can you come with. I want to collect something in there."

"No please..."

"Yes please." I said while getting out of the car. She stepped out and we walked towards the entrance. Getting inside everything looked orderly and the game was beginning.

"I really wanted to talk to you Vanessa." I said while taking her hands into mine. She looked at me, confused.

"About the party... That day. I'm really sorry."

"It's ok..."

"No it's not..."

"It's ok, really.. I'm sorry too, I was rude. It was really unnecessary. You were only trying to help."

"Can I get a hug for that?" I asked already opening my arms. She walked right into my arms. I hugged her trying to gauge her body reaction. She was tense so I pulled out.

"You are beautiful." I said making her blush.

"Thanks. I really have to get going."

"I... I like you. A lot." I finally said. Vanessa looked at me with a shock in her eyes.

"What?"

"I like you." I repeated. She blinked then sat on the bed. I sat beside her.

"Did I scare you?"

"No... Do you like me or do you want to sleep with me?"

"I like you. You are different. What's there not to like about you?"

"Max... I don't want you to use me and I don't want to lose focus, your good looks can get you any girl you want at any time. You are going to hurt me..."

I then smashed my lips on hers. She froze for a while and I used that opportunity to

take full control of her lips and owned them. She finally responded, she glued herself to my mouth. I pushed her to lie on the bed, separated her legs then I got on top of her. Her short dress was pulled to her waist. I unzipped the front zip of her dress. Her huge breasts were staring at me in her bra. I got off her then completely took off the dress. I just wanted to be inside her.

She then sat upright and said, "Max I don't want you to hurt me. Sex is just not sex to me."

"Shh... Relax. I'm not going to hurt you." I said while unclipping her bra. Her breasts were so big and I began sucking one with my mouth. Her body jerked as she hissed loudly. I sucked it hard as my hand went down to her pussy. I breached the panty then got my hand right on her shaved pussy. She was wet and ready. I pulled myself from her then took off her panties. She didn't look like the Vanessa I knew, this was the wanton Vanessa. I unzipped my pants and took out my dick. I took out a pack of condoms from my pocket.

I then pulled her ass on the edge of the bed. I placed her legs on my shoulders then slowly entered her. She was tight. She had her eyes closed as I dug deeper into her. She was so warm and it felt good. She seemed to be in the mood of taking it like a big girl because she didn't push me away but let her pussy expand till I was fully in. I started going in and out of her slowly trying to get her to adjust. After a while she was moaning softly and she was looking at me.

I began to move faster, chasing after her climax before I could reach my pinnacle. I pressed her thighs together and I went in faster and harder. Her breasts shook to the rhythm of my thrusting while she was grabbing the sheets and screaming. I could feel her body stiffen as her pussy walls cradled me tightly. I wanted to prolong this so I pulled out and she opened her eyes immediately. I picked her up and she immediately wrapped her legs around my waist. I dragged to the wall then repositioned her hips around my cock and slowly blocked her entrance. That moment I was not going to be gentle. I wanted her never to forget me in her life time.

I started thrusting in much harder and faster. Her screams were so loud. I was sure the whole hotel knew my name already. She dug her nails unto my back as I was panel beating her hard. She murmured wordlessly as I felt her getting close. I was close too. She stiffened around me then screamed louder than before as her climax dawned. I exploded after her. I took a few minutes in that position just trying to calm down. After that I walked with her to the bed and lay her down. She whimpered softly as I pulled out of her. She looked thoroughly dealt with.

"Are you ok?" I asked as she lay on the bed with her eyes closed. She slowly opened them then smiled.



"I'm fine."

"Are you hungry?" I asked as I took off the condom. I fixed my pants then zipped.

"No. I'm fine." She got up from the bed then pick her clothes and started dressing.

"Look we will get food before I drop you off to your house. You can give me your timetable so that I can always pick you up and drop you off." I lied but she didn't pick it up. She looked at me then smiled.

"Really?"

"Yeah. Dress up so we go get food."

"Ok," she quickly dressed up then we walked out. I gave Shez a wink as we passed through the reception.

I took her to one of the expensive restaurants.

"Can we get a takeaway babe? I promised Mom movies."

She smiled. "Yeah... It's ok."

I ordered then we left. She was all smiling as I drove her home. There she got off.

"I will see you." She said then kissed my cheek.

"Yes. Take..." I said giving her a few hundreds. She smiled as she received it.

"Thanks."

"It's ok. Buy something nice."

"Ok," the moment she stepped out of my car I was gone and I thanked God there was no exchange of numbers. Immediately, I answered a call from Ndile as I was driving home.

"Dawg..."

"Yoh are you landing or nah?"

"I'm watching some movies with the first lady tonight."

"Ok, tomorrow then?"

"Yeah, I have a lesson in the afternoon. I will land in the morning."

"Ok,"

"I fucked Sean's step mom."

"You what?"

"You heard me."

"How was she?" He asked laughing.

"Good... and I don't plan on fucking her again."

"I think I have to visit Sean tomorrow."

I laughed. "Knock yourself up. Will talk."

"Yeah."

The gate opened and I drove in. There was a car, an unfamiliar car that was packed beside my mom's and by the way my mom's driver is Tshepo. I got out of my car and walked inside the house. Mom was in the dining room with one lady and they were drinking wine.

"Ooh there's my lovely son, Max, and baby meet Mrs. Radebe. She's my friend."

"It's nice to meet you Mma Radebe." I said.

"You too my boy." She said, I smile then walked away. I called Sean as I entered my room.

"Bruh I have to tell you something!" He said as soon as he answered. "I met this girl. Honestly in all my life I've never seen anyone who's more beautiful than her. My nigga I have seen the most beautiful girls, the sexiest and all the like but boy that girl surpasses them all. She is an alien. Her beauty is out of this world." I laughed when he finally kept quiet.

"Are you being serious right now? Where's Busi?"

"I don't know where that whore is but sexing her felt so good. Look I know this is crazy and you won't believe me but I really like that beautiful girl. She's the one." I cracked up in laughter.

"Max stop laughing. I'm being serious."

"I won't believe what you're saying until I see with my own eyes."

"Ok. Tomorrow we will go to the library, seems like she's always there."

"Yeah, we will." He hanged up.

The moment I got in my room I quickly began to do my assignments which I had to submit the following day. I was glad it was my last term. I couldn't deal with school anymore. At the same time I knew Dad's company was waiting for me, graduating or

not, it really didn't matter. Just then my phone started ringing. I closed my laptop then answered.

"Mom."

"Hey honey, you have a visitor."

"A visitor?"

"Yes. She says her name is Simphiwe."

"Simphiwe?"

"Yes."

"Give me a second." I quickly rushed to the living room. Simphiwe quickly stood up and smiled.

"Hey... I'm sorry to show up here. I just wanted to talk to you."

"Yah it's ok. Mom I will be back." Simphiwe and I walked outside. I wondered what she wanted.

"I'm really sorry. I know I've been acting a bit... Somehow?" She said then snickered. "I'm really sorry. You really didn't leave a good impression on our first meeting."

I chortled shaking my head. "You didn't give me a chance to."

"Because I knew the kind of person you are. You probably fucked the whole country and please... Don't get offended. You know it's the truth."

"Then what do you want?"

"I want us to be friends. There's nothing wrong in being friends."

I laughed. "Definitely."

"Yeah. Try any shit and my Dad will fuck you up real bad and no ancestral spirit of yours will save you." She whispered.

"Who's your Dad again?"

"Gcobani Zwide. You really don't want to mess with him."

I laughed. "I'd like to believe I like getting my hands burnt. A little slap on the wrist won't hurt."

She giggled. "I have to go. I will see you."

"Yeah..."

She walked to her BMW then drove out. I closed my eyes for a second. Shit! Renei's innocent face still haunted me. Her eyes...

"Nice girl..." I heard mom's voice saying behind me.

"Yeah..." I rubbed my face.

"Are you ok baby?"

"I'm ok. Let me go and sleep." I walked to my room. She smiled then gave me a concerned look full of anxiety. When I got into the room I quickly rolled up a blunt then lit it as I open the windows. At least I knew there was no way she would come upstairs. I started smoking but before a minute lapsed she called my name up louder.

"Max! Stop it right now!"

"Ok."

# NINE

## RENEILWE

The moment I stepped inside the library, Prince was already there. I smiled as I moved to sit beside him.

"Morning," he said as I put my books on the table.

"Morning."

"I've got something for you. You will like it." He said taking out a book from his bag and handed it over to me. Written by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. I didn't know her and never heard about her before. I looked at the book, I had never read a novel that huge before. Papa had said the only book I should read is the Holy Bible. I couldn't read anything else.

"It's a novel. I'm sure you will love it. Which author do you love the most?" He asked. I felt embarrassed. I only knew one author of the book we read at school.

"I know one." I said after a breath.

"Who?" He asked looking more than interested.

"Chinua Achebe of *Things Fall Apart*." I said. He smiled.

"I love that book too. I have read it at least thrice so far. Well I will borrow you *Half The Yellow Son* by Chimamanda and *The Alchemist*. You will love them."

"Well don't be surprised if I take years to return them. I'm not a fast reader."

He laughed. "It's Ok..." I smiled then opened the first page.

Then I heard someone whispering my name. Looking up it was Sean and he was with Max. Speechless, I looked at both of them. Max gave me a weird facial expression. I didn't understand what that look meant. My heart rate increased as Sean walked up to me.

"Hey..." He said.

"Hi."

"This is my friend, Max and Max this is her, Reneilwe." My eyes were glued on Max.

"Well nice to meet you Renei." Max said in a nonchalant manner. I didn't know what to say so I just nodded then looked at Prince.

"Can we go?" I whispered to Prince. Prince shook his head slightly then stood up.

"Mandla is at the room Max. Nice seeing you Sean. Renei let's go." He said while packing both my books and his. We walked out to the benches then sat down.

"Do you know Sean?" Prince finally asked.

"I met him yesterday when I was going to the library. I forgot to tell you."

He smiled. "It's ok. You don't have to tell me everything." He said then sighed taking my hand. "Can I tell you something?"

"Yes."

"Those guys, Sean and Max, stay away from them. They are not good guys. They play girls like they are playing soccer."

I blinked a couple of times as I stared at him with complete consternation. "What?"

"All they want is to have sex nothing more. They had sex with almost the whole school. Thank God this is Max's last term... Just stay away Renei ok?"

I looked at him then smiled. "Ok." I said then changed the subject.

"What time is your first lesson starting?"

"At 11, yours?" He answered.

"In 10 minutes time."

"Let me escort you." He asserted. As I stood up my phone rang.

"Hello Mama."

"Hi Renei."

"Yes mom, how are funeral arrangements?"

"My daughter, your Papa and I don't have money for you to come for the funeral. I'm sorry but you are going to have to miss it."

"What?"

"Yes, I'm sorry ngwanake. How are you?"

"I'm fine." I said as I walked a few meters away from Prince.

"Don't be sad. Only God knows why." She continued.

"So I should be happy?" I asked softly with a low voice.

"Rejoice in the Lord."

"Mama... let me say this out, that church, GCC, it's the devil itself!" I heard her gasp. My voice was lower, I didn't want Prince to hear what I was saying. "All we ever do is give tithes and offerings but nothing ever works to our favor. We gave a lot so we could find Keneilwe but to no avail. You think I don't know that Papa beats you? Does he hit you because God wants him to? So does God enjoy our tears? I'm sick and tired of this!" I said then cut the call.

I was shaking inside. I had never spoken to Mama like that before. I was not raised like that but that moment I got the guts to say what always bothered me. Tears were cascading on my cheeks as Prince was standing by the door to usher me into the class. He looked at me and it perturbed him. There was no time to explain. He gave me a warm hug then he took out his handkerchief and wiped my last few tears. Then he let me to enter the class. After my three lessons I came straight to my room. I couldn't linger around, not after what Prince had told me. I just wanted to lie down and forget everything.

Getting inside the room I found Alicia on the phone probably talking to Belinda. "He can't do that to me, I love him." She said pacing up and down. I sat on the bed then just stared at nothing blocking her voice.

I walked out of my room with my novel after a while. I wanted fresh air and some peace. I wanted to breathe. I walked to the library. As I walked I caught a glimpse of Max. He was alone. My heart clutched my chest as I stood still staring at him. He was standing by a very nice black car. I quickly turned away and started walking back to my room. I was now really confused, wondered what I was doing outside? It was almost six and I was supposed to be in my room, reading, not strolling outside.

"Renei wait..." I knew his deep voice. He rushed and stood in front of me, bringing me to a halt.

"Hi."

"Hi."

"Remember me?" I giggled looking down, without answering.

"Ok, let me ask you. Where were you going?"

I took a deep breath. "Nowhere. I just..." My voice faded away as I recalled my conversation with Mama. I needed to apologize.

"I have to go." I said trying to walk away.

"Wait..." He said holding my hand and I felt a spark when his hand touched mine. I snatched out my hand from his palm.

"Are you ok?" He asked. But I stepped away from him. He drew near and placed his hand on my waist. There was this thing I felt, it was so strong. I tried to tell Max to let go of me but I couldn't open my mouth. He then enfolded me inside his arms. I took a deep breath as I inhaled his cologne. He smelled so good. I relaxed in his arms. It felt right but my heart was beating hard against my chest. I didn't feel like this with Prince. The spark that kept erupting between Max and I... I never felt it with Prince. At that moment, Prince's words came back to my mind and I forced myself out of his arms.

"Is everything alright? Why are you crying?"

I quickly wiped my tears which had flooded my eyes.

"I'm fine."

"I'm not a monster you know."

"I don't know."

He laughed then took off his cap. "So I scare you?"

"I don't like talking to strangers."

"Nobody likes talking to strangers." He shook his head then looked at me intently without moving his eyes from mine.

"Why are you crying?" This time he demanded for an answer.

I looked at him. His dark eyes signaled me to run away without turning back but my feet were like fastened together.

"I lost a friend."

"Dead?"

"Yes."

"I'm sorry. So when is the funeral?"

"I'm not going." I whispered.

"Why?"

"Please let me go to my room Max." I said but he didn't move out of my way.



"I don't think I want you to go. You are still upset."

"I'm not."

"You are... but we all need a pillar of support at some point."

"Won't your girlfriend be upset?" I asked looking at him. He smiled.

"I don't do relationships. They are not my thing."

I looked at him as I realized Prince was right. "So you just use them and leave them?"

He chuckled and said, "ask no question and hear no lies. My cousin Dudu, said listening to music helps."

"I don't listen to music."

"What? Why?"

"I don't like listening to... things that... are evil." I answered.

He laughed mockingly. "What? You don't listen to things that are evil? What are you? A nun?"

"No. I live a standard life."

"Damn girl which century do you live in?" I looked at him feeling offended. Insulted too.

"You and I are different people. The way you live your life is different from the way I live mine... so let's give each other space" I said walking away.

"Wait!" He said grabbing my hand.

"I'm really sorry. I just wanted to be your friend."

"Thank you but right now I think I have enough friends. It was nice talking to you. Please let go of my hand." He slowly released my hand. I looked at him then quickly turned and walked away to my room. I got in and threw myself on top of the bed and started wondering about what just happened, why his touch made me feel so weak. I couldn't sleep. He occupied my mind so much. His face, his voice, his smell, his laughter and his smile. He flooded my thoughts with himself as if he used some sorts of African charm on me.

The following day I didn't see him neither did I mention him to Prince. I had one morning lesson and after it I spent the whole afternoon reading *Americana* in the library. It was an interesting book. Prince joined me later during the day with some food. That urged me to get myself a stove as soon as possible, but with which

money? I also needed to purchase some books. I couldn't keep depending on Prince's food though he didn't care. He brought me *The Alchemist* that day. I was to start reading it as soon as I was done with *Americanah*. Prince was into books. He could talk about books for hours and not get tired. After eating we sat in the library. He was busy with his assignments while I read.

That Friday night I peacefully slept alone in the room. Alicia didn't come back. It was a weekend and my friend was being buried. Mama never called me since that day and I knew she was hurt. But Papa had called me the previous day just checking on me. I knew Mama didn't tell him anything. I was sure she just kept quiet as usual. Saturday I was there alone in the room and desperately wished Alicia would be away the whole weekend. Prince was not there too. He went to visit his cousin and promised to be back in the evening of that day. And he had left enough food for me. I stayed in my room doing nothing but reading my books.

I then decided to pray. I went down on my knees and closed my eyes.

"Almighty God, I thank you for this day. I..." a disturbing knock cut short my prayer. A persistent knock, I opened the door gradually and hesitantly. I looked at him, shocked.

"What are you doing here?"

"I came to see you."

"Are you even allowed this side? Or maybe you are here for Alicia?"

He sniggered then pushed me from the door and walked inside the room. My side of the room didn't look much of a room. I had nothing beside the bed and my bag. I couldn't unpack my clothes because there's nowhere to put them. Alicia occupied the whole closet and most of the room.

"I don't think you should be here Max." He turned and looked at me.

"I shouldn't be here. And I'm not here for your roommate but you."

"Max I think you need to leave."

"I just wanted to see you."

I looked at him in confusion. "Why?"

"I can't rid you off my mind. I'm fucked I know. This shit doesn't usually happen to me."

"You..."

"No. Listen... I'm what you heard I am."

"Max..."

"Serious. I'm what you heard I am."

"Max you..."

He grabbed my waist then pushed me against the wall. I couldn't escape his hold and I suddenly became weak.

"I want you." He growled before bringing his lips close to mine. He sucked my lower lip as he pushed his body against mine and his tongue glided in my mouth. For a while I stood frozen as he kept doing whatever he was doing in my mouth. He let my lips go then smiled.

"You have never done this before, have you?" Frozen, I didn't respond.

"Let me teach you. Follow my lead." He said then captured my lips with his again. This time it felt different. He took my hands and placed them on his shoulder. A stronger feeling pulled me towards him and I've never felt that way before. I found myself kissing him back and it was sweet and titillating. I didn't want to stop. His hold on my waist tightened and I felt something expanding against my belly. I quickly stopped the kiss and moved away from him. He walked towards me.

"Don't be scared."

"Please leave me Max."

"Renei..."

"Max leave. Please leave me alone. Don't talk to me ever again. You shouldn't have done that. It's wrong." I said as I could feel tears precipitating in my eyes.

"Renei I know..."

"Leave! Please... Leave." I said with a sobbing voice. Then the door opened and Alicia walked in, following behind was Belinda.

# TEN

## MAX

"Max!" Alicia said then walked towards me. I moved away and she stopped walking towards me. Renei was now sited on her bed fiddling her fingers. I didn't know what the fuck I was doing.

"I've been trying to call you and well.. You are here now."

"You mean you have been harassing Sean?" I asked with an annoyed voice.

"Max I love you."

I sighed then walked out. I couldn't deal with Alicia's shit that moment.

"Max babe wait!" Alicia called out from behind me.

"What the fuck do you want Alicia? Firstly let's get one thing clear, we fucked and that was it. So stop annoying me. Don't mess up with me. Stop acting as if you have bipolar. It's unattractive."

She smiled. "I love you." I looked at her then walked away. I managed to walk away without being caught by Mma Shange. I got into my car then drove away. I couldn't believe I even kissed Renei, Sean's crush and Prince's too. My phone rang as I drove to Ndile's house. It was Nathan.

"Yeah!"

"Mr Buthelezi I wanted to inform you that your house is ready."

"Great. I will see the house later today."

"Ok." Then I continued driving to Ndile's house. Memories of Leano then reiterated in my mind. I had met her when I was still in high school. She stayed the same street as Sandile's parents. At some point I believed fate brought us together. I loved her the first time I saw her. I was young but I knew I loved her. She didn't like me at first. She thought I was a spoilt brat and I thought she was the most beautiful girl I had ever set my eyes on. As I drove my thoughts travelled the memory line. I didn't think I could ever love anyone like I loved her. It took me a while to finally get her. She was the first girl I loved. My first relationship. The first girl I slept with, at her mother's house.

I couldn't forget our first night together. We were both in the same grade and it was during the Christmas holidays. I had begged to visit Sandile at his uncle's house. Sleeping with Leano was Sandile's plan and his parents were friends to Leano's parents. Sandile hooked me up when he knew she was going to be alone all people in the family were going to church for an all-night prayer. We were both young and clueless but we loved each other so much. Having sex and not getting pregnant was a miracle the same way the relationship survived till we were done with high school.

I sacrificed my own social life to be her date at prom at her school one day. But had I known before that it was all going to end that night, I wouldn't have gone. I would have just stayed at home. I didn't know why, maybe it was because I wanted to impress her, I even stole my father's car. One of his cars, and she had refused to get inside the car and I forced her. Hadn't I forced her then maybe today she would still be here.

I took a deep breath as I parked by Ndile's house. I got in without knocking and I found him inside the house with Carl and they were watching soccer.

"Yoh Max!" Ndile said as I sat beside him. "What's up?"

"I need a smoke."

Ndile laughed then stood up. When he came back he rolled me a blunt then lit it.

"Y'all are going to die young I swear." Carl said making both of us laugh.

"If I have to die then it has to be the year I'm doing my practicals. That shit is traumatizing."

"I don't wish to do the shit you do. Anyway I got a job."

Carl and I looked at him in a shockwave then we laughed. Sandile Mtololo. Job plus Working. The equation doesn't seem to work out.

"You? Job?" I asked. Sandile's first job after varsity didn't really work out. He slept with his boss's daughter. In his second job he got fired. And so on. His uncle had been taking care of him together with my dad. We were now more like brothers than friends. But now he had found a job, a very good job with a good salary.

"Guys I have an appointment with Nathan, so I got to leave now... but first I have to pass by my mom's house before she goes to church."

As I drove I thought about organizing a house warming party. I was sick and tired of ordinary pussy. I needed something worth it. When I arrived at the hotel I remembered I forgot to pass by my mom's house first. I just walked to the receptionist.

"Hi..." I said. She looked my age. My eyes went to her tag. REJOICE MARUFU.

"Mr. Buthelezi welcome," she said. "Your house is ready." She said giving me the keys.

"Mr. Spencer said you can move in as soon as possible too if you want."

"Thanks Rejoice." She giggled as I turned but to only bump into Simphiwe. She was in a white lacy mid-thigh flared dress.

"Hey Phiwe..."

She chuckled rolling her eyes. "Nicknames already?"

"Why not?"

"It's nice to know you will be staying here."

I smirked. "Because I'm closer to you?"

"You wish. It's nice seeing you Max."

"Yeah... let me go and have a look at my house, wanna come with me?"

She looked at me then said, "Ok."

She handed over some files she was holding to Rejoice then we walked to the elevator together. We got inside the elevator and I noticed Simphiwe's discomfort.

"Are you ok?"

"I'm fine Max Buthelezi."

"Really?" I asked cornering her. She looked at me coyly.

"I'm fine."

I stepped out as soon as the elevator door opened then I walked to my house. I unlocked it and stepped inside. Simphiwe was behind me.

"SURPRISE!" They all screamed. A shocking surprise indeed, Sandile was there. He did this I knew. The house was filled with lots of people, some I knew, some I didn't know. Sean walked towards me. As I looked around I saw what Mom did, the house has been renovated.

"My nigga!"

"Ssup dude?" I said giving him a fist bump.

"I'm good."

I got a few fist bumps from the crowd and a lot of hugs from the ladies. Some were

too tight, some were too long. Some were just too much.

"Great..! I think I should go." A voice said from behind me.

I turned and looked, it was Phiwe who was just smiling. I had forgotten about her.

"I'm sorry babe, you are free to join."

She looked around then smiled. "Not my scene."

"Really now? What's your scene?"

"I have to go to work."

"Stay for 30 minutes only." I said getting my hands on her waist.

I shook my head.

"Please..." Phiwe said

"30 minutes only."

"Let me go..."

"Max!" A voice called out from behind. I smiled as my eyes fell on Senzelwe.

Senzelwe's pussy game could take a nigga to a whole new level. She was pretty and what I liked about her was that, she understood how to act with no strings attached. The way her pussy game was hot, we had to fuck from time to time and I had to pay for it. No money no bomb ass sex with Senzelwe.

"Hey Papi B!" She said hugging me.

"Hey Senzelwe." After the hug she looked at Simphiwe.

"Hi sweety,"

Simphiwe smiled then looked at me. "Bye Buthelezi."

# ELEVEN

RENEILWE

It had been two months since I came and everything was going well. I was doing well at school. Alicia was no longer the mean roommate. She stopped the day she cried on my shoulder. The day she finally decided to let go of Max. That morning I looked at Alicia as she applied her make-up. She was still the same girl who took her time beautifying herself but just not mean anymore. She was a little bit friendly. Belinda was seated on Alicia's bed busy on her phone.

"Renei..." Alicia called out my name. I then closed my book and looked at her. She was staring at me through the mirror.

"Alicia..." I responded.

"You're too serious... Look, I think you need to loosen up. You read too much. Let's go out. Beli and I will sort out your finances."

I shook my head in disapproval, "No, I have to finish reading this chapters."

"Girl relax. Breathe. We will be with you the entire time." Belinda said putting her phone away. Alicia stood, I could see excitement brimming in her eyes. She came then sat beside me draping her arm on my shoulder.

"I have an exam on Monday and I really need to study," I said boldly. I needed to nail that exam. My dad was so proud of me so far even Mama was over the moon. She said she even gave a testimony at church because I was doing so well in school.

"Ohh Renei!" She exclaimed dramatically. "Ok. We will come back after twenty minutes on the dot."

I whispered, "Alicia thank you so much for the offer but..."

"We will come back after twenty minutes if you don't like it. Monday the exams are starting. You know how it gets. It's serious. Look, we go out tonight and come back early for study. Alicia and I are writing our final exams. This is our last term. You just need to loosen up a bit. You are a bright student but bright students need breaks too." Belinda said smiling.

"No I don't think..."



"Please... twenty minutes only."

"Let's get you to change." Belinda said walking to Alicia's closet.

"Uh... Don't even think about it. You dress like a Granny, we don't want you to scare people there." Alicia said standing up. I gave it a try and got into their clothes. I then looked at myself on Alicia's mirror, wearing a skimpy white dress. The dress was very short. My thighs were out in the open. It was too short and I wasn't comfortable. The green heels and the wig made me look like a circus. That was not me. I looked at Belinda in discomfort. The same way I felt when Mr. Michaels made a comment about my body.

"Look let's go. Twenty minutes then we are back." Alicia said dragging me along. I was scared and I couldn't walk properly in the heels. We got into Alicia's Run X and the place was thirty minutes' drive away. I was silent the whole journey while Alicia and Belinda were enjoying some songs I deemed evil.

I got more surprised when Alicia parked her car in front of a house.

"Are we picking up someone?" I asked as they got off the car.

"No. This is Kumkani's party. He's a TV personality."

I just stared at the huge house. The loud music was just too much. I didn't want to do this but it was too late. Alicia was already dragging me inside.

"You have to have a stand. Remember that not all that glitters is gold. Some are fake. You need to be strong." Prince's voice echoed in my head. The place was overly packed. Ladies were dressed naked, some half-dressed. I tried pulling down the short dress but it couldn't budge.

The way people danced it seemed like the place is a brothel. I wished I just stayed home but I was already there. We walked to some couch and sat down. Most people were up and dancing. Alicia and Belinda got alcohol and brought me a juice. I didn't know what kind of juice it was but it tasted nice though it also had a horrible after-taste. Ten minutes later Alicia and Belinda were dancing awkwardly. Apparently there was someone they wanted to impress. I kept drinking my juice silently while my eyes were fixed on Alicia and Belinda. I didn't want to lose them.

I began to feel pressed and dizzy. My legs were wobbly. I took a while to stand up and the first step I took landed me to the ground. I struggled to stand up, slowly I stood then staggered towards Alicia and Belinda. They were not alone anymore but with some two guys. Strangers. I really needed to go back, I was very sick.

"Ali...licia... I..."

"Are you ok?" Belinda asked.

I shook my head. "Toilet..." my voice lacked strength.

"Come!" Alicia said then started dragging me away. I felt sick, so sick and my vision was gradually getting impaired.

We climbed up the stairs slowly. We finally got to some room. It was big.

"I will wait right here ok?" She said while standing in the middle of the room pointing to the restroom. I didn't waste time when I got in. I pulled up my dress then my panties down. I stared at the door as I relieved myself. After that I walked out and Alicia was not there anymore, rather there was a man who stood there strangely. I couldn't see him properly my sight was getting worse each lapsing moment. I staggered backwards as he walked towards me. I couldn't scream for I felt so weak. The moment I lost balance I felt his hands around me. I couldn't yell.

I could see Mandisa in my head, the time something happened at the party she was at. She had snuck out as usual. I had told her no, but as always she never listened to me. She had came over at my house the following day talking about she had just slept only to wake up naked in the middle of the street. I had wanted us to call the police but she refused.

It was useless. So the fact that she had been raped was just buried like that. When I asked her how she felt she said she was ok. She always said she was ok because she was older than me.

Today it was me. I was the one who was in that position. I wanted to cry but I was too weak to even move. I could feel his hands around my body. I was here because of friends, the kind of friends Mama warned me about. The type of friends Papa said I should stay far away from.

"Fuck! Such a beauty!" He said. I knew what was about to happen but I couldn't react to defend myself. I could feel darkness overwhelming me. He then picked me up. "Don't worry you will like it." He said but I couldn't see his face. I could feel my panties being pulled off. I tried moving but I couldn't. From that moment I didn't know what happened.

I could feel the nerve pricking headache. I opened my eyes slowly but when a very strong light got in I shut my eyelashes instantly. I breathed in and out slowly. I was so warm though. And the bed felt so soft and comfortable, it was not the one I'm used to and I knew I was not in my bed. I slowly separated my eyelids, gradually and I could see with squinted eyes, then my eyes blossomed. I tried to sit upright but I winced, clutching my forehead attempting to ease my pain. My eyes wandered around the huge room, furnished with expensive furniture, mostly grey and white.

Warm tears glided down my cheeks. 'Where am I?' I asked myself.

Opaque memories of yesterday started forming up, I remembered studying for my exams in my room then Alicia and Belinda came. I remembered them convincing me to go with them to the party. Then the noisy party. Then the juice they bought for me. I remembered going to the toilet and Alicia leaving me there. The man who undressed me. How then did I end up in that room? Maybe he raped me. I grasped the sheets, pulling them up. I was dressed but not in those short dresses. I was wearing an oversized shirt and some shorts.

There was a knock on the door and my heart started pumping. I couldn't find my voice, my throat was so dry and full of sores. The door opened and he sauntered inside. I looked at him confused as he strolled towards me holding a tray containing two glasses. He smiled then sat on the bed. He still looked handsome and attractive. "What is he doing here?" The way he looked at me calmed me down a bit, maybe he was to help me open a case of rape. Thoughts made me cringe. I was so disappointed. "How could I let the devil use me?" I asked myself inwardly.

"Hey... Don't cry. You are safe here." Max said hugging me. The electricity, the spark and that overwhelming feeling, was still there and so strong. I was so confused. I slowly pushed myself away from him. I was hurt. I looked at him straight in his dark enigmatic eyes.

"Nothing happened?" I asked.

"Thank God I got there well on time. Don't worry, you won't be seeing that son of a bitch anymore but Renei... what were you doing at that party?" He asked.

"Alicia and Belinda... They took me to the party. They had said they would bring me back after 20 minutes. Then they gave me a juice and suddenly I felt sick."

He chuckled then looked at me placing his hands on my shoulders. "Rule number one, never drink anything you didn't bring for yourself at a party Renei. Never! Even water... The juice you say they gave you certainly wasn't juice. It was alcohol." His voice was so soft. I blinked as I recalled its nasty taste.

"Rule number two, don't trust anyone at a party. You never know their intentions. Yesterday when I got inside the room you were in, he was undressing you and you were completely out of it. Those whores set you up. Don't trust anyone, sometimes don't even trust yourself."

"How could they do that to me?" Tears gushed from my eyeballs.

"Don't cry. Now you have learnt your lesson. I brought you here to save you. This is my house."

"Alicia?"

"Drink this, It's for the headache," he said giving me some pills and a glass of water. Then he gave me a glass of orange juice. I drank the juice and it tasted so good and fresh.

I carefully looked at him and requested, "can you drop me off at Res? I want to go. I have to read."

"Ok. There's the bathroom." I looked at the glass sliding door and saw a huge and elegant bathroom.

"Use my stuff." He said standing up and taking the orange juice glass from me.

"Max wait... Did you put me in bed?"

"Yes."

"You undressed me?"

"You were barely wearing anything anyway."

"Did anything happen to me?" I whispered.

"What?"

"Did we have sexual intercourse?" He looked at me in silence for a while before he started laughing.

"No. We didn't fuck Renei. Why would I sleep with you while you are unconscious? When I finally fuck you, I want you to just remember how much you screamed at my mercy."

"Don't worry. Nothing happened to you. Though I did get rid of that skimpy thing you were wearing. And I threw away the wig. You lost the shoes." He said with a smile that touched my heart. I knew he was bad news but I couldn't withhold the smile that plastered my lips.

"Alicia is..."

"I'm going to deal with that one. Go and bath." He said then walked out.

I stood up and the headache was gone. I walked to the glass sliding door and push it to the sides. The shower was out of this world. I opened the shower then relaxed as the water cascaded down my body. The water was warm and soothing. I closed my eyes and just stood still.

# TWELVE

## MAX

I was on the phone talking with Sean and he asked me, "So what's the plan for the day?"

"Reading."

He laughed. "Reading?"

"No. I'm not sure yet. I'm nursing a hangover."

"Kumkani says y'all had a fight."

"Yes, I had to beat that bastard so hard. He wanted to fuck an unconscious girl. Rape her."

"Nxa... sneaky bastard. So where's the girl?"

"In my house."

He chuckled. "Is that why you are not sure if you have plans or not?"

"I'll call you later Sean..." I said then cut the call immediately when I saw Renei. She was still wearing my T-shirt and boxers. I took a deep breath, she looked so sexy. My dick coughed. She looked a bit lost but so beautiful.

"I... Max I..."

"Come and sit. I ordered breakfast."

She blinked then said, "Max you have to drop me off at res. I don't want to get in trouble. Thank you so much for saving me yesterday."

"I ordered breakfast for you. Please stay."

"I can't. I'm sorry."

"Renei..." I stood up then walked towards her. She looked at me with uncertainty. "I'm not going to hurt you."

"Max... Please..."

"Sit." She sighed then sat. Then there was a knock. It was Simphiwe by the door and

when I thought of how we had fucked a couple of times my mind wafted and I couldn't avoid her because she was working there. At least she didn't go around telling people about us. I stood then drifted to the door.

"Phiwe."

"Max. Missed me?" I hugged her then kissed her neck.

"Always." I whispered. She then pushed me away and rolled her eyes.

"I heard you brought a girl..."

"She... I just saved her from some guy yesterday and she..." I immediately kept quiet when I realized I didn't owe her an explanation. "So?"

She presses her lips together. "So? Max you can't just..."

I cut her short by smashing my lips against hers. She didn't push me away. I stepped outside the house with her and we were on the passage.

"Please go back and work now, grant me some time I'll come back to you." I said as I walked back into the house. Before my last step into the house I looked behind and she was walking away slowly, hurt surely. Went in and then the breakfast arrived and Renei was ready to go.

"I will drop you off as soon as you are done eating."

Her face visibly relaxes. "Thank you."

Her eyes fell on my bare chest but she quickly looked away leaving me smirked.

"You are welcome. And you can eat."

She picked up the muffin and began eating avoiding looking at me again.

"So how is varsity so far?" I asked.

"It's ok. I'm doing well." She answered, forcing herself to talk.

"Well you should be glad that the next term some of us won't be coming back including that whore called Alicia."

"Yes, are you going to work immediately?" She asked, interested.

"You want to work as soon as you are done with school?" I asked as well.

She smiled... "Yes. I want to finish up with school, pass, get a job and get married to..."

"Get married to what? A man who loves God and you?" I asked with sarcasm. She

smiled.

"Yes. Someone who will love me unconditionally."

"And where exactly are you going to find him?"

"God will provide. All in his time, he will be revealed to me and he will love me."

"Reneilwe are you being serious?"

She raised her head then looked at me smiling. "Yes."

"There's no a perfect man like that."

"Well there is." She looked at her muffin."

"Either you are so slow and naive or you are just stupid." I said and she stood up instantaneously. She looked upset.

"Hey..." I said standing up and followed after her as she was walking away.

"Renei..." I grabbed her waist.

"Look I'm sorry. I didn't mean it that way. Well maybe your perfect man is really there. Yeah. He is there." Her lids fluttered then dropped, she opened her eyes, stared at me for a while, I wonder what she was seeing. I felt like she was pulling off my mask to expose my true colors. Her lips slowly curved. Then she started laughing.

I also kept my gaze fixed on her. She staggered back laughing but my hands on her waist didn't really let her get far. She finally stopped. There was something about her laughter, it instigated an unsettling emotion over me and it really threw me off guard, it made me feel uneasy. She looked at me smiling, and she seemed tad bit embarrassed.

"I'm sorry..." She whispered after thinking about whatever that had ran through her mind.

"It's ok."

"No... I..." She smiled. "There's no perfect guy I know. I just, I don't know maybe I'm really stupid."

"You are not. There's nothing wrong in wishing for a good guy."

She smiled then shrugged. "I guess."

"I'm not that guy though," I warned her. "and I can never be that guy." She looked fairly confused. "I'm not the type of guy you want."

She laughed. "I know." I took in a deep breath. "I'm not even in your league anyways."

She muttered at last. She was wrong. I liked women who are beautiful like her.

"Why do you say so?"

"I just know. Can you drop me off now?"

"No." I pushed her back to her chair. "Eat first."

"I'm not hungry."

"Mma Shange is not in today. Her shift ended yesterday."

"How do you know that?"

"Don't worry. Everyone knows the timetable. By next semester you will be knowing how exactly things work here." She nodded then started eating. She ate too much and so fast because she really wanted to leave. After some few minutes she was done eating and she rose from the chair.

"Thank you Max."

"It's ok."

"Uhh my dress? Did you really throw it away?"

"Yes," I didn't want to tell her I found her naked. I was still angry and until I had dealt with Kumkani and his whore, I wouldn't rest. She nodded slowly.

"I will buy you something to wear." I said standing up.

"Oh no it's ok."

I looked at her silently for a while. "So you want me to drop you off dressed like this?" She kept quiet in perplexity.

"I will buy you a dress then drop you off."

Shaking her head, she said. "Max..."

"Shhh..." I silenced her. She was now just looking at me. I then grabbed her waist. She looked a bit startled. I kissed her and I felt her body tense immediately. Our teeth clashed briefly, I amorously pushed my tongue into her mouth. I felt her tiny hands on my chest. Then she kissed me back. We both moved in a certain flow. My hands rushed to her ass. I picked her up with her lips still on mine. I placed her on the table and made her wrap her smooth legs around my waist. My dick began to twitch, I wanted her. The tiny sounds that kept escaping her lips had me reeling with want. I felt the kiss pulling me into her. I broke the kiss and stepped away from her. She was too shy and she couldn't look at me.



"Max!" I heard mom's voice calling, and before long she was already in the dining room. Renei had jumped off the table and she was standing behind me. Hiding. Mom smiled.

"Hey baby..." She said wheeling herself towards me. I bent down and hugged her. She looked so beautiful. She continued smiling as I fixed my pants and she was just looking behind me.

"Ummh Mom this is Renei... and Renei this is my mother, Michelle Reechy." I said moving aside so Renei is exposed.

Mom smiled, and softly she asked, "She's Renei, your...?"

"My friend. She's Renei, my friend." She rolled her eyes then pushed me out of her way to take Renei's hand. She looked at me and I just shrugged.

"I'm Michelle, call me Michelle. I can't believe I'm finally meeting you. I have always prayed for this moment. You're so beautiful." Mom said kissing Renei's hand.

"Maybe we should go shopping." She said in excitement.

"Uhh Ma I..."

"Michelle. Call me Michelle. We will be quick. We can even go and get manicures if you like. We can do whatever you like."

Renei smiled. "Ok." I could tell she was just being polite.

"Uhh go and dress up. I will wait here." Renei looked at me.

"Renei was forced to a party by her friends and they drugged her. She was almost raped so the dress is a mess." Mom turned with her wheelchair and looked at me. Shocked.

"What? Who are her friends and the rapist? They are going to pay for it." I saw mother in-law vibes sinking into her.

"I'm dealing with it."

She turned then looked at Renei. "You can go and put on your shoes. I will sort out those people. Don't be scared."

Renei just smiled then strolled off quickly. Mom slowly turned and looked at me.

"Oh baby, I love her. She's your wife. She's the mother of your children. She's your light. I know after what happened with me... Leano. You have switched off feelings completely but this girl... Max baby this girl is yours. She's your heart. She's the one." I sighed then sat down.

"I'm going to hurt her. I know it."

"Then don't. Baby... I know you are on your 'having fun' stage but look at the bright side. You don't want to admit it but you know how you feel about this girl."

"Yes and it's definitely not love. I'm not the man for her. I can never be the man she wants."

"Baby..."

"Mom... Don't give her wrong impressions. I can't give her what she wants. I can never, even if I try."

"You don't think you are capable of loving her?"

"I can never love her or anyone else except only you."

She smiled. "I love her."

"I know."

"And she's my *makoti*."

"I don't want to disappoint you."

"You are 27 years old. You are way past the stage of disappointing me Max, or even disappointing anyone else. You are a grown man."

# THIRTEEN

RENEILWE

It was raining but the sky was so clear, I kept staring out through the window, hoping the cool air would make me feel better. It didn't, my heart was on a marathon. I was sitting in the big beautiful car with a very beautiful woman who happened to be Max's mother.

"My love, where do you want to buy your clothes?". Her smile demanded mine back. That smile which twinkles the eyes.

"Anywhere is fine Ma'am," I responded. She took my hand into hers. So soft and warm hands. I wondered how she kept smiling, I wouldn't if I was on a wheelchair.

"Ok. I hope I'm not being too much. If I am you can tell me ok?" I squeezed her hand slightly and tenderly.

"You are an angel..." I whispered. "And you don't have to do this Ma'am."

She laughed. "I want to. I have always prayed for this moment. You're the first girlfriend Max has ever had and I had an opportunity to meet. You know what, I love you." She said, the sincerity in her voice was palpable. I just smiled.

"So let's get you clothes first then we can do manicures and the likes? We can do anything you want us to do."

"Thank you."

"You're now my daughter. Please Tshepo take us to the mall. *Umakoti* wants some clothes." She gently told the driver.

"Yes Michelle," he responded. I wasn't comfortable calling her by her name, I was not raised to call elders by their names. Tshepo drove us straight to the mall, we talked and by the time we arrived she had already known much about me; that I had both parents and I was their only child but I didn't tell her about Keneilwe or GCC. I didn't want her to look at me with neither pity, sympathy nor worry. When we arrived Tshepo helped her into her wheelchair and stayed back in the car while we got into the shops. Her wheelchair moved on its own. I ignored the looks I kept getting from people. But I knew they were looking at the shorts and the oversized T-shirt I was wearing.

I couldn't erase Max from my thoughts time and again. I could feel him on me. His lips and the fact that I liked it made it very much mesmerized me. I liked it the first time, and I still liked it today. The feeling got stronger. It was a crazy feeling. I couldn't stop thinking about him but I knew the kind of person he was. After what he did to Alicia it was hard to get past that. He used her then threw her away as soon as he got what he wanted. I knew that's what he wanted to do with me.

We walked from shop to shop. She made me try a lot of clothes but I wanted just a dress. A simple dress like the one I saw in Pep but she didn't like it. She said it was too simple, not that she didn't like simplicity. But she didn't want her '*Makoti*' to look cheap and simple. We finally got a dress in some ridiculously expensive shop. It was very expensive; R1400. I couldn't believe just a simple dress could cost that much. She even forced me to go to the salon because she said my cornrow looked old. I couldn't tell her the hairstyle she wanted me to plate was demonic according to Papa, I only told her I didn't like it.

"Ok. Then braids?" She asked with a beautiful smile. Braids were not ok but I didn't tell her that, I liked her smile. So I nodded.

"Yes." I liked the salon. It was big and had comfortable chairs. There were air conditioners and huge mirrors. Unlike Nonso's salon back at home. The moment we got inside some lady walked up to us smiling.

"Ms Reechy, welcome." She said hugging Michelle. "Been time."

"Oh hi Simangele. It's been time."

Simangele smiled. "But it's always good to see you Ms Reechy."

Michelle laughed. "Sima, how many times must I tell you I like being called Michelle? Ms Reechy makes me feel old."

"Michelle. Come and let's see what you want today." She said eying her dreadlocks.

"Ah ah.. Today I'm here with *uMakoti* wame,"

Sima looked at me then back at Michelle. "Wow Max got married already?"

She smiled then answered, "He's going to. But I want my baby here to look beautiful." She said taking my hand into hers.

Sima looked at me smiling. "Then you have come to the right place. *Woza uMakoti*." She said motioning me to follow her. Michelle and I followed her, she greeted everyone with a happy wide smile. She had too much love to give out. After a while I was seated on a comfortable chair being unplaited. Three people working on my head and in less than thirty minutes I was done, my hair washed, dried, and

shampoo'd.

"*Makoti* I asked Tshepo to buy us food. You must be hungry." She said. I nodded my head. "You look so beautiful baby. Oh look at you!" She exclaimed. After four hours of sitting still on a chair Sima is finally done. The braids were long and tight but not that tight. It was beautiful. I looked so different. I liked the braids.

"Aaw you have a very beautiful smile." Simangele said standing behind me. "You look beautiful *Makoti*." I didn't see Michelle paying but I had a feeling it was lots of money. Tshepo brought food and we ate. I wondered what's next, I was tired and wanted to go back to school. As soon as we got back into the car she asked Tshepo to take us to the beauty spa.

"After doing our nails we are going to look so beautiful." She said grasping my hand. She held on to it till we arrived. The same love she gave at the salon she also lavished it to the beauty spa personnel. She told them what we wanted. I didn't need any of those though; the massage, the sauna, the mud-bath and others but all I did was to satisfy her. All these took us the whole day and I felt completely like a new person.

"How do you feel *Makoti*?"

"I feel so good." I looked at my nails. They are not long like Alicia's, they are short but more beautiful. For both my foot and hands. "I love my hands."

She laughed. "You will get used to it all. Look at you. The dress. The shoes. The hair. Everything looks beautiful. My son won't know what hit him." She said making me giggle. My face burned when she mentioned his name. Somehow I had been thinking about him, wondering if he would like my new look.

"So what are you studying?"

"Business Administration."

"*uMakoti* wame is a business woman wow! Max told me you are so focused on your studies. I want to be proud of you and I know I will be. You are a very bright beautiful girl." Since the time he kissed in my room, I hadn't seen him till today.

"Thank you." I said smiling. Papa said I'm a star, his blessing. And just the thought made my smile widen.

Soon enough we were inside the elevator at Max's house. I would have preferred to go back to the res albeit it was late already. But it felt eerie. The second night sleeping out of res. I ached in my heart when I remembered that my phone was in my room and off. Imagining what my parents might be thinking when my phone is not going through.

"*Makoti* are you ok?"

"Uhh I left my phone at my room. My parents must be worried."

"Don't worry, we can call them." She suggested. I felt a strong edge of shame.

"I haven't memorized their numbers yet." I murmured.

"It's ok. Max will drop you off first thing in the morning." She said as the elevator doors began to close but it then opened again before it closed. Some lady was getting in. She was pretty and tall, she smiled at Ma who returned the smile.

"Mother," she said and I wondered who she was.

"Uhh Siphesihle?"

"Simpfiwe..." The lady corrected with a broader smile.

"Yes... Simpfiwe, how are you?"

"I'm fine Mother and you?"

"I'm fine." And the conversation ended between them. Michelle had my hand into hers.

"You will call them immediately when you get back. I will give you my number so that you call me after you talk to them. I know you have exams, so I will not be clingy..." She said making both of us laugh. "I'm sure you don't want an old woman like me disturbing you." I laughed.

"You look so young. You are not that old." I said. "And either way I don't mind." The elevator comes to a stop and the doors open.

"Mother I will see you soon." The lady said. Ma just smiled as the lady walked out. Then the doors close and the elevator proceeded. It opened up again after a while and we got out. By the time we reached the door, Max was already standing by it. He's wearing some red shorts and a white vest. He looked ready to go somewhere. His eyes couldn't get off me. We stood in front of him and he smelled good. And looked more attractive.

"Wow!" He exclaimed then took a step to stand right in front of me. I took a deep breath to calm my nerves.

"You look beautiful." He whispered. "You look really beautiful." And that feeling came back and it loomed between us.

"And that she is." Ma said pulling me besides her. "Are we not coming in?" He still had his eyes on me. I looked down.

"Max Buthelezi, should we leave?" He then opened the door. Ma gets in first and when it was my turn, he blocked my way that we bumped into each other.

"Max I..."

"Pi-ki-ni-ni." He said with lots of smiles. "You look beautiful, I want to do things to you." My breath hitched. "Things you can't even imagine." He continued and now he had his arms wrapped around my waist pressing our bodies together. I didn't like feeling his erection. I didn't want to have sex before marriage.

"Max..." I whispered and felt his lips on mine. The whole ordeal felt different. It felt hurried. He was not slow and attentive as I was used, his lips ravaged mine. He pressed his body onto mine and I could feel my panties getting wet. The same way they did in the morning.

"Max!" A voice came from behind. I looked at the door and a girl was standing there. She didn't look much pleased. 'Is this his girlfriend?' I asked myself.

# FOURTEEN

## MAX

She looked at me sternly and asked "Who's this kid?"

"What?"

"Max the kid who just got inside the house. Who's she?"

"Dudu she's a friend."

"She's a baby. Where are your morals? She asked, irritated.

"And who said I'm sleeping with her?"

"You might have not, but you will... I know you Max. She's too young."

"I didn't force her to be here. If she..."

"You had Vanessa broken but here you are with another victim, since when do you go for the vulnerable type?"

"What do you mean?"

"This kid... And Vanessa... They are... Beneath you. Secondly they are babies."

"Vanessa is not a child. She's 23, I'm 4 years older than her, and she was not even a virgin when I fucked her. You are too overrated because of sexual frustration. Busy rubbing your pussy on another pussy for a living. You can't be serious. Doing gay shit."

She rolled her eyes. "You used her and I really don't have a problem with it... But these two girls... Max you have to let them go." I sighed because I knew she was right.

"Let. Them. Go." She emphasized.

"Yes Madam Dudu Mabaso. But unfortunately, Renei isn't going anywhere soon. Firsty loves her." I said getting inside the house. Mom is in the living room with Renei and they looked inseparable. It's like they have known each other for so long.

"Oh baby, I'm going with your cousin Dudu and Renei to my house." I looked at her in



shock.

I said to myself, 'She can take Dudu but not also Renei...' Dudu got pregnant two months ago. She was caught aborting the pregnancy and ever since then, she has been fucking her tomboy friend. But I have never slept with Dudu. She's not the cousin you fuck, she's the cousin you get high with. The cousin you get in trouble with.

"Renei is not coming with you."

"She is."

"How old are you Renei?" Dudu asked standing beside me.

Renei smiled. "I'm 18 and will be 19 in a month's time." Dudu laughed.

"Do you know that Max is 27?" Renei looked at her confused.

Dudu continued sternly, "You are still 18 and it means there's a 9 year difference between you two. He is old enough to be your uncle. So either you are a gold digger or just stupid. You need to go for your age-mates kiddo and focus on school. You are too young to be chasing after men." Now Renei looked so ashamed and embarrassed.

"Mom please take Dudu away and go home."

Dudu started laughing. "She's just a baby Michelle. Max knows this."

"Go fuck another woman and leave Renei alone."

"Max, Language!" Mom reprimanded.

"Fine. Renei will stay but first thing in the morning you drop her at campus. She has to read." Mom said then hugged Renei before she wheeled herself out. Dudu just shook her head then followed after mom. Renei looked hurt.

I walked over to the small glass table and sat on it facing her. She couldn't even look at me and for a second I wondered whether Dudu was right. Maybe she was just a baby.

"Dudu is my crazy cousin she's just crazy. Don't take into heart what she said. She's just like that." Her goggle eyes looked at me.

"I'm sorry... Maybe you need to drop me off at varsity." She said.

"It's late. I will drop you off first thing in the morning." Her eyes fell.

"Hey... I said don't mind Dudu. She's just like that." I added.

"She's right. You are old enough to be my uncle."

"Do you have an uncle who looks like me?"

"No..." She whispered.

"Then I'm not your uncle. I will never be your uncle. Renei you have to stop listening to everything you hear. Dudu is a crazy factor."

"She doesn't like me."

"She's not meant to like you. I like you. That's what matters." She just stared at me.

"You don't like me." She said softly. "You want to sleep with me and I'm sorry, that won't happen. I appreciate the accommodation and your kindness. May God continue blessing you for that. And I don't like you. I have never did."

I smirked then sat beside her. "You don't like me?" She nodded.

"I think you are lying Reneilwe Maseko. If you didn't then you would have not kissed me back." Her eyes widened and she looked cute.

"I... You... I don't..." She stammered.

"You don't like me?" She kept quiet.

"Let me prove it to you that you like me and you are lying." She blinked probably trying to figure out what I meant. I tilted her head up then leaned over to kiss her tentatively. I didn't want to scare her off. I took it slowly trying to gauge her reaction. She kissed me back. Softly and much more slowly. I took notice of her inexperience. I took full charge of her lips. She was so sweet.

I separated her lips with my tongue and struck it in her warm mouth and a tiny moan escapes her lips. As she put her hands on my chest my dick hardened. I pulled her closer then place her on my lap in a way that she straddled me. I didn't give her a chance to react but to grasp her hips and make her hump against me. I stroke her tongue with mine. She tightened her arms around my neck.

"Max I don't want..."

"I won't do anything you don't want me to do." I whispered. "Relax baby..."

"I don't want this..." She whispered.

"I know, relax." I settled my lips on hers. She was tense but she soon relaxed. As I moved my hand under her dress again I got disturbed by my ringing phone. Dammit! I tried to ignore it but it kept ringing and Renei on the other hand had her legs closed. I placed Reneilwe aside and stood up. I took my phone and walked to my bedroom. I

needed to cool down.

"Sean dawg..." I answered getting inside the bathroom.

"I'm on my way up there. That shitty receptionist tried stopping me."

"Ehh ntwana what?"

"Nx I'm coming up there. I'm stressed bruh!" I hang up immediately and walked to the living room. My ancestors were really asleep. That witchcraft was on steroids.

"Renei why are you crying manje?" I asked walking towards her. I couldn't be dealing with this now. She looked at me with tears in her eyes.

"I want to go." Her voice was barely audible.

"Ok. Fine. But after we deal with the issue at hand. Sean is coming up. He's here."

"Sean your friend?"

"Yes."

"Ok."

"Ok? He likes you." She wiped her tears.

"No. He doesn't."

"He does. So does Prince and that rat you call... Fezeka?" She stood up.

"Prince is my friend and so is Fezile. Sean is..."

"They like you. I don't know... but Sean can't see you here."

"What?"

"He likes you and he can't find you here." One knock and the door flung open.

"Eh boy.. You know I haven't seen..." I sighed as he froze by the door.

"Max what is Renei doing here?" He asked. "You are fucking her?" He roared.

"No! I saved her from Kumkani."

"Wait... What?"

"I didn't tell you because I knew you would act like a bitch. I saved her from Kumkani then first lady came by early in the morning and took her out for some fresh air. They came back a few minutes ago."

"So you haven't..."

"Nx fuck you!" I said walking to the kitchen to take out my beer from the fridge.

My phone rang. Senzo. "Yeah?" I answered.

"Tomorrow come to the office at lunch hour. There's a board meeting."

"What?"

"You are taking over in a month's time. They need to see you. It's not a request but a command." He said then dropped the call. At that moment Sean walked in.

"I bought some alcohol." He said while placing the six pack on the kitchen counter. "Done being a bitch?"

"Fuck off... You know I really like her."

"I know and I'm not fucking her. She's too young. I'm going out. I will be back in a few minutes." He started laughing.

"Still fucking Phiwe?"

"No."

"Really?"

"Yes. Not anymore." I walked to my bedroom then took my cap, ready to go, grabbed my car keys then walked out. Renei is still in the living room together with Sean. She looked at me as soon as I walked in.

"I'm going out. I will be back. Sean will keep you company." I said and she immediately stood.

"What if someone comes? What if Sean leaves?"

"Nah... I'm not going anywhere." Sean said. Renei looked at me with pleading eyes. Just then Sean's phone started ringing. He excused himself leaving Renei and I alone.

"Please don't leave me." She begged.

"You can't be serious. Renei I'm going out just for a couple of minutes."

"No. What if something happens to me?" She was now tearful.

"Sean won't try."

"Don't leave me... Please... I'm begging you."

I looked at Sean as he walked back in. He looked frustrated.

"That was Dolly. She is stuck at some party."

"Uh Renei... I will see you tomorrow at school ok?" Sean said.

"Max... Tomorrow ok?"

"Yeah!" He walked out after hugging Reneilwe.

"I don't want to have sex..." She muttered.

"I know... I'm going to smoke."

"You smoke?"

"Yeah... Any problem?"

"Uhh no. No."

"Are you hungry?"

"No."

"Well then I'm going to smoke. You can watch..." I was interrupted by a knock on the door. I began to wonder why this people were coming without informing me. Opening the door I came face to face with Simphiwe.

"Hey I'm knocking off."

"Ok."

She laughed. "Just ok?"

"What do you want me to say?"

"Well..." She said then took off her coat. She was wearing a red number. I felt my body hardening.

"Say something now..." She whispered seductively.

"Uhh... You look really... Sexy but not today I..."

"Look," She said walking inside the house. "We can always... I see now." I walked inside the house and they are looking at each other.

"Who the fuck is this Max?"

"She's Reneilwe."

"And what is she doing here? Who are you?"

"Phiwe you can't..."

"Who are you? I'm asking her nicely. Talk Bunny... Who are you?"

Renei clears her throat. She looked scared. "My name is Renei"

"Who are you? I'm his girlfriend! Who are you?" Simphiwe shouts.

"Simphiwe..."

"I'm his girlfriend. Who the fuck are you? Huh?"

"Max..."

"Why are you calling my man?" Simphiwe asked attacking Renei.

I pulled Simphiwe from Renei who was now crying.

"Simphiwe out now!"

"Max you can't"

"Ngithi phuma!" She fixed her coat then walked out.

Renei is now sobbing loudly.

"Babe don't cry." I said hugging her. Didn't even know what to say to comfort her.

"I want to go." She sobbed.

"Stop crying then I will drop you off."

"Max please..." She sobbed more loudly.

"Stop crying first." She moved away from me then sat on the couch crying. I watched her. Few minutes later she was quiet but breathing sorrowfully.

"Well, you can sleep in any room you want. Even mine is ok. I'm going to smoke." I said then walked to the balcony. I took out the blunt in my pocket together with the lighter then lit it up. Taking in a long drag I felt good.

"Max..?" She called me softly. I turned and looked at her. "Can you drop me off now?" I started laughing.

"Let's go." I said crudely. I walked to the living room after throwing my blunt away then walked out of the house. Got into the elevator, to my car then headed for varsity.

"You can go." I said as I parked the car in front of the varsity gate.

She looked at me in confusion. "You can't drop me here Max. It's dark."

"Reneilwe you wanted me to drop you here and I'm doing it. Go." She sat motionless thinking I was joking. I got out of the car then walked to the passenger door and

opened for her.

"I said you can go!"

# FIFTEEN

## RENEILWE

I walked out of the exam room feeling more tired than ever. My brain was mushy but I knew I nailed the paper. The last paper. I was excited about going home. Mama had been calling frequently, she couldn't wait to see me. I was so glad me and Max were now strangers. Since the day he dropped me by the gate, we never talked. Every time Michelle called me she never mentioned Max in our conversations. It was like both of us no longer had nothing to do with him. Even Alicia for almost a month, we never talked. Not even greeting each other. As I walked out of the exam I met Prince to say the goodbyes.

"I'll see you when you come back. I'm leaving on Sunday." Prince said softly.

"I'm really going to miss you. You are my only friend."

He laughed. "Next year you will make more friends."

"I don't want more friends."

"Then I'll be your only friend." He hugged me for a split second, then we parted. I quickly rushed to my room and got my phone, I had left it in the room because of the exam. There was a message from Papa;

*Hello ngwanake, your Mama and I, can't wait to see you*

*You'll find us waiting for you by the bus stop.*

I smiled. Packed my bags and left. "Renei..." Mma Shange called out. I came and gave her a polite smile as I hugged her. She had been a mother to me, just like Michelle. Both of them amazed me in their own special way and I wished Mama was that amazing too. Before leaving school Max's mother called.

"Ma,"

"How are you my girl?"

"I'm fine Ma you?"

"I'm fine my girl. Now that you are done with your exams, when are you going home?"



"Later today."

"Oh my girl... see me before you leave. Ok?"

"Yes Ma," Immediately I walked out of the school then got a taxi to Michelle's house. We had grown much closer, it felt like we were best friends. I got there and pressed the intercom. The gate automatically opened for me to walk right in. Mma Sibeko, the helper opened the door for me

"Renei, come in." She said while opening the door with a smile. "It's been a while."

"Afternoon... I have been busy with school exams."

"My daughter told me. The young one. I wish she could meet you."

"By God's grace we will meet." I walked to the living room and found Michelle there, and I hug her tightly.

"Ma,..."

"Baby... How are you?"

She asked. "I'm fine. How about you?"

"I'm fine now that you are here. Sit..." I sat down as Mma Sibeko walked out.

"Your hair is beautiful."

"Thank you Ma.." I smiled.

"You are welcome baby... and thank you Aggie." She said as Mma Sibeko put a jug of juice and two glasses on a delicate wooden table. I stood up then poured the juice into the glasses. I gave Michelle the other glass and then I sat down.

"I told my friend about you. She invited you to her daughter's party which is happening in two days because you guys share the same birthday."

"Aww..."

"As I won't be there for your remarkable birthday, I've decided to gift you today."

"Ma, you don't have to do this. You know your loving me is a gift enough."

"I know but this is just a mother touch."

"Ma.."

"Don't worry baby." She said then grabbed a gift bag from the floor.

"Take..." I meekly received, then opened the first one. Astonished, I gasped.

My hands were shaking. "Ma I'm really sorry, I can't take this. It's too much."

Michelle laughed. "Renei you're struggling without a laptop in your school work, so I bought it for that. I understand your parents are so strict, you can leave it here, you'll collect it when you come back." I rubbed my eyes to wipe away some tear drops.

"You are stressing over nothing. The laptop is yours. It's always going to be yours. Open your other gift." I put the laptop down then opened another one. It was a dress, I remembered seeing it when we went to the mall together the first time. I remembered desiring the dress but the price scared me off.

"Ma... This dress... Is it really mine?" I smiled.

"You love it? It's long and beautiful and suits you. Go and try it on." I put it on and my heart swelled with joy.

Michelle said as I walked back to the living room. "You look so beautiful my baby."

I blushed. "Thank you."

"You left the shoes." I walked to the gift bag curiously then took out the shoes. They were high heels but not like Alicia's. I sat down to put them on. They looked so beautiful on me, I couldn't stop smiling.

"After lunch, we are going out."

"Where are we going?"

"Don't worry baby... Happy birthday."

"Lunch is ready, where should I serve it?" Mma Sibeko asked.

"At the outdoor table."

"Ma please let me help you." I said while standing up because I was not used to being served by an elderly person. She just smiled because she knew I wouldn't take her no for an answer. I took off the shoes then walked with her to the kitchen. As we prepared to carry the casseroles to the outdoor table we heard a car driving in. I peeked through the window and it was a black jeep. I had never seen it before in Michelle's yard and after a while I heard the door opening and closing.

Mma Sibeko and I carried the casseroles to the outside dinner table, it was at the back of the house near the pool under a shade. When we passed through the living room there was a man with Michelle. He looked more like Max a little bit.

"Good afternoon Sir," Mma Sibeko greeted. The man gave her a shallow smile before looking back at Michelle. I greeted as well but He just nodded.

Michelle stopped me and said, "Senzo this is Reneilwe, she's my daughter. Reneilwe,

this is Senzo Buthelezi, Max's father."

Senzo looked at me with a terrifying face. It frightened me. He said to Michelle while his eyes fixed on me, "She looks like a gold digger. Your good heart will kill you someday. Not everyone is an angel. And I can see right through this girl. She's a gold digger." I felt like the whole world crumbling down on top of me.

"Reneilwe is not a gold digger. She's my daughter and I love her. Senzo I've never come to your house and acted like you. Please respect me," she said with a hurt voice.

"Michelle my love I'm just opening your eyes."

"But I think you should leave."

"Leave?"

"Please..." She begged. He respected her and left. I looked at Michelle as Mr. Buthelezi was leaving.

"Don't worry baby. Let's go and eat." I smiled and nodded. He pierced my heart, his words got registered in my mind. It really snatched away my peace.

"Baby stop thinking about that. You're not what he says you are. You're my love and with you I'm well pleased. Ok!" I looked at her eyes and saw pure genuineness in her words. I smiled.

"There goes my baby. Beautiful as ever. Aggie look at her. So beautiful." Michelle said while pacifying my cheek.

"She's really beautiful. In and out." Aggie said. Getting to the outdoor table we settled down then ate over light conversations.

Then Michelle said, "Aggie, Renei and I are going out. After that I'm going to drop her where she can get transport."

"Ok Michelle."

"Reneilwe wear your shoes and let's go." I walked to the living room then put on my shoes. Tshepo then drove us out. I didn't ask where we were going, I didn't want to ruin the surprise. After an hour or so the car finally stopped in front of a gate. We got to the gate with Tshepo behind us. The gate opened automatically and I'm met by a huge garden of flowers. The garden is so big with different kinds of flowers. I walked to this other white flower. It was so beautiful.

"White rose..." Michelle said from behind me. I looked at her.

"Ma this place is so beautiful. I love it."

She laughed. "It's so beautiful."

"You run a flower business?"

"Yes." She answered wheeling herself to some red flowers. She plucked out one then motioned me to her. I knelt down and she put it in my afro.

"Beautiful..." She whispered. I plucked out one too then put it behind her ear.

"Now we are both beautiful."

She laughed. "Yes. I started this when I was 28. I have always loved flowers. This place is my legacy. It's my joy. It gives me so much peace." I stared at her as she talked. I could feel the breezing serenity, caressing scent of the flowers as the soft wind blew. It was beautiful.

"Come..." She said and I followed her. Tshepo was still with us but he kept a distance. There was a small paved road that we used that walked through the flowers. I wanted to touch and feel every flower along the way. We finally stop by a huge tree with a very cool shade. The tree was surrounded by flowers. There was a cloth already placed on the lawn.

"Tshepo..." Michelle called to be helped her to sit on the cloth.

"Come sit with me so we have some time together." She said as soon as Tshepo placed her down. My phone beeped notifying me for an incoming message. It was a message from Prince.

"Baby is everything ok?" Michelle asked making me put my phone away.

"Yes. Everything is ok, it's my friend. He's going to wait for me."

"Prince?" She asked. I had told her about him, after all he was my only friend.

"Yes."

"I would love to meet him." She said squeezing my hand slightly. I could already feel myself missing her. I wished we could stay in that garden forever, it looked and felt like a paradise.

# SIXTEEN

## MAX

"Shouldn't you be at work? Today is your first day Mr. CEO."

"Mom come on..."

She smiled. "Serious I believe you will do it and I'm so happy for you baby. The suit looks good on you. You are looking so handsome."

"Thank you so much beloved mom."

"Did you eat son?"

"No but... What's that?" I asked about the gift bag which was near the fireplace.

"That's Renei's." She said as I opened it.

"A laptop?"

"Yes."

"Renei was here?"

"Yes." I took a deep breath.

"When?"

"On Friday. What is it?"

I shook my head. "Nothing. Is she still at varsity?"

"No. She went home. I bought her the laptop for her birthday."

"Her birthday was on Friday?"

"No. It's today. Let me fix you breakfast."

"No. I'm good."

"Senzo told me about your gift. Another one."

I took off the jacket. "Did he also tell you about the clothes he ordered?"

She laughed. "He's only trying to make you fit in. Don't be hard on him. You're his

only child. The Buthelezi legacy is in your hand to take it further. Embrace it."

"I need to get going."

She smiled. "Good luck Mr. Buthelezi." I shook my head then took my jacket.

She said as I gave her a hug. "That Simphiwe girl... I don't like her."

"She's a friend."

"I don't like her. You don't need such in your life. Get rid of her."

"Your wish is my command." I said giving her a little bow while smiling.

She patted my shoulder while her face brightened. "Great Mr. Buthelezi."

"I will call you."

"Ok baby. I love you."

"I love you more." I kissed her cheek then got off to my new Mercedes AMG C63. It was a gift from Senzo for my new CEO position. My phone rang as I maneuvered in the main road.

"Dawg!"

"Mr. CEO," he said laughing.

"Don't get on my nerves."

"Askies ntwana but... but don't fuck the staff."

I laughed. "I haven't seen them all yet. I have met the board only."

"I'm just saying though. You are the CEO of a multimillion company. You're the boss to more than 6000 employees so good luck."

I took a deep breath. "Sandile."

"Yini ntwana?"

"I'm about to do something I'm going to regret."

"What are you talking about?"

I sighed. "Nothing to worry about though."

"Eish Max! Dawg I have known you for 15 years and I know you are still caught up on Sean's girl. Kante yini!"

"Renei is no one's girl."

"Sean is going to..."

"To what? She's not married to him."

He laughed. "Even if someone was married to her you wouldn't stop... Dawg don't be creepy."

"Hahaaa."

"Don't fuck your PA.. It's wrong. Yet so right."

We laughed. "I will talk to you later."

"Yeah..." I then parked my car at the underground parking lot. Walking inside the elevator I braced myself for what I was about to face. Senzo had said my PA will help me with the ropes for she knew everything about the company. I pressed twenty. That's my office floor. As soon as the elevator started moving I took my phone and texted Zondo, telling him to resend Renei's home address. He replied immediately with an ok. I stepped out of the elevator, the building was so big and I couldn't believe I owned it. One lady wearing a navy blue dress stood up. She looked familiar but I couldn't get where I had seen her before. I hoped she wasn't someone I once fucked.

"Mr Buthelezi, welcome." Everything was glass, including her desk and the wall.

"Hi, my PA?"

"Yes Sir, your second PA, I'm Nolwazi Nkomu." She introduced herself.

"Ok,"

"Would you like me to take off your jacket Sir?" She asked eyeing my jacket.

"You can take it off." I said leaning back to her.

"Any refreshment?"

"Water."

"Coming right up."

"Call me Max," I said walking towards my door. I pushed it and walked inside. Everything was pure white, Senzo had randomly asked about the color I wanted for my office and I had just said white. I sighed as I walked to my chair, the office was preposterously big. I looked at the paintings and I didn't like them. I needed to get rid of them, not my style. I wouldn't mind Tupac's paintings though. I looked up when I heard the opening of my door. A lady, older than Nolwazi walked in. Her navy blue skirt she was wearing curved well with her hips. Her white shirt had the first two buttons unfastened to display her stimulating cleavage. She flipped her weave back.

"Mr Buthelezi." She smiled briefly. She looked older than me.

"Paris Malinda. You've met your assistant."

"Obviously." I said sinking into my chair. "You are my PA too?"

"No Mr Buthelezi, I'm the COO."

"O..k?"

"Yes, your PA will be here just now but I have been tasked to work side by side with you. To show you how it's done."

"I'm sure Mr. Buthelezi senior has briefed you on..."

"Wait. Calm down."

"I'm very calm Mr. ..."

"My water." I exclaimed as Nolwazi walked in with my water, but behind her was another lady. Why are they all beautiful? Nolwazi reverentially placed the glass of water on my table. I took it then sipped.

"Thank you Nolwazi." I said pointing at the two ladies then finally looked at the new comer. "Who are you?"

"Theo Sechaba. Your Personal Assistant." She said.

"Great!"

"Good morning Mr. Buthelezi, I hope you had a great welcome." She said making me smirk. Paris and Nolwazi dismissed themselves.

"Morning to you too Ms Sechaba. Call me Max."

"As you wish, let me brief you quickly. You have a meeting with the staff members in 30 minutes followed by the press conference that Mr. Buthelezi senior briefed you about. After that you have a meeting with Mr. Shikalala about liquidating his company. Mrs. Malinda is supposed to brief you about that meeting. You also have a business dinner you are supposed to attend, Mr. Buthelezi senior said you have to attend it to familiarize yourself with important business associates and also to tell them about our new project, the hotel we are building in Cape-town."

"Hold up. I'm working the whole day?"

"Yes Sir,"

"Uhhh no. That's not gonna happen."



"Sir... It's your duty."

"Why can't Paris do it?"

"Business associates would like to meet the new face of the business."

"I need a smoke."

"Sir?"

"You heard me."

"Ok." She turned then cat-walked out of the office. I could sense the exhaustion I was going to feel henceforth. My phone vibrated, I grabbed it from the table. It was Zondo and he had sent Renei's home address. Then there was a slight knock on the door.

"Come in." The door opened and I turned, Nolwazi walked in.

"Here is your laptop Mr..."

"Max... Have we met before?" She smiled and put the laptop before me.

"Yes. At a restaurant I used to work at." At least I didn't sleep with her. I wouldn't want to find myself in the situation Sandile once found himself in. Then I called out Theo as Nolwazi left.

"The boardroom is ready, this meeting is to let the staff know you and to let you know where we are."

"Why do I have a feeling it will be boring?"

She smiled. "It's worth it. Mr. Buthelezi senior gave us strict orders to help you when needed and if anything goes wrong, we are fired."

"Nx... Askies. You are beautiful." She blushed then cleared her throat.

"Uhh if there's anything you don't like about your office, you can tell me and I will have it fixed immediately."

"Where you my father's PA?" I asked curiously.

"Yes." I looked at her for a while. She did look like his type. He liked young and beautiful ladies then pretended to still love mom.

"When did Nolwazi start here?" My tone was sharp but I didn't care. I couldn't believe he was making me work with his whore. The way she behaved, no doubt he had fucked her, and not once. He disgusted me and so did she.

"Today is her first day." I looked over and picked the call on my office phone.

"Yeah?"

"Son," I got annoyed. I looked at Theo who walked out immediately.

"So you gave me your whore as a PA?"

"Max!" He warned me.

"I don't want to work with Theo." I said.

"She's meant to be your light."

"I don't want her. I will manage with the new PA. I won't be working with a whore."

"Max!"

"You heard me."

I heard him sigh. "Ok."

"What did you want?"

"How are you settling?"

"I have met your whore, you can guess."

"Boy I'm your father. Watch out on your mouth."

"I don't see anything wrong with what I have just said." He dropped the call. Good.

That day was very hectic. The meeting in the morning was weird though I was kept up to date with the happenings of the company. The press conference was the worst. Some journalist even asked about the girl I fucked during the weekend. Senzo though was on top of everything. He answered almost all the questions but of course I had to give a little speech on how I planned to move the company forward. The speech had been already written for me. After that I had the longest meeting with Paris. She managed to update me about all the important things and projects I needed to know. So far our biggest project was the hotel they wanted to build in the Ocean.

"You are done for the day but only left with the business dinner." Nolwazi said.

"Can't I skip?"

"You can't."

"What time is it starting?"

"At seven. You need to prepare for the dinner because Mr. Buthelezi senior

emphasized on the importance of your presence at the dinner. You also need to eat, you haven't eaten all day. What shall I get for you?" Some minutes later Nolwazi walked in with my food. I was really hungry. And ohh, my father moved his whore to another department. After eating Nolwazi forced me out of the office. The receptionist at the main reception... I forgot her name, she gave me a wide smile as I walked past her. She had a crush on me, a childish one. She was not my type. I liked women in general but I had a class. I thought about dodging the dinner but I couldn't.

Arriving there, as I suspected, it was full of old men and young girls mostly. I met a couple of business associates and I got comments like "you really look like your father," and more. I stayed for about two hours then I quietly slipped out. As I drove to the penthouse I couldn't stop thinking about Renei. I wondered what she was doing for her birthday. I wondered if her parents would afford getting her a cake, her mother was a porter at the local hospital while her father worked in a pawnshop. Getting to my house I grabbed a bottle of beer from the fridge as I took off my tie.

"Hey.." A voice startled me. I looked up and realized it was Simphiwe.

"And then?" I asked agitated. I was not in the mood for her. She was wearing a short black dress but still I was annoyed. She was beginning to act like Alicia.

"Can we talk?"

"Simphiwe I'm tired. I just want to drink my beer in peace."

She sat down on the couch. She was clearly not going anywhere.

"What's wrong?"

"I.. Max.." She started crying.

"Ehh Phiwe.. Eish." I put my beer down then sat beside her.

"Come here.." She got on my lap then hugged me while crying.

I didn't know what she wanted me to do so I kissed her. She responded almost immediately and my dick twitched. I stood up with her then placed her on the floor. We were not about to fuck on my bed. Not the bed Renei slept on. I stripped her naked, she was already panting. I slipped in a finger in her slick tunnel while rubbing her clit. I was going to fuck her one last time, our time together had really ran out.

I looked at her as she arched her back then exploded. I unzipped my pants while taking out the condom from my back pocket. I rolled it over my erection then slide in her. She moved her waist, meeting me halfway. She was good in bed. I started going hard and deeper. Again and again I slammed into her as her tunnel get wetter. She was now scratching me while screaming. I pulled out as I feel her insides tense.

I stood up then picked her up and put her on the couch. Head down ass up. I pressed her back to the couch exposing her completely. I slipped into her once again and fucked her hard.

After a while I begun to feel her insides convulse. I increased my speed giving her thick jabs till she came all around me with a loud scream. I gave her once last jab and I came.

I pulled out slowly then took the condom off. I walked to nearby room then flushed it in the toilet. By the time I got back in the living room, she was sleeping. I grabbed my beer waking her up.

"Simphiwe!" She slowly opened her eyes.

"Hmmm?"

"Wake up." She sat up straight then looked at me.

"What?"

"Since when do you sleep here?"

She laughed. "You can't be serious. We are way past that stage."

"Should I call cab for you?"

She rolled her eyes smiling. "Yes please!"

"Stop being crazy Phiwe."

"Sorry.. I guess I'm just tired." She dressed then left. I sat on the couch and resumed drinking my beer. Soon I got drunk and slept on the couch.

*"Max where did you get this?" She asks screaming.*

*"I borrowed it from my dad. Come on babe, we are going to be late."*

*"Max no. I'm not getting in that car." She's not budging and I'm really running out of ideas on how to convince her.*

*"What is it? You don't trust me?" I ask.*

*"Max you know I trust you. I love you. I just don't think this is a good idea."*

*"Trust me baby. Let's go. I promised to make this special for you."*

*"And you being here is special enough." She says then laughs. "We can stay... And do something else." She suggests.*

*"Leano we are running late. Get in the car." She looks at me for a while, I know she doesn't like this but I know she will come around.*

*She gets in the car and I'm more than relieved. I can't tell her I stole the car, she will get mad. Plus Sandile said I shouldn't tell her. I'm driving steadily, I don't want anything to happen. I have my licence in my formal trouser's back pocket, I got it yesterday. She's silent the whole time. I step on the breaks as the traffic light goes red then take her hand into mine. It's sweaty.*

*"Leano—"*

*"Max I'm scared."*

*"You have nothing to be scared about."*

*"If your dad finds out.. You know he doesn't like me."*

*"Babe my dad gave it to me. Don't be scared. I love you." I say earnestly. She smiles.*

*"I love you too." The moment the traffic lights change to green I step on the gas immediately and the car surges forward throwing me back.*

*"Max!" Leano screams. I step on the breaks in panic and it goes faster.*

*"Max!" She screams more loudly and I hear a loud bang!*

I opened my eyes and I was drenching in my own sweat.

I wasn't going to escape her.

# SEVENTEEN

RENEILWE

"You know, I missed you so much."

"I missed you too Mama."

"Pastor Isaac said you must come to church today. The choir needs you."

"Ok." I said smiling. I missed that choir.

"So let me cook breakfast so you eat then go."

"Ok." Papa walked in as I took my plate. He was holding a newspaper.

"Good morning Papa," I greeted.

"Reneilwe good morning."

I walked to the table. I ate quietly, when I was done I washed my plate. I bid them goodbye after putting on my shoes. I wondered if things had changed that much at church. Mandisa was gone and it seemed as if everyone had forgotten about her.

A voice called me far off, I turned and looked, it was Mma Hlengiwe. I walked over to her house.

"Good morning Ma," I greeted as she hugged me.

"Renei good to see you, you look more beautiful." I smiled.

"Thank you Ma'am, how's Sihle?"

"Sihle's well. She was writing her matric and I hope she will get a distinction like you."

"She will do it, she's a bright girl."

"I hope so. People like you should inspire her to do much better."

"Yes, it's nice seeing you Ma, I'm going to church."

"Ok my child. I will see you around."

"Good bye." I walked out of her yard and the church was not far from there. When I arrived, the choir master was already there, Lucas. Beside him was Nhlanhla.

"Heehee the queen has arrived." Nhlanhla said. Lebohang waved at me. Before then she had always been that girl who used to walk with me or better yet, followed me around.

"Renei welcome!" Lucas said.

"Thank you, hello everyone." While many people greeted me in excitement, I caught Nhlanhla's eyes resentfully looking at me.

"Everyone position up. We all know Renei, we will talk to her once we are done practicing." Lucas said motioning me to join them on the stage.

"Renei will lead, Tebo you..."

"I'm the one leading Lucas." Nhlanhla said furiously.

"My choir, my rules." Lucas said shutting her up. Our practice lasted for about two hours. The choir had improved ever since I left. Nhlanhla was sulking during the whole practice, yet Lucas and everyone considered me as a better singer than her. After the practice Lucas requested to meet me and talk to me briefly.

"Hey..." He said with a bright smile in front of me.

"Hey, how are you?"

"I'm fine. How's Jozi?"

"It's ok but it feels good to be back."

"And varsity?"

I chuckled. "It's kind of different from what I'm used to but with time I will adjust."

"Yeah!"

"Yeah... Uhh if you want to hang..."

"Reneilwe!" Pastor Isaac said interrupting us. He was with Mr. Michaels. I cringed as I looked at Mr. Michaels. I wondered if he was still drinking alcohol.

"Pastor Isaac, Mr. Michaels, good morning." I said. Lucas greeted them too his tone a bit clipped.

"Good morning guys, Reneilwe how are you?"

"I'm fine Pastor." Then they walked away.

"Well, I guess we should get going." Lucas said.

"Yes." As we walked out Mr. Michaels' voice stopped us.

"Hey!" He shouted.

"You girl... Come!" He said. My heart leaped as I looked at Lucas.

"Let's go." Lucas said taking my hand and leading me towards Mr. Michaels.

"No. The girl alone." Mr. Michaels said as we approached him. I didn't want to be alone with him. Lucas didn't say anything, neither did he move.

"Young man, your pastor is calling her." Lucas's hand loosened up on me.

"I will be outside." He said then walked away.

"Let's go." Mr. Michaels said walking away already. I followed after him till we were in the church office but surprisingly Pastor Isaac was not there.

"Ehh Mr. Michaels, where is Pastor Isaac?" I asked with a scared voice.

"Sit down. He will be joining us in a while." He looked relaxed but I was scared. He closed the door then pushed me to the chair gently. My body immediately stiffened when he put his hand on me.

"Relax..."

"Uhh Mr. Michaels I have to go home."

"You look so grown up. Beautiful." He said then placed his hand on my shoulder. I immediately stood up making him snigger.

"No... Relax. I won't hurt you."

"I have to go." I said walking to the door but as I opened it he gripped my hand then pulled me back. I inhaled his stinking breath. Both alcohol and a bad breath.

"Where are you going? I won't hurt you!"

"Leave me alone!"

"Relax." He threw me on the chair, immediately his hands were on my waist. He looked like an animal.

"Mr. Michaels let me go."

"You love listening to God don't you? I'm doing God's work." I looked at him, God's work? He started pulling my dress up and when I screamed, he slapped me. I shivered, I was about to get rapped.

"I'm going to make you feel good." He said then kissed me.

"You bitch!" He cursed. I had no way of escaping, he was much stronger than me. I



grabbed the screw driver which was on Pastor Isaac's table. He started charging towards me but before he got to me the door opened and Pastor Isaac walked in. My whole body was shaking.

"Uhh Isaac, you are back." Mr. Michaels said stepping away from me. My heart was beating so fast.

"Renei, you can leave my child." Pastor Isaac said. I immediately dropped the screwdriver then ran out of the office. I ran so fast to get out of the church premises. I didn't see Lucas anywhere. He might had gone. As I was crossing the road, in the middle of the road a car came running so fast and unbelievable braked right next to me. I was so shocked. He got out of his car.

"Max? What are you doing here?" My voice was barely audible.

"I came to see you."

"To see me?"

"Why?"

"Because I miss you."

"What?"

"What's wrong? You look lost." I shook my head then stepped away from him while looking around. I didn't want to be the talk of the street.

"You have to go."

"Look, this is not my style. I came here to see you, something I never do. Appreciate it. I just wanted to see you. Can I drop you home?." I hesitated but I had to avoid being seen by many people so I just got into his car. He drove away and then parked in front of the local supermarket.

"Are you hungry?"

"No, I'm not hungry."

"Ok,"

He got off the car then walked inside the supermarket. People turned and looked at him because he looked foreign in that place. I was relaxed because the tinted windows and windshields hid me. No one could see me. He came back after a while, he caught so many girls' attention and suddenly I felt a strange feeling. I felt jealous. He got into the car then put his soft drink aside. People marveled staring at the car.

"What were you running away from?" He asked.

I looked at him. "I was rushing home."

"You didn't look like you were rushing home." I looked at him, he had the lowest fade ever and he still looked attractive. He also smelled good, as always. Just then my phone started ringing. I had no choice but to take it out from my bra. His eyes were on me as I took it out, it was Mama. I quickly answered.

"Mama,"

"Renei, remember Mam'Maria?" She asked.

"Yes."

"Her husband has passed on. We just received the news. Your Papa and I are going to offer our condolences then help her start with the funeral arrangements." I didn't quite remember her.

"Ok, please pass my condolences too."

"Yes my child." Mama said ending our conversation.

"I heard it was your birthday on Monday." Max said

"Yes." He started the car finally. A wave of relief waved across my heart as he drove away. As soon as I figured he was driving to Polokwane I immediately started to panic. I had to go home.

"Max I need to get home."

"You need to loosen up." He said after a while. I continuously stole glances at him. Why was I now finding him attractive? He stopped the car in front of the Samsung store once we got to Polokwane and he bought another phone.

"Take," he said placing the new phone on my lap.

"What is this?" I asked confused.

"It's yours." He answered then started the car. I opened the plastic and it was a brand new Samsung S9. I blinked then looked at him.

"Max what's this?"

"Happy birthday," he said.

"I don't want this." I said putting it back in the plastic. "I have a phone."

"It's a gift, gifts are not meant to be refused." He said with ease.

"I can't take this but thank you." He kept quiet while driving to a certain direction.

Along the road he packed then got out of the car, to my door and opened it.

"Max... You don't understand, I need..."

"Out," he said. I got out. He took the Samsung plastic then placed it on top of the car. Suddenly I was in his arms. While shocked, he picked me up onto the bonnet.

"You look beautiful," he complimented looking into my eyes. "I missed your pretty face."

"What are you doing here?" I whispered.

He looked at me for a while in silence then he smiled. "I came to see you."

"Why?"

"Because I can't stop thinking about you." His voice low and soft. Something was there, no matter how much I tried to fight it, it was there, it was so strong. I felt weak.

"Max..."

"I'm not the one for you." He said.

"Then why are you here?" I whispered back.

"I don't know... I just wanted to see you and kiss you." I couldn't believe he drove all the way from Jozi for me.

"Your girlfriend?"

"I told you I don't do relationships." He brought his face closer to mine, if I moved just a tiny bit our lips were going to touch. I could feel his warm breath on my lips.

"I missed you..." He whispered.

"Max I have never..." he cut me short then pressed his lips on mine. He sucked my lower lip while squeezing my waist. I wrapped my arms around his neck then kissed him back.

# EIGHTEEN

## MAX

I didn't have a reason why I was there. I had not planned to spend my weekend far from home. She looked at the chocolate, flowers and teddy bear then at me.

"Max you didn't have to buy me this."

"It's for your birthday."

"Thanks but I can't take this home. What will I tell my parents?"

"Nothing. Sneak everything in and make sure they don't see them. Or you have a better idea?"

"Yes. You can keep this..."

"No. It's yours."

"All this is too much Max."

"Where are your parents?"

"They went for a funeral."

"And what time are they coming back?"

She looked at me for a while then shrugged. "I don't know. Later..." I looked at my watch. It was just after 1 p.m.

"Then why do you want to go home now?" I asked.

"I have to go and cook."

"If they're going to be at the funeral the whole day then whom are you cooking for?"

"Max our families are different." She said looking on the new phone. I had already put her SIM card inside without her consent.

"How different?"

"We live in different worlds."

"So?"

"Renei..." She looked at me with her goggle eyes.

"Are you hungry?" She nodded. I started the car then drove back to the restaurant. We got off the car then entered the restaurant. That was my first time in Polokwane so I hoped the restaurant was good.

"Welcome to Food with Sheila," a waiter said as we settled on a table. He handed us the menu booklet then excused himself.

"Ready to order?" I asked her.

"I'm not really hungry." She muttered.

"You like playing games with me, don't you?" She blinked, then shook her head.

"Then order. You said you were hungry minutes ago and now you are not hungry."

I called the waiter. When he arrived I place my order while she ordered a green salad. I didn't know why she ordered it, it didn't even look appetizing. When the waiter came back with our food I took hers then gave her mine.

"Max..."

"You like my name so much that you can't even stop saying it every second." She blushed.

"It's fine though. I don't mind. Eat." She started eating slowly. I took one spoon of the salad then stopped, I couldn't eat that. She ate half the plate then pushed it aside.

"But you didn't even eat that much." I said because I knew she could eat.

"You didn't even touch your food." She responded looking at my plate. I kept quiet glaring at her beauty. Few minutes later we walked out of the restaurant. I started the car then drove off.

She looked out through the window, "Max where are we going?"

"Jo'burg." I said with ease. She laughed.

"No... Take me back home."

"And I will take you... Do you have siblings?"

"Max what am I going to tell my parents?"

"Relax, we still have time. I will return you."

"Max..."

"Do you have siblings?"

"Max please... Return me home."

I looked at her then the road. "Please don't cry." I increased the speed.

"So you don't want to drive me back home?"

"Ehh ang'funi." She was upset but it was only 2pm. She didn't say anything to me for a very long time and guilt consciousness crept on my mind. I parked outside MJ's house.

"Let's go." I said getting out of the car. She didn't come out. I walked to her door then opened it.

"Let's go."

"My dressing..." She said nervously. I looked at her dress, really she needed to change her whole wardrobe.

"What's wrong with it?"

"Did you bring me here so people can laugh at me?" She asked. I looked at her then extended my hand to help her get up. Getting off the car I pushed her against it, she grasped my jacket gasping.

"Max please..." she begged.

"Stop trying to always do things the hard way."

"Max! Dawg you made it." MJ said coming from the back house. I stepped away from Renei.

"Had to!" I said giving him a handshake.

"Yoh ssup?" He said to Renei who was staring at me.

"Look I'm coming, I want to get something in my house." He chuckled then raised his eyebrows, "Isn't fucking underage girls illegal?"

"Fuck off!"

We got back into my car. I opened the door for her then pushed her inside.

"Where are we going?" She asked as I closed the door. As soon as I got in my car I started it then drove straight to the penthouse. I didn't want to answer her and when we arrived, the moment I opened the door for her, she stepped out. Good girl. I walked inside the hotel with her. That day Rejoice was off duty, it was Nomfundo. She was a bit older so she minded her own business. I led Renei to the elevator.

"Max..."

"Yeah?"

"Your girl who wanted to fight me last time, where's she?"

I looked at her. "I don't know." Out of the elevator, I took out the keys from my pocket then unlocked the door. She followed me. My house was clean, the helper had done her duty. She looked around the house then me.

"Why are we here?" I looked at her for a while.

"I want us to watch movies."

She laughed. "That's funny."

"No I'm serious... I'm going to order cake and some refreshments. For your birthday."

"For my birthday?"

"Yes. For your birthday."

"Max I really appreciate..."

"Go and sit down."

"Max my parents... they..."

"Have they called?" She shook her head.

"So relax. I will get a chopper if I can't return you."

"A helicopter?"

"Yes," I said taking her hand and leading her to the kitchen stool. Took out my phone and switched it on. Dozens of messages reported. I ignored all of them then called the hotel staff to order a cake.

"What kind of cake do you want Mr. Buthelezi, we have a cheese cake, chocolate cake, lemon..."

"Chocolate cake and some refreshments for a birthday. Make it snappy." As soon as I hang up, another call got in.

"Open for the staff when they come." I said to Renei walking away.

"It's Saturday," I answered the call.

"Yes Max but unfortunately I had to remind you about the business dinner we have with Mr Gwala because I'm sure you will forget and I will be there all alone."

"What time does it start again?"

"At seven."

"I might be late."

"I know but your father will be there,"

"So?"

"So? Max I might get fired."

"We will go but just a bit late."

"Max you know how much I need this job!"

"I know Nolwazi and we will go."

"Ok," then I walked back to the kitchen. The order had arrived.

"All this is unnecessary." She said smiling.

"Should I sing?"

She laughed quietly. "No but thanks." I start singing and she kept on laughing.

"You are nasty."

"You should appreciate me." She blushed. I leaned over to kiss her. I lavished her soft lips against mine. She wrapped her arms around my waist and kissed me back. When I let go of her lips she looked at me. The look spoke volumes.

"Max..." She whispered.

"Let's cut the cake."

"I love you..." I looked at her, I knew I can never love her, and I remembered Leano's coffin as it sank down. She had taken my heart with her and I was left with nothing. All hope, all the love that I had. She had taken it with her into the grave.

"You can't love me because I will never feel the same for you."

"Why?" She asked.

"Because I don't want to." I said but only to regret it. She blinked a couple of times then moved back. She looked hurt.

"I'm sorry!" She whispered.

"No! Listen Reneilwe, I can't love you."



"Why?" She asked again.

"I just can't!"

"So what do you want from me? You want to just sleep with me? Is that it?" Her voice sounded miffed and aggrieved. "Is that what you always wanted Max?"

"Renei..."

"Please take me home." She said wiping a tear that had fallen from her eye.

"Renei..."

"Max..." She sobbed. I embraced her.

"I'm sorry baby..."

Her eyes were reddish and a bit swollen. "Please take me home." She whispered.

"I didn't want to sleep with you. I just wanted to spend some time with you."

"I know I'm not like the..."

"Renei... Listen to me... I don't know how to love anyone. Understand that."

She looked confused. "What?"

"I don't know how to love anyone. I don't think I can ever know."

"Why?"

"Look let's forget everything and focus on your belated little party."

"Maybe you should drop me off at home."

"And I will. Relax. Ok?"

"I just..."

"I will take you home, I promise. Ok? Now smile..." She nodded then faked a smile.

"Ok," I kissed her again and she was a bit reluctant. I picked her up then placed her on the kitchen counter.

"Renei relax... Just relax..."

"I don't..."

"Shh... Relax." I kissed her again, deepening the kiss. Making her wrap her legs around my waist then moved her to my bedroom. Laying her down I looked at her for a while.

"Max... I don't want..."

"We not fucking. Relax. I won't even do anything you don't want me to do." I said then got on top of her and kissed her again. I took it slowly this time around.

"I want you to relax ok?" I asked looking into her eyes. I could see it in her eyes, the same thing I saw in Leano's eyes. It was there, I wanted her to stop! I didn't deserve her love. I kissed her, biting her lower lip a little bit hard till I tasted blood in my mouth. I moved from her lips then to her neck. I sucked hard and she was unstable beneath me. Squirming and letting out soft moans. I got off her then started unbuttoning her dress.

"Max..." She whispered.

"Relax and trust me. I'm not going to do anything you don't want, I swear." I continued unbuttoning her dress, she looked ready to run but so scared. She was so sexy. I kissed her chest and her whole body ticked.

"Relax..." I made her take off the dress completely then I unhooked her bra.

"Max..."

"Shh..." I put one nipple in my mouth and sucked hard. She moaned softly jerking her body. I sucked on her nipple as I massaged her other boob. After a while I was working on the other nipple and she kept thrashing her body. I nuzzled her, inhaling her. I wanted to taste her. I slowly took off her panties, I knew she was uncomfortable but she needed it. I spread her legs wider and just look at her, she was so beautiful and wet. Her perfectly shaved fat pussy was so enticing. I separated her folds with my finger and kissed her right there. She tried to close her legs but I kept them apart. I wanted her to feel this. I ravaged my tongue on her as she whimpered. She was not a screamer. But I was not quite sure if she wouldn't when I fuck her real hard.

I pushed one finger inside her. I slipped my finger in and out of her while I kissed her clitoris. I slipped in another finger when she started moving her pelvis upwards. Her body stiffened after a while then she let her gates open. I continued till her body calmed down. I looked at her, so innocent, so pure. I fixed my pants when I heard a knock on my door. Probably the hotel staff. I walked out of my bedroom to the main door. I sighed when I saw Simphiwe, she looked as if she'd been crying but I didn't care.

"Simphiwe."

"Max I'm pregnant." She whispered.

What the fuck?

"Max I'm scared... I'm pregnant." She said crying.

# NINETEEN

RENEILWE

"I will call you later ok?" He said tilting my head to kiss me. My body was numb. The special feeling that surpasses human explanation. Max knows how to melt my heart to its basement. A new exquisite phone, a rosy teddy bear and a salivating chocolate. I was glad I didn't find Mama and Papa home. I rushed to my room then put the teddy bear together with the chocolate in my bag. I knew Mama wouldn't open it but I didn't want to take a risk, I pushed the phone under the bed.

Papa and Mama arrive immediately after I was done with the cooking, I was more than relieved.

"I forgot to tell Reneilwe not to cook for us." Mama said as she entered the kitchen.

"I'll eat mine in the morning." Papa retorted walking to their bedroom, looking exhausted.

"Just dish for yourself my girl." Mama said giving me a caring look.

"What happened to your neck?" Mama asked.

"My neck?"

"Yes... It's bruised. Your chest too. Your lips.. Is that a cut?"

"Uhh...." I walked to my room with her behind me. I took my mirror and froze.

"Did something bite you?" I stared at the bruises for a while. Shocked, I began to panic. I remembered Max kissing my neck, it was so nice yet a bit uncomfortable.. The same way it felt when he put his finger in my vagina... Is my virginity gone? I regretted.

"Aa.. I think something just nibbled you. I will give you something to apply on it. Don't worry. Go and eat." I faked a smile. I walked to the kitchen and dished but I had already lost appetite. I couldn't eat, I just put the food away then went to my room. Snatched my phone from under the bed and found a message from Max.

*I think I'm going to come again tomorrow.*

While reading the text the phone rang. It had a weird ringing tone. I answered.

"Max." I hushed.

"Are your parents home now?"

"Yes. There are bruises on my neck! What have you done to me?"

"Shit! I'm sorry. Cover them up." He sounded chilled.

"What do you mean cover them up Max? What did you do to me?"

"Renei relax... They will disappear. Just cover them up for now."

"Am I still a virgin?"

"Hey... Look, you are still a virgin till we have sex. Fingers don't really do anything so you are still a virgin. Don't cry..."

"Max..."

"If I had broken your virginity then you wouldn't be able to sit properly right now."

"I don't want what happened to happen again."

He laughed. "I'm not sure if your body feels the same way," his words cut through my heart.

"Max I'm not ready for all of that. I want to do it with my God-given man."

"The fact that I can't stay away from you has been proven."

"You said you can't love me. I may be young but I know what that means and the painful part is that you only want to sleep with me."

"If I wanted to I would have long done it. You don't even know me that much."

"What are you saying?"

"I don't want to drag you into my mess. I have a feeling that I'm just going to be stuck with you if I fuck you."

"I'm confused. Stuck?"

"Yes. I don't like the way I feel when I think of you or when I touch you or kiss you. I don't want to feel like that about you... and I don't want you to love me."

"Why?"

"Because you deserve better. I will only hurt you."

"Your mom told me..." I paused.

"Told you what?"

"About her... Leano."

"What?"

"Uhh.."

"What?"

"She told me about her... And what happened. I..."

"Reneilwe."

"Please don't be mad at her. All I wanted to know is... Do you still love her?" Michelle had said he does but I wanted to hear it from him.

"You and Mom don't have any business discussing Leano! You didn't even know her!" He yelled. He still loved her even in her grave that's probably why he said he can't love me.

"I'm sorry. I have to go. And no I don't love her."

What?

"I don't love the dead."

"You don't?"

"No. I don't. Love is just overrated Renei. I don't want to fall in that trap."

"But you once loved her then."

"Yeah.. But not anymore. She's dead, I killed her."

"Your mom said it was an accident."

"Can we stop?"

I took a deep breath. "Ok,"

"I think I should come again tomorrow."

"No, please!"

"Why? Ain't your parents going for the funeral again?" He asked.

"I don't want problems with Desmond. He's dangerous. He will hurt you."

"Reneilwe I don't know Desmond but I know he's a thief, a thief shouldn't be the reason I shouldn't come there."

"He is not a two time thief."

"Whatever.. I'm still coming."

"Tomorrow I'm going to church. It's Sunday."

"What time does church finish?"

"At two..."

"I will see you then."

"Max I don't..."

"I'm coming."

"Reneilwe!" I froze. It was Mama. I quickly hang up then shove the phone between the blankets. Mama walked in just then.

"Come, Pastor Isaac is here." I stood up slowly and followed her out. Got into our petite sitting room and greet Pastor Isaac, I avoided an eye contact at all cost. I sat beside Mama then listened.

"The reason I'm here is because of Reneilwe," he said, my heart beat quickened. "God has shown me a vision." He continued as Mama squeezed my hand softly. "This place isn't good for her at the moment. If she keeps staying here, it will destroy her future." My heart sank as tears filled my eyes.

"What are you saying Pastor?" Mama asked, she sounded scared.

"She should leave this place. As soon as possible."

"But where can she go? We don't have any relatives in Jo'burg." Papa said.

"She can go back to school. I'm willing to give her money for her to stay at res during the holiday."

"But she just came..." Mama said sadly.

"My wife, we have to do what the Pastor says we should do. We don't want anything bad happen to her."

"I will give you the money tomorrow after the service. She can leave on Monday morning." Pastor Isaac said.

"Thank you Pastor." Papa said.

"Yes, let Reneilwe walk me to the gate. I have to go now."

"Ok," I looked at Papa then stood up to walk Pastor Isaac out.

"I'm doing this to protect you. I can't report Peter. He will take the church from us." Pastor said in a hurried whisper as soon as we reached the gate. I looked at him. I felt numb and aloof.

"You've a bright future. We're all relying on you here, I can't let Peter ruin your life."

"I'm I the only victim?" I asked.

"That doesn't matter. I want you to leave this place. After I work out a plan on how to get rid of him, you will freely come back."

I wonder how many girls he has hurt and how many chose to keep quiet. Maybe I was going to be one of those girls if Pastor Isaac didn't walk in the minute he did. Was I just going to keep quiet?

"I will see you tomorrow, immediately after the service come home." I just nodded, I had nothing left to say.

"Good night." He said then walked away. The moment I walked back inside the house, Papa said we should pray. My mind went away to other girls who were snared and who were about to be snared, how are they going to escape his grip as I was escaping. He was nothing but a drunkard, rapist and he didn't deserve to live among humanity, he's an animal. A wretch.

"Renei... Ready to go?" Lucas asked. We were on the stage ready to start the praise and worship. Lucas signaled me to start the song. After a while the church joined in. We didn't take that much time on the stage. Pastor Isaac began the sermon. I didn't really hear anything, my mind wandered to and fro, about this and that. He ended the sermon without anything being registered in my spirit. The church finished, then we all dispersed. Mama and Papa were going to the funeral again. I found them waiting for me outside.

"Renei my child, your Mother and I are going to the funeral now. They need our support. You can go home and start packing. I have already called the university people so don't worry. And don't take into heart people's words, it's just the devil in a different form and we won't let the devil win." Papa said obviously referring to the rumors Mma Lebo was circulating, something about Mama backstabbing her. I heard Nhlanhla telling a friend. Mma Lebo even indirectly insulted Mama while giving her testimony.

"Ok Papa,"

"You were wonderful today." Mama said softly with a smile.

"Thank you Mama." I said then hugged her. I watched them as they walked away. Mama didn't look ok, she seemed emotionally drained. As I began walking home



Lucas stopped me and offered to accompany me.

"How are you?" He asked. I didn't know if he wanted to find out what happened or not.

"I'm fine Lucas and you?"

"I'm fine, yesterday I passed by your house after Pastor Isaac told me that he had sent you home. You were not there though."

"Oh..."

"Yeah... What happened?"

"You can tell me Renei! Mr. Michaels has gone far." He said with a scaring menace.

"What do you mean?"

"He rapped Teboho." My eyes broadened, heartbroken.

"What?"

"When did this happen?"

"Before you left. Renei you can't just keep quiet if he did something to you. You are not the only one, I know there are other girls too."

"He tried but Pastor Isaac came just in time. He said he was doing what God wanted him to do."

"Thank you for telling me..."

"What are you going to do?"

"Renei..." His said before Lucas could answer my question. My brain began to spin. I quickly look at Lucas then at Max. I felt obligated to explain.

"Lucas this is my varsity friend. And Max this is Lucas, he's the choirmaster and he too is my friend." Max didn't get out of his car or even remove his shades to acknowledge Lucas's presence.

"Renei we will talk right?"

"Yeah..." He walked away but kept glancing back at Max and his beast.

"You came..."

"Yeah. Get inside... Before anyone sees you." I looked around before I walked round to the passenger seat to get in. He drove away immediately.

"You look beautiful." I looked at him then blushed

"Thank you."

"Hungry?" I shook my head.

"So what were you discussing with brother Lucas sister Renei?"

"Nothing."

"It didn't look like nothing."

"I'm going back tomorrow."

He glances at me briefly. "Why?"

"Because..."

"Tell me..." He urged me while holding my hand. "Why?"

"Mr. Michaels, the man who built the church, wanted to rape me yesterday."

"What?" He snarled. He got so angry.

"Well... I think he was drunk. I managed to escape, Pastor Isaac walked in before he could do anything." I said trying to neutralize the situation.

"Is that why you were running yesterday?" I fret at his tone. He's angry.

"Yes... But I'm fine."

"So if he's in jail right now, why are you cutting your holiday short?"

"Pastor Isaac said Mr. Michaels will destroy everything if we report him." He clenched his jaw letting my hand go.

"So he's roaming around freely?"

I just nod.

"What's his name?"

"Max..."

"Don't start Reneilwe. What's his name?"

"Peter Micheals."

"He's white?"

Nodding I add. "And a drunkard."

"Anyway... You were really good on the stage. You didn't tell me you can sing." I looked at him wondering what he's talking about.

"I saw and heard you sing, I must say sister Renei, that was really a show."

"You attended the service?"

"Yeah but the only reason I did was because of you." I smiled.

"And that lady?" He asked.

I sighed, I didn't even feel embarrassed that he now knows my family business, I'm rather still hurt. "She's never like that. I don't know why she would talk about Mama like that. They are friends or I thought they were..."

His phone then rang and he reluctantly answered.

"Yeah? I'm not around though will be back later..." He hanged up then put the phone away.

"You sure not hungry? I can pass by a restaurant."

I looked at him, "No I'm good." I don't have the appetite.

"You are lying."

"I ate in the morning."

"It's almost lunch time." He drove to Polokwane. I hoped he was not going to that restaurant with meals I didn't know their names but he parked the car in front of that same restaurant anyway. He looked at me.

"Let's go."

"You can just order for me." He looked at me for a while before he just said ok. I watched him as he walked inside the restaurant wearing all black. I was startled by his phone ringing. He had left it on his seat. I couldn't hold myself but looked at who was calling. It was written 'Senzo'. I then took out mine from my bra and there were no missed calls or messages.

He came back and with the food. He handed me everything as he settled on his seat.

"Your phone was ringing." I told him. He looked at it then put it away.

"You can start eating if you are really hungry." He started driving on the same road he drove yesterday.

"So what time are you leaving tomorrow?"

I shrugged. "I don't know but Papa already spoke to the university."

"You are going to be staying at res?"

"Yes, we have no relatives in Jo'burg."

"Ok." He stopped the car along the road then stepped out of it. I sat still but he opened my door a few seconds later and I knew I should step out. I put the food down at my feet then stepped out of the car. The moment my feet touched the ground he already had me pinned against his car as he ravaged my lips. I tried to match his speed as he pressed his big body against mine. And it was there... I knew he could feel it. He just didn't want to admit it because of his dead girlfriend. I knew I'm too young for him but I loved him and for the first time ever, I felt he was the one.

"I love you..." I whispered against his lips. I don't think I knew what love is. But I loved him.

"I know."

# TWENTY

## MAX

I looked at my watch, it'd been 10 minutes. I wanted to walk out but I couldn't. As much as I didn't want to be here, the meeting was so important. Mr. Ike was rolling well with his presentation. My eyes fell on Nolwazi, she was taking some notes with much concentration. Mr. Ike wanted the company to do business with his company. He was presenting a great deal but everything looked shady. I was going to need Zondo to run a background check on him. He ran an oil business but the last thing I wanted was the company to be tied with something shady. I take out my phone from my pocket quietly keeping my eyes on Mr. Ike. I kept it on my lap underneath the table then unlocked it. I had a few text messages but non from Renei.

I quickly typed a message.

*Still on for lunch?*

*Yes, but I have a lesson at 3.*

I looked at my watch, it was half one, I had to wrap this meeting up quickly.

*I will pick you up in 20 minutes.* I replied then slid my phone back into my pocket.

*Give me a break woman!* I thought as my eyes met Nolwazi's who was glaring at me. My phone vibrated, she had replied.

*Yeah but I'm with Prince right now.*

"Mr. Ike, we'll get back at you. This is a good deal." I said standing up. He smiled.

"It is, it will benefit both companies if we work together."

"And that it will. Nolwazi, please have Mr. Ike taken care of," I said already walking out. As soon as I walked out of the boardroom my phone started ringing.

"Max."

"Simphiwe you are getting on my nerves."

"You just can't expect me to be fine. You killed our baby."

"Are you nuts? None of us were ready for a child yet! And this was two months ago, get over it."

"I was, you were not!"

"You told me you were on contraceptives."

"I was but it just happened."

"What do you want me to do now? Hire a shrink?"

She sniffed. "Can I see you?"

"Simpfiwe since when do we see each other?"

"Please, just for a few minutes." The elevator doors open and I step out. Walking out of my office I bumped into Nolwazi by the door.

"That was really unprofessional."

Can't I just breathe?

"What was?" I feigned my innocence but I just wanted to leave.

"Texting in a meeting! Mr. Ike is offering us a multimillion business deal Max Buthelezi. He's a well-known respected business man and you were texting in his presence."

"Ok I'm really sorry. Did he see me? Was it too obvious?"

"No but next—"

"There won't be a next time. Look call Zondo, I want a background check on Mr. Ike. I'm going out for lunch."

"Don't be late for your meeting with Ms. Noah."

"Ok." The moment I got into my car I drove out then called her immediately.

"Max," she whispered.

"I'm on my way, wait by the gate."

"I'm still at the library."

"So? Can't you come out?"

"I'm with some people."

"Renei I don't want to come in there and drag you out. I'm almost there. Come out."

"Max..."

"Now!" Despite my harsh demand she didn't come out immediately.

"Do I always have to wait this long?"

"I'm sorry but I couldn't just leave. I was with my roommate and Prince."

"I don't like that guy." I started my car and drove off.

"You don't like everyone I hang out with." She said putting on her seatbelt.

"Where do you want to eat?"

"Anywhere is fine. But my next lesson starts at three." I took a turn to the penthouse. It was better than going out in public. Parked the car on my parking lot then walked over to open Renei's door. She stepped out as soon as I opened.

"Thanks..." She murmured. I took her hand then led her inside the hotel.

"Renei what is it that you don't like about me?"

She looked at me then down on her feet. "You not liking my friends."

"Who? Prince? You can't be serious. That guy wants you!"

"He has not even said anything."

"Does he need to? I can see it in his eyes. Obviously he always say nothing good about me to you."

"You don't even like my roommate but you don't even know her."

"She keeps you away from me."

"She doesn't. You are imagining things." As soon as I stepped in the penthouse, I dragged her by her tiny waist and kiss her while I burnt in passion.

"Max I don't like this."

I kissed the corner of her lips. "What exactly don't you like about it?"

"I feel like I'm just one of your girls."

"One of my girls?"

"Yes..." She whispered.

"Because I don't want the media behind your back babe!"

"It's not about that Max and you know it. You're just using me." She said then walked to the kitchen.

"Using you?" I asked walking behind her.

"Yes," she opened the fridge then took out a bottle of water.

"What exactly do you want me to do?"

"We should just stop whatever is going on between us. If at all there's anything."

"Is that what you want me to do?"

"I love you, you don't feel the same way and there's really nothing wrong with that. We might just as well go separate ways. It's been two months after you followed me to Turfloop and two months of us playing this game."

"Ok! Fine. If it's a relationship you want, I'm giving it to you. There... I'm your boyfriend and you are my girlfriend." She looked at me with coyness. I picked her up then placed her on the kitchen counter. I kissed her while rubbing her thighs. She pulled her lips away the moment I got my hands under her dress.

"Max..."

"I know. We not having sex... Though we might do something else." She was lost. I placed her down then led her to my bedroom. I kissed her gently, sliding my tongue in her mouth while unzipping her dress. I stepped away from her then let the dress fall. She couldn't look at me. So sexy she was. I tilted her head and kissed her coarsely. She struggled to match my fervor. I let her lips go then crouched before her sliding her panties down. I looked up at her and she was staring at me with uncertainty.

"Trust me... Ok?" She nodded. I pushed her to the bed then parted her legs. My dick was already stiff. I dipped my head between her legs then started sucking her. She was moaning whispering my name over and over. I glided in my tongue inside her as my thumb rubbed her clit.

"Max..." She whispered as her body congealed followed by her juices splashing on my face. I licked her slowly and when I rose my head she was just looking at me. She seemed so satisfied.

"We not done yet..." I said pulling her from the bed. She appeared so exhausted. I kissed her then commended her, "You taste so delicious..."

"Kneel." I commanded softly. She looked confused but still she knelt. I took off my jacket then threw it down. I kept my eyes on her as I took off my belt. The moment I took out my dick she looked ready to fly. I smirked.

"Don't worry... It's all yours, don't be scared."

"I have never done this before."

"I know. I will teach you. Open your mouth." She hesitatingly opened her mouth wide. I pushed the head of my dick inside her mouth. Her hands were on my thighs



trying to push me away. I took her one hand then wrapped it around my dick.

"You rub while sucking ok? Keep your teeth away." She was just looking at me, she couldn't really talk. I started moving it gently and she tightened her grip on my dick. I moved her hand up and down as I slowly pushed it in and out of her warm mouth. I then let her do it alone after a while and she continued. It felt so good. She tightened her lips around as she licked me. I grabbed a handful of her hair as I increased my speed and she rubbed me even faster and harder while sucking me. She then got me groaning out loud as I released in her mouth. She swallowed everything.

"That was good... soon you'll master it." She smiled standing up. She picked up her dress then quickly put it on.

"Your bra?" I reminded her. She flushed. I wrapped my arms around her after fixing my pants. "You are so beautiful. If I were you, I would walk around naked." I then called the hotel staff to order our lunch but as I was doing that her phone started ringing in the bag. I picked it up after hanging up on the hotel staff then took it out. I got irritated when I saw his name.

"Yeah?"

There was a moment of silence. "Where's Renei? I want to talk to her."

"She's busy. What do you want?"

"I should be asking you that Max! You know you don't deserve her." He fumed.

"Fuck! Who deserves her? You? See, Renei is my girl and I don't share!"

He said mockingly. "Your girl? Since when?"

"Since now. Fuck off!"

"I wonder if she knows the animal you are."

"If I'm an animal I wonder what you are. Grow some balls and sit the fuck down." I had to cut the call before Renei showed up.

"Prince called." I said putting her phone on the kitchen counter.

"Oh... What did he want?"

"I don't know. I don't like him."

"Max we talked about this."

"Before then but now let's talk like people in a relationship. I don't like him!" I said walking to the door. There was a knock on the door. Our lunch arrived. The lady

brought it in then walked out.

"Your mom invited me for dinner tomorrow." She said sitting on the kitchen stool. I sat beside her.

"What time should I pick you up?"

"I have only one lesson and we have a test. But it's in the morning. I will communicate."

I drove inside the complex Simphiwe resided, it was quiet but not exactly where I would like to stay. I parked my car behind hers. My phone started ringing as I stepped out of the car. It was Renei. I had just dropped her off at varsity.

"Hey..."

"Hey, I forgot my charger at your house earlier on."

"Ok I will bring it later, right now I'm a little busy."

"It's ok. You will give it to Mma Shange."

"Ok." I said dropping the call. Just then Simphiwe stepped out of her house. She was wearing some shorts and a see through top. No bra.

"Hey... Come in." I walked inside her house. "Anything to drink?"

"How about we talk about the reason you called me here."

"Ok." I followed after her as she walked to the sitting room. I sat on the opposite couch.

"You are right. We were not ready for a child."

"I'm glad we are on the same page."

"I'm really sorry for guilt trapping you, I guess I was just feeling alone. I mean, we don't even talk anymore."

"But it's still ok. I just wanted to say I'm sorry..."

"Water under the bridge." She smiled then stood up.

"I want to tell you something." She said smiling.

"What is it?"

"I think I'm in love with you."

"Simphiwe you know we were only having fun right?"

"Relax Max... I know. I'm not saying let's get into a relationship or something like that but I love you. I just wanted you to know."

"I should get going."

"Wait... I'm not going to bother you again. I just want you one last time." She said undressing. "Just one last time." She said then kissed me. My dick fermented immediately. It had been a while since I last had sex... Just once wouldn't hurt again, Renei wouldn't know. I kissed her back then picked her up. I walked to her couch then placed her there.

"Max I want you to fuck me so hard." She urged softly. "Make me come Daddy!" I quickly unbuckled my belt then unzipped my pants. She had her fingers rubbing her pussy. I turned her so that her front lied on the couch then pressed her back exposing everything. As I breached her entrance I remembered protection.

"Simpfiwe condom?"

"I don't have any... You will pull out and then you buy me a morning after. Max I want you. Please!" I slid in slowly. I drove her, fucked her hard. It was super good. She felt so damn good. She was screaming my name out loud and surely neighbors now knew my name. I went deeper and deeper into her till her body started trembling. I felt her tighten around me. She yelled louder as she released her juices. After a few more thrusts I pulled out and shot my release on the floor, finishing myself off. I took a breathing moment to just calm down then fixed my jeans as I looked at her panting trying to catch her breath. She stood up after a while.

"That was amazing."

"Yeah... Ok I'm leaving."

"Are you sure you don't want anything to drink?"

"Babe..." I answered the phone walking out of Simphiwe's house.

"Hey, don't bother with the charger. I will use my roommate's."

"Ok."

"How's your day looking tomorrow?"

"I don't know yet, what did you want?" I asked getting in my car.

"Well since I have only one lesson, I thought maybe we could spend the day together you know. Before the dinner."

"That will be nice, what time does your lesson end?"

"10:30 am,"

"I will be there at 11."

"Ok. See you then."

"Yeah..." I needed beer, I started my car. I was sure Sean was alone, his parents had gone on a vacation and I knew Dodo was doing whore things. Surprisingly when I got to his house, the gate was wide open. I walked to the door, it was not locked too. This boy needed to be reprimanded. I didn't even knock, I just opened the door and got inside.

"You can't be serious!" I exclaimed.

"Max... What are you doing here?"

"I should be asking you Dudu! What the fuck are you doing here?"

"Max..." She muttered picking up her T-shirt from the floor.

"Sean dawg!"

He looked apologetic. "It all happened in a hurry."

"My nigga I'm weak right now!"

"Max don't be mad at him... I started this."

"Dudu Sean is my homie! Since when do we fuck each other's relatives?"

"Come on Max... You know how it can get."

I looked at Dudu. "Can you leave?"

"Yeah..." She whispered then walked out. I looked at Sean for a while. I got to the kitchen then took out one beer from the fridge. He took one too after a while then sat beside me on the kitchen stool.

"I have a girlfriend." I said to him.

"Wait! You, Max Zweli Buthelezi, you have a girlfriend?"

"Yes."

"You are fucked! Matter of fact we all fucked!"

"Where's your sister?"

"She went to visit my Aunt."

# TWENTY ONE

## RENEILWE

While I was typing my assignment, Vanessa entered in with a towel wrapped around her body.

"Hey..." She said.

"Hey, and I'm done!" I said sighing.

"I'm glad you're my roommate, your hard work inspires me." I smiled then stood.

"I'm glad. You should've seen my previous roommate. She was the devil in flesh." I said with a concerned face. Vanessa started dressing as I packed my things. For the second term, I had a new peaceful roommate. I loved her. She was a perfect roommate and we had grown closer to each other. She also got along with Prince.

"Didn't you say you're going for dinner later?" She asked as I was combing my hair.

"Yeah, I am."

"And your... friend who's always calling you will be picking you up?"

"Yes,"

"Then girl we need to fix that." She said walking towards me. Results of sharing a room with a fashion student.

"Sit down." She said. I sighed and did as I was told. She combed my hair.

"I envy your hair, it's super long but natural and soft." She took her time working on my head and when she was done, I had to give her accolades.

"Thank you so much I look so beautiful."

"You are welcome. I like this dress. Even the one you were wearing yesterday." The dresses Michelle bought me.

"I like it too, I have to get going." I said taking my sling bag.

"Ok, wait! Lipstick."

"I don't like lipstick, most times I just soften them with my saliva." She laughed.

"You can go." I smiled then walked out. One thing I had now learnt was to mind my

own business in everything. As I was just about to enter the lecture room I met Sean.

"Hey, long time no see."

I faked a smile. "Hi."

"You look beautiful."

"Thank you."

"Still not willing to give me your number." I smiled as my phone started ringing. I took it out of my bag and held it against my chest, looking at Sean.

"As much as I wanted to chat, I really have to go. It was nice seeing you." I said then opened the door and walked inside. I walked to my sit then settled down. Max had sent a message.

*Hey, my day a bit tight.*

*How about you come to*

*My office when you are*

*Done with your lesson?*

I looked at the message for a while. I had never been to his office. But then, I was now his girlfriend. Things had changed. I was seated next to Mbali and she had to say to me, "Hey, you look beautiful." I smiled and offered her a 'thank you.' Mbali was that typical nice girl, who got along with everyone.

"Since its Friday, why can't we hang out together? Perhaps go and watch a movie."

I smiled, "I would love to but I'm meeting someone today, maybe next time."

"It's ok. Next time then."

After the lesson I rushed to my room. I didn't want to take my bag with me, it was too big and made me look uncivilized. I got into the house and found out I had missed a call from Max. I called him back.

"Renei!"

"Hey, I'm done with my lesson. I don't know the way to your office,"

"I know, I have called a taxicab for you. It's probably waiting for you by the gate."

"Ok."

"When you get here tell them you want to see me at the reception."

"Ok."

Walking out of my room I tried to hurry to the gate but as I walked there Prince called out my name. I stopped and turned, I had not seen him the whole day. Even the day before yesterday. He could see I was rushing somewhere. He was angry but I didn't tell him I was meeting up with Max. He always got angry whenever I mentioned Max.

"Hey, going somewhere?"

I smiled, "Yes, I'm meeting the ma'am I told you about."

"Yeah, you did mention dinner though. It's still early. I'm going to the library and I've got a novel for you." He said handing it to me with a smile. I looked at it, *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda.

"You will love it, anyway let's go." He said already leading the way. I contemplate between lying to him and having to tell him the truth.

"Prince, I really can't go to the library. She begged for me to come earlier."

He looked at me then smiled. "Is it Ma'am or its Max?" His question locked me in.

"Prince..."

"Renei Max is bad news. I'm telling you this because I know him. He has a way of doing things and he will hurt you."

"Why do you keep saying that? What did he do?"

"He's bad news. Renei you need to listen to me."

I took in a deep breath. "I really have to go Prince, we will talk."

"You are so naïve. He's going to use you." He held my hand whispering.

"We will talk, please let my hand go." I said softly and he immediately left my hand.

"Max doesn't care about anyone!" He shouted.

"We will talk."

I started walking away and the taxicab had arrived. I got inside the car and I was taken to his office. I got so excited, 'Max runs this whole building?' I asked myself. As I got out of the car. I walked to the glass desk, nervously. The receptionist smiled at me.

"Good morning and welcome to BER holdings, how can I help you?" She asked.

"Uhh I'm here to see Max," I said. She looked at me.

"You are Reneilwe?" She asked with distaste. I smiled then nodded.

"Nolwazi, Reneilwe is here." She said to her phone.

"Ok," she said then put the phone.

"You can go. 20th floor." She said pointing at the elevator and I got in to his office.

"Hello, I'm here to see Max." I said to the receptionist on the 20th floor.

"You mean Mr. Buthelezi?" She asked.

"Yes."

"He's still busy at the moment, you can sit over there." She said pointing at the sitting area.

"You can go in." The other lady said with a slight smile after some few minutes.

"Hey!" He said standing up. I inhaled his cologne as he hugged me.

"You look beautiful." He complimented.

"Thanks."

"Sit," he said.

"I hope they didn't trouble you as you were coming up here." He said sitting on his chair and staring at his laptop.

"No they didn't."

"Good. Ohh and there's WiFi here."

I looked at him. "No it's fine."

"Still don't want to create any social media account?"

"Yes, I'm good."

"Ok!" I relaxed on the couch and just watched him work. I noticed his new hairstyle, it looked good on him, and everything actually looked perfect on him. I was glad he got rid of the nose piercing. I couldn't imagine my parent's reaction if I would introduce him with his nose ring. I then looked at the book Prince gave me then opened the first page. As I read through I felt as if I was reading my life in a book. Every sentence of it triggered every bit of my emotions. I started to wonder if Prince gave me the book on purpose because he knew everything, the way I was raised, the church and Mandisa. Perhaps the book was on purpose.



"Renei, I ordered breakfast for you." Max said pointing at a small table that was beside the couch. It was two muffins, a croissant and coffee.

"Thank you. But I don't drink coffee." I said to him with a smile.

"What do you drink then?"

"Black tea."

"No milk?"

"Yes."

"Ok," he said calling at the Cafeteria. "Black tea please." He said.

"What is it?"

"What are you reading?" He asked.

"Since when do books interest you?"

"Since they have you so lost in them."

"I'm sorry..."

"It's ok. Should I buy you more books?"

"No, it's ok."

He stood up then walked towards me. I couldn't predict his moves, it was always hard to. He pulled me up from the couch then kissed me. His lips burned mine and ignited my whole body. He was between my legs squeezing my hips while feeding off me. I felt my panties wet. I moaned when he grinded his erection against me. All senses got discarded. I could feel it. His lips came back on mine again and with one last grind against me, I squeeze his arms tightly shutting my eyes. The feeling was always intense, it always ripped me apart. While we stood on top of that peak of romance a knock came to the door. And he got in before Max could offer response.

"Senzo.." Max said. A scary moment of silence crept in.

"What's this?" His father then spoke. They looked so much alike. Max took my hand into his.

"This is Reneilwe, my girlfriend." He said without stammering. I was shocked.

"This... Stray cat, gold digging girl?" Embarrassed, I looked down.

"Don't call her that. We agreed to respect each other."

"I'm not going to sit while you let a tramp in your life! I can't believe you even

brought her here!"

"Can you stop? Reneilwe is my girlfriend and she's here to stay. You better change your attitude towards her."

"I don't approve this tramp. Right this moment, leave!" He shouted and I knew it was directed to me. I tried walking but Max has his hand firmly on my wrist.

"Renei is not going anywhere. If she leaves, I leave."

"Boy don't push my hand."

"Hey.. I will wait nearby." I whispered. "Let me go."

I don't want to be the reason Father and son drift.

# TWENTY TWO

## MAX

I looked at the magazine and groaned.

"They really never get tired." Sean laughed.

"Why would they?"

"I can't believe this."

"You need to up your hiding game," Ndile said laughing. The media was now everywhere behind me except in my house at least.

"Are you still in touch with that girl, that chubby one, Vanessa!" Ndile asked.

"No."

"Maybe you should look for her number." Ndile suggested.

"Guys listen, call the chubby girl, I'll call Busi then Ndile will call... whoever it is!"

"Call Vanessa!" Ndile said. I rushed to my room because my phone was ringing.

"Babe!" I said as I walked to the balcony.

"Hey, you were supposed to call last night."

"I fell asleep." Fortunately she wasn't on social media, otherwise she wouldn't have called.

"It's OK. Do you want me to come over later today?" She asked.

"I'm going out with the boys, maybe tomorrow."

"That's still OK. You will call me."

"Yeah!"

"I love you," she said freezing me for a moment.

"I will call you."

"Ok bye." I then closed my eyes for a minute.

"Stop dragging this poor unknown girl of yours!" Ndile said from behind me.

"I'm not dragging her. She said she wants a relationship and I gave it to her."

"Because dawg you are burnt!" He said.

I chuckled. "What?"

"You love her." I busted with laughter.

"You've gone crazy. What were they feeding you in Capetown?" I responded.

"I'm telling you. You love her, you just don't want to admit it. I know you Max!"

"You have gone crazy."

"If you didn't love her then you would have long discarded her." I looked at him.

"I don't want to hurt her." He laughed.

"You're lying. You just can't stand the thought of her with another man. Like Sean."

"Fuck off! Renei is young."

"I'm telling you something you don't want to admit." Quietly I went through my contacts searching for Busi's number. I didn't have Vanessa's. I called Busi instantly.

"Papi B!"

"Hey, wanna hang out?"

"Yeah... What time can we meet?"

"Right now. I want you at my house... Bring company."

"Yes Papi..."

"Don't forget Vanessa."

"Ok," After hanging up I looked at him.

"Busi is coming." I said to him as I walked back to the sitting room. Sean was busy mixing the drinks.

"There goes my boy!" I said laughing.

"Ooh I called my cousin over."

I laughed. "Let her come and we will uncousin her." Ndile joined the laughter. After a while everything was set in order and the only thing missing was the girls.

"It's funny how the media always catch you with whores but never with your

girlfriend." Sean said.

"He's really hiding her." Ndile added.

"Dawg we need to see her."

"She's not for your eyes."

"We were only trying to help." Sean said as my phone started ringing. A call from the reception.

"Yoh?"

"Mr. Buthelezi there are some girls here."

"Let them in."

"Ok."

I drop the call then looked at Sean and Ndile. "They're at the reception."

"This is going to be fun!" Ndile whispered. Then there was a knock and I opened.

"Papi B!" Busi said walking in. I gave her a tight hug then looked at her short dress.

"I missed you..."

She blushed. "Me too." They all walked inside and I caught Vanessa's nervous smile. She was still the Vanessa I knew but now she looked like wanton Vanessa. The Vanessa Ndile and I fucked. Still thick.

I pulled her aside then gave her a kiss. "It's good to see you."

She rolled her eyes. Still got the attitude. "That's a lie."

"Should I prove to you that I'm telling the truth?" I whispered seductively.

"Yeah..." I looked over the guys and they looked happy. Busi had brought two more girls apart from Vanessa. Then there was another knock. I looked at Vanessa.

"You can join them." She walked towards them swaying her hips. I rushed to the door wondering who it was. Opening the door, a pretty girl was there holding a cigarette, smoking, wearing Adidas sweatpants and the jacket was unzipped all the way down. I could see her breast, she wasn't even wearing a bra.

"Hi," she greeted, her voice, deep. I then thought of having her.

"Sean's cousin?"

"Yah."

"Come in. I'm Max by the way." She gave me a slight smile nodding.

"I know."

"Then maybe we can get right on it?"

She laughed. "First let me inside the house?"

I opened the door wider. She walked in to the sitting room. I followed after her, my dick got ready for her. It seemed like the party had already started, Busi was sucking Sean's dick as if her life depended on it while another girl was kissing his lips. Sandile had his balls deep into Vanessa's pussy, that was quick. He was hitting it from behind. He had the other girl too who was kissing Vanessa while she was being fucked.

"This is quite a view." Sean's cousin commented. I could see she was turned on.

"Wanna join in?" She turned and looked at me then puffed the smoke on my face.

"Let's talk money first."

I laughed. "How much do you want?"

"2k."

I looked at her then laughed. "2k?"

"Yes and we can do anything you want... Anything." Well she was not that expensive though, that's the amount I planned to give Busi and her crew.

"What's your name?"

"Enhle."

"Ok, fine. 2k."

"Money first." As soon as I transferred the money she started undressing. She was quite sexy. I grabbed Enhle's weave then kissed her cigarette scented lips so hard.

"I want you to suck my dick." She looked ready for a challenge, she immediately knelt. I took my dick out and held it but she snatched it from me then started pumping it hard with her hand. I groaned! Half of my dick swimming in her mouth. She sucked me so durable while her hands continued fiddling me. Her other hand started kneading my balls while pumping my dick with the other one. I groaned as I shot my load into her mouth. She stood up slowly and gave me a dirty look. My eyes skimmed over to my niggas, Sean was now fucking or trying to fuck the new girl.

"Busi brought a virgin dawg!" Sean said making me laugh. The poor virgin looked like she wanted to cry. Sean had her one leg over the table. I looked over to Ndile who

was being ridden by the other new girl. He kept spanking her and Vanessa was looking at me lustfully.

"Come here..." I said and she came over suddenly. "Give me a show. I wanna watch."

Enhle looked at me then Vanessa, I could tell she was up for a challenge. She walked towards Vanessa who looked a bit confused then kissed her while cupping her breast. The moment Enhle started sucking Vanessa's nipples, I could see the pleasure all over her face. The confused expression completely dissolved. She started moaning softly. Enhle parted Vanessa's legs then started sucking her. Vanessa squeezed her breast while moaning really loud. I could tell she was close but Enhle didn't stop. She kept bobbing her head between Vanessa's thighs till she cried out of ecstasy. They all fell on the floor then immediately Vanessa got Enhle under her. She put Enhle's right leg on her shoulder then got in between her legs, a beautiful position. I never knew Vanessa had it in her but then... She was never a virgin when I met her. They were both moaning flamboyantly. After some time they separated. That was a real show!

"Fuck!" Ndile screamed, it seemed like they were just watching the two girls.

"That! That was the real shit!" Sean added. I walked over to Vanessa then pulled her up. Enhle was already up.

"Enhle kneel on the table, Vanessa sit on the couch with your legs open." I said. Knowing what to do Enhle started sucking Vanessa who was on the couch while pushing her chest down and exposing herself. She was so wet. I pushed my finger between her folds and penetrated her. I finger fucked her for a while then took out my dick together with the condom from my pocket. I pulled the condom over my erection then rammed into Enhle so hard. She screamed, shocked.

"Fuck! Max... Shit! It's too big..."

"Don't worry... I'm just stretching you up."

"Fuck... Be gentle."

"I paid for this!" I said and went on even harder. I started pulling her weave hard. She moaned softly while grabbing Vanessa's thighs. I went in even faster till her body convulsed. I pulled out then got her off the table with her weave. Tears had soaked her face and she was shuddering.

"Switch!" I commanded. She walked to the couch while Vanessa got on the table. I rubbed Vanessa's pussy then gently pushed my dick into her asshole. She immediately tensed. I pulled out.

"I want you to relax... If you don't it will hurt. Ok? Be a big girl for Daddy." I said rubbing her ass. She nodded. I started again, rocking her slowly while pushing in

deeper. Bit by bit I stretched her, trying to make room for my dick. Enhle kissed Vanessa as I continued having her ass slowly. I started going deeper and faster when she began to moan. It felt so good. I pushed both of us to the edge as my hand found its way to her clit. I started rubbing her as I was losing control. She reached her climax with a muffled scream as I released into the condom with a grunt. That was good. I lied on the floor trying to catch my breath with my eyes closed. As I regained my strength I felt the condom being pulled off. Opening my eyes it was the other new girl.

"I want you too." She said then dug into my pocket for another condom. She opened it with her teeth then slid it over my dick. It was already standing firm. She straddled me then slowly pushed in my dick. I got hold of her waist as she started riding me. She kept taking me hard and deep. She kept rocking her hips and I could feel every inch of her pussy. I grabbed her waist firmly then started fucking her from beneath. Her eyes rolled as she screamed. After a while I released while she exploded violently. She stood up then walked away leaving me smiling. What a day!

"You will call?" Busi asked standing by the door as I ushered them out.

"Yep!" She gave me a fleeting kiss then walked out with her squad.

"Stay beautiful babe..." I said to Vanessa who blushed then walked out. I took a swing of my beer then looked at Enhle.

"Hi cousin..."

She smiled. "Hi Max."

"It was nice meeting you."

"You owe me."

I laughed. "Owe you what?"

"A dick."

"Then maybe I should have your number."

"Get it from Sean."

I chuckled. "Ok." She winked at me then walked out.

"Next time you won't only cry."

"I can't wait."

As I raised my eyes I saw my mom on her wheelchair. She was getting out of the elevator. I got in the house then locked the door.



"Gentleman!" I said to Sandile and Sean who were watching TV. "Mom is here."

Sean stood up. "What?"

"She's here!"

"Let's clean up."

We quickly tried to put the sitting room in order, clearing the bottles of alcohol. I opened the windows, we needed fresh air to circulate inside the house. In less than three minutes everything was in order and Mom was still banging the door. I walked over to the door then open it. She was angry.

"Mom!" I jumped out of her way as she wheeled herself inside the house. I closed the door then followed after her. Sandile was pretending to be busy on my laptop and Sean had changed to a sports channel. They looked so innocent.

"Mamzozo! Firsty!" Sandile said standing up. He gave Mom a hug then sat down. Mom looked around then at me.

"Come!" I followed after her as she led me to another room.

"A married woman Max! Married woman!" She shouted throwing a magazine at me.

"Mom the media just got it wrong. It's not like that."

"Max since when do you sleep with married women?"

"Mom..."

"Max I didn't raise you like this." I couldn't tell her Mrs. Mokoena threw herself at me and I just gave her what she wanted.

"Mom."

"She's married. Max..." I then decided to keep quiet.

"And what about Reneilwe? She really loves you. That girl is the best thing that can ever happen to you. She's your light. Why are you doing this to her?" I looked at her. She was so hurt. I dismally hated hurting my mother. I couldn't bear it.

"Those prostitutes...? Max, I'm disappointed miserably." I couldn't even look at her.

"If you can't love Renei, please let her go. I don't think you deserve her. I thought you would change but I was wrong. If you're not ready to be a responsible man, let Renei go." She said then wheeled herself to the elevator.

"What did she say?" Sean asked as soon as I got back into the sitting room.

"The obvious." I couldn't tell Sean about Renei. "But guys I need to rest."

"Yeah neh." Sean said.

"We have to leave as well." Then they all left. The moment they left my mom's words flashed back,

*"If you can't love Renei, please let her go. I don't think you deserve her. I thought you would change but I was wrong. If you're not ready to be a responsible man, let Renei go."*

I knew my mom was right but I couldn't just let Renei go. I then received a call from the reception.

"Talk."

"There's a lady here, Reneilwe Maseko."

"Let her up."

"Ok." I then just waited for her. She knocked and stepped in. She looked at me with a smile. She looked so gorgeous, with a new hairstyle, in her buttoned denim jacket and her black long skirt with pleats. This was the girl I was cheating on. Two weeks ago I was fighting for her with my Dad but here I was, cheating on her.

"Hey... I thought I'd surprise you. My roommate went out and I was just bored then I took the risk of coming without calling first. Aren't you going out?"

"No... We cancelled it."

"I hope I didn't come at the wrong time." I pulled her to myself then kissed her, though I felt I didn't deserve to kiss her.

"I missed you." She whispered.

"Me too... Wanna watch a movie?"

"I would love to." We sat on the couch together, I scrolled through the channels. I found one movie which had just started. I put the remote down and looked at her.

"You are so cute." I said then made her rest her head on my chest then I wrapped my arms around her. "You know I'm not the kind of guy for you right?" She tried to raise her head but I pushed it gently to my chest.

"I love you." She said.

# TWENTY THREE

## RENEILWE

I woke up in his arms. It felt so warm. The whole night we slept on the couch. I listened to the rhythm of his heartbeat. He looked so innocent in his sleep and so handsome too. I ran my finger on his mustache then sighed. I couldn't believe he was mine. His phone started ringing, the caller was Simphiwe. I looked at his phone then looked at him. I woke him up tenderly.

"Your phone is ringing." He ignored the call then rose up.

"I'm going to take a shower. Wanna join?" He asked. We had done things before and he had seen me naked but taking a shower together sounded a bit extreme to me. I didn't want things to get out of hand.

"We won't do anything." He said. But still, a shower... it sounded more intimate. He took my hand leading me to his bedroom. I was scared. He held the hem of my top then pulled it over my head. He hugged me. Confused, but his hug melted me. My skirt fell down to my feet and my bra felt loose. How did he do this? He dragged my panties down. He looked at my nakedness, this took away my calmness.

"You are so beautiful." He said delicately. He took a step away and quickly undressed himself, I saw everything. Dropped my eyes, it felt so wrong to stare at him.

"Don't be shy. Come." He said getting his hands on my waist. I inhaled and exhaled stridently. I didn't know where he got the shower cap that he put on my head but I was grateful. He opened the shower tap, water smashed our bodies. It was neither cold nor hot, it was warm. He started bathing me. My heart was beating faster as he was bathing me in circular motions. First my chest then shoulders, slowly moving to my breast, rubbing them with the sponge, my belly then navel. He separated my legs to wash them easily, in between my thighs and up to my appendix, my genitals. It felt so good and I craved. When he was done, he looked at me smiling. He looked proud as he stared at me while the water washed away the lather.

"Thank you," I said.

"Anytime. You can do your face. You need anything specific?"

"No, a towel and soap will do." Walking out of the bathroom I held the white fluffy towel against my body with my clothes. I smelled nice, like him. I left him bathing. I

quickly dried myself and applied his lotion over my body.

"You can wear my clothes." Max said walking out of the bathroom with only a towel on his waist. It was so low that I could see his v-line.

"Huh?"

"Wear my clothes. I want to take you out for shopping too."

"Oh no, it's ok. My clothes are fine, it's still early so it doesn't matter. Most people will still be sleeping at res."

He frowned. "I thought you were staying for the weekend." His thought shocked me.

"I have to study and also finish my assignment."

"I can drive to your room to get your laptop and books. You'll finish your assignment here."

"Ok," I whispered.

"Good. Now wear my clothes then we can go find you some clothes at the shops and grab something to eat."

"Ok." I said then he kissed me.

"You can wear this."

I took them from him. "Thanks."

I walked out of the bathroom after a while already dressed, "This is too big. I look funny."

"You look sexy. And beautiful." I knew he was just saying.

"Ready to go?" He asked.

"Yes." I ignored all the weird looks I got until we got into his car.

"Breakfast or clothes? What do you want first?"

"Clothes. Just a simple dress."

"Ok." He started his car then drove to the mall where we got into a boutique. I looked at him, knowing how boutiques can be so expensive.

"Max I just need a simple dress. We can get one at PEP."

He looked at me and laughed. "My girlfriend won't shop in PEP, that's an insult." He took my hand then walked me into the shop.

"Mr Buthelezi," the shop assistant acknowledged him.

"Ms..?" She asked looking at me.

"Renei."

She smiled brightly. "How can I help today?"

"Can we get some clothes for her? Good nice clothes. No budget." He said.

"Ok, come right here Renei." She said and I followed after her. She started handing me a red body hugging dress with lace arms. It was beautiful and it reached just below my knees. I was not comfortable with it, it hugged my body tightly exposing my figure. The second dress was a peach drape neck rucked slinky dress. It also reached just below my knees but it had an exposed back. I could have liked it if it was a bit loose and if it hid my back. I didn't like the third one at all. It reached just below my mid thighs and it was a black dress. It was too tight and very short. The sort I couldn't wear, not even once. Out of more than ten dresses I fitted, I only liked one. It was a floral flared dress and it was very long, pretty covered everything. I loved it.

"I love this one." I told Max as I stepped out of the changing room.

"Don't you think it's too long? Can't you reduce the length?" He asked Natalie.

"Well we can."

"No! I like it like this." Max gave a look of disapproval but I couldn't back off. Natalie then started handing me jeans and tops. The first jean was black. I didn't even have one trouser in my clothes because it wasn't allowed at church and Papa condemned them. Natalie matched the jean with a black and white striped shirt. She made me tuck in one side of the shirt then gave me shades to put on.

"Wow you look nice." Max commented as I stepped out of the changing room.

"I'm not allowed to wear trousers."

"What?"

"I'm not allowed. We are different." I said trying to win his heart.

"Let's just buy the jeans and when you go for your holiday, you'll leave them behind." I walked back with Natalie and she continued giving me jeans and tops. I changed many times and Max kept arguing with me on every outfit. After the jeans it was now the skirts. I kept hoping Natalie will bring decent and nice skirts but it was only pencil skirts or short flared skirts. After we were done he told Natalie we're taking everything.

"Max no please..." I objected but he gave Natalie his card to pay for everything. I felt like the gold digger his father said I was.

When we got to the car I said, "You shouldn't have bought the clothes."

"I did, deal with it." I was quiet till he finally parked the car in front of a restaurant.

"Babe..." Max said, I looked at him.

"Are you mad?"

"No. I just don't want the clothes. It feels like I'm a gold digger."

"You what?"

"I don't want the clothes." I said quietly. He kept quiet as the waiter arrived to our table. He placed his order and when the waiter looked at me I quickly went through the menu till I found the cheapest meal.

"The hamburger and chips." I said.

"That's all?" She asked.

"Yeah..."

"I think maybe you need a lick." I gasped then look around.

"Don't act surprised. You like it."

As I began to respond I heard a clicking sound, like a camera. It sounded so close, and then another click.

"Fuck!" Max muttered standing up. He grabbed my hand and dragged me out of the restaurant. A few people just stared as Max was pulling me to the car. I had to run so that I don't fall as he continued pulling me. He unlocked the car then pushed me inside. I didn't even know what to say, I was utterly confused. The minute he got into his car, he reversed before stepping on the accelerator. I kept my mouth shut as he drove back to his house. He took his phone from his pocket then scrolled through with one hand while the other was on the steering wheel.

"Mark!" He said as soon as he placed his phone on his ear. "There's a journalist who just took pictures of me and my girlfriend in DiCaprio's. I don't want those pictures in the magazines or any newspaper! Ok." He hanged up then mumbled. I looked at him and it finally registered in my mind. The click sound I heard. It was really a camera and it was the media guys. He once explained what they will do to me if they find out I'm dating him. I started getting nervous, wondering what if they would expose my family and write about them in their magazines. I could see Papa's fury regarding that.

"Max is the media going to say bad things about me?" I asked with a frown.

"No. They won't even print anything out. I won't let it happen, trust me." He said then took out my hand to kiss it. He took his phone again to call the hotel ordering our meal.

# TWENTY FOUR

## MAX

"You have a meeting with Suzan. After that, you are supposed to meet Mr. Ike's assistant, the COO of his company. Since he went back, she's going to be handling everything. The meeting is at 1 p.m."

"Can you get some flowers, roses and have them sent to Reneilwe."

"That's not my job."

"Nolwazi you are my fucken assistant! Act like it dammit!"

"I'm not your punching bag! You have issues, look for help!" She yelled.

"You don't own me Max Buthelezi, you are nothing but a spoilt brat!" I stood up and she stepped away. I walked to the door and locked it then walked to her.

"What the fuck did you say?" I asked.

"Just that your father owns this company doesn't give you the right to own me." I grabbed her by her waist and crushed my lips onto hers but she pushed me away.

"What on earth do you..." I crushed my lips on hers again but she didn't push me away. Instead she pulled me by my shirt. I pulled her skirt up then picked her and placed her on my desk with my lips stuck on hers. Her hands began to fiddle with my belt and after a while she gripped my dick. I instantly took out the condom from my pocket, dressed my erection, pushed her panties to the side and slid in my dick. I pushed it in till it was buried deep in her. She whimpered softly as I started moving in and out of her. Slowly letting her adjust to my depth. Once she started moaning and squeezing her breast, I started fucking her hard. She wrapped her legs around my waist making me dig deeper into her. She buried her head into my shoulder stifling her moans as I continued assaulting her.

Over and over again I got into her till she began pinching me. I pushed into her till she exploded and I followed swiftly after her discharging myself. I stood there for a while before pulling out of her. I discarded the condom then threw it into the trash bin. As I fixed my pants she was wiping herself with a tissue. Once I sat down she was already done fixing herself, she looked like the professional Nolwazi I knew, my assistant.

"Order a huge bouquet of beautiful roses and get a big teddy bear and send them to



Reneilwe. She stays at Campus at Wits. Just make sure they reach the receptionist."

"Ok."

"Good. Any messages I have?"

"Yes, Mrs. Mokoena called. She said she wanted to talk to you."

"What else?"

"Unathi called, Mr. Ramoshaba's assistant, they are ready to sign the contract."

"What!" Just then the office phone started ringing. I answered.

"Yeah?"

"What can I do for you Max?" Zondo asked and immediately I motioned Nolwazi to excuse me. I waited for her till she walked out.

"Yoh I need a favor, money is not an issue."

"Talk to me."

"I want to know the woman in my father's life."

"The woman he's having a romantic relationship with?"

"Yes. If you find her, I want a background check on her."

"Consider it done."

"Thanks man..."

"You are welcome." I then sighed. I looked at my phone then called Renei.

"What do you want Max?"

"Give Reneilwe her phone Prince." I demanded trying to keep calm.

"She's studying."

"I'm not going to ask you again."

"Then don't! You are trying to disturb her. She will call you back once she's done."

"You are going to regret this Mabalane!"

"Always making threats. Look I have to go, call her later. She will be free." He said. I reeled with anger. I could see she didn't want to stay away from him. She was really pushing me and she knew it. My phone started ringing after a few minutes.

"Reneilwe."

"I'm sorry about Prince."

"Since when does he answer your phone?"

"Max, I just went to the shelves to look for a book and.. And he answered it."

"I can see the level of your friendship."

"Max, Prince is my friend."

"And do I look like I give a fuck?"

"You are just overreacting. I would never cheat on you. Especially with my friend." She said and I knew she was attacking me indirectly. Last weekend when we arrived home from the restaurant we found Simphiwe in my house.

"I'm sorry but Renei I don't like him. Your friendship should have a line."

"Ok."

"Can we have lunch together? It's been almost a week since I last saw you".

"I have lessons throughout the day." She said lying, she sounded sad.

"Tomorrow?"

"I have lessons throughout then assignments to submit." I sighed.

"Ok, I will call you." I looked at my watch, stood up and walked to the door then locked it. Got back to my desk, took out my cocaine from my jacket's pocket. It had helped me get through the week. I quickly made lines with my credit card then leaned over to the table and snorted the first line. By the time I finished all the three lines I felt much better. I stood up then walked to the door but when I opened I expected Nolwazi but I saw Simphiwe. She immediately entered without my consent. I gave her a serious look but she wasn't bothered.

"Simphiwe what do you want? Please leave."

"No. I'm not going to leave this time around Max." She said crying.

"I love you. I'm willing to try make things between us work."

"Are you insane?"

"I'm not crazy but if loving you is crazy then so be it!"

"I don't love you."

"I'm pregnant. I never aborted. I paid the doctor to lie to you. I'm three months

pregnant." She said.

"You what?" I whispered with my lips vibrating, fumed.

"I'm sorry I couldn't kill our baby..." speechless and numb. She continued, "Babe you and I can make it work, we're going to be a family. I love you so much."

"You fucken lied!" I drew near her and clipped her neck with my two hands. She tried to fight me off. I tightened my hold on her neck and squeezed her. Tears flew as her eyes widened.

"You fucken played me!" She slowly closed her eyes then stopped fighting me. I let her neck and she fell to the ground. I staggered to my chair then closed my eyes. I tried to gather my thoughts to one place but they scattered even further. I stood up after a while and she was lying there, still. I tried getting her pulse but she wasn't breathing. I got my phone and called Sandile.

"My nigga I'm about to fuck, what's good?" He said.

"I think I killed Simphiwe."

"What?"

"She's just lying on the floor... Can't feel her pulse."

"Max you serious?"

"She's not moving."

"Stay in your office. I'm coming. Did you try doing CPR?"

"This bitch lied to me."

"You must be fucking with me!" He said then cut the call. I sat on my chair then took out the cigar. Lit it up and began to smoke while staring at Simphiwe. 'If she' was dead then Senzo would have just have to cover up for me like he always does. The same way he did with my accident with Leano. No one knows I was the one wrong except Senzo. For killing Leano, I was going to go to jail and I didn't want that.' There was a bang on the door followed by Sandile's voice. I stood up then walked to unlock the door. He walked in, then locked immediately. He looked at her then stared at me.

"Shit Max!" He shouted then rushed towards her. He started with the CPR practice. He continued doing it then he did mouth to mouth.

"Is she dead?" He asked.

"If she's dead, she's dead."

"You can go to jail for this. Do you understand that? You can go to jail for murder!"

What the fuck were you thinking?" He shouted then suddenly she started coughing. She coughed for a while before turning to look at me. She still had tears in her eyes.

"Max..." She whispered now crying.

"You lied to me and you have the audacity to talk about us being a family."

"Max, I understand why you reacted like that. I'm going to give you some space. We will talk." She said standing up and leaving.

"How far is her pregnancy?" Sandile asked.

"3 months."

"Why the fuck did you even fuck with no protection?"

"It was a mistake. She told me she was on contraceptives."

"Max this is a mess. What about Renei? That girl is young but she's not stupid."

"She's stressing me out." I sighed.

"I don't even understand why you are with her anymore. You act as if you are not in a relationship. But I know why you are doing all this."

"Why?"

"Because you love her. If you didn't then she wouldn't be stressing you."

"Stop being gay."

"Fuck off! I'm trying to help you. Soon enough Renei is going to find out and she's going to leave you and it will be very painful. Trust me. You are going to regret all this shit."

"What a friend!"

"That girl is just so above you. She's too beautiful, too sexy and too good for you. You should stick to your whores."

"Maybe I really need to go to church."

He laughed harder. "Church? Maybe you need to leave these girls to us and focus on your relationship or just break up with her and be yourself. Fuck anyone you want anytime without having to stress about anything or anyone." There was a slight knock on the door. I rose my head and looked up.

"Yeah?" Nolwazi popped her head inside.

"Mr Ike's assistant decided to come earlier because she has to go to Nigeria at

lunch."

"Let her in."

"We will talk but I think it's best if you dump Renei. You are hurting her."

"Just leave. I have a business to take care of." He laughed walking out leaving me wondering if he was right or not. After a while Nolwazi got into my office and behind her was Mr. Ike's daughter. She was not what I expected. She was actually beautiful.

"Sir this is Ms. Ike," Nolwazi introduced. I stood up as she stretched her hand towards me. I gave her a handshake then sat down as Nolwazi excused herself. She sat down and we talked business for some minutes. She then stood up and offered me her hand again. I shook it then smiled.

"It will be a pleasure doing business with you."

"Yes, thank you for your time Mr. Buthelezi." She smiled exposing her dimples.

"We will talk."

"Yes. My father will come back then we will sign the contract."

"Ok." I watched her as she walked out. Nolwazi walked into my office.

"Did it go well?"

"Yes. We will wait for her father to sign the contract. He will be coming down here."

"That's great."

"Did you send the flowers?"

"Yes."

"Good, what's left for my day?"

"You have a meeting with the HR department."

"Set that up for next week."

"You know I think it will be best if you go to Nigeria and just see for yourself. It will show Mr. Ike how much you're interested in doing business with him. This is your first big contract, it is not a multimillion contract, it's a multi-billion contract."

"You want me to go to Nigeria?"

"Yeah then have Mr. Ike sign the contract."

"Ok. Set that for the following weekend. Who am I going with?"

"I would have hired another assistant next week. You may take her."

"Make arrangements for me and you. Also please. Book me in a hotel in Durban for tomorrow till Monday. Something closer to the beach."

"Ok, you are leaving?" She asked as I stood up.

"Yeah... Is there anything you still need me for?"

"Oh no."

"Cancel my day for tomorrow and schedule it for next week. I'm out." I said walking out. Getting into my car my phone started ringing. It was Senzo.

"Hello..." I said.

"Max I signed the documents. You can ask your assistance to come pick them up."

"Ok."

"How is it going with Mr. Ike."

"I'm going to Nigeria next weekend just to finalize the deal."

"Why can't you go this weekend? I mean, Monday is a public holiday."

"I have plans."

"Ok, I'm proud of you."

"Ok."

"We will talk."

"Yeah." I dropped the car then started my car. I got to my house then showered and changed into my casual clothes. Then I bought myself and Renei takeaways for lunch then drove to Wits. I had to give the man at the reception a few hundreds so that he lets me in to the girls' res. Got to her room, I knocked and waited. She opened after a while but I was surprised when she was not the one who opened the door but Vanessa. What was Vanessa doing here? I start wondering if I got the wrong room.

"Max!" She said surprised. "Wow I never thought you would visit me."

"I'm not here for you. Is this Reneilwe's room?" She looked at me for a while.

"Yeah... What do you want from her?"

"Is she in?" at that moment Renei stepped into the room. Renei smiled as soon as she saw me and gave me a hug. Vanessa was shocked.

"Vee this is Max, my boyfriend and Max this Vanessa, my friend and roommate."

Vanessa faked a smile. "Nice to finally meet you."

"You too..."

"Uhh..."

"I should get going." Vanessa said interrupting Renei then took her handbag and walked out. I then drew to Renei's bed and sat down by her side.

"Thank you for the flowers and the teddy bear," she said pointing at them.

"I brought lunch, I knew you had no lessons throughout the day."

"And I'm so hungry." She said taking her laptop off her bed and the novel.

"Do you have a box of novels here?"

"Oh no Prince borrows me his..." She paused then looked at me.

"So he's your source?"

"He's just being nice."

"I will get you novels starting from today."

"Max..."

"I'm serious. Let's eat." She giggled.

"I missed you."

She smiled. "I missed you too."

"I planned a trip for us to Durban. You once said you wanted to go there."

"What?" She asked taken aback.

"You wanted to see the beach so I'm taking you there."

"No!"

"You don't want go?"

"Oh my God.. I would love to go."

"We're leaving tomorrow."

"Well my last lesson is..."

"Skip. Just one day. We are leaving in the morning because I'm driving there. We will

come back by plane late on Monday."

"I can't..."

"Shh... Just one day. You will catch up on Tuesday."

"Ok. But this will be the last time you ask me to skip my lessons."

"Deal!"

"I'm so excited..." She said.

"So that girl has been your roommate since the beginning of this term?"

"Yeah... She's nice you see? No reason to dislike her."

"How close are you with her?"

"Well we are friends."

"I think maybe you should sleep at my house tonight so that tomorrow I don't have to come down here before we leave."

"Uhh.. I.."

"Please. It will make things easier." I said then kissed her. The loud bang on the door made Renei break the kiss while standing up. Her eyes widened when she heard Mma Shange's voice.

"Heei wena Reneilwe!" She screamed. I stood up then kissed her again.

"What time should I pick you up?" She looks so scared.

"Around five." I looked at my watch.

"Ok. See you." She just nodded. I walk over to the door then unlocked it. Mma Shange stumbled in then looked at me. We were sworn enemies.

"Wena Buthelezi!"

"Later babe!" I said then walked out. I didn't have time for Mma Shange. Getting into my car I called the boutique. I needed someone bikinis for Renei.



# TWENTY FIVE

## RENEILWE

"Hey, going somewhere?" Vanessa asked as I packed my bag.

"Yeah, Max is taking me to Durban for the weekend. We will be back on Monday."

"Wow! He's such a romantic guy." She said making me blush.

"Yeah."

"So the cheating issue you suspected? He cleared it out?"

"Yeah. I guess she's just what he says she is and either way, I just believe him, I trust him."

"How long have you guys been dating?"

"Well almost two months now."

"And you say y'all haven't fucked yet?"

"Yeah... He understands that I'm not ready."

"Did you tell him about your virginity test that happens every year?"

"No. That's personal. Help me pick clothes. I'm really wondering what to take."

"These ones will do." She said.

"I just don't feel comfortable in them." I said.

"It's not the clothes, you're not comfortable with your own body. Love your body and you'll be able to love clothes. She who wears her own crown is the Queen." She said.

"I will try to wear my own crown. I need to return Prince's textbook. His class is ending in a few minutes."

"Don't do what you don't want to do. Don't let anyone take advantage of you." I gave her a smile then quickly packed the clothes she set apart for me.

"I've to give Prince his book. I'll be coming back. Mma Shange caught Max here."

She laughed. "What?"

"He just left me to deal with her... will you still be here when I come back?"

"Oh no, I'm going out."

"Ok, see you then."

"Yeah..." I walked out with Prince's textbook to their lecture hall.

"Hey... I thought I would find you at the library." He said stepping out of the class.

I smiled, "Thought I should give it in person. Thanks, you are the best."

"It's ok." He said taking it into his bag. "What are you doing for the weekend?"

"I'll not be around this weekend."

He nodded then pointed out, "You will be with him?" I just nodded.

"I hope he's worth it." He said.

"He is. I wish you could just put your differences aside."

"He's bad for you Renei, you don't want to see it. Signs are there. The red flags."

"I love him..."

"I know and I wish you didn't. You love the wrong man. He doesn't have a heart."

"Prince please..."

"I just want you to be careful. That's all."

"And I will. We will talk on Tuesday."

"Yeah."

I turned then walked back to res. Took my bag from my room then walked out. When I passed the reception Mma Shange was there and I froze when I saw Simphiwe.

"Renei..." Mma Shange called me. I walked towards her then looked at Simphiwe.

"Oh..."

"Yes," Simphiwe took my hand then we walked out. I looked at her as we were out.

"How can I help you?"

She smiled. "You're so young, beautiful and have a very bright future ahead."

"It's so sad to see someone with such a bright future ruining it running after men."

I chuckled. "Running after men?"

"Yes. Max is too old for you honey. You look like a gold digger and I'm sure you don't

want to be labeled that way. The reason I'm here is because I care about you." She said then opened her purse and pulled out a check of money.

So shocked, "You are giving me R200k so I stay away from my boyfriend?"

"He's not your boyfriend. Max is no one's boyfriend. He's gonna play you real hard."

"Thank you so much but no thanks." I said returning the check. "Max is my man and I'm not going to stay away. Maybe you need to take a step back and focus on your pregnancy." I said then walked away. I couldn't believe she offered to pay me so to stay away from Max. As I approached the gate I saw his car.

"For the first time, you are punctual." I laughed then watched him take my bag to the boot. He opened the door for me and I gladly got inside. Off he drove.

"How was Mma Shange?" He asked already driving away from the university.

"She was upset. She didn't expect that from me."

"She doesn't like me."

"I figured."

"We are going for dinner at mom's house. She misses you."

"I miss her too. I haven't seen her in a very long time."

"She will be very glad to see you."

"Simpfiwe came to see me." I broke it to him. "And she offered me 200k so I stay away from you."

"What!"

"And for a pregnant lady I wondered what she wanted from you."

"Pregnant?"

"Yeah... I saw her little belly. I just can't believe people would do such things." He took my hand into his then kissed it.

"I'm so glad you told me. I will deal with her." I smiled. I really trusted him.

"Ok." He was quiet throughout till we reached his mother's house. I didn't say anything. And when we arrived he didn't knock but just opened the door.

"Renei!" Michelle said wheeling herself towards me. I leaned over to hug her.

"Ma... I missed you."

"I missed you too," she said taking my hand to the sitting room.

"I guess I'm the third wheel!" Max said from behind us because he liked attention.

"Max baby hi..." She said earning a groan from Max.

"How's school Renei?"

"School is fine. I'm nearing the second term's exams. I'm excited."

She smiled. "I'm so proud of you baby. How's your other friend... Prince." I heard Max clicking his tongue then walking out.

"Prince is fine... Max just hates him."

"Don't mind Max." She whispered.

"I'm so happy I'm here."

"Me too baby. I missed you so much." When Dudu heard our voices she came from her room to the sitting room. She found us eating dinner and joined us.

After the dinner Dudu chipped into my conversations with Michelle and asked me, "What do you read?"

"Everything. I read what Prince... my friend gives me." Luckily Max didn't hear that, he had moved out of the dining room.

"I wish to meet Prince one day. This guy has my cousin always reeling with anger."

I chuckled then responded quietly, "Your cousin is always angry."

"I know. Which last two books did you read?"

"*Wuthering Heights* and *Born A Crime*."

"Wow! I couldn't finish *Wuthering Heights*, I don't like classic and either way I don't think Emily Brontë and I click. I did read *Born A Crime* though it was a bit too emotional for me."

I chuckled. I actually did take long to finish *Wuthering Heights* but I loved it.

"I just finished all the *Twilight* series. Come, let me show you." I hesitantly followed her up the stairs till we were in her room. Most of the things were blue but what really caught my attention was her shelf of books. There were a lot of books, it looked like a mini library.

"That's my collection." She said walking to her shelf. She took out four books then handed them to me.

"Read all of them but make sure Max doesn't see them."

"Ok." I said smiling. They were all in good shape unlike Prince's books.

"You can read the reviews online if you want."

"Thank you so much."

"It's ok. Max tells me you are not on social media."

"Uhh..."

"Don't be embarrassed. I think he likes it that you're not on social media. Let's open accounts for you." She said taking my phone from me.

"I don't actually want..."

"Don't worry. I got you." She was so quick to install applications and open for me accounts on Facebook, Tweeter, Instagram and WhatsApp.

"I can't believe you were not on WhatsApp too. Now you are ready to socialize." She said handing me my phone. I was so glad she had done. I don't know how many times she took me pictures for my accounts' profiles.

"Thanks."

"Now you..."

"Ladies!" Max said entering Dudu's room.

"Don't you know how to knock?"

"Fuck off. Babe we should get going." He said looking at me.

"Ohk..."

"Reneilwe is now on social media." Dudu declared.

"What?" His voice was full of skepticism.

"She's on social media."

"Did you force her?" He asked accusingly.

"It's time she know the happenings of the world. Why are you so concerned?"

"Babe if you don't want to be on social media we can always delete."

"It's ok, it's fine." I said.

"Why are you so concerned Max?" Dudu asked.

"Babe let's go." I stood up then got my books and held them against my chest. We kissed Michelle goodbye and went to prepare for our trip. When we got back at the penthouse I realized how tired I was Max too as he threw himself on the couch and he started dozing. But I dragged him to go and sleep on the bed. The following day I woke up before him and surprisingly he had his arms wrapped around me. I loved the warm comfort of that. I then carefully tried to untangle myself from his arms without waking him up but his eyes opened and he held me tighter.

"Where are you going?" He asked in his sleepy voice.

"Toilet."

"Wait..." He groaned kissing my neck. I giggled, it was tickling. His hand pulled up my nightdress then squeezed my bum. My heart started beating faster, the same way it always did when he started doing this.

"I want to taste you..." He whispered pulling my panties down while leaving a trail of languid kisses up my thighs. My moans were short and breathy. I knew I shouldn't have let him do this to me but every time he started, I never developed the guts to stop him. He pulled the duvets down then got between my legs.

"You always look so beautiful, even with your dressing." He whispered then pulled my night off through my head. Left me naked.

"I haven't brushed my teeth yet..." I whispered before he could take claim of my lips. When he plunged his tongue into my mouth I felt his hand going down to my thighs then in between my legs. He started rubbing me while kissing me hard. I moaned into his mouth. He diverted from my lips then started kissing my neck down to my breast. He sucked my nipple harder and I felt it down there tightening, making me raise my pelvis trying to get some friction and I grinded against his hard erection. He chuckled then started grinding his erection on me over and over again while sucking my nipples. I felt it coming and as it crushed me so hard, I felt his finger penetrating me as my body swayed in pleasure. It was tingling but I was too caught up in my ecstasy.

"I like it when you come for me." He said as I panted. He kept moving his finger in and out of me. It felt weird, like he was sticking his finger where it was forbidden. He kissed me going down my belly button to my clitoris. He swirled his tongue around me and I started feeling it again. His finger began to move in and out faster and his tongue moved in rhythm. I tried holding it in but it was too much. The fire on my center was burning and mind blowing. It felt so good, so good that all my limbs ignited. The fire fought its way out and I exploded into tiny pieces. Over and over again. I closed my eyes tightly as I melted and tears warmed my cheeks. I felt him hovering all over me and when I open my eyes, he was looking at me with a smirk.

"You taste so good..." He whispered.

# TWENTY SIX

## RENEILWE

I walked into the exquisite room. It was so big and everything was pure white. I liked the neatness and the paintings on the wall. Even the fluffy carpet. Max walked in holding my bag and his overnight bag. He put them on the bed then looked at me.

"Do you like it?"

I smiled, "I love it. Thank you so much for bringing me here."

"Come and see." I stood by the window and looked through, it was the beach.

"Can we go to the beach?"

"Yeah... But I'm not really sure your dressing will do."

"I can change to a dress."

He pointed at his overnight bag that was on the bed. "I brought that for you."

"For me?"

"Yeah..." When I opened it I was shocked, why would he buy me this?

"It's for the beach. Put it on so we go. The weather is a bit unflustered."

"Max..."

"Dress, you are wasting time."

I looked at the bikinis again then took out the black set together with the white dress and walked to the bathroom. When I walked back into the bedroom, he was seated on the bed. He stood up as soon as I came in.

"You look so sexy." He said closing the gap between us. "Ready?"

I nodded. He leaned on kissing me briefly then took my hand. The moment I walked out of the hotel the cool breeze hit my face. I whirled excitedly as we walked to the beach. Coming to the beach had always been a dream, of which I couldn't believe it was being fulfilled. A lot of people were sited on their loungers under big umbrellas.

"Tomorrow we should do that..." I said pointing at the two ladies who were lying on their loungers.



"Why not today?" He asked walking to a red big umbrella.

"You did this?" I said walking behind him.

"Yeah..." I smiled as I set my body on the lounge under the shade.

"I like this, thank you."

"It's ok. Maybe next time I should take you to Italy."

I laughed. "Yeah... Maybe when I'm done with varsity." In between our loungers, there were two glasses of juice and a little orange umbrellas inside them.

"Is this ours?"

"It's the President's." I rolled my eyes at his sarcasm taking one glass then used the stroll to take a sip. It tasted nice, I liked it.

"Come, let's go and swim." He said standing up.

"Oh no Max."

"What's the use of coming to the beach if you've no intention of feeling the water?"

"To watch?" He laughed then picked me up.

"We are going to swim." I giggled as he walked with me towards the water.

"My dress is going to get wet and..."

"I like you wet."

"Everyone is going to see me half naked."

"Everyone is minding their own business." He said putting me down.

"Come, a little swim won't hurt." He said pulling me into the water.

"I don't know how to swim."

"Tomorrow I'll teach you but right now, hold me." He said. "I won't let you drown." I clasped his hand tightly then let him lead me further into the water. He picked me as the water reached my neck. He dipped me inside the water when my feet no longer felt the ground and pulled me out almost immediately. I wiped the water off my face with one hand while both of his hands were holding on my waist.

"You thought you were dying?"

"You will never see heaven Max Buthelezi"

"I can bring heaven to you though." He said then kissed me. Wrapped my arms

around his neck and kissed him back.

"Do you love me?" I asked.

"What do you think?" I rose my head and looked at him.

"I think you do." He smiled and kissed me again, this time it felt different.

"I wish I knew how to swim." I said looking at people who were on the shore.

"By the end of this weekend, you would be an excellent swimmer."

"I can't wait." We stayed with our bodies dipped in the water for a while before we went back to our sun loungers. It then began to rain. We walked back to the hotel but we didn't seem to care about the rain.

"Let's shower then we can go eat dinner." He said as soon as we got back into our room. He skillfully took off my dress and bikinis. I heard his sharp intake of breath as he stared at my naked body.

"You are so beautiful... I just can't get over it." He whispered then wrapped his arms around me and picks me up. He laid me down on the bed and got on top of me and kissed me. His kiss was always so engaging and demanding that it always left me craving for more. "I want you..." He whispered then kissed my collarbone. My body shook.

"I want you so bad..." My body shook anticipating. Suddenly his mouth was on me sucking me hard. I moaned curling my toes. He held my hips and went beyond with his tongue. I panted. My body felt hot, every kiss burned my body. I hissed as he grinded his erection against me. His kiss was begging me to let him in. He was naked in an instant and when I looked down on his penis, my heart begged for the proof of the pudding. That moment I felt his thumb swirling around my clit while his knee spread my legs more. I felt him down there. His thumb was replaced by his penis. He was rubbing me and it felt so good. I moaned as my body relaxed. Then I felt him pushing his dick into me. I held my breath as he pushed himself into me. It felt as if he won't fit in. I closed my eyes as the pain worsened.

"Just a little bit more and it will be ok." He said pushing himself further into me. I looked deeply into his eyes trying to endure the pain. Slowly he continued till he couldn't go any further. My legs were numb. He kissed my cheek before he slowly drew back then in he pushed. I bit my lower lip trying to stop myself from crying. Again and again he moved and each movement worsened the pain. He kept whispering how tight I was and how good I was. I closed and opened my eyes in waves. After a while he hit something nice in me. He kept hitting it over and over again and I wished to stay entrapped forever. It felt so nice. He kissed my neck as he continued hitting that same spot and I started moving my hips when I felt an

increase in sensation.

He groaned and he moved faster hitting it more frequently. The amount of pleasure that he was giving me was quite unexplainable but so was the pain. Every time he hit it, I felt myself looming and nearing and it began to hit me harder than before. I gripped him tightly closing my eyes. He continued hitting the same sweet spot prolonging the wave. I felt his body jerk on top of me as he lost control, his moves slickening. He groaned so loud like a wounded animal before I felt my insides burn. A hot sensation flooded me and I was done thoroughly. He collapsed on top of me. My breath was ragged and so was his. We stayed like that for a while. The moment he pulled out it was painful.

"You were so amazing!" He said pulling me on top of him but I feel so tired and my eyelids are too heavy.

His arm was wrapped around me again when I opened my eyes. I slowly untangled myself and he didn't wake up. I stood up and my eyes caught a blood stain on the bed. My legs stepped wobbly as I forced myself to the bathroom slowly, wincing at the pain between my thighs. I looked at my reflection on the mirror. I had red marks all over my chest and neck. Tears started streaming covering my cheeks. I started asking myself lots of questions. What if he was only using me and now that he got it, he's going to toss me away? I started thinking about the warnings people gave me and more tears gushed out. What if he wasn't in love me? What if I loved a man who was never going to love me? He had said he can't ever love me before...

"Renei?" I heard him calling me. Quickly I washed my face by the sink, washing away the tears. As I closed the tap the door opened and he walked in only in. He looked at me right into my eyes.

"I know what you are probably thinking. I'm not going to leave you. I know I should have left you a long time ago but I guess I was too selfish to and I still am. I want you with me only. I want to be the only one you love. You love me right baby? Please don't regret last night." He whispered.

Time really flies when you are having a good time, before I knew it, it was that time we had to return back. I didn't want to leave Durban, it was amazing. Max and I got closer than before, not sexually but emotionally. The dinner at the beautiful restaurant had me thinking about the future. All weekend I had been exposed to the Max I never knew and I loved it. I stole a glance at him and I wished we didn't have to come back to reality but then again, I had my exams I need to start preparing for. He drove inside the varsity and parked near res. He got my bag from the boot and he started walking with me inside.

"Mma Shange!" I said.

"She's not on duty today." He said as we walked right inside. While we walked to my room I hoped Vanessa was not in because I didn't want Max to leave immediately. I sighed when we walked inside my room and she was not there. I instinctively locked the door.

"Don't you think maybe next semester you should find a house outside varsity?" He asked putting my bags down.

"What? I can't afford plus my parents won't ever agree."

"Well they don't have to know."

"I'm not used to lying to them."

"I'm going to Nigeria during the weekend." He said.

"Oh... For business?"

"Yes, there's a contract to be signed."

"I'm going to miss you."

"You can come with." He said making me laugh.

"You know I can't. Exams next week."

"You can take your books with. We come back on Sunday."

"Max... I don't know..."

"Think about it... It will be fun."

"Yeah but—"

"Reneilwe?" A voice asked with a soft knock. I looked at Max who stared at me.

"My dad!"

"Shit!"

"Oh Jesus... what should we do?" I looked down at my clothes then start undressing. I don't bother removing the lingerie Max bought for me. I grabbed my bag I had left behind then rampaged through it till I found one of my long dresses that Mama bought for me last year. I quickly put it on then a Jersey on top of it.

"Max please... I'm begging you... Get into Alicia's wardrobe." I begged him.

"You are not serious!" He whispered.

"Please... Please..."

He sighed then gave in. "Ok." I had to remove some of the clothes in the wardrobe so that he gets in. I threw my textbooks on the bed and opened random pages so it looked like I was studying. I took a deep breath in before I walked to the door to unlock it.

"Reneilwe! Didn't you hear us knocking?" Papa asked.

"I was so lost in my studies." I told them. They looked around my room then me.

"Busy with school. That's good." He said but then his eyes fell on my phone.

"Whose phone is that?"

"Uhh it's my roommate's. She left it to go and submit her assignment. It's due tomorrow."

He nodded. "Good. A roommate who is focused is a good thing, right my wife?"

"We are proud of you to see you have not changed. You are still our daughter." Mama said.

"Thank you." I said bowing down slightly.

"I see your roommate just came back from her holiday." Mama said looking at my two bags on the bed.

"Oh... Yes. Uhh she had visited her older sister."

"Oh... Your mother and I thought we would surprise you today."

I smiled. "I appreciate it."

"Good. I saw a canteen somewhere, maybe we should have lunch." Papa said.

"Yes," Mama agreed. Before they left Max's phone started ringing in the wardrobe. They both look at the wardrobe.

"She has two phones. I won't answer because I don't like touching people's things." I said quickly hoping Max doesn't answer.

"Ok, put your books away then join us ngwanake." Papa said walking out. I was relieved when they both walked out. I rushed to the wardrobe. Max got out then fixed himself.

"That was close..." He said with a chuckle.

"You need to leave."

"Yeah... We will talk." I held my breath as I looked at Mama. She was looking at us

and I couldn't read what she's thinking. *"When did she come back?"*

"Mama I..."

"Don't bother lying." She said sealing my lips. I shook with fear.

"Young man, may you excuse us." She said. Max cleared his throat nodding.

"Yes Mam." He walked out and I'm kind of relieved but not so relieved.

"I knew you were lying. When did you start lying Reneilwe?"

"I'm sorry Mama."

"Who's that boy?" She asked.

"He's my boyfriend."

"He's your boyfriend?"

"Yes."

"Since when?"

"Two months ago."

"Have you slept with him?" I kept quiet.

"You can tell me, I'm not going to be angry. I know you are now grown and you are going to be exposed to a lot. Tell me, have you slept with him?"

I nodded and I didn't dare look at her.

"Did you use what I gave you?" She asked. We didn't but he bought me some pills, he said they were morning after pills and they prevented pregnancy. He kept buying those pills because he never used a condom.

"Yes."

"We will talk about this later, remove that jersey and let's go eat, we don't want to keep your Father waiting." She said then walked out.

# TWENTY SEVEN

## MAX

I grabbed my cocaine from the kitchen counter. I quickly did my lines and when I dragged in the first line I held my breath. The second line was much better. Before I could do the last line I heard my door opening and a second later, Sandile busted through my kitchen.

"You can't be serious! So early in the morning?"

"Fuck off! I have a shitty job. I need something to get me by."

"This shit is dangerous if you keep taking it like this."

"Look who's talking."

"Are things between you and Renei good?"

"Yeah... She's accompanying me to Nigeria today."

"You have changed... In a good manner. You didn't cheat on her all week."

I chuckled then snorted the last line. "Fuck off!"

"I'm serious. You have been behaving. Did she give you some?"

"Fuck off! That's none of your business." He laughed.

"Wow! So you are really serious now?"

"Yes." I said wiping my nose.

"I wonder what happened in Durban. Anyways... I need a new girl. Since you are now serious, I need you to toss in one of your whores. Vanessa maybe..."

"Nah... Dawg Vanessa is Renei's roommate."

He laughed. "The fuck? You better tell Renei before she tells her. Girls value honesty. Someone is going to tell her what a shitty person you are sooner or later. You should be the one telling her not the other way round. She may forgive you..."

"Reneilwe loves me... She won't leave me."

"She what? Loving you doesn't mean she won't leave. Tell her, edit your story."

"I don't want to hurt her." I said taking out a bottle of water from the fridge.

"Prince is going to tell her."

"He wouldn't dare if he knows what's good for him."

"Suit yourself. Hook me up with a good whore... Actually where's Sean's cousin?"

"I don't know, ask him." My phone started ringing, it was Renei.

"Babe..." I answered walking out of the kitchen.

"Hey, what time are you coming?"

"Around six, the private jet leaves at seven."

"Ok,"

"You want to go shopping?"

She laughed. "No thank you. I'm fine."

"Are you sure?"

"Yeah."

"Ok." I hang up then walked back to the kitchen.

"I can't believe Monday I'm going back to work."

"You are a slob, I wonder how they haven't fired you yet." Before he could respond Sean walked inside the kitchen without knocking and he was fuming. He threw a magazine on the kitchen counter and the cover made me snatch it.

"Fuck! Fuck!" I lamented.

The cover is Renei and I at Durban when we were inside the water kissing. I opened the page where the full story was and like I expected, they had run a background check on her. They labeled me as a pedophile and Renei as a gold digger because of her parents' occupation which is also written in there. There's another picture when we were at the restaurant after I bought her clothes. I sucked in my breath when I saw a picture of me with some girl I didn't know at Sean's party, the very same party that I slept with a married woman at. Sandile snatched the magazine from me.

"Ahhh you are fucked!" He said. "Totally fucked!"

"Max so you have been fucking with my girl all along?" I looked at him fuming.



"Reneilwe is not your girl!"

"Fuck! Man I trusted you! You knew I wanted her."

"Reneilwe doesn't want you." Sean then lost his temperament, he hit me, taking me by surprise. His fist came into contact with my jaw, so hard.

"You fucken had to! You had to go after her! How could you!" He threw another punch but I ditched it. He didn't wait but threw in another punch.

"You bastard!" He roared. I hit him back getting burning in wrath.

"If she doesn't want you then she doesn't!" Before he could throw another punch at me, my fist met his face.

"Guys! Come one! Are we seriously fighting for pussy?" Sandile got in between us but I had lost all sense of pity towards Sean.

"She didn't want you. She never did!"

"Yeah... Because she doesn't know the kind of person you are! She doesn't know just how fucked up you are." He said with a smirk making me push Sandile off and hit him harder than before. Again and again I hit him before Sandile pulled me off.

"Max dawg stop it!" Sean stood up laughing while wiping his bloody nose.

"I see you can't handle her knowing. I'm going to tell her and you'll see if she will still want you."

"You wouldn't dare!"

"I wouldn't dare? Oh wait and watch!" He said then walked out.

"I told you to tell her."

"Yoh Sandile! Fuck off dawg!"

"He's going to tell her." I grabbed my phone then called her.

"Hey, I'm on my way to my lesson."

"Renei..."

"What's wrong?"

"You know how I feel about you right?"

"Max..."

"Answer me. You know how I feel about you right?"

"Yeah..."

"Do you trust me?"

"Max you know I do. What's going on?"

"Nothing... I just want you to know that I was once a bad person."

"What's going on?" She asked.

"But I have changed. You believe that right?"

"Uhh yeah... Is there something I should know?"

"No..."

"Ok, we will talk later, I love you." She said then dropped the call.

"You should have told her." Sandile said from behind me.

"I'm going to Wits." As soon as I got my keys, my phone rang. I answered.

"Yah?"

"Come to my house right now!" He commanded.

"What?"

"Right now Max! I'm waiting for you."

"I can't, I'm..."

"I will not say it again!" He said then dropped the call.

I walked to the sitting room where Sandile was now busy watching TV. "I'm going to Senzo's house."

"What's up?"

"I don't know, he's upset though."

"This is not your day. You are about to get dumped and..."

"I'm going to punch you!" He laughed making me click my tongue as I walked out. As soon as I got into my car I over-spiced to his house. When I arrived the gate was opened and I spot Simphiwe's car. This bitch! I quickly got out of my car then walked right inside the house. When I stepped in, they were watching TV and there was another older lady I didn't recognize. I wondered if that was Simphiwe's mother or relative.

"Sit down." Senzo commanded. I sat on the couch and the lady gave me a smile.

"Good morning." She greeted. I gave her a polite nod then looked at Simphiwe whose eyes were on her hands.

"We will excuse you gentleman." The lady said standing up. Simphiwe stood up and followed after her.

"That young girl came here in the morning." Senzo said. "You know her right?"

"Yeah..."

"She's pregnant, your baby. I do understand that this things happen but we have to move forward."

"It was a mistake." He smiled.

"I know but we should not dwell on mistakes. I have thought about this and realized being angry at you won't solve anything. You are a grown man with mustache. I think I'm happy that finally I'm getting a grandchild. I'm so proud of you but we, the Buthelezi men, we are real men who take responsibility of our actions and that's why I have called you here today." He said.

"I have spoken to your uncles and they are ready."

"Ready for what?"

"To start the negotiations. Simphiwe has told me that you guys have been together for a while now so I think this is the perfect time. She's from a good family and she's a loving respectful woman. I, your father, approve her as my daughter in-law."

"Ok. Is this a joke?"

"No son, so... We are sending her father a letter. He is a very stubborn man but we are the Buthelezi, everything will go well."

"Ok, I think a misunderstanding is..."

"Tea..." Simphiwe's relative said getting inside the sitting room holding a tray consisting of a teapot and two cups.

"Thank you my dear." My father said and I started connecting the dots...

"Who's this?" I asked before she could walk away.

"Oh, I didn't want you to meet like this but, it's all good. Son, this is Pinky Motsamai, she is a special friend of mine and darling, this is my only son, my pride, Max Zweli." He said.

"Nah... This... Your girlfriend?"

"Yes, you may say it like that." I stood up.

"Oh I see, you're happy with girlfriends while my mother is on a wheelchair!"

"This is not the way to talk to your father."

"And who the fuck are you? Who gave you the right to talk to me?"

"Max!" Senzo roared. "You will not speak to her like that. I did not purposely put your mother on a wheelchair. It was an accident."

"Oh an accident? So she's happy now on the wheelchair? Just because it was an accident?"

"Max I know that you are angry..."

"I hate you! She's immobile because of you. Her life will never be the same!"

"I love Michelle!"

"Wow! You love Michelle!"

"Can we discuss the reason you are here?"

"I'm not going to marry Simphiwe. You know I'm with Reneilwe. If anything, I'm going to marry her not this whore!"

"And that pregnancy is not mine till I have a proof." I said then walked out to my car and drove off. A lot of things were running through my mind and it felt as if I beginning to lose my mind. I started to wonder if really Sean would tell Renei but then even if he doesn't, she was likely going to find out on her own. Would she forgive me? Would she forgive Simphiwe's pregnancy? Would she forgive me for sleeping with Vanessa? Would she forgive me for the mess I have dragged her parents and family name into? Going to Wits could be a bad move, what if she would not want to see me? I took a U-turn then drove to my house.

As I sat down in my house, my phone started ringing.

"Nolwazi.." I answered.

"Hey, you have a meeting with Suzan in 30 minutes, where are you?"

"I'm not coming."

"Max I can't just cancel again!"

"Nolwazi I'm dealing with a lot right now, can you give me a break?"

I heard her sigh. "I will just lie."

"Thank you."

"Anything you need?"

I chuckled. "No, I'm good."

"Ok."

I hang up then opened the whisky. I just needed to forget everything. Even just for few hours. I took the first swing of the whisky. It burned my throat but I'm past caring. I was about to lose the most wonderful, most beautiful girl on earth. I took my phone then dialed my mom's number.

"Max..."

"She's going to leave me right?"

"Who?"

"Reneilwe... She's going to leave me. Same way you left Senzo. As Leano left me."

"Max what happened?"

I take a swing of the whisky. "I messed up as usual."

"Max..."

"I don't deserve her love or anyone's love."

"What's going on?"

"I should have just left her alone..." I said then brought the bottle back to my lips again. "Or maybe I should have just gotten her pregnant." I said laughing.

"Max!"

"Sorry."

"What's going on?"

"I'm going to lose her."

"Reneilwe loves you."

"She won't stay for my shitty ass."

"What did you do? Aren't you going to Nigeria with her?"

"She's going to change her mind then be with Prince." I said then took a gulp of my

whisky. "She will never forgive me."

"I can't help you if you don't tell me what you did."

"Did Senzo tell you about his girlfriend?"

"Max!"

"Did he? I know you knew and you kept it from me. Why?"

"Max I couldn't just come forward and tell you about your father's wedding. He was supposed to do it alone and I'm glad he did."

I laughed sarcastically. "It gets better. It's even getting better and better. While you are stuck on a wheelchair, he's getting married and..."

"I'm happy too. I'm happy with myself and I have made peace with my condition."

"You're so selfish! You expect everyone to be like you. I've not made peace with it!"

"You will talk with me with respect."

"Ohh guess what? I'm sorry mom!" My voice was laced with sarcasm.

"Max I love you! You are my happiness. My only happiness! You are the reason I make it every day. I love you and I have you. The rest doesn't matter."

"I have to go." I said then hang up. I tried Reneilwe's number but her phone was off. Maybe she knew already and wanted nothing to do with me.

Girls are many out there and they are all dying to be with me but I'm busy over one girl. One girl!

*Buthelezi you are fucked!*

# TWENTY EIGHT

RENEILWE

"I would suggest you start using this textbook." Professor said.

"Yes, I will try getting it."

"Good, you did very well on your last test. You are actually one of the best."

"Thank you,"

"Just keep it up and you will go far."

"Yes... Thank you."

Walking out of the lecture hall I started walking to the library. I smiled when I saw Prince.

"Hey..." I said sitting on his table.

He looked at me then smiled. "Hey, how was your lesson?"

"It was ok, I just need to do the assignment we got and finish it today."

"Still going to Nigeria with him?" I smiled nodding.

"Well I'm happy for you. I'm just..." He stopped talking then looked at me.

"What?"

He shook his head. "Nothing."

"Ok." I said taking out my laptop.

"Have you spoken to Max today?"

"Yes, in the morning, he was just confirming if I'm really coming with him or not."

"Oh..."

"What's going on?" I asked waiting to hear just how bad Max is.

"A lot but do your assignment. Your next lesson starts in..." He looked at his watch.  
"55 minutes."

"Yeah."

Not really in the mood for an argument I immediately start working on it. When I come back from Nigeria I just want to submit every assignment and that will be on Monday. I have already packed my bag, well Vee helped me pack it. She liked the clothes that Max bought for me in Durban so she packed mostly those.

"Reneilwe." A voice said making me raise my head almost immediately. I smiled when I saw Sean, I tried to be polite as ever because either way, he was Max's friend apart from that other tattooed guy he calls Sandile. But my smile faded when I looked at his swollen lips which were bloody and his red eye.

"What happened to you?" I asked.

"I need to talk to you."

"Right now I'm..."

"It's about Max." He said.

I panicked, "Is he ok?"

"Yes, but please." I looked at Prince who was just staring at me then looked back at Sean.

"Ok." I stood up then walked out with him. We stood near the library and my head was already buzzing.

"I'm about to tell you something, not because of anything else but because I just care about you." I blinked a couple of times taking in and out a deep breath.

"Take," he said handing me a magazine. My heart skipped as I saw the cover. I'm all over the magazine cover. I felt tears stinging my eyes. Max promised me that this wouldn't happen. He promised that he would never let it happen. I closed my eyes wishing to wake up from this horrible dream. All I could see was Papa's face. He was going to be very upset. I had disappointed him so much I didn't think he was going to forgive me for this.

"I'm really sorry," I opened my eyes and wiped my tears away.

"It's ok."

It's not ok. How am I going to explain all this to my father? What am I going to tell him? He didn't send me here so I can be in magazines half naked. I know someone at home has already seen the magazine. I wonder what they are already saying about me.

"It's not. Max should have never let this happen in the first place."

"I can't believe this, I just..."



"I'm really sorry."

"It's ok. I should go."

"That's not all... Max has been cheating on you."

"Sean I appreciate..."

"You can ask anyone you want. Even your roommate because she fucked him a while back." I shook my head. "That's not correct. I think your source of information is wrong. Though I really do appreciate..."

"Ask her then! Max has been cheating on you, living his life like he used to before you. He even slept with a married woman. All this while he was with you. Ask him if you think I'm lying."

I looked at him really trying to believe him but I couldn't. Everything he was saying was just too hard to believe. Why would Max cheat on me with Vee? Or anyone else?

"Ok. You don't believe me right?"

"Sean you are really..."

"Wait!" He took out his phone and browsed through for a while before giving it to me.

"What's this?"

"Watch..." It was a video. It started playing and it was Max with some girl. She was straddling him while kissing him. She kept grinding on him. I hand Sean his phone before the video stopped.

"I don't need to watch this. That was probably long time ago."

"Ok what about this?"

He said opening a page in the magazine were more of my pictures were. There was a picture beside mine, it was Max and some girl. I took a deep breathe then gave it back to him.

"Reneilwe..."

"I have to finish my assignment." I said walking back into the library.

"What did he want?" Prince asked.

"Nothing."

"Why are you crying then?"

I started packing my things.

"Hey..." Prince said moving towards me. He quickly continues packing my things then he took my hand dragging me along. Got outside and we walked to the bench where we always sat for lunch.

"What did he do?"

I shake my head as I tried to just calm myself down. He hugged me, tightly and I sobbed in his arms wondering why Max would do this to me. Or maybe he didn't do anything and I'm just running into conclusions. He once told me to ask him anything if I hear rumors about him so to avoid running into conclusions with lies. I pulled away from Prince's embrace after a while then stood up. I took out my phone.

"What are you doing?" Prince asked.

"I'm calling him, until he confirms anything I won't believe it."

"He's going to lie to you Renei. Max doesn't love you."

"He does and why would he lie to me?"

"Wow!" Prince exclaimed. "You really are stupid and naive and foolish." I stop dialing Max's number then looked at Prince.

"What?"

"You heard me! This Max of yours have been cheating on you from the first day. He has fucked the whole school probably. Go and ask a girl named Busi, she's still here. You were being played all along. The clothes were just a cover up. He does that with every girl he meets. Girls like Alicia."

"Max is not like that anymore. He has changed." I said my voice breaking.

Prince laughed sarcastically, "Changed for who? Let me tell you something... A little story I didn't want to tell you. Max once dated my sister, my older sister. She was just like you. She thought he loved her because of his affection. And guess what? After he slept with her, he dumped her."

"Stop!"

"You are not the first girl he uses and sure won't be the last. Max doesn't love anyone except himself and his mother. We used to be friends but I realized I can't be friends with guys who don't respect women."

"He has changed."

"He can never change. Has he ever told you that he loved you? He hates love. He is a sad human being, he finds pleasure in hurting people. Don't think you are any

different from the rest of the girls he used. This little trip to Nigeria is to just seal the deal. He took my sister to Tanzania."

I grabbed my bag. "He was right about you."

"Right about me?" He laughed shaking his head. "Ok fine. Do what you want. Don't say I didn't tell you and when you need me, you know where to find me."

I ignored him then started walking to the gate. I didn't mind my heavy bag. I took a bit long to find a taxi to his house and when I did, I gladly jumped in. I try calling him as the taxi started moving but his phone led me to voicemail.

The moment I got inside the hotel, I noticed the receptionist. It was the lady who does not like me.

"I'm here to see Max," I said.

"Hello to you too," she said taking her phone. She put it down seconds later.

"His phone is off."

"He's in there?"

She rolls her eyes. "Sweetie how about you just go back home? His phone is off. Come back later."

I took in a deep breath trying to control the anger that had overwhelmed me.

"Excuse me! Where are you going?" She shouted but I keep on walking. I summoned the lift and surprisingly the doors opened immediately. As she started running after me I got inside the elevator and the doors closed.

I press top floor and it started moving. After a while I walked to his door. When I tried opening it, the door swung open and I met a mess at the door. Everything is on the floor. There are glasses smashed all over, everything is just upside down.

I quickly walked further into his house then got in the sitting room. He was lying on the floor holding a bottle of alcohol. The TV has been smashed. The couches are not in their everyday order. I took in a deep breath as I place my bag on the floor then walked towards him and knelt before him.

"Max? Max?" I said as I shook him vigorously. He groaned opening his eyes slowly then laughed.

"Renei..." He said then his eyes close again. I stood up realizing that all the mess; it's his mess. No one robbed him. He was drunk while wearing his suit. He probably didn't go to work. I walked over to the couch then started pulling it back to position. I did the same with the other couches then started with the glasses. I picked them up

carefully putting them in his trash bin

"Max! Max wake up!" I said shaking him. His eyes remain closed.

"Wake up!" I said a little louder and his eyes opened. They were so red and he stinked.

"Wake up."

"You are here..." He said blinking a couple of times, he was bruised too. Did he get into a fight?

"Yes, stand up." He slowly stood up but kept staggering around as I led him to the bedroom.

"Maybe you should take a shower."

"Don't leave me.." He begs, this tone slurred.

"Go and take a shower."

"You won't leave?"

"I won't." I assured him.

"Promise?"

"I promise" He nodded like a child then stagger to the bathroom. After a while I heard the shower running. I sighed then walked back to the sitting room. I immediately spot his phone on the couch. I could order pizza, he has the number saved in his phone. I took it from the couch then swiped the screen. There's no password. As I looked for the pizza number a message reflected. A WhatsApp message. I wanted to put his phone down but I found myself clicking on the notification. I'm immediately led to his WhatsApp and there were a lot of messages. The first name is Senzelwe. I clicked her name and their chat is reviewed. She just sent a message right now.

*Wanna hook up tonight? In town and I miss you.*

I stare at the message for a while then scroll up. I stop when I see a message from him that was sent to her, it caught my attention.

*Can't believe you made me pay 15k for pussy.*

I checked the date, I remember this day. It was the Sunday of the weekend I was supposed to spend the weekend at his house but due to the Simphiwe issue, I left on Saturday.

I read her reply.

*It was worth it, made you scream like a bitch.*

I take in a deep breath then continue reading more of their conversations. It's all about sex and how good she felt and how she missed him. After I had read enough I click the back arrow then went down to the second name, Simphiwe. It seemed like she had been sending messages and he has not been replying.

*Max this pregnancy is not going away. You can't deny it because you know it's yours.*

I held my breath as I read.

*Max reply or at least be a man enough to answer my calls. I love you. I love you so much and we are going to be great parents to our baby.*

*Max please.. I'm begging you. I can't do this alone. I'm coming to your office.*

I click back then the next name was Nolwazi. His PA. I'm shocked when I read his message from last night.

*Fuck off! I know you don't want my girl to come cause you want my dick all to yourself. I'm going to fuck you so hard tomorrow on that table again.*

Her reply threw me off.

*I wouldn't mind to be fucked again, first time wasn't enough. But then again, isn't fucking your employees wrong?*

I quickly click back and the next name is Sandile. I'm quick to click his name. It's a message he sent a few hours ago.

*Yoh! Just hooked up with Enhle, the bitch you made cry because of dick. I'm calling Busi so she comes with Vanessa. Imma fuck that fat ass again. After you are done being dumped, land my house and we have some fun. Enhle says she wants you again. Got the best snow too.*

"What are you doing?" Max asked snatching his phone from me. Tears, my body was quivering. I looked at him wondering if this is the man I fell for. The man whom I loved.

He looked at his phone then back at me.

"I was going to tell you." I felt so weak.

"Babe..." He said trying to touch me but I instinctively stepped back.

"You... You... I..."

"It never meant anything to me with the other girls. The sex.. It was just sex." He said.

"I know it's hard to believe right now but..."

"I loved you. I loved you Max..." I sobbed.

"I gave you my all. I knew you didn't love me but I just... You used me."

"Don't say that,"

"You used me. You took away my virginity. Do you know how much that was precious to me? I let you have your way not because I wanted to but because I thought you loved me. How could you?"

"Renei I..."

"And you made me a fool. In front of the whole world. My family's name has been tainted all because of you."

"Babe tell me what I need to do to fix this. I will do anything."

"You lied about Simphiwe... I believed you. All along you were sleeping with Vanessa."

"I didn't know she was your roommate."

"I guess that's why you wanted me to find a house? Huh? So that you can keep stupid naive Renei in the dark."

"I'm willing to do anything to fix this. Please give me a chance to."

"And your PA and the other girls... The ones I don't know. I guess I'm just one of them."

"No, you are not. You are not one of them. You are special to me."

"Because I'm the virgin?"

"No... That... Reneilwe I messed up. I admit. I messed up but I'm ready to fix this. I want to be the man for you."

"You hurt me! You will never be the man for me! Max I loved you. Max... I gave you everything. I gave you my heart. You made me believe that you were the one but you were not. I let you be my light thinking that you would be the one. You.. You have broken me beyond repair Max." I sobbed, I was so weak that I fell to the ground. "You have broken me Max.. Why? Why? Max why?"

"I can change. Please... Just give me a chance."

"No. You can't. You can never be the man I want same way I'm not the woman you need." I said blinking trying to swat away my tears.

"You are leaving me?"

"I can't leave if I was never with you."

"Don't say that... Give me another chance."

"You can't leave me!" He screams as I reach for the door handle.

"I can't stay." I said with my back turned against him. "I can't."

"Reneilwe you can't leave me."

"Babe please.."

"I'm sorry.." I said then open the door headed straight to the elevator.

"Please don't leave me... I love you."

Everything has stopped moving, I'm frozen to the ground. I'm not comprehending.

"I love you. Please don't leave me."

"It's too late."

"It's not, I can fix this. Please,"

"Let me go."

He looked at me for a while before he moves letting the doors close. I close my eyes tightly trying to deal with the pain as the elevator whisked me down to the ground floor. As soon as the door opened I walked out. I didn't even look at the receptionist because I knew she was probably throwing daggers at me. He probably slept with her too.

Walking out I started walking to where I could find taxis back to school. As I walked his car suddenly stopped in front of me. I stop and just looked at him. I'm tired. I was drained both emotionally and physically.

"I love you Reneilwe. I know right now it's a little hard to believe and I don't blame you. I really don't, I have messed up. I have hurt you and I admit. I have been nothing but an asshole to you and to us but I love you. I have always loved you but I was just too much in denial. I didn't want to believe that I actually could love someone... someone not Leano. She's the only one I thought I could ever love and loving you felt wrong.

"So I fucked those girls because I just wanted to erase you from my head. I don't

want to lose you, I love you. I love you so much."

I looked at him and my heart broke into pieces even more. I wiped my tears with the back of my hand because I have made up my mind. We are incompatible. Maybe I'm just too perfect for him and he wants someone like Leano.

"I can't stay. I'm sorry." I said and his eyes fall to the ground.

"You have a child to plan for." I added.

"That was a mistake and... and I regret it."

"I have to go, I have already missed a lesson. Have a safe trip to Nigeria." I said walking away.

"Let me drop you off then."

I just shook my head and kept on walking. I took a deep breath to stop myself from crying but the more I walk the more it dawn in me that it's over. There's no going back. Getting back to my room I place my bag on the bed then took all the clothes he bought me and start packing them. I didn't need his clothes, I was fine with mine. Vanessa entered the room as I packed.

"Hey, what are you doing?" Looking at her I felt disgusted. Maybe he liked girls like Vanessa. Light skinned girls. I didn't say anything to her but just kept on packing.

"Are you ok?" She asked.

She looked confused. "Max... It's him isn't it?"

"You slept with him."

"Yes because he wanted me. Plus I didn't know he was your supposedly boyfriend. You should have stayed far from guys like him and stayed with Prince, a guy like you. Max doesn't do those kind of things. He doesn't do girlfriend things. That was just his way of getting to sleep with you and you fell for it. You could have kept your legs closed Ms Perfect, now look! All hurt and shit."

"Wow!"

"Oh please... Don't act surprised. Max is not for you and you know it. Stop trying to make yourself the victim. You knew what you were getting into. You are just like the rest of us now."

"You are right." I said dementedly. "He's not for me but I'm not like the rest of you as you say. I do have self-respect. I might have slept with him but that was because I loved him. You don't respect yourself that's why you sleep with his friends. You need help."



She laughed so hard. "Oh you loved him? Now look at what love did. You are pathetic thinking you are better than me because..."

"I am for I am not loose."

She didn't respond but just walked out. I finished up packing everything he had ever bought for me. I even took out my old phone then put my SIM card back into it and packed the phone he bought me. After I was done I just laid on the bed thinking of every moment I ever shared with him.

My phone started ringing. I'm scared it might be him but then maybe it's my parents. I took in a deep breath then answer the phone.

"Hello?"

"Shit! Thank God. It's Sandile. Max's friend."

"Hi."

"Hey... It's Max."

"I don't want to talk about..."

"No listen. It's Max. He's been involved in a car accident. He..." He went silent and my heart started beating against my chest. I panicked.

"Is he ok?" I asked. There was some silence.

"No. He's... They have called his parents to identify his body." He said then sniffed. I was shaking in my inner being.

"He's dead?".

"Please come to the hospital, his mom... She's.. Please come."

