

A photograph of a person sitting in a hot tub, wearing a white bathrobe. They are holding a wine glass filled with a light-colored beverage. The water in the hot tub is bubbling and foaming. The text 'SOLANCE' is overlaid at the top in a stylized, teal, hand-drawn font.

SOLANCE

I Found Peace In SOLANCE

Author
Keabetswe Mahlaba

SOLANCE

INSERT 01

DINTLE



Mom : cheer up , this is the
biggest day of your life

She fixes the veil on my head

Mom : life doesn't get any
better than this

Doesn't it ?

This week alone

I've been asking myself , one
question

If indeed life doesn't get any
better than this

Is there nothing else much
more

Or much better than this

Is there nothing else besides
this ?

Getting married

Being called a wife

I haven't gotten the answer
to that

I don't believe this is the life
women were created for

But coming from the kind of
a family I come from

I cannot dispute this

I cannot go against the word
of my father

In his home , it's his word
and nothing else

No one is to speak above
him

Only his word goes

And this is his decision for
me

What he says I've been
groomed for

All my life , this is what I was
being prepared for

No one asked how I am
feeling

If I want this

If I am happy

No one cares enough to ask

My feelings do not matter

And I cannot defy my
parents

Mom : you are so beautiful

She says with a proud smile

She is happy

I know my father is

He couldn't be more proud
of himself

Mom : come on , let's go .
Your father is waiting for us

I swallow the lump of pain
that is stuck on my throat

I get up

And she takes my hand

Mom : this is your day , be
happy and ...smile

I let out a fake smile

I do what I'm told

That's been my life

I don't want to get married

I never saw myself as a wife

It has never been me

I'm career driven

I know what I want , and I
don't think this is it

But it's what my father thinks
is best for me

A whole environment
geologist

Getting married to a man I've
only known for a month

A man I don't even love

Maybe like yes

But not that deep to the
extent of love

It's painful to say the least

In this day and age

The twenty first century

Who still arranges marriages
for their kids

My father , that's who

.

.

.

.

They look at each other

My father pecks her cheek

Mom : we are ready

Dad : about time

He fixes his suit jacket

Dad : we cannot afford to be
late

Mom : it's okay , let's go

She takes my hand

And he walks in front of us

We follow behind him

.

.

.

.

He takes my hand from my
mother

As we walk inside the venue

My heart is beating so fast

I am scared more than
anything

My palms sweat

I take a deep breath

My mother looks at me with
a smile

She pats my shoulder

Mom : you have made us
proud

At least they're proud

More than being proud

Than their own daughters
happiness

.

.

.

.

ANATHI

ANATHI



I look at him

His eyes are darted
somewhere else

He's not even looking at the
woman he's going to be

marrying in a few minutes
from now

I dart my eyes to where his
are

And I clench my jaws

I tap his shoulder

Away from the stares and
eyes

He turns back and looks at
me

Me : you just can't get a hold
on yourself ?

He scoffs

I shake my head just
annoyed

Now I even regret agreeing
to be his best man

I should have just not been a
part of this

Her father finally hands her
over

•

•

•

•

PAUL

PAUL



Bloody Anathi and his morals

I shake my head and look at
her

She looks beautiful

I can't deny that

But , just not a cup of tea for
me

And that's just that

Unfortunately , this is what I
have been dealt

There's nothing else I can do

I can only keep on living my
life

By marrying her

So , a man has got to do
what a man has got to do

I take her hand

She lifts her head and looks
at me

I take a deep breath

This is it

All to make my father happy

And to keep my position in
the company

The things we do for wealth

If it wasn't for all that

I wouldn't be doing this

Putting up on this façade

And changing life this
drastically

I just hope it's worth it

And in the end , I just get
what I want

Which is the company

.

.

-

-

SOLANCE

INSERT 02

DINTLE

I have been to a few
weddings

And I've never been to one
that's as cold as this one

Yet it's my very own

Everyone seems to be having
a great time

Except the so called bride
and groom

It's like his mind is
somewhere else

And as for me , I just want
this day to be over and done
with

I look at our parents

They look so happy

And they seem proud

I'm sure they are

If only I felt any ounce of
happiness

I look at him

And he's busy on his phone

He seems to be texting

Under the table

And hiding it very well

And well , whoever he's
texting with

Sure is making him happy

He has one smile I've never
seen

I pick up the glass of wine
and down it

I get up

He doesn't even notice me
walking away

I turn , and walk over to
room I was using

I take my heels off

And lay down on the bed

.

.

.

.

Minutes later

I walk on in flats

Walking back to the garden

I bump into Anathi

Anathi : Mrs P

I frown

Me : hi

Anithi : that's ...

He chuckles shaking his head

Anathi : not a very good
expression , especially for a
bride

I shrug

I hear laughter

And turn my head

Its my sister with Paul

Conversing and laughing

They are talking like old
friends

I didn't even know they knew
each other

This is extent

Anathi : excuse me

I look at him

His facial expression has
changed

And he just walks out

He's headed to the parking
lot

I look at Paul and my sister

They're really hitting it off

I turn and rush after Anathi

I catch with him

Just as he starts his car

Me : wait ...

He winds his window down

Me : you're leaving ?

Anathi : yes

Me : but ...the day is not
over yet

Anathi : the wedding is done

Me : but it's the reception ,
people are still enjoying v

Anathi : not me , and nor you
either . Infact , I shouldn't
have come here

I frown at that

Me : what do you mean ?
Your best friend getting
married is not worth of your
presence ?

Anathi : I came and I saw

Something is off here

And whatever is it

It has rubbed him off

I nod slowly moving back

Anathi : I hope sooner than
later , you see right through
all this

Me : what do you mean ?

Voice : and I have been
looking for you everywhere

I turn and look at him
coming over

Anathi : I don't know if you
can try and enjoy this , but if
you can just enjoy

He winds his window up and
drives out of the venue

I look at Paul

Paul : and that ?

Me : he's your best friend
who just walked out of your
own wedding reception

He looks down and gathers himself

Paul : what did he say to you ?

Me : nothing

Paul : you were talking about nothing ?

Me : I was asking him why he was leaving so soon

Paul : why ? I've been looking for you

Me : when ? Because you were all too chatty with Neo

He clears his throat

And the way his eyes are
moving

There's something here

Paul : because you
disappeared

Me : I am surprised you
noticed , because you were
too busy on your phone

texting back and forth . You
didn't even see me get up

Paul : are we really going to
fight ?

Me : who's fighting ?

He rubs his lips

Paul : let's just go , and
entertain our guests

I say nothing more

As we walk back inside

.

.

.

.

PAUL

Damn Anathi

Now I can't help but wonder
what he said to Dintle

One thing about Dintle

She's one strong woman

Who holds her own opinion

She might obey her father

But it doesn't mean she's a
rollover

And right now

I can tell something has
changed

I am trying to engage with
her

Just to ease her

But she's not having it

I even have my phone put
away

So I don't end up using it

I have to be careful

Or this might just turn out
very ugly

.

.

.

.

SOLANCE

INSERT 03

ANATHI

He walks in

I am already not in the mood

Paul : sure

I nod

Paul : are we fighting ?

Me : with who ?

Paul : you

Me : why ?

Paul : because you left the
wedding

Me : yeah , so ?

Paul : what did you say to my wife

I chuckle

Paul : something amusing ?

Me : you're the joke right now , and if you think Dee doesn't see ...

Paul : Dee ? You're calling my wife nicknames now

I shake my head

Me : what are you doing here ?

Paul : don't ruin things for me , if you didn't want to

come to the wedding then
you shouldn't have

Me : yeah , at least we agree
on something . And this will
end very badly for you

Paul : don't ...don't do that

Me : leave me out of your
shit , I didn't say anything .
But she's not stupid

Paul : who needs enemies
with friends like you

He turns and walks out

I lock the door

And head upstairs to pack

Maybe it's a good thing I am
leaving South Africa

Then I won't have to deal
with such friends

Some people don't know
when they have a good thing

Especially something given
to them on a silver platter

I just hope he continues
being a fool

So he can lose her right in
front of his eyes

And watch another
appreciate what he didn't

•

•

•

•

DINTLE

The bedroom door opens

And Neo walks in

Neo : hey sis

Me : why don't you knock ?

Neo : sorry

I heave a sigh

This is why I didn't want to
come here

I should have just stayed at
my house

And left from there

I don't even know what's this
trip for

It's so unnecessary

And a waste of money

Something that just feels
forced

Especially because it's not
even his money paying for it

Neo : so ... honeymoon

She says so excited

One would swear it's hers

Neo : so do you know where
you're going ?

I shake my head

Neo : I am sure you're
excited

Me : in case you're not aware
, I'm well travelled

Neo : yeah but I mean ..he
knows that , so maybe he's
taking you some place
you've never been

Me : yeah maybe

Neo : mhm , some of us can
only dream of such

Me : such as ?

Neo : getting married to such
a man

Me : and what kind of a man
is that ?

She laughs awkwardly

Neo : he's your husband I
know , but he's most
women's dream

Me : mhm , you would know
that

And that wipes the smile off
of her face

Neo : why ...why do you say that ? I mean , I don't even know him that well

Me : yet you looked like best buddies at the wedding reception

The cough !

I shake my head with a slight smile

Neo : before you accuse me of something , I don't want your husband . I am not desperate for marriage , and I am not like you . I can never marry a man I don't love

She turns and walks out

I chuckle

And zip up my bag

I am not even taking a huge
bag

Or more luggage

This honeymoon is nothing
but a waste of time and
money

.

.

.

.

PAUL

Dad : use this time , and
discuss important matters

Me : dad it's our honeymoon
, and we're still getting to
know each other . What
could be more important
than that ?

Dad : don't forget why you
married her , this is business .
But it benefits you , and you
still have your whole life to
know each other

I heave a sigh

Dad : talk about moving in together , you're married now . And what of your assets ?

Me : okay

Dad : I would suggest
signing in community of
property

Me : and why is that ?

Dad : that girl has money ,
she's educated . And she has
assets , she's not just a wife
that's a going to be a
responsibility . That's why I

am content with giving you
the company

Well , that's great news to
me

Me : when will that happen ?

Dad : I will get in touch with
my lawyer , and when you
get back from your

honeymoon the company
will be in your name

I nod with a smile

Me : I won't let you down

Dad : don't let that girl leave
you , and I'll know never let
me down

Me : I won't

I just have to be smart

And play my cards well

Everything will fall into place

My father can be a lot

And gets to me too much

But there are times like these

And I feel like he only wants
the best for me

Truth is , Dintle is an asset

And she also is influential

With her by my side

I can achieve a lot

I just have to play smart and
be safe

By the time she walks away

I would have gotten far

Because I know she will

A woman like her , knows her worth

And this marriage benefits her nothing

She's just obeying her father

.

.

.

.

SOLANCE

A WEEK LATER

INSERT 04

DINTLE

I am happy to be back

Just me in my house

Although I wish it was just
me

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

Because I was okay with a
driver from the airport

But he insisted on coming to
my house

I don't even know for what

There's nothing here

We spent the whole week in
Zanzibar

And I was just bored

I've been to Zanzibar twice
now

Making it this time the third

There really was nothing for
me to do or see

Except a little bit of shopping

And well , he had tons and
loads to do

On his own of course

His phone still being his best
friend

And I didn't even care

A place I don't know

And haven't been to

That would have intrigued
me

But this one , I still say a
waste of time

We might as well have gone
to Durban , or Cape Town

Even PE

Even though I've been there
countless times

But still ...

It wasn't his money

Maybe he didn't even have a choice to pick a place to save himself

Me : you can leave

Paul : you don't even want to pretend

Me : why bother ?

Paul : you're too cold for a woman

I chuckle

Paul : we're back now , we have to atleast try and make this work . People will be looking at us now , and our family . We can't fool them

Me : we can do all that in public spaces , this is my house . There's no need for pretence

Paul : we need to move in together

Me : no

Paul : we're married now

Me : you're not moving into
my house

Paul : that would just be an
embarrassment

Me : and so is moving into
your parents house with a
wife

He sighs

Paul : married people stay together

Me : at their in-laws ? Please don't shame me , I am way too high standards for that

Paul : you can just be humble for a second , it won't hurt

Me : take it however

Paul : fact of the matter , I am serious . And another thing , we must sign in community if property . The lawyer called this morning , and our documents are ready

Me : forget it , I am not
signing anything that gives
you a share of entitlement to
my assets

I take out my sneakers

Me : close the door on your
way out

Paul : I am still talking to you
Dintle

Me : and I am done talking ,
unless you're a fraud . Why
would you want to share my
assets ?

Paul : because that's what
married people do

Me : do you understand what
you're saying ?

Paul : yes

This one must be thinking I
am stupid

I am worth triple what he's
worth

That's if he's even worth
anything

Because everything about
him is his father

I am not doing this nonsense
with him

It's bad I married his ass

Everything else , it's just not happening

Not now , not ever

Me : buy a house , put it in your name and we'll move in together . But as for everything else , forget it it's not happening . What's yours is yours , and you keep It .

The same way I keep mine ,
including this house . We
come as we are in this
marriage , and we'll walk out
as we are

I turn my back on him and
walk upstairs to my room

I lock the door

Because I don't want any
nasty surprises

To this day , he hasn't seen
me naked

And he probably never will

-
-
-
-

PAUL

Not even a year married

Already I'm frustrated as it is

Buy a house , and I'll move in

Like what's that ?

And she clearly thinks she
has more assets

That's the only reason why
she doesn't want to share

I know she's rich

I just don't know how big

And she clearly thinks I don't
amount to what she has

And maybe I don't

But this seems like it'll just be
pressure for me

A woman who thinks so
highly of herself

Just because she's worth
more

Clearly they're nothing
humble about her

This one , she's not even the
type to submit

She can never be submissive

I ended up leaving her house

As she was not coming out

I couldn't even go home

Knowing my father

He's just going to bombard
me

And sadly , I have nothing
that will please him

I have nothing to say

Because I didn't quite listen
to him

He said to speak about all
this at the honeymoon

But no , I didn't do that

We're back now

And I've only just mention it
to her

Clearly she's refusing

I know my father won't be
happy

For whatever reason he
thinks this will be good for us

I don't know how they'll feel
of us moving out

Because I've been staying at
home ever since

And I isn't think getting
married

I'll be changing all of that

The rest I can afford not to
be honest about

But not us not staying
together

That one I just have to make
it happen

To shut down talks

•

•

•

•

SOLANCE

INSERT 05

DINTLE

Today we were signing

And we signed not in
community of property

If his father was the one who
suggested the whole thing

I know Paul will lie to him

And say we did

We're house hunting as he
said

But he's clearly making us
look at apartments

And more like bachelor style

I don't know how we're
supposed to live in such
cramped spaces

At our age

Especially in this
arrangement

Because there's no sharing a
bed

Paul : I think this one is good
, even the rent

And now I've heard it all

We're renting

Me : you can't afford a
decent house ?

Paul : I am not going to take
any of your insults

Me : it was a question

Paul : well , this is where we'll
be staying . Make peace with
it

He walks out

I look around this apartment

And I feel like I'm back in
varsity

I grab my bag and walk out

Reaching the parking lot

I see him leaning against his
car

He's having a smoke

If such talks can raise his
sugar levels

He should have played far
from big leagues

Me : I am leaving

Paul : I thought ...where are
you going ?

Me : to work , if we dare
stand a chance of having a
proper house

I turn and walk towards my
car

I open the door and get in

I see him walking over

I wait , he comes to the
window

Paul : whatever you do ,
don't embarrass me to the
world . Its bad enough , you
make me feel like I am
beneath you . Just don't
embarrass me out there

I take a deep breath

Me : I can't feel sorry for you
, because I feel I was sold a
dream . And I live my truth ,
the fact that I can and I am
able makes me sound
somehow . That's not even
his it's addressed

He just stares at me for a few
seconds

Paul : drive safe

Me : bye

I say already reversing out

I'll rather go to work

Than jump up and down
over apartments

I'm so over and past that
stage in my life

At 18 , I was living in an
apartment

All by myself

I moved to a townhouse at
22

I mean , by 26 I was loving in
a penthouse

Now , at 30 I have my own
mansion

And I must move from that

To an apartment

And he's brave to talk to me
about embarrassment

Imagine the shame , he's just
seeking to bring me

Moving from a mansion in
Rosebank , to an apartment
in Midrand

I don't even mind Midrand

I would buy a house there

One that's fitting of course

The problem is moving into
an apartment

As a newly wed

.

.

•

•

PAUL

What am I even going to tell
my dad ?

I know he will question me

He's going to want answers

And quite frankly

Nothing Dintle said my
father will be pleased with

And I know it's not what he
will want to hear

Right now , financially for me

Buying a house is not an
option

She will just have to live at
the apartment

That's better than staying
with my parents

And when it comes to them

A woman isn't supposed to
tell me what to do

I am the man

What I say goes

Sadly , I'm dealt a woman
who can stand her own

.

.

•

•

DINTLE

This feels like a nightmare of
some sort

A grown ass man going to
live in a apartment

With a wife

Like , it doesn't even make sense why he doesn't have a home

I just wonder how long he plans to stay in his parents house

Or maybe it's his inheritance

Now he sees no point in
moving out

I am only going to that
apartment

To avoid drama with my dad

I know he will drag me

And I can say a lot

But never to him

Unless I've reached a
breaking point

I hate this with every fibre in
my body

There's different stages of
life

By age apart , for a reason

At 30 , I'm moving to an
apartment

Leaving a whole mansion

I don't know when this
makes sense

.

-

-

-

SOLANCE

INSERT 06

PAUL

I took two days staying away
from the company

But I can't avoid work forever

Dad : looking fresh

I was actually avoiding him

But I can't avoid him forever

Me : yeah

Dad : and the honeymoon
was great ?

Me : it was good

He starts at me

And not very impressed

Must be my choice of words

Which are not his

Dad : good ?

Me : great , it was great

Dad : now that's out of the way , and I'm sure you and your wife have gotten time with each other

If only he knows

She was busy doing her own
thing

I was doing my own

We didn't even share a room

We got there

And she booked her own
room

Me : yes

Dad : good ...

He reaches in the drawer of
his desk

And he hands me a brown
envelope

Me : is this what I think it is ?

Dad : yes , and you still have
to prove yourself

Me : I won't disappoint you

Dad : good , because I will be
watching you

What's the use of being
given a company to handle

If it means I will be
monitored like a child

But it's a step in

Me : okay , thank you

I take the envelope and get up

Dad : we'll hold a meeting later , I'll do the hand over

Me : alright , I'll bring myself up to speed with the work load v

Dad : that's what I like to hear

I chuckle walking out

.

.

.

.

I drive in the hotel

I just have an hour to spare

I have to be back at work

I can't miss the meeting my
father has called

I park my car and walk inside

Grabbing the key from
reception

I walk over to the room

And I see it's not locked

I open and walk in , locking
the door

Me : babe

I call out

And it's quite

I take out my suit jacket

Me : babe ...are you in here ?

I sit down on the bed ,
folding my shirt sleeves

The bathroom door opens

And she walks out

I smile looking at her

Me : hey

She walks over , in nothing
but just my shirt

We keep this room , we have
it booked

Because we can't risk being
seen together

And my father would flip if
he dares finds out about this

If he was an easy man

I would have talked to him ,
and chose this way

But my father gets what he
wants

And this is not it

I knew it wasn't going to
work with him

I didn't even bother to say
anything

When he spoke about this
marriage to Dintle

She sits down on my lap ,
straddling me

I place my hands on her
waist

She leans down and we kiss

She slowly unbuttons my
shirt

Her hands trail to my pants,
she unbuckles my pants

Slowly stroking my dick , it
jerks in her hand

She pulls my pants down

And lifts her butt up slightly

Slowly she rubs my dick on
her already wet pussy

And she goes down my
length

Taking all of me , and she
starts riding me

I hold tight to her waist

And start pounding in
underneath her

She pulls back out of the kiss

And she throws her head
back

Her moans gracing the room

Her thighs shake

I increase my pace , filling
her up

And she screams in pleasure
as she cums

.

.

.

.

She falls down next to me

I hold my arm out

Bringing her over to my
chest

Me : I love you

I place a kiss on her forehead

She heaves a sigh

Me : what's wrong ?

I know this whole situation is
not easy on her , and it's
understandable

Me : talk to me

Neo : we have a problem

Me : what ?

Neo : I am pregnant

Fuck !

This is the last thing we need

The past two years we've
been together

I've just been wanting to be
a father

And she wasn't falling
pregnant

Now , I'm married not her
sister

And this happens

Damn !

I can't even be happy

Me : pregnant ?

Neo : I am sorry , I found out
today

Shit !

Now what am I going to do ?

My father can't find out
about this

And her family

This is not good

What will they say ?

How will they treat her now ?

Neo : I'm five months pregnant , I thought I was getting my periods . Turns out I was just spotting , I wasn't feeling well the past two weeks . I took the test

yesterday morning and just now , and it's positive . I am sorry , because I don't know what we're going to do

I don't even know what to say

Neo : I am scared , you're married to my sister . My father will not be happy , and

what about your father ...the
company ?

Me : I'm supposed to sign
the contract , my father
called a meeting today .
Leaving here I am headed
there

Neo : my dad ...they're
already regarding me as

nothing . Now they'll think
I'm destroying Dintle's
marriage

She tears up

And it breaks my heart

Me : don't cry , we'll figure
this out . You're already five
months , I haven't known

your sister this long . It's
clear , we didn't betray her

This is a mess

.

.

.

.

SOLANCE

INSERT 07

PAUL

I just want to get this over
and done with

So I can gather myself

And think of what we're
going to do

Right now , I am stressed as
fuck

This is not what I expected to
happen

Especially at this time

Now we stand to lose
everything

Without this company , I
have nothing

I don't know how we're
going to do this one

I left Neo at the hotel

Because she's scared to go
home

I wish I could go back to her

But I must be home

Otherwise , how will I explain
not sleeping at home to
Dintle

She might not care about me

Or what I do

But I know she will question
that

It's not like I've been honest
with her

I didn't even hint that I have
a girlfriend

My father told me to marry
her

And what I stand to gain

And I was all in

I explained the situation to
Neo

She was hurt obviously

Settling to be the other
woman

Even though she was here
first

The sad thing about this , is
that it's her sister

But we love each other

And we couldn't just break
up because of this

Hence we're still together

Even though it's in secret

What made it a bit easier , is
that Dintle doesn't even like
me

Neo knows nothing will ever
happen between Dintle and I
in this marriage

Meaning , only she'll still

Now there's a baby in the
mix

How do we continue to do
this in secret ?

-
-
-

.

The meeting went well

My father signed the
company to me

Now I am in charge

At least that's out of the way

I can focus on this

I take a deep breath

I'm still in the office

Now I wish things were good
between us

But right now , I know how
he feels

I always have

Just that he's always been a
good friend

I grab my phone and call him

It rings for a while , and he
finally answers

But gives me silence

Me : Raymond

Anathi : yeah

That's cold

Me : are you good ?

Anathi : what's this ?

Okay ...

I guess he doesn't want any
small talks

Me : I am in deep shit , I
need a friend

Anathi : are you fucking with
me ?

Me : come on man , you've always known this

Anathi : and I told you to be honest , you just couldn't do that simple thing

Me : it's not that simple

Anathi : then even your shit , you can deal with it ..

however you see fit . I hate what you're doing , I don't agree with it . But it's your life

Me : Neo is pregnant man ..

Anathi : yeah , you got her pregnant . What did you think was going to happen , when you're busy fucking her

without a condom ? Or do
you do cum water ?

Me : fuck off , you can go to
hell man

Anathi : I vacation there ,
you're just a piece of shit

He drops the call

Now I do feel like a piece of
shit

.

.

.

.

DINTLE

I have my laptop on

Having a glass of red merlot

Busy working on a project

He walks in

And looks like he's aged a
few years

It's like he's carrying the
whole world's problems on
his shoulder

Paul : hi

Me : hi

I take a sip from my glass

And he's just standing here

I so hope he doesn't expect
me to ask him what's
bothering him

He's in for a bad surprise

Because I don't care to know
what's eating him up

Paul : I'll be going out for a
drink

I nod

He sighs and walks to his
bedroom

It's a two bedroom
apartment

We don't share a room

Even though his clothes are
in my bedroom

Just in case we get a nasty surprise of patents coming here

When you're pretending

You just have to keep up a good appearance , on pretence

.

.

•

•

PAUL

I walk in the room

And she's in bed

Neo : why are you here ?
You'll get us caught , you
should be home

I sit down on the bed

Me : I said I'm going out for
a drink , I can't be gone for
long though

She sits up straight

Neo : you didn't need to
come here

Me : she doesn't care okay ,
and I am going back

Neo : still using different
rooms ?

Me : and that's not going to
change , I told you that so
you know what's happening .
And you don't worry about
anything ever happening

between us , we're like two
strangers living together .
Not even roommates

She nods slowly

Me : we can do this , we'll
just have to be careful . I
don't know what you'll tell
your parents , maybe you
can say it's some guy who's

denying paternity . I'll step up , and I'll always be here to take care of my child . The both of you , just as long as no one suspects me or us being together

Neo : how will we do that ?

Neo : the same way we have been doing all this time , we

just have to make sure we
don't get caught

Neo : what if the baby comes
out looking like you ?

Me : we'll cross that bridge
when we get there , but
babies are just babies . And
they look like babies

I am playing with fire

And I hope in the end it
doesn't bite me

.

.

.

.

SOLANCE

THREE MONTHS LATER

INSERT 08

DINTLE

I grab my coat

And put it on

Closing the car door , I lock
the car

And grab my bag and laptop
bag off the car rooftop

I walk over inside the
building

And pass by reception

I wonder why this man called
me here

Because I am acting pretty
well as a wife

Even he can't dispute that

If I can fool my father

I sure can fool this man

Lola : Mrs P

I smile at her

Me : good morning Lola

Lola : the big man is waiting
for you in the boardroom

Me : well thank you

Lola : you're so lucky , I am
sure you enjoyed your
flowers

I smile

Yet I'm so confused

I have no idea what flowers
she's talking about

Lola is a very nosey
receptionist

I don't knkw why they don't
fire her

Out of everyone in this office

I am certain , she was first to
know I am married to Paul

Me : what flowers ?

Lola : the one's Mr P asked me to order yesterday , I'm sorry if I ruined his surprise . It was quite a huge bouquet of roses , I am sure you'll receive them by today

I laugh slightly

Me : oh don't worry , I'll act surprised as ever

Lola : thank you , you can go right up

Thank goodness

I walk past her desk and head over to the elevator

.

.

.

.

Mr Zwane : it's always a
pleasure to see you

Me : likewise

Mr Zwane : I know we're
family now , but I asked you
here and your husband

doesn't even know . And
that's because I don't want
him to know

Me : is something wrong ?

Mr Zwane : I love my son ,
and I want only the best for
him . And you're proof of
that . But it's no secret , he's
very slow at times . And he's

not a shark , at least not the
one I expect . Business wise I
mean

Now I am intrigued to know
where this is going

Because I thought maybe he
wants to talk about our
marriage

Or something else that's
personal

Hence he asked me here

And asked that I do not tell
Paul

Of which I didn't tell him

I owe him nothing

Even his own father doesn't
want him knowing

Mr Zwane : I need to trust
you

Me : with what ?

Mr Zwane : Paul has control
of the company , but it's not

his as of yet . But he doesn't
know that

Now this is a shock

Me : oh ?

Mr Zwane : and I need that
to remain like this

Me : okay

Mr Zwane : I didn't tell him ,
because I wanted him to give
this company 110 . Knowing
he's doing it for himself his
own legacy in his own hands
, but he's failing . Not just
failing , but dismally

I am sure he would disagree
with this

Mr Zwane : I don't trust my son with this company , he's already doing a very bad job as it is

Me : now what do you want me to do ?

Mr Zwane : buy in as in investor so you can keep an

eye on him , also lending a hand because he is struggling . And it won't help to turn a blind eye to it

I may know nothing about running a logistics company

But it's money

And that's all I'm about

Me : shares

Mr Zwane : what ?

Me : I don't want to invest ,
let me buy a share

He chuckles

And I am not joking

Mr Zwane : but that is not what I offered

Me : a share is what I want , I'm not saying I want it . I'll still buy in , but I'll be buying a share . Truth is , you see the company is in danger. That's why you're asking me to invest , because you need the capital

He sighs

Me : offer me shares , and I
will do as you have asked

Mr Zwane : but I am not
selling

Me : yet you're willing to let
your son run this company

The look he's giving me

It's like he doesn't believe

Mr Zwane : can't we come to
some sort of an agreement ?

Me : no , this is it

There's silence

He finally laughs

Mr Zwane : you drive a hard bargain

Me : I have the capital you need , that's what matters most here

He nods

Mr Zwane : I will give you
20%

I know he owns 79%

I am not taking anything ,
that's puts me below his son

Because in the end of it all ,
Paul will get those shares

This company is clearly his inheritance

Me : 50%

Mr Zwane : no , that cannot happen . You'll be the majority shareholder , and I am not selling my company .
No , 20% that's my offer

I get up

Me : respectfully , 50% or nothing . You can't expect me to buy into a company , that is being led by someone who is clearly going to sink it and I'll lose

He looks at me

Me : I would like to be
excused now , and get back
to my work

Mr Zwane : he's your
husband , I think you're
being unreasonable

Me : no , I am not . This is
business , and not personal

I push the chair back

While his eyes are still on me

Me : goodbye , have a great
day

I turn my back and walk out

I will not baby sit Paul

•

•

•

•

SOLANCE

INSERT 09

PAUL

Neo : I think I'm going to be staying here for a while

Me : why ? You can't stay in a hotel alone , you're pregnant

Neo : I'm 8 months , there's still another four weeks to go

Me : but we can't guarantee that

Neo : I don't need the stress I get at home

I heave a sigh

I know things haven't been
easy at home

Her parents are not happy at
all

Me : I still don't think it's safe staying here , especially alone

Neo : I'll be fine really , it's just a lot at home

She endured all these months

I think with just one left

She can make it

Neo : my father made it very clear , and you know he hasn't spoken to me since then . But my mom , she is so vile . Everyday I eat and sleep her words , I am tired baby

I sigh

Me : okay , you can stay here

Neo : thank you

Even though I don't like the
idea

I also don't want her to stress

Especially right now

That's not good for the baby

So if it means she must stay
here at the hotel

It's fine

I'll just have to make time to
see her more

Neo : I will go home and get
few of my things , that I will
need

Me : I can drive you

Neo : no , my dad is home .
I'll call a cab

Me : just as long as you'll be
communicating

Neo : I will baby

I nod slowly

I just hope she will be okay
here

.

.

.

.

DINTLE

I won't be surprised if Zwane
told my father what
happened

Hence I am here

If he thinks he can get my
father to speak for him

He's in for a nasty surprise

Because I will not listen to
anything

I respect my father enough
to take his word

But on what he wants

Not when he will be used to
get to me

I knock at the door

And Neo opens the door

I haven't seen her that much

She really does look very
pregnant

Me : hi

Neo : Uhmhey

I walk in , and hang my coat

Neo : why ...what brings you
here ?

Me : I'm here to see ...

My eyes dark to her
bedroom

The door is open

And the huge bouquet of
flowers , just caught my eyes

Me : those are nice

She laughs nervously

Neo : my boyfriend bought
them for me

Me : the baby's father ?

She sighs

Neo : please just don't tell
your parents , because I said

he denied the baby . But that's not the truth , he's just going through a lot right now . And this whole thing is complicated ..but he is taking care of us

Me : well , I see

I am seeing to understand complicated very well

•

•

•

•

PAUL

Neo : she's at home , I left
her there

Me : did you talk ?

Neo : yes

Me : and she didn't suspect anything ?

Neo : no , why would she even suspect me ?

I heave a sigh

Me : I am just asking babe

Neo : it's okay , it's not like she came home for me . She went to see dad

Me : about what ?

Neo : I don't know , I didn't stick around to find out . I am already at the hotel

Me : okay

I wonder if something is
going on

I doubt her father would call
her for nothing

There has to be something

And I can't even ask her
when she gets back

Because that's just our lives

We do what we want to do

Whenever we want to

We don't even explain
ourselves to the other

Nor do we tell each other
things

We live awkwardly

The past three months

Nothing has changed
between us

We're still keeping up the
pretence

And it's good

Because our parents still
haven't noticed

And it's working out well

Because Neo is not even
saying anything to anyone

This is just our life

But I am intrigued to know
why she went to see her
father

It doesn't make sense

.

•

•

•

DINTLE

Dad : you and Paul are
married , you're a team .
You're supposed to work
with each other , not against

each other . It's not a
competition

I knew that old man was up
to something , when I got my
father's call

Me : I will not invest money ,
to a company that's being
run by someone clueless

Dad : Dintle !

Me : it's the truth , even Mr Zwane knows it . That's why he approached me

Dad : but now you're wanting more

Me : yes , because I want to be able to have a say and

make changes . It's my
money they'll be getting , I
worked hard for it

I will not toy with money

.

.

.

.

SOLANCE

INSERT 10

DINTLE

I have a really good feeling
to question him

But I'll rather not

He disappears quite a lot

Even when he's at work

He takes his lunch breaks out
of the office

Now I know he makes orders
of thing I never get

Not that I want them

In the evening he's always on
his phone

Spends most of his time in
his bedroom speaking on his
phone

And I still haven't forgotten
how he was so friendly with
Neo at the wedding

It was even more than just
being friendly

Now how much of a
coincidence is it

That she has a bouquet of
bunch roses

That we're supposed to be
mine ?

I could be crazy or wrong

But a gut feeling is there for
a reason

Neo is pregnant

And she lied to our parents
about the baby's father

Denying paternity of the
child

Yet she tells me it's
complicated

How complicated can it be ?

Unless he's someone's
husband

Would I be insane to think
it's this one that's supposedly
mine ?

But nothing stays hidden
forever

Especially now that there's a
child

I knock in his room

He doesn't answer

But he opens the door

And he's on the phone

There's that shock in his eyes

I never bother him

And now , here I am
knocking in his room

Me : I am doing laundry ,
where is yours ?

He pops his eyes

Paul : you want to do my
laundry ?

Me : are you going to bring it
or not ?

Paul : yeah

He walks back in the room

I stand by the door

And he comes out his his
laundry basket

Thank goodness it's not a lot

Me : I made lunch , come eat
. I'll put these in the washing
machine , and we can eat

Paul : you cook ?

He asks in shock

Me : yes

I turn and walk to the kitchen

The space is small

The washing machine is in
the kitchen

I have my laundry done at
my house

By my helper who's still
minding my place

There's no way I would ever
leave my house unattended

But now , I want to play this
game of his

I don't even care

What he does and with who

It's the fact that he's going to
embarrass me in the end

He could have just been
honest

And we would go on with
our lives

-
-
-

.

PAUL

I sigh in relief that Neo didn't speak

Me : babe are you still here ?

Neo : yes , what was that all about ?

Me : I don't know

Neo : I thought you said you live like strangers , but she's washing and cooking for you ?

Me : this is a first , I swear .
For the past three months we've been living together , she's never cooked or did anything for me

Neo : do you think maybe she knows something ?

Me : no , she would rather be upset and confront me wouldn't she ?

Neo : I don't know , Dintle is hardcore . We've never really connected

Me : yeah but still , I don't think this is how she'll react if she knew about us

Neo : or maybe she's ready to give you guys a real chance , and be a wife .

Maybe that's why she came home , maybe my father knows of how you've been living

That can't be it

Dintle hasn't shown any
interest in me

Why would she start now
after all this time ?

Me : whatever it is , I'll find
out . I have to go now ,

before she questions why I'm
taking so long

Neo : bye

Me : babe wait ...

She sighs

I know now this has gone
into her head

And she's definitely
overthinking

Me : I love you , and nothing
is going to change

Neo : you promise ?

Me : I swear on our baby's
life , I love you so much

Neo : and I love you

Me : let me go , I'll call you
when I'm done

Neo : are you coming to see
me today ?

Me : yes , later on

Neo : okay

Me : bye

I drop the call and walk out ,
heading to the kitchen

And what do you know ?

The laundry is already in the
washing machine

And she's done dishing up

I sit down

And the food looks
appetizing

I don't remember when last I
had a home cooked meal

Me : this looks good

She smiles

And Dintle is beautiful

Now that I look at her
genuinely smiling

I see just how beautiful she
looks

I clear my throat

I can't do this shit !

Dintle : there's beer if you
want

I look around the table

And I still don't understand
what has changed

Or maybe it's just a thing for
today

Me : I'll get a beer

Dintle : no , don't worry I'll
get it for you

What !

And she gets up

I watch her as she goes to
the fridge and open it

I quickly change the plates

Taking hers , and placing
mine on her side

I move back as she moves
away from the fridge

Dintle : there you go

Me : thanks

She sits down

And starts eating

I pick a fork and start eating
as well

Dintle : why are you looking
at me like that ?

Me : is everything okay ?

Dintle : yes

Me : I see

She laughs

Dintle : I didn't poison you ,
we can change plates

Me : no , it's cook

I take another bite

Dintle : we live together , we might be pretending to be married . But we're still not enemies , we don't have to like this . And be cold towards each other

Now I am shocked

Is this happening for real ?

.

•

•

•

SOLANCE

INSERT 11

PAUL

Now this is a mess

A risky one

Something we agreed must
never happen

I look at her

And she looks like a mess

Me : what's this now ?

She just stares at me

Me : we agreed that we
won't meet in public , worse
you come to my work place

Neo : we need to talk

Me : couldn't you call or wait
for me to come see you

Neo : Dintle sees you 24/7 ,
and I must wait for you

Me : now you're being
difficult for no reason

Neo : oh really ? Am I now

I shake my head

Me : this is the worst place
you can come to , everyone
knows I am married to Dintle
. What do you think will
happen if my father finds out
you were here ? How will I
explain that ?

Neo : are you two together
now?

This is crazy

It's not even hormones

She's just insecure

And starting drama for no
reason

I don't even have to defend
myself over this

Me : is my word not enough
to you ?

Neo : you had dinner last
night , she washed your

clothes days ago and you
shared a meal . What's next ?
Movies and dates ?

I am not going to entertain
this

Me : I won't deal with this ,
because I asked you when
this started . I asked what I
should do , and we agreed to

do this . I assured you ,
nothing will happen between
us . And luckily for us , your
sister is not interested at me
at all . It just makes
everything so much easier ,
but now you're here acting
up . So I'm giving you a
choice right now , let's tell
everyone the truth and I lose
the marriage to your sister .
And everything that comes

with it , then you get all of
me as I am all by yourself .

She looks down

Me : when you walk out that
door , I want you to think
long and hard about this .

And decide what you want ,
because I won't deal with this
kind of drama

The door opens

And my father walks in

His eyes stare at him

I feel the blood draining out
of my body

.

.

.

.

It's tense in this small space

One can feel the tension

You can literally cut it with a
knife

Neo gets up

Dad : what's going on ?

I like my mouth to say
something

But it's dry

I swallow hard

Dad : I asked a question

I look at Neo

She's shivering

As she irons her skirt with her
hands

Me : I ...

I take a deep breath

Dad : you what ?

Neo : I am sorry Mr Zwane , I know this is inappropriate . I just wanted to talk to my brother in-law

Dad : about what in the absence of your sister , his wife ?

He emphasizes on that his wife

Neo : things are not going well at home , I've fallen pregnant . And the father denied the baby , my father is disappointed . He wants nothing to do with me , and I am struggling because I have no financial support . So I can to ask my brother in-law

, if he can speak to my sister
in on behalf . Because I'm
scared , that maybe she will
reject me like my parents

Dad : leave

Shit !

Neo : I am sorry ...

Dad : little girl don't ever , no matter how desperate you are find yourself and your sister's husband behind closed doors . Especially without your sister

She nods

And I can see she's embarrassed

She grabs her handbag and
walks out

Dad : and you ?

Me : II don't want to get
involved

Dad : boy don't test me

He ckicks his tongue and
walks out

Me : fuck !

I slam my hand hard on the
desk taking a deep breath

.

.

.

.

DINTLE

I heave a sigh answering the
call

Me : Neo ?

Neo : hey sis

I shake my head slowly

The tone , I swear she's
about to ask for something

Me : what can I do for you ?

Neo : Uhmdid Paul say
anything to you ?

Now this I would like to hear

Me : about what ?

Neo : I went to see him

Me : and why ?

Neo : I just ...I am desperate
okay , I need some money

Me : so you went to ask him
for money ?

Neo : kind of

Me : okay , and did he give
you ?

Neo : no , his father walked
in on us and he wasn't happy

"Walked in on us"

I chuckle

Me : walked in on you doing what ?

Neo : no , I don't mean it like that . Just that he walked in the office , and he wasn't happy that I'm meeting with your husband in your absence

Me : mhm , I see

Background voice : ma'am
your room service

And she abruptly drops the
call on me

Me : wow

I let out a slight laugh

I grab my handbag and look
at the hotel card

I found this card in his pants

When I was doing his laundry

And I knew something was
up

My mother told me Neo is
barely home

She says she's found a place

I mean , I know my sister
even better than she knows
herself

My phone rings

And it's his father

Me : Mr Zwane

Mr Zwane : can we place
meet ?

Me : when ?

Mr Zwane : as soon as
possible

Me : I'm at the office , but I
have a meeting in an hour

Mr Zwane : I will be there

Me : see you then

I drop the call

And lean back wondering if
this is what I think it is

Because if I'm right

Then the old man is not to
be played with

He saw and he believed

I let out a smile leaning on
the chair

.

.

.

.

SOLANCE

INSERT 12

DINTLE

I hand him back the contract

And I keep mine

Mr Zwane : I hate doing this ,
but it turns out I can't rely on
my son like I thought I would
. This is going to break him ,
and maybe tear our

relationship . But I feel it's a lesson he needs to learn , maybe he will grow up and learn to be a man and stand his own decisions

Mhm !

Mr Zwane : the company was taking a toll on me either way , I am hurt I have to give

it up . Because I thought my
son can handle it , but now I
ma certain more than ever
that he can't

I want to know

But I think I already have a
clue

He caught his son with Neo

And he's not pleased

However he found them

He figured things out himself

This is why he's done this

Maybe to hurt his son

The same way Paul has
disappointed him

This has worked in my favour

I'll always be seen as the girl
who obeyed her parents

Married a man she doesn't
know nor love

But he used her and cheated
with her sister

Whichever way it may be

Someone was used here

And that someone will be me

Me : I understand , I promise
I will take good care of this
company

Mr Zwane : I trust in you ,
and I hope I will not live to
regret this decision

He gets up

I also get up

He holds his hand out

And I hold mine out as well

We shake hands

Mr Zwane : take care , and in
everything I did with your
father ...we only wanted the
best for you and Paul . And

maybe I made a mistake on
my part , with my choice of a
son

Poor man

Mr Zwane : I will see you
around

I nod

He walks out

I smile grabbing the contract

I put it in my bag and walk
out

.

.

.

.

PAUL

I am livid

I didn't even want to come here

Neo : I am sorry

Me : why are you like this ?

Neo : babe ..I said I am sorry

Me : right now , I want you to
tell me where to from here

She gets you and walks to
me

I heave a sigh

She sits down on my thighs
crossing her legs

Me : is that even safe for the baby ?

She laughs

And sits properly putting her feet down

Neo : I will never make the same mistake again

Me : you stress me baby

Neo : I am sorry , please
forgive me

She makes those puppy eyes

I can't help it

I heave a sigh

Neo : I love you , and we will
get through this . Me you
and our baby

Me : I love you

She places her hands on my
neck

And we kiss

.

•

•

•

DINTLE

Money gets things done

And everyone has a price

I look at the cleaner

Me : I'll be in and out

She nods

I hand her the money

She hands me the key card

Me : remember what we
spoke about ?

She nods taking her phone
out

Me : don't make it obvious
you are recording

I open the door

And she's on top of him

His hands her on ass

They're kissing passionately

I look back at the cleaner

Her : ma'am you can't ...

She pretends to shouts as if
she's running after me

Me : Neo

She gets off Paul falling
down

Paul : fuck !

He quickly gets up and helps
her up

She's touching her tummy

Me : my husband and my
sister

Paul : Dintle I can ...

Neo : I am so sorry ...

I push the cleaner out , and
she quickly puts her phone in
her pocket

I wipe my fake tears nodding
at her

We part ways

I rush out and get into my
car driving out of the hotel

I heave a sigh of relief

Finally I can be rid of this
nonsense

And just find my peace

Not even my father can hold
anything against me

I know that

He will be angry

And repulsed to the core

And I will not be on the
receiving end

.

.

.

.

SOLANCE

INSERT 13

PAUL

This is a mess

Neo : and ?

I call her again

But it just rings unanswered

Me : shit !

Neo : Paul !

Me : shut up , you're not
helping right now

Neo : don't tell me to shut ,
how did she know where we
are ?

Me : how the hell am I
supposed to know that ?

Neo : you stay with her

Me : this is stupid

Neo : maybe you should go after her , and ...and try to talk to her . Before she tells our parents , we can still save this . Tell her thatwe got tempted . And you felt sorry for me ...

Me : enough with the lies ! I will find her and I'll tell her the truth

I get up grabbing my car
keys

I walk out

As my phone beeps

I check the Facebook
notification

And it's a video

I play it

Me : shit !

This was fast ..

Now how will I even do
damage control

When the whole world
knows

And I'm sure our parents will
find out

This video has been shared

It's just a mess

Another notification pops in

Both Neo and I have been tagged on the video

People are feeling for Dintle

Obviously dragging us

-
-
-
-

DINTLE

I could have gone to the
apartment and all

Or even my house

But I wanted to come home

My father is livid

That cleaner sure did a
stunning job

The video is trending as it as

And it's only been an hour

People are feeling for me

Calling those two all sorts of
names

I really don't care

They should have been
honest with me

It was just sick of them to
think they can pull this
through

Mom : I am sorry baby

I say nothing v

My nose is even blocked
from all the crying

My father has already called
Zwane and told him off

And how their deal is off

I don't know what that is
about

But I'm sure it's something
about this marriage

Me : whyI thought ..

My father turns and looks at
me

Me : how could they....

I burst into a loud cry

Covering my face with my
hand

Dad : that boy will know me

He walks out

I just want to be left alone
right now

I'm tired of this nonsense
crying

.

.

.

.

PAUL

She's not at home

I'm scared to go to her
parents house

I know her father is angry

This just makes things worse
for Neo

Now he parents are going to
resent her

I don't know how this got
here

How do I even begin to fix it

Her phone is just ringing

She's not answering

My phone rings

And it's my dad

I don't have time for this

I can't deal with him

I know he wants answers

He's not giving up , as it
continues to ring

I heave a sigh answering

Me : dad ...

Dad : get your ass here right
now ...

Me : I can't I'm looking for
Dintle ...I have ..

Dad : I wasn't asking you ,
don't be mistaken . And
don't run after that girl ,
because this marriage is
done

He drops the call

And now I know I'm in deep
shit

For him to say the marriage
is done

That's no joke

My phone rings , I think it's
her

But it's Neo

I can't deal with her ...not
right now

I let it ring

.

.

.

.

ANATHI

This shit is fucked up

I knew Paul wasn't built for
such

He was just bound to mess it
up

And it sure didn't take long

I'm tempted to call Dee

But I'll rather not get myself involved

John : Skwata areye mister mene (soldier let's go Mr man)

I chuckle putting my phone back in my pocket

I walk over to the car

John : wa jola neh monna ?
(You're dating now)

I laugh

Me : mxm , don't start with
me

I start the car driving

•

•

•

•

PAUL

I look at him

And he has a blank look

Right now , I don't even
know what to say

Me : I will fix this

Paul : what's there to fix ?

Me : I ...I didn't know how to
tell you , I've been with Neo
even before I met Dintle .
When you arranged this

marriage , I didn't know how to tell you . And we thought we could do this , but it all became a mess . She got pregnant and ...

I heave a sigh shaking my head

Dad : you didn't tell me , because you wanted to keep

the company . There's
nothing else to it

Me : no that's not ...

Dad : I am done , you might
have not loved her . But she
was a good thing you got

He gets up and walks out

Mom : really ?

I can't

Like , I just can't

I take a deep breath heaving
a sigh

.

.

.

.

SOLANCE

INSERT 14

DINTLE

I wake up

And I'm angry at myself

That damn fake crying

All my tears

And now I have a splitting
headache

I could win an Oscar for best
actress

I get up

And put on my robe

I walk in the bathroom

Ransacking my cupboards

And I have nothing I can take

Me : great

I walk out , and grab my
phone from the night stand

The headlines are still there

I don't know how long I can
mope for

Just to buy face

And so it doesn't look like I
am rejoicing over this

I put my phone down and
walk out

I knock on my parents
bedroom door

My mother opens

Mom : sweety

Me : good morning

Mom : you don't look so
good

I shrug

Mom : your father is very
sorry

Me : do you have something
I can take , for headache ?

I know she has a cabin full of
meds

Mom : please don't be angry
at him , he regrets his

decision . He didn't know , he would have never made you marry him

Me : it's okay

Mom : no it's not , he lied to us all . And Neo ...I am even ashamed to call her my child , how can she ? You're her sister

Me : they love each other

Mom : she should be
ashamed of herself

Me : actually all this doesn't
matter to me

Mom : good , because you're
leaving him .

Wow !

This is crazy

First they forced me to marry
him

Now they're telling me to
leave

Me : what if ...maybe I should listen to him , maybe there's an explanation ...

Mom : no , no child of mine will subject herself to such . You're a very prominent person in your field , you cannot stand this . What will happen to your reputation ? You're leaving him , there's no way you can stay married

to that man . Let me get you
those pills

She walks back in the room

I'm just left stunned

My parents are something
else

But I am more than happy to
leave that man

On my own

But it's fine

I'll let them think it was their
decision

.

.

•

•

PAUL

Mr Tau : you're a piece of
shit , I trusted you with my
daughter and this is what
you do to her

Me : sir I am ...

Mr Tau : I don't want to hear anything from you , you don't even deserve my daughter . And I'm glad you showed your true colours , before I invest into anything

Me : I am sorry

Mr Tau : come anywhere
near my daughter , and we'll
have serious problems

He storms out

This is fucked up

Dintle didn't come back

And I'm certain now , she
went to her parents house

I couldn't sleep

I kept tossing and turning

Worse , I haven't called Neo
back

I am sure she's angry

With her father this angry

I don't even know how she
will be welcomed back home

I take a deep breath
grabbing my phone

I call her

And after a few rings she
answers

Me : hey , I'm sorry yesterday
I couldn't ..

Neo : I hope you're happy
now , and you can finally
chase Dintle in peace

Me : wait ...what ...you know I was trying to control the situation , I didn't even find her . Your father is so angry , I'm sure she went home ...

Neo : I don't care

She drops the call

I try calling her back

But the call rings once and
goes to voicemail

Me : what the fuck ?

So she's blocked me

Now , I don't understand
what's her deal

Because we both created this
mess

When we agreed and
decided to lie

Now I am the bad guy

My phone beeps

I check the notification

And I've been tagged , but
it's not the same post as of
yesterday

Neo posted this , just 5
minutes ago

"I know right now I'm being
judged and all , and maybe I
deserve that . But I've been

with this man , even before my sister met him and their marriage was arranged . I couldn't leave a man I love , and we didn't want to upset our parents . We decided to continue our relationship , even though I was the other woman . I was willing to settle , because I was here first . Even when I fell pregnant , we couldn't tell

our families . It was never my intention to hurt my sister , I thought she didn't love him or feel anything for him . Because that's what he kept telling me , and I believed him . After she caught us yesterday , I started bleeding . He left me at the hotel , to chase after her . I called him , he didn't answer . Luckily , the hotel staff found me .

And they rushed me to hospital , I was to give birth . But I wasn't in the right state of mind , as the baby was in distress . I was rushed for C-section , unfortunately the baby was a still born . My beautiful baby girl , I feel like I failed her . I've never felt so alone like I am right now , I know my parents are disappointed with me and

they're angry . But I've just
lost my baby , and the father
doesn't care because he's
chasing after my sister ..."

I stop reading

As my chest closes

She can't tell me this , but
she can post for the whole
world

I send her a text message

"What do you think you'll
achieve by your post"

As I press send , the message
bounces back

Me : mxm

So I'm blocked for real

I scroll down the post

And the comments are nasty

"Don't come here crying
foul"

"It's women like you who disgust me"

"How can you do your own sister like that ? Over a man"

"Stop seeking pity , you should be ashamed of yourself"

“Look at Karma , it sure got your address very fast same day”

“You and that dog of a man deserve each other”

“Your sister's tears did not fall down”

“Sorry for your loss , but then again I am not . You brought this upon yourself by lying”

“Where is your self respect ? How do you settle for such , when you came first”

“It is sad but maybe this will be a chance for you to do better , fix your relationship

with your family and your
sister . Leave that man alone”

“You can’t act like a victim
now , you should have been
honest with your sister and
family”

I put my phone down

I hope she sees those
comments

And delete that post

Because right now , these
people are not feeling sorry
for her

-
-
-

.

SOLANCE

INSERT 15

DINTLE

I wanted them to be exposed

Honestly just for me to walk
away from this

I need my peace

Without being passed to
some random man

As if I'm incapable

A public humiliation , was the
best way

Had it been private

I know my father

He would have suggested
that we sit down and fix
things

Obviously grill Neo alone

As if she was the only liar in
this

Amidst all of this

I didn't want Neo to lose her
baby

I didn't even think that far

She was already so in late on
the pregnancy

I didn't think anything could
happen

Especially not the baby
passing on

I somehow feel responsible

I call her

And she answers

Neo : sis

I can tell she's crying

Me : which hospital are you
at ?

I saw the Facebook post

Neo : people are so mean

She breaks down

Me : take that post down

Neo , I don't know what you were thinking . You don't need this stress , you should have been honest . None of this would have happened , I would have left Paul . He's your man ...

Neo : I am so done with him

That's not my business

Me : delete that post , I'm
coming to see you

Neo : even after everything

Me : you're my sister , and
you need your family right
now

Neo : Dintle I am so sorry

Me : it's okay , send me a list
of what you need I'll bring it .
And don't forget to pin me
the hospital you're at ...

I get startled

As my father grabs my
phone

And he sure drops it

Dad : you're not going to see
her

Me : dad ...

Dad : no ! If she needed us ,
she would have called us .
Instead of just splashing her
business on the internet

Me : she's just lost her baby ,
and she's hurting

Dad : your husband's baby
...speaking of that one , I've

called my lawyer already .
That marriage will be
annulled

Wow !

Look at him

As if he wasn't the one who
forced me into it

Me : I need to get away from all this , I'll take care of my business . And take a trio away from her

Dad : you do that , because you need it

I swear there can't be real father's like this one

He's just on his own league

I don't even know what to
say

.

.

.

.

DINTLE

I'm sure my father would
strangle me

If he were to find me here

I came to see Neo anyways

Me : has he come to see you
?

She shakes her head

I can just tell though

She has nothing

Not even a change of clothes

Neo : I am sorry

Me : I don't understand why
you lied

Neo : we ...we didn't expect this , and I guess we went about it the wrong way

Me : I would never settle for a man , that's mine

Neo : I guess ...I wasn't thinking straight . We should have been honest

Me : it is what it is , he's
getting served

Neo : I don't want him
anymore

Me : well , that's not my
business . He was yours
anyways

I get up

Me : I don't know what's going to happen , with the baby and funeral arrangements and all

Neo : I'll just cremate , I don't have money for a funeral .
Your parents won't help me

Me : okay , you'll tell me
when that is . Because I want
to leave , for a while

Neo : where are you going ?

Me : I'll rather not say

She nods

Me : Uhm ...I have to go
somewhere

Neo : thank you for coming

Me : don't mention it

I grab my bag and walk out
of the ward

.

.

.

.

He opens the door

And looks like he's been
drinking

Paul : hey ..

Me : I came to get my
clothes , I could have sent

someone . But I'll rather get
them myself

Paul : I am so sorry

Me : it's fine

Paul : Dintle , please don't do
this . Let's talk , we can still
make it work . Without Neo ,

without the baby . I'll be
yours alone ...

I feel like slapping the shit
out of him

But he's a piece of shit my
sister chose for herself

Me : you repulse me

Paul : I ...don't leave , please

Me : if you think I'm so
desperate to settle for you ,
you're in for a big surprise .
I'm just here for my things ,
don't harrass me . Because I'll
report you

He steps back

I walk past him going to the
bedroom

As soon as I close the door

I hear a glass shattering

And he lets out a scream in
agony

What an insane man

He can deal with his own
tantrums

•

•

•

•

SOLANCE

INSERT 16

DINTLE

This is really sad

My parents did not come

Even Mr Zwane

Only Mrs Zwane came

As for Paul , he was nowhere
to be seen in sight

After I took the liberty to
inform him of what's
happening

It's really sad

That Neo is dealing with all
this alone

Yet they were in this
together

I had to pay for this small
ceremony

The cremation of the baby

And everything else

Also , I had to settle the
hospital bills

It doesn't make me feel
anyhow

But I hope this is a lesson to
Neo

It doesn't hurt to stand for
yourself as woman

To be independent

Have your own assets and
money

Without the need of a man
to feel secure

Neo : thank you for
everything

I nod

Neo : I don't know how I can
ever thank you

Me : don't

I heave a sigh

Me : my flight leaves in an hour , I still have some business to take care of

Neo : still won't say where you are going ?

I shake my head

Because I don't want to be bothered

Neo : I wish I was you

Me : be glad to be you

Neo : but I'm just me , you're
so educated . You have
money , and you're well
travelled

Me : that's because I work hard , I work hard for everything that I have .
Nothing was ever handed to me

She looks down

Me : maybe ...that's what you need , to start working hard for yourself

I take out my purse from my bag

I take out R800 and give it to her

I would give her more

Sadly , I barely keep cash on me

I could send her some more

But I also don't want to seem
like I am enabling her

Neo : thank you

Me : take care

I don't know what she's
going to do from hereon

I walk to my car and drive off

I know someone will not be
very pleased with me today

But I'll rather leave , knowing
everything behind is being
taken care of

•

•

•

•

PAUL

I open the door and walk in

Me : what's this ? I'm being
summoned to my own
company , like I'm an
insabornate

I pull a chair

And I'm shocked to see
Dintle here

As for the shareholders ,
maybe I understand

But why bring her ?

Maybe is it to build a case of some sort against me ?

Me : I do not appreciate this

Dintle : please sit down , don't disrespect us like that

I look at her

Dintle : Mr Zwane ...

Her tone has changed

I swallow hard , and pull a
chair sitting down

Dintle : thank you

Me : what's all this ?

Dintle : there has been
changed around here , I
thought it best to inform
everyone

Me : our personal life has
nothing to do with these
people

Dintle : it's nothing personal ,
but just business . You've

been on the forefront , for
months yet we're not thriving
as a company . The numbers
don't lie ..

I laugh

Me : you don't ...what's this ?
Since when is this company
your business Dintle

Dintle : Ms Tau to you , and
since I bought this company .
And I own 50% , and I hold
Mr Zwane senior proxy

I get up

Me : are you fucking with me
right now ?

Dintle : watch your language
, this is a boardroom and not
the streets

Me : this is not true , my
father would never do this

Dintle : alright , in the
meantime clear out your
office . Because you're
suspended from your

position with immediate effect, a new CEO will be starting in a week

Me : bullshit , that is not going to happen . Who the fuck do you even think you are ? You're settling personal scores here , that won't work . I don't even know how you manipulated my father like this , but I'll get to the

bottom of this . And you'll be
out of this company , as
quickly as you got in

I walk out

And take out my phone
dialing my father

Dad : Paul ...

Me : what is Dintle doing here , claiming the company .
And removing me from my position ?

Dad : it's her company , she can do ...

Me : you sold her your shares ? 50%

Dad : I did what was best ...

Me : you ...

He drops the call on me

Me : fuck ...

I shout in frustration

And lean by the wall

I see just how many eyes I've
attracted

I gather myself and walk into
my office

.

.

.

.

ANATHI

I finish loading the last bag

John : so watsamaya ?

(You're leaving)

Me : hey , don't be awkward

John : ta re fete ka Gabs (let's
pass to Gaborone)

Me : for eng ? (What)

John : sa warra , ke ta catcher
lift mo go wena (don't worry
, I'll catch a lift on you)

I shake my head as he runs
back to the camp site

With him around

It'll be a week in Gabs

He was just one of the first
guys who welcomed me here

A soldier from South Africa

He made feel like I'm part of
the family

So most times , we're just
stuck together

.

.

.

.

SOLANCE

DAYS LATER

INSERT 17

PAUL

Everything is just a mess

My father really sold majority shares to Dintle

And she has proxy of his remaining shares

When I signed , it was just to have control as CEO

He wasn't signing the company over to me

Or giving me any control
over the company

Basically I fucked myself

For just signing and not
reading the contract

Right now I'm kicked to the
curve

There's a new CEO

And I can't fight this

I didn't bring any revenue to
the company when I was
CEO

There's nothing I can do
legally to oppose the motion
of my suspension

I've been offered a position

As general manager

That's a curve to the core

I hold no power and no say

A demotion of the worst

From being CEO to GM

That's just nonsense

I will not accept that

The only thing I can do is
take my losses

And try to find another job

I don't know where

That company is my father's
baby

I didn't think he would ever
give it to an outsider

Or maybe that was the
reason for the marriage

It was always going to be the
end goal

I feel lied to

He wasn't forth coming to
me

And to think I fell for his
word

Only to find out , what I
thought isn't what it is

I wanted to talk to Dintle

Onky to find out she's out of
the country

I am really fucked

I know my father won't Wang
anything to do with me

He won't even listen to me

My mother is a no go area to
even ask her to speak to him
on my behalf

She's still angry with me

About the fact that I didn't
go to the cremation of the
baby

Well , I am angry at Neo for
not telling me

She didn't even tell me about
the baby

But she was quick to
announce it to the world

She blocked me

I have no means to contact
her

I wasn't even told about the
baby , being cremated

Right now I just look like a
shitty father

I'm wallowing in my sorrows

.

.

.

.

DINTLE

The peace of just being away
from everything

Just dwelling in solance

Finding myself

Preparing the inner me
within

For everything when I get
back

I sure needed this

I'm glad all this is done

My father's lawyer got in
contact with me yesterday

The marriage is annulled

I don't know how my father
pulled it so fast

Without hassles of going to
court

Explaining to the judge why
the marriage should be
annulled and all

But I'm sure he paid
someone

That's my father for you

.

.

.

.

Decided to go out

And breathe some Gaborone
air

I've been in that hotel for
days now

Even though that was good

Nothing beats going out

Seeing places

And meeting new people

Experiencing new food and
all that

Botswana is a peaceful place

I love everything about this
place

Even the people

You'll find the most sweet
people around here

I've been here many times

Each time just visiting
different places

I love the rurals mostly

This time around , I thought
why not see the big city
lights

Last I was in Francistown

Another big city , and it was
just amazing

This is one place I can visit
many times

And just enjoy my time all
the time

.

.

.

.

ANATHI

Andy : Brock , I'm going to
get something to eat

I look at John

Always entertaining women

Andy : he won't be done
anytime soon monna (man)

I chuckle shaking my head

He's right

John is just one man , who
believes women deserve love

Even if it means , he has to
be that one-man for all
women

Andy : and these ladies , are
always falling for men in
uniform

They sure do

It's a thing around here

You'll find few women who
are scared of dating soldier

For some reason that we're
short tempered

And violent

Also that we're womanizer

Me : let's go

We get out of the car

Me : what you feeling like ?

Andy : city food man ,
nothing like what we have at
camp

Me : enjoy , because soon
you'll bid this goodbye and
head to Maun

Andy : don't remind me

Me : it's not bad

I mean , you might think

Maun is a great place

Only for us , we're mostly at
the camp site

So we don't see much of it

We live with the bare
minimum

Of what we have

We walk in the restaurant

And a waiter leads us to a
table

The stares already

Me : maybe I should have
gone to my house and
changed

He laughs

Andy : you're from work
Skwata (soldier) , don't mind
them

He's in his private clothes

Only John and I are still in
our uniform

.

.

.

.

SOLANCE

INSERT 18

DINTLE

I lift my head

Looking at the soldier
walking in

And the ladies are gawking
at him

He walks over to another
table with one soldier and
another guy

I frown as he looks at the guy
who just walked in and they
laugh

No ways , it can't be

He looks the same

Like nothing has changed

Except that it's my first time

Seeing him wearing the
uniform

I'm starring now

And it's creepy

I call over my waiter and ask
for the bill

I pay and get up

I walk towards the door

And we almost bump into
each other

I look at him

He has one stare , I can't
even hold

I look down

Anathi : I thought you'll
come say hi

Shucks !

So he saw me

Now I'm wondering if he saw
me starring at them

Me : I ...

I clear my throat

Anathi : you're beautiful

Me : I try

He chuckles

We walk over near the door
outside the restaurant

Anathi : it's good to see you

Me : what are you doing here
?

Anathi : I live here now , well
more like in Maun . But I
have a house this side

Me : wow , so you left South
Africa

Anathi : that same day

Me : and you didn't say , I
mean you just left abruptly

Anathi : well , when I'm not
pleased I distance myself

Now it all makes sense

He knew

About Paul and Neo

And that's why he left the
wedding reception the way
he did

Me : mhm

Anathi : I saw , I am not sorry
though . Cause if he listened
, none of that would have
happened

I heave a sigh

Me : it is what it is

Anathi : I wish I told you

Me : but it wasn't your place

Anathi : yeah

Me : ah , it's fine anyways . I
am over it

Anathi : over it ?

Me : the marriage is done
and annulled

He nods slowly

I realise I'm staring at the
man again

Me : Uhm , it was nice to see
you

Anathi : wait ...is this business
or pleasure ?

I smile

Me : pleasure

Anathi : then can I see you
tomorrow ?

Me : I ...

Anathi : right here , late
lunch

Me : I didn't say I will come

Anathi : I don't want to hear
a no out of your mouth , that
would crush me . So
tomorrow by 1500 hours , I'll

be here . And if you come
then great

Me : and if I don't ?

Anathi : just know I'll be
licking my wounds , and
you'll be responsible for that

I laugh

Me : alright , I'll see you
maybe

He raises his brow

I tap his shoulder and walk
away

At a distance I turn and look
at him

He's still standing there
looking at me

I laugh shaking my head

Finally , I can catch my breath

.

.

.

.

ANATHI

John : monna who was that ?

I sit down

John : o tetsi basadi fa (you came for women here)

Andy : look who's talking

We laugh

John : so where did you find her ? Does she have a sister or something ?

Me : hey , she's someone from back home

John : ah , you lie !

I shake my head

John : an ex ?

Me : no

John : I hope so , because if
she is then it's a bad move .
Don't go there monna

Me : what are you saying ?

John : next thing , she's with
your seed inside of her and
heading to SA . She gets
there and pins it on another
man ...just don't

Andy : you watch way too
many movies

John : touché

Me : okay , just stop cause
that just sounds so gay

John : o ta nyela , o marete
mister mene (you'll shit
yourself , your testicles Mr
Man)

We laugh

This guy sure can spit
nonsense

.

.

.

DINTLE

I don't know how he does it

No social media presence
whatsoever

Like is that even possible in
this day and age ?

I'm not that active

But I'm there

There's nothing here about
him

Unless he's using a different name

But how many Anathi Brock can there be ?

I put my phone down

I wanted to check him out

I don't want to find myself
being shamed in a foreign
country

If he lives here

And he has a house here

It means his life is here now

Who knows ?

Maybe he has a family

I don't want any scandal
following me

I've had enough of those as
of late

Since I can't find anything

I'll just have to ask him

That's if I'll be there
tomorrow

I'm still contemplating on
that

.

.

.

.

SOLANCE

INSERT 19

ANATHI

She looks at me and smiles

I chuckle

Dintle : what ?

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

Dintle : I didn't think you were bringing me to a bar

We laugh

Dintle : just got curious and intrigued

Me : by ?

Dintle : this ...you wanting to
see me

Me : how long are you here
for ?

Dintle : a month or so

Me : mhm , well you're here
and I hope I don't see you
for the last time

Dintle : are you seducing me
?

Please , that's the alcohol
speaking

I chuckle

Me : not this cold

She shrugs

Me : you will just not leave

Bots the same

Dintle : is it ?

Me : yeah

Dintle : are you married ?

Me : not yet

Dintle : financé ?

Me : not yet

Dintle : kids ?

Me : not yet

She sighs

Dintle : girlfriend ?

Me : soon , maybe end of
this night

She frowns and takes her
gaze away from me

She downs her glass of wine

And gets up

But she staggers

I'm quick to hold her

Me : what ? Now where ...

Dintle : I need to pee

I chuckle

Me : okay , let's go

Dintle : don't ..

I take her hand and we walk
to the bathrooms

Dintle : I'll be fine

I let her go

She walks in

I stand by the door

And time moves

But she doesn't come out

I knock on the door and
nothing

I check around and quickly
get in

There's two ladies by the
sinks washing their hands

Lady 1 : are you lost ?

Me : don't mind me

I open unlocked door

And she's sitting on the seat

Dintle : you can't be in here

Lady 1 : hey babe , are you
safe in there ?

What is it with women ?

She smiles and gets up

I take her hand we walk out

Dintle : I'm okay lovies

She says with a smile to the
ladies

And they laugh

Me : that's it , you're done
for the night we're going
home

We walk out of the
bathrooms and head inside
the bar

I pay for our drinks and we
walk out heading to my car

It's a good thing it's just us

I didn't bring any friends

.

.

.

.

DINTLE

I'm so out of it

I don't know how I got here

I didn't even drink that much

Or maybe I think I didn't

Wine is very sneaky

Anathi : you good ?

I nod

He crouches down and take
my heels off

My feet finally breathe

Me : I need a shower

Anathi : will you manage ?

Me : yes , I just need a cold shower

I know it'll knock me back to my senses

Anathi : coffee ?

Me : just a glass of ice cubes

He frowns

I laugh

Me : I'll sober up

Anathi : okay , the bathroom
is that way

I nod

He walks out

I gather myself taking my
clothes off

I didn't even see anything on
the road to here

Or how we even got to the
bedroom

I swear , this kind of drinking
is not recommended at all

I walk to the bathroom and
open cold water

I hold my weave back

And letting the water run
through my body

This feels soothing

.

.

.

.

ANATHI

I've put the glass on the
night stand

She walks out of the
bathroom

Wrapped in a towel

Water still dripping down her
shoulders

I clear my throat and get up
from the bed

Me : your ice cubes

Dintle : thanks , I feel better
already

She takes the glass and pops
an ice cube in her mouth

There's just something in the
way she's chewing it

I wonder if it's not hurting
her teeth

Dintle : what ?

Me : you'll be okay ?

Dintle : I am okay

Me : I think you'll sleep here ,
and I'll ..

She walks towards me

I put my hands inside my
pockets

To hide the boner

Dintle : I won't run out of
here in the morning , being

chased by some crazy
woman ?

Me : no , no crazy woman

Dintle : you've been a
gentleman tonight

Me : I wish I wasn't

Dintle : don't wait for me

Shit !

Me : would be better if you
were sober

Dintle : mhm ...

She gets on her toes and
place her arms around my
neck

I lean down , as she takes my
lips into hers

We kiss , my hands trailing
down to her ass

I grab on her ass cheeks

The towel becomes lose

She lets it fall

Her bare skin , against my
body

She trails her hands on my
chest , unbuttoning my shirt

I pick her into my arms

And turn around , placing
her on the bed

She parts her legs

I position myself in between
her thighs

Taking my shirt off

She brings her one leg other
my back

I deepened the kiss

She trails her hands to my
pants unbuckling my pants

I pull them out

Slowly thrusting against her

She lets out moans of
pleasure

I pull out of the kiss and trail
down

I grab her thighs

Burying my head in between
her thighs

Her hands trail on my head

As my tongue flicks around
her clit

Feeling her juices pour out

And I keep licking her clean
with my tongue

Dintle : ah shit ...

She presses my head down

As her thighs shake hard and
she orgasms

I lay down and flip her over

Me : come sit on my face

She smiles biting her lower
lip

And she moves up

I place my hands behind her
ass , grabbing on her ass
cheeks

And she presses down

And starts ridding my tongue

As it flicks around her clit

She throws back , placing her
hands on my chest

I move my hands to her
boobs , rubbing on her
nipples

Dintle : uh ... ahhh...

I move back , and rub on her
clit with my thumb

And her juices trail down to
my mouth

Dintle : Ohhh shit

I flip her over

And position myself in
between her thighs

And rub my dick head on her
coochie

I get on my knees , lifting her
ass up

And I slide in through , her
coochie slowly

Letting out a grunt and she
moans in pleasure

I thrust in through slowly and
passionately

As her coochie grips on my
dick

I slide in and out

Feeling the moist inside of
her

And her cum graces my dick
as she grips hard on my arms

I lay down on her chest ,
shooting my cum inside of
her

And I pick up my pace

Thrusting in harder

Pounding in and out

Dintle : fuck ...don't stop
....Ahhhh

She grabs on the sheets

I thrust in deep

Feeling myself so close to the
end

I go in deeper and faster
taping her sweet G-spot

And her whole body vibrate
against mine

And she cums

I deep groan filling her up
with my seeds

I empty inside of her

And lay down on her boobs

Placing a kiss on her one
boob

And she trails her hands on
my head

.

.

-

-

SOLANCE

INSERT 20

DINTLE

I slowly open my eyes

And my whole body is
aching

What a night !

I don't even know what time
we slept

My eyes are burning

Clearly I didn't sleep enough

I lift my eyes

And he's still sleeping

I slowly lift his hand off of my
waist

And slowly get up without
waking him up

I pick up his shirt from the
floor and put it on

I walk to the bathroom and
pee

I wipe myself flushing the
toilet

I take his Listerine and rinse
my mouth

I walk out

And he's still sleeping

I walk out , heading down
the stairs

This is one stunning house

Way too masculine

But clean , way too clean

He must be a clean freak

I walk in the kitchen

And I wonder who cleans this
place

When this man is up in Maun

I see the coffee kettle

And just make myself a cup

I walk up to the balcony with
the cup

And place it down on the
small glass table

As I look over the city

Damn , this place is beautiful
no lies

Up here , everything just
seems peaceful

Even though it's a city

And already cars are busy

There's traffic and all

But it doesn't seem anything
like Joburg traffic in the
mornings

.

.

.

.

ANATHI

I will be damned

If she woke up and run out
on me

I get up

And I see her clothes are still
on the floor

Except my shirt

I chuckle putting on my
pants

I grab my phone checking
my messages

I walk to the bathroom and
rinse my mouth

I walk out

And catch a glimpse of her

By the balcony

I open the sliding door and
walk behind her

Hugging her from behind

I place a kiss on her neck

Me : thought you bailed on me

Dintle : is that what city women are doing to you ?

Me : no , I'm the one who bails out on then

Dintle : am I not just the most luckiest ?

Me : there's no bailing out
on you

Dintle : you don't say

Me : I thought you were
going to wake you , have
regrets and all kinds

Dintle : no advantage was taken of me , I was well in my sane minds . And I have no regrets whoever , nor do I feel like bailing out

Me : good

I lift my shirt that she's wearing

And slightly part her legs

She bends over a bit

Placing her hands on the rails

I unzip my pants and slightly
rub my dick on her slightly
parted wet coochie lips

She moans softly

I slide my dick inside slowly

Placing my hands on her
waist

And thrust in , pounding in
harder

Her moans increases

As she lets out screams of
pleasure

And my dick jerks inside of
her

Slightly pulling out

But I slide back in

And she bends her back

Giving me better access

I tap in faster and harder

She welcomes and takes all
of me

And moans louder as her
cum graces my dick

And I empty my seed inside
of her

I move back and turn her
around

Placing my hand on her neck

I pull her in for a deep kiss

After a while , she pulls back

Catching her breath

Me : it's good you didn't bail
out , cause this ...this is it .
And you're not yet leaving

She smiles

And bites her lower lip

Her eyes sparkle as her smile
reaches her eyes

.

.

.

.

PAUL

I hope I don't get fucked up
by being here

It's just hard

I've sent out applications

And I'm not getting anything

It's just frustrating

I really need to speak to

Dintle

But her office says she's not
back

And they can't give out her
numbers

I don't even know when
she'll be back

Because they're not telling
me anything

And it's not like they don't
know

They just don't want to tell
me

She sure has loyal employees

Her father opens the door

And if looks could kill

I would be dead by now

Me : Mr Tau

Mr Tau : buy , do you have a
death wish ?

Me : I am sorry to just turn
up here , I wanted to ...Uhm
...

I clear my throat

Me : I have been trying to
get a hold of Dintle but

Mr Tau : I told you to leave
my daughter alone , I don't

know how do you want to
understand me

Me : I'm sorry , I just need to
talk to her

Mr Tau : well you won't

Me : is there a way I can
maybe contact her ?

Mr Tau : this is the last time I
warn you

I step back

And he slams the door

I heave a sigh

Now I don't know what to do

I don't even know where Neo
is

Maybe she would know
where her sister is

But that won't sound well

I heave a sigh turning around

I walk back to my car and
drive out

.

.

.

.

SOLANCE

FIVE MONTHS LATER

INSERT 21

DINTLE

I turn and look at him

I know he's awake

Me : wake up

Anathi : mhm

Me : baby

I laugh

And lean over placing a kiss
on his lips

And he flips over him , as we
kiss

We pull out

And he slowly opens his eyes

Anathi : hey

Me : wake up

Anathi : I am very much
awake

He says , sliding his hand
underneath his shirt

In between my thighs

And he parts my coochie lips
with his fingers

His thumb rubbing on my clit

I let out a moan feeling his
dick poking me

I slide down , taking his
length inside of me

I move up , arching my back

I ride him , his thumb
rubbing my clit

I place my one hand on his
thigh

And hold his hand with my
other hand

As he sends me over ,
pressing his thumb hard on
my clit

I press down as his dick jerks
inside of me

I lean down looking into his
bloodshot eyes

He chuckles

Me : I love you

Anathi : I love you two

I smile placing a kiss on his
cheek

.

.

.

.

It's been an insane five
months

Being here in Botswana

Doing my work remotely

And just spending time here
with this man

A lot has happened

And I would never change
anything

If given a chance to turn over

I would still take this chance
to be with him

Making that decision to be
with him , that morning on
this very balcony

And we just never looked
back

I would do this over and over
again

.

.

.

.

ANATHI

Me : I'm going to miss you

Dintle : me too

I heave a sigh

Even though I'm stationed in
Maun

We were just never apart

And now she's going back to
South Africa

Even though it's for a short
while

I know I'm going to miss her

Me : you'll be alright ?

Dintle : yes , we even went to the doctor for this . I'm safe to travel , and all is well

Me : I know , I know ...I just wish I had time off . So I can come with

Dintle : don't worry , go work . You need to make money now

I chuckle

Her flight gets called

Dintle : I'll call you , and I
know every chance you get
you'll call

Me : I love you , you know
I'm only yours

Dintle : mine and mine

....Uhm ...

We laugh

Me : not exactly alone

Dintle : yeah

She leans over and we kiss

Dintle : be safe

Me : always

We hug

Me : I love you

Dintle : and I love you

She moves back

I heave a sigh watching her
walk in to the terminal

.

.

.

.

DINTLE

I sure overstayed

And now I have to go deal
with my life

And face decisions I've made

Of which , some of them I
know my father is not happy

But I was adamant to do
what I wanted

And now I'll just have to face
the music

I lean back , fixing my neck
pillow

If I could get some sleep

That would be nice

Because I won't be able to
sleep when I get home

I won't even be going to my
house

I'll be going to see my
parents

And then head over to the
company

Even though I know that
everything is going well

The CEO updates me about
everything

And I get reports weekly

I'm very much pleased

Even the revenue has gone
up

Even Zwane himself is
impressed

But I know it wouldn't hurt
to just see things myself

.

.

.

.

SOLANCE

INSERT 22

PAUL

Life will humble one

Until it sinks in

And you see no way up

Here I am

A while General manager

My pride was way too huge

And I never saw myself doing
this job

Or even accepting it

But knocking on doors

And getting only rejection

I found myself crumbling

And I begged my father to
take me back

And I hate every single hour I
spend here

I hate it

If there was a way

I would have long quit this
job

But now , there's nothing

I need money to survive

I have bills to pay

And now I'm left paying an
apartment I never even
wanted to begin with

And Dintle just left me to
deal with that

I can't even move out and go
back home

Because my father made it
perfectly clear

That I should sort myself out

So there's no going back
home

I was all fine staying there

And she had to come along

And now , she's gone

She didn't even twice about
walking away

It's been 6 months , and
she's nowhere to be found

Of course , to those who
know where she is in sure
they find her

I am angry at myself

I could have done better

But regrets change nothing

.

.

•

•

DINTLE

Anathi : are you okay ?

Me : yes

Anathi : if you ever feel
overwhelmed or anything ,
leave or let me talk to them

I take a deep breath

Me : it's okay , it's not like
they don't know

Anathi : still , you're worried
for a reason

He's right

My father is one kind of a
man

Me : okay , let me go in

Anathi : I love you

Me : we love you

I drop the call and get out of
the car

I fix my coat

Just as the door opens

And it's my mother

I walk over to her

Mom : I was coming to get you , you've been sitting in the car for a while

Me : I was on a call ...

Mom : it's so good to see you , I was starting to lose faith that maybe you won't come back ever

I smile , guilt just eating me
up

Mom : come in ...come in

She makes way , I walk in

Me : dad

He lifts his eyes and looks at
me

Dad : you're back

Me : yes

Dad : good , it's about time

Mom : let me take your coat

Me : no I'm ...

Too late

Why would she say that

When she's already grabbing
on the jacket

I look at my father

I can't read his reaction

Mom : you're pregnant ?

I sit down

Me : I am

Mom : but so soon

Dad : why didn't you tell us
about this ?

Okay !

Now they're just making a
big deal out of nothing

I'm pregnant

It's not like I killed someone

Mom : Dintle

I say nothing

Dad : I don't like how you're carrying yourself as of late , and how you're doing things . Don't make me think I made a mistake , by allowing you to leave that Zwane boy

I swear something is wrong with this man

And he's so quick to forget

Me : I didn't leave him , you
made me . The same way
you made me marry him , I'm
so past all that . I'm old
enough dad , I can make my
own decisions . I don't need
you controlling me

Dad : is that what you think
I'm doing ?

Me : all my life

Mom : Dintle , this is still
your father

Me : I am not saying he's not
, and you'll never say
anything against him .

Because everything he says ,
is right in your eyes . I've
been subjected to so much ,
wanting to make him proud .
But it's never enough , so I
am done . That's why I'm
moving to Botswana

I get up

Mom : you're what ?

Me : I have nothing left here ,
so I am leaving

Mom : what about your
family ?

Me : I have my own family
now mom , and that's where
I need to be

I grab my coat

Me : I have to go

Mom : you just got here ,
you drop a bomb on us and
you're leaving ?

Me : there's nothing else to
say , I'm sure you're angry

and disappointed and all .

But I'm tired

Mom : of us ? Tired of being
a child ?

Me : I'm a grown ass woman
now , I'm about to have my
own child . I can't be
controlled , like I can't think
for myself

I head towards the door

Dad : if you're happy ...

I turn and look at him

Dad : I'm sorry this is how
you feel

Me : just give me your
blessings , to just be me for
me

He nods slowly

I can see this is not easy on
him

Because he's just so used to
getting his way

Me : goodbye

I open the door

Dad : if you're happy , then
that's all that matters

I let out a smile

Me : I am happy , the
happiest I've ever been in a
long time

I walk out and head to my
car

I drive out to the company

Just as his call comes
through

I laugh

I know he's worried about
me where he is

But even I'm damn proud of
myself

How I stood up for myself to
my parents

I answer the call

.

.

.

.

SOLANCE

INSERT 23

PAUL

I walk in the boardroom

And sit down

I wonder what's going on

We've just been called

And we don't know what's
happening

Maybe is with lower
positions close to just being
general workers

But I won't ask anyone
anything

Because I'm just seen as
nothing but a joke around
here

The door opens I turn my
head

And only just the receptionist
walks in

She sits down

I'm so tempted to ask what's
going on

But I'll rather not do that to myself

Trinity : Gugu , how far is Mrs Brock ?

Gugu looks at her phone

Gugu : she just parked in

Mrs Brock ?

I mean , the only Brock I
know is Anathi

So who could this woman be
?

And why are we called here
waiting for her ?

Unless Dintle has sold her
share

I wouldn't be surprised at all

This we shall hear and see

I lean back on my chair

Minutes later , the door
opens

And everyone lifts their
heads

I'm sitting facing the door

Voice : I am so sorry , I'm late

Shit !

I quickly turn my head

Recognising her voice

I pop my eyes in shock

I didn't think I'll ever see her
again

Especially being gone for so
many months

Trinity : no worries , please
take a seat

Dintle : I won't be long , so
thank you to everyone here

And she remains standing

Now I'm battling my
thoughts

She can't be the Mrs Brock , I
thought we're waiting for

She places her hands inside
her coat

And I see the baby bump

Me : you're pregnant ?

The words escape my mouth

Dintle : Mr Zwane , I did not come here to discuss my personal life . So please , get a hold of yourself sir .

Ouch !

And that gets slight laughs

I'm even embarrassed

Dintle : I asked for this meeting , because I am leaving South Africa . But I will still be hands on in the company as I've been , working remotely scared me a bit . But if I could do it for almost six months , it really shouldn't be a problem going forward . As long as we keep on working as hard

as we have been , and toying
the line . We should be fine ,
and the company should
continue to strive even more
than it has the past months .
I am not handing my proxy ,
or Mr Zwane senior to
anyone . I will hold both
proxies , and do due
diligence where necessary .
Trinity will continue holding
the fort , the same as

everyone one their positions .
Once again , thank you for
coming at such short notice .
But I couldn't just leave
without coming here

They clap hands for her

Trinity : if that is all , please
everyone get back to work

No one says nothing

Dintle : thank you

They all get up

And instead of walking out

They're shaking hands with
her

I get up and walk out just
annoyed

I stand by the door , and lean
against the wall

Where has she been ?

In just six months she's
carrying another man's child

I know it's not mine

That's not even a possibility

Finally one by one they start
walking out

Until she's left with Trinity
and Gugu

I walk in the boardroom

Me : Dintle can we talk ?

They all look at me

And now I see the ring on
her finger

She sighs

Dintle : what ?

Me : in private please

Dintle : no , I have nothing to say to you ...

Me : I understand I hurt you , but please ..

Dintle : it's not about that

She sighs

Me : what happened ? Where have you been ?

Dintle : I don't owe you any explanation , I'm trying to be professional with you right now . But you're getting way too personal , and I don't appreciate it

Me : you're married ?

Dintle : yes , now please ...

She shakes her head

Dintle : ladies , once again
thank you

They shake hands

Gugu and Trinity walk out

Me : Brock ?

Dintle : what ?

She asks shrugging

Me : it can't be , because the
only Brock me and you know

is Anathi . Who happens to
be my best friend

Dintle : the only Anathi Brock
I know , is my husband the
father to my child . I didn't
know you are friends ,
because he's never told me

I feel like my heart is being
ripped out

Me : did it have to be my friend ?

I look at her emotionally

Dintle : Please excuse me

Me : do you even love him , or you're paying revenge ?

Dintle : tell yourself whatever
will help you sleep at night

And just like that

She walks past me

I'm left feeling weak

My knees are wobbly

I can't even run after her

.

.

.

.

DINTLE

Anathi : and ?

Me : I told you not to worry ,
he's not even a factor

Anathi : I'm glad all went well

Me : yeah , I think my father
is still not happy

Anathi : they just feel left out
baby

Me : but ...

I heave a sigh

Anathi : we got married , and I sent my uncle's to pay dowry . When I've already married you legally , and worse you weren't even home when that was happening . Traditionally and culturally , that's not how things are done

That was insane

But we couldn't leave for
South Africa

Anathi had to be in Kasane

So we just did what we had
to do

Anathi : we kept the
pregnancy from then

Me : but now they know

Anathi : and you just told
them you're leaving South
Africa

Me : to be with my husband ,
they'll get over it

Anathi : you take this so
lightly , I can't wait to see
you

Me : just one more day , and
I'll be back

I booked a return flight

And once I leave , I don't
know when I'll be back

I've found what I've been
looking for

It would be foolish to stay
away from my peace

It doesn't need to make
sense to anyone

Just as long it does to me

And sometimes that's just
what's needed

Because not everyone has to
understand everything about
you

-
-
-
-

THE END