

° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

01

I sat in the room. I felt my head go dizzy and felt like I was gonna vomit. No I wasn't crazy. I'm but crazy

I said that continuously in my head. I screamed in anger. No. Please

I saw her walking towards me and I cried as she came closer.

" Noooo !!!! "

She smiled at me and disappeared again.

I was alone in that room. There was a tiny window and a little bed, and a bucket

I looked at myself in the little broken mirror provided

I looked horrible.

I screamed and hit my head on the mirror. I felt

the blood run across my face.

I'm not crazy.

I'm not. I screamed again and dit my head on the floor.

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ROMEO

" Nathan we going to be late. "

I was in the kitchen looking upstairs.

" I'm coming Bro "

He came in running with his soccer kit bag and a ball.

him : I'm here

He had grown so much after Mom's death. I have been looking after him since. It's been 10 years.

He was 10 now and I'm 27 years.

Kyile is in varsity doing her last year.

I rubbed his hair and playful punched him.

He ran around the counter with me running after him.

me : Got ya.

He laughed as I tickled him. I stopped when I realized we really late for his soccer practise.

We drove to the soccer practise silently until he broke the silence

him : When in pops coming back ?

I looked at him then focused on the road.

King left South Africa and went to London after Mom's death.

me : Soon

him : I can't wait to see him.

Nathan has never met King.

I faked a smiled then focused on the road again.

What Nathan actually said made me think of Lubabalo. To think I've also never met my father. It hurts.

How selfish he was.

He wasn't even at Mom's funeral.

How selfish of him.

When we got to the practise and dropped him off. He was only finishing at 5 and it was only 1. So I decided to go to the office.

" Mr Matthews."

That was the receptionist

me : Hello Tina.

I smiled and walked away.

I got in the office and Jessica, my PA was on the phone.

I nodded as she waves her had

I started getting some work done

It was surely a busy day because I only left work at 7, I asked Kyle to

fetch Nathan from her soccer practise.

Arriving home Kyle and Nathan were setting the table for dinner

me : Evening

them : Hey

I walked upstairs to take a quick shower and everything.

" This Taste's good "

It really did. Kyle cooks in the house since Gloria resigned.

her : Don't you think it's time we see Isabella ?

I looked at her then focused on my food

me : No it's not time

her : Why not ? It's been 10 years.

I stood up and looked at her

me : I said I'm Not ready !

Then left the running room.

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02

I'm not crazy.

I'm not crazy.

I woke up in bed. My head was heavy

I felt my head and it had a bandage.

I felt better today. I lied down and I saw flash
backs again.

I saw her hanging from the ceiling. The baby
crying.

I wanted to cry.

I also had suicidal thoughts. I quickly sat up and
cleared my throat.

My door opened and a nurse came.

Nurse : Good morning Miss Matthews.

me : Oh, hi

her : How are you feeling ? Here's your
breakfast and pills

me : Thank you.

I took it and ate. She didn't move. She watched
me as I ate and drank my pills.

her : You're so young and beautiful

I smiled

me : It's been 10 years and I haven't seen the
world.

I looked down

her : Don't worry. You'll get better

I smiled

her : You have a visitor

I was shocked.

me : I don't want to see that person

her : Why not ?

me : After ten years? Only after 10 years

her : Please. She really wants to see you

I looked down.

She begged until I agreed.

I walked down the hall. I walked slowly.

It was my first time after ten years walking
down that hall way

I looked around when I got to the visiting area. I
looked to see if I recognised someone.

Kyile.

She stood up and waved

I walked to her

She smiled and I saw tears threatening her eyes.

me : Hi

her : I'm sorry. I would have came earlier but Romeo wouldn't allow me. He doesn't know I'm here. I'm so sorry Isabella

She said my name. It was the first time after ten years hearing someone say my name.

I watched her as she cried silently. I said nothing at all.

Her : I'm so sorry. I truly am

I looked down and the tears fell

me : You know seeing her hanging from that ceiling made me weak. I suffer from depression because of what I saw that day. I cut and hit myself on walls everyday, you know why ?

Because I don't want to think about it. How her baby cried there on the bed as she hang there.

It hurt

I stopped and looked up

me : I saw everything. 10 years. For ten years nobody came to visit me. Nobody came to see how I'm coping in this hell.

She cried.

me : Leave

her : But Isa-

me : Leave

She stood up and held my hand.

her : I love you Isabella

She then walked away

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NKOSINATHI

I went out for fresh air after working my ass off.

I decided to go to home and be alone. I worked enough for the day.

I drove home listening to ' Amalobolo '

" Ngizala neZintombi zodwa."

I sang along all the way home.

Living alone really sucked. There was nothing to do. I went upstairs to take a quick shower then went to the kitchen to make a quick sandwich

My helper, Gladys was on sick leave

I ate and drank some Heineken.

" NKOSINATHI !! "

I stood up and went to the door. I knew it was mom. She lives in KZN with dad and I'm in Cape Town for work .

I opened the door and bent to hug her. Instead she kissed my cheeks.

her : Mntawana nami (My child)

me : Mama (Mom)

her : Ujani ? Awusa funi ukuza ekhaya wena

(How are you ? You don't want to visit/ come home anymore)

I laughed and picked her bags for her.

her : Ungahleki (Don't laugh)

She followed me to the kitchen. She opened a few pots

her : Uphekeni (What did you cook)

me : Angi phekanga (I didn't cook)

She looked at me the opened the fridge

me : Angina skhati (I never have time)

her : Kwamele uthole umfazi keh ! (Then get a wife.)

me : I'm not ready

her : Asazi uyihlo uzonthini (I wonder what your dad will say)

me : Haii mama

I walked to the lounge and watched some

football while she did the cooking

I'm Nkosinathi Stembiso Khumalo. I'm 35 years old and this is my story

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03

NATHI

Mom has been on my chase about finding a wife. I seriously don't want one. I know I'm not getting any younger but I'm not ready.

Yes I have my basic bitches but I'll never wife them. They just after my money. I want someone who will love me not my money.

Yea I'm a well known business man, so what ?

I was at work day dreaming.

" Nkosinathi ! "

I looked up and i was shocked to see Nandi.

She looked beautiful from the last time I saw her. Nandi is my high school girlfriend. I cheated on her in our matric year and I never saw her again.

She stood there.

She had a body of a model. Her afro was neatly combed up and she reviled her perfect teeth as she smiled.

me : Nandi ?

her : Nkosinathi.

me : How did -. Wait is this really you ?

She smiled and came over to hug me.

her : I'm so glad to see you

me : I haven't seen you since the day we broke up

her : The day I regret.

I looked at her, merely surprised

me : Regret ?

her : Nkosi I've always loves you. You know that.
You know when we broke up I was hurt.

me : What do you mean ?

her : I miss you. I missed you everyday

me : Nandi after 17 years.

She looked down then up again.

her : I still love you

I walked to my door and closed it.

me : Nandi look I've moved on. Those days were
long gone.

her : Let's bring them back

me : Nandi it was nice seeing you again but I've
got work to do.

She dug in her nag and took out a card.

her : Call me when you change your mind

She put the card on the table and left.

Nandi had always been like this. Wanting things to be done her way.

Reason's I broke up with her.

You see i couldn't be with her. I also want things to be done my way. I'm a thug and it's always been in my blood so I can't be controlled by a woman

If that had to happen she would see the side of Shadow. The real side of me

I needed a break from the office so I went out for lunch.

And Nandi was all I could think of.

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ISABELLA

I ran out of the Hospital. Yes, I ran away. I was

still in my ugly big overalls and I was barefoot.

There had been a incident in the hospital and I managed to escape.

I was running. I didn't know where I was running to. I was crying and my feet were burning.

I mistakenly ran into someone. It was a huge man probably in his late 20's or early 30's.

He was dressed formally.

him : You should watch were you're going .

Our eyes looked for a second then I ran again until I stopped. I didn't know where I was.

I sat on a tiny rock and cried.

How did I get here ? 10 years ago I was a model and 3rd year student in Varsity.

How funny life is.

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NANDI

After seeing Nkosinathi I left to go home. I was too obsessed with Nkosi. I've always loved him but I'm married now and I have 2 kids. But damn Nkosi.

I loved him.

I walked slowly down the passage to my bedroom and changed into something more comfortable but all I could think of was Nkosi.

He is handsome. Tall, dark and muscular. His Cologne had always been the same since high school.

He had strong hands any girl would die for.

In high school every girl warned him but he was rough at times. Nkosi is every girl's dream. He hasn't change and he still looked like his 20.

Damn you Nkosinathi. Damn you.

Why do I have to love you so much even when

I'm married. ? why ?

I'm Nandi Thabile Duma and this is my story

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04

NANDI

I was in Lunga's arms in our king sized bed. My mind was elsewhere.

We had just made love but all I could think of was Nkosi. How he looked at me when he took my virginity. How he took a part of me. How we loved each other.

I smiled alone as I thought of him.

Lunga looked at me and realized I was smiling

him : Baby you're smiling

me : I know. I'm just thinking of you

I had to lie. He didn't deserve to know about my dirty thoughts. I smiled at him and kissed his

cheek.

Lunga had the most beautiful eyes and the finest smile.

him : My baby. Reasons why I married you

me : I love you

him : I love you too baby

He kissed my forehead and allowed me to rest on his chest

Such a darling.

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ISABELLA

I walked down the street. It was dark and dull.

Everyone seemed to know their final destination.

I looked around and it was very busy. I was still barefoot and a bit cold.

I saw a group of kids drinking beer. I looked

around again and I couldn't find anyone I know.
I walked down then heard someone say my
name.

I turned around and it was Sindy

The girl who works at the Mental Hospital. She
is probably in her 30's or my age.

She was quiet shocked to see me

her : Isabella why you're here ?

You escaped

I looked down.

me : Sindy -

her : No don't say anything. Let's go to my flat.

She held my hand and we started walking

her : Isabella it's very dangerous here

me : I know. I'm sorry

her : It's okay.

We walked silently down the road. All we could hear were voices of other people

We finally found a few flats in that area. They were painted with a cream white colour

her : Go in

I walked in and looked around. It was clean and very organised

me : Nice flat

her : Thank you. Let's get you into a warm bath and while you bath I'll prepare something to eat

me : Thank you Cindy

She showed me to the bathroom and left to make us food.

I took a long shower. When I was finally done I dried my body

me : Cindy

her : I'm assuming you need clothes

She disappeared into a room then came back with a pair of pyjamas

her : Here you go

me : Why you're doing this for me ?

her : Because I like you

With that said she left.

I got dressed. The pyjamas were a bit tight but they did fit.

her : Why did you run away ?

We were in the lounge eating Spaghetti and mince.

me : It's horrible there

her : I know but it wasn't necessary for you to run away. You could have been caught

I looked down

her : You can stay with me and I'll help you find a job some where

me : Really ?

her : Isabella I lost my husband and two kids as well as my sister in a car accident two years ago. I need someone. And I'm happy I got you.

I saw tears threatening her eyes

me : I'm truly sorry

her : It's okay

We shared a hug and ate over a light convo.

This was the start of a new chapter. I had to make it work

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NATHI

I made my own food since mom had left.

I sat in front of the TV with bottle of Heineken and food.

I'm a typical Zulu man so meat was what I ate

everyday. I had just came back from meeting
the gents from the force

" NKOSINATHI !!!!! "

Someone kept banging on my door

I opened and it was Nandi

me : How did -

She closed my mouth with the tip of her finger
and took off the coat she was wearing

Damn.

Her body was revealed and she was wearing a
black lingerie with red heels.

She took a step back and looked at me

She then kissed me and I responded.

The kiss was rough, long and passionate

Next thing we were on my bed and I was on top
of her. Her lingerie was off and I was naked. I
inserted a condom then went in without a

warning.

A moan escaped her mouth

She groaned and moaned as I went deeper and faster.

I collapsed on top of her after our steamy session

me : Damn

her : I love you

I got off her as I caught my breath

me : Go shower

I wore my adidas shorts and went downstairs for another Heineken

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05

NATHI

I drank the my Heineken. I waited for Nandi to finish showering. She was talking long. I wanted

her out of my house.

I heard footsteps coming from the stairs

her : Baby I'm done.

I looked at her.

me : I'm not your baby. You're married

her : But -

me : Go get your coat. I'll drop you off at home.

her : Actually I came with my car

me : Great. You know the way to the door ke sis.

I walked away and went to make a few phone calls.

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ISABELLA

I woke up the next morning and went straight to the kitchen. Cindy was nowhere to be found.

She left a little note on the fridge

" Morning Isabella. I already left for work. I left you R200 in case you need anything.

See you later.

Sindy. "

I opened the fridge to look for breakfast and it was dry.

I went to change into clothes Sindy had put on the bedroom couch. I washed my face then went out to buy food I could eat.

I bought bread, eggs and milk and a bar of chocolate. I walked back to the flat then made myself breakfast.

After breakfast I watched TV until I got bored. I decided to go back to bed since I had nothing to do.

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NANDI

Nkosi can be very rude. What he did last night was not on. Does he even remember I'm his first love.

I guess not

I woke up the next morning and got ready for work. The kids had already left with their father so I was alone.

I went downstairs for breakfast then decided to call Nkosi. I had to confront him.

His phone rang a few times and a girl picked it up.

voice : Hi. Who am I talking to ?

I immediately hung up and continued with my breakfast.

How could he do this to me?

Nkosi and I loved each other. Wat really happened ? Where did our love go. ?

I lost my appetite immediately so I decided to leave for work.

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ROMEO

I had received a call from the Mental Hospital telling me Isabella escaped.

Where could she possibly be ?

She knew no one besides us but she didn't come home last night.

I was worried about her. I may have not visited her at the hospital but I still loved her and she's still my sister.

I sat on the couch and thought where she could be.

" Romeo ! "

It was Kyile

her : I heard the news.

me : I'm worried Kyile

her : I told you we should have taken Isabella.
She would be safe with us.

She sat down and cried

me : I'm sorry Kyile.

her : If anything happens to her. You're no
longer my brother. I'll hate you Romeo

I watched as she stormed out the room

This was a mess.

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I know it's short I'm busy

° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

06

ISABELLA

A few weeks had passed and I was still staying

with Sindy. She had gotten me a job and I was starting today. I was both excited and nervous.

I woke up early that day. I bathed, dried and lotioned my body. Sindy and I had gone shopping to buy me clothes and shoes as well as other things I needed.

So I wore black jeans, the T-shirt I was given and black all stars. I tied my hair into a bun and wore a little make-up. I then went downstairs to make breakfast.

I made bacon, eggs, cheese slices, Vienna's and toasted bread with coffee.

Sindy joined me later and we had breakfast over a light conversation.

her : So how you feeling ? Are you nervous ?

me : Both nervous and excited.

She smiled.

her : You'll be fine. Nkosinathi is a good man.

me : Looks like you like him ?

She laughed.

her : His my brother.

me : Oh.

We both laughed.

After breakfast she dropped me off at work.
The manager, Layla showed me around and
introduced me to other staff member. I couldn't
meet the owner today, he was taking a day off.

I started work almost immediately.

The place was full in an hour's time and only
rich people came here.

It is a very fancy restaurant.

What a start.

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NATHI

These weeks have been long. Nandi and I had become sex buddies but I know she wanted more. I was over her and I saw her as nothing but a fuck buddy.

Anyways

I decided to take a day off from both being a businessman and a restaurant owner. I needed time away.

I woke up later that day, took a bath and chilled at home.

My phone rang as I was watching the repeat of a soccer match.

It was Gunnar

Him : Boss

me : Khambani (what's going on ?)

him : Boss, his back

me : Fuck ! What ? When did he come back ?

him : A few weeks back

me : And you telling me this now

him : I only found out yesterday boss.

me : Fuck Gunnar. Kanti what do I pay you for ?
Fuck man !

him : Eish hade boss (Sorry)

me : Make sure you watch his every move and
update me on the details you find.

him : Sho boss.

I hung up and called Hammer

him : Shadow how are you boy ?

me : First of all you don't call me boy. Secondly
we don't have time for a petty talk and lastly
Lunga is back.

him : Fuck what ?

me : My reaction exactly.

Hammer is my best friend. We got way back

from creche.

him : That motherfucker

me : Are you thinking what I'm thinking ?

him : My gun is ready babe.

me : I'm not your babe Thokozani

We then shared a laugh.

How I loved my nigga.

me : Okay enough. Tell the boys we'll meet at
the force tonight

him : Sho

I hung up and whistled

I see a war.

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ISABELLA

I was only leaving at 9 so I still had 2 more

hours left.

The restaurant was still packed and more people were still coming in

As I was day dreaming a group of men came in. They said nothing to each other. They all walked calmly to a table far from everyone. The area was covered in a glass wall and no one had been there the whole day. My main focus was on the tallest of them all. He was tall and dark. He had beautiful eyes but the most serious but handsome face. I hadn't seen someone that handsome since I'd been out of the hospital.

He was wearing jeans, white Lacoste golf T-shirt and white Nike sneakers. They all walked in and sat down.

Layla walked on out of nowhere

her : You see those men there?

She pointed at the men who had just come in.

I nodded

her : Please take this to them

me : Okay

She gave 5 bottles of beer and I walked to them

I gave them their beer and as I was about to walk away the guy I was looking at earlier held my waist tightly

him : Don't you greet your customers

I looked at his hand

I rolled my eyes at him

him : Don't roll your eyes at me

He said that in a deep voice and it came out as a command

me : Or what ?

him : Do you know who I am ?

I laughed

me : I'm not here to know who everyone is. I'm here to work. Now if you will excuse I need to get back to work.

He let go of me.

him : Leave.

He gave me the scariest face and I left immediately

How rude he is.

I did my shift then left for the day.

What a day

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07

NATHI

I went home after the meeting with the boys at my restaurant which we call our "force."

I was still shocked by the attitude of the girl I met earlier on who happened to be my new

employee.

She spoke to me in a way no one has ever had. She had confidence and something else my mind couldn't get to.

I have to admit she's beautiful. She has the tiniest figure and the most curvy hips and biggest ass.

Her hair is curly and very dark. She has the most beautiful hazel eyes accompanied by long, thick eyelashes and eyebrows. She has tiny pink lips and a beautiful straight teeth.

Damn. Such beauty

But she was still rude and I had to talk to her.

I was disturbed by a knock on my door. I went to check and it was Nandi.

She smiled when I opened the door.

her : Nkosi. Unjani (how are you ?)

Can I come in please.

I looked at her then made space for her to come in.

I said nothing.

She sat on the couch and folded her arms. I wondered if she ever spends time with her family ? She's a busy woman and any free time she gets she's here.

I still said nothing.

She also said nothing instead she kept looking at me like a lost puppy.

I walked to the fridge and got some Heineken.

I finally decided to break in awkward silence

me : Nandi why you here ?

She looked down and started playing with her newly made nails.

me : Nandi ?

She looked up

me : Why you're here ?

her : I'm here to tell you I'm divorced now. So you can have me all by yourself

me : But I didn't have a problem sharing you.

her : Well I did. I had to choose between you and my husband and I chose you my love.

I gave her a death stare.

She looked down immediately.

me : Listen here Nandi. I'm not your love and I don't want you.

her : But you can marry me now !

She screamed.

me : Nandi I don't want to marry you.

her : But Nkosi I -

me : No ! Get the hell out of my house.

her : Please

I gave her a serious face and she stood up
her : I'll leave.

She walked out and I sat on the couch.

Nandi has always been trouble.

What was I thinking allowing her back into my
life ?

This was a big mess.

But I had bigger problems like how I was going
to kill Lunga.

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ISABELLA

The following day I woke up early to prepare for
work. I know it was going to be a long day.

I bath ,dried and lotioned my body.

I wore jeans and the restaurant T-shirt written "
La'Khumz " in bold letters and all stars

I left my curly hair to hang loosely.

I wore a little make-up and went to the kitchen to prepare breakfast but Cindy was already done.

me : Good morning

her : Morning Sweetie

I smiled as I sat on a chair and waited for breakfast to be served

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ROMEO

I still had no news about Isabella's whereabouts. Kyle was still angry at me. I tried apologizing but she didn't want to speak to me.

I was on my way to taking Nathan to his soccer practise.

him : Bro what's wrong ? You don't seem to be

listening to me

I snapped away from my thoughts and tried focusing on what Nathan was saying

me : Huh ?

him : I said I got 90% for my maths paper

me : oh that's great

He frowned and I looked at him

me : what ?

him : Can you at least show some interest in what I'm saying

me : Sorry

I then focused on the road again.

To be honest I didn't care what Nathan was saying right now.

I had to find a way to find Isabella.

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NATHI

I decided to stop at the restaurant that morning. It was a Saturday and I knew it was going to be busy.

When I arrived I sat in a table for one instead of going to my office.

I decided to call Layla

She answered on the second ring

her : You right here did you have to call ?

me : Yes, I want coffee and I want you send the new girl. Don't tell her I'm the owner

She frowned

her : Why ?

me : Layla you know I hate talking to you. Just do it and stop asking questions like my mother

I hung up and waited

The girl came almost immediately after my call

She groaned when she saw me and I smiled.

Well let's say it was a evil smile

me : I see we meet again

her : You again

me : Still don't greet your customers ?

she faked a smile

her : Hello Sir. How is your morning ?

She said sarcastically

me : That's better. You're dismissed

She cliked her tounge and disappeared in our kitchen.

I laughed and then went to my office

I called Layla and asked her to the call the new girl in.

It's time she knows who I am and not fuck with me again

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08

NATHI

She came in minutes later. She knocked and I allowed her in.

She froze when she saw me. She then looked down.

me : Take a seat

She sat down and started playing with her nails.

I said nothing for a moment. I just looked at her adoring her beauty.

I was lost for a moment.

me : Look at me Minehle

Yes, I had looked at her CV before she came.

I was surprise to see she only had a matric and no work experience. I mean she's 31 years old this year.

She looked at me for a second then looked down again.

me : I said look at me

I said that harsher.

She quickly looked up

me : The what the fuck is going on with you ?

her : You don't talk to woman like that

me : Well you don't deserve to be treated like one. After the behavior I received. Is that how you treat your customers ?

her : I'm sorry

me : Well I'm sorry too. Maybe you don't deserve this job.

her : No please. I need this job.

me : I only hired you because Cindy is my sister.

She looked down.

me : Fucken look at me !

She looked up, shocked at the tone of my voice

her : Do you have to scream ?

She gave me a puppy face.

I looked away.

I was just too weak when it came to her.

me : Get the fuck out.

She stood up and left immediately.

I sat down and smiled.

Damn she was one lady.

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ISABELLA.

Damn. So his the owner.

I do regret my behavior towards him.

I left his office and went to the work area.

I went and helped an old man sitting alone.

It was a black in his 50's. I had seen him
somewhere I just don't know where

He smiled when he saw me. It's like he had
known me in years when he looked at me.

me : Hi Sir. I'm Isabella and I'm new here. Would
you like to order anything ?

He said nothing but smiled

me : Sir ?

him : You're beautiful

me : Sir, I'm too young. You can't flirt with me

him : I heard about your mother. I'm sorry.

What ?

Who is he ? How did he know my mother ?

him : I was hoping you'd serve me. I came here
as soon as I heard you work here.

I looked at him, speechless

me : Who are you ?

He said nothing, instead he stood up

him : It was nice seeing you

He was about to walk away but I held his hand.

He looked at me.

me : I'm sorry.

him : Bye Minehle.

He walked away.

" Starting trouble with our customers again ? "

I looked and it was Mr Owner.

me : Would you shut up for once in your life ?

I clicked my tounge and walked away.

He was seriously irritating me now.

Yes he was hot and all but he didn't have to be a
plan in the ass.

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I'm sorry for such a short insert. My phone is giving me problems.

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09

NANDI

I was tired of Lunga begging me not to leave him. I mean I'm in love with someone else. Yes there was a time when I loved Lunga but those times are gone. You know Lunga can be controlling at times. I remember when he first laid his hand on me, that's the I no longer cherished him . That's the day I realized that my love for him has vanished. But when it came to Nkosi, it was different. He was my first love and I couldn't let go so quickly. We had a future plan.

Yes, Lunga is the father of my two boys but I had to follow my heart.

Lindokuhle and Mpiloenhle will have to understand this, maybe not now but later in life.

I was in the lounge listening to Lunga beg me again. I had asked him to move out .

him : Nandi think about the kids. What about them ?

I looked at him , shocked

me : What about them Lunga ? Those kids are mine. I can take care of them any day

him : You're hardly at home.

me : I can get a nanny.

him : I can take care of them. Nandi please

He took my hand into his.

him : Nandi I love you.

He looked at him

me : Lunga I -

" Daddy ! "

Mpilo ran into the room and into Lunga's arms.

He picked him up and kissed his forehead.

Lunga : How are you boy ?

Mpilo : I missed you dad

I looked down.

Just a 7 year old would soon realize that his father will be gone for good. Lunga loved his kids, no doubt but I could stay in a loveless marriage because of the kids sake.

This is my happiness were are talking about.

Lunga : Nandi I'll have to go . I hope to speak to you soon.

I watched him as he put Mpilo down and walk to the door.

To think He was once my happiness, he was once the love of my life. He was once the man I loved.

How it all faded away....

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NATHI

No woman has ever spoken to me in that way.

Isabella was something else.

She didn't seem to care who I am and what I do.

She didn't care about my money or my power.

I had to marry her.

I was in the office doing some paper work but my mind couldn't get off Isabella

It was a Saturday and I knew it was busy at the restaurant but I didn't go.

Although I wanted to hear Isabella's voice.

Wait, since when do I care about her.

I can't be in love so soon.

I'm not ready. I know I'll hurt her as and I don't want that to happen.

I can't be in love with Isabella.

Not so soon.

I called Nandi to get this off my mind.

She answered on the second ring.

her : Hi

me : I'm craving for you

her : Baby I

me : Come to my place today. I want you

She laughed.

her : Time ?

me : 8o'clock sharp. Wear something sexy

She laughed and I hung up.

I shacked my head and continued working.

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ISABELLA

The restaurant was real busy. I didn't even have the time to check my phone.

I attended a table with one guy sitting there. He was probably in his early 30's. He was yellow and he was in a suit.

me : Hello sir. May I please take your order ?

He smiled at me.

him : Hello princess.

me : Hi

him : You look beautiful

I smiled

me : Your order sir

him : How about you give me your number so next time you can deliver my order ?

I laughed.

me : My boss would never allow that

He laughed and looked at me

him : Okay, how about you give me your number so next time we come here for dinner ?

me : No

him : Okay please give me your number ?

me : No

him : Please

me : Your order.

He smiled.

He got up and took his wallet and keys.

me : I'm guessing you won't order anything.

him : What's your name ?

me : Excuse me ?

him : That's my order. I would like to know your name

I smiled

me : I'm Isabella. Isabella Matthews

him : Brian. Brian Banda.

He walked away.

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° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

10

NATHI

After doing a great amount of work, I went straight home. I was dog tired . I don't think I'll be able to handle Nandi.

Arriving home I took a shower and wore my grey sweatpants and nothing on top. I went downstairs and took a Heineken from the fridge as I called Gunman.

He answered on the second ring

him : Boss

me : Fede Boy, any news on Lunga?

him : Actually yes sir.

me : I'm listening

him : Lungs has a wife and two kids, boys. He moved here 6 weeks ago and the plotting to kill you and Hammer

me : What ?

him : His actually planning to come tonight with his boys

me : Fuck ? What ? Have you told Hammer ?

him : No

me : Call him now and tell him

him : Sir will you be fine ?

me : Yes boy, just call Hammer and tell him the news

him : Sho boss

I hung up and just as I was about to call Nandi to cancel my door bell rang.

I stood up immediately and she was standing there wearing a lingerie and heels.

me : Nandi

She smiled and kissed me. I pulled out almost immediately

me : You have to go

her : What ? But baby why ?

me : I'll -

Before I could finish my sentence I heard gunshots.

She screamed and I tried closing the door to protect her , but they were already in.

I looked at Lunga and he froze.

He wasn't looking at me, instead he was looking at Nandi

him : So his the reason you're leaving me ?

She looked scared and frightened

him : I'm talking to you dammit !

me : Don't you dare come and scream in my house !

him : Or what Nkosinathi Khumalo ?

" Or I'll kill you "

I looked and it was Hammer and the other boys.

Lunga : Nandi is he the reason you've been coming home late to your kids and husband ?

She said nothing.

him : And you bastard. You've been sleeping with my wife.

I was shocked to find out Nandi and Lunga are married. She didn't mention him

me : I was just giving her what you didn't

Lunga : I'll kill you Shadow !

hammer : And I'll kill you

Nandi still said nothing. She just looked at all of

us like a lost puppy.

Hammer : This is getting boring.

I heard a gunshot and Nandi screamed. Lunga fell down near my feet and Hammer kept shooting him

Nandi : STOP NOW !!!!

Hammer looked at her and stopped.

Then he looked at me

him : You're still fucking this bitch from high school. I thought you're over her.

Nandi : I'm not a bitch

him : And I'm not talking to you. In fact leave

She looked at me and I said nothing

She looked at Lunga once more and left.

What a night .

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ISABELLA

I had finished my shift but Cindy couldn't fetch me today since she's working a night shift.

I walked down the road to catch a taxi to our flat

A car stopped near me as I was walking.

I turned and looked.

It was Brian

He came out and walked to me. He smiled with his perfect white teeth.

him : I see we meet again

me : Are you stalking me ?

him : No, I wanted to come eat at La'Khumz but I saw y'all already closed.

me : Oh yeah

him : Where you off to ?

me : Home

him : Oh, you usually walk ?

I frowned and he almost laughed

me : No, my sister usually fetches me but she can't today so I'm going to catch a taxi.

him : That's not safe. Its late . Come I'll drop you off

me : And how do I know it's safe to ride with you ?

He laughed this time

him : I would never do anything to hurt you

I looked down

him : I promise you.

me : Okay

We went in and we drove over a light conversation.

I gave him directions to our flat and pulled right

in front of the gate.

me : Thank you

him : It's a pleasure Miss Matthews.

I smiled and I was about to walk out when he held my hand.

him : You forgot to give me your number

me : I didn't forget, I just don't want to.

He groaned

me : Thanks for the ride.

I'm sorry it's short I've been busy lately

°THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

11

ISABELLA

I woke up early the next morning. I was a bit lazy for work today.

I went to the bathroom and took a shower, dried then lotioned my body. I wore the usual, black jeans, the La-Khumz T-shirt and black all stars.

I combed my hair into a messy bun the wore hoops

I went to the kitchen to make breakfast but Sindy had already done that.

We ate over a light conversation. She gave me taxi fare since she couldn't drop me off at work. She actually left a bit early today.

I took my assets and left the flat.

" Want a ride ? "

I looked behind and it was Brian. I rolled my eyes and walked to him

me : Want do you want here ?

him : Good morning Miss Matthews

me : You're not answering my question

He smiled and I rolled my eyes again

him : I came here to give you a ride

me : Did I say I want one ?

him : Jeez no need to be rude

me : Sorry. I'm just tired

him : It's okay. So do you wanna ride with me ?

me : Sure

He opened the door for me and I hopped in. He went to his side and we left.

him : So tell me how long have you been working at La'Khumz ?

me : Its been a few months.

him : I see.

We kept quiet for a few seconds then he broke the silence

him : How about we go out for dinner today ?

I looked at him

me : Why ?

him : Because I want to eat with you

me : That's not happening

him : Please Ma'am

I almost laughed at his facial expression

me : No

him : Please

me : No

him : Please

me : Okay fine. Fetch me at 10, I only knock off at 9.

him : Perfect

He stopped at La'Khumz and I got out.

him : See you later

I laughed and went inside .

Brian, Brian, Brian

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NATHI

We only managed to clean the mess this morning . I had called the boys for help

After cleaning the mess I headed straight to the restaurant . It was already busy when I got there.

I went straight to my office and made a few calls regarding Lunga's death.

" Sorry sir to interrupt you "

It was Layla, the most disliked staff member.

me : What do you want ?

her : Isabella isn't feeling well

me : Where is she ?

I was actually starting to panic.

her : She's in my office

me : Call the ambulance

I went to her office and she was sitting weakly on the chair.

me : Minehle

her : Sir.

She said that weakly

I tried calming her down

Layla came in minutes later

Layla : The ambulance has arrived

I quickly picked her up and led the way to the ambulance

They put her on the bed and Layla went in with her. I asked Zita to help for the day then I followed to ambulance .

I called Cindy and she said she was on her way.

We sat for 2 hours after Cindy's arrival.

" I'm guessing you're here for Miss Matthews "

me : Yes Doctor

Sindy : How is she ?

Doc : She ate food poisoning

me : Food poisoning ?

Doc : Yes sir. It's a good thing you came quickly ,
she wouldn't have made it

Sindy : Nkoainathi ! Kanti khuyenzakalani lapha
kaLa'Khumz ? (What's going on at La'Khumz)

me : I guess I gotta find out

her : You better

Doc : She be able to leave tomorrow

me : I'll fetch her

Sindy looked at me

Doc : Have a good day

He left

Sindy : Why are you -

me : Don't even ask.

I walked away

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◦ THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER ◦

12

ISABELLA

I woke up in the hospital weak and tired. I wanted water to pinch my thirst .

I looked around then tried sitting up. I hated hospitals. I wanted to go home and just sleep.

I was still trying to sit up but I was weak.

" Whooa lemme help you "

I looked at the door and it was Mr Banda himself.

He helped me sit up then gave me a glass of water.

I gulped the water all at once.

him : How are you feeling ?

me : I'm fine just a bit weak.

He smiled.

He just loved smiling . He was always smiling.

me : How did you know I'm here ?

He smiled again

him : I have my ways.

I heard footsteps and I looked at the door.

Mr Khumalo.

him : Brian ? What the fuck are you doing here ?

Brian : To see Miss Matthews

him : Leave !

He was shouting which scared me.

Brian : Nkosinathi you won't tell me what to do.

Nkosinathi moved closer to him

him : I said leave Banda.

Brian looked at me then kissed my forehead

him : I'll call you

me : Where did -

him : Bye.

He left. There was awkward silence in the room.

Nkosinathi looked at me irritated.

me : What ?

him : Don't what me

me : Excuse me

I was surprised by his attitude

him : You can't date Banda

me : Yea I can. Yes, you're my boss at work but you're not the boss of my life.

him : I'm telling you keh ntombazane. You will not date him, whether you like it or not

me : I will date him

him : I'll kill you.

I laughed

me : I'll do whatever I wanna do, this is my life.

him : Isabella YOU WILL NOT DATE BANDA.
KUPHELELA LAPHO !!

With that said he stormed out the room

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NATHI

I left that hospital pissed than ever. I wasn't gonna allow Isabella to date Banda. His not the type for her.

He would abuse her if she didn't listen to him. He would never allow her to go out. He would be very bossy.

Isabella will not date that man.

I drove to the restaurant.

me : Layla I want you by my office now.

her : Okay

I went straight to my office. I didn't wait for more than 5 minutes and Layla was in my office.

me : Someone poisoned Isabella and I want you to find out who

her : Okay

me : Leave

I made a few calls then went back to the hospital to fetch Isabella. I had brought her a adidas traksuit and sleepers from Edgar's just so she can cover her body.

her : Not you again

She said that as I entered the room with her clothes

me : Yes me again. I'm here to fetch you

her : I'm definitely not leaving with you

He laughed at me

him : Yea you are.

I handed her the plastic bag and she left to change

She came back and she looked beautiful as always.

her : I'm bit leaving with you. You're very arrogant and rude. I don't need such negatively. I'll call Sindy

I had no time to argue with her so I just picked her up and put her on my shoulder. She kept hitting and fighting me but I got her in my car and we left

She was sulking

her : I hate you

me : Do you want food ?

her : I do but not yours.

I drove to Steers and got her food.

her : Are you always like this ?

I could see she's angry.

me : Here's your food.

She just looked at it then looked away . I put it
on her lap

She didn't say anything

I drove her to my sister's flat and she went out
leaving the food in my car

me : Your food

her : Fuck you and your food

I went out my car and pinned her against the
walk as I held her arm

me : Don't ever say that again.

She kept quiet and looked away.

I then let go of her.

me : Here's your food.

She took it and left.

I went straight home. Right now I needed a Heineken.

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KING

It's been 10 years since I left South Africa. I wonder how Nathan looks, what he likes and how his doing.

I was in a plane from London to Cape Town.

I couldn't wait to see him. And obviously all the other kids.

I left for London after my wife committed suicide. I needed to be alone. Some people may judge me because I left my kids behind but it

wasn't easy.

I loved Blue and I couldn't cope.

My kids had to understand it was too much for me, I mean I lost the love of my life. I wasn't gonna stay here and raise that child alone.

The journey lasted for 24 hours. I arrived at Cape Town at 08:00 am and booked in a hotel.

I need rest

THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

13

ISABELLA

I was given two days away from work.

Apparently I needed some rest

I do admit I have rested enough but who would said no to free leave. I was in the lounge with Sindy. We were silently watching television. I

was thinking about her brother, Mr Khumalo
argg I mean Nkosinathi. How dare he do what
he did earlier today ? He was a rich arrogant
and rude brat. I hatred the fact that his my boss
and the fact that his bossing my life around. I
mean who tells their employee who to or not
date. I mean Brian Banda is a very nice guy. All
he does is smile. He doesn't seem like a threat
to me or anyone for that matter. Nkosinathi was
being arrogant as always. He had no right to
react the way he did today, his only my boss
and my flatmate's brother and that's were it
should end.

" You look worried. "

Sindy said that with a concerned face

me : It's nothing. I'm fine

her : Isabella...

me : Okay fine, it's your brother

She looked and me shocked

her : Who ? Nkosinathi

me : Yes him

her : What about him ?

me : Look Sindy I understand his my boss and all but his been bulling me

her : What ? Why ?

me : I met this guy -

her : So you met a guy.

I blushed a bit.

me : Yes, I met a guy whom I like. But your brother says I shouldn't date him

She laughed.

me : I'm sorry did I say something funny ?

She looked at me and placed her hand on my lap

her : Look I know Nkosinathi and he might be falling for you. His too over protective.

me : No that's impossible. He can't be falling for me when his so rude to me.

her : Well his like that.

me : Too much for a brother

She laughed again but this time louder.

her : Enough about Nkosinathi. Whose this guy you met ?

I looked down

me : Brian Banda

She looked as though she saw a ghost.

her : WHAT ?

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NATHI

I was with Hammer and Gunman. We were having a few drinks and talking about random things.

Hammer : I'm telling you boy. Natasha is hot.

me : But I'm over all these bad bitches chief

They laughed and Hammer playfully put his hand on my hand to check my "temperature"

Hammer : Are you okay man ?

Gunman : But you the baddest here. Man you love pussy

I laughed as I sipped my beer

Hammer : Okay but please bang her for me

We all laughed.

me : Why don't you do it ?

Hammer : Man you have to.

He gave me a puppy face.

I laughed

Hammer : What happened to you fucking Nandi anyway ?

me : I'm over that ass.

Gunman : I'm glad

The boys left at midnight after so many beers. I tried calling Isabella but she didn't answer so I went and took a shower and went to bed.

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Remember our deal.

° THE SCARS MADE HER STEONGER °

14

ISABELLA

Sindy looked shocked when I mentioned Brian's name. I could are she was moved by what I had just said.

I held her hand to calm her down. She faked a

smile.

me : Cindy do you know him ?

her : uhm no, it's just that -

She stood up and walked to the kitchen, I followed her

me : It's just what ?

her : Nothing. Would you like coffee ?

me : No. I would like you to tell me what's the big deal with Brian Banda ?

She scratched her head.

her : Isabella you need to stop seeing him

me : Even you.

her : You don't understand. His bad news.

me : Bad news ?

her : You need to stay away from him.

She walked out the flat and drove away.

What was the big deal with Brian ?

My phone rang and it was an unknown number.

caller : Miss Matthews

me : Brian

him : How about I take you out for breakfast ?

me : When ? Now ?

him : Yes. I'm outside.

I giggled.

me : I'm coming

I hung up and wore shoes. I had already bathed.

I locked the flat and went down

He was standing outside his car. He was wearing jeans, a black golf T-shirt and black Gucci sneakers.

me : Hey

him :;You look beautiful

me : You're lying

He was lying. I was just wearing a shoulder off white dress and brown sandals.

He laughed.

Is Brian bad news ? He seemed like an angel to me. He always laughed.

him : We should go

He opened the door for me and went to his side then we drove off.

We went to some fancy restaurant.

I liked the deco of this restaurant.

me : Nice

him : It's my favourite

We sat down and took our orders.

me : So what do you do for a living ?

him : I'm a business man

We spoke about random things

" What the fuck is going on here ? "

It was my boss again.

me : Excuse me ?

him : Why aren't you at work ?

me : You gave me a day off remember ?

him : to rest not to go around with men

me : What the fuck is wrong with you ?

He picked me up and put me on his shoulder.

I was hitting up and fighting him

me : Put me down you asshole !

He chucked me into his car and drove to some fancy house.

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KING

I was still in the hotel getting ready to meet Romeo and the other kids.

I couldn't wait to see how they have grown.

I bathed and lotioned my body. I wore jeans and a white shirt with Nike takkies.

I went down and told the secretary I'm leaving

We were meeting at La'Khumz restaurant in Jo'burg.

They hadn't arrived when I arrived, so I just ordered coffee.

They arrived minutes later but to my surprise Isabella wasn't there.

Romeo : Pops

Kyle : Daddy

She had grown to be a beautiful young woman. She looked like her mother.

We shared a hug and then sat down

I looked at Nathan and he just didn't know who I am.

me : Nathan

Nathan : Hi

me : Do you know me ?

He shook his head

Nathan : No

me : I'm your father

He stood up and came to hug me

Nathan : Romeo said I would meet you one day.

I smiled.

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BRIAN

I left after Nkosinathi took Isabella. This boy was going to be the end of me.

Growing up Nkosi and I were friends, close friends. We shared everything until I betrayed him and killed his cousin, Aphiwe who was my girlfriend. I killed Aphiwe so I could pay revenge for what had happened between Nkosi and I

Now we in love with the same girl it's gonna be hard to get to Isabella.

I had to make a plan real quick

° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

16

NATHI

Isabella was giving me a hard time. I tried talking to her but she kept ignoring me. I ended up giving up and leaving her in my house alone. I knew age couldn't leave since she knew nobody and if she called Sindy, she would believe she's safe.

I went to my company for a quick meeting then went to see how things are going at the restaurant.

her : Then why you leaving me ?

I was with Nandi at her house. The kid's weren't around

me : I was never with you. My love for you ended years ago.

her : But I still love you

I kept quiet

her : Why you doing this to me.

I said nothing.

her : talk to me dammit

me : You know better than to talk to me like that.

She looked down and said nothing

her : Why did you kill my husband then ? Didn't you kill him just to be with me

I almost laughed.

me : Nandi I'm in love with someone else.

She looked at me with tears threatening her eyes. She wanted to say something but the words couldn't come out. She sat down on her couch and buried her head in her hands.

me : I'm sorry

I took my assets and left her house.

My phone rang and I picked it up almost immediately

voice : Hello whose this ? I'll like to order pizza.

She giggled. It was Isabella and she was drunk.

her : Pizza man. Please

She giggled again.

her : Okay then I'll just make my own food.

She hung up before I could say anything.

I drove straight home and my kitchen was half

on fire. She was choking badly on the smoke.

I picked her up and took her to my room, she was still choking.

I called Gunman to arrange for my kitchen to be fixed.

Damn Isabella.

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BRIAN

I had been trying to get ahold of Isabella but nothing. She wasn't answering my calls and that alone pissed me off.

I went to La'Khumz but she wasn't around.

On my way out I bumped into a woman, she was tall, dark and had an afro. She had a body of a model. Unlike Isabella she was thin. She

was beautiful and had the nicest smile

her : I'm sorry about that me : It's okay. Brian
Banda

her : Nandi Duna

me : I'm pleased to meet you Nandi.

her : Likewise.

She was about to walk away when I held her
hand.

me : Are you here to stay ?

She smiled

her : Yes

me : Are you alone ?

her : Yes

me : Can we eat together ?

her : Sure

We went back in and ate. We spoke about our

lives and I was shocked I found out she has two kids.

me : So are you currently in a relationship ?

Her smile faded

her : No, we just broke up

me : I'm sorry to hear that

her : Are you in a relationship ?/

me : No.

Then there was awkward silence. I cleared my throat.

me : We should get going.

her : We ?

me : I was thinking we could have dessert at my house

She laughed

her : I'd love that.

I paid for our bill then left.

She was following me with her car

Arriving at my house we had wine and had a light conversation about random things.

She was a wonderful woman

me : I'm sorry about your husband.

her : It's okay.

We looked each other in the eyes then our lips collided.

I then kissed her neck and stripped her naked. A moan escaped from her mouth when I played with my tongue all over her body.

I played with her clit and she groaned. I muffed her and she kept screaming my name.

I put a rubber and entered without a warning.

She groaned and moaned as I moves faster and faster. I released and collapsed on top of her.

Damn she was good. Too good if you ask me

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Please comment. Your comments matter

° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

17

ISABELLA

I woke up in an unfamiliar place, this is definitely not Cindy's place. My head is killing me, I have a major headache. I had been drinking a lot last night and I'm really tired.

I instantly remember I'm at my boss's house and not at work. And Cindy might be very worried. I then go and rinse my mouth in a bathroom close by. I hate alcohol, it's nice when you drink but in the morning you feel like dying. Anyway I go downstairs and Nkosinathi is making himself breakfast. He seems chilled.

me : Why am I still here ?

him : Hello to you to. You were to drunk to go home. Never drink like that again, you almost burned my kitchen

me: Sindy must be worried. I have to go

him : I called her, she's at work

me : Speaking of work, I have to go to work

him : You're with the boss, you're fine. Trust me.

I laugh and take a seat on a high chair near the counter.

He passes me breakfast and I dig in immediately

We eat silently and he washes the dishes when we done.

I take a bath and wear the same clothes from yesterday.

me : Take me home

I say that as I peek in his study room.

him : I'm busy

me : So I have to wait for you ?

I roll my eyes

him : Don't roll your eyes at me. Do something here.

He continues with his work and I walk away

I watch some television but I'm disturbed by a knock

I open and it's a old woman with a huge suitcase near her.

her : Hello

me : Hi

her : You must be Nkosinathi's girlfriend. I'm his mother

me : I'm sorry ma but -

She walks in before I finish my sentence

her : Where his he ? NKOSINATHI !!!

I look at her

her : Won't you help me with my bag

I take her bag and Nkosinathi appears from the stairs

him : Ma

her : Awww my baby

She plants kisses on his face.

him : Mother please, I'm not a child anymore.

her : I see you finally got a girlfriend, she's beautiful.

She smiles with her hands together.

Nkosinathi and I look at each other and I'm confused

me : I have to go

her : No, sit down. I'll make coffee.

I fake a smile and sit down.

She disappears in the kitchen and I look at Nkosinathi

me : So you wont tell her ?

him : I will. I know how forward she is.

I laugh and shake my head.

What a woman.

THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

18

ISABELLA

I look at him blankly. Is hr crazy ? His mother can't think we dating. I stand up and walk to him.

me : You better tell her we not dating.

I whisper.

him : I will

He gives me a "you're annoying me " look.

me : Good, now take me home

" No not now. I still have to talk to you "

His mother walks in with a tray of two cups of coffee. I look at her and she just smiles.

her : Sit down [Looks at Nkosinathi] Wena hamba

I look at her and Nkosinathi walks away. He can't leave me with his mother ?

I look at him and he says nothing, instead he goes up stairs.

His mother turns to me and smiles

her : Take your coffee.

I take the coffee and pour two teaspoons of sugar

her : So tell me who are you ? What do you do for a living ?

I decide to play along until Nkosinathi takes me home

me : Well I'm Isabella Minenhle Matthews I -

her : You're black ?

She cuts in.

me : I'm half coloured. Half black. Well my mother was coloured and my father is black

her : Oh and where do you work ?

me : At Mr Khuma -, I mean Nkosinathi's restaurant

She opens her eyes widely in disbelief

her : Why ?

I tell her my story and she is happy Sindy saved me

her : I'm sorry my child. I'm glad Sindisiwe found you.

I smile and say nothing. I take a sip of her

coffee

her : Tell me about you and Nkosinathi

I choke on my coffee

her : Are you fine ?

me : Of course

her : Your relationship with Nathi, how is it ?

I clear my throat

me : We're not dating. His just a fellow
colleague.

She puts her cup down and looks at me with a
frown.

her : NKOSINATHI !!!!!

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NATHI

I hear Mam'Khumalo calling me from the lounge.

I stop working immediately and get out of the study. I walk down the stairs and see disappointment filled in her eyes. Minehle is looking down playing with the spoon in her cup.

her : Hlala phansi (Sit down)

Okay, what's going on ?

me : Yini Ma (What's wrong)

her : Ubani lona ende Ufunani Lana (Whose this and what is she doing here ?)

I look at her then Minehle

I know immediately that she told Ma we not an item

I clear my throat and look away

her : Ngikhuluma nawe!! (I'm talking to you)

me : Ngisebenza naye (I work with her)

her : Yey wena, manje Ufunani Lana (So what is she doing here)

I look at Minehle and she doesn't know what we taking about

me : Ngoba ngiyamthanda Na (She's here because I love here)

She looks at me with surprised eyes.

her : Ye ? (What ?)

Minehle : I think you should take me home

MaKhumalo looks at her the me.

her : Myise khaya (Take her home)

me : Okay

her : Angika chedi ngawe wena. Sisazo khuluma (I'm not done with you. We still have to talk)

Aii this woman !!!

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°THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

19

NATHI

I took my car keys and indicated to Minehle that I'll drive her home. She walked to the door and said her goodbyes to my mother. We went in the car and the ride started. We were quiet the whole drive to her flat. We arrived a few minutes later and we both went out.

She closed the door and stood by the gate

her : Thank you for taking me home.

I nodded and we stared at each other.

I cleared my throat and she was about to walk away but help her hand.

She looked at me

her : Why you holding me ?

I cleared my throat again.

me : Isabella I have something to tell you.

her : What is it ?

I pulled her to me and held her waist. Our eye's met and we said nothing for a moment.

her : Let me go

me : No

her : Then tell me what you wanted to tell me.

me : I..I..

her : I have a life. Say what you wanna say .

She pulled a straight face and I knew she was serious.

me : I love you.

She laughed. She stopped immediately when she saw how serious I am.

her : Are you serious ?

me : Minehle I love you dearly.

her : I need to go.

I let her go and she left. I stood there and watched her go.

I felt I have failed

I wanted to cry but I fought my tears.

I went into my car and drove home.

Now I had to deal with that Mother of mine.
Ma'Khumalo can be too much.

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ISABELLA

He let me go and I went inside our flat. I threw myself on the couch. I never knew Nathi loved me. It was too much to take in. I never knew his behavior was all because he loved me. I stood up and went to make myself coffee.

How could Nathi love me ? His suppose to be my boss.

I sat on the couch again and thought of how my life has changed. Just yesterday I was some depressed girl who was thrown in a Mental Hospital and didn't know love. For ten years I was in that hell.

I still wonder what would have happened if my mother didn't kill herself.

I still wonder what would have happened if I didn't suffer from depression. Would I be married with kids ? Would I have a proper job ? Would I still be this 31 year old virgin lady ?

Where is King ?

How are my siblings ?

I thought of all this and then again of Nathi.

Do I feel the same way for him ? Is that why I walked away because I love him do much ?

Could he be my soulmate ?

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ROMEO

King had moved in and was helping me find Isabella. I wanted to be there for her.

Isabella didn't deserve this. She's my sister

We were so close when we were young, what happened ?

I was a Saturday night. I was in La'Khumz restaurant waiting for my girlfriend, Pamela. She's four years older than me. We met last year and have been dating since then.

I was looking at the menu, looking for a soft drink to order

" Hi sir, what would you like to order ? "

I looked up and there she was. She hadn't changed. She still had curly hair. She was way beautiful now and had the most beautiful body.

I was shocked and so was she

me : Isa

her : Romeo

I saw tears threatening her eyes and I stood up to embrace her.

me : I'm sorry

She let go and wiped her tears.

her : I think I should go.

me : Isabella please.

her : What do you want ?

me : Can I at least have your numbers ?

She gave me her numbers and Pamela walked in after she had walked away.

God is good.

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PLEASE LIKE MY NEW BOOK. Her Story :
Busisiwe Hlongwane.

° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

CONTINUATION

NATHI

I drive straight home, with music playing softly from the radio. I arrive home and park my car. I take my phone and car keys. I lock my car and walk to the door. I open and the kitchen smells divine.

I trust Ma'Khumalo with the pots, she's a great cook. I go in and she looks at me. I say nothing and walk past her.

her : Heye wena Nkosinathi

I stop, turn and look at her.

She gives me a serious look and I know she has so much to say. If I was still a child she would have long beaten me.

I wait for her to talk and she walks to me.

her : Come let's sit down. Kufanele sikhulume

(we need to talk)

I do as instructed and she does the same.

She folds her hands and looks at me with that " I'm concern about you " face.

her : Nkosinathi ulala nomsebenzi wakho (Are you sleeping with your colleague)

I almost laugh but I hold everything in.

me : Hayi mama

her : Manje why lenyombazane ehlala noSindy beyilana ihamba nchunu (So why was that girl who stays with Sindy here walking naked)

I laugh

me : Hayi mama iMini dress leya

her : Is she fit to be a wife ?

me : Mother please.

her : Don't mother please me. You are 35 years old Mara awuna mfazi nabantwana (but you

don't have a wife and kids)

I stand up

me : Mother I'll marry Minehle soon. Umfazi wami loyana (She's my wife)

her : Awuka msheli nokumshela (You haven't even asked her out)

I laugh

me : Relax(a) wena gogo omdala, umfazi wama loyana. Nomakanjani (She's my wife. No matter what)

She laughs and goes back to the kitchen. I go upstairs and take a shower. After the hygiene process I dry and lotion my body.

I wear my grey plain T-shirt and Adidas pants with Nike Sandal's.

" Woza uzodla " (come eat)

Ma'Khumalo screams from the lounge. I go downstairs and she's already seated.

I sit down, we say a prayer and we eat.

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ISABELLA

I go back to my shift after Romeo and his girlfriend leave. I'm happy I saw him but I'm still angry about the whole Mental Hospital situation. I go attended a man whose alone and I know him. He came weeks ago. He spoke about how sorry he he about the loss of my mother and said it's nice seeing me. I look at me and he smiles.

me : You again.

him : I'm happy to see you again.

me : Sir I didn't get your name ?

him : You don't remember me ?

I shake my and he smiles.

him : Of course you won't. I left when you were only 7.

I look at him carefully and try remember my childhood memories but I don't see his picture.

him : Minenhle, where's Romeo ?

I look at him and I'm shocked he knows Romeo.

Who is he ?

me : Who are you ?

I say impatiently.

him : I'm your father, Lubabalo Mbatha.

He takes my hand into his and I snatch it away.

What ?

He comes only after 24 years.

I feel tears escape my eyes and burn my eyes.

How could he be so selfish ?

° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

20

ISABELLA

He stands up and I step back. I wipe the tears that keep falling. He tries holding me and I stop him. I look at him and I just see a selfish man. A man who never cared for us including my mother. I have so many questions but I just can't ask him. Another man raised his children. Where was he ?

He moves his mouth but closes it again. I stare at him and he looks desperate for something him : Minehle please. Let us sit down and talk about this.

me : Talk about what ? It's obvious we were never important to you !

I say that loud and aggressively that everyone looks at us.

him : Please

me : Leave. Go and never come back.

him : But I'm your father.

me : My father is in London, the man who actually raised me. Now leave.

He looks at me once last time

him : I'm your father no matter what. I made mistakes but I want to fix them. Please forgive me and I'll be here anytime you want to talk or ask questions. I love you

He walks away and I cry

" Come, we need to talk ! "

Nathi says with a serious face.

him : My office now

He walks and I follow him. I get into his office and he sits down and leans back.

him : Close the door.

I close the door and quickly wipe my tears.

him : Sit down.

I do as instructed.

him : What the hell was going on in there ?
Shouting at a man like that in front of my
customers. That's inappropriate

me : I'm sorry

I say calmly and softly

him : Who was that man ?

me : My long lost father.

The tears come rushing back and I look down.

him : You never do that again !

me : Yeah of course. You won't understand,
growing up you had a dad who cared. If you
were in my shoes you would have done the
same thing. Now if you will excuse me I have
your costumers to attend so you can get that

big fat check at the end of the month.

I walk away but he grabs me. He looks at me
and I cry looking down

him : I'm sorry

She looks at me and just cries.

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NATHI

I let her cry in my embrace. I'm holding her tight
and she's letting it all out. My golf T-shirt is
stained with tears and snot but I don't mind.

her : I should get back to work

She says pulling out the embrace. Our eyes lock
for a while and I clear my throat.

me : You don't have to. You can sit here and I
can order you something to eat. She doesn't
fight nor complain. She sits down and waits.

I take my phone and order her steers and hang up.

her : Thank you

me : For ?

her : Everything.

She stands up again and hugs me.

Her phone then rings and she answers

her : Hello ? Oh..Yes...Where can we meet ?...Oh okay....Will Nathan be there ?Okay see you then

She hangs up

I'm hurt. So she likes this Nathan guy ?

I'm just Nathi, the helper.

Nice.

We sit in silence and moments later her order is delivered.

her : Thank you

She digs in and I watch her eat.

Such a beautiful soul.

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ROMEO

Isabella is coming over tonight. I've made arrangements with her . I really want us to fix things. For our sake and mother's sake. She would be happy see us together happy.

Pamela and her father are also coming over.

I've organised a chef to prepare a meal got us, I just want my sister back. I know we neglected her but I now I want things fixed.

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ISABELLA

I'm at our flat wearing earrings. I'm preparing for tonight's dinner at home. I'm willing to fix

things with my siblings and move on from my bad past. I'm wearing a black dress with brown sandals. Nathi is in the lounge waiting for me. He offered to drive me there since Cindy is working her night shift. I take my purse with my phone and lipstick inside.

I join Nathi in the lounge

me : We can go now

him : You look beautiful

me : Thank you

He takes my waist and our eyes collide. We kiss, a strong passionate kiss. We break it after a while and we go to the car. I'm a bit embarrassed but he seems fine. He drives me home and all the memories come flashing back that it almost makes me cry.

We go out and he holds my hand

him : Bye

me : Come in

him : No

me : Please

I beg until he finally agrees.

We walk down the path and knock, Kyle opens for us

She breaks down and I hold her.

me : Sshhh don't cry. I'm here now.

her : I'm sorry

She cries for a while then stops we go in and everyone seems seated.

I freeze when I see Pamela and my father.

° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

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ISABELLA

I want to run back and go back home. I walk closer to the dinning room where everyone is sitting and Nathi is right next to me.

I look at them and I'm still not seated. So Romeo has made truce with a man that wasn't there on his birth ? I look at Nathi and he looks at me with his eyebrows brought together. I fake a smile and sit down and he sits next to me.

My father looks at me and his also confused. He wants to say something but keeps quiet.

Pamela : Isabella ?

She stands up and smiles

Pamela : God, I heard what had happened to you !

I look at her and she seems not to realize what's going on.

me : Oh yes Pamela, I came out.

Pamela : I see, you look beautiful

me : Thank you

Romeo : You know each other ?

Pamela Yes babe. We were friends in Varsity but she disappeared.

Romeo looks down but my dad and I are looking at each other

me : So Romeo you have made truce with dad ? Even after what he did ? Not being there on your birth ?

King looks at me and laughs.

King : What are you talking about Isabella ? I only met your mother when Romeo was 3, of course I wouldn't be there on Romeo's birth.

I look at King and fake a smile

me : Not you, him [Pointing at my dad]

Romeo and Pamela look at me.

Pamela : No Isabella, this is my father, Lubabalo Mbatha. He doesn't have any kids.

I laugh

me : So he didn't tell you ?

Romeo : Isabella what's going on ?

Pamela : Isabella you should go back to that Mental Hospital, you're crazy babes

Romeo : Pamela Shut up !

He hits the table. I can see his angry already

Dad : Pamela, Romeo she's right. I'm your father

Romeo : What ?

I see tears threatening his eyes

Pamela : Why didn't you tell me his your son ?

She's already crying

Pamela : I'm busy sleeping with my brother and you say nothing ?

She standing up and looking at dad.

Dad : I really would have told you Nunu. I didn't know, I wasn't there when Romeo was born and I only saw him once when he was 2.

I look down.

Romeo : Please excuse me

He walks up the stairs and disappears in the passage

Pamela : I hate you Dad !

She storms out the lounge and goes out the house slamming the door.

I look at Nathan and King, they are stunned by the sudden drama.

Dad : I'm sorry my child.

me : I think I should go.

I stand up and walk. Nathi follows me.

We go into the car and there is awkward silence.

I look at him and the tears come running down.

My family is just a mess.

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NATHI

Isabella and I go into the car after that whole drama in the house.

She crying in my arms. I'm sure she's hurt after everything.

And I only found out today that she had been at a mental hospital. She's been through a lot and this is just adding to her pain. She doesn't deserve this. And how could her father be so selfish. Leave his children with their mother and make more without them knowing each other.

I am hurt and angry myself.

Her : I think you should take me home.

me : Of course.

her : I mean your home

I can see her tears, but the black because of the black thing she had in her eyes.

me : Of course

I smile at her and my heart breaks down into pieces. I hate seeing her like this. It makes me weak.

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ROMEO

I go into my room after the drama in the lounge.

So I've been sleeping with my older sister.

How Karma is a bitch.

I mean, I love Pamela. How I'll I be able to look at her in the eyes.

And my father, how could he be cruel ?

He has never been in my life, not even once.

I'm sitting on the edge of my bed looking at my mother's picture on the wall.

Where are you when we need you ?

I say to myself and the tears come rushing down.

My parents have been selfish.

My mother killed herself leaving 4 kids behind, only thinking about herself. Didn't she care.

My father, leaving us at a tender age. Did he care what we eat ? Or even wear.

How could they be so selfish

° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

22

NATHI

We go home, my home. I park the car in the

garage. i open the door for her and give her my jacket to cover shoulders. I lock the car and walk with her. We go through the kitchen door . We go to the lounge and she sits on the couch. I look at her and she looks exhausted.

me : What would you like to eat ?

her : I'm not hungry

me : You have to eat.

her : Make me coffee.

me : You have to eat something Minehle.

her : Okay make me a peanut butter sandwich.

I walk back to the kitchen and make her peanut butter sandwich and her coffee.

her : Thank you

I sit down and watch her eat. She's eating slowly. I see tears threatening her eyes.

me : Don't do this to yourself

The tears escape her eyes. I got to her and put the plate and cup on the table. I hold her and she weeps silently.

My heart breaks when I hear her weeps.

me : Shhhh

her : My life is a mess.

me : We will fix this. I can't stand to see you cry.
Please stop

She wipes her tears and let's go.

her : Nathi why are you doing this ?

I sigh and stand up. I look out my window.

me : Because I love you.

I hear her stand up and she hugs me from behind.

her : Why didn't you tell me ?

She rests her head on my back.

me : I know how stubborn you are. You'd

probably leave me hanging

I hear her laugh and that warms my heart.

her : I love you too.

I freeze. Did she just say those words ?

She let's go and I turn around

me : Do you mean that ?

She nods and I pick her up. I kiss her and she
responses.

I break the kiss

me : What does this mean ?

her : In terms of ?

me : Are we an item ?

her : No

I frown in disappointment

She laughs

her : Yes

I pick her up and kiss her.

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ISABELLA

He picks me up and kisses me. We share a passionate kiss. He unhooks my dress and bra. He cups my boobs and kisses them slowly.

My dress and bra fall to the ground. He picks me up and walks up to his bedroom. He locks the room and throws me on the bed.

He takes off his shirt and pants. His manhood is already hard

He takes my panties off his underwear.

He plants kisses all over my body.

It's the first time a man has seen my body and I'm a bit uncomfortable

I hide my cookie and he looks at me

him : What's wrong ?

me : I'm a virgin.

He looks at me

him : I'll be gentle my love.

I nod and he removes my hands.

He kissed my cookie. He the holds his manhood and goes in gently as he said. It's painful I even cry.

him : I'm sorry

He wipes my tears and goes in further.

me : Ouch

him : I'm sorry

He goes back and forth slowly

It's not that sore anymore and my body is relieved

He goes faster and I enjoy it a bit.

After 3 rounds he collapses on me.

He looks at me

him : I love you

° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

23

ISABELLA

One week later

I hadn't been feeling well since my first intercourse with Nathi. I felt dizzy at times and very nauseous. I had headaches at times and I would vomit now and then. It's Friday today and I'm getting ready for work. I did my hygiene process, dried and lotion my body. I wore jeans, the La'Khumz T-shirt and black vans. I tied my hair into a bun and wore little make-up.

I went to the kitchen and Sindy had already left. I made breakfast.

My phone rang as I had breakfast. It's Nathi

him : Baby

me : Hi

him : You sound tired

me : I am. You know the dizziness is still on.

him : I think we should see a doctor

me : I think so too.

him : I'll fetch you now. What are you doing ?

me : I'm having breakfast

him : Okay baby. I'm coming

me : Okay, bring me something to eat

He laughs

him : I thought you said you're having breakfast

me : Please

him : Okay baby

I hang up and continue eating.

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NATHI

I get my car keys and make my way to the car. Since Isabella hasn't been well I have to make time. If it means her missing work then so be it. It's been a week since my in counter with Minehle. I go into my car and drive out my yard. I lock the gate and drive off.

Arriving at Sindy's flat I go out the car and lock it.

I walk to their flat and knock. She opens her : My food.

me : Shit

I totally forgot.

She rolls her eyes which annoys me instantly

She walks away and I follow

me : Don't roll your eyes at me.

her : Fuck you

I pick her up

me : I said don't roll your eyes.

her : Let's go

I put her down and we go out. I open the door for her and she goes in. I go to my side and go in.

I drive off and she's silent

I drive to a private clinic and she goes out with the following.

We go inside and to the receptionist

Receptionist : Sir, ma'am how can I help you ?

me : I made an appointment with Dr Naidoo earlier this morning

Receptionist : Your name sir ?

me : Nkosinathi Khumalo, I made an appointment for Miss Minehle Isabella

Matthews

Receptionist : Oh yes

She smiles

Receptionist : Please follow me

We follow her and I'm holding Minehle's hand

Receptionist : Please go in.

We go in and Mr Naidoo stands up.

Naidoo : Khumalo

me : Naidoo how are you ?

Naidoo : I'm fine. Please take a seat

Both Minehle and I sit down

Naidoo : Miss Matthews what's the matter ?

her : I'm sick

Naidoo : That's obvious but what's wrong ?

me : She gets dizzy, et nauseous and she vomits at times

her : And I get serve headaches.

Naidoo : Oh

He takes a container

Naidoo : Miss Matthews please urinate in this container

She takes the container and goes to the toilet

She comes back with the container with urine.

Naidoo : Thank you.

He puts in gloves and takes the container

He takes a piece of paper and puts it in.

He waits for a few minutes.

Naidoo : Miss you're pregnant

I stand up, surprised

me : What ?

Naidoo : You're going to be a father.

her : That's impossible

23 ° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

CONTINUATION

ISABELLA

I don't want a baby. Not now. Not when I've just broken my virginity. I mean is it fair ? I could have at least enjoyed the sex first besides I thought I would have a child when I'm married with someone I'd marry. How do I know Nathi will be here with me.

me : I don't want the baby.

Nathi looks at me shocked.

him : What ?

me : I said I don't want this baby. Not with you

I stand up

him : Well Minehle if you know what's good for you, you won't kill this child.

me : This is good for me. I won't have this child.

My salary won't be enough

him : Well my salary is more than enough

I walk out of the Doctor's office and Nathi follows.

We now at the parking lot, alone.

me : I'm not having this child

him : I'll kill you woman.

me : Are you threatening me ?

him : I'll do it

me : Open the car I want to go home.

him : So you can kill me child. We're going to my house.

He opens the car and I go in. He goes to his side and goes in. He drives away the clinic and goes straight to his house. I say nothing to him.

His selfish and arrogant. I can't have a child with him.

I go out as soon as he parked the car in his yard.

He closes the door and follows.

him : And you won't be working from now on

me : I'm not sick

him : And my mom will come help you

me : That's unfair.

him : Understood ?

me : Does your mom have to come ?

him : I don't want my child killed.

me : Okay fine ! I won't get an abortion

him : You better or I promise I'll kill you Miss Matthews

me : Mxm

I walk to the lounge and switch on the TV

me : I'm hungry

him : I'll make you food.

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NATHI

I make my way to the kitchen. I'm going to be a father, nothing excites me than that.

I make her a sandwich then decide to call Hammer

He answers on the second ring

him : Boy

me : I'm going to be a father

him : Whooooa. What ? Nkosinathi Khumalo a father ? Tell me you're joking. That's impossible

me : Well you heard me right. I'm gonna be a father

him : Damn boy, congratulations

me : Thank you boy

him : And if its a boy his name is Thokozani

me : I don't want my boy fucked up like you

We laugh

" Nathi my food !!!! "

me : Eish boy we will talk. Baby mama wants her food.

He laughs

him : I love you.

I laugh and hang up.

I walk back to the lounge and give her her food.

I feel like it's gonna be a long nine months.

° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

24

ISABELLA

I wake up in the morning and stretch while on the bed. I go out and reach for my shoes. I

decided to sleep in a different room, I mean we not married not engaged. Doesn't mean we should share a cause I'm pregnant. I make my way downstairs and his making breakfast. He seems happy about this whole pregnancy issue. He makes food and said I should stop working. He called Cindy and told her everything and she seemed quite happy. I sit on the high chair and look at him. He smiles when he notices I'm around. He comes and kisses my cheek.

him : How's my Queen ?

me : I'm not sick

He laughs and walks back to the breakfast.

him : I hope you slept well and remember we going shopping today.

me : Oh yes.

I smile and wait for him to finish.

him : When are you gonna fix things with your

family ?

Oh I didn't expect that.

me : Soon.

To be honest I'm not ready for them. I feel drained and it's their fault I lost 10 years of my life.

him : They need to know about us. About this pregnancy

me : Have you told your Mom and dad ?

him : Yes, they want me to pay for the damages.

me : Arrg it doesn't matter.

him : It's very important on my family. Here, eat

He gives me a full English breakfast plate.

me : Thank you

I smile and dig in.

He eats with me over a light conversation.

" You look good "

He says after taking a innocent shower.

I blush

me : Thank you.

him : We should get going

He kisses my forehead and grabs my hand.

him : Let's go

I laugh as he rushes downstairs with me.

He takes his car keys and we go out with him locking the house door.

We approach his car and he opens for me.

He goes to his side and drives off.

Arriving at the mall we go to Legit and other shops for my clothes. I buy dresses, tops, tights, shoes and a new phone. I do my hair and nails. Perks of having a rich man as a boyfriend. As we about to leave Steers a lady, whose tall and

dark with a afro approaches us.

her : Hao Nathi already ? [Looks at me] What are you to him ?

me : I'm his girlfriend

him : Nandi please not now.

her : [Looking at me] He's going to use you baby girl. Don't think his yours only, he will buy you all these expensive gifts just to bribe you in having sex with him. After that he will dump you like a piece of paper.

I look at her speechless

Nathi grabs her arm.

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NATHI

I grab Nandi's arm and talk with her on the side.

me : Leave.

her : Don't blame me for telling her the truth.

me : That's not true. Look Nandi I don't love you.

her : And you love her ?

me : Too much.

She laughs.

me : We expecting a baby

She stops laughing and looks at me with tears threatening her eyes.

I look at Minehle and she's just looking at us.

me : Leave me alone

" Baby ! "

I look back and I see Brian

Nandi quickly wipes the tears that have escaped her eyes.

She turns around and hugs Brian.

her : Baby, where did you disappear to ?

He kisses her cheek

him : I got you this.

Brian looks my direction and sees Minehle

him : Miss Matthews

He goes to Minehle and kisses her hand.

him : How have you been ?

Minnie : I've been great Mr Banda, you went all AWOL on me.

him : What can I say you moved on with him

Minnie : Don't -

me : I think we should go

I pull her hand and we leave with no one saying a word to each other.

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NANDI

I'm hurt

I'm destroyed

So his expecting a child with that thing ?

I love Nathi. No man makes me feel like Nathi, not even Brian.

We wall out the mall and make our way to his car. I'm still holding the chocolates he gave to me. I don't say anything to Brian and I think he understands I don't want to talk since he also says nothing. We go in and he drives immediately.

I think I should end this relationship and get my man immediately !

° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

25

ISABELLA

We drove back to his house silently. I didn't know how to feel, whether I should be hurt or angry. I didn't want say anything to Nathi. I hated had to deal with his past girlfriend's insecurities. Hr drove straight home. He drives into the garage and goes out. I also go out and reach for my things in the boot. He's dead silent and I dare not to say anything. His eyes are red and his helping me with the plastics.

I go though the kitchen door and make my way to the lounge.

" I hope you don't believe her. She's mad ! "

I look at him and his ryes are red. Too red.

I can see his angry and wants to do something

I look at him and say nothing.

him : Say something

me : I'm not angry. It's not like you're in a relationship

He smiles and comes closer to me.

He pulls me in a hug

him : I wouldn't do anything to hurt you. I love you.

me : I love you too.

He let's go and looks at me.

I feel tears threatening my eyes and he wipes them after they have fallen.

him : Don't cry.

He sits down and pulls me to his lap.

him : I'll fix this. I don't want you stressing. It's bad for the baby.

I smile through my tears. I love how his supportive through my pregnancy.

Pregnancy is beautiful when the father is committed.

me : Thank you.

He kisses my nose and I smile. I stand up from his lap and make my way to the kitchen with him following.

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NATHI

I follow her to the kitchen . I can see she's still sad about this whole Nandi thing but I'll have to make a plan. I love Minehle, that's what Nandi doesn't understand. I don't love her, that's where the difference is.

me : Baby

her : Mmmh ?

me : I'm going out

She frowns. I cup her face and kiss her forehead

me : Hey hey, I'll be back now now.

her : Okay

I kiss her cheek

I make my way out. I call Nandi for us to meet

She answers on the second ring.

her : Hello

me : Can we meet ?

her : Of course, where ?

me : I'll send you the location.

I then hang up and send her the location.

I get into my car and drive to the house I want us to meet at.

It's an old warehouse I used when I killed people who messed with me. I never thought I'd be back here again, but some people keep digging. I park and I see her car is already parked.

I walk in and she's wandering around.

She jumps when she sees me. A smile creeps

on my face as I move closer

her : Why did you want us yo meet ? You already regret your decision.

I slap her and she falls down. She cries softly as I keep kicking her.

me : That's my wife Nandi, I love her.

I stop as I hear her soft cries.

her : Please I'm sorry. I'll back off.

I call Hammer and he answers

him : Fella

me : I need a favour

him : I'm listening

me : I have a girl here, please get the boys I want them to look after her for a few days

He laughs

him : It's Nandi

me : Yeah

him : Okay boy

I hang up and watch her weep softly

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NANDI

I cry softly on the floor as he watches me. I see his eyes are red and his not sorry at all. I don't see the Nathi I know, he was all sweet in high school. What happened to him ?

After a few minutes a few man gather in and greet Nathi. They look familiar from the day Lunga was killed.

Nathi : Keep her safe for a few days. I want her to learn a lesson

Man 1 : Sure boss

Nathi : I'll come tomorrow. I've got a girlfriend to

attend.

Man 2 : Greet her for me.

Nathi : Sure boy

He makes his way out and I'm extremely weak.

Man 3 : You should have known better than to mess with Shadow.

He picks me up and takes me to another room where there is a bed, a tiny window.

He goes out and locks the door.

God what have I done ?

° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

26 [SHORT]

NATHI

I made my way to the car and got in. I took a deep breath then started driving. I drove to MacDonald's to get Minehle something to eat then drove straight home.

Arriving home I drove straight into my garage and got out the car taking the food with. I made my way through the kitchen door and placed the food on the counter. Minehle was sleeping on the couch when I got to the lounge.

I kiss her cheek then take a picture of her sleeping and upload it on my WhatsApp profile picture.

I go upstairs and get her a blanket and cover her body then kiss her cheek.

I make my way to the study to catch up with my work.

After I've done all the work I close my laptop and go to the lounge. I get there and Minehle is eating the MacDonald I bought earlier.

She smiles when she sees me. I kiss her forehead and take a chip from her packet

her : You're around.

me : Yes. Babe it's Friday.

her : And ?

me : We should go out.

her : No, I'm fine. How about -

She is disturbed by a knock and I rush to the door.

Mom and Dad.

Great !

me : Baba, Mama

Ma : My boy

I kiss her cheek and she hugs me.

I look at dad and he just nods

I make a way for them and they go in. I help them with the bags as they go to the lounge.

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ISABELLA

His mom goes in a looks at me. His dad follows with him.

They all look at me and I look down.

His mom : Hao. What is she doing here ? I thought you said she's just a colleague

Nathi : She's the girl I impregnated

His dad : You haven't paid for the damages nor the lobola and she's already staying here.

His mom : This is nonsense. She must leave

Nathi : She's not going anywhere. [Looks at me]
Come let's go.

He puts his hand out and I stand up and hold it.

His mom : Hey wena Nathi. She must go, she's not yours yet

Nathi : Hao mama, this is my house. You don't get to tell me what happens in my house. If

you've got a problem please leave !

He clicks his tongue and pulls me. We walk upstairs and go to his bedroom.

me : That was unnecessary.

him : Nah this woman gets to me.

He pulls me close and kisses me. As they say the rest is history.

We just adding ears and legs to the baby. Lol !

° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

27

ISABELLA

I wake up later that morning and Nathi is still sleeping. I know his tired from all the sex from yesterday. I kiss his cheek and get up. He turns his head around and opens his eyes slowly. He smiles faintly and pulls me back to bed. He plants kisses all over my face and I laugh.

him : I love you okay.

me : I love you too.

him : Let's take a shower

He picks me up and walks us to the shower. He opens the tap and the water flows down our bodies.

We take a innocent shower and get dressed. He sits on the bed and pulls me to his lap.

He looks at me and kisses my forehead.

him : You know I love you right ?

I nod

him : Baby please fix things with your family.

I look at him and he's serious.

me : Why ?

him : I want their blessing in everything we do. We still need to pay damages for our baby.

I sigh, he's right.

I kiss his nose

me : I'll call Romeo today and try fix things.

He smiles and kisses me

him : Thank you, now let's go have breakfast with your Monster - in - laws.

I laugh and we go downstairs

His father is reading a newspaper and his mother is fixing breakfast. His mother looks at us

Nathi : Good morning

His dad : Boy

me : Morning Mr & Mrs Khumalo.

His father smiles at me and nods.

His mom : Good morning sweetheart

Nathi looks at me

"Sweetheart" ? Is she pulling a stunt now ?

We sit down and wait for the breakfast.

She dishes up for us and we say a little prayer before we eat.

We dig in after the prayer.

His mom clears her throat

His mom : I want to apologize

I look at her and I see Nathi is also shocked.

His mom : You guys love each other and who am I to stand in the way. Baby, I'm sorry how I spoke to your girlfriend yesterday.

Nathi : It's okay Ma

His mom : It's not okay. I was wrong. [Looks at me] What's your name again ?

me : Isabella

Nathi : Minehle

I smile

His mom : Isabella. I mean Minehle I'm sorry my

child. The attitude I gave you was beyond my personality

I smile at her and hold her hand.

me : It's okay.

She smiles

her : Welcome to the family.

We talk over a light conversation and I help her with the dishes after breakfast.

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NATHI

I kiss her cheek and leave for the warehouse.

I get into my car and drive silently as I think of Nandi.

I park in the yard and I hear Hammers voice.

I go out my car and walk inside.

Hammer and the boys are playing cards.

I walk in and greet them.

me : Where is she ?

Hammer : Daar

He says pointing at a locked door.

me : Give me the keys

He gives me the keys and I approach the room.

I open and she starts crying.

She stops when she sees me

her : Nathi, please I've learnt my lesson. Please let me go. My boys need me

me : No you haven't. Are you hungry ?

her : No !

I laugh

me : Okay, lemme go Ke

I go out and she starts crying again.

I lock the door and give Hammer the keys.

me : Gunman get her something to eat.

I leave the warehouse and go to the restaurant.

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ISABELLA

I go upstairs after washing the dishes and call
Romeo. He answers on the second ring

him : Isabella, what a pleasant surprise.

I smile

me : Can we talk ?

him : Yes

me : I want us to fix things as a family

him : Really ?

me : Yes

him : Dad will be happy

me : You talk to him ?

him : Yes we fixed things.

me : And Pamela

him : I've got a girlfriend now.

me : Oh, that was fast

him : I had to let go. When can we meet ?

me : How about tomorrow morning, breakfast ?

him : Perfect. I have to go

me : Cool

him : I love you

me : See you

I hang up.

° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

28

ISABELLA

It's the next day, and I'm on my way to Mugg

and Bean where Romeo and I agreed to meet. Nathi is taking me to Mugg and Bean and the drive is silent.

I allow our thought to do the talking. I think we are both a bit scared of what might happen. We drive into the mall and he stops at a parking lot. We both go out and he locks the door. He holds my hand and we go in. He quickly kisses my forehead and we go into Mugg and Bean.

him : I hope this goes well.

I smile at him.

I see Romeo, Dad, Kyile and Pamela are sitting together, talking.

I clear my throat when we reach the table and they all look up. Dad stands up for a hug and I hug him, he shakes Nathi's hand and sits down again.

Nathi and I sit down and greet everyone.

Romeo : I'm glad to see you Isabella, I was happy when I received your call.

me : Yeah.

Dad : Uhm, Romeo tells me you're ready to be part of the family.

me : Listen, I'll do the talking.

I clear my throat.

me : I want to fix things because I don't want conflict. I have a boyfriend now and I live with him, so I'd appreciate if I received your blessing.

Nathi : What she means is she'd like to make peace with you guys because she need you

me : I don't need them. I survived 10 years without them, without anyone of them seeing them. And today they think I need them.

Nathi : Minehle please.

I keep quiet

Romeo : Isabella we sorry about everything, I'd like us to make peace. Mom would be happy.

me : Don't you dare put mom in this.

Pamela : Isabella I understand your frustration but we can fix this.

Kylie is already in tears.

Kylie : Please Isabella, you know how much this hurts me.

Nathi : Please baby

me : Okay fine.

Nathi holds my hand and I smile at him.

Romeo : I'm sorry Sis, please forgive each one of us her including dad.

me : You're all forgiven. I'll let this all go but I won't forget. It still hurts.

Dad : And we are sorry my baby. Let us please be one family.

me : Okay fine. I forgive.

Romeo stands up to hug me and we share a hug. Dad joins the hug and we all share a group hug.

We then sit down.

Nathi : Minehle and I have got great news to share.

Romeo : Oh

Dad : What would that be ?

Nathi : We pregnant

Kylie screams and jumps to hug me.

Romeo : I'm going to be a uncle so soon. Damn, I'm happy for you

Dad : I'm happy my baby. Your relationship is blessed.

I smile through my tears.

We then talk about random things and leave

later on.

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NATHI

I'm glad things went well, so now I can take Minehle as my wife and our relationship is blessed. We make our way out the mall and into the car. We go to another mall to buy her Red velvet cake and a few goodies then make our way home.

her : Baby, I'm happy we fixed things

me : Things are looking good.

She smiles and focuses on the road again.

We driving home over a light conversation

me : Now you can give me 15 children

She laughs and that warms my heart.

her : No, 4 at least

me : Agreed

We laugh and she leans over to kiss me.

Arriving home mom is cooking and dad is watching some soccer match.

I kiss my mom and make my way to the lounge. Isabella stays in the kitchen with mom.

I sit on the couch and dad looks at me

him : Bafanas (Boy)

me : Baba (Dad)

him : Yini (What's wrong)

me : I've got something to tell you

him : I'm listening

me : I think I'm ready to pay lobola to the Mbatha family.

A smile creeps on his face. He has been waiting for this moment.

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NANDI

I'm lying on the bed with a blanket on me. All that's on my mind is my boys, how are they ? Tears stroll down my face as I think of them.

The door opens and some guy comes in. His holding food and I get hungry instantly.

He hands me the dish and I grab it. He laughs and walks out. I eat slowly as I think what my boys could be eating

My body is stif and I'm weak

God this is tourtue.

° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

29

ISABELLA

Two days later :

I'm sitting alone in the lounge watching a movie.

Nathi went to a meeting and his parents went to see Sindy. I'm watching a very emotional movie and I'm crying with a box of tissues. Pregnancy is also putting pressure on me being emotional.

I hear the kitchen door open and Nathi walks in looking gorgeous.

He smiles and sits next to me. He kisses my cheek and looks at me

me : What ?

him : Go bath

me : Why ?

him : We have to be somewhere

me : No

him : I wasn't asking you

I laugh.

He picks me and walks with upstairs and puts me down.

him : Go bath woman. Hurry up

I walk into our bedroom strip naked. I stand outside the shower as I wait for warm water to pour. I go in after the temperature of the water is cool. I take a shower and dry and lotion my body.

I wear a white short summer dress with sandals. I tie my hair into a messy bun and wear earring.

I make my way downstairs and Nathi is sitting on the couch and his on phone. He stands up and puts his phone in his pocket when he realises I'm there

him : You look beautiful

I smile and he kisses my nose

me : Thank you.

He pulls me into a hug and hold me tight

him : I love you

me : I know you do.

He laughs and let's go.

him : Let's go.

He picks me up as always and walks out.

We approach the car and we go in. He drives out the yard and speeds to the main road.

He drives us to a stadium.

me : Seriously ? Why are we here ?

him : You'll see

I roll my eyes and look away.

him : Don't roll your eyes at me.

I laugh and go out.

He goes out and takes my hand. We go into the stadium entrance.

I see his family, friends and my family. I let go of his hand. I walk toward and he follows.

I look at them and Nathan is holding a sign written : LOOK UP

I look up and a helicopter and flag written : WILL YOU MARRY ME ?

I cover my face with NY hands and cry. I turn around and Nathi is on his knees with a huge stone diamond ring.

him : Don't cry my baby

I give him my hand

me : Yes I will my love

He slides the ring in my finger and picks me up for a hug.

him : I love you.

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NANDI

I hear the door open harshly and I know it's one of the men. He walks in holding food and water.

him : Eat. Gunman will come with water for you

to bath and fresh clothes. You leaving today.

me : Oh ?

him : Yes, he just wants you to stay way from him. His engaged now and family matter to that man. Just stay away. Don't mess with Shadow.

He clicks his tounge and walks out.

His engaged now ?

In high school he said he would never marry not even me.

I'm hurt but I have to let go. I love Nathi but the war has to come to an end. This girl has stolen his heart.

I saw myself having his kids.

I saw myself being his wife.

I saw my whole future in his eyes.

But now. now is time to let go.

It's time I focus on my boys and Brian. He loves

me and the least I can do is return the favour.

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NATHI

I booked us a hotel so we on our way there. I'm happy, I'm just too happy.

We make our way to the car and go in. We drive away fro. the stadium.

I drive to Protea Gold Hotel and I book us in. She can't stood looking and admiring the engagement ring.

We go to our room and settle in.

her : Thank you

me : For ?

her : For loving me when nobody did.

me : You're special

her : And this ring is beautiful

I chose it with Sindy but I won't tell her that.

She kisses my cheek.

her : Thank you my love.

I brush her tommy

me : I love you MaKhumalo

her : I love you too.

° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

30

ISABELLA

Five months later :

I walk into the lounge and sit on the couch. I'm breathing heavily. I stand up again and wipe my tears. He comes downstairs and doesn't know what to do or say. I look at him straight in the eyes but he just stands there with no reaction. I

feel the tears rolling down my cheeks. The girl comes downstairs and looks at me. She's wearing her shirt and his adidas sandals.

I'm 5 months pregnant and my belly is showing.

I walk out the lounge and into the kitchen. I gulp a glass of water and walk out the house. I hear the door shut close after I've gotten out.

" Baby, let me explain all of this "

I ignore him and get into the car he bought for me 3 months ago.

My hands are shaking and I don't know what to do. I sit in the car for at least 30 minutes, it's locked and his still standing outside looking at me.

I don't know what to do.

" Leave this yard before you do something crazy

" I say to myself. I drive out the yard and speed to the road.

Nathi, why would he sleep with another woman on the bed we share. After all the things we have done and said. I look at the engagement ring as it shines on my finger. I look at my belly and cry immediately.

As I get into the main road, I hear a car beeping but I get dizzy and my eyes get blurry. I let go of the steering wheel and lose control. I hit a car and I'm out.

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NATHI

I don't know where she is or what to do myself.

I give that girl money and tell her to leave. I call Sindy and ask if she's there and she says no.

I quickly get dressed and go to the lounge.

I take my phone and car keys but before I can leave my phone rings.

me : Hello

caller : Good afternoon, is this Mr Khumalo ?

me : Speaking.

caller : A woman here by the name of Miss Isabella Matthews has been involved in a car accident and -

me : Which hospital ?

He tells me the details and I hang up.

I take my car keys, go to my car and drive our the yard.

Arriving Romeo, her father and Kyile are already there

me : How is she ? Is the baby fine.

Romeo : We don't know yet.

I sit down and heave a huge sigh.

This is all my fault. I'm the one who pushed here away. Now she's in hospital fighting for

both her and the baby.

I'm a horrible fiancé and father.

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The doctor comes and we all stand up.

Doc : Evening

me : How is she ? Is the baby fine ?

Doc : She's going to be okay but I'm sorry we couldn't save the baby

I walk away to listen no further. I just lost my baby and almost lost my fiancé and it's all my fault .

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Good morning my readers

I know this insert is short I'll write two more later today.

Please like my new book. My Abusive life.

° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

31

NATHI

I went home immediately. I couldn't face her yet, not after all this. I hurt her deeply and I'm not sure she'll forgive me again. I haven't been like this before. I just wanted to dig a hole and lie in it.

I don't know how she would feel about this. I don't even think she will love or see me the same again.

I don't know what I was thinking, bringing a girl home because Minehle isn't around. I disrespected her badly and I'll accept whatever punishment that comes my way. I've already received my first punishment, which is losing my first child before my acts.

I get home and go upstairs to my bedroom. I lie on my bed and the tears come rolling down my cheeks.

I haven't been myself lately. I neglected her and didn't give her the time and attention she deserves.

She asked me countless times what's going on and the answer was always the same. " Nothing babe. "

I didn't seem to care about her emotions or feelings at the time. My only worry was girls a x money. I soon forgot I have a fiance and a baby on the way. But I lost that in a second. She might call the engagement off and that's double the price.

I would have lost my baby and fiancé in a split second.

My father would be disappointed in me. And mother, well mother will be hurt. No because. of

my actions but because she's always wanted to see me happy, and she was excited about the baby. She couldn't wait to hold him in her arms and when she finds out Minehle lost the baby, she will be shattered.

My selfishness and greed has now taken over and made me lose it all.

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Hospital.

Narrated :

Isabella wakes up and doesn't now how she got here. She looks around and she realises she's at the hospital. She instantly remembers she's pregnant but she can't feel her belly. She then gets a flash back of the events of what happened the day before. She remembers how she found her fiancé in bed with another women. She remembers she got into the car

and drove away home. Now she's at the hospital and she's not pregnant anymore.

A nurse walks in and gives her a warm smile.

Nurse : You're awake.

her : Oh yes. What happened ?

Nurse : You were involved in a car accident yesterday

me : And where is my baby ?

Nurse : I'm sorry Miss Matthews but you lost the baby in the scene.

Isabella breaks down immediately as she touches her stomach. She remembers that it's her fiancé's fault. His the reason she got into the from the first place.

She tells the nurse she wants to go home but the nurse explains to her that she can't leave yet.

The nurse give her food, her pills and water then walks out.

She wants to commit suicide. She wants to feel pain.

Minehle looks for a razor to cut her wrists to forget about her horrible loss. She was fond of her unborn baby and she lost her already.

She searches for a razor and finds one on the table near a doctor's tools.

She goes back to her bed and cuts her wrists. She enjoys the pain as she lies on the bed. The pain is fulfilling her desires.

She closes her eyes and lets the pain take over.

° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

32

Hospital.

Narrated :

The nurse comes back a few minutes later and finds Minehle lying on her bed with her wrists cut. She panics and calls the doctor. He quickly

comes and they try stopping the bleeding. After minutes of trying to stop Minehle from bleeding they succeed. The doctor puts her in her own room as he feels she is a treat to herself and everyone. He believes she need some counselling and time to heal. He has diagnosed her with depression but finds out from her previous files that she's once been diagnosed with depression and feels this time it might be worse. She needs therapy and serious help.

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ISABELLA

I get into a clear room. It's white with no windows it door. I walk in slowly. I'm wearing a pure white dress and I'm barefoot. I see my mother and grandmother sitting on the floor having a conversation. My granny looks up and smiles when she sees me.

She approaches me and holds my hand tightly.

her : Isabella my baby, what's the matter ?

My mother looks at me faintly and tears fall from her eyes.

mother : Why are your wrists like this ?

me : I'm fine.

mother : I'm sorry.

me : It's okay, it was 10 years ago.

A little baby comes our way and stand near my granny.

child : Great grandmother

granny : Isabella, this is Nothando your daughter

me : I don't have a child

granny : Oh yes. She died two days ago. Before she was born.

Nothando smiles at me.

mother : You will be pregnant again and replace Nothando. She had to come here.

granny : Don't give up on him. He loves you.

me : Can I stay here with you ?

mother : No. No, you have to go.

She pushes me out the room.

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NATHI

I'm sitting next to her holding her hand.

She breathes in deeply as if she's just come back to life. She coughs loudly as though she can't breath. I quickly get her water.

She looks at me faintly. I put a straw in and help her drink without touching her wrists.

her : Thanks.

I smile.

I know I've hurt her fmdeeply and even pushed her into almost committing suicide. I've damaged her soul and self-esteem. She doesn't deserve this treatment.

She looks at me for some time and I get a bit nervous. She doesn't say anymore nor move.

me : I'm sorry Minehle.

She still says nothing. She blinks a few times trying to avoid the tears from falling. She looks down and I see the tears rushing down her cheeks.

her : Please leave, I need to be alone.

me : But I -

her : I said please leave.

She says calmly.

I stand up and look at her

me : I'm sorry my love. Please take care and don't ever scare me like that. I love you.

I walk out.

° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

33

ISABELLA

I sit on the bed with absolutely no emotions. I do feel hurt but after seeing my mother and grandmother I felt better. When I saw Nathi sitting near me with his eyes full of pain, the tear came rushing down. I stared into space and felt my body rushing.

" Don't give up on him, he loves you. "

The words came into my head. I thought of Nathi and the thought of him touching another girl. I clinched my teeth in anger and screamed.

A nurse came rushing into my ward.

her : What's the matter ?

I looked at her blankly. She was panicking
me : I want to go home. Please.

her : Calm down Miss Matthews, you'll go home
soon.

I lied on my bed and the tears rushed down my
cheeks. She brushes my hair and sat on a chair.

her : Please be strong. Don't do anything to
harm yourself. You'll be home soon Darling.

me : When ?

her : Soon.

She gives me a warm smile, stands up then
walks away.

I look up then close my eyes tightly.

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NATHI

I get home and throw myself on the couch. My

mind is on Minehle. I just want to hold her and never let go but circumstances are refusing to such acts.

I stand up from the couch and decide to call mother.

She answers on the second ring.

her : My baby

me : Ma, unjani ? (How are you ?)

her : Ngiyaphila mfanami wena ? Uzwakhala uphansi (I'm okay my boy and you ? You sound down)

me : Cha ma, ngiphete izindaba ezimibi (No, I have bad news)

I sigh

her : Yini ? Kwenzakhaleni ? (What ? What happened ?)

me : Eish kunzima ma (It's hard)

her : Khuluma nami. (Talk to me)

I sigh again.

me : uMinehle usesbhedlela (Minehle is at the hospital)

her : Hao. Kwenzakhaleni ? Umtwana yena (What happened ? And the baby ?)

me : Ayi ma, she was involved in a car accident.

I hear her cry and sniff

her : Ingane ? (The baby ?)

me : Ishonile (The baby is dead)

her : Why was she driving alone ?

me : Ma it's a very long story.

her : Ayi ke, ksasa ekseni ngizobe ngilapho. (I'll be there morning)

me : You don't have to come.

her : Ngiza kahle nje ! (I'm coming !)

She hangs up and I sigh.

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NANDI

I walk over to Brian and hug him from behind. His preparing supper and the kids are at Lunga's mother so it's just the two of us. She's finding closure to Lunga's death with the boys and I don't blame her. It's sad.

me : Baby, I'm hungry

him : The food is almost ready babes.

I hold his manhood and he stops. He turns around and looks at me.

him : You're being unfair.

I laugh

me : Fine ! I'll behave.

him : Go sit on the chair.

I laugh and walk to high chair and take a seat
him : Good girl

I stick my tounge out and laugh. He carries on
with his cooking and we engage over a light
conversation.

I'm glad I'm moving on from Nathi, thus will
benefit me in the end.

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I'm sorry it's short. I'm busy.

° THE SCARS MADE ME STRONGER °

34

NATHI

Makhumalo arrived early in the morning. She
looked angry and disappointed at the same
time. She was excited about the baby and all
that is gone.

We in the kitchen. I had just received a call from

the hospital saying that Minehle is being discharged. We having breakfast in awkward silence. After we have eaten Makhumalo washes the dishes and I take my phone and car keys.

me : Uzongi thola emotweni (You'll find me in the car)

I don't wait for a response and walk out. I approach my car and unlock it. I go to the drivers seat and wait for Makhumalo. She walks out minutes later holding her handbag. She opens in, puts her handbag on the floor and sits in the passengers seat.

her : Mashambe (Let's go)

I drive out my yard and speed to the road. The drive is silence and I dare not say anything to her. She's been like this all morning and I'm trying to understand why. I haven't told her the reason for the car accident, all she knows is we

lost the baby. I know my mother, she's either hiding something or angry about something.

We arrive at the hospital and we go out. I lead the way as she follows. I walk in and ask the receptionist about Minehle's discharge papers.

her : Please go get her first then you'll come back and sign the papers as you leave

me : Okay

I walk away and go to her ward. She's sitting on the bed and humming a song.

me : My love

her : Hi Nathi, Ma.

Mother : Hello my baby. How you feeling ?

her : I'm fine.

Mother : I heard the bad news

her : It will pass.

Mother goes to her and rubs her back

Mother : You'll be fine.

Minenhle stands up from the bed.

her : We should go.

A doctor walks in before we go out.

him : Mr Khumalo can I please talk to you ?

me : Sure

He walks out and I follow.

him : I'm glad you're here. Miss Matthews needs special care. Please don't leave her alone, make sure she's always supervised. But she looks fine right now. I hope her depression settles down and she finds herself. The loss of her baby really broke her .I'm glad she only got a few scratches and it wasn't a major accident.

me : I hope she'll be fine.

him : Be strong man.

He taps my shoulder and walks away.

I go back and take the ladies. We go out the ward and make our way to the passage leading us to the door. I sign the papers and we go into the car.

We drive home and Mother and Minehle are engaging in a conversation.

We arrive home and both the ladies go out leaving me behind. I lock my car and follow behind. Mother's in the kitchen preparing to cook and Minehle is not around.

Makhumalo : What did you do kodwa Nkosinathi ?

She's screaming and doesn't seem happy.

me : Ma ?

her : Ma ? Ma ? Ma yamasimba. What did you do ?

I clear my throat.

me : I think we should sit down.

her : Sit down se gat man Nkosinathi ! Talk now !

me : Okay, uhm I...

her : Hayi wena ! Khuluma (Talk)

me : She found me in bed with another woman, she got out the house and got into her car. I tried stopping her but she drove out and that's when I received a call from the hospital telling me she got a car accident.

She looked at me in awe.

her : Uyenzi ? Uyahlanya ? (What did you do ? Are you crazy ?)

me : It was a mistake

her : Mistake ? It was a mistake opening a woman's legs and putting your dick in her pussy ? Bringing her home ? Hhey wena mfana ndini !!!!!

me : Ma I....

her : Shut up and get the hell away from my

face. You disgust me !!!

She clicks her tongue and turns her back to me .

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ISABELLA

I can hear Nathi's mother screaming at the top of her lungs. I don't want to go downstairs. She saw me breakdown earlier on and was sad to see me cry. I wanted to rest alone .

Nathi walked in moments later . He looked at me for a while then came closer to the bed. He sat on the edge of the bed and cried out loud. He let it all out. I rushed to him and held him. He looked at me

him : I don't deserve you.

me : Shhhh

I held him in my arms for a while and he calmed down.

him : I'm sorry Minehle, I really am. I don't know what I was thinking. Please my love, please forgive me.

I looked at him. He was weak. He was no longer the big man I knew, my strong stubborn Nathi. I saw pain in his eyes. I wanted my Nathi back, now. I wanted all this to end.

" Don't give up on him, he loves you "

me : We can fix this. I forgive you.

He held me close and rubbed my back

him : I'm sorry. I'll make this work.

me : It's okay, let's let this go.

him : I love you

me : I love you too.

I laughed

him : What ?

me : You're so cute when you cry.

He laughed and started tickling me.

° THE SCARS MADE HER STRONGER °

SEASON FINALE

Four years later :

ISABELLA

I watch as Nathi walks with Cleo and Stoney down the mini hill of the park. They all holding hands and the two girls are singing a song they learnt at creche a few days ago. I'm sitting on a bench with tears in my eyes. Just three years ago I was in mental institution and now I'm happily married with two beautiful girls. Just three years ago I gave birth to twins, Cleopatra and Stoney. They are two bubbly girls and Nathi is very fond of them. They spend more time together with Nathi than me. The past four years has been busy as it had it's ups and downs. I'm currently seven months pregnant with a boy. I'm excited about the pregnancy and

can't wait to meet my baby boy.

" Mommy look what I found ! "

Stoney says jumping up and down. I hold her as she shows me a rose.

me : A rose.

She smiles and jumps onto my lap.

her : Yes, daddy says I can keep it.

I kiss her cheek.

me : Of course you can my love.

She gets off my lap and returns to her twin sister and father.

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NATHI

We all walk back to Minehle who I can see is exhausted. She looks up from her phone and smiles when she sees us. Stoney and Cleo run

to her and she opens her arms as the twins rush to her. She lets them sit on her lap.

Stoney : Daddy! Daddy ! Mommy's crying

Cleo : Mommy why you crying ?

Minehle : Mommy's crying because she's blessed to have a family like you sweetheart.

She kisses them and looks at me.

I sit next to Minehle and kiss her forehead

me : We are blessed to have you my love.

Minehle : I love you all.

She plants kisses on all our foreheads and we all laugh.

us : We love you too.

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Isabella and Nathi faced challenges but refuses to let go. Lust could have drifted them apart but

what was meant to be happened. Life gave
them lemons but they made lemonade

****THE END****