

SIX BULLETS
A SCORE TO SETTLE

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PRECIOUS MOLOI

DWAA NATION X BONE
ARMY

IZINJA ZEHLATHI

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PROLOGUE

A FEW YEARS AGO

I pulled over in my Gusheshe the classic old BMW cars. Mine was bronze in colour.

Bone and the others pulled up behind me. We were in a deserted area one where there wasn't a lot of crowd to draw attention.

🎵 Kush' enye i-sound ziyawa kumnandi
Kukhuphuk' idust kanti ngubani?
Ungathuki san' ng'hamba nezam'
O' Achuz Macala ugade i Vur Vai
Insimbi nay' iyasho ngibhizi ngey'bham'
Sivitiz' ipati kudabuke i-sound
I-VIP yani? Sijaiva nabantu
Sikhiph' ama-chanks uyalaz udaba

Size nge Vur Vai 

We all got out of the cars.. We are a crew of 4 guys. Myself Bandile but known as "Bone" Bagos and Mantsonga. Just 4 childhood friends from the same Kasi who tried by all means to make something of ourselves with no success so we resorted to the only life guys like us know. Theft. We started doing petty theft mugging etc until we decided to stretch ourselves beyond our capabilities. Today we pulled the biggest heist of our lives we took down a fertility truck. Due to the mess we had created we only left with 400k. 100k each.

We involved the community of that area to create more mess when we called them out from watching to pick up some of the cash which became a clean gateway for us...

I walked up to them...

Me: OoGabhadiya Oonjandini OoMotherfucken Izinja Zehlathi

They all laughed..

Bone: Mbhem!

Me: Siyishayile Madoda (we did it)

Bagos: chunekile vur vai (We created a mess)

Mantsonga: Manje shoni bo Njandini

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Izinja Zehlathi

They all laughed..

Bone: Mbhem!

Me: Siyishayile Madoda (we did it)

Bagos: chunekile vur vai (We created a mess)

Mantsonga: Manje shoni bo Njandini

silibangisephi? (So where too from here)

Bone: Mina I'm using this money to go chase my dream

Bone is good with rap always wanted to be a rapper. This was the first and last biggest job we've pulled we each got scott free with 100k. That's not money for a lifetime but it will definitely start us off.. So we could stop doing theft..

I'm planning on opening my own Eatery combine it with a car wash. I believe it can become great success in Ekasi the Kasi vibe

Bone: Zinja Zehlathi.. Bo Njani hai ke Madoda masihlukane (Boys let's go our separate ways)

Bone and them were going with the money I was going with the guns. We will all meet Ekasi..

I walked back to my car all excited. I have a girlfriend her name is Ntombifuthi but we call her "Futhi". We have a one year old baby boy his name is "Mpilo". We both trying to be good Parents I have my own issues with my father and I try to be a good father to my own

Futhi's family doesn't really like me especially now that she's going to varsity next year. They don't like me and who I am think their Daughter is way too good for me and deserves to be with someone who is worthy. Sometimes they even give me problems when I wanna see my Son..

As I was driving through back to the hood I was stopped by the Police. I lowered the volume..

Me: Fuck

I pulled over and waited for them to come I lowered the window..

Me: Abaka Sdlodlo (Officers of the law)

Police 1: Unjani Mfo? (how are you)

Me: kuyaphileka (I'm good)

Police 1: License Ndonda

I gave it to him..

He took it and then walked around the car he came back again to me..

Police 1: Ngicela uphume Ndoda (please come out of the car)

Me: Sesi yaxabana yini? (Are we fighting)

Police 1: Kude mfo it's just routine check

I got out his partner was already standing by the trunk of my car..

Police 1: Vula Mfo (open)

This was not happening it's not supposed to go like this..

I opened they searched through. They found the 4 Guns..

Police 1: Yeeee?

Me: Ayibukeki ngaleyo Ndlela (It's not what you think it is)

Police 2: It's illegal firearms right?

His partner was coloured..

Police 2: A heist was pulled a few hours ago I hope these guns won't link you to the heist

The other Police man took out his cuffs..

Police 1: Kanti mfana omdala sesiyoyixoxa ePolice station (We going to talk at the police station)

I was fucked...

My name is Vukani Ntuli (Vuks) this is my story.

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To be continued

01

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VUKANI

[PRESENT DAY]

The door opened I walked in. She was sitting at the table just as how she does when she comes to see me.. Can't believe it's been 5 years already since I've been locked up..

What helped me from a harsh prison sentence was that we didn't use those guns no one was shot we just tied the Guards up. I didn't have the money with me so that also helped they couldn't pin me to the heist so I got 5 years with no possibility of Parole for the possession of illegal firearms. The good news is that I did my time and I was getting released next week..

I smiled at her as I walked over to her she smiled back at me.. I sat down and looked at

her she still kept her smile but she looked down..

Me: Nana

She looked at me..

Me: Unjani? (how are you)

Futhi: I'm good wena unjani? (how are you)

Me: Ngi grand

So she did go to varsity did a 3 year course and graduated. She did some course in Dentistry forgot what it is. My Son is now 6 years old she comes with pictures of him from time to time. I didn't want him coming here didn't want him to see me like this and in here... Mpilo has never visited me

The Police wanted to cut me a deal it was 4 guns so they asked me who my accomplices were and what we were going to do with the guns. Since Bone and them had the money Snitching was going to result to us being pinned to the heist. We were going to do serious time so I took one for the team.

Out of the other 2 Bone is my best friend. Inja yam' and with my share of the money. He bought me protection around here and also used some to support my kid for me. I know he went overboard and used his money too to help me. 100k wasn't going to do me justice for my 5 year sentence. I haven't seen him in 3 years he stopped visiting only because he's a big shot now and always busy. He did realize his dream of being a rapper. The very first song I heard from him was "Vukani" played it for me when he came once as much as it connects you to your ancestors and roots but he titled it Vukani in dedication to me.

Futhi: So you getting out next week?

Me: Kunjalo (that's true)

She smiled..

Me: I can't wait to see my Son Futhi

Futhi: Vuks what are you going to do when you get out?

Me: I don't really know

She nodded..

Me: I'll think of something nguwunjandini inja yehlathi

Futhi: So long it's not illegal you've lost 5 years of your life in here

Me: I know.. I am not about that life anymore I don't wanna lose out on my Son's life

Futhi: That's true

Me: You told him about me?

Futhi: Everyday

I smiled..

Me: Thank you I know it's hard for you but thank you. I appreciate it

Futhi: Just come home

Me: I'm coming home Nana

BANDILE (BONE)

Me: "Ngidlale ngeNkotha baze bavume yimina unjandini phela umculo ung'phakelile ngena lutho eFridgini. Manje ngijima phez' kwesiqu sakithi esikhalise iningi abanangi bathi ngicij' impi ngiyinkunzi exak' belusi. Ibutho liyabuza kuliphi? Uboqaphela uzung'yisusi ngaze ngibize iGeneral intloso ukulidumisa emini"

I was in the studio recording my most awaited song "Kwazet" featuring Mahotella Queens..

After our heist and learning that Vuks got arrested. It was a huge wake up call for me had the dark cloud also hung on me. I could've been there doing 5 years too or more.. I investigated what happened and it was a classic case of bad luck. The route he took was infested by cops who were investigating the heist. I am relieved that they didn't have sufficient evidence to lock him up for the heist..

After that whole incident I went down Kzn lived there for a while and chasing my dream

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then after my Mother's death I had to come back down to Johannesburg seeing I'm the only boy out of 2 girls. My Mother was a spiritual person my being the child who got the gift I had to come back and live in her house..

Life for me here is okay it's not bad as I thought it would be. I met a girl by the name of

Nangomso (Soso) a while back when I first got here but our connection was short lived. She had problems of her own to deal with so we had to go our separate ways..

I also own a bar now it's situated here in the hood. It's a good plan B. Vukani is coming back next week I don't know how I'm going to face him because I did something that made me to even stop visiting him..

FUTHI

I got in the car after my visit. I sighed and took my ring from my bag and put it on.

A lot happened after Vukani got arrested. His friend Bone helped financially take care of Mpilo and that's when a romantic relationship started between us. I went to school to study Dental Therapy by then we were just still friends and he was there for Mpilo. A father that my Son never had.

After I graduated that's when we started our relationship fully that was like 2 years ago. A year after in the relationship he paid lobola bought me a ring then Mpilo and I moved in with him..

He's a great Father to my Son was there when Mpilo was young and at my house they love him for taking up such a responsibility and more that he's a self made man..

I wiped my tears..

I didn't know how to break it up to Vukani I never thought this day would come where he would get released. Now that it has come I am not looking forward to it.. I loved Vukani but not anymore I fell in love with someone else I chose Bone. I don't know how Vukani is going to receive those news..

VUKANI (VUKS)

They put me in a less dangerous cell since I'm getting out next week..

Take it from me Prison is not nice. It breaks even the strongest Man. I don't know how I survived here but I'm grateful I did..

I can't wait to meet my Son and have a relationship with him. Having a relationship with Mpilo is my greatest goal currently then I'll see what to do next but definitely it won't be something that's going to put me back here anymore. I'm done with this place..

I was busy moping the floors I took up certain responsibilities around here to keep busy. It was so great to know that I'll be getting out of here next week..

Futhi told me that Bone owns sort of a bar now I'm proud my home boy did great. He inspires me and I am also vouching to do great when I get out of here..

FUTHI

I looked at the time it was 13:00. I've been waiting for Mpilo..

He ran straight to me and hugged me I opened the door for him at the back and he got in. I got in at the front. I work at our local hospital as a Dental therapist. I went and bought myself a Hyundai grand i10 as my first car. It's orange in colour

I'm not in a hurry to buy myself the most expensive car this is my first car..

Me: How was school?

Mpilo: Good

He's in grade 1. Mpilo is very smart takes after Vukani. Not that I'm dumb but Vukani was very smart at school just life and naughtiness got in the way and he gave up on school. Dropped out

in grade 10 and was fully involve in the life of crime..

Mpilo: Can I borrow your phone?

Me: Mpilo my phone is not a toy for you to play your games

Mpilo: I know but if you could buy me a phone

Me: You only 6 khehla you don't need a phone I unlocked and it and gave it to him..

Me: You wanna go to Wimpy for a milkshake?

Mpilo: Yes please mommy

He's also very respectful Bone made sure to raise him to have good manners and respect.

Mpilo: Daddy is calling

I fixed the rare view mirror..

Mpilo: Daddy.. I'm good.. I.. I'm from school..

She's here driving.. Okay.. See you later.. I love you too.. Okay I'm giving it to her..

I took it..

Me: Babakhe

Bone: Ntokazi

Me: I'm from seeing him

Bone: How did it go?

Me: He's.. I looked at Mpilo.. He's coming out next week for real

Bone: And how do you feel about that?

Me: Nervous Scared.. Vu-

I looked at Mpilo..

Me: You know how crazy he is

Bone: We didn't do this deliberately to hurt him

Me: I know but I feel I should've told him I just didn't wanna stress him more in there

Bone: Ngiyakuzwa Ntokazi (I hear you)

Me: I'll tell him when he gets released

Bone: Sobona khona ke ukuthi umfana omdala uzoyithatha njani (we will see from there how he's going to take it)

This was a mess.. An uncalled for mess!

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To be continued

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02

FUTHI

Being pregnant and having a 6 year old on your nerves constantly wasn't helping..

Mpilo is not even a hand full he is two hands full. When he is at home he gets more naughty so much I can't handle it at least when Bone is around he gets less irritating.

My Mother had come over she comes quite often..

Me: I really didn't think that uVukani would make it out of jail I thought he wasn't going to make it to 5 years

Ma: Vukani useless Futhi he did this to himself. He can die in jail for all I care

Me: Just worried about Mpilo

Ma: As far as Mpilo's situation goes. Utatakhe is Bandile not Vukani. Bandile was there for uMpilo Bandile is a great influence and a role

model for Mpilo. Vukani uyang'dina angimufuni kabi (I don't like him)

Me: It was even hard visiting and having to hide the pregnancy

Ma: I don't know why you still visited him you are someone's wife now. You shouldn't be involved with Vukani. You should've told him from day one that you are now someone's wife

Me: Not just anyone Ma his best friend

Ma: Futhi Vukani chose to put himself in this why does your life have to stop because of him?

Me: That's why I don't want drama when he comes

Ma: He has nothing to lose he has already ruined his life. You have everything to lose if he tries something send him back to jail.. Simple!

VUKANI (VUKS)

We were having dinner..

Mbuso: Vele uyasishiya next week?

I looked at him and chuckled..

Me: It's about time

Mbuso: But out of everyone you had it better I mean your baby Mama was always visiting

Me: I'm glad she held on I really thought ukuthi she was going to find someone else by now

Mbuso: You think she hasn't?

Me: I doubt.. I mean if she comes everyday to see me

Mbuso: Ya yi waar

FUTHI

My Mother left after a few minutes of her leaving Bone made his way in.. He freshened up so we could all have dinner..

Bone: How is work going?

Me: Work is going well how is the song coming together?

Bone: It's coming together well
He turned to Mpilo..

Bone: How is school going?

Mpilo: It's going well

Me: Mpilo go eat in your room

He got up and took his plate..

Bone: You worried about Vukani?

Me: I'm worried about him causing drama I
should've told him long time ago about us

Bone: Eyy Ntokazi

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I should've told him long time ago about us

Bone: Eyy Ntokazi you had your reasons but if
you told him then or now it wouldn't make a
difference. Vukani has a mind of his own

Me: What are we going to do?

Bone: We are not going to do anything if Vukani
doesn't want to accept what is happening then
okwakhe

Me: I mean he just had to go and get himself in
this mess he never even said why why he had
those guns.. What he was going to do with
them

He sighed..

Bone: I'm going to bed

He got up..

I know he gets irritated when I start talking about Vukani..

VUKANI (VUKS)

The next day we went on with our morning routine then on my phone call request for today. I called my Mother..

Ma: I'm happy you coming home next week

Me: Me too Ma

Ma: Just hold on for this week don't do anything that will make you not leave that place

Me: I won't.. I promise.. Futhi was here yesterday

Ma: Uthini? (what did she say)

Me: Just the usual visiting I just wanna see my Son when I get out

Ma: Vukani Futhi never said anything to you about anything?

Me: Anything like what?

Ma: I can't believe she hasn't told you anything

Me: What are you talking about?

Ma: She's engaged to be married to Bandile when they paid Lobola for her. Her family cut off contact with us concerning uMpilo because now he belongs to Bandile

I laughed..

Me: Naa Ma that doesn't sound right.. Futhi has been coming here every day

Ma: She's even pregnant

Me: You serious about this?

Ma: Why would I create a conversation to lie? Look Vukani when you come out please leave them alone. Futhi ukhohlakele (Futhi is evil)

I hung up..

Warden: Next

Me: Fader I need to make another phone call

Warden: You know the rules

Cell mate: Ebaba move

I turned and looked at him..

Me: Askies?

Cell mate: Shifta kusi phone ka Mamakho le
(Move this is not your Mother's phone)

I walked up to him the Warden pulled me back..

Warden: Do you really wanna do this when you
getting out of here next week?

I yanked my arm from his grip..

Me: I don't even have a reason to be out there
anymore

I clicked my tongue and walked away..

FUTHI

As I was busy filling out the form for my patient
my phone rang. It was a unsaved number..

Me: Hello?

Voice: Futhi

It was Vukani's Mother..

Me: Ma..

Her: Why do you keep on visiting my Son knowing very well ukuba you now belong to someone else? Why haven't you told him the truth? Jonga ngoku Vukani has to be released next week had you told him a long time ago he would've had time to deal with it

Me: Ma I'm sorry I'm at work and I don't wanna get into it with you

Her: You preventing us from seeing our Grandson and having a relationship with him

Me: As I've said I'm at work Ma
I hung up and shook my head..

VUKANI (VUKS)

I laid on my bed looking at his picture with tears filling my eyes..

Mpilo and Futhi are the reason why I've held on the reason why I couldn't wait to get out of here..

What hurts more is not what she did but how she did it with my best friend. Bone too how can he do this when we friends? Childhood friends. This is the reason why he stopped visiting he felt guilty.. I did time to protect the crew but he goes and does this..

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03

VUKANI (VUKS)

A WEEK LATER

I called my Mother before my release to tell Bagos to fetch me he did pull up in a taxi..

Me: Yeee wuwe umuntu onakanje? (Is it you)

Bagos: Yimi lomuntu (it's me)

Me: Somatekisi manje? (you are a taxi driver)

Bagos: Somatekisi nja yami (I'm a taxi owner)

We exchange a handshake and a hug then we got in...

Bagos: With my share I started with one taxi. When it was on the road I paid the remaining installment. Then I went for the second one

Me: Tjerrrr nja yami

Bagos: That's why I want you to drive my second taxi my old driver I fired him. The taxi has been parked in my yard just until you get something

Me: Kunjalo mfwethu (that's right)

Bagos: Manje impilo yangaphakathi injani?

Azange bakudlalisele emuva? (How was life on the inside they didn't rape you)

I chuckled..

Me: Cima (Don't go there)

(Silence)

Me: Iwaar Indaba yaleskhekhe sami no Bone?
(Is it true that Futhi and Bone)

Bagos: Eish Nja yami yazi sathuka sonke mfwethu (We were all shocked)

Me: Entlek k'hambani why ngijwayelwa so?(why am I being fucked like this)

Bagos: Ntwana shiya lento just focus on getting your life back together again. Don't fight for someone who doesn't wanna be with you

Me: Ang'nandaba nabo mabang'gaye intwana yam (I don't care about them they should just give me my child)

Bagos: Ngeke aychune uFuthi leyonto (Futhi won't agree)

I adjusted the seat then placed the all star against the dashboard..

Me: Lapho ng'gqumisa isifebe shaya reunion nabakubo (I am going to kill her)

Bagos: If it's any consolation uNtwana umphethe kahle uMpilo. Private school ndoda a good life.

Me: Ang'sbhayi Bagos ngifuna iNtwana yam (I don't care I want my child)

FUTHI

Today was the day. I didn't even go to work
also I didn't send Mpilo to school..

I couldn't even sleep I was scared. Vukani can
be crazy he has a loose screw..

Mpilo: Mommy why didn't I go to school?

Me: Imakancane Mpilo (Wait a minute)

Mpilo: Are you sick?

Me: Yes I'm sick.. That's why I wanted you
here

Mpilo: Should I get you a glass of water?

Me: Juice please

He kissed me on my cheek and walked to the
kitchen..

VUKANI (VUKS)

He dropped me off at home..

Bagos: Ngizok'bona jampas (I'll see you later)

Me: Sharp eyami

I got out and looked around. This place hasn't changed much except for some houses were extended now..

I walked to the gate and opened it then I walked down the passage. I didn't wanna get emotional been 5 years since I was here..

I saw my Little sister doing laundry. I stood there and looked at her..

Me: Stufuza!

She stopped.. She slowly turned around I was disappointed at what I saw. She was pregnant looked like she would pop soon..

We met each other halfway..

Thando: Look at you you look proper

Tears fell from her..

Thando: I thought you would've lost weight but..

She placed her hands on my face..

Me: And look at you

I placed my hand on her big tummy..

Me: That wasn't the plan what happened to the plan? Medical degree?

Thando: Every kid wants to be a Dr turned out it wasn't my dream after all

Me: So this was your dream?

Thando: You just got back Vukani

My Father wheeled himself out from the house holding a bottle of beer..

Dad: "Ehh bang'shaya.. Bathath'inyuku..

Bathatha nobucwebe nami.."

He looked at us..

Dad: Look what we have

My Dad was involved in a car accident that left him paralyzed a few years ago which had him retire too from Fraser Alexander.

He was a bad father and the worst husband. He was a drunk abusive and spent most of his

money with women at our local tarven. He put my Mother through the most but she stayed. Even at his worst she stayed true to her wedding vows. She never left him..

Dad: Disappointment is back

Me: I need to go out

Thando: I always cleaned your room

Me: Thank you

Thando: Keys are still in the drawer

Me: Ta (thank you)

I walked and went inside the house..

Dad: Kanti wena Thando when are you preparing breakfast?

Thando: Kodwa uyang'bona ngi busy nje (you can see I'm busy)

Dad: Unyoko akekho uye town awuyeke ukuvilapha (Your Mother is not around she went to town. Stop being lazy)

I checked the house the furniture has been changed here and there. I took my keys and

went outside to my room my Dad and Thando were still arguing..

I unlocked. Indeed it was clean I put the plastic on the bed. I looked at the dressing table. A picture of Me Futhi and Mpilo when he was still a baby..

I went and picked it up I looked at it..
I put it back down again and then walked out.
Locking..

Me: Stufuza ngiyabuya (I'm coming back)

Dad: Uyaphi manje? Ubuya sowuyaphuma soka nje kanje unzohamba manje uyodala inyinkinga usifakele amehlo uboshwe futhi yonke le die dang (Where are you going? You just got back now you going out to make more trouble so you can get arrested again and embarrass us)

I ignored him..

BONE

The song was complete it was released today. I was at some radio station promoting it..

Mapaseka: Welcome back listeners if you still tuned in. We told you that we have a very important guest today. Dr Bone inja yehlathi

Me: Ubiza mina ke Ntokazi

Mapaseka: So you gave us Vukani best song I've ever listened too.. Now you giving us Kwazet ft The Mahotella Queens. What can we expect from this song?

Me: Hayi wena Ntokazi sodansa ke Kwazet (This one we going to dance)

Mapaseka: So you also featured uZakwe?

Me: I Grootman ibhoza Yama bhoza. It was an honour working with him in this song he's very talented

Mapaseka: Well then let's play the song and hear.. That's it listeners you heard it here first radio station 94.7

FUTHI

They played the song it was beautiful. Probably my favorite song from his songs.

Mpilo: It's Daddy

Me: Yes it's Daddy

He started dancing.. I laughed..

I heard a knock at the door.. Probably my Mother said she would come today..

I opened it wasn't my Mother. It was Vukani.

My heart almost stopped beating..

I tried closing the door but he pushed it back and walked in..

Me: What are you doing here? You can't be here

Vukani: Ngoba? (why)

Me: Please leave Vukani

He walked up to me and I held his arms. His hands were deep in his pockets..

Vukani: Wenzani? (what are you doing)

He looked at me..

Vukani: Futhi if I wanted to beat you I'd do it. Whether you hold my hands or not I'd still do it

Mpilo walked in..

Mpilo: Mommy

Vukani looked at him..

Me: Mpilo walk to your room and lock the door

Mpilo: Why? Who is this?

Me: Mpilo go now!

He walked to his bedroom..

Vukani turned his face and looked at me..

Vukani: Khulile Bafanas (He's grown)

I swallowed..

Vukani: Tshela mina Muntuza what's going on?

I didn't know what to say..

Vukani: Futhi

Me: Vukani please

He got closer..

Me: Vukani don't!!

Vukani: Yini manje? Umsindo wani? Yahlanya
(What's wrong? Why you making noise? Are
you crazy?)

Me: We can set a date and then we can talk
just not like this

Vukani: Where is your bedroom?

Me: What?

Vukani: Where is your bedroom?

Me: Why?

Vukani: Let's go talk in the bedroom

Me: Vu-

He slapped me across the face..

Me: Ahhhhh

Vukani: Let's go to the bedroom

BONE

I was done with the interview I called Futhi but she wasn't picking up. I texted:

"On my way back"

FUTHI

He locked the door...

Vukani: When is he coming back?

Me: I'm not sure

He nodded..

Vukani: Get undressed

Me: What?

Vukani: Get undressed

I started to undress..

Vukani: And don't wake up my Son in the next room

He undressed too and instructed me to lie on the bed I did.. He had tattoos now think from

Prison. He was very fit didn't know they train inside. He also had a stitched scar across his tummy..

He came ontop of me..

Me: Vukani please don't do this

He rubbed his black dick against my coochie tears streamed sideways..

Me: Please stop

He got hard and then pressed in..

I pushed him away... He gave me a deadly look.. He pushed in further..

Me: Vukani uyang'limaza (Vukani you hurting me)

He forced in and it was painful..

Vukani: Maybe if you can stop fighting it off it'll get better.. You might just enjoy it

He kissed me on my lips and I turned my face away..

I tried to push him off again..

Vukani: Do that again and I'm going to put it in the other hole yabona nging'kanani. You'll hate me forever

I let him be let him violate me sexually. Painful as it was I tried not to scream for the sake of Mpilo.. I didn't want him to know what was happening..

Me: Vukani.. (crying)

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04

FUTHI

After that sinister act. He dressed up and walked out. He even came inside of me. Vukani has always been impulsive but this. This was beyond him.. When he gets mad all sense of reason goes out of the window..

I changed the bedding and then bathe. I am not going to have him arrested only because I have done so much to him. I don't wanna be another reason he goes back to jail. I don't wanna ruin him twice I don't wanna create a scandal for Bone too. He's a very reserved person and telling him. He will definitely go after Vukani I have a Son to think of now..

I don't want Mpilo to be exposed to violence.

I hope Vukani got his revenge I hope he leaves me alone..

I called Mpilo..

I held his hands..

Mpilo: Why are you crying? Are you sad?

Me: I.. Mpilo this man that came today. If you tell Daddy about him you and I we.. We going to

lose everything and you won't be able to go to the same school anymore or see Daddy anymore.. Do you understand?

He nodded..

Although I'm working but Bone helps me a lot especially with Mpilo's school fees. We pay half each and he takes care of most of the bills..

Me: Do you understand?

He nodded..

Me: Good boy

The door opened..

Me: Daddy is home

Mpilo: Yesssssssss!!!

VUKANI (VUKS)

I got home and my Mother was cooking in the kitchen..

Me: MaNtuli

She turned and looked at me she didn't say anything other than being emotional. I walked up to her..

Ma: Let me see you

She put her hands on my cheeks..

Me: I'm fine

Ma: I had gone out to buy food so I can prepare you your favorite meal

Me: That's kind of you

Ma: I'm glad you home.. Ntuli

Luvuno Mafuza aphind'afulele njenge nkosi
nkonjane emnyama ebheke emafini sigejane
sika Ntuli esihluma ebusika nase thlotyeni wena
mfaz'obeke lide owancelisa isana phesheya
kothukela Tshabangu omhle onexesha
Ngwane..

I smiled...

Me: It's good to be back home

Ma: Ngiyacela ke Vukani please don't do anything that's going to send you back. I don't want to see you going back I can't take the sleepless nights anymore the fear of what might be happening to you.. It's torture

Me: I promise
I kissed her hand..

Dad: Faka ibhola maan wena uyahlupha
Thando.. Uhleli la soka nje ka nje intanga zakho
ziyasebenza yonke le die dang (change to the
soccer channel

Sponsored

intanga zakho ziyasebenza yonke le die dang
(change to the soccer channel you are
annoying. You are here sitting at home your
peers are working)

Ma: Nkosi yam

Me: I did miss uSoka nje ka nje
My mom laughed..

Me: Vele what's with the story saka Thando?

Ma: She was working at the mall met the guy
there. I know what you going to say but Thando
did go to school. She just can't find a job

Me: I'll be right back

I walked to the lounge..

FUTHI

Bone showed up in the lounge holding Mpilo.
He put him down..

Bone: He's asking if we can go eat out
I nodded..

Bone: Go get ready then
Mpilo walked away..

Bone came and sat next to me..

Bone: Look at me

I looked at him..

Bone: Did Vukani make contact?

I swallowed.. I find it hard to look him in the eye
and lie but I was going to do it tonight.

Bone: MaTshabalala

Me: No.. He.. He hasn't

Bone: Inyembezi? (Tears)

Me: Just hormones

He held my hand..

Bone: We promised never to lie to each other

Me: I am not lying

Bone: Okay then.. Go get dressed up so we can go

Me: Okay

VUKANI (VUKS)

Me: Thando

She looked at me..

Me: As'ringe (let's talk)

She got up from the couch seemed difficult.

She walked up to me. We walked out to my room.. I looked at her sitting down on the bed she closed her eyes and exhaled..

Me: Weee Thando tell me what I need to know

Thando: Meaning?

I looked at her..

Thando: He works at Studio 88

I chuckled..

Thando: He's a good guy really

Me: I wanna meet him

Thando: Just don't scare him off

Me: I'll try not too..

Thando: Thank you

Me: Okay.. I wanna take my car out for a spin?

Wanna tag along? Maybe some ice cream?

Thando: Yaa

Me: Who has been driving it?

Thando: Ma

Me: Okay

She extended her hand to me..

Thando: A little help your bed is too long

Me: Thando yasogolisa (You are tiring)

FUTHI

I am obsessed with hot wings from Chicken
lickin we drove out there..

Bone: I don't like the meat from here it's too
salty

Mpilo: I don't like it here

Me: Well thank you guys for sacrificing for me I appreciate it

People were looking at us I suppose they were scared to come and ask to take pictures. I'm glad they were staying away I really don't like when our private family moment gets interrupted..

Mpilo: Can we go to McDonald's after this?

Bone: Yes

I shook my head..

Me: Ave nisogolisa (you guys are troubling)

We all say there and had hot wings with drinks. Just talking about random things glad my mind was being kept busy from thinking about what happened earlier on..

As if like things wouldn't get more torturing Vukani walked in with his little Sister. I almost choked on my hot wing. I started feeling uneasy scared. Looking at him I had flashbacks of what happened how he fucked me for dear life..

Bone also noticed him..

Me: I wanna leave

Bone looked at me then looked at him..

Vukani ended up noticing us he said something to Thando. She looked at us and then nodded..

Vukani walked up to our table.. I was not prepared for this at all..

They looked at each other with Bone I looked at Mpilo and shook my head..

Vukani: Bafo

He extended his hand to Bone..

Bone: Inja yehlathi

They shook hands..

Vukani: Futhi

I looked down..

Me: Vukani

Vukani: And who do we have here?

Mpilo: Mpilo

Vukani: Hi Mpilo.. My name is Vukani ever heard of me?

Mpilo: No

Vukani looked at me..

Vukani: Is it?

Me: We were just leaving..

I got up..

Me: Mpilo let's go

Mpilo: We have to get the hot wings Mom ordered to eat later

Me: Yes

Mpilo: Here's the receipt

Bone: Let's go get them

Me: I'll be in the car

I took the car keys..

As I was walking away Vukani blocked my way..

Vukani: I wanna see you tonight I don't know what you going to tell him but I wanna see you tonight

He stepped out of my way and I walked to the door..

.

To be continued

05

VUKANI (VUKS)

After the drama at Chicken licken I didn't feel like staying over anymore. We got ice creams and drove back home..

It killed me seeing them in there playing all happy family and I can't even have a conversation with my Son. From how he was confused I knew Futhi didn't tell him about me.. She convinced my Son that Bone is his Father..

I could take Futhi and Bone out I don't care but I do care about Mpilo. They the only family he knows and robbing him off would be unfair but I do want a relationship with him. Yes it hurts that she did that to me but I'm not going to sit and wallow on that I love my Son and I want a relationship with him..

We were having dinner with my Mom and Thando. Dad was sleeping he had too many beers..

I looked at the time it was 21:00..

Ma: Before I forget
She got up and went to her bedroom she came back with a phone box..

Ma: I got this for you in town
I looked at it.. It was a Samsung galaxy a12.

Ma: It will start you off

Me: Thank you Ma

Ma: You welcome

Me: Bagos owns two taxis now

Thando: He does

Me: He wants me to drive a taxi for him

Ma: Look at God

Thando: That's good

My Mother resigned last year she told me over the phone when I used to call home.

She's great with saving but I think now they running out of cash. My Dad's RAF money and money from work ran out long time ago.

With Thando pregnant I need to help a lot too and I hope her fucker will pull through.

Me: I want a relationship with Mpilo

Ma: Futhi and her family are stubborn they cut us off from having any relationship with uMpilo

Thando: When Mom went there after you got arrested they told her a lot of things. They used your arrest as an excuse for us not to have a relationship with them

Me: I see

Ma: I believe that a child needs their father whether the father is a dead beat or good. Look at your own Father he's not the best Person in the world but I didn't rob him and you guys the chance of having a relationship. Despite her new life she should've told Mpilo about you. Allowed you guys to have a relationship and if you are a threat to Mpilo then seize the relationship but she should have told him. It

doesn't matter that she's with someone else but Mpilo had to know about you

Thando: That's right

Ma: Then when uMpilo is old enough he'll make his own decision of wanting you in his life or not but she should never have made that decision herself

I took the phone..

Me: Thank you for the phone

I got up and kissed her on her cheek then went to my room..

FUTHI

Vukani's ancestors are strong because when we got home I got a call that my Father is not well. His diabetes is acting up and they have called the ambulance. My Mother was alone so Mpilo and I had to go to my Mother's house.. Bone drove us there and after a few minutes of our arrival the ambulance took him. I told my Mother to call me so I could go fetch her from the hospital after they admit my Father..

Me: I would like to sleep over just for tonight I don't think she'll be okay being on her own

Bone: I understand Ntokazi

Me: I'll come back in the morning to prepare Mpilo for school

He chuckled..

Bone: I can prepare my Son for school

Me: I forgot (chuckling)

I looked at Mpilo..

Me: Come give me a hug

He came and gave me a hug..

Me: I'll see you tomorrow morning okay?

Mpilo: Okay Ma

Me: I love you

Mpilo: I love you too

My little sister is in boarding school my big brother is married. So it's just my mom and dad in the house..

Bone came and kissed me..

Bone: Don't forget to lock up

Me: I won't

Bone: I love you and we will see you tomorrow morning Ntokazi

Me: Okay let me walk you guys out

I walked them out..

When they were driving off I went back inside and prepared myself. I don't wanna do this I have no reason to do this but I think it's time Vukani and I talk. Talk and die this issue once and for all..

I took my bag and walked to his place

Sponsored

the street wasn't completely quiet. It's my hood they know me so chances of getting attacked are very slim..

When I got to his place I saw that the kitchen light was still on and the bathroom light.

Then Vukani's bedroom light was also on.

I closed the door trying not to create much sound..

I walked down the passage and he was standing there leaning against the wall and

smoking a cigarette. He was in his jeans and sleepers only..

He turned his head and looked at me he threw the cigarette down and stepped on it.

Me: Hi

Vuks: Muntuza

I was scared will I make it out of here alive?

Me: I came

He moved over and opened the door..

Vuks: Ladies first

I took a deep breath and I walked in passing him seemed like he had just finished bathing because he was smelling of soap. Protex

He closed the door and locked it my heart almost stopped. He turned and looked at me.

He walked over and sat on the dressing table pulled the small dressing chair and put his foot on it. I sat on the bed brought a lot of memories.. This room brought a lot of

memories.. He kept his eyes on me which made me more uneasy.. Clenching his jaw.

Me: I loved you.. I did. Bone and I didn't wake up one day and decided to do this decided to hurt you. We didn't plan on it.. Vukani you were arrested on possession of illegal firearms what were you going to do? Who were you going to kill?

Vukani: Entlek Ntonto that's all you heard?

Me: Was there something else?

He chuckled and shook his head..

Vukani: No there's nothing else.. Look I want a relationship with my Son that's all I want

Me: uMpilo has a stable life if you love him you will let him be

Vuks: Eyy!!!

I freaked out..

Vuks: Don't tell me about a stable life because if you loved me you would've been honest with me from the word go!

Me: Vukani

He picked up the body lotion from the dressing table and threw it at me..

Vuks: You fucked my best friend to a marriage and gave him my son and I'm supposed to be okay with that?

He got up from the dressing table and came to me he put his hand on my neck and pushed me back then placed his knee on my tummy..

Me: Hurting me what is it going to solve? Is it going to make it better? It still changes nothing

BONE

I looked at the bedding in the washing basket something was not right. The white sheet had stains.. Futhi changes our bedding every week she just changed it yesterday. Why change it again today??

I walked to Mpilo's room..

Me: Champ can we talk?

Mpilo: Okay

He closed his book..

Me: Tell me did someone come here today?

Mpilo: Uhmhhh

Me: Remember we are best friends? We talk about everything

Mpilo: Mom says I shouldn't tell

Me: You can tell me.. Did someone come today?

He nodded..

Me: Can you describe him?

Mpilo: Same man from the mall

Me: Are you sure Mpilo?

He nodded..

Me: Okay

Mpilo: I'm not going to get in trouble right?

Me: Of course not.. Let's go check up on Mom and grandma

Mpilo: Okay

FUTHI

I looked at him with tears in my eyes..

Me: What is it going to solve?

He looked at me I could see the pain in his eyes mixed with anger..

Vuks: I love you Futhi ngiyak'canwa kakhulu.

When I was in there you and Mpilo were the only people who kept me sane.. Who made me hold on

Me: I'm so sorry

Vuks: I love you with all my heart.. Why did you have to go and do this? Why?

I ran my hands on his chest as the pain in my tummy intensified..

Vuks: Come back to me it's not too late
He removed his knee from my tummy..
He kissed me through my tears..

Vuks: Ngiyak'canwa blind (I love you so much)

BONE

We walked in and knocked at the door no one
came through. I called her she didn't pick up..

I fixed my gun at the back of my waist..

Me: Let's go

We walked back to the car..

.

To be continued

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06

BONE

I had every reason to go to Vukani's place and get this over and done with. I wasn't going to do anything to Vukani because if Futhi is there. She went there on her own out of her own will..

I looked at Mpilo and he doesn't deserve this. He doesn't deserve to be caught in the cross fire. I've spent all these years raising him to be a good young man without his Father present. The life that Vuks and I lived was not good and I didn't want that for Mpilo

I had hoped that Futhi would bring it up on how we can all Co-Parent because as much as I love Mpilo but he has a Father. I just want Vukani to clean his act before making a presence in Mpilo's life...

FUTHI

This round of sex wasn't as brutal as the one we had earlier on. Unearthing the feelings I had for him the love I still have for him. Just made me to let loose embrace this moment and enjoy it..

Both Men are good with sex the only difference is that Vukani can use sex as an escape goat when he's not feeling well. Which in turn he will mess up your coochie.

We were interrupted by my Mother's call coming through had to go fetch her from the hospital. Vukani had no problem with that so long he tagged along. I didn't feel well about it I know he was doing it to piss her off..

He drove us to the hospital I went inside to fetch my Mother.. When we walked outside and approached Vuks car she stopped halfway..

Ma: And then?

Me: Just don't say anything.. I'll explain when we get home

Ma: Explain what Futhi? Explain what kahle kahle?

Vukani got out of his car and walked up to us..

Vukani: Mamzo

Ma: Kanti kwenzakalani? (what's going on)

Me: Can we go Ma? I'll explain at home

Ma: I'm not going anywhere with him he's a criminal! How do I know he won't kill us? He has guns

Vuks: Mamzo if I were to kill someone I'd kill someone for money. Trust me you not worth killing

Me: Vukani!

Ma: I'd rather sleep on the chairs and go home tomorrow morning

Vukani: Okay

He walked back to his car my Mother looked at me..

Ma: You are an embarrassment your father just got admitted kodwa wena here you are

whoring! Futhi don't embarrass me don't make a mockery out of me. What does he have? He has nothing! He is nothing! A useless thug with a useless father. He comes from a broken home a broken family. Is that what you want for yourself? For uMpilo?

You have a great Man a man that loves you kodwa here you are manje ruining everything for a useless thug that might go back to Prison.. Rhaaa

She spat on the ground..

Ma: Uzikhiphile kimi

She walked back inside..

BONE

The following morning I woke up and prepared uMpilo for school. Then I called my big sister to talk to her..

Sis: Aii mina Bandile I think you should let this girl go I've never liked her from the word go. If what you telling me is true this girl is toxic and dangerous. Buka manje you have everything to lose and Vukani might be using her to get to you using her for revenge. Naye she's agreeing

Me: I know what happened between mina no Futhi is wrong or how it happened but she promised me loyalty

Sis: Cut her off cut her lose and her Son.. Let them go she's an ungrateful bitch

Me: She's pregnant with my child if she's really fucking him with my child inside of her I swear

Sis: She has already done it if she's really fucking him with my child inside of her I swear

Sis: She has already done it she did the same thing to Vukani. When he got arrested she jumped straight into your bed she's a whore.. Didn't take much for her to go back to him. Nani Vukani? He doesn't have anything! She's not even thinking about her Son.. What good life will the Son have with a father who is a Thug? Hai sies maan! Leave this whore alone!! Let her go back home she doesn't deserve you

VUKANI

When Futhi left in the morning to go back home I went to check on Bagos. He gave me the keys to his second taxi. He mostly operates in town straight Johannesburg cbd.

From there to the hood from the hood back here.. I was to operate straight in our local town he told me he spoke to the taxi association and they won't give me problems

It was 6am when I had my first load mostly school and college students. Very loud in the taxi and very annoying.. I fixed my rear view mirror and checked them there was this one girl who was sitting and not communicating with anyone she was on her phone..

I kept on concentrating on her. Mostly staring down not giving a fuck about everyone else. She would occasionally lift up her head to

check through the window and goes back to her phone..

She was the first to get out and another girl got out at Springs College. I looked at her as she walked to the gate then I proceeded..

FUTHI

When I got home I cleaned so that when my Mother comes back things get less awkward

She made her way in.. She looked at me.

Me: Ma

She shook her head and clicked her tongue then proceeded to the bedroom. Half of the problems that Vukani and I encountered were solely brought forth by my family..

They never liked him from the word go and it took a toll in our relationship even so we tried to make it work. We thought Mpilo came about I thought they would have a change of heart but still..

I went to her bedroom..

Me: Ma

Ma: We used the money for lobola we've already used it

Me: I know

Ma: You are pregnant Futhi

Me: I know that too

Ma: Usulele naye? (have you slept with him)

I swallowed...

Ma: Sies Futhi!!!

Me: Ma

Ma: Get out of my house angikaze ngakhulisa isifebe mina.. Rhaaa bazothini khona abantu (I didn't raise a whore what are people going to say)

I walked away..

Ma: When things come crashing down between
You and Bandile don't even think of coming
back here hambe khabo Vukani ube useless
njengabo!!!

I went and took my back then left...

VUKANI

Torturing Futhi is very good to me but the
problem is that she's still the Mother of my child.
I don't want Mpilo growing up and learning that I
abused his Mother it was hard for me to grow
up witnessing my Mother going through all that
so I will try to worm my way back into her life
just to get my Son and when I've ruined her life.
I'll leave her high and dry.. I'm going to make
her lose this little picture perfect family of hers..

The only nice thing about being a taxi driver is
that you can make your own money on the side

from passengers that are not accounted for that are not included in the load..

Bagos called..

Bagos: Ntwana

Me: Ekse

Bagos: Just checking how it's going

Me: It's going

He chuckled..

Me: Ta Ntwana for everything

Bagos: Uyazi Moss

Me: Cava jampas

Bagos: Yizo

He hung up...

FUTHI

I walked in at the house it was quiet. I put my things in the bedroom and sat down.

I checked my phone to text Bone but something disturbed me on whatsapp. Vuks and I exchanged numbers yesterday so he had uploaded a photo of himself driving on his whatsapp status. He looked so handsome with his cap I smiled alone..

.

To be continued

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07

VUKANI

Later on in the afternoon at around 16:00 my last pass and stop before heading to the hood was at Springs college. There was maybe 2 or 3 people standing by the gate who ran up to my taxi including the Lady I saw this morning. To underground where my ancestors are buried she looked heavenly. She was beautiful and has this peaceful and calmness around her..

The guy opened the door and the passengers in the taxi protested "It's full" ..

Me: Masihlalisane angithi some of you are getting off? (let's share since some of you are getting off)

They still protested I heard a male voice arising from the back..

Voice: Eyy awuvale sihambe (close the door so we can go)

The guy who opened the door looked puzzled not knowing if he should close or keep the door open..

I looked at the Lady and her looking back at me validated whatever fling I was having for her that I should have her in my taxi again. I turned back. The guy was still rambling at the back..

Me: Kancance Ma (Excuse me)

The woman tilted to her side..

Me: Ekse ntwana

He looked at me..

Me: Ungafuni ngik'moshele ilanga (don't make me ruin your day)

Him: Kanjani ngoba I've already paid! I have a right to fight for my right to sit comfortably in this taxi!

Me: Your right to right what? In who's taxi?

Him: No maan this is wrong

Me: Cela uhlike eyami (please get off)

I looked at the passanger who was sitting next to me..

Me: Awum'gaye amacentana wakhe (give him his cents)

His money was passed on to him..

Me: Awehle ke (get off)

He got off still throwing a tantrum so much he opened the door further that it got stuck.

I opened my door and got out people started chanting "Khuzani bo" translated to "Someone do something". I walked up to him..

Me: Eh Jo..

He stopped. As much as I wanted to fuck him up but I couldn't. There's too much witnesses and he can take the number plates and report me..

Me: Singabantu masiphilisane eyami yabo (as people we need to work together)

Him: Mara le oyenzayo akusiyiyo (what you doing is not right)

Me: Mara mele siphilisane Singabantu (we have to work together as people)

After saying that I walked back to the taxi. I requested the lady to sit at the front in the middle. The other two went to the back..

FUTHI

Bone's sister called me Nokulunga..

Me: Noku

Noku: Uyinja yazi (you are a dog)

Me: Askies?

Noku: After everything that my Brother has done for you and that illegitimate Son of yours meceda umbonga nge plate lobufebe!

Me: Whoaa hayi phola bo uyashisa (calm down)

Noku: Just do us a favor and leave!! Go back to your jail bird please

Me: Wena where do you enter in my marital affairs?

Noku: If you making my Brother a fool I will enter

Me: Hayi fokof maan!

I hung up..

VUKANI

I stole glances at her and then cleared my throat..

Me: Please change the song for me

She struggled through..

Her: Where?

Me: Press there

She did..

Me: Ta Ngwana (Thank you)

I didn't want the song changed I just wanted to make conversation..

I drove through dropping people off she wasn't getting off..

By now the front passenger had gotten out. So now she was sitting comfortably..

Me: Eyy ngathi uhlala kude (It's like you live far)

She chuckled shyly..

Her: Kanti in the morning where did you pick me up from?

Me: You rode my taxi in the morning?

Her: Ahhhhh

Me: Serious?

Her: If you don't remember then it's fine

Me: Help me remember ke

When I looked at her the front passenger had gotten out. So now she was sitting comfortably..

Me: Eyy ngathi uhlala kude (It's like you live far)

She chuckled shyly..

Her: Kanti in the morning where did you pick me up from?

Me: You rode my taxi in the morning?

Her: Ahhhhh

Me: Serious?

Her: If you don't remember then it's fine

Me: Help me remember ke

When I looked at her she would look away.

Her: Asiyeke (let's leave it)

After a few minutes of driving she called out.

Her: Short right

Me: Kanti owase Nkambini? (you live in my hood)

Her: Yes Vukani

Me: Ehh how come I don't know you?

I pulled over..

Her: Bye

Me: Number nyana nex? (phone numbers)

Her: Bye

She closed the door and walked away..

FUTHI

Mpilo walked into the kitchen as I was busy cooking..

Mpilo: Mama

Me: Yes?

Mpilo: I'm not feeling well

Me: What do you mean?

Mpilo: I vomited

I closed the pot..

Me: Hau Mpilo

I walked up to him..

Me: You burning up

He didn't look good..

Me: I should take you to the hospital

I switched off the stove I went and took my phone then texted Bone..

VUKANI

After dropping off everyone I cruised around her street hoping that I would see her but I didn't. I

seriously don't know her though she lives 3 streets away from mine..

I pulled over and asked the kids who were playing there about her I described her. They told me that her name is Irene they even pointed where she lives. That's all I wanted to know..

I got back into the taxi and took off..

FUTHI

I arrived at the hospital and they took him in. Said it's food poisoning but it's minor.

Probably something he ate at school..

Bone showed up I was relieved to see him. I walked up to him and hugged him he was strangely cold. Didn't hug me back..

Bone: Unjani uMpilo (how is Mpilo)

Me: They took him in food poisoning

He nodded..

Me: I was worried

Bone: Zoba right

Me: Are you okay? You usually get more worried when Mpilo is not okay

Bone: Ntokazi tshela mina (Tell me)

I looked at him..

Bone: When are you going to talk to Vukani about Mpilo?

Me: Well Vukani has no rights to Mpilo even if he takes me to court he won't win given his record

Bone: Ngiyabona (I see)

Me: Is there something wrong?

Bone: No nothing is wrong

Me: Noku called me swearing

Bone: Why?

Me: Accused me of whoring

He chuckled..

Me: It's not funny

Bone: Noku doesn't act out of character unless she's provoked

Me: So you defending her?

Bone: I'm saying I don't know you will tell me this and she will tell me that all because I don't know what happened between you two

Me: So you not going to defend me against your sister? She called me a whore and you defending her over me?

Bone: Awukahle Futhi! This is a hospital and our Son is sick

I folded my arms and sat down..

VUKANI

I stopped by at home My Mother and Thando were cooking..

Me: Stufuza

She looked at me..

Me: Sondela la (come here)

Ma: Hau!

Me: Sorry Ma.. Kunjani? (how are you)

Ma: Imihlolo! (Amazing)

Thando and I walked outside..

Me: Stufu

Thando: Ya?

Me: Do you know Irene?

Thando: Irene?

Me: Light in complexion muhle nyana

Thando: Ohw.. I know her Sgeqe's ex

Me: Bekazikhanda no Sgeqe? (She was dating Sgeqe)

Thando: Ya before he died

Me: Serious? Sgeqe died?

Thando: Ahh Vukani

Me: Okay Dankie

Thando: Why ask?

Me: Nex Stufu

.

To be continued

08

VUKANI

The next morning when I checked in for my shift I made sure that I pass through when Irene is standing there. She stands at the corner by the main road exactly at 6:30am

If I pass a second late she would be in another taxi. I made sure the front seat was empty she got in..

Irene: Sawubona (greetings)

Me: Eita

She fixed her short dress..

She didn't seem like a student or I'm just reading too much but she didn't seem like a student..

I started driving off not knowing how to initiate a more promising conversation.

Me: First class starts early?

She stopped navigating her phone..

Irene: I'm not a student I work in Admin

I whispered..

Me: Don't the offices open at 8am?

Irene: 7am since we dealing with late applications

Me: I see

(Silence)

Me: Bheka ne.. Ungayithatheli entweni lento but umuhle (look don't take this the wrong way but you beautiful)

She blushed..

Irene: Thank you

I continued driving...

FUTHI

I was at work this morning I couldn't even sleep last night. Mpilo was still admitted Bone was giving me a cold shoulder and Vukani didn't bother me. Even though he did view my whatsapp status last night about Mpilo being sick.. He didn't say nothing didn't text nothing..

I'm not expecting him to actually say something with regards to Mpilo since I am keeping him from that part of his life but just to say something nje anything especially considering what has been happening between us..

Me: You go up on the fifth floor take these results with

Patient: Thank you

She took the results and her file then walked away..

I took my phone and checked it no messages. No calls no nothing. Even from Bone. I pulled the chair and sat down..

VUKANI

We were nearing close to the college I extended my phone to her..

Me: Just so you can text me when you done and I'll pass by here to get you
She took my phone I was scared she wasn't going to give in but she saved her numbers.

I pulled at the gate..

Me: You'll text me

Irene: Or you can text me since you the one with my numbers

Me: I'll do so

She got out and fixed herself then she walked to the gate..

FUTHI

I recieved a call from Bone I sighed and smiled..

Me: Babakhe

Bone: Mpilo they going to discharge him tomorrow

Me: Ohw

Since I had to be at work today he sacrificed to be with Mpilo.. Bone is amazing I don't know any man that could love a child that's not his blood as much as he loves Mpilo. But you know what they say? If a man truly loves you. He will love you with all your baggage.

I am torn between my first love and my current love. As much as Vukani will always have a place in my heart but he can't provide Mpilo and I with a stable life. He can't even take care of himself how do I expect such a man to take care of me and my Son. I don't mean it all financially because I'm working

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how do I expect such a man to take care of me and my Son. I don't mean it all financially because I'm working but even so. I can't take care of a man that's just against my culture. If we do become exclusive again. He can disappoint me end up in jail again then I'm back to square one.

My Mother always said "Find a man that's going to love you more than you love him and I found that in Bone" I'm not about to lose it all for Vukani...

IRENE

Just when I got to the office I got a text from Vukani. It was him because the text read:

"Don't forget"

I smiled like a retard. My boyfriend passed away 3 years ago ever since from then. I wasn't able to move on. He was also in the taxi industry got caught in the crossfire of taxi gun violence..

I saved his number..

I know Vukani I mean almost everyone in the hood knows him and his friends. He doesn't know me because I moved away from home a long time ago to go live with my Mother. When she passed on I moved back with my Grandmother by then Vukani was said to have been arrested..

His reputation scares me. An ex con taxi driver and that minor altercation. He comes off scary very scary but yet very attractive.

He seems like a nice guy underneath it all.

So long he treats me well if we do manage to date then I'll be fine..

I sat down in my chair and put my bag on the table..

VUKANI

After dropping off the passengers I parked at the taxi rank for another load..

I was looking at Mpilo's picture that Futhi uploaded. He was said to be sick but I couldn't ask what was wrong. This is my Son that is kept from me. Asking what difference will it make?..

I exhaled..

I texted Irene:

"Lunch?"

The message went through but she hasn't read..

FUTHI

I recieved a call from my Mother. I wonder for how long was she going to stay mad..

Me: Ma

She didn't say anything..

Me: Ma?

Ma: uBaba akasekho (Your father is no more)

Me: Ini? (what)

Ma: I got a call this morning

I didn't expect such news..

Me: Kukhona bani endlini? (who is at home)

Ma: Akasekho umyeni wami futhi (My husband is gone)

She broke down..

Me: I'm coming Ma I'm on my way

I hung up and put my phone in the pocket of my coat.. I wiped my face with my hands..

VUKANI

Only 3 seats were left..

I was eating Vetkoeks with the escort brown brown liver spread and drinking coffee.. Also on the phone with Irene..

I waited for her to finish laughing..

Me: Ngiyak'tshela (I'm telling you)

She had a soft calm voice very respectful. She's not too forward and I like her calmness

Irene: Haicha let me start of with work

Me: Okay I'll see you at 13:00 on your lunch break

Irene: Okay

Me: Khohlwa ke ama KFC nani Nani ngizolushaya nge plate lase rank (Forget about

KFC and other restaurants I'll bring you a plate of food from the taxi rank)

Irene: Ngalijabulela (I'll be pleased)

Me: Serious?

Irene: Weee abave bepheka labo Mama balapho (Those women can surely cook)

Me: Haike khululeka ngizoliletha (Rest assured I'll bring it)

Irene: Okay ke

Me: Sharp

Irene: Sharp

.

To be continued

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09

FUTHI

The front door was wide open guys from the community were helping with moving the dressing table to the garage couches and other things that won't be useful throughout the grieving and mourning process..

My Mother's sister was here already my Aunt her younger sister. We were the ones tidying up cleaning and everything as my Mother sat on the mattress. Neighbours were also here to send out their condolences already.

Aunty: Fufu?

Me: Ma

Aunty: Make tea and take it to the bedroom

Me: Okay

Aunty: Later on we should start baking scones

Me: Yes west should

I got the cups to prepare tea..

BONE

Mantsonga our friend has sort off like a mini Kasi eatery. He sells braai mean chicken beef and wors. Pap and a few salads..

I am happy that the crew decided to make something of themselves after our heist except for Vukani. Wasn't his fault though he never brought it upon himself to be busted that day. What makes the situation worse is that it seems as if like we set him up and we didn't. I tried to be there even when his money ran out from buying him protection and supporting his child I ended up taking money from my own pocket to help out..

Mantsonga brought me the plate.. He sat opposite me.. We are in a very dangerous business that we started not long ago. Selling ammunition to guys who do heists.

Mantsonga: uMbatha ufuna 5 (Mbatha wants 5 guns)

I don't handle the business personally I don't keep the ammunition. I have a secret underground warehouse where they kept there and I have guys down there who keep the place secret. Mantsonga brings most of our customers..

Me: I'll call the guys
He gets 20% of the share..

IRENE

Vukani showed up with the food we sat in his taxi.. I closed my plate..

Me: Ngiyabonga the food was nice

Vuks: The company was more nice

I smiled..

Vuks: uMuhle saan (You beautiful)

Me: Ngiyabonga (Thank you)

Vuks: Maybe when I fetch you later Jampas we can get something to eat too

Me: That would be nice

Vuks: Weee Irene.. Ngoba mina nawe siyazi ukuthi kuzokwenzakalani

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Jampas we can get something to eat too

Me: That would be nice

Vuks: Weee Irene.. Ngoba mina nawe siyazi ukuthi kuzokwenzakalani why don't we just get to it? (Irene since we know what's going to happen between us why don't we just get to it)

Me: I don't know

Vuks: Don't know what?

Me: Us being exclusive?

Vuks: How can you not know if you don't want to try it out and see?

Me: Let's see how this will go

Vuks: Okay anything that makes you comfortable

FUTHI

My Mother was preparing to go to the hospital the Funeral palour was to fetch my Father's body from the hospital morgue.

I couldn't accompany her she was going with my Aunt. I was not emotionally strong to expose myself to such a disheartening situation. I am pregnant I don't need too much stress..

I stayed at home to oversee other things still with a few neighbours around..

IRENE

I kept on thinking about what Vukani asked and proposed to me..

I don't know if I'm ready for a relationship as yet..

Thami: Come on Irene your ex died 3 years ago that's long enough to move on

Me: I don't know.. Vukani is also in the taxi industry I don't want to lose someone else

Thami: You can't deprive yourself of love just because of what happened give it another try and see what happens

Me: You think?

Thami: Yes if it doesn't workout then it doesn't

Me: That's true

Thambi: Let me get to class

Me: Okay see you later Chom

VUKANI

I called Futhi she also had uploaded that her Father passed on..

Futhi: Hello

Me: Hi.. It's me

Futhi: Hey

Me: I saw you uploaded a picture of your Father Hade Jo (sorry)

Futhi: Thank you

Me: How are the funeral arrangements going?

Futhi: We getting there

Me: I'll hear from you then about the funeral

Futhi: Okay Sharp

Me: Sharp

I hung up..

FUTHI

Bone knocked and then walked in..

Bone: Ntokazi

Me: Babakhe

Bone: Nxese (I'm sorry)

Me: He was strong.. This

He came and hugged me..

Me: I didn't think he would leave us this soon
maybe that's why Mpilo fell sick. Ubehlola isifo

Bone: Ya maybe

Me: Thank you for coming

Bone: Is there anything that you need?

Me: Don't know as yet what we still going to
need

Bone: Then you'll tell me

Me: I will

He kissed me...

IRENE

I took a deep breath and texted him that we can give it a try then I put my phone away. I was nervous as I waited for his response.

My phone beeped. I checked and it was a reply from him. He agreed..

A smile on my face made the moment I hope this is going to work.

.

To be continued

10

VUKANI

A WEEK LATER

Being a taxi driver is not the most ideal job. I'm not even making half of the money that I want to make. With the situation at home Thando so close to having a baby. Both Parents not working as the older kid all responsibility falls on my shoulders. I feel useless that I can't really afford for my family the money I make just puts food on the table. Made get lost in my thoughts that maybe just maybe Mpilo wouldn't survive with me. How do I fight for my child when I can't provide for him? Mpilo seems to have a well stable life. How will I afford to take care of him? I feel so useless. So angry. I only have grade 10 even so. Who would hire an ex con? Looking at my friends they seem to have done good for themselves. Mantsonga has his Eatery by the look of things he seems to be making it. Bagos owns two taxis and Bone is well off too. Then there's me living on my friend's handout...

I was sitting at the Eatery I see now Mantsonga is trying to pimp it up..

Me: I think you should leave it like this

Mantsonga: Why?

Me: We live in Ekasi Ntwana people want vibe. Pimping it out making it seemingly look like a top notch eating place people will think they not financial stable enough to come and chill her. Make it a good place but not fancy still keep the vibe

Mantsonga: Yizo (That's the way to go)

I looked around..

Mantsonga: You doing well Ntwana

Me: Huh?

Mantsonga: Most people who get out they struggle through kodwa you doing well. It's a great start

Me: Ya I suppose

I looked at the time I was waiting for Irene. We exclusive now.. Irene has a good job she seems like she can afford herself. I really don't know why she would settle for someone like me. Someone who doesn't have anything nor up in her standards.. She's a nice woman and I am falling for her I just don't wanna fall hard.

Incase she does a Futhi on me when she's tired..

IRENE

Me: Gogo ngicedile (I'm done)

She came to the kitchen..

Gogo: Ngiyabonga Riri

Me: Sengiyahamba kodwa uma uqindezeleka ngicela ungifonele (I'm leaving now if you don't feel well please call me)

Gogo: Kodwa Riri uyazi ngiyazenzela sengihlushwa nje yisifuba namhlanje (You know I do everything on my own just that today my chest is closing in)

My Grandmother has both asthma and also suffering from Hypertension..

Since from yesterday she's been having a whooping cough. I hope her Nebulizer will help if it doesn't. I'll have to take her to the Dr

tomorrow. I took two days off I'll be going back to work on Monday today it was Thursday..

I haven't told her about Vukani and I. I mean Vukani doesn't have an acceptable reputation. You know how elders are..

Me: Ngizokubona ke (I'll see you later)

Gogo: Hamba ke (You can go)

FUTHI

They brought in the scones. It has been a dreadful week. I was emotionally and physically tired.. My Father is getting buried on Saturday at 9am. At least it'll be early

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at 9am. At least it'll be early by 13:00 everything will be done..

My Brother's wife came to me I was sitting outside on the chair taking a breather. My feet were swollen...

Her: Unjani? (how are you)

Me: I'm tired

Her: I can imagine

Me: Everyone is calling me from left to right

Her: Aww Nxese (sorry)

Me: This is the time I wish I could drink

She laughed..

Her: I feel you

I looked at the time..

Me: In an hour I have to drive out to fetch uMpilo

Her: Relax until then

Bone was not around he was in Cape Town. I could feel his absentia he helps me a lot with Mpilo..

IRENE

I got to the Eatery and Vukani was already there..

Me: Am I that late?

He got up to kiss me..

Vuks: A little

Me: Askies I got held up at home

Vuks: It's okay

We both sat down..

Me: I love food from here

Vuks: It'll be my first time?

Me: Serious?

Vuks: Ya

Me: You'll enjoy

Vuks: Ngathi ke sogcina ukuza la (It'll be the last time we come here)

Me: Hau Ngoba? (why)

Vuks: There's a lot of guys who come here and if you come here too frequently then ayi
I chuckled..

Me: Jealous?

Vuks: Kude (I'm not)

Me: You have no reason to be jealous

Vuks: Mawusho (If you say so)

He got up..

Vuks: What am I getting you?

Me: Dumplings and Tripe ne Hunter's gold

Vuks: Sharp ngiyeza (I'm coming)

He went to buy us the food..

BONE

My performance was on Saturday but I decided to come here earlier so I could get fresh air.

Cape Town is a good tourist attraction..

I recieved a call from Mantsonga..

Me: Aww inja yehlathi

Tsonga: Bhubesi

Me: Uthini Ndonda? (What's the matter)

Tsonga: I'm with Vukani la

Me: Ngiyezwa ndonda (I hear you)

Tsonga: I think we should recruit him

Me: What we do we can't have someone who has bad blood with me join the team

Tsonga: Ahh come on Ndonda Vuks is our friend

Me: Was

Tsonga: Mnaks we can't let one of our own suffer like this.. He says he's okay but I don't think he is

Me: Vukani has issues that he needs to die down

Tsonga: Ngiyakuzwa (I hear you)

Me: I might wanna help out but... There's still some issues there

Tsonga: No I hear you

IRENE

I could see that something was bothering him.. His mind was somewhere else..

Me: Vukani

He looked at me..

Me: What's wrong?

He smiled a little..

Vukani: Why are you with me?

Me: I don't understand

Vukani: You could be with anyone else someone better but you chose me. I can't afford you a life that a woman wishes for

Me: Wait.. You think I'm that type of a woman? Look I don't know the kind of women that you've dated but please. Never compare me to them I am working I can get my own. You not my provider you my boyfriend

Vukani: I didn't mean it like that

Me: Then what do you mean?

Vukani: You don't know how hard this is for me dating someone who is more financial stable than me

Me: Your bruised Ego that's your own issue that you need to deal with. Not mine leave me out of it

Vukani: Askies? Who do you think you talking too? One of your friends?

Me: You are sitting there indirectly accusing me of being a gold digger and I'm supposed to be happy? Smile?

Vukani: I never said you a gold digger

Me: Can you let me finish?

Vukani: You can finish but if you going to be repeating my words get them right

Me: Maybe I should leave

Vukani: So you going to let food go to waste because of a little argument?

Me: I didn't leave my sick Grandmother at home to come here and be accused of being a gold digger

He hit the table..

Vukani: Eyy I never called you a gold digger!

People were now looking at us...

Me: I'm leaving

Vukani: Irene

I got up from the chair took my bag and left.

FUTHI

I got to my car and drove to Mpilo's school..

As I was driving out of the hood just not far from the Eatery I swear that I saw Vukani with some yellow bone. I looked at them he was trying to

touch her but she was stepping back. Looked like they were having an argument..

I looked at her she looked familiar. It was Irene really? Irene is dating Vukani?

Never imagined her settling down with a guy like Vukani especially since she's an independent woman.. Irene has always been full of herself she thinks she's better than anyone. Always at home not mixing with people from around her I'm even surprised she's dating Vukani. I rolled down the window..

IRENE

Vukani: Awuyeke izinto ezisnax kanti yini?
(What's with the attitude)

Me: That was not nice.. You have your own issues to work on don't project them on me

Vukani: Okay I heard you dammit!

I folded my arms..

Vukani: Can we go back and eat?

I didn't say anything..

Vukani: Please

I looked at him..

Me: Only because I like the food around here

Vukani: Washo uMa ukuthi ama yellow b- (My mom did say that yellow bones are -)

Me: I can make it a takeaway and eat at home

Vukani: Sorry ke

.

To be continued

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FUTHI

I was still very much stuck on Vukani and Irene. I still don't know how Irene could possibly fall for a guy like Vukani? Irene is independent. Has a good job and holds herself to high standards. At the same time another part of me was jealous very much jealous. I mean I expected to be replaced by a hood rat you know the ones with no clear direction. What did Irene see in him? I know his charming his arrogancy draws you closer to him. Has a good sex game but Vukani has nothing nothing at all. He's just Vukani..

I was talking to my best friend Innocentia.

Inno: She's probably desperate because it really doesn't make sense. Vukani just got out of jail he has nothing

Me: I'm telling you and you know me and Irene don't get along

Inno: You think he's doing this to spite you?

Me: No.. Vukani doesn't know Irene he was already arrested when she got here. She might be the one who is on the spiting side

Inno: You think?

Me: I think

Inno: Agh just leave them if they both in it for the wrong reasons then it won't work

Me: No I can't just leave it

Inno: What are you thinking?

Me: I'm thinking that I should give Vukani a chance with Mpilo

Inno: Hai Mngani!

Me: Not as a father but an Uncle

Inno: Did you speak to Bone about this?

Me: Not yet but I will

Inno: Shuuuuuu this is big

Me: Vukani's Mom is a good Person with her around I know Mpilo will be safe

Inno: You still love Vukani right? You not doing this for Mpilo but yourself let's be honest

Me: Of course I still love uVukani but circumstances are just not allowing he's not stable enough

Inno: Hai we will see

IRENE

He did upset me no lie but we ended up having a nice meal and a good time together.

Some of his old friends and people he knew pulled up music was playing. Just a beautiful chilled vibe..

I was sitting on him now wanted to make a statement so everyone could know we together..

I understand a bit where he's coming from but he has to deal with his issues because they will get in between us..

He whispered in my ear..

Vukani: Hlala kahle (Sit still)

I was drinking Hunter's Gold and he was drinking Castle light a really cold one that his lips would be cold when he places them on my neck..

Tsonga: Let's go for a smoke

Me: Do you mind?

I shook my head no.. I got up and he stood up then they walked away..

I wasn't sitting alone I was left with Tsonga's girlfriend..

FUTHI

I was on the phone with Bone was explaining the situation to him..

Bone: I do believe that a child needs his Father

Me: So you not mad?

Bone: Why would I be? So long that there's nothing going on between you two

Me: I promise

Bone: Okay we'll talk more when I get back

Me: Okay I miss you

Bone: Yaa bye

He hung up..

That was strange..

BONE

She made her way to me..

She looked tired I don't blame her..

Me: There she is
She smiled.. She got to me and we shared a hug..

Me: Unjani Nkosazana? (How are you)

Thulile: Tired

Me: Aww kodwa Nkosi

Thulile: Ng'bonga nje sengifikile (I'm grateful that I'm already here)

Me: Nami ngibonga ukufika kwakho (I'm also grateful for your arrival)

I helped her with her bags we walked to the car..

Thulile: There's a lot that we need to talk about

Me: I know

I am living a secret life. Thulile is my long time wife well traditionally she's considered so. I dated her back when I was still living in Kzn before I moved here. Before I was even Bone..

It was hard leaving her behind

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before I moved here. Before I was even Bone..

It was hard leaving her behind she lives with my relatives down there. The family house.. My family and I we originally from Kzn Mom came down here a long time ago work reasons..

Keeping this from Futhi has also been hard actually keeping this from the both of them was difficult..

I wasn't going to pay lobola for Futhi just that she was pressurizing me. You know "I know my worth". So when she finds out about this I don't know what's going to happen via the legal route. My Uncles weren't the ones who were

present when the negotiations were handled in Futhi's house I bought people to do that. My family down in Kzn don't know about her only my sisters do.

If it goes well I could potentially turn this into polygamy. If Thulile doesn't agree then I'll leave Futhi I'll choose Thulile over Futhi.

VUKANI

Tsonga: Bheka the thing is.. Bone and I we involved in this thing

Me: What thing?

Tsonga: Let's call it a thing for now.. Bone is too proud to admit that we need you

Me: What thing Ndonda?

He puffed..

Tsonga: We sell.. We deal with guns we selling guns

Me: You don't say

Tsonga: Kodwa you don't have to tell

Mantsonga has always found it hard to keep a secret..

Tsonga: I think it's going to be a good start up for you financially.. Yabo Izinja Zehlathi just like before

Me: I took the fall

Tsonga: Yaa that was bad luck wrong place at the wrong time

That means the team didn't sell me out if they did. Tsonga would spill out the beans.

Me: Manje ithini le eyakho? (What did Bone say)

Tsonga: He's worried and all you know since you two are no longer tight

Me: I see

BONE

I was driving whilst holding her hand with my Mother..

With Futhi it wasn't meant to be this serious thought we were just going to pass time. Now she's pregnant and all..

Thulile is very respectful never pressured me about visiting that much. She used to visit before I paid lobola for Futhi when Futhi came I stopped her. She's very grounded on rules and wouldn't question me. I always take out the excuse that I'm busy on the road and I only visit her now not the other way around..

I don't know how I am going to handle this but definitely I'm choosing Thulile. I invited her down here so she could watch me perform on Saturday..

.

To be continued
12

FUTHI

The long wait of my Father's funeral finally came. Very early on the Saturday morning we woke up and prepared for the day ahead.

Pots were already on the fire at 4am people were going in and out of the house. It was a chaotic morning for all of us..

I decided not to see him in his coffin I figured that I couldn't afford to collapse. Not when I am pregnant might involuntarily hurt the baby..

Mpilo was running around and child being a notorious child with his cousins thanks to my cousin who took care of the kids. Bathing them and preparing them for the day ahead.

By 8am we were already at the tent the service had started..

I looked at his coffin my best friend was gone. I'll never see his face again his smile nor hear him teasing me anymore. It was hard but it was more harder for my Mother. He was also her best friend just the two of them. Now she's alone all of us aren't living at home..

IRENE

Vukani asked me to accompany him to a Funeral. Ntombifuthi father's funeral..

I can relate what she's going through I remember when my own Father passed on. It was hard on me I'm still battling to accept his death even now. That was even a long time ago that he passed on..

I looked at myself in the mirror one last time when I heard the car hooting. He was already parked outside. My Grandmother was feeling a bit better but not better for her to be outside. Hence I'm going to the funeral to represent her as a neighbour.. I took my bag and walked out she was sleeping when I left.

BONE

My Performance is starting at night so I decided to take Thulile out for shopping this morning..

Thulile: What about this one?

I looked at the short..

Me: Aww ngeke izingqi zonke ngaphandle (No it's too revealing)

She laughed and put it back..

I love Thulisile just the way she is. She's well reserved she's not out there. Very respectful and takes in seriously on how she presents

herself in the dressing department. Observing her trying to divert away from her usual dressing style spoke volumes to me.

Why would she start dressing differently now? Revealing her body to be more exact? Raised a few questions..

I walked away from her to call someone who I have always hired to keep an eye on her that side..

Me: Mnaks

Him: Mnaks

Me: Awusho ke Bafo ithini Indaba ka Thulile?
(what is Thulile's story)

Him: Aww akukho okutheni wena Mnax
usenjalo (There's nothing much she's still the
same)

Me: Akukho nje osenamhlo? (There's no one
who is eyeing her)

Him: Akekho wena Mnax ngoba kuyaziwa
iNtokazi yendile (There's no one who is eyeing
her because they know she's taken)

Me: Ngibonga makunjalo ke Mnax (I'm happy when it's like that)

Him: Kubonga mina Bafo (I'm the one who is thankful)

FUTHI

The service went on the program went on. People who spoke about him spoke beautifully. He was indeed a good man

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spoke beautifully. He was indeed a good man not only at home but also in the community.

I looked around as the Funeral Palour people walked in to alert us that time was up..

A few Men from church and family members stood by his coffin to lift it up and take him out. When I turned back I noticed Irene and Vukani sitting at the back. I find this highly disrespectful this is my Father's funeral. Not some romantic gateway for them..

I can't believe Vukani did this this is absurd bringing my arch enemy to the funeral? This is not the time for him to show off..

We stood up family and relatives. We walked out behind my Father's coffin. My cousin was beside me holding me. Making sure that I am able to walk out to the family car..

I was wearing shades I was able to look at them without them noticing. Irene made sure to look her best. I mean this is a damn funeral! Not a makeup parade!!! I held Mpilo's hand as we walked out..

BONE

The shopping ended up with us having breakfast..

Thuli: Besengicanga (I was thinking)
I looked at her..

Thuli: I think it's time me and Luthando move in with you

I choked on my juice and coughed..

Me: We spoke about this

Thuli: I'm tired of just being there and you there I'm married to you not your family!

Me: Kodwa you'll always be alone

Thuli: I don't mind I just wanna be close to you She extended my hand to mine..

Me: Okay let me think about it

Thuli: Don't take too much time

FUTHI

We arrived at the graveyard we walked to where we were supposed to sit down..

At the front..

They stood there like the "It couple".

He held the Umbrella for her she held tightly to his arm.. It was sickening. They were suffocating me. I got up and walked away from the situation Mpilo followed me..

I walked a distance to vomit..

Mpilo: Mama are you okay?

Me: Mpilo awume (Wait a minute)

I wasn't feeling too well I was nauseated.

Voice: Water?

I recognize the voice it was Him. I wiped my lips and turned back he was standing behind me with a bottle of water..

Me: I'm fine

Vuks: You don't seem fine

Me: Yaa what is it to you?

He looked at Mpilo..

Vuks: I saw you taking off saw you weren't feeling well

Me: What is it to you Vukani? Shouldn't you be with your girlfriend?

He chuckled and pinched his eyes with his fingers..

Vukani: Forget it

He walked away..

Me: Do you love her?

He turned back and looked at me..

Vukani: Yes. I think I do

I nodded repeatedly trying to swallow with a lump on my throat...

Me: Too bad because.. I was deciding to let you see Mpilo but I don't know if I should trust her around my Son

He walked back to us..

Vukani: If I wasn't dating Irene would you have decided on this?

Me: Yes

Vukani: Why didn't you before I started dating Irene?

Me: I was thinking about it

Vukani: Futhi this is ridiculous
I saw Irene walking to us..

Me: So I'll hear from you if you want a relationship with your Son or a.. A yellow bone with a pair of yellow legs

I held Mpilo's hand and we walked away meeting Irene halfway..

Irene: Hi

I stopped and looked at her..

Irene: I'm so sorry about your Father

Me: Thank you.. These things happen

Irene: I know how hard it when I lost my father I c-

Me: Are you seriously making this about you?

Irene: Pardon?

Me: This is my Father's funeral and you going to make this about you? You and your Father?

Irene: Ohh no don't get me wrong I wasn't. I'm so sorry if I made you feel that way

Me: Why are you even here? You and I aren't even close?

Irene: I didn't think a funeral required one to hold a certain relationship to be there for someone

Vukani walked to us..

Me: Let's get one thing straight. Just because you dating my Baby Daddy it doesn't mean that you and I are now friends okay?

Irene: Understood

Me: Good

I pulled Mpilo and we walked away..

IRENE

That was rude. I don't know Futhi that well to even have a problem with her I don't know why she has a problem with me..

Vukani: You alright?

Me: Yes.. I'm fine

I wasn't going to throw a fit at the funeral.

He held my hand..

Vukani: Wanna get out of here?

Me: Please

Vukani: Let's go sit in the taxi

We walked over to the taxi..

FUTHI

I sat down Mpilo sat ontop of me..

Mpilo: Mama who is that?

Me: Shhh Mpilo

I looked at them walking up to Vukani's taxi.

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To be continued

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