

THE ONE HE LOVES

A white rose is the central focus, with several streaks of red liquid dripping down its petals. The background is a grayscale image of a rose branch with leaves, creating a somber and dramatic atmosphere.

Tainted

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PROLOGUE

Tshegofatso

I take off my worn out pumps ,
throwing them down on the
floor

My feet are burning and painful
like hell

It's no child's play walking
around , all day long in the
scorching sun

Going up and down , with just
fruitless results to that

I take a sigh , before lying down
on the bed on my back facing
up

Thoughts invade my mind

When it rains it really pours ,
and I'm not even damp , I'm
hella drenched and feeling it

It's no fun at all looking for a job
, everyday of the week and only
to come back empty handed

Without even a single promise
at least , or hopes that
something will come up

Honestly , this education key
doesn't work

Well I guess it doesn't work for
the most of us , maybe for some
yes it does work

I graduated two years ago , but
even to this day I still haven't
even held a single job post

I haven't signed any
employment contract , I have
never gotten my first salary

But I'm a whole graduate , a
degree holder

I used to apply so much , that
I'd even lack R10 to buy myself
sanitary pads

Because money went to CV's

And responses were always heart breaking , like nothing to be happy or rejoice about

Either I'm over qualified for the post , or I'm under qualified

Now I'm all for looking for a job anywhere , no picking

I just don't care what kind of a job it is , or where I find it

But it's still the same ,
restaurants or retails stores .
Like nothing is promising

It's not a nice thing depending
on your friend , like I'm just a
burden on her

She's human , and I know
eventually she'll get tired . Even
though she's never made me
feel anyhow

And her mother has had
enough of me already , I missed
rent for four months

I know for a fact , if I don't pay
this month she's going to kick
me out

I will be out in the streets ,
because I don't even have
anywhere else to go . And I
know no one else here

Besides my so called useless
detective baby daddy , who
wants nothing to do with me

So he's really not even an
option

MaJoyce thinks I'm just taking
advantage of her daughter .

And I don't blame her , a
woman my age should be able
to fend for herself

I only have one option left , and
it breaks my heart that I'm even
considering this

What a disappointment it would
be , but I have done all that I
can do

And I am tired now ! As
shameful as this is , I was never
kicked out of home . I was never
told to never come back

And right now , I've failed to
make it on my own

I get up , and look around this
shack . It's not much , but it had
been home for us

But I guess it's time to say
goodbye , there isn't much one
can do

I have tried my level best , and I'm still failing at every corner .

Two years has been a long time , and it's still adding on

I don't even have means to start my own business

Like I've considered that many times , but what business can I start without capital ?

Every thought always dies ,
before I can even utter it out
loud or put it into motion

Its not like I don't have dreams
Because I do , but nothing
seems to work out . Maybe this
life of poverty , is what I'm
destined for

It's not easy living from hand to
mouth , and that's no life at all

This is the only way , and I have
no other option . I have
bothered way too many people
, and it's just a shame

I take my suitcase , and start
packing the few clothes I have

And I pack Lethabo's clothes ,
we don't have much so they fit
in the suitcase

I grab my phone , checking balance . And I only have R1

But it'll make a call , I cross fingers as I dial his number

Sean : what do you want?

You can't miss the annoyance on his voice , and I know he wants nothing to do with me

But right now , there's no one else I can bother .

Me : I'm leaving , going back home to free state . We need money for transport

Sean : why do you love making your problems mine ?

I don't even know why I still have his number

Me : please

Sean : stop bothering me , have some damn dignity . I want nothing to do with you and your child , leave me the hell alone . I told you to abort , you thought you're smart . So don't force your choices on me , that child is not my responsibility

The airtime cuts , before I can even say anything back . And

now is just the perfect time to
delete his number

And I just do that , let this be a
lesson learnt . I'll never bother
him again

I sit down back on the bed ,
trying to think of what I'm going
to do now

My phone beeps , I check the message . And it's a bank notification , he just sent R300

I laugh amazed , not believing just how he is capable of belittling me

His harsh words are always piercing , I don't even know why he's so bitter

Maybe it makes him sleep better at night , maybe he feels better about his shitty self

But at least the 300 , will get us home . Even if the Price has gone up , it won't be that bad . This will cover it

I get up , heading to the main house . We will probably fight , but at least I'm leaving she can just forget that I owe her rent

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INSERT 01

Tshegofatso



She's gawking at me , and I'm
breastfeeding Lethabo

She didn't waste time , coming
at me when I walked in

MaJoyce : what are you saying ?

Me : I know that I still owe you
for rent , but I don't have
money to pay . And I can't find a
job , so that's why I'm leaving

and going back home . It's no
use staying here anymore ,
nothing is working out

She shakes her head , she
seems to be disapproving of
what I'm saying

Which is a shocker , maybe it's
because she wants her money
first

MaJoyce : so now , you're running away ?

I'm not running away

Because here I am telling her that I'm leaving . How's that running away ?

Me : I am not , and I'm telling you .

MaJoyce : you think I care about
a mere R1 500 ?

Well doesn't she ?

Because she's always reminding
me that I owe her , like at every
chance she gets

As if I don't know that I owe her

MaJoyce : is your mother
expecting you to come home
like this ?

Okay ! That's just degrading me
, and taking it too far

Me : what must I do ? I have
tried my level best , and it's not
working . It's no use staying
here , giving her false hope .
Best I leave

I get up

MaJoyce : sit down

She's just being nice today , and that's a new side to her . But I won't let her convince me otherwise , no matter what she says . She's just taking pity on me , and a few days later she'll be back to her old self

And I'll receive every harsh
word from her again , because
that's exactly who she is . I
don't know her this nice

Me : thank you for everything , I
swear if had means I would pay
you

I walk out of the house ,
heading to the shack . There's
no better time than to leave
now

I place Lethabo on the bed ,
she's crawling now and can be
busy ending up dirtying herself
I just need to freshen her up a
bit , and then we can leave .

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Monga

Monga



He places the file in front of me

I stare at him , until he clears his throat

Nzuzo : I'm just saying , there's money there . And the company , can be used . Just think about it , and if you're keen I'll put in an offer for you . Or you can just do it yourself , it's not like you're not capable . And I know it'll be a lot of work , we'll have

to find new employees and all of that....

Me : what's wrong with the old ones ?

Nzuzo : nothing , but I know when you get to a new space you always want your own people . And I'm just saying if that's what you want , then we can find new ones . It won't be

a problem , we have done this
four times .

I say nothing just staring at him

Nzuzo : a yes or maybe no ?

Me : I can't keep doing this for
force

Nzuzo : what ?

Me : I want to be out there in the field , not sitting behind desks like this

Nzuzo : it's just the last one

Me : are you sure or you're just saying ?

Nzuzo : well

I sigh

Nzuzo : okay fine , I'll go . But think this through , it doesn't matter where you work for force . You're recognised wherever you are , because you're just damn good

Me : way too many companies , that can draw eyes and I hate attention

Nzuzo : like I said , it's the last one

I don't know if he's trying to
convince me or himself ,
because we both know it's not

Nzuzo : let me go , get in touch

He walks out , I turn my
attention to the file

And he might be onto
something , and it won't hurt

anyone to add one more
company to the four

My phone rings , and I look at it

I take a deep sigh , just letting it
ring . Eventually it stops , a
message comes through , I
delete it without even checking

The door opens and my father
walks in

Dad : I knew I'll find you here

He sits down opposite me

Dad : are you okay ?

I nod

Dad : it's a Sunday , shouldn't
you be home ?

I lift my eyes and look at him

Dad : I mean , men with families
are home on Sundays

Me : is this your home ?

He raises his brow

Dad : I popped in to check on
you

Me : you have

He chuckles

Dad : you don't have to be this hostile , just go home . Your fiancé is waiting for you

He gets up

Dad : don't make the mistakes I made , family time let it be family time . You can never make enough money , but

there's only one family . It's a
Sunday today , go home and be
with your woman

I just stare at him , until he
walks out

I switch off my personal phone ,
and continue with what I was
doing . And I must say , Nzuzo
might be onto something right
now . And it might work

I grab my other phone and call him , it rings once and he answers

Me : get it , leave everyone . I'll take the post , just find me a PA

Nzuzo : you're going to run the company yourself ?

He asks shocked

Me : I think that's what I said

I drop the call

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Tshegofatso

We had to walk to the rank ,
after getting off the taxi like at a
distance

I've already withdrawn the
money Sean sent , and a taxi
back home is R230

At least there's R70 left on the side , I'll get Lethabo snacks on the way

The taxi is almost full , just with three people short . I am already derailing the 4 hours drive , or more if the driver avoids toll gates

And they've already started collecting money

But as I'm about to pass mine , I
am stopped and I just can't
believe this

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Lina

Lina



Its noon now , he should have
long been home

I've been calling , and he's not
answering my calls

I texted , and he's not
responding my texts

I could go to his office . And I'll
find out if there's , or if he lied

But knowing him , he won't like
it if I turn up there . Now I don't
know what to do

I take my phone and call my
mother , it rings for a bit and
she answers

Me : he's not home again

She sighs

I'm sure she's tired hearing my complaints all the time

And I'm not even married yet ,
but I don't even have friends
there's no one I can talk to

Mom : give that man a child

Me : how will a child make a
man stay home with me ?

Mom : just do it , he's a man
and they all want to have heirs
to take over their legacy

Me : do you think he'll be
happy?

Mom : what man wouldn't be ?

I hear a car outside

Me : okay , I think he's here bye

I drop the call , I guess I have to
get off the pill as soon as
possible

If it means I must mother a child
, then so be it

I'm surprised by the knock ,
because he doesn't knock . Like
ever

I open the door

And it's his brother , I make way
for him . We exchange greetings

Me : uhm....your brother is not
home

Maatla : I know

Me : o-kay

I'm a bit lost , so what does he
want ?

Maatla : I came to see you

I lean against the kitchen counter , looking at him

Me : me ?

He turns slowly and faces me

Maatla : yes you

He walks closer towards me

And my heart is going to pop
out of my chest , I swallow hard
. Not taking my stare off of him

He places his hand on my waist ,
his cologne engulfs me . And he
leans down , brushing his lips
over mine

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INSERT 02

Lina

He has me locked , pinned right
on this kitchen counter

There's no getting away

Me : he.....you....what do you
want ?

He tilts my chin with his finger

Maatla : you

Me : Maatla....please leave ,
Monga can be home anytime

He chuckles , picking me up . He places me on the kitchen counter , I gasps at his strength alone

Maatla : why do you do this ?

He trails his hands up , cupping my boobs into his hands

Maatla : you lie to yourself , so much that you end up believing

your own lies . We both know ,
he's not coming back

It hurts so bad , people outside
this house even know and see
just how our lives are

Me : we

He shuts me up with a kiss , it's
so rushed and nasty

But I damn react to it , so fast
that he has my dress pulled up
to my waist

Maatla : I'll be fast

He mumbles through the kiss ,
and with that being said my
panty is slid to the side

And within a split second , he
slides his dick in

I feel some pain , I'm not
entirely aroused to that point

He didn't even rub on me , or
even bother to feel if I'm wet
enough

But a few strokes in , and I
accommodate him . But he's
nothing like Monga

That man is a whole fucking
beast , he has one damn huge
cock and he and he can work
with it

Fuck !

I can't even compare the two ,
cause Monga fills me and he
fully expands me

Maatla is okay

Maatla : I know you've been
wanting this

He whispers pulling out of the
kiss , he nibbles on my earlobe

Maatla : am I lying ?

What's the point to deny ?

Me : no..... mhmmmm

He picks up his pace , and it hits
all the right spots

I cling my hands to his back

Maatla : not so fast

He roughly gets me off the
counter , and turns me around

He takes it from behind , and
lord ! Even the fear of Monga

walking in here , just makes this
so much better

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Tshegofatso

Me : what is your problem
dragging us off the taxi like
that?

We're at wimpy , and it's late
now . We don't even stand a
chance to get a taxi

Surely that was the last taxi
going out , I know now we
won't get one

She's eating , and she also got
me food , but I don't even feel
like eating

Katlego : my mother called me

Me : why would she do that ?

Katlego : my friend , I understand things are hard and tough right now . But it doesn't mean pack and go , you know what I do for a living . And do you think that's something I want my mother knowing ? Hell no ! She's fine thinking I'm doing internships . Because at the end of the day , I still patch up where I can . Unlike me , you have a degree . That's why you shouldn't give up on looking ,

keep knocking and one day
you'll knock on the right door . I
know it's hard trust me , I know
very well . But going home is
not a solution at all

I sigh

I don't think she understands

Me : I owe your mother for rent
, I'm sure she's tired with me .

And it's only a matter of time ,
before she kicks me out . Then
where will I go with a baby ?
You can't keep supporting me
and Lethabo , we're not your
burden . You know I had to call
Sean today , and ask him for
money . And the man threw
how I'm a home wrecker on my
face , just for a mere R300 . It
was embarrassing , and I don't
ever want to see myself in a
situation like that ever again

Katlego : I am sorry , and if I've ever made you feel like you're a burden forgive me . Because you're not , and I don't mind helping you out at all . Because I know , if tables were turned you would do the same . And I've said before , you're a better woman than me . I would have long taken Sean to court for child's support , because you didn't make this baby alone .

He's the one who cheated on his wife , and you didn't even know he was married . Women always take the blame for pathetic men like Sean who run away from their responsibilities

Me : he's married , he has a family and kids he loves . Mine is just the worst mistake he ever made with a poor black girl , I'm sure he regrets that every single day of his life

Katlego : all I'm saying is that you're not going anywhere , and who cares what Sean thinks ? You love your daughter , quite frankly you don't need that man . It wasn't even love , so don't be so hard on yourself

It's no use going back and forth with her , because right now it's like she doesn't get where I'm

coming from . So she won't be convinced

I will always regret sleeping with a white married man , if only I knew better

But he was too good at hiding it , until I fell pregnant . And he was too quite to tell me he's married , and I won't ruin his marriage with my child

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Lina

I don't know what time he came
back last night

Or if he did , but he's here this
morning

Maybe he just came in , I
wouldn't know

I can't even look at him in the
eye , knowing what I've done

And I can't even cry anything ,
because I wanted it just as
much

I am so ashamed of myself , and
as I should be

Me : breakfast is ready

Monga : I'm not eating

Me : oh ?

He gets up

Me : I was hoping that we can talk

Monga : about what ?

He's a man of few words , and it's just scary

Because you don't even know if
he's okay , or what

You don't know what he's
thinking , he never shows
expressions he's just a close
man

Me : the wedding

He just stares at me , and that's
one another thing he's good at

Just staring at you , that even words just fly out of your mind .
You end up not even knowing what to say

Me : I was thinking we get married in a month

Monga : too soon

Me : we have been engaged for three months , what's the hold

up when we can just get
married ? And just be done with
this thing

Monga : if you're in such a hurry
, then marry yourself

He walks upstairs

And I'm left feeling like I can cry
, but I know it's of no use . He

won't come back , and suddenly
be interested

I am not an idiot , and I know
for a fact that Monga doesn't
love me

And he doesn't even want me ,
he doesn't shy away proving
that

And it's just a shame that I've fallen for him , even though he doesn't show any kind of interest in me

This is not a real marriage , even I can just feel it

One night , his father was with my father . And the next morning , Monga asked me out for breakfast

And a week later , we were engaged . Even to this day , I still can't tell you how that happened

Because I don't know

But we live in the real world , and such things don't just happen

So I know , there's more to this marriage than it meets the eye .
And I'm just in the dark

But I love him , and I do want to marry him . People learn how to fall in love

Even though I don't think he's one of those people , because ever since then , nothing has changed between us

We're just two strangers living together , and I believe just forced on each other

And he's just tolerating me for the sake of whatever the deal was

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Tshegofatso

It's a Monday morning , and I
should be getting ready for my
endless job hunting

But I'm not feeling it today

And I'm still keen on leaving , I
didn't even unpack the bag

The way I don't see the point in
staying here anymore , this is
just poverty and nothing else

I look at Lethabo , she's playing
with her hands outside of the
blanket

I have failed her , and I have
failed my mother

I wonder what she'll say when I
come back home , and I'm
empty handed

When she was against the idea of being in Joburg , with the baby to begin with

But I had no other means , and I couldn't leave a new born at home

Sean was just a fling , a fling that was supposed to be harmless

Only I fell pregnant , and he was just too quick to tell me he's a married man

He told me , he doesn't want this baby and I should abort

Because there's no way in hell , my child is ruining his perfect family

There's no greater regret I have
, more than I regret having a
fling with that guy

But I don't regret my daughter ,
I really don't . Because no
matter what , she's mine

And I love her to bits , and I
guess it's even a bonus , that
she didn't even take after any of
us

She just looks like herself , not even her hair or eyes are of Sean

She has blue eyes , and he has dark brown eyes . His hair is brown , and she has black hair

And she doesn't have any features from me as well

I live for this girl

That's why , we'll go back home
. I'll try and find a job that side

Joburg is not the city of gold for
all of us

I probably won't find anything
better , but I'll put food on the
table

And that's the only thing that matters

Katlego is here , but I know she won't be home for long

As soon as she leaves , I'm also gone . I'll definitely run away this time around

Because I don't want to be stopped

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INSERT 03

Monga

We're in Joburg with Nzuzo , he had a meeting with the previous owners of the company

And I know he has good news for me

This is his field , he's just good with anything cooperate . And

he has a smooth tongue , he
can get any deal

Hence he's always trusted with
such things , because he never
disappoints

Nzuzo : you got it , it's all yours

Me : mhm

He chuckles

Nzuzo : the company is in financial trouble , so they didn't hesitate on the offer

Me : you have the funds ready right ?

Nzuzo : yeah , I thought you'll want investors . Or maybe have some of the guys from above chip in a bit

Me : no , I don't want anyone on this , I don't even want to involve Force that much . I'll distance it a bit from that

He nods

Nzuzo : I'll get the ball rolling , I'll pass by the office and get them looking for a PA . How soon will you start ?

Me : on Wednesday

Nzuzo : that's short notice , I don't know if they'll have one by then

Me : then find one yourself

Nzuzo : shouldn't we just suss people out ? I mean to get someone who won't be nosey

much on your business , and
someone who'll shut their
mouth . If they happen by
chance to land their eyes on
things they shouldn't

Me : that's your job

He shakes his head slowly

Nzuzo : alright

Me : Maatla was in my house last night , I want you to find out what he was doing there

That boy is just a fucking thorn , and he always saves away just cause he's my brother

Nzuzo : he's your brother , surely he was looking for you

I know for a fact that he wasn't

I'm not his friend , I have absolutely nothing to do with him to make him go looking for me

Me : Lina didn't tell me anything

Nzuzo : uh !

Me : find out , and he could have just called if he wanted me

He laughs

Nzuzo : you really have trust issues , you don't even trust your own brother

Me : fuck , I don't even trust myself . But I so damn hope they fucked , so I can get rid of that woman . I don't want her in my house anymore , it's like she's a homeless hobbo stuck there

He laughs

Nzuzo : come on ! What about your father ?

Me : why should I carry his burdens ? He's a grown ass man , he'll figure himself out . I only did this for my mother

Nzuzo : check your cameras

Me : I'm sending you

Nzuzo : okay fine , I'll get onto it

Me : good

I don't get why I have to protect
a man old enough , to get his
own shit together

He's the father I'm the child ,
this was just nonsense to begin
with

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Lina

This is a dangerous game

And I don't understand why
Maatla , wants to be so careless

Me : what do you want ?

Maatla : why are you panicking
? He's not here and he won't be
for a while

Me : what do you want ? What
happened was a mistake , and it
will never happen again

He laughs

Me : you should leave

Maatla : me and you both know
, that I'm the one you want

Me : you're insane

Maatla : is it a lie ?

Me : I love your brother

And I really do , sure I've lusted
over Maatla a few times . I
won't lie nor deny that

And he must have caught on that , hence he had the guts to act out

But that sex , wasn't that mind blowing for me to risk loosing Monga

Maatla : we can always be careful , what he doesn't know won't hurt him . Until you're

ready to leave him , because I'm
not willing to loose you

What have I gotten myself into
?

Me : that won't happen again ,
please don't ruin things for me

Maatla : what things ? Monga
doesn't love you , and he never
will

Like nothing hurts as hearing
these words

Me : you don't know that

Maatla : oh but I do , and you
know it as well . He's playing
you like some toy

That's some bitter truth pill to
swallow

Me : you have made your point
, you can leave now

He chuckles

Maatla : I'll always be available
when you need me , and I mean
always

He turns , and I release a sigh of
relief

Maatla : you can always call

I so hope I never call him again ,
like never ever

The sex was great , but he's
nothing close to Monga and he
never will be

And Monga might not love me ,
but we do get intimate once in
a while

Hence he forced me on the pill

I guess he doesn't want to have
any kids , or maybe it's just with
me

But we'll get married , and of course we'll be expected to have kids

Even just one is fine , so if I can just get pregnant even now

Because what I want is the man

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Tshegofatso

I've been cooped up in here , I
haven't even gone out

And the way it's so quite , and
Katlego hasn't walked in here

I'm certain she's not around ,
and this could be my chance to
leave

Lethabo is not happy , because
she hasn't gone outside

Which is understandable , for a
crawling baby

I pick her up , and we'll have to get a taxi so we get to the rank faster

It's not yet 13:00 , and so the last taxi hasn't left

That's if it didn't fill up quickly , but it's during the week . There isn't way too many people traveling

And they'll add for three places
, in the taxi . Past Warden ,
Harrismith and then QwaQwa

I think we'll be fine , even if we
arrive late . Just as long as we'll
arrive before 19:00

Because that's when the last
taxi's to our neighbourhood
ends

The door opens , and I guess
this was just wrong timing

Katlego : you won't believe
....wait , what's going on ?

I say nothing , her eyes darted
to the bag

Katlego : you didn't even
unpack , so you're still planning
on leaving ?

Me : I don't expect you to
understand

Katlego : I understand perfectly
, that you were going to run
away

I sigh

Katlego : I am hurt , but right now that can wait . Because we're going to town , you're going to get new clothes

Me : for what ?

Katlego : sit down , let me tell you that your angels are looking down on you

She sits down on the bed , I look at her . Not sitting down

Katlego : fine stand , so I am coming back from Centurion

I should have just left way much earlier , if only I thought she wasn't around

Katlego : and in the taxi , there was this woman sitting next to

me . She went on and on ,
talking on the phone . With
some stress , that she's been
tasked by her new boss to find
him a PA . It was a long story ,
about the company shutting
down or whatever , but that's
all just not necessary . And I
didn't care to have heard as
well

Me : okay so ?

Katlego : so , you're going to go there tomorrow morning . And you're going to claim that job

Me : don't they hold interviews for such things ?

Katlego : I'm sure they do , have your CV in hand . Walk in that building , and say you're there for the post . Like what have you got to loose ? You're applying just like everyone

Me : you're out of your mind

She laughs

Me : we don't even know if
there's even a post out for such
, you don't just go to interviews
because of hearsay

Katlego : the way the woman was stressed , I could tell this is urgent . Come on !

I shake my head , cause this just sounds like nonsense to me .

And I don't want to get my hopes high for absolutely nothing

Katlego : what do you have to loose like honestly !

Me : sticking around here ,
when I have no reason to .

Katlego : I am not going to listen
to this , I'm taking Lethabo to
my mother . And we're leaving ,
because this is better than you
running away . Just do this , and
if it fails I'll have you taken back
to Free State myself . But for
now , we're taking this leap of
faith and doing this

She gets up , and takes Lethabo from me . She walks out

I sit down on the bed , just thinking of how crazy she sounded

Who goes to a job , just because they overheard taxi gossip ?

I'm so going to be disappointed again , and she'll cry for her money she spent on clothes

When life has dealt you , like it has me . You don't have even faith or hope for anything

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INSERT 04

Tshegofatso

I am so scared , like I'm
trembling

You'd swear I'm about to meet
the president

I just can't believe this , I
listened to Katlego and here I
am

About to enter in this building ,
and make a fool out of myself

If they call security on me , I
swear it'll be the end of me

I take a deep breath , walking in
. And this place is fancy

Just from reception , I hold my
eyes not to move around a lot

At least I look decent , all thanks
to Katlego . Spending her last
money on me

She got me a beautiful black formal dress , and black heels .
And a small black bag

Honestly , I look and feel like a million bucks . Despite my bad hair , and no make up just Vaseline on the lips

Me : hi

I greet the lady in reception

Her : hi

Me : my name is Tshegofatso ,
I'm here about the post.....

Her : oh we don't need any
more cleaners

Cleaners ?

Me : the PA post for the CEO

He : oh , my bad . Does Mr Theo know you're coming ?

Could he be the CEO ?

Or maybe he's the one who advertised the post , or maybe holding the interviews . I'm already doomed

Me : yes

Should I be lying ?

No , no I shouldn't be lying . So why did I even lie ?

This is bad , like very bad !

Her : okay , I'll walk you to HR and lead you to his office . He will only be in tomorrow , but once you're done with your

contract you can start working right away . Arrange his things for tomorrow , make things easier

What is happening ?

And I give her this confused look , because she's speaking as if I'm already hired . And I'm just here taking chances

She laughs

Her : oh but of course you know that , silly me

But I don't , like I don't know that . I know nothing , because I'm a fraud right now

Her : my name is Zara by the way , and you're okay with starting right away right ?

Me : right

So am I hired ?

Zara : alright , let's go to HR

I just follow her to the elevator

Zara : I am also new , just
learning the ropes from the old

receptionist . And today she called in sick , so I'm on my own

Then she surely can't be the taxi woman , and that's why this was so easy

She has no idea what she's doing , I just hope I don't get her in trouble for this

I shouldn't have lied , but
maybe I can still tell her the
truth

But the job !

I swear I can feel it at my finger
tips

Do I tell the truth and lose it , or
do I take my chances ?

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Monga

Me : and ?

He sighs

Me : mhmI won't ask again

He pulls the chair and sits down

Nzuzo : they had sex , it was
whack though . Like homemade
porn

He says with his eyes darted
away from me , finishing that
with a laugh

Me : okay

Nzuzo : tell me you'll leave that
woman , just don't kill her

Me : she offered me food , the
next morning . Food placed and

prepared on the same kitchen counter , she was fucking that boy on

He squints his eyes , and he only does this when he's worried

Nzuzo : rather kick her out , she wasn't going to last anyway .
Just don't.....

Me : have you found the PA ?

He sighs

Nzuzo : you're going to ignore me ?

Me : you know , I'm not some mental case

And it's not like I didn't know Maatla wanted Lina . It's always been there , and I just knew

why he was at my house with
her alone

He has always looked at her
with lustful eyes

And so I don't care , it was
bound to happen anyways

I didn't fall for her , I don't even
feel an ounce of love for her

Me : if there's nothing else , you
can leave me to work

Nzuzo : give us a week

He gets up

Me : so I'll be relying on you to
do that work ?

He laughs

Nzuzo : just pay me , I don't know . And Force wants me in Cape Town in a few days

Me : you're not going there

Nzuzo : what....

Me : since when did we get here ? I say something and you question me . Like really ? I

already said you're not going
there

Nzuzo : don't pop a vein , I
heard . And I'm not going

He walks out

I lean back on the chair , taking
a deep breath

And I have a good mind to call my father right now , he must deal with his nonsense

But he might try his shit again , I mean that's what he does best

I should go home see my mother , it's been a while

Maybe if I can talk to her , I'll have a clear idea of what to do

Because I'm here because of
her , as much as she doesn't
know

But I'll do anything to protect
her from being hurt , but I don't
think I can stomach this much
longer

So imagine a lifetime with Lina ,
I won't make it

Honestly that woman in my
house annoys the hell out of me

And I want her gone

She's a fucking whore , and she
has given me a chance to act
out on her tendencies

She'll be out before she can
even say let's get married again
!

Because that shit is not
happening

I was just hoping and trusting
on the stars to align for me

And they have

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Lina

I'm planning a romantic dinner for tonight

I want Monga to just be stunned , and hopefully we can end the night on a good note

I just can't wait , I plan to go all out . And making all his favourites

I always see what he loves and enjoys , when we're at his family home

I aim to impress the man , and I don't intend to play around

I hope the old saying works for me , that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach

I'm pushing the trolley , strolling
around the store

In hopes that I find everything
that I need , so that I don't go
from store to store

Voice : he will know that baby is
not his , don't even think of
using an innocent child to trap a
man who's not yours . Innocent
blood will be spilled , and you'll

taint hearts you're not
supposed to touch

I turn and look around for this
person , but I see no one

Just an old woman , wearing a
yellow cape and a red and
yellow doek

But she's looking at potatoes ,
surely it can't be her

I must be going out of my mind
, but where did that voice come
from ?

I look around , and eventually
the woman also leaves . I see
there's no one here

Maybe I'm just hearing things ,
but that was just strange

I keep walking , and grabbing on
the things that I want

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INSERT 05

Tshegofatso

First day at work not so bad

Even though I got it by lies

And I might have the contract ,
signed and sealed

But still , I'm not in the clear yet
. Because I said thee Mr Theo
knows I'm here

And I'm sure the man doesn't
even know me , the same way I
don't know him

What if he gets here tomorrow ,
and his real PA comes ?

Oh I'm so fired ! I can just feel
that one

I'm still in the office , because I
am hoping my hard work ethic
can get the man to have some
mercy on me

I so hope it's worth it , cause I
should be home with my
daughter right now

It's just after 18:00 , and
everyone long left at 17:00

I should get going as well ,
there's nothing I can do if the
job is not mine it's not

I get up , and grab my bag . Only
the door opens , and I scream
my lungs out as a tattooed
handsome man walks in

What a way to die !

Like first day at work , and they
have to have an intruder

Me : I'm sorry

I say looking into his eyes , as
he's boring into mine

I'm so scared , I could pee on
myself right now

The man even has tattoos on his hands , he looks so dangerous

And it doesn't matter that he's handsome , I just don't want to die . Not even by his hand

Me : please don't hurt me , I....I just started working here . And II shouldn't even be here , so

please . Take whatever you want , and let me leave . I won't tell anyone , and I'll keep my mouth shut . Please don't kill me , I swear I won't tell them I saw you . I haven't even gotten paid so they're not worth my loyalty . And tomorrow , they might just fire me . So please , take what you want and leave me alone . I can see you're a real thug , I won't mess around with youI swear

I'm busy talking , and he's just staring at me

Me : can I leave ? I'll even leave you in here alone , so you can do whatever you want in peace

He's really a real thug , he's not even saying anything . His stare is burning me okay ! His presence is something else

I slowly walk towards the door ,
and he's just a few inches away
from the door

Me : please let me pass

He stares down at me

He's so tall , and the masculine
scent off of him

Him : who are you ?

Oh ! The deep voice , it's so stern . It even makes me tremble

Me : I....no one , I'm literally no one

I'm holding so tight on my bag , as if it has anything valuable in it

Why didn't I leave when everyone else left ? I'm so stupid , look at me now

And I'm going to be killed by a handsome thug

He moves out of the way , and I'm shocked . Just like that

Like is he letting me go ?

But who's going to ask him ?
Definitely not me , I just run out
of the office

And I don't even turn back , this
is my chance at life and I'm not
missing it

You only live once , and I have a
baby that needs me

My life might be worth nothing ,
but death is so not calling me as
of yet

I still have to live some more , I
have a beautiful soul to still
push this life thing for

So I am not messing around

Not with my life no !

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Lina

Monga never cease to never
disappoint , it's just his thing

Like he just does that so
effortlessly , without even trying
so hard

Because he doesn't even try

All my efforts and time ,
planning a romantic night
dinner

And what does he do ? It was
just all for nothing , and just a
waste of time

He sleeps out , forgetting that
he's a man that's about to get
married

So all of that last night , just
went down the drain

Because no dinner happened

I called and called , I texted and
as usual he just ignored me . He
never responds my texts

It's a miracle if he dares
answers a call from me , which

hardly happens . Well maybe
once in a while

I am hurt more than I am angry
, I really don't want to lie . I am
hurt

Because I took my time and
effort , the least he can do is try
his best as well

Or at least meet me halfway

I don't even know where he
slept , because he didn't even
bother to let me know

There's nothing from him , not
even a slight text message

Must have been really great
where he was last night

To a point that he didn't even
see the need to communicate

that with me , it just shows how
he's so not committed to this

And it's just a shame , because
everyone can see this will be a
sham of a marriage

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INSERT 06

Monga

I peek in first , just to be safe

And it's empty , that's kind of a
bummer though

Because I thought I'll find her
crazy self in here

I walk in , and head to my desk .
My eyes darting back to hers

I'm early , I'm sure she's still on
the way . Not a lot of people
have arrived

I'm early because I just wanted
to settle in

The door opens , and Nzuzo
walks in

As if he was following me , and I
didn't even catch a glimpse of
him

Me : is your PA girl coming in ?

He pulls the opposite chair and
sits down

Nzuzo : have they found one yet
? I don't know

Me : what do you mean you
don't know ? Because I walked
in here last night , and I found
one sitting right there . And she
called me a real thug , she
begged me for her life . And
said she won't reveal me to
anyone , and I can steal
whatever I want . Because she

hasn't been paid , and so she
owes this company no loyalty

He laughs

Nzuzo : here in your office ?

Me : yeah

Nzuzo : are you sure some mad
woman didn't get lost in here ?

I don't know if mad people now look as sexy like that , but she didn't look mad to me

Me : what are you talking about ? Cause I assumed that's my PA

Nzuzo : they didn't tell me anything

Me : well you better go and find out

Nzuzo : let me go I came to give you this file

He places it on the desk

Nzuzo : I don't know about the mad PA woman , but I'll let you know if they tell me anything about her

Me : yeah , and she better
come back

Nzuzo : not unless she thinks ,
she'll be in trouble for letting a
thug steal in the office

I chuckle

Me : stop saying that

Nzuzo : but she wasn't wrong ,
because you're

Me : get lost

He laughs getting up

Nzuzo : I'll see you

He walks out , and I take out my
laptop . Hopefully I can distract

myself with some work , until
she arrives

I keep checking the time , until
it's after 08:00

And I can see that she's not
coming in , people long arrived
30 minutes ago

I chuckle to myself

Maybe it could be that I scared her last night , and now she's scared to come and face precautions of telling a thug to steal

I grab my phone calling Nzuzo

Nzuzo : I'm on my way to your office , with potentials

Me : potentials of what ?

Nzuzo : your PA

Me : I want that girl who was
here last night

He laughs

Nzuzo : are you sure she exits ?

He must not start with me

Me : go to reception or HR , find out who they put in my office yesterday

He sighs

Nzuzo : are you serious right now ?

Me : get on with it

I drop the call

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Tshegofatso

I can't bring myself to get out of
this bed

There's no way in hell I'm going
back to that place

Last night I was so sure that I
was going to die , and leave my
beautiful baby girl alone

To hell with the job , maybe
they can send me R150 for the
job I did

Like some IOU thing from them
to me , like something like that

I look at Lethabo , she's busy
sucking on her bottle

And I'm just wondering how
much milk she's left with

This is just stress , and
yesterday I thought all my
worries would be gone

Damn that thug !

Now I've lost the one job I had
secured

Even though it was by lies , but t
I was working

Like how was I going to lie when
questioned , and say I didn't see
anything or that I wasn't there ?

What if he stole important
things there ? Like files or
maybe the computers

I will be held accountable , and
jail time won't work for me

I don't even have money , how
would I replace their things ?

I don't like that guy , I really
don't ! He ruined things for me

Voice : open up

Argh !

People don't even knock
anymore

I get up , taking Lethabo so she
doesn't crawl following me only
to fall down

I open the door , and she looks
at me

Me : what ?

Katlego : it's 08:30

Me : so ?

Katlego : shouldn't you be at work ?

Me : do you seriously think I got that job ?

I didn't even tell her what happened yesterday , and I don't plan to

I am not going to tell anyone , that thug saw my face . He could come after me

I can't take those kinds of risks

Katlego : how did you not get it ?

Me : that is not a spaza shop ,
it's a whole company . So
protocol , and they do things by
the book . I didn't.....

My phone rings , and I hope it's
not my mother

Every time we talk , my heart
breaks . The woman works as a
domestic worker

She supports my brother who's still in grade 11 , all by herself

My father passed away years ago , my brother was only 4 years old and I was 11 . My mother went through hell raising us , and she still is even today

I so wish light can shine on me ,
so I can relieve her of this stress

It was hard putting me through
school , with just a domestic
worker salary . Also feeding us
at home , especially during my
highschool years . And now
she's going through the same
thing with my brother Karabo

Me : oh !

I frown at the unknown number
, and it seems to be an office
number

Katlego : what ?

I ignore her and answer the call

Me : hello ?

Voice : girl , if you value your job you will get your pretty self here right now . Mr Theo , demands you in the office as in yesterday

Me : Zara ?

Zara : of course it's me , your boss is here . And he wants you

The universe hates me , all
thanks to that thug

I swear I am going to jail , I'm
sure they have cameras in there
and they saw everything

Or maybe the thug was clever
enough and he wiped out the
evidence

Me : uhmis something
wrong ?

I ask with my heart bumping so
hard like it'll pop out of my
chest

Zara : yes

I am doomed

Like I can already see myself
heard to jail , there's no way
they're going to let me walk
scot free

Me : what.....what happened ?

I'm shaking , I swallow the lump
on my throat

Zara : you're not at work , that's
what happened

Me : uhm....

Zara : please just get here , I
don't want trouble with the
boss

Me : are the police there ? .

The look Katlego gives me

Zara : what ?

Me : just tell me please

Zara : you're not making sense
right now , there are no police
here .

I release a sigh of relief , and I
don't know if I should be doing
that but oh well !

Me : I'll be there in a hour

Zara : he said 30 minutes , send me your address . We're sending the company driver

Me : company driver....why....what for ?

Zara : boss's orders

Is the Theo man sane ?

Zara : address

I call it out

Zara : make it fast

She drops the call

Katlego : what ?

Me : uhm....nothing , I have to
get ready for work

She screams jumping up

And at the back of my head I'm
like , I could be handing myself
in

Me : girl !

Katlego : so you got the job ?

Me : apparently so

There's no way in hell I'm telling
her the truth

Even though maybe I should be
, so she can watch my baby for
me incase I don't come back

Katlego : I told you

Me : yeah.....yeah

Katlego : let me take this doll ,
and you get ready

She takes Lethabo , I know she's
around so she'll bath her for me

And make sure she's taken care
of , so that's no worry

I'm in a hurry taking a quick
bath with cold water , and I just
throw on a floral dress

It's still in good shape , I can't
show up wearing rags in front of
my boss

And as soon as the driver
arrives he hoots , and I head out
in a hurry

Just exchanging greetings , and I
take the back seat

The whole drive to Pretoria , I
am really anxious

We arrive , and I head inside .
Zara is not alone at reception

I just wave and she waves back
with a smile , I rush to the
elevator

As it stops on the last floor , I
get out . My legs shaking ,
they're just failing to carry me

I force them anyways , and
getting to the door . My palms
are sweating

I wipe them off my dress ,
taking a deep breath

I wonder what the thug was doing here , if he didn't steal anything

Or maybe they just haven't noticed !

I knock , and it's a tiny knock .
I'm so scared , that my hands are not even steady . My fingers are all wobbly

There's no response , maybe he
didn't hear me . So I knock
again , a bit louder this time

Voice : come in

It's some deep hoarse voice

I open the door , looking down .
And I close it behind me

I lift my head , and I'm faced
with the thug from last night

Even in a slim fit formal suit ,
he's still the thug from last night

The guy he's with just laughs

Him : get out

The guy gets up still laughing

Him : what's your name ?

It's the laughing guy , and I wonder what's the joke ?

Maybe they're something wrong with me , and the way I hate being embarrassed

I even feel like crying right now , it's so awkward I can't even look at myself . Maybe something is

off with me , and that's why he
just laughed laying his eyes on
me

Me : uhm.... Tshegofatso

He nods now with a smile , he's
seriously just being awkward .
And I'm just asking myself if it's
necessary

Him : nice meeting you

He walks past me and gets out

And it's at this moment I'm like
the thug is my boss

Father God !

I am fired

The thug is my boss , there's no
doubting that right now it's very

much clear and obvious . I
would be a fool to be in denial

Why did he want me coming
back ? Knowing what I said to
him last night

Him : so you knock off late , and
come in late ?

His voice !

Me : no

He squints his eyes

Me : what I mean is....I'm sorry about last night . And I was scared thatI'll be fired , in case the thugyouyou stole something . Well I don't mean that you....you're not a thug and of course you didn't steal anything obviously so yeah !

Mary mother of Jesus , please
save me !

I am just making a fool out of
myself right now

Him : how much does your
loyalty cost ?

Me : loyalty ?

He gets up , and I'm like damn !

He's a well toned man

Even with the three piece , you

can just study his body

structure

I need deliverance

But I'm not checking him out ,

like I'm not doing that

Him : you said , you don't owe this company any loyalty .

Because you haven't been paid , so how much does your loyalty cost ?

And I said that , yes I did

Me : oh no I can't be bought

He chuckles , walking closer to me . I'm having breathing

inconsistencies . His cologne is
not doing me any justice

Him : how much is your
payment ?

Me : payment ?

I can't even keep eye contact ,
because like what the fuck !

Him : monthly payment

Me : it's in the contract

Him : I don't have it

Me : HR has it

He stands in front of me , and I really have a weakness for men who smell good

It's nothing much , not even
sexual . Just that it's a weakness

Him : 25 000 maybe ?

I pop my eyes

Him : 30 ?

Me : thousand ?

Him : I can't be speaking about rands

Me with that lots of money ? Is he kidding ?

Waitis he saying he's giving me that money or maybe that's how much he'll be paying me ?

My contact said 8 000 , and well that's also good money to me

Him : let's do this , I need you to start working . But let's resolve this loyalty business , because next time real thugs might waltz in here . And I need you standing for my company , and not selling us off

He reaches to his pocket and hands me his phone

Him : punch in your number

Me : number ?

What the hell is wrong with me
? I keep repeating what he's
saying , it's just nerves okay !

Him : cell phone number

I nod punching it in , and I hand
him his phone back

Him : I think that settles this matter , get to work

I excuse myself from him , as I sit down my phone beeps

And I use an old button phone , he looks at me . I ignore it , and pretend to be looking at files

He goes back to his chair , I slowly slide my phone out

And gaps at the R30 000 bank notification , from Mr M Theo

I look at him , and he's looking at his laptop . I stare back at my phone

I can't believe this !

So he was not kidding , but this is crazy !

Going from R0.00 to a whole R30 000

Me : is this....uhm my salary ?

Him : oh it's for your loyalty

He's not even looking at me ,
and I don't dare ask him
anything else

Because he does look scary ,
and he has an aura about him
that's just off . But it's also
enticing

So no more questions , my
heart is still beating crazy .
Because I can't believe this

Monga : tell me

Oh now he's looking at me

Monga : how did you get this
job ?

I knew it was too good to be
true , and here it comes

Me : with.....my CV

Lies

Monga : mhm

Me : an interview ?

Who the hell am I asking ?

Monga : you brought your CV
and had an interview ?

Me : yes

Its lies , just lies . There was no interview here , and it feels like I stole this job

He goes on to say nothing , going back to focusing on his laptop

Am I safe now ?

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INSERT 07

Lina

I was going to keep quite about
this

But it's been two days , and
Monga hasn't been sleeping
home

He always does this , but it's
usually just a night

Two ? Now that's just taking it
far , and I won't stand for his
nonsense

Mrs Theo : did you call him ?

This woman loves protecting her son , even when he's in the wrong

What is she doing asking me if I called him ?

Me : I wouldn't be here , if I didn't call him . For the

hundredth time , and he's not
taking my calls

She gives me a bored look

It's without a doubt that my
mother in-law to be , doesn't
like me very much

She's clearly not a fan of me ,
and she'll just give me drama
for days

Me : has he called ? Or maybe
he said something to any of you
, I am really worried

They all look at each other ,
Maatla seems annoyed

And as for his father , it's like his
mind is a million miles away

Mrs Theo : oh he's fine

Me : so you know where he is ?

Mrs Theo : you don't have to
make a fuss , he will come back

This woman !

Am I making a fuss right now ?

As I had planned a dinner for us
, and he didn't show up

I won't fall pregnant all by myself , I need her son having sex with me

Me : please....call me if you hear anything

Mrs Theo : there won't be a need for that , because he will come back

I get up

It's no use being here , because
no one else is paying attention
to me . Except this woman who
hates me

Me : stay well

She nods , and the father only
acknowledges me now

I walk out , going to my car

Voice : wait....

He grabs my arm , a bit rough .

Pinning me against my car

Me : are you crazy ?

I hiss at him

Me : let go

I yank my arm off of him

Me : what do you think you're doing ?

Maatla : what are you doing ?

Me : what ?

Maatla : what do you care if he's home or not ?

I chuckle annoyed

Me : that's my fiancé , I'm
ought to be worried about him

Maatla : oh well , you don't
have to . Because he's fucking
pussy wherever he is , and it's
not definitely not yours

I slap him , and he laughs

Maatla : call me if he doesn't
come back , I'll be very happy to
grace your thighs tonight

He places a peck on my lips and
walks away heading back inside
the house

I'm left burning with anger , and
I don't even know how to get
rid of it

Could it be that his mother
knows Monga is cheating ?

And maybe she loves the girl ,
and that's why she doesn't care
about me ?

Or Maatla is just lying , to rile
me up ?

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Tshegofatso

Yesterday was something else

And I still can't believe even now , that just like that I was given so much money

Like any 24 year old , I would love to go crazy and just splurge

But I am not like any other 24 year old , I'm a mother to a 7 months old person

And it's almost winter now , she needs some warm clothes

I'll be sure to get her those , and send my mother some money

And also not forgetting to pay rent , and maybe I can pay for another two months ahead

Just to make sure I'm a bit covered

I didn't take the money out ,
and this morning first thing I did
was to check my balance

And it was still the same as
yesterday , and I guess it was
not a dream

I should really thank my lucky stars for this job , and the fact that I didn't get fired

Even after everything that happened , and that nonsense I said to my boss . Oh and the lies

I should really be thankful , and I won't mess this up

I get up , and boil some water .
I'll just put on jeans today

I probably need three outfit's ,
just to have something for mix
and match at work

Cause my old worn out clothes
won't work

Lethabo is still asleep , I take a
bath . And I'm a bit early today

I won't arrive late again , I just
can't have that happen again

Yesterday was surely an
exception , and it definitely
won't happen ever again

When I'm done taking a bath , I
get dressed . And it's only when
Lethabo wakes up

I make the bed before
breastfeeding her

I think she wants to stop , but
the fact that some days we
don't have milk for her bottle

She just has to rely on both , my
milk and the bottle

When she's done , I make her
bottle . And I see she does need
milk

But two bottles will get her by
for today , I'll have to get a box
for later on

I wipe her clean , using her
wipes . I can't bath her with
water this early , she'll definitely
catch a flu

And right now , I need to be smart with money . And make sure that I do better

Maybe we can even find a one room , a place that's not a shack

Because when it's cold , we feel the cold in this room

But that's for another day , just important and impatient needs to be attended to right now

I take her in the main house , and I leave . To my surprise , the company driver is here again

I have a good mind to question him , but I'll rather not

And he drops me at work , Zara
has already arrived

Zara : the God you pray to ,
please give me a plug

I laugh

Me : what are you talking about
?.

Zara : I really foresaw you fired
yesterday

Me : well me too

Zara : I thought you were dying ,
girl ! Why were you late again ?

Me : you don't want to

The presence of this man , just
as he enters the room I feel it

Zara : don't get me fired ,
please pass . Receptionists are
known for gossip , and I just
want to give us a new clean
name

Wow !

Me : bye

We laugh , and I walk towards
the elevator . And you'd think
this man long got in his office

But no !

He's still inside this thing , and it
doesn't even make sense how

Me : good morning sir

He's rude , he didn't greet and
he just walked past us

Him : my name is Monga

Ah !

But of course he doesn't expect
me to address him with his
name

We finally get off the elevator ,
and walk in his office

Monga : are you okay with
Thuto ?

Who's that now ?

Me : who ?

He takes his suit jacket off , and
hangs it as he sits down

Monga : the driver

Me : I don't even know him

He chuckles

Monga : I know that Tshego ,
what I'm asking is are you okay
with him driving you ?

Tshego ?

I nod slowly , just at that
because wow ! When did he get
there ?

Me : yes

Monga : okay

He opens his laptop , and I
know it'll be a miracle if I hear
another word from him

He doesn't seem like he talks much , he goes quite for far too long

Me : why.....uhm , he came again this morning to fetch me . So was he sent , or is it maybe company policy ?

Monga : it's my policy

It's his company

Me : for what reason again ?

He darts his eyes my way , but
I'll brace myself and stand for
what I started

Monga : you're my personal
assistant , I need you at work
the second I walk in . And so I
can't have you arriving late ,

because a taxi burst a tire . Or it
had to drive past CBD first

Okay fine !

I get his point , and well at least
it'll save me transport money

Cause it doesn't come cheap
from Orlando to Pretoria

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INSERT 08

Monga

I came to see my mother , I just
want to talk to her

And just to get a slight idea of
how she would take things

I know for a fact I won't marry
Lina , and I'll soon leave her

But I can't help and be worried
about my mother

And her mental state , is very
much important to me

Mom : what do I owe this
pleasure ?

I chuckle

Me : don't be dramatic , I came
to see how you're doing

Mom : you know I've come far ,
and so I'm nearer to where I'm
headed

Me : don't start

Mom : oh it's nothing but the
truth , and Monga can you at
least let me die in peace . So I
can be a good ancestor to you

Me : that's not why I'm here

Mom : I know you don't love
that Zulu girl , I don't even
understand why you're with her

I laugh

Mom : it's not a joke

Me : I know it's not

Mom : why are you doing this ?

I wish it were that easy to tell her , but I wouldn't even know where to begin

I should let her husband tell her , after all this is his doing and his own mess

Mom : whatever reason it may be , I will pray for you that you find a better woman . And you

leave Lina , cause she's not for
you

Me : okay

I won't argue with her , so best I
just let her be

Mom : are you dating ? She
came here crying yesterday ,
that you haven't been home in
two days

Me : I was at my house

She smiles , I guess that makes
her happy in a way

Mom : good , you do need the
peace of mind

Only she knows here at home ,
that I have a house in Pretoria
North

Mom : let me make us lunch ,
I'm glad you came to see me

Me : mhm I missed you

God better keep this woman
longer for me , because I don't
know what life will be without
her

And the reality of that scares
me , that I don't even want to
know

Hence I was so keen on doing
this , trying to save her some
heartache

But now , I'm so conflicted I
don't want this I never even did

And then there's that sexy mad woman in my office , who's a liar

But mhm ! Could be so worth keeping in my life , so marrying Lina is a no

She will leave soon , my mother will heal . My father will see how to protect his own imagine

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Tshegofatso

I used my Saturday productively

Got Lethabo a few warm clothes , and some work outfits for me

Got enough food to last us , until month end . And I'll just add up

And I paid MaJoyce her money ,
the R1 500 I've been owing

And I paid for this month , and
two extra months

And I sent my mother some
money as well , for once in her
life she can say her daughter
looked out for her

I'll be sure to send her some money every month , especially when I don't have many things to do

But sending her money will be a monthly thing , even the 3 000 from my 8 000 salary

I'll just have to make it work , it's not even a must . But I'm showing appreciation , and taking some load off of her

The happiness that was in her voice when she called

I don't even remember when last , I heard my mother that happy

Now she can be able to get my brother winter clothes , with a little bit of that money

I know she won't spoil herself ,
because mother's are always
putting their kids first

I still have money left , and I
don't intend on spending it on
anything else

We're sitting outside by the
tree , Lethabo loves outdoors

Because then she gets to crawl
wherever she wants to

Katlego walks to us , and I'm
surprised she finished a whole
week at home

Katlego : hey

She sits down on the blanket

Me : you're still here ?

She laughs

Katlego : unfortunately yes , but
I'm leaving today

Me : we're not kicking you out

Katlego : you can never

She laughs

Katlego : MaJoyce tells me you
paid her

I nod

Katlego : and for two extra
months

Me : yeah

Katlego : it's not month end yet
, so where did you get R3 500 to
pay her ?

Me : it's my loyalty money

Katlego : what's loyalty money ?

I laugh

I'm not explaining things to her ,
that even I don't understand

Me : you don't know , but don't worry . I didn't do anything wrong

Katlego : okay , just as long as the money doesn't get you into trouble then that's fine

Me : yeah

I won't tell her , she might just
blow the whole thing out of
proportion

And I wouldn't blame her
though , who gives someone
that much money for nothing ?

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Monga

I'm at my house , I just don't
feel like seeing Lina

Ever since Tshego arrived ,
something is just different
about me

And I have no desire to be in
the midst of another woman

And after my talk with my
mother , I think she'll
understand

I mean she also doesn't want
me doing this to myself

And surely , everyone deserves
that freedom to be happy

And to choose whoever they
want to be with

My father won't be happy , but
he's the father here and not me

It's actually his job to protect me , not the other way around

Nzuzo : about what you told me to do

He came over , and we've been doing some work

Me : I tell you to do a lot of things

Nzuzo : of which you don't pay
me enough for

Me : then you go hang yourself

I felt like a man with a girlfriend
, when I coughed 30K buying
loyalty from my crazy PA

And now I have to cough up
money for Nzuzo

Like for the what for ?

Nzuzo : your wife to be is
fucking your brother , now
that....

Me : that's fine

He laughs

Nzuzo : you get how twisted
that is ?

Me : don't make a big deal out of it

He shakes his head

Nzuzo : don't hurt that boy

Me : I won't

Nzuzo : and her ?

Me : she owes me no loyalty
okay , so she can leave as well . I
won't do nothing to either of
them

The eye he's giving me , it's like
he doesn't believe me at all

But that's fine , because I know
for a fact I won't do anything to
my brother or Lina . Okay
maybe I won't

I actually don't care that they
did what they did

I am not hurt , but I won't lie
okay I feel disrespected . That's
my house , and the two had no
business fucking in my house .
And so for that , I don't know . I
might just snap

Me : you know that woman is a
liar

He laughs

Nzuzo : who ?

Me : the real thug

He burst out

Me : you're making noise , but
for real she lies . And she does it
, all cute

Nzuzo : ah aha , you two are
going to fuck in that office

Me : mxm

Nzuzo : what did she say ? The
lie I mean

Should I even tell him ? Cause
he'll just laugh his ass off again

Me : she said she brought her
CV and did an interview

He chokes on the beer ,
laughing like nobody's business

Me : and I know for a fact that
didn't happen

Nzuzo : what's with the lies ?

Me : beats me

He has his eyes closed with a
tear streaming out of one eye

Nzuzo : fire her

Me : I'll rather fire you

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INSERT 09

A MONTH LATER

Tshegofatso

For once I can say , really the
light is shinning on me

I'm doing so much better , for
once I have no stress about
money or finances

I'm holding my job very fine ,
it's not bad at all

And the fulfilling part , is getting
that pay check end of the
month

Knowing that you worked for it ,
like nothing beats that

I thank Katlego and her
craziness , because if it wasn't
for her

I wouldn't be having this job

I haven't seen her in a while ,
actually since the last time she
was here

And that was a month ago , but
she calls once in a while

Things at work are great ,
except for the part that Monga
is my boss

Because that one , it's just
another story . And it kills me
everyday

But then I need this job , and so
I have to make it work and get
my act together

Zara : your latté

This has become my daily
welcome at work , we have
really gotten very close

I can't say that we're friends as
of yet , but one could say we
are

I smile

Me : thank you , I don't know
why you keep doing this

She laughs

Zara : I know you just love your
good coffee

Me : well that I do

Zara : your boss has arrived

Me : oh ! Let me go

Zara : I'll stick you for lunch

Me : great ! But I'll pay

I walk away from her , before she can even say no . We've been doing lunches together for about two weeks now

And she's been coughing the most , I was waiting for month end so I get paid

And I can use my salary , instead of the money left I have in my bank account . Because I really don't want to spend unnecessary

And now , I know the importance of saving and having spare money

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Lina

He turns taking the condom off

And just by his expression I can
tell he's not okay

I don't know what he wants me
to do , or what he expects from
me

He gets off the bed , and seems
like he's leaving

Me : no cuddling ?

He just stares at me

I pull the sheet up covering
myself

Me : are seriously angry
because you cummed inside a
condom ?

Maatla : you know I tolerated
this condom business , just
because I still wanted to be with
you . There's nothing much to it
, so please

Me : wanted ?

He says nothing

Me : Maatla , are you saying
we're done ?

We've been sleeping together ever since we started , and I can't complain . The sex is good , it's better than getting nothing

Because my own husband to be , doesn't have time for me anymore

He's only home two days a week , and the others I don't know where he is

And we haven't been intimate , like not even once

He always denies me when I try to initiate sex , he hasn't even touched me

So Maatla is around for that ,
but I think he's also invested in
feelings

And I don't know where I stand
with him about that

Me : please , I don't want
Monga getting suspicious

Maatla : suspicious of what ?
He's too busy , and we both

know he doesn't have time for you . How the hell would he even know you're being fucked , when he doesn't fuck you ?

Me : please sit down so we can talk

Maatla : no , I'm going to see my brother

And he says already walking out of the door , I have a good mind to follow after him

But I'm still naked , and our helper could be anywhere in this house

Like this is crazy !

I just hope he doesn't confront
Monga , because I will deny him
to the ends of the world

This is just an affair and nothing
else

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Monga

The nerve to sleep on my bed ,
and fuck my so called fiancé

And then have the guts to come here , and pretend to be a good brother

Maatla is something else , he really is his father's son

Me : what brings you by ?

Maatla : oh , I heard you're in a new office space . And I thought , I could come and check it out

Me : mhm

Maatla : yeah , anyways when
are you tying the knot ?

Me : is that why you're here ?

He chuckles

Maatla : no , like I said I came to
see you

Me : I see , I have no desire to talk about marriage

Maatla : seems like you don't want to do this , like

The door opens and Tshego walks in , she was out for lunch I think

Cause she has a takeaway bag
with her

Tshego : sorry to disturb

Me : you're not , this is my
younger brother Maatla . And
he was just leaving

He chuckles

Maatla : younger by just two
yours , so it's really not that bad

She just stands there , all
awkward

Me : leave

Maatla : right !

His wandering eye is all over
Tshego , and quite frankly it has
me annoyed

Maatla : I'll see you

He gets up and walks past her ,
as he goes out

Me : close the door

She closes it , and walks over to her desk . In silence , she just sits down

The way the atmosphere has changed between us , it's just even hard to keep ignoring it

I get up and walk over to her desk

Me : how was lunch ?

Tshego : great

She's not even looking at me

Me : you bring me anything ?

Tshego : no

I take the take away bag , and
open

Me : thank you

Tshego : do refund me , cause
that's not yours

Me : you should just ask for
girlfriend allowance , straight
out . So I can officially put you in
my budget

She pops her eyes , staring at
me . I turn back to my desk with
the food

It's something else seeing her
speechless

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INSERT 10

Tshegofatso

It's been a day

And Lethabo is fast asleep , with
her one leg all the way to my
chest

This girl sleeps very funny

I just can't seem to catch sleep ,
I don't even know why

Maybe it's just these thoughts
invading my mind like crazy

My phone beeps , and it's right
next to me . Maybe I should
have brought a simple touch
phone

There's surely ones that cost less than a R1000 , that can't hurt

I reach for it , and it's a bank notification . And I have my mouth wide open , my jaw dropped

Me : what is wrong with this guy ?

He's sent R18 000 , and
reference "girlfriend allowance"

Me : what ?

Is he out of his mind ?

He's really starting to be creepy
, I'm not even his girlfriend

And the meal I brought back
was R69 , and yes I had bought
it for him

He just annoyed me asking if I
got him anything , as if I ever do
that

I don't even know what had
gotten into me earlier on ,
when I bought him food

He's busy flaunting money at
me right now

And I shouldn't be excited , like
what is he hoping to get out of
this ?

I put my phone down , and I
close my eyes taking a deep
breath

Hoping that sleep catches up
with me , but it's s struggle

I'm in my thoughts , so lost !

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Monga

I have the door slightly opened

And she just walks in , without
even knocking today

That's new from her , because
she always knocks

Even though I've told her so
many times to stop , because
this office is also her space

But she just kept on doing it

Maybe today she's finally
stopped , or she's not in her
feels

Me : good morning

Tshego : what was that ?

Me : I said good morning

She sighs

Tshego : I'm talking about the
money you sent last night

I shrug

Tshego : what is wrong with you?

Me : Nothing is wrong with me , unless you disagree

Tshego : why would you send me money ?

Me : you wanted a refund

She chuckles

Tshego : a refund of R69

She's getting all worked up ,
and I'm just calm as ever

Me : you didn't tell me

Tshego : please stop

I give her a confused neutral
look

Tshego : with the money ,
please stop

She walks to her desk , she must
have woken up on the wrong
side of the bed

Tshego : and a refund with a reference that says “girlfriend allowance”

She chuckles again

Tshego : you must really think I’m slow

Me : no I don’t

She looks at me , and I still have
the same neutral gaze on her

Tshego : I am not your girlfriend

Me : that can be corrected

She pops her eyes frowning , I
flash her a smile before
lowering my head looking at my
laptop

It really is a lovely morning

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Lina

He opens the door in his briefs ,
and he reeks of sex I'm just
pissed

Me : must be nice

I just push him out of the way ,
walking to the lounge

And he doesn't have one , but
he has two whores . Busy
scissoring each other

I take the bottle of wine hitting
one of them on the head , they
scream

As she falls down

Me : get the fuck out !

I scream my lungs out

Maatla : babe....can you please
just calm down

I drag the one that's crying on
the floor , all the way to the
door

The other one comes running
with their clothes , I trip her and
she falls down

Letting out a scream , I throw
the clothes behind me

She is fighting me , and
manages to pull a crop top

Her : pleaselet us have our
clothes

Me : you can roam those streets
, and show every man what
hoses you are

I push them out the door , I
slam it and lock keeping the key
with me

Maatla : really ?

I take the glass of wine and
throw it at him

Maatla : this is just nonsense

Me : nonsense ? Maatla what
the hell do you take me for ?

He takes his shirt , wiping his
face

Maatla : what the fuck do you
care ? You have Monga , so I
can have everyone I want

Me : oh you can ?

I laugh bitterly

Maatla : calm down , and let's
talk like sane people

Me : try me Maatla , just try me
. And I will burn you down in
your own house , just try me

He gets up

Maatla : what has you this
angry ?

He tries holding me , I get off his
grip . But he pulls me back again

Maatla : talk to me

Me : you have been ignoring me

I tear up , I don't get what's wrong with me . Suddenly I just want to be with him

Me : not a day goes by and you don't call me , but you're just ignoring my own calls now

Since he left the house , I've been ignored . And I hated every single moment of it , he dished me the treatment his brother is always giving me

And it makes me feel used and
useless

I thought he confronted Monga
, and that maybe he would
come back home . But he hasn't
come , and this one was
ignoring my calls

He just engulfs me , I let him be
crying against his chest

Maatla : I'm sorry , I was just hurt . I won't do it again

I hug him back

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INSERT 11

Lina

I really was in my zone
yesterday coming here and
acting all that crazy , to a point
that I even slept out

And Maatla didn't even seem to
mind , as I was around like the
whole day

And I denied having sex with him , especially because of what I walked in on

But now it's morning and it really has sunk in , like what the hell ?

I created a mess here , and acted like some crazy woman . As if I'm in love with this man , or that I'm his woman

I should just be glad that Monga is out there whoering , that he probably has even forgotten that he has a home

Because how in the hell would I explain my sleeping out ?

Me : I should go

Maatla : we should talk

Me : I'm sorry about yesterday ,
and it won't happen again

Maatla : don't

He sighs

I get up , I shouldn't have slept
here . Or even did what I did ,
acted the way that I acted

Me : if your brother is home ,
he's going to kill me

Maatla : stop right there , I'm
with you . And I have no desire
to hear anything about Monga ,
so when you're with me keep
him out of your mouth . I was
having fun yesterday , you
rocked up here and ruined
everything . You have my
attention now , that's what you

wanted right ? So please , don't
start acting out for me

I find myself tearing up

Me : so it was all fun for you ?

He sighs

Maatla : I don't mean it like that

Me : no it's fine

I pick up my dress putting it on

Maatla : don't walk out on me ,
I won't repeat that shit again

Me : you're not mine , so you
can do....

Maatla : damn woman ! Will
you just fucking make up your
damn mind

He gets off the bed

Maatla : this is why I'll act out ,
cause you don't stand where I
stand with you

Me : then let go

I grab open the door , he grabs
my arm I turn and look at him

Maatla : I love you

Me : Maatla wait....sex was.....

Maatla : I love you , that wasn't just sex for me.

Me : I'm going to marry your brother

Maatla : leave him , and just marry me .

Me : what ?

Maatla : I'm the one you want ,
and not him

I don't think he has an idea of
what he's talking about right
now

This is just insane , and our
affair should remain exactly just

that . An affair and nothing
more

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Monga

Voice : no man with a heart
frozen as ice , like yourself can
love . You're too dark , you'll
taint her soul . She's just an
innocent being , be careful

Those words keep ringing in my
head

And I hope I'm not going insane

It was last night when I was
driving home , and I just wanted
water out of nowhere

I stopped at a garage , but as I
was getting water by the fridge
some woman passed me

And I could swear she was a
healer or maybe a prophet ,

because of the way she was
dressed

She had on a white doek , and a
white cape with just a long
white dress

I didn't see her face , nor how
she looked like . So I really have
no image of her

But as soon as she passed me , I
heard someone say those exact
words to me

And it was a female voice , I
looked around and saw no one

Just her , and she just passed so
I doubt she uttered any words
to me

Whatever that was though , it
creeped me out

I hardly even got some sleep ,
because those damn words
kept ringing in my head

But like what the hell ?

Do I have a heart cold as ice ?
Like that doesn't even make
sense

I should forget that shit , before
I go insane

I'm ready for work , and since
I'm all alone I won't even
bother the helper with
breakfast

I grab my car keys , and as I
open the door it's the whoering
fiancé about to open the door

The shock on her face , it's like
she's seen a ghost

Lina : uhmhi

I just look at her

Lina : what are you doing here ?

Me : this is my house the last
time I checked

Lina : of course , what I mean is
....you're home

Me : that makes one of us

She looks down in shame , no
doubt Maatla has her and she's
willing

Lina : I'm sorry , my mother is
not well so I went to see her

Poor woman ! Let's hope her daughter's tongue , is not that powerful to manifest that sickness

Lina : I'm sorry I wasn't here

Me : move out of my way

She swallows slightly moving to the side , and I pass her

I head to my car , and drive out
heading to work

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Lina

The universe hates me

I swear I have wronged an
upper person , there's no way I
can have such bad luck

On the night I decide to whore
out , the whoering fiancé
decides to come back

Now I know I'm the one seen
somehow , just because he
came home and I wasn't here

I just hope he doesn't take this
far , or make a big deal out of it

Because I know for a fact my
mother won't be able to fool a
man like Monga

He will see right through her ,
and he'll know I lied

I take out my phone and call
Maatla , who's also not happy
about the way I left

But we're busy taking risks , and
I don't even see what I'll get out
of this affair . There's no gain
for me

Maatla : hello

Me : your brother was home

And he keeps quite

Me : now is not the time to sulk
, what if he gets suspicious and
starts looking into me ?

He sighs

Maatla : Monga doesn't take
shit , if he even thought you're
messing around trust me you
wouldn't be calling me right
now because you'd be dead

I gasp , it's just the way he's
saying what he's saying and he's
so calm

Me : if you're trying to scare me
, well it's working

He chuckles

Maatla : I wish I was , but I'm
not . So anyways relax , I'm at
work we'll talk later

He drops the call on me , and I
won't calk him back even
though I wasn't done with
questions

I so hope this doesn't blow up in
my face

I should be getting Monga to
sleep with me , so we can start
making that baby

Not trying to hide the shame of
my affair with his brother

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INSERT 12

Monga

Lina must think I am an idiot

But she can have her fun ,
because I don't give a fuck

I just hate that they're so busy
at my house , that's why I'm
having it sold

So she can do whatever she
wants , because soon she'll be
gone

We're in the office , and I can't take my eyes off Tshego .

Suddenly she's all uncomfortable and slightly jumpy as of late

Like right now , I asked her to bring me a file and she seems to be avoiding me

I don't even know , how in her cute head she thinks she's going to pull that off

We share an office space 10
hours a day , there's no
avoiding each other

Me : Tshego

She looks at me

Me : the file

Tshego : yes

She goes back to fiddling for it

I shake my head slowly , I get up
and head to where she is

She turns and just bumps into
me , dropping the file

She crouches down , and picks
it up

Tshego : I'm....sorry

Me : well I am not

She slowly lifts her head , and she finds me staring down at her

Me : for how long do you intend on acting like this ?

She swallows , I lean down
brushing my lips over hers

Her breathing increases

Tshego : wait....

She has her eyes closed , she's
the one gone and not me

Me : what ?

Tshego : I can't....we can't do
this

I rub her chin

Me : why not ? You want me ,
and I want you . We've always
known that from the first day , I
walked in here and you called
me a real thug

She giggles

Me : let's stop avoiding it ,
cause it's just torture

She sighs

I lean back down , capturing her
lips into mine . And she kisses
me back

The moment is so short lived ,
as she pulls out fisting on my
shirt

Tshego : can we just be
professionals ? This is a work
place

Me : we're past that

She smiles

Tshego : okay fine , but can we just meet in a normal space and talk . Before we start with office kisses

Me : but we're already here

Tshego : we'll knock off early , and just talk . Anyone can walk in anytime in here , so please . We can talk outside the office

Me : okay

I nod slowly

She has a point , but I don't care
about anyone walking in here

I just really don't

Tshego : move back

I chuckle

Me : so where would you like to spend my money tonight ?

She laughs

Tshego : stop being silly , even a coffee shop is fine

Me : mhm , give me a kiss

Tshego : I said

Me : and I agreed , give me a
kiss . And don't cut it short
again this time

She pouts I chuckle

I lean down capturing her lips ,
and she trails her hands to the
sides of my waist as she
welcomes the kiss back

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Tshegofatso

So I said a coffee shop will be
fine

And he dines and wines me , in
a whole 5 star hotel restaurant

Wow !

I know from my past
experiences with relationships ,
to my baby daddy

That not all men are like this

Me : this is beautiful

The table , and just the setting .
It's all just beautiful , and some
crazy romantic scenery

There's other people , but we're
a bit far separated from them

And this looks like some date

And I'm so underdressed for
such a place , and scene

While he's always on point ,
with slim fit formal suits . Like
daily

Monga : I'm glad you like it

He pulls the chair for me , I sit down and he also takes a seat

Monga : I need a drink

He calls a waiter over

Monga : Irish whiskey double neat

I look intensely at him , he
clears his throat

Me : can you just not drink ?

He squints his eyes , I guess
that's a thing with him

Me : can we just talk with sober
minds please

He looks at the waiter

Monga : just bring lime water

He nods walking away

Me : thank you

He flashes his smile

Monga : I'll always listen to you
, and I mean always . And I'll
agree if I hear you well

I wonder what this has in store
for us

Monga : can I just say , I've
never had a relationship . So I
don't know how these things
work , but I'm willing to learn .
Because I want one with you ,
and I'm willing to give it my all .
I don't know what's the talk
about , but I'll listen and hear
you out . Because all I want to

say is that , I want you . So hear
a hustler out

I smile

Me : a hustler ?

He nods

Monga : hey , you called me a
thug . But I'm just a hustler and
nothing more nor less , and

right now I'm just trying to
score myself a woman

I laugh

Me : score yourself a woman

He chuckles

Monga : yeah , so hear me out
and just give me a chance

I know for a fact that this is so
not how a woman is courted

But what can I say ?

The waiter comes back with his
water , he thanks him and he
leaves

Monga : I'm not a romantic man
, so I don't even know how to
spit such words . I probably

won't even know how to treat
you as such , but I'll just be my
damn self and do you right

This is the same man , who's
dining me right now

And the very same man who
spent 48K on me , in a space of
5 weeks

And he says he's not romantic ,
okay !

I clearly must not know what
romance is

Me : can we keep the
relationship away from the
office ?

It's no use denying , and I
wouldn't have kissed him if I
didn't have feels towards him

Like in a space of a month , the
atmosphere between us just
changed

And I just found myself drawn
to him , I didn't know he felt the
same

I just thought , he's just being a polite boss

Even though , I found that strange . Because everyone in that office is scared of him

And only one or two people can actually say they've exchanged words with him

He has Nzuzo who's like his
mouth piece

Monga : no

Me : what do you mean no ?

Monga : sweetheart

He gets up , and moves to the
chair closer to me . He takes my
hand into his

Monga : I'm your boyfriend ,
and I can't switch roles . Be one
thing to you outside the office ,
and another when we're there .
I'm your boyfriend through and
through , and that's that

Me : office romance

He slightly laughs , and it's just
so deep

Monga : work is work , our
relationship is our relationship .
This is love , and not an affair . I
won't hide you nor the fact that
I love you , sweetheart I swear
I'll wear my love for you on my
sleeves .

And this is the so not romantic
man

Me : okay

He smiles leaning forward , his face just inches away from mine

Monga : so what did you want to talk about ?

I laugh

Me : please leave me alone

He chuckles , pecking my lips

Monga : I love you

It's the intense look he's just
looking at me with right now

My cheeks are hurting , I'm sure
I look like a ridiculous 15 year
old

Me : and I love you

He steals a very good kiss , and
we're disturbed by two waiters
bringing our food

And the man went all out , I
don't know about this him not
being romantic cause I'm seeing
something else that's disputing
his words

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INSERT 13

Tshegofatso

He insisted on dropping me off

Even after I said I'll take a taxi ,
but he wasn't having none of
that

I'm just glad that it's late , but
nosey neighbourhood
neighbours

They don't miss anything , I'm
sure some will know I was
dropped by some German
machine

And MaJoyce will have me for
breakfast , lunch and dinner

And of course , I'll be having a
blesser . And that's how I would
have been able to pay her

According to her , I may be working yes . But surely I don't make that much

Not even 5K , that's what she said . And she always had something to say about Thato

Until she finally saw he's nothing of mine , but just a company driver

I had to lie and say I'm the only one from Joburg , so that's why they send a driver

Because everyone else is in Pretoria , so they're not that far from work

She bought that one , and it saved me . Because even to this day , I don't get why Thato fetches and drops me

As much as I understood Monga
saying he doesn't want excuses
for being late

Me : thank you

He sides smiles , and I don't
even know what I'm blushing
about

Monga : must I leave ?

I laugh

Me : you sir , are taking chances. So please leave

Monga : yeah okay fine

I give him a kiss , and he awaits for me to get in the yard before he leaves

And I go into the shack first ,
just putting the light on and
leaving my bag

I go in the house to get Lethabo

MaJoyce : hectic day ?

Me : something like that , I'm
sorry I'm only picking her now

MaJoyce : it's fine

Me : thank you , and good night

She just nods , I swear if one of these days she asks me to start paying her . I should just do it , and maybe that's exactly what I should do

I take Lethabo from the couch , and I've asked her more than twice , that she shouldn't leave

her sleeping on the couch . It just makes me uncomfortable to be honest

But I'm sure she thinks I'm crazy , she's raised three kids and I know nothing

I'm just scared that she'll turn and only fall , sleeping on the floor would give me peace of mind

I take her and we leave , getting
to the shack . I lock the door

And she's really sleepy , I
wonder if she's not hungry

But she's not playing anywhere
near my boobs today

I open the blankets and put her
down

I guess MaJoyce was in a happy mood today , she's bathed her for me

I make her a bottle , in case she's hungry middle of the night

Or she refuses to sleep , I know it'll tame her down

I can't help and think of just
how I'm going to tell Monga this

That I have an 8 months old , I
mean this is something that
should just be disclosed

He might even not want to be
with a woman who has a child

Some people are like that , and
it's nothing personal just
preference

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Lina

The way he's just ignoring me

It hurts honestly , maybe he can
shout or just say something

But then that's not Monga , he
hardly says anything

He came home pretty late last night , and he was in his study the whole night

I made breakfast , and he chose to eat the porridge made by the helper

Me : you could have told me not to cook

Monga : I didn't tell you to cook

I swallow my words , but the
hurt that comes with his

Me : you know if you're angry I
didn't sleep home , you can call
my mother and confirm that

Monga : I don't give a shit about
where you sleep

He places the bowl in the sink ,
grabbing his car keys and he
walks out

Me : damnit !

I get up taking a plate , as I'm
about to dish for myself

The smell of bacon sending me
throwing up , right in front of
me

I'm puzzled !

Because I made this bacon myself a few minutes ago , why would it suddenly just smell this bad ?

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Monga

Tests come in sorts and kinds

Maybe he wants to provoke me
, or he wants me to act out

I don't know what he's hoping
to get out of this

Maybe he just wants to straight
out tell me that he's fucking
Lina

Because I can see it's more for
him , maybe for her too

Since she is even spending
nights with him now

Me : what do you want ?

He smiles looking around

Maatla : where is that

And she walks in

How I wish I told her to stay
where she was , while he's still
here

Because I remember exactly
what I saw in him the first time
he saw her

And I'm surprised he took this
long before coming back again

She will make him become a
regular here

And she's the reason I'll end up
killing him

He get up facing her

Me : you can leave , we're
working here

Maatla : why must you be like that ? So I can't even greet your beautiful colleague ?

Me : Maatla !

Maatla : fine , next time I'll just come straight for her . Don't kick me out again

He passes her after taking a moment looking at her , and he leaves

I take a deep breath , like he's really provoking me

Maybe Lina's pussy doesn't satisfy him to the core

Tshego : who is he again ?

Me : my dick head brother

She laughs walking to her desk

Tshego : Language

Well nothing can be excused
where Maatla is concerned

Especially not by me

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INSERT 14

Lina

I couldn't stomach anything the whole of yesterday

Just a few snacks , and nothing else . Because everything just smelt funny

The same crazy thing again this morning , of food smelling funny

And I couldn't eat again , and
I'm hungry

Monga just looked and at me ,
and he didn't even show any
worry or care

I've just taken a shower , and as
I lotion . That's when I see I
haven't opened my sanitary
pads

I have heavy flow , so whether a pack has 8 or 10 pads inside I always use them all

And it's just for three days , but I change a pad quite a lot a day

Me : wait.....

Could this mean I missed my periods this month ?

I mean it's the only explanation
, and if that's the case then

Me : I'm pregnant

I sit down on the bed , getting
lost in thought

I am finally pregnant

Oh ! My mother will be do
proud , she told me to do this
and finally it's done

We'll get married , and there'll
be no more waiting

This could be a great big
changer for me , for me and
Monga

Finally this marriage will happen
, he won't walk away from his
child

I need to go to the doctor and
confirm this

I get up and finish lotioning
myself

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Tshegofatso

I don't know what I'm doing
taking an 8 month old person
out

But I just figured , we can spend time together away from the shack we're always just so cooped up in

Just going to the park , nowhere fancy . I have a small picnic basket packed for us

I gave MaJoyce some money today , and to my surprise she

was surprised and didn't want
to take the money

Cause she loves watching
Lethabo , and I appreciate that .
No matter how she is , that
woman has done a lot for me

But I convinced her to take the
money , and I told her from now
on I'll give her something for
watching my baby for me

She told me it shouldn't be a payment , but just something small of thanks because she trusts now I won't bother her with rent

I guess that conversation went well

We're in a taxi headed to the park , and the weather is just perfect

Voice : you have a beautiful daughter

It's the woman next to me saying , and her eyes are darted on Lethabo

Me : thank you

She looks at me and smiles

Her : you know , it doesn't take
blood to father a child

What ?

Me : sorry ?

Her : they're going to be great ,
they'll just heal and fix each

other where needed and
necessary . Don't deny them
that

What the hell ?

And she tilts her head looking
away from us , I'm left stunned
by her words and just
wondering what she's talking
about

Talk about just being creepy

And no offence to no one , but I don't even believe in any of these things

Riddles or prophecies whatever they may be

I mean she looks like a spiritual person , with the beads and the cape

Can we just get where we are going ? People should really learn to keep their things to themselves

Because right now , I don't even know what she was talking about

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Lina

I had blood tests done , and
they came out positive

I am really pregnant

I don't want to tell Monga yet , I
want us to talk about the
wedding first

And if he still refuses , I'll be
sure to slap him with pregnancy

There's no way in hell , that he
won't just give in . And I'll finally
have him where I want

Meaning I need to stay away
from Maatla , he can't know
about this

He'll just be a man , make a fuss
because of a bruised ego

Especially because the doctor
said something that got me so
worried

The urine test was inconclusive ,
the scan didn't show any baby

And only the blood tests came
out positive , and very much
accurate

And all this happened because
I'm only a few weeks pregnant

Less than 5 weeks , and that is
very much scary

Because I know I haven't had
sex with Monga in two months

This means this baby is not his

I wipe my tears off

And the reality of this scares me
, because if this thing comes out
I'll be dead

I just have to play my cards right
, and just console myself that
this baby is still a Theo

And Monga won't be raising
another man's child , but it'll be
his brother's child

They're still blood , and that's
not that bad

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Tshegofatso

Our day was great , and my
baby was happy to be outside

And loved the park , and I think
once in a while I'll just treat her
out

She's worn out and asleep right
now

My phone rings , and it's Monga
. We last spoke in the morning

Me : hello

He sighs

Monga : now I know I did not go
for a woman that's fucking
another

I laugh

Monga : it's not funny

Me : what are you complaining
about ?

Monga : answer my calls
differently

Me : stop being a baby

He chuckles

Monga : am I not your baby ?

Lethabo would die

Me : you are

Monga : exactly , please be a nice person

Me : okay baby I'm sorry

Monga : mhm , so wish I can see you right now . I wanna see you when you call me baby

I laugh

Monga : let me pick you up tomorrow , and we do breakfast before work

That means Lethabo will have to be in the main house very early

But surely that won't be a problem

And maybe in the morning we
can talk about the baby

I really don't want to keep this a
secret , because I am not
ashamed of my child

Me : okay , we can do breakfast

I need to gather my guts this
night

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INSERT 15

Monga

So many sighs , and she
somehow looks frustrated

I know for a fact that I'm not
blind

And I may have contributed to
this , because of how breakfast
went

I get up , closing my laptop . I go to her desk and lean against it next to her

Tshego : what ?

I push her chair back a bit

Me : I'm sorry about this morning , it's a lesson learnt .
No more business calls when

we're together , on our private
time

She smiles

Me : am I forgiven ?

Tshego : I'm not angry , and I
understand that you are a busy
man

Me : mhm , when I'm with you
I'm your man and not the CEO .
Our time spent together , is not
an office space . And from now
on , I'll respect that .

I hold my hand out to her , she
takes it getting off her chair

And she stands in front of me

Tshego : shouldn't we be
respecting office and business
time right now ?

Me : to hell with that

She laughs

Me : what's going on ? How did
I mess up ?

She shakes her head

Tshego : no , it's nothing serious

Me : there is something ?

Tshego : yeah , I wanted to tell you something then . But your calls got in the way

Me : intshwarele kgosatsana ya Bafokeng

It's the laugh for me.

Tshego : stop being silly , it's fine really

Me : let's talk

Tshego : no , I have to finish what I'm doing . You have a boardroom meeting in 15 minutes , so we'll talk when you can

Me : later on ?

Tshego : later is fine

I lean forward and we kiss

Tshego : can I get back to work
now ?

She mumbles through the kiss

Me : kao rata (I love you)

Tshego : o ratwa ke nna (I love you)

I'm learning , and I'll fuck up as I tackle this relationship road

But I'll learn and know to do better

Me : can you just open your gift
, and I'll leave you alone

Tshego : can't I just open it on
my own , or when I get home ?

Me : no

She smiles taking the gift bag

Tshego : next time do alert me
that breakfast dates are
accompanied by gifts

I chuckle , as she opens it . And
the expression just seals it for
me , and I know she's happy .

And maybe she even loves the
phone , and that means I
outdone myself

Me : I go crazy 12 hours not seeing you , and those video calls will just help keep me sane

Tshego : baby you're insane , this is an iPhone 13 Pro Max . This must have cost a fortune

Me : apparently you don't look at the price when you buy for your woman , you just pick and pay . And when you get to paying , and your bank balance

tells you otherwise . Then you know you can't afford that woman , and therefore she's not yours to have

Tshego : just listen to you

We laugh

Me : mhm , and I didn't know grown ass men love being called baby . But damn they do

She kisses my cheek

Tshego : you're so sweet ,
nothing like the scary

Me : real thug

She burst out laughing , placing
her head on my chest

I end up laughing

Tshego : please stop with that

Me : but you were also going to say that

Tshego : uhm.....

She lifts her head and looks at me with her cute eyes , and I just know the real thug is all gone for this woman right here

I just hope I love her right

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Tshegofatso

I was supposed to see Monga
after work so we can talk

But then MaJoyce called me ,
and I had to leave work early

Monga was in a meeting , and
he just had Thato drive me back
home

Even though he wanted to bring
me himself

But I couldn't let him leave work
because of me

And I didn't even tell him what's going on , just that I was needed urgently

But it's not like we had that time to talk , and for me to tell him why

I got home and well Lethabo wasn't feeling well

I think she's coming down with flu , so she's really acting up

There's nothing as painful as being a single trying mother

And yet still have people like MaJoyce , who will throw your failures in your face half the time

She said I'm responsible for
Lethabo being sick

Because the baby doesn't have
enough clothes

And to think I spent more
money , getting Lethabo warm
clothes

I didn't even buy myself 10
outfits with that money , but I

made sure she had more than
that

But what can I say ?

She's asleep now , but I can tell
she's not okay . Because of the
sounds she's making

But if she's not better
tomorrow , I'll be sure to take
her to the doctor

Because I might buy her medication , only to find out it's much more worse than flu

Mom : don't worry , babies do get sick

It was just too much for me , because I got too scared when I got that call

And I ended up calling my
mother , I just wanted some
comfort

And with my mother , I always
get that . It doesn't matter
we're so far apart

A phone call with her always
gets me better , that's why I
was so ready to go back home

Because I know , no matter
what that woman will never
wash her hands off me

Me : she's not breathing well

Mom : her nose is probably
blocked , just use Vicks and rub
on her chest . And make sure
she's warm enough , but don't
suffocate her with heat . She'll
get rash

I end up with a smile

Me : okay , thank you

Mom : you worry too much , it's being a mother I know . But get some rest , in case she becomes restless during the night

Me : okay goodnight , I love you guys

Mom : we love you too

Me : is Karabo behaving there ?

She laughs

Mom : very much so , he was so happy about the money you sent for his winter clothes . He bought a school tracksuit , and sneakers . And said , casual

clothes are not that important .
You know they're doing extra
classes now , he's at school by
06:30 until 17:30 . So he said
he'll rather be warm at school

Wow

My little brother is growing up ,
and at least he knows our home
situation and just makes the
best of it

Me : I'm glad he's being responsible

Mom : he is , I'll call in the morning with free minutes

Me : okay bye

I drop the call

It's days like these , I get to
understand the meaning and
importance of family

As much as we don't have much
, but we're thankful for each
other

And we do appreciate what we
have

My phone rings , and it's Monga
. It's past 19:00 right now , I'm
guessing he's home

Me : baby

Monga : tell me you're okay ,
cause I'm damn worried sick .

He sounds like he's walking

Me : I'm okay , sorry I worried
you

He sighs

Monga : okay , let me give you a
proper call when I get home .
The meeting just ended now ,
so I'm only leaving the office

We can say whatever we want
to say , but then some

successful people do work their
butts off for their money

Me : drive safe

Monga : I love you

Me : and I love you

We hang up

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INSERT 16

A FEW DAYS LATER

Tshegofatso

Lethabo is not getting better ,
and I asked Katlego to take her
to the doctor yesterday

But she's still not better , my
mother said I should give her a
few days

And I'm just hoping the doctors
medication is working

I even feel like asking for a few days off work , just so I can be home and nurse her myself

And she's too clingy , she cries a lot . And I just hate leaving her

Monga can see something is off about me

But he's so busy at work , I
handle his schedule so I know
just how busy he is

So this definitely isn't the time
to be talking about this

And I can't just tell him that my
daughter is sick , when I haven't
even told him I have a daughter

I feel bad , but some things
have a time and a place

Zara : you're just off lately

We're having coffee together ,
we've gotten so used to small
lunches together . So it's a norm
now

Me : do you think I can get
leave ?

Zara : leave ?

Me : yeah , like a few days off

Zara : I'm not in HR , I wouldn't know . But then again it's you , you can just ask Mr Theo .

Me : why ?

She laughs

Zara : you're with him half the time , so surely it'll be easy just talking to him

That's a relief , I thought she'll say there's rumours

Me : I guess

Zara : why do you need leave what's wrong ?

Me : just a personal crisis

Zara : okay , just talk to the boss
. I'm sure he won't mind

Me : yeah

I'm sure he wouldn't mind , if
he knew the truth

And I can't just go to HR ,
behind his back . I just have to
tell him

I need these days off so I can be
home with my baby

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Lina

Things are tense at home ,
Monga hasn't been around for a
few days

He only came back yesterday ,
and he wasn't in my moods as
usual

As tiring as his behaviour is , I
do want us to work things

I'm so glad Maatla is not here
today , because I came to talk
to his parents

Maybe if they can intervene ,
things would be better between
us

Mr Theo : have you talked to
him about this ?

Me : he doesn't want to talk
about anything , even the
marriage . He's just not
interested

Mrs Theo : well then , maybe you should just give him space . You know , there's nothing that men hates like a nagging woman

This one hates me , and I know that

So she'll defend and side with her son , even though she knows he's wrong and his behaviour is just unacceptable

Me : we're about to get married
, and he's acting in this way .
Maybe we shouldn't even
bother getting married , I can
always go back home . I have
nothing to lose

The father is suddenly edgy

Mr Theo : there's no need for
that , I'll talk to Monga

Mrs Theo : just be careful , if you can't handle issues of your marriage now maybe you shouldn't be getting married . You can't always be running to us , when things are sour between you two . Tomorrow we won't be here , so who will you run to ?

Mr Theo : can we not make a big deal out of this ? I'll talk to

Monga , and I think it's about
time they just get married .
Because I don't understand
what's the hold up

My sentiments exactly , and at
least the old man gets me

I don't understand what we're
waiting for , when we should
have long gotten married

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Tshegofatso

I can't even concentrate on anything

Today I'm so going against my own words , of the office just being the office

I have to get this out of the way , so I can get those days off

The door opens and I'm on my feet

Me : thank God we....

Only it's Maatla walking in , his smile is so creepy . This guy gives me jitters , and not good ones

Me : hi

Maatla : beautiful

He's just a pervert of some kind

Me : Mr Theo is not around

He chuckles

Maatla : I don't care , I'm not
here for him

Me : oh ?

He walks to my desk

Me : what....how can I help ?

Maatla : you don't have to be so official with me , but maybe we can start off with your name

Can Monga just come back ?

Maatla : or your number maybe

Me : I don't just go around giving people my number

He slightly laughs

Maatla : come on ! Haven't I made my intentions clear , the last two times I was here ?

Me : uhm..... I'm not interested , so please

Maatla : come on , what would you lose by just giving me a chance ?

Me : be decent enough , and just take a no and walk away

He laughs

Maatla : ouch....you're....

Monga walks in , and I release a sigh of relief . Maatla moves back

And I have never seen Monga this angry , like it's all visible on his face

Maatla : brother

Monga : what's going on here ?

His voice is just making me
tremble

Maatla : I just came to talk to.....

Monga : do your talks out there
, not in my office . Get out

I don't know , but I think I'm
somehow included in that

Maatla : okay

He walks out

And Monga just goes to his desk
, saying absolutely nothing to
me

And I can tell he's angry , I'm
even scared to wonder what
he's thinking right now

I sit down , my eyes stuck on him . But he already has the flies opened , and his attention is there

There goes the chance to talk to him again

I try by all means to focus on my work , but I'm just failing

Me : I will never cheat on you , especially not with your brother . I would rather leave you , than cheat on you if it ever gets to that . I was telling him to leave , and to just take my no . Because I'll never give him time of a day , I don't want him . And to be honest , your brother scares me . Because as he was there , he seemed somehow very much capable like a man who can lose himself like he can't or doesn't

take rejection well and that
scared me . I was secretly in
prayer that you come back
quickly

I'm looking at him , and he
finally turns his attention to me

Monga : come here

I'm on my feet walking to his
desk , he moves his chair back

patting on his lap . And I sit
down on his lap

Monga : I'm sorry , I just didn't
like what I walked in on .
Because I know he wants you

Me : he'll never have me

I peck his lips

Monga : I'll make sure he
doesn't come here ever again

He pulls my face down , and we
kiss

It's a hoarse deep voice , that's
almost like his speaking outside
the door

That gets me off him , and I'm
on my feet in seconds next to
him

A man walks in , without
knocking . He's an old version of
Monga

Without a doubt , I'd say that's
his father

Him : am I disturbing ?

I just grab a random file on the desk

Monga : dad , what can I do for you ?

I knew it , they look so alike you can't miss the features

Dad : young lady please excuse us

Monga : she's working

Dad : we need to talk , 15
minutes won't hurt anyone . Go
get coffee or something

The arrogance

I look at Monga , and seems like
he wants to say something back

. But I just plead with him , with
my eyes

He sighs

Monga : please , go get me
something light to eat

He reaches for his pockets
handing me , his card

The way his father is just looking at me , I can tell he doesn't have a good impression about me

I walk to my desk placing the file I took there , I grab my bag and walk out

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INSERT 17

Monga

Me : what are you doing here ?

He chuckles sitting down

Dad : you give your PA your
bank card ?

I give him my attention , cause I
can tell that he wants to spit
some words out

Dad : And she clearly even
knows the pin , because you
didn't tell her

Of course she knows the pin ,
she paid for breakfast this
morning using my card

Dad : that's a comfort only a
wife should have

Me : a wife ?

Dad : you heard me , and I think it's about damn time you marry Lina

Me : you came here to tell me that ?

Dad : I don't understand what's the hold up ? You two are not in love , and you know exactly why you're doing this . Just get it over and done with

I chuckle

Me : it's your problem and not mine

Dad : what is the meaning of that ?

Me : how about that I won't marry Lina

Dad : boy are you out of your mind ?

He raises his voice , and I'm the last person he should be raising his voice to

Dad : do you have any idea what the truth will do to your mother when it comes out ?
This will destroy our family , and is that what you want ?

Me : I won't die for your sins , I will not marry that woman

Dad : it's because of her isn't it ? She's new and she's fresh , see just how you're falling in my exact steps ?

Me : I'm not you , and I'll never be . So don't even begin to compare us

I get up

Me : excuse me , I have work to get to

Dad : you have no idea what you're doing , but I hope you get over the new pussy rush soon and get back into your sane minds . Because pussy is just pussy , plain simple

He gets up and roughly pulls the chair back , as he gets up and walks out

I grab my phone and call Tshego , and her phone rings right on her desk

Me : great !

I sit back down

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Lina

Maatla is something else , I
have been avoiding him

And he just rocks up here , he
didn't even call or text

I'm really annoyed by him , the
last thing I want is my chances
ruined with Monga

This is the time for us to make this work , and I think this baby will just seal that

Me : please leave , before Monga arrives

He chuckles

Maatla : he's probably way too busy with his PA to give shit about you

Me : what ?

Maatla : yeah , he's busy with
her

Lord no !

Please let it be that he's not
saying what I think he's saying ,
please no

Let it be just his jealousy
speaking , or just that he wants
to spite me

But please don't let it be the
truth , because I just can't
handle that like at all

Me : are you trying to say.....

Maatla : I'm not trying to tell you , I am telling you that he's fucking his PA

I sit down

Maatla : he doesn't love you , and you know this

Me : please leave

Maatla : don't be dramatic

Me : Maatla just

I scream , but shut my mouth
when Monga walks in

I look at him scared , but
another part just want to burst
and forget this moment

Monga : you're just everywhere
these days aren't you ?

Maatla : well , what can I say ?

Me : and he was just leaving

Monga : the two of you , will
help me really fast . This is my
house and not a brothel

I'm on my feet

Monga : pack your bags and follow him

Me : what ?

Monga : I won't repeat myself for you

Me : what do you mean follow him ? We're engaged , we're going to get married . So where am I going ?

Monga : and who's going to
marry you ?

I clap my hands not believing
this

Me : I swear , whatever this PA
of yours fed you must be
powerful

He has on a blank expression , I don't know if I've hit a nerve or not

Me : but tough , because I am not going anywhere . I am pregnant , and you'll marry me whether you like it or not

He chuckles

Monga : get out of my house ,
along with your bastard child

He walks past me , I turn and
grab his arm

Me : you will not call....

The fist that comes in the
bridge of my nose , I was not
expecting it at all

And it lands me down on the floor , I have my hand on my nose

And I can just tell , it's bleeding very badly

Maatla : what the hell ?

He crouches down next to me

Monga : take her , and get the hell out of my house . Honestly I'd hate to kill you two with my bare hands

Who is this man ?

He's not even moved that I'm on the floor , bleeding and crying and all because of him

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INSERT 18

Monga

My phone is just flooded of calls
from my mother and father

And I know those two have told them

But I don't want to talk to them , so I'll ignore those calls

I'm not in the moods to be addressing , my father's cheating and that of his son and Lina

Crazy to even pin the pregnancy on me , I know for a fact that's not my child

Like there's no way I got her pregnant , unless my sperm just magically landed inside of her

Tshego is not around today , she's down a bit and asked not to come to work

I'll go see her when I knock off ,
I could tell from her voice that
something is off

Even though she didn't want to
tell me what's going on

Nzuzo walks in , and he's not
alone . I'm not surprised my
mother came here

The woman is that dramatic

Mom : you can avoid everyone
but not me , you want to tell me
why you would beat your
pregnant Fiancé ?

Me : she's not my fiancé
anymore , I told her to leave
because I won't marry her

Mom : I've never liked that girl ,
it's good you gathered some

guts and told her off . But why
beat her ?

Me : she's pinning Maatla's
pregnancy on me

Mom : what ?

Nzuzo pulls a chair for her , and
she sits down

Me : Lina has been having an affair with Maatla , it's been over 5 weeks now . I haven't been intimate with her , in months . If that baby was mine , it would have long showed . It's not mine , there's no way in hell it's mine . Because it's knew , meaning it's your son's

I hate doing this to her , but what the hell ? It's done now

Me : I wasn't planning on hitting her , she grabbed me and I got annoyed . Who told her she could grab me ?

Nzuzo shakes his head , probably because I hit Lina for no real valid reason

Mom : so you're saying your brother has been sleeping with her ?

Me : yes , I don't know for Lina but for Maatla I know it's love . All this has been happening in the house , that's why I'm always in my house cause I can't even be in the other house where they sleep together . In the kitchen , the bathroom and worse my bloody bed . Honestly , it's a miracle that they've been disrespecting me in my house and they're still alive even today

She shakes her head

Mom : it can't be

Me : well it is

Mom : but how can he do that
to you ?

Me : I could care less about those two , because I don't love Lina and I've never loved her

Mom : you were going to marry this girl Monga , so what are you talking about ?

Me : it wasn't love , I was doing it to protect you from knowing the truth about your husband . But right now , I've fallen in love with someone , and I don't

want to lose out on that chance
because of this . I'll rather take
my chances with a woman I
really want to be with , and Lina
is not that woman

Mom : what did your father do
?

She stares right into my eyes

Me : he's....been cheating , and not just with anyone but young girls from his company . Lina father's found out because they're partners . Two of the girls cried rape , and dad took money from the company to silence them . And of course Lina's dad found out , and blackmailed him into giving him 51% share of the company . As it is , dad only owns minority and basically has no control

over the company anymore .
But of course , the man wanted
more , and marrying Lina , was
his final shut down silence .
Only because he thinks once
I've married her , I'll pull strings
and do favours for him . But the
main thing I only agreed , was
because he threatened to
expose dad with those videos
he has . Because apparently
your husband is kinky as hell ,
and he records himself with

these girls . For what , only he knows . But that backfired , and Lina's dad got hold of the videos . I didn't want you seeing those things , I didn't want you hurt like that . And if it meant marrying Lina was going to protect you , why couldn't I do it ?

Mom : so he's back to his old ways again ?

Me : old ways ?

She laughs

Mom : I'm sorry he got you involved in his nonsense , it was just so unnecessary because I've always known the manwhore I married . Stay away from that girl , and don't ever put your life on the line for your father again . You don't need to protect me from anything , I'm

your mother not the other way
around . I've had it with that
man , he's proven and shown
me time and time and again
that I'll never be a woman good
enough for him so ...

Me : wait....you don't get to do
that , and you don't need him
to validate your womanhood .
He's just a piece of shit okay

She laughs

Mom : stop swearing

She gets up , and I'm just shocked

She's not throwing tantrums , she's not crying . She's handling this way better than I even thought

Mom : you were wrong to put your hands on a woman though

Me : I ...it won't happen again

Mom : good , come give me a hug

I get up walking over to her , and we hug

Mom : introduce your girlfriend
to me sometime

I chuckle

Me : I will

I guess I was worried for
nothing , to protect a cheating I
thought would hurt my mother

Only it's his thing , and I'm sure he must think she doesn't know . That's why he was okay with asking me , to do this

As for my father I don't care , if Lina's father wants to dish his business to the world he can do that

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Lina

My nose is swollen , I just look
so bad

Mr Theo is furious , and Maatla
is just stuck on my side . And it's
annoying me

And all I want is to see Monga ,
so we can talk and find a way to
fix this

He knows the baby is not his ,
meaning he knew about the
affair between us

And he kept quite , so this
pregnancy wasn't going to work
on him at all

I don't even mind to abort right
now , because what I want is
Monga and nothing else

Mr Theo : that boy must come here and be held accountable for his actions

Maatla : she should just leave him , he's a piece of shit . Not only is he a cheater , but he beats women as well

He doesn't know what he's talking about , so he better shut up we started this

Maatla : you should go open a case , and have him arrested for this

Is he out of his mind ?

Me : I want him , we'll fix things

He and his father look at me like I'm crazy

Maatla : what ?

Me : we're going to fix things

Mrs Theo : don't be that
woman , just leave him alone

She says walking in

Mr Theo : no one is leaving
anyone here , Monga will get

his act together . And they'll
continue with the marriage

Mrs Theo : what marriage when
he doesn't even love her ?

Mr Theo : he made a
commitment , and he will stick
to it

Mrs Theo : marrying a woman
he doesn't want , all because he

wants to save your shameful
ways ?

The shock in his eyes , and now
I'm wondering what's
happening here exactly

Mr Theo : what ?

Mrs Theo : don't what me , and
you should be ashamed of
yourself . Putting your son in

this position , you're really too old for this nonsense you're doing . Just a disgrace to men

Mr Theo : I have no idea what you're talking about , so please stop with the insults

As much as this seems and sounds interesting , I have to go save my house

I get up

Maatla : you're seriously going to run after a man who's a cheater ?

Me : you.....

Mrs Theo : you two will stop right now , because you're in this position because you're both cheaters . And my son ,

doesn't deserve a wife who's
busy sleeping with his brother

The eyes of Mr Theo

Mrs Theo : but then again the
apple doesn't fall far from the
tree , like father like son .

Maatla : we love each other ,
we just couldn't....you said it
yourself he doesn't love her

He must speak about himself
and not include me

Mrs Theo : you surely fed off
those cheating tendencies from
your father , and as for you I
don't even care because you
were just never for my son

She gets up walking away , and
we're just left

Did she just say her husband is a cheater ?

Maatla : dad ?

Mr Theo : don't you dare , how can you two do that to Monga ?

Maatla : don't portray him as a saint , he's busy cheating with his PA

The father darts his eyes , and
it's like he knows this

So the PA

That must be where he's been
spending his many nights at

I take my bag , and walk out .
Maatla runs after me

Me : don't touch me , I'll
scream . Leave me alone

Maatla : why do you want to
put yourself through this ? He's
thrown you out , move in with
me . We'll raise our child
together , and just be a family

Me : stop being an idiot , I don't
love you

I get into my car , and drive out

These family is messed up , but
that's their business

I want to fight for my man , and
I won't even tell my family right
now

Until I've spoken to Monga and
I know what's what

But that damn woman must
never relax with my man , she
must never

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INSERT 19

Monga

A crappy day I've had , and not seeing Tshego just made everything crappy worse

So I just had to come see her , I called twice without an answer

And knowing she wasn't okay , I
got very worried

I hope I'm not overstepping
right now , by being at her
home

It's late around 17:00 , I hope I
won't be bashed for disrespect

Because I don't understand why
she's not answering her phone

I could have asked her to come out , and we meet in my car

I knock at the door , and this woman opens the door

To think I didn't even ask who she stays with at home

Her : hello , can I help you ?

Me : uhm....is Tshegofatso
around ?

Her : who are you ?

This woman is rude , even her
tone attest to that

Me : Monga Theo

Her : come in

She makes way , and I get in

Her : she's not here

At this time ? What exactly am I
supposed to be thinking ? And
she's not answering my calls

Me : do you perhaps know
where she is ?

Her : oh I don't know

Me : when did she leave ?

Her : a while back

What's a while back , like how long ago ?

But if she's her mother I just can't keep interrogating her

Me : do you perhaps know
when she'll be back ?

A cute little someone crawls in ,
from the other room

And she just comes straight to
me , sitting down in front of me
. She holds onto my legs , trying
to get up I see

Her : I don't know , see she left her child and she's been gone . I'm also waiting for her to come get her child , it's late now and this is just unacceptable

What the hell ?

Did she just say her child ?

But I find myself leaning down picking the baby

And isn't she just cute , but I'm not blind either . The blue eyes , the tanned skin and this silky black hair

A thousand thoughts are just going through my mind right now

Like what exactly is going on here ? And she's still a baby this

one , not even a year old I am
sure . She's surely a few months
old

Me : okay , is it okay if I wait for
her ?

She just looks at me , walks to
the room where the baby came
from

And she comes back with a key

Her : you'll go wait at the back
in her room

Isn't that some invasion of
privacy ?

But I the key anyways

Her : her child is not well , see
how cold it is and look at what
the baby is wearing . Some

mother's , I don't get why God just keeps giving irresponsible people kids . When there's a lot of people out there wanting kids , and they're not even getting one

What the hell ?

Me : I'll go wait for her , thanks again . And I'm taking the baby

She doesn't even say no leave
the baby , and she doesn't even
know me but she's okay with
such

Is this woman sane ?

I walk out anyways , because
this baby is warm enough in her
pink clothes

She's wearing a tracksuit , she has on boots and a jacket

So what the hell was she talking about ? That the baby doesn't have warm clothes and what not ?

Like could that woman really be Tshego's mother ?

I hope not , I don't like her

And I get to the back , and I see
a shack . I use the key and open

It's not some good environment
, but it's damn clean

I close the door , and sit down
on the single couch

With this cute little person ,
laying her head on my chest

I swear it's like she knows me ,
she's just so comfortable . And
I'm feeling strange having her in
my arms

I don't think I've even held a
baby in my entire life

And the way she's breathing , I
can tell that she's not okay .

It's like she has flu , and her
nose is blocked . Cause she's
struggling

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Tshegofatso

Not the sight I expected to
welcome me

Like how did he even get in ?

Well that's the question I first
asked myself , when I tried to

open and the door was
unlocked already

Clearly he didn't break in , he
used a key . And the fact that he
has Lethabo lying on his chest ,
it means he got the key in the
house

Like how can MaJoyce just give
a stranger my child , and a key
to my room ?

But that's the least of my
worries right now

Monga is in here , and surely he
now knows

Monga : don't just stand there ,
come in and sit down

I can't even tell his tone , is he
angry ?

Me : I can explain baby

Monga : sit down

I sigh , placing the flu meds on
the small counter

I sit down on the bed , and I
can't even look at him

He looks like a natural at this ,
and she seems so comfortable
there

Me : I'm sorry I didn't tell you ,
but I wasn't hiding her . I swear
I wasn't , I could never deceive
you . I planned to tell you

Monga : you can't hide a human
being

Me : I know that , and I was going to tell you . At the breakfast , that's what I wanted to tell you . I'm sorry that you had to find out on your own , I would never string you in any situation

He looks at her , she looks to be asleep . He takes her boots and jacket off

And he gets up , bringing her to
the bed . He tucks her in ,
placing a kiss on her cheek

He's just avoiding me right now
, and it hurts . Because I don't
know what he's thinking , or
what this means for us now

Me : baby please lets talk

He stands next to me , I get up

Me : I was going to tell you , I swear

Monga : I have to go , I had a crappy day . And I'm tired , I want to sleep

Me : please

I'm pleading right now

But it's like it's not working at all

Monga : what's her name ?

Me : Lethabo

Monga : and how old is she ?

Me : 8 months

Monga : where is he ?

That question is very direct ,
and he clearly doesn't want to
say father or dad

Me : he denied her , he's
married but I didn't know that
when we got together . He's
never been around

He nods

And I don't know what's the meaning of that

Me : please , can we talk ?

I don't really like the way he's just blank with no emotions whatsoever

Monga : I need to go

I guess he really wants to leave

Monga : get rest as well

He places a kiss on my forehead
, I close my eyes . He lets go and
leaves

I sit down on the bed , I guess I
can't blame him . Surely he feels
played , and lied to

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INSERT 20

Monga

Nzuzo : what's going on ?

I look at him

Nzuzo : I am just asking

Me : with what ?

Nzuzo : you're being strange
right now , first it was the car
seat . A pink one for that matter

, and now here we are buying pink babies clothes . Like what's going on ? People are looking at us strange , they probably think we're a gay couple and we've adopted a pink wearing clothes person . If I'm gonna be gossiped about , at least tell me why

Me : it's winter , and I'm buying my baby clothes . I really don't

understand anything you're
saying right now

Nzuzo : your baby ? What baby
? Wait.....since when do you
have a baby ?

I chuckle

Nzuzo : wait.....you've accepted
your brothers child as yours ?
Like you're settling with the

Zulu girl , and ready to step ? Is this really you ?

As if I could ever , but I'm not crazy . I want nothing to do with Lina's child

Nzuzo : but isn't it early to be buying clothes already ? How do you even know it's a girl ?

Me : enough with the questions
, what am I supposed to answer
?

Nzuzo : or is the baby yours ?

Me : no it's not mine

Nzuzo : okay , you're still family
though so I understand

I chuckle

Me : I want nothing to do with those two , and their child .
These clothes are for my daughter

Nzuzo : your daughter....what daughter ?

He can spare me his judgement , because I'm still pissed by my own life drama

I might just take it out on him

Me : here finish paying those ,
I'll find you in the car

I hand him my card

Nzuzo : this is a lot of clothes

He's right , and I so hope they
fit her . It's a cold winter , one

can never have enough winter clothes

And that woman annoyed me last night with her comments

And I'm not buying the clothes because of what she said , I saw the baby had warm clothes

This is just me stepping up

I leave Nzuzo and walking to the shop alone , I don't need his interrogation

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Lina

I didn't sleep a wink , crying
hoping he'll come back

And just thinking he might be
with that PA girl , just hurts
more than anything

I don't even know how to describe what and how I'm feeling right now

It's a lot , and I just want Monga back home

I grab my phone and call him , but it only rings once and it drops

I try a few times , and it's the same thing .

Me : he blocked me

What does that mean ? Is he never coming back home ?

I don't even have anyone to help me right now

He kicked me out , and I'm surprised he didn't change the locks so I'm kept out

I know for a fact his parents are a no go area , and his brother is the last person to go to

This is a disaster

I never thought I'll ever find myself in a situation like this

I need to do something about this , since this baby is not saving my home

Nor securing me a marriage , it has to go . I'm not that far along

I'll just go and abort , and I'll beg my man to forgive me until he does

And well work things through ,
we just have to

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Tshegofatso

I didn't feel like coming to work
today

But I wasn't there yesterday ,
and today I couldn't just stay
away

I didn't ask for that leave , I just asked for a day of absence that's all

At least Lethabo feels so much better today , she was even playing when I left

So I knew it was okay to leave her , and come to work . If anything is wrong , I asked MaJoyce to call me

It would have been nice to stay
at home because I didn't want
to come to work , because I
didn't want to see Monga

He didn't call , he hasn't texted .
And I'm afraid , I'm afraid to call
or text him

I don't know what he's thinking
, and I don't know how he feels

I fear rejection , what Sean
dealt me left me the way that I
am

So if we're over , I know I'll take
a hard knock . Doesn't matter
that we haven't been together
for long

I love Monga , and I wanted this
relationship to work

And now it might be over
before it has even begun

I look not my best today , I
found myself tearing up here
and there

And I have crazy red and puffy
eyes , I just look ugly period .
Worse I'm even in skinny jeans ,
and sneakers

But it's fine , I'll be cooped in
the office all day long

Zara : hi

Me : good morning

She smiles

Zara : not a very good one for
you , you don't look good

I need to get away from her face , because I know she won't spare my feelings

Zara : listen , your boss is asking to see you

Me : but I'm going to the office

It doesn't make sense why he'll ask to see me , when he knows

when I arrive I always go to the office

Zara : not in the office

Me : what....where ?

Zara : rooftop

Is that supposed to be a place ,
or she literally means the
building rooftop

Me : like ...up there ?

She laughs

Zara : yes , he's already there
awaiting you

Me : uhm ...do you know why....

Zara : no , I don't know . Sorry
love , you know I'm scared of

the man . If it was someone else
I would have asked why

Asking to see me on a rooftop
it's just scary

Me : how do I get up there ?

Zara : elevator to your office ,
and then you'll take the stairs

Wow !

Like what's all this for ?

Me : okay

I leave her , and now I have a million thoughts going through my mind

I just hope he doesn't utter those it's over words to me , like I just can't . Not now please

I get to the rooftop , and he's
just near the edge

I don't feel this at all , this is just
some suicidal vibe . And it's
creepy

I stand just a few feet away
from him , he has his back
turned on me

I don't know if he's looking the distance down , or he's just admiring Pretoria

I just don't get this

I say nothing , until he turns and looks at me . I can't comprehend his look , but he looks okay . I think

Monga : come closer

He must be out of his mind

Me : I'm....scared of heights

I won't survive being that close
to the edge , and looking down

I won't even be able to avoid
looking down , eyes are just
very sneaky

Monga : I'm here

He must not

Now he's just playing with my
emotions

I close my eyes for a brief
moment , and I walk closer to
him

He has his hands inside his suit
pants pocket

I just hug him , on his lower
back laying my face on his chest

Me : I'm sorry

Monga : look at me

I slowly lift my head , I try
removing my hands but he
holds me

The stupid tears

Monga : why are you crying ?

What kind of a question is that
? And he has a blank expression
, so he probably doesn't even
care that I'm crying right now

Women are emotional beings ,
and we didn't fight with tears

Monga : are we fighting ?

Are we ?

I shake my head slowly

Monga : did I shout at you ?

I shake my head again

Monga : so why are you crying ?

Does he look at me and see
Lethabo ? I feel like I'm being
scolded right now

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INSERT 21

Tshegofatso

Me : baby I'm sorry

I hate this expressionless stare
of his right now

Because I feel shut out , I don't
know what he's thinking

Monga : do you know that I love
you ?

Me : I know

Monga : and therefore there shouldn't be any reason in particular whatsoever , that you shouldn't be honest with me . I am not hurt , I'm not angry . I just don't get why you didn't tell me the first time we agreed to have this relationship

Me : I know , I tried but just never got to it . Please believe me , I wanted to tell you . I just thought we needed a sit in , and

in a better place . I just didn't
want to catch you off guard ,
cause I didn't know how you'll
feel

He goes quiet for a minute , and
I don't know what his silence
means . But it's scary

Monga : listen to me , I don't
want to be bothered . And I
don't want to be disturbed , so

when you say he's not there he
must never be there

Is he talking about Sean ?

Me : he won't , he's married .
There's just nothing there

Monga : good

He reaches for his pockets , and
honestly I am scared

But I'm all calm , when I realise
it's just a small box

Monga : what is wrong with you
?

He asks with a chuckle

Me : baby this place is just scary

Monga : stop being dramatic ,
let's get married

Shut the front door !

Me : what ?

Monga : I know what I want ,
and this situation just made me
reflect on that . You're a mother
, and quite frankly you don't
need your time wasted .

Sweetheart you have priorities ,
and therefore you need stability
. I wanna build and grow with
you , trust me a boyfriend
doesn't cut it for you . And I'm
here , to be a father and a
husband . I don't want to waste
your time , because that was
never the aim even from the
beginning . I wanted something
solid , and I know this is it

Is this a whole proposal ?

Monga : I know you'll probably say it's too soon , but a mere week is enough for a man to know what he wants . And a man always knows his intentions about his woman , I've known mine from day one . I don't need months and years , to figure it all out

They've been saying , a man knows what he wants

Monga : keep this ring , I won't go down on one knee . Keep it , and you'll put it on when you're ready . I'll do my part then , and send my people with a letter to your family . The ring is yours , it'll be a reminder that you're taken

I smile , he holds the box out I remove my hands from his waist and take it

Me : can I ?

He nods , I open the box and
this is beautiful . Like this right
here it's beautiful

I'm like do I even deserve such ?

Me : you're serious ?

Monga : I never take time to
joke

I never saw this one coming , I
didn't anticipate it at all

I don't even know what to say ,
because he's right it's too soon

If I say yes , wouldn't I be
rushing things ? Marrying a man

I barely even know , aren't we jumping stages here ?

Me : see what not talking about each other has done , I don't want the same situation repeating itself . We barely know anything about each other , and now we're heading into marriage ?

Monga : I don't know about that , I'll learn along the way

Me : Monga....

Monga : it's baby to you

I laugh

Me : anything I should know ?

Because my thing was not
telling you about Lethabo ,
there's nothing else

Monga : nothing else is good

Let me divert from this , I'm
keeping the ring it's fine

Me : it would have been nice if I
introduced you two , under
better circumstances

He smiles

Monga : don't worry about us ,
how's the flu ?

Me : much better today

He nods , leaning down and he
takes my lips into his we kiss

I was expecting to be dumped ,
and I got a marriage proposal

It's a shock

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Monga

It's funny how she just keeps
looking at me , and when I look
back at her she turns like she
wasn't even looking at me

I guess she still thinks I'm insane
, oh but I am not

I'm in love with this woman ,
and I love her daughter . I mean

I think the baby loves me too ,
we'll definitely be father and
daughter goals . That one I can
feel it

I don't see why I should waste
time , being her boyfriend
instead of just being a husband

It's not like I don't know what I
want , I am not afraid of
marriage or commitment

I just wanted to do it with
someone I want , not just as
some save me transaction

I know my reaction to her last
night , must have seemed
somehow

But I wasn't angry , nor was I
suddenly turned off

She was just too emotional ,
and I could see she thought
somehow

And I lacked words to just
comfort her , I thought it best I
leave

And I reflected on that situation
, and at the end of it all

I knew I wasn't alone anymore ,
nor is it just me and my
girlfriend . But there's a child
involved

I want to do right , because I
also don't want her introduced
to every other guy

I'll be her father and that's that
, I'm ready to step up and take
the responsibility

That idiot better stay out of my way , and I'll have no issues with anyone

I slept knowing my intentions , and that's why I went to get the ring this morning

Tshego : we're done for the day

I chuckle

Me : no working late ?

She laughs getting up

Tshego : no

Me : okay , I'll drive you home .
I want to see my daughter

She stares at me

Me : you don't mind do you ?

She smiles

Tshego : you're sweet

Me : so ?

She laughs

Tshego : baby I don't mind , she knows you and I don't see why I

would restrict you from seeing
her

Me : thank you

I know I won't ever disappoint
her , not when it comes to the
child no

Tshego : I was going to say
thank you , but I think not . Your
daughter will thank you

Me : sweetheart

Tshego : ah leave me alone

I laugh

Me : you're cute when you're
jealous

I get up , packing my laptop and
taking my phone

Me : let's go

She takes her bag , and we walk
out together

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INSERT 22

Monga

My father is like a pest

I'm just glad he's here , and
Tshego went out

Otherwise this whole drop visit
of his , wouldn't end so well

Dad : where is she ?

Where does he get off asking
me about my woman ?

And that's why he's here , just
to start something with me

Dad : do you know what you
have done ?

Me : can you just stop

Dad : you were just selfish ,
right now your mother wants
nothing to do with me . Be glad
and proud that you ruined this
family , and my marriage

Me : what the hell ?

Dad : and any damage that
information will cause to my

company , once it gets out
there it'll be all because of you

He's just pathetic right now

Me : enough ! You're a grown
man , I shouldn't have to
protect you . So even the fact
that I was willing to marry Lina ,
you should be grateful . But I
guess you deserve whatever is
coming to you , because clearly
you won't be man enough to

take accountability for your
own actions . I didn't send you
to cheat , and I wasn't there
holding a candle watching

He holds his fist

Me : go ahead , hit me

He must not think that I'm
afraid of him

Me : if that will make you feel
somehow better , then go
ahead and hit me

He clicks his tongue , pointing
his finger at me

Dad : you're ungrateful

Me : mhm , like father like son

He slowly shakes his head

Dad : a woman who is capable of breaking another's woman's home , and you think you can have a future with someone like that ? Son you're an idiot , and I'm ashamed to even call you my son . You'll remember my words , when she ditches you for another . Always remember how you got them , is how you lose them . She'll go for the next better man , who belongs to

another woman . And you'll look back , regret everything you had done to destroy this family

Me : what family ? You're the one who destroyed your marriage , by cheating on your wife and making yourself some porn star at your age .

Dad : watch how you talk to me

Me : funny how you'll bash me ,
yet you fail to do the same for
the son who took after you . He
slept with the woman I was
supposed to marry , and gave
her a child . Oh but I'm sure you
applaud him , cause he's just
like you . Be glad , get them
married and leave me alone .
They deserve each other

Dad : the truth is.....

Me : get the hell out

He chuckles

Dad : remember how you turned your back against your own father , how you kicked me out when a day comes and you need me . Because trust me , there'll come a day you'll need

me . And I'll remind you of this
day

He grabs his car keys off my
desk , and turns walking
towards the door and he walks
out

I sit back down

I hate what I'm feeling right
now , some feels of hate and

resentment towards my very
own father

I don't crawl to no one , not
even him . If that was his
declaration of us being done
with each other , I could care
less

I grab my phone and call Tshego
, it rings for a bit and she
answers

Tshego : baby

Me : you on your way back ?

Tshego : no

Me : okay , take the half day .

Use that card , and spoil
yourself . You'll come back to
work tomorrow

Tshego : what ...what happened
?

Me : nothing happened

She goes quite

Me : spoil yourself , because
you deserve it . Get a massage ,
do shopping . Get your hair and
nails done , just do anything you
want to do

Tshego : baby ?

Me : sweetheart , I'm serious .
Nothing happened , I just want
you to spoil yourself okay . And
don't disappoint me please ,
use that money . Don't use
anything less than 50k

She laughs

Me : I love you so much , kiss
my daughter when you get
home for me . I'll video call later
on

Tshego : call or come when you
need to talk

Me : okay I will

Tshego : alright

Me : I love you

Tshego : I love you too

I drop the call , leaning back on
my chair

I'm not in my good feels right
now , and I don't want her to
see me like this

It's very clear my father won't be accepting her , and such things could have a negative impact on us

I've just found this relationship , the last thing I want is loosing it

So she's best off away from me right now , tomorrow I'll be in better senses and she can be near me again

I call Nzuzo

Nzuzo : yeah

Me : how's the sale of the house going ?

Nzuzo : there's three people going for viewing this week

Me : I want Lina out of my house

He laughs

Nzuzo : she'll be out before the end of the week , I can assure you

Me : okay

I drop the call

She can go find a place of her own go back to her parents , or even better she can go move in with her baby daddy

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Lina

Maatla calls day and night ,
Monga is nowhere to be found

I'm running out of time , and I
need a solution fast

I have decided in my heart , I'm aborting this baby

I just need to find Monga , and then we can talk

But first , I have to take care of business . And that's the whore PA he's busy with

Ain't no skank , that's gonna
come out of nowhere and take
my man

I won't fold my hands , and just
watch doing absolutely nothing

She has no idea who she's
messing with , but I'll teach her
a lesson she'll never forget

I head to Reception , and
there's a lady . I greet and she
greet me back

Me : I'm here to see Mr Theo's
PA

She pops her eyes , and seems
to be tongue tied

Me : did you hear me ?

Her : uhm....yes

Me : so ?

She clears her throat

Her : ma'am , for what
particular reason do you want
to see her ?

Me : what's it to you ?

She scoffs

I'm not even moved ,
receptionist and attitude same
WhatsApp group

Her : I am asking you this ,
because you have no
appointment with her

I laugh

Me : you have got to be kidding
me , an appointment to see a
PA ?

Her : not just any PA

Me : what ?

Her : you can't see her

Me : watch me

I turn abruptly

Her : don't cause drama here ,
I'll call security on you . And Ms
Mofokeng is not here , so
please make an appointment to
see her . Or best leave

Clicks of a heel make me dart
my eyes to the door , as this
flawless woman walks in

An hour glass shape , light
skinned . In a black formal slim
fit women suit

And those are red bottoms
shoes , I know a good taste
from afar

She has on make up on point ,
with a red matte lipstick

And her blonde weave is just
stunning

She walks towards the
reception , and I tell you she's
turning heads

The receptionist laughs , moving
behind the desk approaching
this woman

Her : look at you !

She exclaims

Woman : don't be silly , I can't
chat I'll see you during lunch

She works here ?

Like all day long oMonga get to
see such women ?

Makes me wonder how the PA
he's fucking looks like , and I'm
having some crazy looks self-
esteem right now

Her : right , but this ma'am here
is here for you . She doesn't
have an appointment , but she
insists on seeing you

What the hell ? Like no , it can't
be

What is she doing being a PA
looking this hot ?

She looks at me , and now I
have a good mind to slap her

Me : we need to talk and if you
know what's good for you ,
you'll come and avoid
embarrassment

The receptionist walks back behind the desk , and this woman is just staring at me

Me : okay fine , my name is Lina make sure that you don't ever forget it . I'm thee future Mrs Monga Theo

I flaunt my ring in her face , and she blinks

Me : stay the hell away from my man , I'm sure you have no problem whatsoever getting men . But that one is mine , so do me a favour . Have some respect , he's soon to be a father

I rub my flat tummy smiling , and she darts her eyes to my stomach

Me : we just found out we're expecting , do excuse yourself

I walk closer to her , and she hasn't moved an inch

Me : Surely this can't be love , and do bare in mind that beauty fades . He will move to the next hot thing , don't think you have him

I look at her from head to toe

Me : you have been warned

I pull my bag to my elbow
walking out

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INSERT 23

Tshegofatso

I don't even want to say I'm shocked , because right now I have no idea how I feel

That woman didn't look like she
was playing , she meant
business

And I heard her every word ,
like I heard her loud and clear

I don't know if I should be glad
that she didn't scream , or
shout at me

Like she didn't cause drama ,
nor create any stares

But Zara still heard , as close as
we are I don't think I want her
in my business

As a matter of fact , I don't . But
now she knows this

Damn men !

Like I didn't even know what to say

The same Monga who gave me a ring , the man who said the second I put on that ring he's sending a letter to my home

He's the very same man that's to be married , and is expecting a child ?

Like if he has a fiancé , and he's going to get married then where do I fit in ?

He's about to be a father , where does Lethabo fit in ?

Cause he seems to have it all , so where exactly is us in that life of his ?

Worse I asked him , I asked him
when I said all I had kept from
him was the Lethabo issue
nothing else

And he didn't think that at that
time , it was the time for him to
tell me about this

But gosh it doesn't make sense
! I don't see how any of this
could be true

Me : uhm...I should....

Zara : oh shit !

Doesn't she pretend like she was so busy all of a sudden , and as soon as he stands next to me

I understand why she's this terrified now

Monga : what's written there ?

He says standing right next to me , but he's talking to Zara

I attempt to walk away , but he grabs my arm

Zara : uhm....rights of admission reserved sir

Did she really just read out loud
what's written there for him ?

Monga : the next time that
woman comes here , and she so
as much enters this building .
You'll read that on your way out

Poor Zara , isn't he just being
too much right now ?

Zara : sorry sir , it won't happen again

Is it her job ? Like what about security ?

He says nothing , taking my hand into his and we leave

I don't even feel comfortable having him this close to me

Never mind his hand in mine ,
he's just causing us stares

And he doesn't even seem like
he cares or gives a damn

Now I'll definitely just be the
office talk

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-
-

Monga

We get in the office , she closes
the door and leans against it

I stand in front of her

And I'm so glad she went on
and used that card , every single
rand was so fucking worth it

Me : you're beautiful

She really went out on her
shopping spree yesterday , and
it was really worth it

But what I don't like seeing , is
the tears in her eyes

I lean forward , kissing her
forehead

Tshego : you're going to get
married ?

The pain in her voice

Me : to you yes

Tshego : baby , she said she's
your fiancé

Me : she was , and it wasn't
even love . I only engaged her
because her father was
threatening to expose my father
for his cheating shit , but it
meant nothing to me . I met
you , and I was done with her

Tshego : so you know her ?

Me : yes

Tshego : the baby ?

Me : what baby ?.

Tshego : the one she's
expecting

Me : it's not mine

She sighs , and attempts to push me away from her . But I don't even move an inch

Me : that's Maatla's child , she's been busy with him . If that baby was mine , she would have long been showing . But it's a new pregnancy , must be a miracle how my sperm got inside of her . I haven't slept with her in months

Tshego : you assure me ?

She cups my face , we stare into
each other's eyes

Me : yes , I assure you . We're
so done , with that nonsense .
And she can't take it , now
Maatla knows about us . He
must have been the one who
told her , but I don't give a

damn . My family know I won't be marrying her anymore , my father is not happy because he's being selfish of course . But I don't care , I know I should have told you this . I'm just crap okay , cause I was given a chance

Tshego : payback ?

I chuckle

Me : I'm not that petty

Tshego : did you tell him , your brother ?

Me : I didn't need to , and he's not blind either . He's just stupid

Tshego : that's your brother

Me : mhm , forgive me for not telling you all this . You wouldn't have been hurt by her words , and now I'll look somehow . I should have told you this when we were talking , addressing issues

Tshego : see what I meant ? We don't know each other to that extent , more like I feel like I know much less about you

I sigh

Me : okay , but like I said I'll learn along the way . Right now there's nothing else

She laughs

Tshego : using my words against me ?

Me : no , but are we okay ?

Tshego : I'm not a home wrecker am I ? I have been here before , I don't think I can take it again . Please tell me I didn't break whatever you two had

Me : sweetheart no , my mother knows why I was going to marry her . And I only agreed so I can spare my mother the hurt , but she knows now and she's okay with me not

marrying a woman I don't love .
You didn't break no home ,
don't say such things

She bites her lower lip

Me : turn those tears back

Tshego : what ?

She asks with a smile , I cup her
face back

Me : you're not going to shed any tears , because of another woman . And I be responsible for that , that'll mean I've failed you . So please

Tshego : baby !

She laughs

Me : I love you

I lean down giving her a kiss

At the back of my mind I'm worried , I don't know if this will delay her decision making about wearing her ring anytime soon or what

Lina fucked me over right now , and that shit is not good at all . But she'll get to understand

My phone rings , and I answer

Nzuzo : don't do anything that will jeopardize what you have right now , Lina is not worth it

I move a bit back from Tshego

Nzuzo : you're off the field at Force right now , you know how you can get . Don't do that shit ,

she fucked up sure . But let her
be , focus on fixing things with
your woman . You don't want
her knowing such things about
you this fast , worry about that .
Don't let that whore ruin this
for you

I sigh

Nzuzo : don't kill her Monga , I'll
have her out of your house
soon . Cut your ties

I look at Tshego

Nzuzo : are you listening ?

Me : mhm

He sighs

Nzuzo : if you want something
done , rather use me .

Me : why do you care ?

Nzuzo : I don't , we both know I don't . But I know how you get once you start eliminating people , it just never ends . And if you do this , I can bet my useless life your father and brother will follow

I shake my head

Nzuzo : just have your woman
forgive you , and work things
out . Leave Lina alone

I drop the call

Tshego : baby is everything okay
?

Me : yes , you've forgiven me
right ? We're okay , sweetheart
we have to be

She smiles , walking towards me
. She gives me a lower hug

Tshego : we're okay

I nod

Tshego : let's never be here
ever again

Me : okay

I don't know how I really
listened to Nzuzo and maybe I
didn't

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INSERT 24

A FEW DAYS LATER

Tshegofatso

I found out Lethabo was actually teething , hence the flu thing

All thanks to Monga , who just insisted to taking her to a paediatrician . When he came around and she looked somehow

She has what she needs now ,
and getting all better

Just going back to her happy
bubbly self , and I'm glad cause I
was getting worried no lies . But
now I'm okay

I haven't even had much time
to think about everything that
has happened

But for some reason , I believe that Monga would never lie to me . Like not like that

As much as he didn't tell me the truth , like from the beginning

I also didn't tell him my truth , so I really can't hold that against him much

Hence I believe that he was being honest , like he didn't lie

And I hope I am right about that , because here I am wearing his ring . In hopes that I don't regret doing this , and that I won't end up hating myself

He hasn't seen , and he doesn't know . He wasn't at work today

And I knew I would see him later , because he asked me to come see him

Said Thato will drop me at his house after work , I had to ask exactly what house first .

Because there's no way , I would go to a home or house he shared with that Lina woman

. But he told me she's never been here

More like no one besides his mother and Nzuzo have been to this house

I just had to ask since I wouldn't be comfortable going to a house he shared with her , he lives in Pretoria North

I knock , and he answers . I
open the door getting in , he's
sitting on the couch in just
sweatpants

This is a new sight for me ,
because I always see him in a
suit , but why doesn't he have a
t-shirt on ?

Me : hi

He darts his eyes my way

Monga : come closer
sweetheart

I walk in closer to where he's
sitting

Monga : is that....

The smile he gives me

It has me giggling like a high school teenager , he's looking at the ring on my finger

Like he just had to notice that as I was in , he was just too fast at that

It's like he was aiming on looking for it , if it's there or not

I nod

Monga : thank you

He says still with a smile

Monga : now it's official , I'm going to marry you . They should expect a letter soon in Free State , I'm claiming you as my wife . And I don't want to wait

I hope I'm not making a mistake here , ruining someone's marriage . I am choosing to trust the man who assured me and gave me his word

Monga : take your clothes off , we need to talk

I'm like what ?

Me : what ?

He gets up

Monga : take your clothes off

Me : why....why ?

Monga : we need to talk

Me : with my clothes off ?

Monga : yes

He walks into the kitchen , this is an open plan . So I can see him clearly to where he's going

And I'm thinking he's kidding , he comes back with a bottle of water

Monga : sweetheart now

He sits back down on the couch

Monga : you know that child is mine right ?

He takes a sip of his water

Monga : even if you divorce me in future , she'll always be mine . And I'll forever be in her life , you can't restrict me . And you won't keep my baby away from

me , she's mine . And
sweetheart , once we get
married you should allow me to
adopt her legally . So she can
take my surname

I think I've gotten to know , he
is always serious about what he
spits out

Me : okay

I don't know what to say , like I
have nothing else to utter

Monga : now your clothes off , I
won't say again . This is the
third time now

I guess he's not kidding either , I
place my handbag on the table

I take my shoes off first , my
blouse follows and the pants

He's just gawking at me , with
lustful eyes

I unclip my bra slowly , and it
drops down to the floor

Slowly I bent , pulling my panty
down . And I'm left buck naked
in front of him

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Monga

Me : come here

She straddles me , I lean back a bit

These boobs don't even look like they're breastfeeding , not even a bit

I lean in for a kiss , she returns back . I slide my finger rubbing on her coochie

My thumb rubs on her clit , a bit harder . And the way she just responds , her wetness welcomes my finger inside of her

I slide in two fingers inside of her , finger fucking her . She deepens the kiss , letting out moans inside my mouth

I let out a few deep groans , my
dick is reacting and twitching
like crazy

She starts moving her waist ,
riding my fingers . She pulls out
of the kiss as her moans
increase

She throws her head back , I
just abruptly pull out my fingers

Tshego : baby no !

She whines looking at me

Me : I love you

Tshego : no...no...no...no don't
do that , like seriously !

Me : what ?

Tshego : you're really denying me pleasure ? What did I do ?

My poor baby

Me : you lie a lot , and that's not a good thing

Tshego : what ?

Me : stop with the lies

Tshego : but....I didn't lie , I said
I was going to tell you and I was

Me : I'm not talking about that ,
I'm talking about you and lies

Tshego : what lies ?

She frowns

Me : the CV , interview . Stop
lying

She smiles , and it's so cute

Me : lying is not as cute as you
are

She laughs

Tshego : Point taken , I'll stop
okay . Please don't torture me ,
not like this . You can't do this ,

it's just worse than my mere
once off lies

Once off !

Me : what do you want ?

Tshego : finish off what you
started

She lifts her ass up a bit , and
pulls down my sweatpants . My

dick spring's up , resting on her
lower stomach

Me : oh , so that's what you
want ?

Tshego : you already denied me
your fingers , you can't deny me
this too

I chuckle

Me : you're so cute

She takes it with her one hand ,
and strokes using the Pre cum

I reach for a condom , in my
sweatpants pockets

Me : we have to use this , our
princess is still too young to be
a big sister

Tshego : okay fine

She takes the condom from me
, she tears it I'm left stunned

I've just been invited right now ,
that fuck me however you see
fit

She rolls it down my dick , and
slowly rub on herself . Before

she slides the whole thing inside
of her

She lets out a scream of a moan
, I deep groan as her warmth
welcomes me

She leans forward holding me
tight , as she bounces her ass

Going up and down my dick ,
she's riding the shit out of me

And I'm not even doing shit ,
the room is filled with her
moans my groans and the
sounds of our bodies drenching
in sweat

She bites on my neck as she
cums , and I flip her still in her
pleasure

I lift her one leg to my shoulder
, she's spread like open wide

I slide my dick in slowly , with a
few slow deep thrusts . And I
pound in her , her moans turns
into screams of pleasure

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INSERT 25

Monga

She's dead worn out , I pull the
fleece up covering her

She's laying down on the lounge
floor

That's where we just ended up

Me : don't fall asleep

Tshego : baby just a few
minutes

It's mumbles of whisper

Tshego : were you punishing me
for something ?

I chuckle

Me : look at me

It takes a few seconds , before
she opens her eyes slowly
looking at me

Me : spend the night

It doesn't look like she'll get off
on this floor anytime soon

Tshego : what ?

Me : I'll go fetch the princess ,
and you both spend the night

I'm not an idiot , and I know she
can't spend a night with the
baby there with that rude
woman

Me : please say yes

Tshego : you'll go get her on your own ?

Me : mhm , she knows me it won't be a problem

Tshego : okay

Me : what should we bring back for supper ?

Tshego : don't you have anything ? I'll cook for us

Me : I don't know what's in there , you can check . If there's anything you need , just call we'll bring it

Tshego : okay , I need to sleep . Just 15 minutes

Me : go shower when you get
up there , it'll wake you up

She laughs

Tshego : baby , you'll have to
bring her clothes and that thing
she chews on for the baby teeth

I chuckle

Tshego : don't forget the bottles

...

Me : and diapers

Tshego : yes and that , honestly
I don't know how you're going
to remember everything

Me : I'm a father now , let me
figure it out

Tshego : okay

She pulls the fleece over

Me : sweetheart give me a kiss

Tshego : baby come down

Women !

I lean down and peek through
giving her a kiss

Me : do get up please , we can't find you still here

Tshego : 15 minutes

I hope that 15 minutes doesn't turn into an hour

I head upstairs for a shower , so I can leave

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Tshegofatso

I wasn't expecting our first time
to be that wild and draining ,
but I want nothing right now .
That shower didn't help

And expectations were just
exceeding , and the man is a
beast

He serviced me thoroughly , I
felt like even all the months I

spent without sex he made up
for

I had to drag myself off the floor
, and shower

It's crazy how I told him to bring
Lethabo's things , but not mine

So here I am wearing his clothes
, he will just have to forgive me

I hear the door opening , I'm in
the kitchen cooking

He walks in with her

Monga : we're back

Me : is she sleeping ?

Monga : she was , but she's
awake now

He walks closer , and she turns her face looking at me

Monga : I thought you'll text , what are you making ?

Me : stir fry

Monga : okay , I got her things I hope that's everything . If not , I'll head to the mall in the morning

He doesn't mind spending on her , he's already proven that .
With a bunch of clothes , it's like she has an outfit for everyday

Me : okay

Monga : give me a kiss

I smile leaning over , and we
kiss just keeping it short and
brief

She just lifts her head , heading
for a kiss with her mouth wide
opened

Me : what....

I laugh

Lethabo : aa (no)

For what ?

She's even shaking her head ,
Monga laughs

Me : ausi weh , ke monna wame
ona . So please , you don't have
to give him a kiss when he
kisses me (sister , this is my
man)

Lethabo : aa (no)

When they start learning to talk proper words , don't they say mommy first ? Like what's this child doing to me ?

Me : I shall not be reprimanded by you

She lays her head back on his
neck

Me : it's like she's showing off
now

Monga : women are natural
lovers

Me : and it'll be like , I didn't
hear you

He sits down , I turn back to my
pots

Me : did MaJoyce say
something ?

Monga : the woman always has
something to say , and I don't
like her

I laugh

Monga : can you imagine the things she must whisper to my princess ?

Me : what does she know ?

Monga : ah babies can hear

Me : you're exaggerating

Monga : I still don't like her

Me : I know , but she's been there for us . She's really come through for us , some times it was hard like crazy hard . But she let us stay without rent , and she used to watch Lethabo for free . Asking nothing in return

Monga : I still don't like her

Yhoh !

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Lina

I have been so uncomfortable
living in this house

I could be crazy , but I feel like
someone is watching me . And
that I'm being followed

Of course I haven't seen
anything , it's just a feeling I get

from time to time . And it's
making me unsettled

I am scared now

Maatla once said something
about Monga , that if he knew
we were sleeping together I
wouldn't be calling him I would
be dead

I went there and confronted
that woman , I don't even know
where Monga was at .

Maybe he saw me , or she told
him what happened . Like she
wouldn't keep quite surely

Maybe I should leave here , and
just find some place to stay at .
Until I can get a hold of him ,
because now he's unreachable

Maatla walks in , I just came
back from eating out

Since I'm all alone , I just didn't
feel like cooking

So he just caught me , before I
even attempted to close the
door

I guess he must have been watching , or stalking if you want to say

Me : please leave

I have been avoiding him , I seriously want nothing to do with this guy

I thought Monga would be back by now , but there's nothing

After confronting that woman , I thought she'll break up with him and he'll come back

Right now I don't know what's happening , and the way I'm feeling like I'm being watched and followed is not making things any better or easier

Will he even ever come back ?

Maatla : why do you insist on hurting yourself like this ?

Me : leave , this is just trespassing . Please stop bothering me , before I have you reported

Maatla : fine ! I'll leave , just know that I love you . And I'll always love you , as I've always

loved you . When you're over
this obsession you have about
Monga , you know where to
find me .

He's wasting his time and
breath , I hold the door open for
him . He must just leave ,
because I don't see anything
between us . It was nice while it
lasted

Maatla : oh , about my child
you'll follow

He walks out , and I'm just left
wondering if he's serious . Or
just trying to scare me

Could it be that he's the one
maybe watching me ? I can't
put anything beside him

Now I am really scared

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INSERT 26

Tshegofatso

Some people can sleep , they
don't even have shame

Even when they're doing sleep
overs , they still sleep like
owners

And Monga seems to be asleep
so peacefully , I don't even
understand how

With this tiny foot on his neck ,
like it must be very much
uncomfortable

I'm used to how Lethabo sleeps
, and she even turns herself

So it can be a struggle to get her
to sleep right

But this man has surely never
shared a bed with a child , and
the first one he shares with
sleeps like this

Me : baby

I hate waking him up , but I
need to move this foot

Me : Monga

Monga : mhm

Me : can you turn a bit , I want to remove her foot from your neck

He chuckles , and he doesn't sound like he's been asleep

Monga : mo togele (leave her)

Me : this can't be comfortable
for you

Monga : I tried removing it
three times , and she put it back
three times

That's accompanied by a slight
laugh

Monga : you don't want to
wake her up sweetheart

Me : of course I don't

Monga : I know , lean over give
me a kiss

I lean over , making sure not to
wake someone from her sleep

I brush my lips over his before
we kiss , and he welcomes me
his one hand trailing to my back

I pull out slowly , he smiles
slowly opening his eyes

And damn ! Even awaking from
sleep , he's still so handsome

Monga : you slept well ?

Me : I did

Monga : I'm glad

I peck his lips , he pulls for a deeper kiss

But that kick , on my cheek . I wasn't ready for it , I didn't even see it coming

Me : ouch !

I move off him , and looking at her . She's just so cute , looking all innocent

But still kicking that foot

Me : what was that for ?

She's just staring at me

Me : that wasn't nice !

I say shaking my head , so she
can see I disapprove of what
she did

Lethabo : aa (no)

That's what she knows best

Me : you're being violent for no
reason , he was my man before
he was your father

Monga : hey !

Me : what ? Don't defend her ,
she's being mean

He chuckles

Monga : she wasn't kicking you ,
I mean she's still kicking even
now . Surely it wasn't aimed for
you , look I'm sure she wanted
us to see she's awake

Me : babies cry , they cry when they want attention . They don't just do karate on people cheeks

He laughs

Me : baby it's not funny

Monga : I love you

Me : move over

He comes close , and I slide
over him going behind his back

I hug him from behind , and the
jealous out of nowhere person
crawls on top of him

Me : wow !

This is just jealousy

Me : why is she so jealous and attached to you , it's kind of creepy . Because you just met each other a while back

He chuckles

Lethabo is just being strange and I don't get it

Or maybe she's found of him ,
cause she's never been around
men

Yeah maybe that's it , I could be
overthinking this whole thing
for no reason

Me : at least I'm still loved

Monga : always and forever

I smile kissing his shoulder
blades

Monga : and I love her

Me : don't ruin my morning
please , we're already there

And he laughs , I guess the joke
is on me

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Lina

I'm up early , because I had
plans to go see a doctor

I don't care , Maatla is not the
one carrying this baby

It's my body and my choice ,
and he has no right to tell me
what to do

I'm very much determined

I bought another SIM card ,
since Monga blocked me and I
need to talk to him

I had to make other means ,
because he doesn't seem like
he'll be back home soon

I want to go see the doctor
about termination , I have no
intentions of keeping a baby I

don't want . It's of no use to me
, if I don't have Monga

I don't want this baby , it's not
Monga's child so what will I do
with it ?

And what good is it to me ?
Especially if I lose the man and
the marriage altogether

It'll just be a burden to me

I dial his number , and it rings
without an answer . I call again ,
still the same thing

Me : come on !

I won't give up so easily , I call
again and it rings like for a while
and just as I'm about to drop
again he answers

Monga : ere ke arabe ke tlo nea
(let me answer I'll give you
back)

I wonder who he's talking to

Monga : hello ?

Me : I'm going to terminate , I
don't want this baby . We can
talk , and fix things . I did you
wrong I know , but you also did

me wrong with your PA . And
babe I forgive you , please come
and let's....

It's the sound of a baby crying in
the background , that brings me
to a halt

Like what the hell ?

I hear him laughing , and the
baby makes a sound

I'm like who's baby is that ?
Could it be the person he was
talking to ?

Like does he maybe have a baby
that I don't know about ?

Me : Monga !

Monga : tsaa , o tise phone
yame gee o fetsa ka yone (take ,

bring my phone back when
you're done)

Me : Monga !

I hear the baby laughing

Did he just give the baby the
phone while I'm talking to him ?

Is he being for real ?

I call again , but the door bell gets me up . I put the phone on the table

I open the door , and it's Nzuzo he's with some white woman and a man

Me : what do you want ?

I don't like him , he doesn't like me too . He's just some skivvy

to Monga , but he's so
important more than everyone
else in Monga's life

And I just don't get that

He has some crazy chip on the
shoulder

Nzuzo : this is Mr Tau , here's
here to see the house

Me : see the house ?

Nzuzo : yeah , well more like
he's brought the house . This is
Mrs Roberts , the estate agent .
The man wants to check the
house , before he signs on the
dotted line

I laugh , like I really laugh

Nzuzo : you're wasting our time

Me : don't annoy me , please all of you get off my property

Nzuzo : do you own the deed ?

Me : Nzuzo don't start with me , does Monga know about this ?

Nzuzo : he's the one who wants you out of his house , after you bothered his woman . He's lost

his patience with you , don't
make this hard

Me : well , I am not going
anywhere . This is my house , if
Monga wants me out , he'll
come here and drag me out
himself

He chuckles

Me : you all can leave

Mr Tau : I think I will just sign ,
my good man you'll let me
know when you've dealt with
the situation

What nonsense

Me : what part

Nzuzo : she'll be out by noon ,
you can come and move in then

Me : we will see about that

I try to close the door , but he
just pushes me aside

Nzuzo : take your tour sir

And this man with the woman ,
they just pass going around

Me : I am calling the cops

He laughs

Nzuzo : call them

He's busy fiddling with his
phone

Me : I want to talk to Monga ,
let him be a man enough and
tell me to leave

Nzuzo : fine

He calls and within seconds the
call is answered , see what I
meant ? He's so important
Monga just can't ignore

Monga : tell me that whore left

Me : the whore is me Monga ?

I scream

Monga : don't annoy me , take the last shred of shit you have and leave . I'll have you dragged out of there , that's not your house . Nzuzo don't bother me again , unless you're telling me you've dragged her out . And today , like now

Me : baby

The call is cut , and tears just do
the most

Me : please don't do this

Nzuzo : this is what happens to
loose women , who are not
even independent . Just go to
your baby daddy

Mxm ! That idiot is the last
person I'll ever go do

The man and woman come
back

Mr Tau : I love this house , I've
already signed . I don't see why
I should waste time

My god !

Mrs Roberts : we will process
this right away

Nzuzo : great

They shake hands , and I'm just
the idiot crying in front of these
people

They walk out except Nzuzo

Nzuzo : leave , or I'll literally
drag you out myself

Me : Nzuzo please

I beg him

Nzuzo : I hate weak women ,
now you're just pissing me off

Doesn't he just drag me with
my arm , I scream trying to fight
him off . But he's more
powerful than me , all the way
to the gate

He doesn't even care , at some point I even fall down and he just drags me

I've never felt so much pain , and I'm crying like this is the worst thing ever

We get outside the gate

Me : please.....let me get my things at least , Nzuzo please I beg you

Nzuzo : what things ? Nc , this is what's annoying about dependant women . They become too clingy , when they lose the gold ticket .

Just like that he walks back , locking the gate .

This is the suburbs , no one cares about anyone . I drag myself up , and try to open

But the code refuses

Me : what ?

I try again , and it just blocks

How can Monga be this cruel ?

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INSERT 27

Monga

They were supposed to leave
yesterday , but I begged them
to sleep the night again

And Tshego just agreed , I
thought she'll refuse

They'll leave tomorrow morning
, when we leave for work we'll

drop the princess at their place
then

I enjoyed and loved having
Lethabo around

I don't know , but the presence
of having her here is just
something else

And I can just be myself ,
without any walls .

I want them out of that place ,
maybe they can move in with
me . Or I can get them a house

I don't know what Tshego will
prefer best

But I want my people with me ,
this living apart thing is just not
working for me

And Nzuzo managed to have
Lina out of my house

That this morning , Mr Tau
moved in . And well , I could
give shit about Lina

Nzuzo only took my things that I
need and are important to me ,
as well as my clothes

As for her things , I don't even care to know what he did with them

But knowing that man , like anything is possible . And it was just clothes , maybe he burnt them I don't know

I get off the car , I asked to take her out . And Tshego didn't want to leave the house

But she let us be , I don't even know what an 8 months old does out

Me : o nwa milkshake ? (Do you drink)

She smiles , I don't even think she heard me . She might even say no , and I don't think she knows what she's saying

But she sure loves saying no ,
like I don't know how many
times she says it a day

We go to this cute little
restaurant , and I think she'll
just love it

Me : nka se new beer o le teng
neh ? (I can't drink beer with
you around right)

I sit down , with her on my lap

Lethabo : aa (no)

I chuckle

Sometimes these no's they are
just in sync with whatever
you're saying to her

Sometimes it's with what's happening , if you think she knows how to talk and she understands

You'll really think she's giving a genuine response

She's just a cute little being , and I didn't know I'm this much fond of babies

Maybe it's not babies , but just her

Me : mhm , ke itha byalo (I thought as much)

I order two milkshakes , and orange juice with some vanilla cake and waffles

Honestly , I don't know what kids eat . And honestly , I don't know what I was doing

I take my phone out , and she does what she does best wanting to grab it

Me : ke tlo go rekela phone (I'm going to buy you a)

We can't be fighting for my phone like this , and when I refuse she literally gets upsets

She doesn't even do anything with it , it goes in her mouth . So she's better off having her own phone

I dial Nzuzo , on the second ring he answers and I put him on loud speaker

Nzuzo : yeah

Me : what do kids eat ?

He laughs , and she pops her
eyes tapping on the phone

I guess she can hear someone is
talking in there

Nzuzo : what kind of a question is that ?

Me : you have kids , and surely you do take them out

Nzuzo : yeah sure I do

Me : then what do they eat ?

Nzuzo : what any kid would eat , sugary things

Me : is milkshake and things
such as cake suitable for an 8
months old ?

He laughs , just annoying me

Nzuzo : who's baby is that ?

Me : mine you idiot

Nzuzo : just feed her small portions , make sure she doesn't choke . You don't take an infant out , it just doesn't even make sense . That person can't eat anything , they suck on things . How do you make a baby , when you don't know how to be a father ?

Me : shut up

I drop the call , and she looks around . I guess she's looking for the voice , and it's nowhere

Me : milkshake o bothito , I don't think you should drink that (it's cold)

The waitress comes , and places the order on the table

Someone is just too hyper
wanting to get on top of the
table

Me : ema nyana (wait first)

Is there a reason for the tiny
hands to bang the table ?

I bring the cake and waffles
closer , and she just grabs on
the cake like a big huge chunk

She looks at me and laughs ,
before taking it to her mouth

Yeah the mess

Me : I'm dead !

Like Tshego is going to kill me ,
this even goes to her chubby
cheeks . And I'm really dead ,
babies don't eat

But she goes again for a second bite , and again she just grabs with her hand

Me : you don't love me enough for me to live

She smiles , and I don't see what's funny , we better find mommy in a good mood or else it's something else

She's making a mess on us both
, and I'll be in trouble

I don't even think she's
supposed to be eating this , but
she looks like she's enjoying
herself

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Tshegofatso

It took like two hours , two
hours to get Lethabo to sleep

And to think we have to be up early , because we have work

Me : do I want to know , what was she doing eating cake ?

He just stares at me

Me : I am not talking alone

Monga : of course not

Me : so ?

Again the silence

She had energy for days , and
didn't want to sleep

She got here , and was wearing
new clothes not the ones she
left with

And because they didn't throw them out , I am not blind . The t-shirt was just a mess of vanilla cake

And so was Monga as well , but he thought it best to change her , by buying new clothes

Money makes people go crazy , because an 8 months old baby now has a tablet and a Galaxy S21 Ultra

Just imagine , that's even better
than my own phone

Like what the hell ?

Monga : I'm sorry

Me : I swear if she wakes up ,
you're staying with her . Cause I
need my sleep , we have work
in the morning

Monga : okay , I will watch her
and I won't even bother you

Shame

Me : baby what were you doing
taking a baby out ?

He chuckles , I know he was
being sweet . But he has no idea
what he was doing

Monga : I don't know , but you could have told me it's not done

I laugh

Me : me ? So you can think I'm being jealous , because I didn't want to go out . No

Monga : yeah , I've learnt

Me : next time , just go to the park or something

Monga : noted !

He leans over giving me a kiss

I swear I feel so blessed , to have a man who loves my baby this much

And have my baby love him
back

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Lina

It's Monday morning , I had made sure that I rescheduled my appointment

And I still managed to get the first early appointment even today

I don't want to waste more time

The longer I wait , the more I'll
just run out of time

I tried calling Monga again , and
I'm blocked

But I'm not giving up

Even after that embarrassment
he put me through , throwing
me out of the house that

I had to spend the night at a
hotel room , of which I paid
with the cash I had on me

But I have nothing right now ,
and that means I can't even go
back to sleep there

I won't go to the Theo's ,
Maatla is the last person I'll
even go to

I will just carry my shame , and
go back home . I don't even
know what lie I'll tell them

Especially looking like this , I
have bruises and scratches all
over my legs and arms . All
thanks to that idiot

I walk inside , and sit down . As
I'm told the doctor will be in
soon

Voice : you're going to such
extremes and lengths , to fight
for a man that's not yours

The woman again !

It's her , the woman from the
grocery store with the cape

And this time around , she's
sitting right next to me

I am not crazy , the voice is still
the same . I remember it well

Her : you're spilling innocent
blood , to fight a battle you'll
never win

Me : whoare you ?

Her : just let go , you don't poke a man that knows no love like that . Or you'll cry for your own blood , and there'll be no redemption . When a man like that takes a life , there's no forgiveness expected after . He does what he does , and he has peace with it . He will go on with life , like you never even existed .

Me : what the hell are you talking about ?

She's just annoying me right now , like what's with the talking that makes no sense at all

Did she make sense to herself ?
Because I didn't understand shit

She gets up

Me : wait....who the hell are you
? And what are you talking
about ?

Her : a man that knows no love
has no mercy , a frozen heart
feels nothing except coldness

And she walks away , leaving
me feeling like I am crazy . Like
what the hell was that ?

Voice : the doctor is ready for
you

It's the receptionist , I get up .
And I have so many thoughts ,
right now I don't know what to
do

The woman's words left me
rattled , and I didn't even

understand what she was
saying

The last time she said , he will
know the baby is not his

Was she perhaps talking about
Monga ?

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INSERT 28

Tshegofatso

I called Katlego over , and I'm surprised that she came

I mean , she's never here . And I swear , it's like this girl hates her home

Katlego : I know you didn't call me for nothing

Me : well , there's something I need to tell you

And while at that , I still need to talk to my mother .

And I don't even know how I'm going to tell her this

Because Monga told me , he's going to talk to his uncle's soon

And I know now , that man doesn't joke around . When he says something he does it

Me : so I met this guy

She laughs , not too loud .

Cause Lethabo is asleep

Me : really ?

Katlego : please tell me he's not
white

I laugh

Me : don't be an idiot

Katlego : you already got on that bus , and it didn't work out for you . So please

Me : enough ! Just listen please

Katlego : okay , I'm all ears

Me : the guy is actually my boss

Katlego : you're doing some office romance now ?

Me : don't judge

She laughs

Katlego : I sell pussy for a living , the fuck am I to judge ?

Me : anyways , you know I haven't been working there for long right ?

Katlego : it's been what ? Close to two months now

Me : yeah , and we've been dating for those few weeks

Katlego : how did that happen ?

Me : doesn't matter , it happened . And so he found out about Lethabo , before I could even tell him

Katlego : does he have a problem with her ?

Me : the opposite actually , the two get along so fine . And as I was expecting him to dump me after finding out about her , he actually proposed

She gasps

Katlego : marriage ?

I nod

Katlego : you lie !

I finally open my hand , and let her see the ring on . Now that I pay attention , it suits me

Katlego : lord Jesus !

Like no lies , her expression just finishes me off

Katlego : wait....I love this ,
you're even already wearing the
ring

I sigh

Me : talk about jumping stages ,
isn't it too soon for marriage ?

Katlego : men know what they
want , trust me . They never
make mistakes , not where
women are concerned . So this
guy is not playing , and he's not
taking you for a ride . And he
doesn't see the need to wait for
months

Never expected such words from her , I mean this is my crazy friend

Katlego : are you unsure ?

Me : I love him , I love the relationship he has with Lethabo . He makes me feel content , and it's scary . It's the fact that I'm just scared , such things don't happen for me.

Katlego : you're not unsure ,
you're just hung up on that
"jumping stages" thing of yours
. And I blame that white idiot ,
he did this to you . But don't let
a wrong man , ruin a good thing
for a good man and a man
who's deserving

I laugh

Me : it's not a lie

Katlego : and his love is not a lie too , if you want to wait then wait . But I can assure you , it won't change anything . He will wait for that two years even , and he'll still want to marry you . It'll just be like you wasted two years , instead of just doing it in three weeks . And just having your happily ever after

Me : he told me to keep the ring
and wear it when I'm ready ,
and he'll be sending a letter
home . So he said his people will
soon go home

Katlego : I rest my case

She claps once

Katlego : at least this light shone
upon one of us , I'm happy for

you . And you know me , I'm all for you . So whatever you decide , I support you . But do me a favour , don't deny this man a chance to love you . Let him do this , move with his pace and trust your heart . Your mind is just stuck on things that don't matter , and things that are just not important

I wonder if my mother will take the news as such

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Lina

That woman's words have
gotten to me

And I just can't seem to shake
them off , or to just forget
about them

I don't even know her , even if I
were to try and find her

Just so she can explain what she meant , I wouldn't even know where to try looking for her

Hence I went ahead with the abortion , but I feel like shit right now

I just can't face anyone , and I'm scared . I don't want to lie , I am really scared

Maatla somehow threatened me , and if he hears about this who knows what he'll do ?

What if he hurts me ?

I've thought of going home , maybe being with my family is what I need right now

As much as I wasn't for the idea when I first thought about it

The Theo family are not my family , and they only care about their own

I mean they've done nothing about this whole situation

Monga is busy out there , and no one was doing anything to get him to come back home

It's like they don't even care

And what about me and Maatla
?

I guess they're just saying we
fucked up , so we can deal with
our own shit

And right now , I think I've
bitten more than I can chew

This is beyond me , and I'm in
way over my head

I need a break

I need a plan , just another way
to get my head right

Maybe figure out another way ,
just to pick myself up

I thought Monga would long be back , that maybe that PA girl will leave him

But right now I don't even know what's what

Could she still be with him ?
Even after everything , like all that I've told her ?

Maybe she doesn't care , just as long she has the man

It doesn't matter that she broke a family , I mean some women are just like that

They don't give shit about causing another woman pain , they'll get in take your place and just be happy with themselves

Or maybe he just spun her
some lies , and naïve woman
believed him

I'm fighting alone , and I need a
better plan than what I've been
doing

My phone rings and it's Maatla ,
I've been ignoring him

A part of me even wanted to block him , but I knew that would just drive him insane

Me : what do.....

Maatla : can you just let me in ?

I don't want him anywhere near me

Maatla : I'm at the gate

Me : please leave

I guess he doesn't know that I'm not there , nor that I've been kicked out

So Monga didn't tell them what he did with his fucking damn goon

Maatla : babe , don't do this to us please

Me : Maatla , get it through your head that we're so done

Maatla : you don't mean that , we have a child coming . We can work this out , I know that we can . Please , give me a chance . Give us a chance , don't give up so quickly

He's really begging

This could work for me , I need
money right now . And he
knows nothing

I can just use him and get away

Me : I'm not at home

He sighs

Me : I'm actually stuck

Maatla : stuck where ?

I sniff

Maatla : babe talk to me

Me : can you please send me
some money , and when I get

home you can come over and
we'll talk

Maatla : what do you need
money for ? Where are you ?

Me : at a grocery store , Monga
blocked my cards . I have a
trolley full of food , that I can't
even pay for . And people are
staring at me

I sniff again

Maatla : okay , how much do you need ?

Me : any amount that you can send , even if I don't pay for the whole trolley

Maatla : no let me send you enough

Me : thank you so much

Maatla : calm down , and don't cry . Call me when you walk out , just so I know you're okay

A notification comes through , I look at it and he's sent R6 500

Me : this is a lot

He laughs

Maatla : buy some craving food
with some

Me : okay uhm...let me pay
quickly

Maatla : okay

He drops the call , I roll my eyes
. At least he was good for
something

And being in a public place helped , because there is noise

I switch off my phone , and take my sim card . I break it

It's some luck I was thrown out with my one bank card , and my phone

I need to buy some clothes ,
and make up to cover up the
bruises

I know my mother will be a bit
understanding , the problem is
my father

What will I tell him ? Because if I
tell him the truth , I have a
feeling things won't turn out
very well

And that's not what I want

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INSERT 29

Tshegofatso

I've been delaying to tell my
mother , and every time we talk
I just bite my tongue

I am scared , because I don't know how she'll react to all this

It wasn't long , I brought her a baby with a married man who wanted nothing to do with the child he had made

And now I'm bringing another man , who wants to marry me after a few weeks relationship

Honestly , I don't think this will go down well with her

Monga : she's asleep

He brings me out of my thoughts , as he sits down next to me

We're at his house , after work he asked to see Lethabo

Who was just clingy to see him ,
and had issues departing

And he just suggested we come
over to his place

Because there was no way , that
he would sleep over there

Monga : what's on your mind ?

Me : a lot

Monga : lift up

I sit up straight , and he gets in
behind me . Bringing my head
down to his lap

We lock eyes

Monga : talk to me

Me : the proposal

Monga : yeah

Me : are you sure baby ? Like
that's what you want ? No
doubts and certainly no second
thoughts lingering around ?

He smiles

Monga : none

Me : I don't know what to tell my mother , I'm just scared . I don't know how to tell her

Monga : why don't you let me do that for you

Me : what ...how ?

Monga : I told you , I'll be talking to my people in a few days and they'll be sending the

letter to your family . And your mother doesn't need to know you got a ring before she got the letter

I chuckle

Monga : hey ! I'm trying to help you here

Me : so I'll just be all surprised ?

Monga : something like that yes

He caresses my cheek with his thumb

Me : you know that woman is my everything , I need her to agree and approve . Because if she disapproves , I won't be able to be happy . She went through hardships raising me and my brother , and even now she still is . At her age of 58

she's working as a maid , she's a mother and a father . I've disappointed her once , I don't want to do that again . Not that I'm saying marrying you would be a disappointment , I'm fearful of what she'll say

Monga : because you think it's too soon ? Considering how young Lethabo also is ?

He totally gets this

Me : yeah

Monga : remember I'm not here to play , and I'm not some small boy . I know what I want , and I'm a man with intentions at this moment . See that child will do just fine , with or without a father . I'm just willing to step up and be a father , not because of I'm trying to win you . But because you two come as a

package , and I'll do right by you both . Lethabo will be paid damages and magadi for , and thereafter she'll be a Theo . I don't do half things , I'm all in . And if your mother knows how things are done , then she'll see my true intentions and she'll judge me herself . Don't think ahead of her , let her decide

Me : baby wait....

I sit up and face him

Monga : what ?

Me : you'll pay damages , and
marry a child that's not your
blood ?

He chuckles

Monga : it doesn't take a sperm
to be a father

Now where have I heard that before ? Or maybe was it something similar to that

Me : you're really serious ?

Monga : maybe you shouldn't worry about your mother , and you should start worrying about yourself sweetheart . Because

it's like you don't believe nor
trust any of this

Whoa !

Me : I.....

Maybe he's right , and that's
why I don't have a come back

Monga : don't marry me if
you're doubtful , because it

won't work . I know I would
marry you , and take
accountability for Lethabo even
if you were still pregnant

I guess I need to deal with my
fears right now , I don't know
why I'm doing this when he just
keeps assuring me like this

Me : if I fail , please we'll use
your plan as a backup plan

He smiles

Monga : I got you baby

Me : give me a kiss

He leans down and we kiss

My mother is not MaJoyce , I'm probably just even scared for nothing .

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Monga

I'm beyond pissed right now

Like how can such a small thing
, make me so rattled ?

One thing I know , is that I don't
want to lose Tshego . Like I
don't even see how I can accept
that

But she has doubts , and it's not
even a secret . I see it , even
when she speaks

Her words don't even
overshadow her fears and
doubts

And I have no idea what to do
or say

I feel like there's no way I can convince her otherwise , unless she feels otherwise herself

I didn't even want to do this , but the way things just turned

I knew I just had to have something , even though there's nothing I can use here

That conversation we had ,
didn't sit well with me

But she's just a normal woman
from free state

Raised by a single mother , she
has a little brother

There really isn't no skeletons
here , not even a tiny thing

In my life and line of work , I've
never come across anyone so
clean

Hence I've always believed that
, somewhere somehow we're
all just rotten beings

And that we have skeletons

I guess I was wrong

And that's what has me so
annoyed and rattled

Her mother is a domestic
worker , this is nothing she
hasn't told me

Sure their home situation is not
at its best , but damn the
woman is not a gold digger

She's definitely not chasing money , so she couldn't give a damn about that

She's not someone you can buy , not that I wanted to do that

But I needed something , just anything that can make me lure her in

I guess now I just have to rely
on my love for her , and just
hope that it's enough

I mean she means that much ,
and not even once did I even
imagine this could be me one
day

Nzuzo : someone is here to see
you

This fool !

Me : next time knock

He laughs

Nzuzo : the door was opened

Me : who ?

Nzuzo : Sean Williams

Could it be ?

He better not be here to shit

Me : what does he want ?

Nzuzo : he.....wait , where is
your PA ? Like why am I here
doing her job today ?

Me : my baby is teething , she was acting up this morning . So her mommy is with her

He frowns

Me : never mind

Nzuzo : what's going on with you ?

Me : nothing that concerns you

Nzuzo : all of a sudden where do you get a baby ?

I know he might have profiled Tshego , just that I've never told him the whole story about this baby business

But I know for a fact that he knows the baby is hers

Me : what does Sean want ?
And is he the same Sean
Williams the police detective ?

Nzuzo : yeah

Me : so ?

Nzuzo : he just asked to see you
, he's at reception awaiting an
answer

This could be something else ,
because when I was busy
looking around he just had to
come up

Nzuzo : what are you thinking ?

Me : tell him to set an
appointment

Nzuzo : uhm....I should tell a cop
to...

Me : I pay you , stop complaining .

He laughs

Nzuzo : and this is me leaving , and right now I think I'll stop coming here . You're a bully man , and this won't work that man wants to see you

He just can't stay away from me
, just a few days and he'll be
back here

Nzuzo : while at that , you've
taken enough time to recover .
We need you out there on the
field again

Me : with a cop behind my
back?

He laughs

Nzuzo : Force needs you

He could be here for something else , but if so then he'll leave and come back again . But if he's into my business , he will demand to see me by force

Nzuzo : let me go get rid of him

Me : let me go indulge him with my presence

Nzuzo : wait ...what changed ?

I say nothing getting up walking towards the door , and he follows me out

We head to the elevator going fine , and he has his mean stare on me

As we walk out , I spot the man
sitting on the couch at
reception

Nzuzo : may the gangsters gods
be with us all

I frown and he laughs , Sean
gets up and faces us

Sean : Mr Theo

Me : what can I do for you ?

He holds his hand out , but I just stare at it

Sean : the name is....

Me : mhm I don't care to know

He chuckles

Sean : you're in my territory now , I just thought I'll come and introduce myself .

He squints his eyes , and Nzuzo laughs walking away

Sean : I just had to hear , that you've secured yet another company . You're a busy man Mr Theo I must say , 5 companies ? Well that's a lot

I chuckle

Sean : but you and me both
know , they're nothing but just
a front

He walks closer

Sean : you're busy in your
expensive suits , running the
biggest crime syndicate ever .

Hiding behind fancy companies
, but that's coming to an end .
The wrong man heard all about
you , and I despise men like
yourself

Me : mhm , come again . It was
nice , but I am busy you know .
And well , maybe the next time
you come again . I'll actually
have time , and I'll pass on a
few lessons . You see for you to
even have balls , to stand in

front of me and utter words .
That would mean you're a man ,
and well me and you both know
you're an excuse of a man . It'll
all starts at home

He frowns

Me : confusion ?

He steps back

Me : this is going to be fun

He blinks a few times and I turn
my back on him , walking back
to the elevator

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INSERT 30

Tshegofatso

I was busy washing Lethabo's bottles , and making her a night bottle

We didn't leave , since I was with her all day . Because she was acting up

I hate seeing her not well , but
she has to go through this

There's no other way those
biting babies will come out

I walk in the bedroom , and
she's laying on her stomach

Just wearing a diaper , and her
head laying on a small pillow

Me : what are you two doing ?

Monga : she's getting a
massage

Like I can see that

I didn't even know babies can
be massaged , this is a thing .
Like all over her back , to her
neck

And the way she's so calm ,
even her face I can tell she's
enjoying this

Me : baby ?

Monga : mhm

He's not even paying me
attention

Honestly I'm envious of this bond between them , because I don't even understand it

It's just so cute to witness , and it's not even forced . Very strange if you ask me

Me : baby ?

He chuckles looking at me

Monga : sweetheart

Me : you've never given me a
massage

I don't know , maybe I'm the
joke as he laughs

Monga : yes

Me : like never

Monga : I know

Has he no shame !

I laugh walking in further

Me : this is soft life

I sit next to him

Lethabo : aa (no)

He laughs

Me : o ta ema , kore o busy
thata (you'll wait , you're too
busy)

Monga : sweetheart , don't
disturb her . This is therapeutic
for her

I give him one hell bored of a look

Monga : I'll book you to a spa , you'll take her with . Let them cut her nails , and do them cute . Also I'm thinking we should go on a vacation , maybe September when it's warm . Start looking for a place we can go to , and it should be child friendly

Vacations and what not

The spa date is not even mine ,
it's ours now . Yes let's take an
8 months person to go get her
nails cut at the salon . Amen !

Me : should I leave you two ?

Monga : no , go sit on the couch
. Look now she keeps looking at
you , and she's not happy

Me : she's being territorial , and
it's not cute . You're a lady
please behave

She smiles as I get up , I guess
she really didn't want me next
to Monga

Me : mare Lethabo ! (but)

Monga : you know we love you

Me : actions speak louder than words

I lay down on the couch

Monga : you two should move in

Me : hell no !

It goes so quite , you can
literally hear your own thoughts

I lift my head slowly looking at
him , and he's focused on what
he's doing . He's not even
looking at me.

Me : baby , what I mean is that
.... We're okay where we are .
Why the sudden move in ?

Monga : I don't like that place for my daughter , and I don't like that woman . It's not even sudden , I've been thinking about it for a bit

He's one strange man

Me : but...with the engagement still in ...well you said you're going to see your family in a few days . Isn't moving in a bit drastic ?

Monga : no

Me : no ?

Monga : I mean that's on you ,
so does that mean however
long you take everything else
must also wait ?

What am I missing ?

Monga : anyways , I was just saying . I'm not saying move in by force

First it the crazy money spending , then the engagement out of nowhere and now this

Honestly as much as I love Monga , and I can see he loves and Lethabo

I can't help but be scared , I
wasn't kidding with Katlego
when I said we're just jumping
stages

Everything is just moving so fast
, we're just on a fast lane .
There's no pause , there's no
break like it's just one way

And I'm scared

I'm scared we'll just crash and
burn

I don't know life to be this , all
this is just new to me . I
honestly need a hard slap of
reality , to just kick in .

And probably I'll then move at
the same pace with him ,
because now I'm not

Monga : don't be offended , I'm not putting you under pressure . Just that I'm decided where I am sweetheart , so everything is just planned out . And I know what's what , I don't second guess what I say or do

He says so looking at me , probably my silence brought this up

Me : can we talk better
tomorrow

Monga : never a good thing
when a woman say anything
that has talk inside

He smiles , and I don't know
what to make of that

Me : baby

Monga : yes tomorrow
sweetheart

Me : thank you

I lay back down , with a million
thoughts running through my
mind

Like is this us now ?

Monga : I love you

I find myself smiling , I can feel
his eyes my way

Me : I love you too baby

It's the chuckle that follows
after , and it gives me some
relief that nothing bad was
raised from the conversation

I guess we're okay

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Lina

My mother welcomes me , and
I'm glad my father is not home

This will give us a chance to talk

I still don't know , if I should tell
her the truth or not

Mom : with bags ?

She asks as we sit down

Me : am I not allowed to visit ?

Mom : what's going on ?

I sigh leaning back

Me : Monga is cheating

She says nothing and just stares
at me

Me : did you hear ?

Mom : yes I heard

Me : and you're not going to say
anything ?

Mom : is that the reason why you're back here ? Because the man is cheating ?

Me : well

Mom : who's child are you ? All men cheat ...

Me : can we please not categorise men , all because of those who just can't keep it in

their pants . Cheating is just wrong , and we should just stop making it sound and look like it's a normal thing when done by a man . But when it's a woman , she's called names

She laughs , just mocking me

Mom : you better not tell your father this nonsense , just say you're visiting for a few days . And after a few days , you'll

definitely leave . What woman leaves her house , because her man is cheating ? Like you clearly need some growing up to do

Do I seriously have such a backward mother like this ?

And right now , I am certain I won't be telling her anything more than what I've already said

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INSERT 31

Tshegofatso

It's the morning after

And I'm at work , Monga went out for a morning meeting in Joburg

He said he'll be back around lunch or so

We dropped off Lethabo at home , and MaJoyce had a mouthful to say

But I'm used to that now

Monga wasn't happy , and I think it's best we do take him up on that offer

But I was thinking maybe after the negotiations are done

Because he said he's going to see his family tomorrow , and

according to him he's not going to ask

But he's going to tell them what he has decided , and he will ask his uncle's to go to free state

Out of nowhere last night , he ended up saying maybe we should get a house if I'm against moving in with him

But no , I am not for that . A house for me and Lethabo will be a waste of money , after marriage we'll be moving in with him

So we might as well , but I think after negotiations not now . It'll just be like we're cohabitating

I'm literally sweating right now , but there's no running away anymore

Monga and I haven't talked yet ,
and knowing him as soon as
he's back he will address that

Mom : baby

Her voice comes up , getting me
out of my thoughts

Me : mama le kae ? (Mom how
are you)

Mom : ke siame , nare wena o
siame ? (I am okay , are you
okay)

Me : ee mma (yes mom)

Mom : baby you don't sound
okay

I mean , the woman knows me
and we talk everyday

Me : there's something I need to tell you

Mom : are you and the baby okay ?

Me : ee mma , re siame (yes mom , we're okay)

Mom : okay , I hope it's nothing bad then

I really don't know

The way I've disappointed this woman , I'm just really scared to do it again

Me : I...I was thinking of extending the house there

Lord forgive me , and wasn't I reprimanded for lies ?

Mom : mare Tshegofatso , did you have to scare me ? (But)

She laughs

Me : I'm sorry

Mom : this will not be putting any financial strain on you right ? You have just started working

, you should be looking for a place

Me : no , I'll start small . Maybe with a three room , nothing big

Mom : God has truly heard our prayers this time around , I'm so happy that all this is happening . And you're doing it for you , because it's far where I'm coming from . And very near where I'm headed , so this

home is yours . And you're
fixing it for yourself , because
we don't know what the future
holds for you there . But you
know home will always be
home , and home won't go
anywhere

This is getting me all emotional
now , I better get on with those
plans

Since I failed to say the real
reason why I called

Me : okay , you're making me
cry . Let me work , and I'll call
you later

Mom : I love you baby

Me : I love you too ma (mom)

I drop the call

Am I really just undecided , or
it's the fear just killing me ?

That I'll fail dismally in the
marriage , I'll even regret why I
got married in the first place

Would it be so wrong to move
in with Monga first ?

Just to see if we can actually
pull this thing off

Me : why must this be so hard ?

I lean down on the desk ,
placing my head on my hands

I've never had anything good
going for me in this life

For as long as I can remember ,
I've always had to fight to have
what I want

Nothing has ever worked out
for me , I've just always had it
rough

And I know no such thing is this
perfection I see forming right
now

I have a good paying job , and
there's this man who just makes
things happen

And he doesn't even ask for
anything in return

That's not for me , such things
don't happen for me

Voice : I am failing as a man , if
I'm going to find my woman this
depressed at work

I lift my head slowly , darting my
eyes to my watch

And it's not even 10:00 , he was
said to be back around or after
lunch

Monga : what did I do ?

Just listen to him , a normal man would be asking what's wrong

Me : baby , you did nothing

Monga : you're not okay

Me : doesn't mean you did something

Monga : come

I get up and walk to him

Me : you're back early

Monga : mhm , meeting got cancelled

He takes my hand and we walk to the couch , he sit down placing me on his lap

Me : I called my mother , to tell her about the engagement . But I couldn't , so I said I want to extend at home

Monga : I'm not excusing your excuse , but that's also good . I mean you can actually do extend at home

Me : I guess

Monga : but you lied , because
that's not why you called her

Not this !

Me : baby !

He smiles

Monga : stop lying , I would
really hate to fuck that

mentality out of you . And
you're just pushing me

Yhoh !

Monga : what's scaring you
exactly ?

Me : everything

He intertwines our fingers , with his thumb rubbing on my ring finger

Me : maybe I'll just sound like I'm making an excuse , I don't know . But I'm scared , of everything that's happening . I've never had anything this laid out for me , and actually have anything work out . I'm scared that I'll be all happy , and only for it all not to work in the end .

I've already been rejected once too many , and failure to make this relationship and marriage work . It'll just be adding on those rejections I've already suffered

Monga : listen to me , men are not crazy . And we don't make crazy decisions , like it's just a men thing . A man can approach a pregnant woman and love her like she's the first ,

Monga will marry you and adopt your daughter and she'll be his . And he will love both of you to the ends of this world , and he will do so effortlessly . Because when a man decides to love , he doesn't hold back . We decide when to love , we don't fall in love . So I am not waiting on my heart for months , I decided and hence I'm here where I am with you . Trust me , I have no doubts nor any

reservations . But I get where you're coming from , and your fear scares me . Because I'm thinking I might lose all of this , before I even have it all . But that doesn't mean I don't understand you , and I won't rush you either . You're supposed to be sure of this and us , and be content that we'll make this work . I won't convince you otherwise , because you didn't just decide

to have fear out of nowhere .
Something built up to this , I
just have to prove myself to you
. And let you let your walls
down , I'm not some idiotic fool
who can't see nor appreciate
what he has

Maybe I'm just allowing my fear
get in the way of my happiness ,
and for no reason

Me : don't buy us a house , we'll keep visiting now . And after negotiations then we'll move in

Monga : ah ! You don't want to cohabit ?

I laugh

Me : yes sir

He smiles pecking my lips

I am done , we're doing this .
And whatever fear will just have
to excuse us along the way

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INSERT 32

Tshegofatso

And today , the spa was booked
for us

There's even treats for the so
called princess

Everything is just classy , I don't get how Monga just spends money like this and he doesn't even mind

He even gave me his card , and said we can have lunch when we're done

And he wants us back at his house , not going back to MaJoyce's house

I swear , we're cohabiting in levels . But I guess it's all well and fine in the Theo world

And the daughter is giggling and all smiles , I even took a video to send to daddy

Cause she's really happy having her nails done , I guess Monga knew what he was talking about

My phone rings , she looks at
me

Me : aa , aker ona le ya gao (no ,
you have your own)

She's watching frozen there on
her phone

And I really wouldn't mind us
doing an exchange

I mean she won't even know
the difference

Me : hello

Zara : where are you ?

I laugh

We've been scarce of each
other , since that office thing

But I don't blame her , and she
was really scared

Now she even takes her job so
seriously , there's no latté in the
morning with small chats

No regular lunches

All thanks to Monga !

Me : out , someone is being
treated to a spa date

Zara : oh ! What I wouldn't give
you be you right now

Me : trust me , it feels like I'm
just tagging along

She laughs

Zara : who are you with ?

Me : let me video call you

I drop the call , and video call . I
show her Lethabo

She doesn't know , I've never
told her

Zara : wait.....you and Mr T have
a daughter ?

Is she blind or just mocking me
or what ?

I mean , I went to that company
I didn't even know the man

And she thinks we've been
together for so long , so long
that we've even made a mixed
race baby

Me : yes we do

Zara : wow !

Something has got to be wrong
with this woman

Me : what are you doing ?

I focus back on her

Zara : just grocery shopping , I hate doing this but one has to eat

Me : ah ! We've drifted , I'm glad you called

Zara : took my chances okay , I'm scared of your man more than I was before

Me : I'm sorry , I never even got to apologize for that . He was just in his moods

She laughs

Zara : girl don't kid me , if that's how he is not in his moods .
Then it means he's never in his moods

I laugh

Me : come on !

Zara : don't come on me , he's
your man you're used to him

Me : well , we should do lunch
soon

Zara : definitely

I'm glad I'm getting my friend
back , Katlego is not always
around

So it was nice having Zara

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Monga

I look at the video , and it just
brightens up my day

I knew she was going to enjoy
doing her nails

My princess loves the finer
things

Mom : the smile ?

I put my phone and look at her

Me : how have you been ?

I feel so bad , I haven't been the best son so far

Mom : I can't complain

I nod

Me : I thought you wouldn't be here

She laughs

Mom : I've been with this man for 35 years , I am not going anywhere . If anyone is going to leave it's him

Whatever that means

Mom : your uncle tells me you asked them to come down here

Me : yes , that's why I'm here

Mom : that you asked them to come to Joburg ? Monga I hope it's not because of what's happening , the drama with your father and that Zulu girl with your brother

Me : no , I asked Tshegofatso to marry me and she's agreed . I want you two to meet , I asked the uncles to come so they can go to her home

It goes quite

Me : you heard that right ?

Mom : you've already engaged
this girl ?

Me : uhm yes

Mom : Monga aren't you just
moving too fast , we don't even
know her

Me : you didn't miss the part
where I said , I want you two to
meet

She sighs

Me : okay , I expected drama
from dad . Cause he doesn't like
her already , but not you

Mom : what drama ? I'm just surprised you're marrying a woman you've just met

This mentality people seriously need to get rid of

Me : well I am , I love her and I know what I want

Mom : wow ! I really didn't see this one coming

I might as well tell her

Me : she has a daughter that's 8 months old

I don't know what to make of her reaction

I swear right now it's like she disapproves

Mom : you just had to go for a woman with a child

What's that supposed to mean ?

Me : I love her and her daughter , and the intention is to adopt the baby legally so she can take my last name as well

She shakes her head

Mom : where is the father of this child ?

Me : I am the father , but if you're asking about the sperm donor . He ran away , and he won't be a problem to me

Mom : do you understand that you'll have to do right by those people , if you want their

daughter ? And to an extent of her taking your last name ?

Me : I know , and I'm willing to do all those things

There goes the silence again

Me : I don't know what you make of this , but it seems like you're not for it . As for me , I've

made my decision . And I've
informed you as my mother

I get up

Me : I have to go

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INSERT 33

Tshegofatso

As soon as he walks in , she
crawls to him giggling like crazy

He laughs

Crouching down , he picks her up . She claps her tiny hands

Monga : papa ne ao gopotse
(daddy missed you)

He kisses her cheek

Monga : sweetheart

Me : hey

He walks with her , and sit down
next to me

The way he looks , he's just
scaring me . And I'm wondering
if all went well at his home

Monga : I see you ladies had a
great time

Me : thank you for spoiling us ,
it was really great

Monga : give me a kiss

Me : I don't want kicks thank
you very much

We laugh

Me : how did things go at home
?

He sighs

Me : that bad ?

Monga : I really don't know
where my mother stands with
this , I only talked to her

I just nod

A mother in-law from hell is not
what I need

Me : let me go run you bath

Monga : don't go , this is not coming between us . We're going to be fine , my uncle's will be here by weekend . So Saturday later , they'll be headed to free state . Your mother will get the letter on Sunday

Me : we're going with your plan ?

He chuckles

Monga : yeah , you're taking
your sweet time and I don't
know for what

Me : baby !

Monga : uh-uh , don't baby me

I'm sure my mother is going to
freak out

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Monga

It's a sight walking in the
kitchen , finding her making
breakfast for us

This is how having a family is
supposed to feel like

This house now feels like a
home

I hug her from behind , and she smiles

Tshego : good morning

Me : mhm it's a good morning indeed

She turns and faces me , placing her hands on my lower waist

I lean down giving her a kiss ,
and she welcomes me

Me : fuck I miss you

I mumble through the kiss

Tshego : your daughter is busy ,
she wasn't letting you out of
her sight last night

I laugh

Me : I can't believe we have to move out of her space , just so I can have you

She pecks my lips

Me : I can't wait the day you two finally move in

Tshego : I know , but after negotiations we're moving in

Me : I want these things done
with sweetheart

Tshego : and they will be

There's a knock at the door

Me : it better not be Nzuzo , not
this early

Only she and my mother know
this place , now after yesterday
I don't know how my mother is

So I doubt she would come here

Tshego : I'll go check on her

She switches off the stove ,
going upstairs and I go attend
the door

Mom : are you going to let me
in ?

I'm shocked

I move out of the way , and she
walks in . Her eyes moving
around like crazy

Mom : she's here ?

Me : what ?

Mom : that's a very appetizing
aroma , now I know you my son
can't cook like that

I sigh

Me : mom what brings you by
here so early ?

Mom : I don't like the way you
left home yesterday

Me : well , that was no big deal
at all

Mom : to you maybe , you
dropped a whole lot of
information on me . And it was
just a lot to take in , not only
the marriage but also the
matter of the....

It's her sounds that brings
everything to a silence

I turn facing them , and she just
giggles . I must say , seeing me
must be doing something to my
princess

She holds her hands out , and I
reach out for her . They come
our way , and Tshego gives her
to me

Tshego : dumelang mme
(greetings mom)

Why is my mother being
awkward ?

Me : sweetheart this is my
mother , and mom this is
Tshegofatso Mofokeng my
fiancé and this right here is my
princess Lethabo

She looks at me with a smile ,
surely she just heard her name
being called out

Lethabo : eya (yes)

Exactly child ! Yes to that , and
what do you know she knows
how to say yes after all

Mom : I am pleased to meet
you two

That's something

Tshego : we're pleased to meet
you as well

The silence that follows

Me : can we all just go eat , this is awkward . And not child friendly

I walk to the kitchen with my baby , I don't need drama

I'm not changing my mind , I'm set on with my plans

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Tshegofatso

Breakfast just awkward

If I could , I would walk out here
and just leave

I feel the eyes of Mrs Theo on
me , and I can't even lift my
head up

I see Monga just being Monga ,
letting Lethabo eat his
scrambled eggs

And she's making a mess , not
just on her the table but on him
as well

And he's already dressed up for
work , now he has to change
those clothes

I can't even say anything , as
much as I want to

I don't want his mother thinking
my baby is somewhat

Me : can you just push your
plate away from her ?

I just have to

Monga : why ? She's eating

More like making a mess

Mrs Theo : this is how they all learn , months later she'll be feeding herself so well

Okay !

And we both look at her , like what just happened ?

Mrs Theo : what ?

Monga : uhm.....mom why are you here so early ?

Mrs Theo : am I not supposed to come to my son's house ?

Monga : not what I said

Mrs Theo : don't you have work to get to ?

Monga : we're leaving , I'll just go change

Mrs Theo : you can leave my grandchild with me , and your wife can help you

What just happened for real ?

And she takes Lethabo from Monga , see her not crying

Monga : sweetheart let's go

We both get up , and I turn back
when we get to the stairs

And they seem fine

We get to the bedroom , and he
takes his shirt off

Me : I could swear , I was convinced that your mother doesn't like me

He chuckled , I walk to the closed bringing him another shirt

Monga : trust me , I just caught her off guard . But she's okay

I hope so

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INSERT 34

Monga

She's been checking her phone
from time to time

And I can just see that she's not
her usual self

She's not relaxed , like how she
normally would be

Me : sweetheart

She looks at me

Me : she's okay

She sighs

Me : I understand you're
sceptical ...

Tshego : I have nothing against
Mma Theo , but Lethabo
doesn't know her . She's
teething , and can get a lot .

Me : don't worry , if there's anything my mother will call

She offered to watch Lethabo this morning , and said they'll spend the day together at home

I didn't like that she's taking her home with

But I know , during the day
she's always alone at home

Me : okay , would it calm you
down if we leave ?

Tshego : leave and go where ?
It's only 12:00

And it's not like we're getting
any work done

Me : come on , let's go home

Tshego : baby....

Me : let's go

I get up so she can see I am not
joking

This day has already been hell
for her , she's not okay

So staying here will just be
torture , so best we leave and
go home to our daughter

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Tshegofatso

I thought he wasn't serious , but
Monga Theo doesn't joke

I'm sure he doesn't even know
how to do that , or tell a joke

I hope his mother is not
offended , that we knocked off
early

All just because she's watching
the baby

But I just couldn't be at ease ,
not that I thought she would
hurt the baby

But I don't know her , and
Lethabo doesn't know her
either

And quite frankly , I thought the
woman doesn't like me

Now as a mother , my concern
is with my child

Monga : my uncles are arriving
tomorrow , are you ready ?

That's taking my mind off the
worry a bit

Me : I think I am

He smiles taking my hand , and
he knocks at the door before
opening the door and we walk
in

His parents home is beautiful , it comes nothing to Monga's house

But it's beautiful , more like antique style . Old but everything is just expensive

The smell of freshly baked scones , and it's coming from the kitchen

We walk in there , and someone
is sitting on the kitchen counter

Mma Theo is finishing up ,
moving her things around

Monga : Nana (baby)

She looks at him and just giggles
, I wonder what's the giggle all
about every time she sees him

Lethabo : Dadada (daddy)

I'm like what the hell !

I swear this baby has to be the biggest traitor there is , on this planet earth

How does she go on from just spitting dad , and not mom

In just seconds , he has her in
my arms kissing her lights out if
her chubby cheeks

And she's laughing like nobody's
business , it's so cute

Monga : you are , your daddy's
daughter

Mxm !

Mrs Theo : you will wish that
you didn't come back , sit down
have some tea and scones

Yes that's right , rub salt on my
wound

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Monga

Not only did she say once , but
she said it twice

And damn , even though it
sounds like she's singing
somehow

I wouldn't mind being called
Dadada , like every second of
the day

I swear I'll never forget this day
, this tiny person know just how
to put a smile on my face

My mother caught on why we came back , but she wasn't even offended

She understood , and we just spent time with her

And now , we're about to leave

My dad and Maatla they just had to arrive , and they always ruin things don't they

This idiot asked me about Lina ,
as if I'm her keeper

And my father kept throwing
crazy shade at Tshego

Now it's so obvious , even she
knows he doesn't like her

But who gives a shit ? Definitely
not me

She's going to be my wife , and stay at my house . She'll hardly even see these people

So they basically just don't matter

Mom : it was so nice , spending the time with the princess . She's such a bubbly person

Yes , that's my princess

Mom : and Tshego , I hope soon we'll get to know each other better. And I wouldn't mind , to watch Lethabo once in a while . Even if I'll do it at your house , it's fine

Tshego : I'm sure that won't be a problem Mma

See my two women hugging ,
and Lethabo is not even
bothered by hugs

Because she's with daddy , this
one is very much decided

I strap her in her car seat , and
open the door for Tshego

Mom : don't mind your father ,
do what pleases your heart .

And if it's them , I completely
approve

She says to me , and I'm so glad
that I finally have her support

Me : thank you

Mom : take care of them , be
the better men for them . Don't
do better for anyone , don't be
in competition with anyone . Be

the man that your family will
need

I nod

Mom : I'm glad you're doing the
right thing , the world needs
more men like yourself .

Because these young women go
through things , before they
know what peace of life is . And
they can't be washed hands off

, this is your family now . You've taught me something

She moves closer for a hug , and it's the crazy scream sound from the back of the car

We laugh pulling out of the hug

We both turn and look at her ,
Tshego is laughing

She's shaking her head , and I'm
sure she's busy saying aa (no)

Me : mom , don't come
between me and my daughter

Mom : she's very territorial

We laugh , as we say goodbye
and I get in the car

But someone is busy screaming
and shouting , even though we
can't hear what she's saying

I'm sure she's shouting at me
for hugging my mother

I don't know if it makes it better
that , we don't hear what she's
saying

Or it makes it worse , but this is
going to be a long ride back
home

I pray she falls asleep

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INSERT 35

Tshegofatso

He walks in , and places his car
keys on the table

He walks over and gives me a
kiss , and we kiss for a brief
moment

Me : you okay ?

He nods with a smile

Monga : my uncle's have left ,
and they understood where I
stood . So all my intentions are
in that letter , let's hope your
mother doesn't come hard on
you

I sigh

Me : I don't know

Monga : relax , it'll be all fine

He looks at Lethabo

Monga : when did she sleep ?

Me : a while back

Monga : I missed her

Me : she kept going on and on ,
Dadada (daddy)

We laugh

Monga : hey ! Don't mock my
baby like that

Me : Ohhh don't be sad , I can
call you Dadada too

He laughs

Me : I can't believe you got to
be called before me

Monga : what do you want ?
We'll make up for it

Me : I want nothing

Monga : I think maybe a car will
do

No kidding !

I look at him , to say something
else but nothing

Is he hinting that he's gonna
buy me a car or what ?

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Monga

The annoying ringing phone ,
and I feel like she's just staring
at it

And we have to be woken up by
her phone , while we still want
to be enjoy our sleep

I turn my head , making sure
Lethabo is balanced on my
chest

I look at her , and she's holding
her phone staring at it

Me : I knew it

She's biting her nails

Me : can you just answer your
phone , before it wakes her up

She looks at me

Me : now would be nice

Tshego : I'll put it on silence ,
and call her a bit later

Me : really ?

I shake my head slowly

Tshego : what if she's going to
fight ?

Me : then she fights

I grab her phone and answer it ,
I'm sure the poor woman has
been calling for a while now

I turn and face the other way
with my princess

Tshego needs to face this ,
there's no running away now

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Tshegofatso

I look at him , and he's literally acting like he didn't just do what he did

I get up as my mother's voice come through

Me : h...hello mma (mom)

Mom : are these people in their sane minds ?

She doesn't sound angry nor
upset

Me : I don't understand , what
people ?

I grab my gown , and sit down
on the couch

Mom : these ones who want to
marry you

I go all quite , I don't
understand where she's going
with this

Mom : they travelled all the way
from Joburg to ask to marry you
, and by this time they've long
arrived . And you're still asleep

Is she being for real !

Mom : if only they knew

Wow !

What's with the bashing ? And it's a Sunday most people are still sleeping at this time

Mom : why didn't you tell me ?

Me : I....I didn't....

Mom : don't lie

Ouch !

Me : I wasn't going to lie , it's just that I tried to tell you but I was scared . I thought maybe you'll think I'm disappointing you , getting married to another man while Lethabo is still so young . I really wanted to tell you , but the fear just got the better of me

Mom : are you sure that you want to marry this man ?

I turn and look at them , they're just cuddled up on the bed and it's so cute

Me : I am sure

Mom : well their letter is very much specific , they want to

marry Lethabo and do things for her as one of their own

I guess his uncle's really heard and understood him

Me : he....he told me that's what he wants to do

Mom : okay , I just want you to remember one thing . Marriage is not all good and that , but it's

not that bad either . But
amongst everything , I want you
to put Lethabo first and not
yourself . And not your
happiness either , it's all about
her and you come last

Me : I understand

Mom : does he have any kids ?

Me : no he doesn't

I hope he really doesn't , men
are some creatures

Mom : okay , these people are
just in a hurry for me and I don't
understand why . But they
asked for a date pretty soon ,
like the coming next weekend

Me : what ?

Mom : yes , and I was shocked .
Because I really thought you'll
tell me before hand when such
things happen

Now I really feel bad

I guess I was all scared for no
reason

Me : uhm , shouldn't you be the
one giving them a date ?.

Mom : I am , but they pleaded
for one that's sooner

Me : okay , I'm sorry for not
telling you . I know there's a lot
to do

Mom : I'm wondering if I can
have everything done and ready
if I agree they come on
weekend

Me : I'll need to come home

Mom : will you be able to get
time off work ?

Me : yes

Mom : are you sure ? You can't
risk to lose your job

Me : don't worry about that , I won't lose my job

It's a good thing I have money in my account , we'll get what's needed and she won't have to worry about that

Me : I'll come on Tuesday

Mom : okay , let me go serve those men breakfast

Me : they're still there ?

I ask shocked , because I
thought they long left

Mom : get up , a woman that's
about to be someone's husband
should be up by this time

Me : mama ! (Mom)

She laughs hanging the phone
up

I release a sigh of relief , I'm so
glad that's done

Monga : come back to bed

I look at him , he has his eyes
closed

Me : my mother said I should
long be up

He chuckles

Monga : this is your house , not
your in-laws or your mother's
house . We wake up after 10 on
a Sunday

I laugh

Monga : sweetheart come back
, your mother is not here

Wow !

I take my gown off walk back to
bed , and get in behind him

He takes my hand into his

Me : I love you so much

Monga : I love you more mother
of my kids

I close my eyes with one huge
smile on my face

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INSERT 36

Monga

The door opens , and she walks
in . I can just hear by the click of
her heel

I slowly lift my head , and my
breath is just taken away

Has summer entered and we're
not informed

Like what the hell happened ?

I left her at home in gowns , and
she's here dressed like she's
headed to some cruise in the
Caribbean

I get on my feet , and the damn
slit on her dress

It's from her thigh down to her legs , and I can only hope there was no air anywhere

Men can't be seeing my goodies like this

Me : sweetheart

I hold her waist , she smiles looking at me

And I cannot be blamed of my
dick reacting

Tshego : what ?

I'm even tongue tied , now I
can't even say anything

I just want to have her

Tshego : I have to work , and
baby please don't forget that
we're leaving tomorrow . I have
to knock off early , so I can pack

And there's that

I'm happy she's going home ,
and come weekend they'll be
mine

I walk past her , biting my lower lip . I close the door and lock

I turn and she's heading to her desk , I grab her by her hand

She's not fucking doing this to me , like why would she rock up here like she came to seduce me ?

She's got what she wanted , if
that was the aim

I pin her against my desk ,
capturing her lips

She welcomes me , and
mumbles through the kiss

I slide my hand on the slit ,
reaching for her coochie

I run my hand over her lace
panty , and she lets out a moan

Tshego : not at....work
baby....please

Aren't we just too late ?

I unbuckle my pants , sliding her
panty to the side and I slide one
finger inside of her

Tshego : Ohhh my god !

She pulls out of the kiss , and leans back . Locking her one leg behind mine

I pick up my pace with my finger inside of her , she trails her hands to my pants

She exposes my dick out , I move her dress to the back

This slit is doing things alright

I move in closer , pulling the chair and she places her one foot on it

She's perfectly opened for me , and with her coochie exposed

I slide my dick inside of her
slowly , and she welcomes me
with a moan of pleasure

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Tshegofatso

Like really !

Did I just come to work to get
fucked in the office ?

He picks his shirt putting it on ,
I slowly hold my hand out and
he takes it

Helping me up , I pick my dress
off the floor

He has one huge smile , I can't
believe him

He helps me put on my dress ,
and I face him

Me : now what ?

He chuckled , buttoning his short

Me : I'm drenched , reeking of sex . There's no way I'll get to work when I'm like this

Monga : that's not a problem

Me : what are you talking about ?

He pecks my lips

Monga : Thato will take you home , get comfortable however you want . And from there , he will take you car shopping

What did I say ?

Oh snap ! That was a hit and I should have taken it seriously

Me : car.....car shopping ?

He chuckles

Monga : yeah

He hands me his black card

Me : I....I must buy the car , like
right there and then in cash ?

Monga : sweetheart don't
embarrass me

I laugh

Monga : and buy something
expensive , there's like 15
million in that card . So be
useful with it

I'm so stunned , like so much
money

Me : how much is your net worth ?

He takes my shoes , and helps me put them on

Monga : 1,2 Billion or somewhere there

What ?

Me : what do you have so many that cost so much ?

He places his hands on my thighs , we stare into each other

Monga : not much actually , I just have an expensive taste . So all that I have , amounts to that much . The two houses , even though I sold one . The 4 cars , and the 5 companies . That's basically what I have

Me : expensive taste indeed

He brings his one hand behind my back , bringing my face down and we kiss

Monga : go home , and please go spoil yourself . I can't wait to come home to your new baby

This is really happening !

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Monga

Coochie sure drives some men
insane

Some men meaning myself too

Like a whole R 1 032 900 gone ,
just like that because of coochie

After the three rounds , I just knew she deserved a car

Even though I've been thinking about it , this morning just sealed it

She went hard , but I'm not crying . She fucking deserves it

And I love that she got the 2022 Audi Q5 Sportback Quattro

It's big enough even for the princess , she'll have her car seat in there

It's just perfect

Nzuzo walks in , and pulls a chair he sits down

Me : what do you want ?

Nzuzo : I got a message you're
needed a headquarters

Me : when ?

Nzuzo : in a week

Me : it'll have to be the next ,
I'm paying magadi for my
woman this weekend

He smiles

Nzuzo : we're headed to Free State

Me : I did not say that to you

Nzuzo : say whatever you want to say , but just know I did profile your woman

Me : mxm

He laughs

Nzuzo : talk to Diaz

Me : he sent you , go back to
him

He sighs shaking his head

Nzuzo : I feel like I'm just
thrown in between you two

I laugh

Me : I'm knocking off , I want to go home and spend time with my two women . They're leaving tomorrow , and it's going to be a long week approaching for me

Nzuzo : you not driving them down ?

Me : no , she'll drive herself

Nzuzo : suddenly you have no trust issues letting a woman drive your car ?

Me : her car , and besides that woman is mine . What's mine is hers

He laughs

Nzuzo : you're so done for

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INSERT 37

Tshegofatso

The way he left in the morning ,
he just wasn't himself

And I could see he's hurt that
we're leaving

But he'll be fine

I have to be home , and see that
things are ready for his people

And Mma Theo , wanted to do breakfast with us this morning

So his time with us was just cut short , that's why I'm here at the company

Just so he can see us again , and say his goodbyes right

Last night , we didn't even talk much . He took us out for

dinner in one of those fancy
places he loves going to

And said we're celebrating my
car

One thing my friend Katlego
would be proud of , is the fact
that she taught me how to drive

And also booked for me , with
her own money

She always said , a person with a degree must have a learners if not a licence

Because you might lose out on a job opportunity , just because you can't drive

I swear that girl deserves some great gratitude from me

I tried calling her yesterday , but her phone wasn't going through

I hope it's one of those times of hers , whereby she's unreachable for a few days but she comes back

Zara : oh my god ! Look at this baby , she's just so cute

I laugh

Me : hi , is he busy ?

Zara : oh girl no , this is nice .
Finally we get to meet his doll

No like is Zara blind or what ?

Zara : oh I'm sure he's going to
be so happy

Me : yeah , I'm sure

Honestly she's just a special case

Me : uhmI'll see you

She's so caught on Lethabo , she just nods at me I laugh heading to the elevator

And this one is just looking around , you can tell she sees she's in an unfamiliar place

We get to the door , and I knock first . He doesn't answer , I open and we walk in

The clapping of hands , like what's the story ?

He lifts his eyes and smiles , the relief just on his face it's something else

Monga : Nana (baby)

Lethabo : Dadada (daddy)

She giggles , jumping as if she's able to just fly off my hands to his

He gets up , and walks to us he
takes her from me

He pecks my lips , and she
already has her mouth opened
for her own kiss

I have made peace , because it's
very clear that I'm the one
who's being accommodated
here

Monga : how was breakfast
with mom ?

Me : it was great

Monga : I'm glad , thank you for
coming

Me : I knew you weren't okay ,
and we wouldn't leave just like
that

He smiles

It's so cute , he's sad that he
won't see us for a few days

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Monga

Pity they can't stay long ,
because it's a long drive to free
state

My princess is asleep now , at
least there won't be any crying

Me : this was a nice surprise

Tshego : take care , and eat
enough . Don't bury yourself in
work , go home and sleep . Call
everyday , and we'll see you on
Saturday . It's just three days

Me : ok....

As the elevator opens , this idiot
lands his eyes on us

I look at Tshego , and she's obviously shocked to see him here

He's just being a mosquito , and I'm afraid for his family they're soon going to bury him

We walk out , and he doesn't go in

Sean : Tshego !

Oh he's also shocked seeing her

He looks at her , me and my princess who's sleeping so peacefully on my chest

Sean : is this....is this her ?

Tshego : baby , we're going to be late

She's getting annoyed , and
that's a first

I take her hand

Sean : Tshego , what is this man
doing with my child ?

Me : your what ?

Sean : you heard me

I stare at him , he swallows
moving back . But you can tell
he still has more to spit

Me : come after me all you
want , but not where she's
concerned . You've been
warned

We walk out , hand in hand
heading to the parking . And we

get to her car I strap my
princess on her seat

Me : hey.....hey

I pull her in for a hug , she lays
her head on my chest hugging
my lower waist

Tshego : it's him

Me : I know , but I don't give a damn about him . And you shouldn't either

She sighs

Tshego : what does he want ?
What's he doing here ? Could it be that he heard I'm working here now ?

Me : hey , you have a long drive ahead of you . And I want you both arriving home safe , don't worry about that idiot . I'll take care of him

She lifts her head and looks at me

Tshego : you promise ?

Me : I promise

She closes her eyes , leaning in
for a kiss and we kiss

We finally say goodbye , and
she drives off .

Walking back inside , and he's
gone . He better be gone to be
useful wherever he is going ,
cause soon he won't be useful
for nothing

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Tshegofatso

For the sake of this baby , I have
to gather myself

Monga would kill me if anything
happens to her , even just a
scratch

But I'm rattled , like what the
hell was that ?

What was Sean doing there ?
And what does he want ?

Like out of nowhere , he just
comes from whatever hole he's
been in

Just when my life is picking up ,
and things are starting to make
sense coming together

I've accepted myself with
Monga , and that man scares
me

Not in a bad way , but in the
way that when he says
something take note and listen
to him

Just how he's claimed Lethabo ,
and we're having negotiations
in a few days

He stepped up , and took
responsibilities of another man
who failed to

His mother and I , are just in a
better space . And I think she's
really getting to know us better
, and it's so nice

She's opening her heart for us

I can't have anything ruining
this for me

This is stability for my daughter
, and I've found love when I
never thought I would

That white man better stay
where he is , and not mess
things for me

It took me forever to let my
guard down , and move away
from what he did

He better run back to where he
comes from

Because I want nothing to do
with him

Another man stood up , and
fixed what he messed up

He can't come back now and
ruin things , like that just can't
happen

I really hope Monga will deal
with this , before this turn ugly

I don't want drama

And I don't want to be worrying
myself about Sean

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INSERT 38

Monga

First thing I did in the morning
was to call my people

And I could hear Tshego wasn't
sounding like herself

And that just put me off ,
because I know it's because of
that idiot

And now I have to deal with
another idiot

Maatla : where is she ?

I found him outside , awaiting
for me . It's a good thing , he
doesn't know where I live

Me : who is she ?

Maatla : don't play a fool with
me Monga , I'm talking about
Lina

I even forget about that whore

Does she still live ?

Monga : am I her keeper ?

He charges to me , with a fist on

Me : don't....

Maatla : I swear if you hurt the mother of my child , you won't live to tell the tale

Me : leave before I hurt you

I did say he gets away with shit , because he's my brother

But today is just not a good day

Me : don't make me tell you
again

He raises his hand , and I see a
shinny metal on his hand

This stupid fool has a pocket
knife , he comes for my chest I
raise my arm to block it

And by the sting on my arm ,
I'm hurt . But I grab it from him ,
slitting his throat

He pops his eyes , putting both
his hands on his neck

There's just blood everywhere ,
even on me . It's dripping on his
hands , down to his clothes .
Some making it to the floor

The door opens as he goes
down falling , and it's Nzuzo
walking in

With just one look seeing
what's happening , he shuts the
door and locks

Nzuzo : oh shit ! How I wish this
boy valued his life , and just
listened

I balance myself with the desk ,
I let go of the knife

He throws his eyes back , and
his hands move from his neck .

And he's gone

Nzuzo : shit

He walks closer

Nzuzo : he's dead , like dead
dead . Brother kills brother , is
this what we are now ?

The blood from my arm drops
down

Nzuzo : you're hurt

He grabs my arm

Me : it's nothing

Nzuzo : don't tell me it's nothing , how you gonna explain this to your wife ?

I shrug

Nzuzo : we need to get you cleaned

I grab my jacket and car keys

Me : lock the office , make sure
no one comes in here

I move my sleeve up , just so it's
tighter to hold off on the blood

Nzuzo : where....where are you
going ?

Me : to my house , we'll see this
later

I put my suit jacket on , to hide
this damn blood on me

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Tshegofatso

Mom : you got up early because
you're home

We laugh

Mom : I thought you'll sleep
late , you drove a long distance .
And you must be tired

Me : I got enough rest , and I
knew Lethabo is awake

Mom : she's watching
something on that thing of hers
, Karabo put it on for her before
he left for school

Me : it's a tablet

She laughs

Mom : you clearly have a lot to tell me , why does a child have a phone and that tablet thing ?

I laugh

Me : it's not my doing , uhm
Monga got them for her

Mom : the fiancé ?

Me : yes

Mom : that baby is going to be spoiled

I've been saying

Mom : he's also responsible for the car ? Because I know how you young people are , once you start working the first thing you do is buy cars

I laugh

Me : my salary is 8 000 , I can't afford to buy that car

Mom : Karabo did say that it's expensive

Me : it is , and yes he's the one who bought it

No lies to the face of this
woman

Mom : I made porridge

I smile

Me : I don't even remember
when it was the last thing I had
that

Mom : I see things are working out for you

I look down

Mom : I don't mean that in a bad way , I am just happy . Even if God was to remember me now , I'll be able to rest in peace . Knowing that even Karabo will be okay

I smile

Me : you worked so hard for us ,
now it's my time to help you
where I can . And just do my bit

Mom : but I'm not leaving my
work

We laugh

Mom : it keeps me sane

Me : I won't convince you otherwise , let me go have my porridge . We have to talk , I need to know what's needed to do . And what we must get

Mom : go eat first

It's so good being home , after so long

She walks out , I try and call
Katlego again . But still , it
doesn't go through

I just hope she's okay , I could
call MaJoyce but I know if I can't
find her

Then she also doesn't know
where she is

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Monga

We walk in , it's round about
21:00

And it's empty , there's no one
here

And I had to be home , around
20:00 . So I can call my people

And my daughter cried , when
we cut the call . So I had to be
on call until she fell asleep

There was no way , I was going to let this issue get in the way of me being a father

I've patched the cut , and it's not something big

But it's very much visible

Nzuzo : what are we going to do with him ?

Me : he was obsessed with Lina
, I don't know where she is . So
he'll disappear as well

He looks at me , like he doesn't
believe what I've just said

Nzuzo : he's your brother , I
thought you might want to
.....you know , give him a

dignified funeral . And give your
parents the closure

Me : there's nothing dignified
about Maatla

Nzuzo : then let me do this , and
you go back home

Me : what are you sparing me
for ?

Nzuzo : uhm....I'm not
inhumane like you . So please

I sigh

Nzuzo : and I hope people stay
out of your way , cause more
blood is still yet to spill

He crouches down , and I turn
walking out

I know he will do what he said
he will do , and Maatla will
never be found

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INSERT 39

Monga

My mother woke me up

And I don't even have her
energy to ask what she's doing
here

She might just come for me

Mom : when last did you speak
to your brother

Not this

If he didn't die , when were
they going to ask me about him
?

Me : I don't speak with him

Mom : Monga !

Me : it's the truth , I don't speak to Maatla . Unless he's the one who calls me or comes to me

She sighs

Me : why are you asking ?

Mom : they called at his work place , that he hasn't been to work since yesterday . I went

past his house , and he's not there . Not answering his calls either , in fact his phone doesn't even go through

Me : unfortunately , I can't help you with knowing where he is

Mom : I tried talking to your father , but he's all over . Cause that Zulu man is on his case , about why his daughter is back home

Oh !

So she's at her parents

As for my father , he can deal with his shit . I actually don't care what happens to him

Me : well , maybe you should ask Lina where Maatla is .

They're having a baby

Mom : do you think she will know ?

I shrug

Me : I have to get ready for work

Mom : have you eaten ?

I shake my head

Mom : let me make you something

I nod heading up , and I find my phone ringing . I answer the call

Me : sweetheart

She sniffs , I drop the call and video call her . She picks up

Me : why are you crying ?

Tshego : your daughter doesn't
want to suck my boobs

What ?

Me : sweetheart , what do you
mean ?

Tshego : she's only taking the
bottle

What's happening exactly ?

Tshego : she just takes the nipple but she doesn't pull , but when I give her the bottle she finishes it

Me : so you're saying she's eating the bottle , but just not your milk ?

She nods , wiping her tears .

This is funny

Me : I'm sorry , maybe she
wasn't hungry

Tshego : no....my mom says
she's stopped

Me : stopped ?

Tshego : stopped breastfeeding , baby it hurts . Why would she stop so young ? Most babies stop after a year or even two , some are even forced by the parents with crazy methods . Why is she doing this ?

I can't even laugh , cause she's crying and I'll seem somehow . But honestly , this is just insane

Me : take your man's black card
and spoil yourself , she's hurting
you and I don't like this

She just nods

Me : is everything else going
well ?

Tshego : we went to town
yesterday , got most things . So
things are coming well

Me : okay that's good , don't let princess stress you . Go out , and leave her with her grandmother . Go eat your man's money on your own

Tshego : bye

Me : aa sweetheart (no)

She laughs

Tshego : baby I love you

Me : and I love you more

She drops the call , I burst out
laughing

Women are insane

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Tshegofatso

Karabo : you're kidding me

He laughs

Karabo : you were told to spoil yourself , just because you were crying because Lele is not touchy touchy with you anymore

Me : don't annoy me , I'm really hurt

And I am , I thought she was
just acting up . But that baby
wants nothing to do with my
boobs

And she slept with my mother
last night

I'm having some serious
attachment issues

She's too young

Karabo : wow , some men love
hard

Me : take notes

He frowns

And this is certainly not the first
time he does this

Me : is that all ?

Karabo : yeah , I got a new pair of sneakers at home . You really didn't have to spoil me today , I mean it's your time

I smile

Me : I'm paying with my money , don't worry . And I love spoiling you when I can , it's not everyday

Karabo : still , you've done so much since you've started working . You know , I'm even like all the other kids at school

Me : you're responsible , and you understand your home situation . That's good , so hold off on spending on boyfriends even

He looks down , I chuckle taking
the clothes from him

I pay , and we head out .

Me : take those to the car ,
you'll find me at steers . I want
ribs

He laughs

Karabo : Lele dealt you

Me : don't bore me.

Karabo : but creasy food will do
you good

He goes to the car , while I head
to the restaurant

I get a table , and as I sit down
he walks in and comes to where
I am

I just wanted to be with him ,
it's late yes . But since I was told
to go out

I thought it's best to bring him ,
we haven't sat down since I got
home

He's at school early and comes
out late , so this time is
appreciated

We'll bring my mother take outs
, I don't know about that one
who suddenly sucks on bottles

And eating only purity and what
not . Mxm !

We order food and drinks

Karabo : how did you....uhm

Me : what ?

Karabo : how did you figure that
one out ?

Me : what ?

He sighs

He must utter it

Karabo : boyfriends

I smile

Me : you always cringe when I
talk about girlfriends

He chuckles

Karabo : but that means nothing

Me : but you're my brother

Karabo : yeah , I wonder how
mom is going to take that one

Me : son , you have the coolest
mother in the world . Don't
worry

We laugh

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INSERT 40

Tshegofatso

I'm woken up by a call , and I'm shocked by true caller

Like where did he get my number ?

But he's a detective , I really
can't wonder that much about
that

And what is he doing calling me
so early ?

I decline the call , but he calls
again . I decline and block his
number

Me : nuisance

My phone rings again , and it's
Monga . I release a sigh of relief

Me : baby

Monga : grumpy still ?

Me : no , Sean is calling me

He goes quite

Me : I don't even know where
he got my number

Monga : he surely has means ,
what does he want ?

Me : I didn't answer , and I
blocked him

Monga : let's talk when I get
there

Me : you're already on your way
?

Monga : yeah , I can't wait to
see you two

Me : I know someone who is
dying to see you

He laughs

Monga : get some rest for an hour or so

Me : I have to be up and cook , there isn't a lot of people

Monga : alright , see you soon

Me : okay baby , drive safe

Monga : I love you sweetheart

Me : and I love you

We hang up , and a few seconds
with my head on the pillow

The door opens , my mother
walks in . I don't know why
Lethabo is up this early

Mom : my boss is here

Me : oh already ?

She asked her boss to come and handle the negotiations

She didn't want her brother here , because of some beef they have . I don't even know what's that about

So the family she works for , are the one's who will be here

Even their daughter , who will
go out there with me

They're just nice people , and
they didn't have a problem
when she asked them

Me : hello Nana (baby)

She laughs

Lethabo : Dadada (daddy)

My poor baby , and she'll
always look around when she
calls him out

I know she's going to be happy
to see him today

Me : let me get up , we'll help
with the cooking

Mom : I just want you to know that I'm a proud mother , and I'm so happy for you . I speak nothing but blessings unto your marriage .

I could never ask for anything more

She walks out with Lethabo , I wipe my tears off . These are nothing but tears of joy

My phone rings again , and it's
an office number now

Me : what's going on ?

I pick it up

Me : hello ?

Voice : please don't hang up

Wow ! Like just wow

Me : what do you want ?

Sean : we need to talk

Me : I have nothing to talk to
you about

Sean : it's about that Monga
Theo man

Me : don't ever call me again

Sean : you don't know who he is
, you're putting your lives in
danger . And I can't let you
expose our daughter to such

I laugh

Me : what ?

Sean : we can't talk on the phone like this , can we please meet and talk ?

Me : no

Sean : oh Tshego ! Didn't you hear what I said ?

Me : I heard you , but what do you care ?

Sean : you're the mother of my child damnit !

Me : I don't know what you're talking about , me and you we're nothing to each other .
Don't call me again , before I start crying that a police detective is harassing me

He sighs

Sean : let's meet and talk , and
you can decide for yourself if
you still keen on being with him

Me : I'm not in Joburg

Sean : where....uhm where are
you ?

Me : it's none of your business ,
just say what you want to say

now . Or forever hold your
peace

Sean : okay fine

Me : make it snappy

Sean : Monga Theo , is nothing
but a murder in a suit

I laugh

Sean : you think this is a joke ?

Me : Sean do you think this is the movies ?

Sean : the international police , have been after that man for so many years . But he's been lucky , and managing to get away from them . Because he's just that good and smart , in hiding his tracks

Me : oh ? And you know this how ?

Sean : I'm a police detective , I am ought to know international criminals who come to our country and are a threat . Since this man moved to Joburg he's accumulated 3 companies in a space of months

Me : okay , so the companies make him a murder how ?

Sean : he's a second in Command to Diaz Carmelo , the leader of a crime syndicate called Force . They are the most dangerous killers when it comes to bringing down governments , and defence forces . They are the worlds best killers , and they hide behind the expensive suits and companies

Me : what you're saying right now doesn't even make sense

He sighs

Sean : I'm putting my job on the line even sharing this with you , but trust me . That man is not good , he's the best killer there is out there . And you're in his presence with our daughter ,

your lives are in danger . He's probably even with you , because he knows that I'm the father of the baby . And he knows I'm after him , he's just using you . Leave that man before it's too late . Force is high ranked when it comes to any kind of killers you can think of , and they're not just employed by small people . Because they also kill people with high power

I put the phone down

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INSERT 41

Tshegofatso

I tie the head wrap , and my
make up is not even on point .
But that's not important

I'm just lost in thought , I don't
even know what's what right
now

Karabo walks in with a crying
Lethabo

Karabo : askies (sorry)

Me : what's wrong ?

Karabo : Lele is being too much
, your in-laws are in the lounge .
And she wants to crawl and go
in there

I sigh

Lethabo : Dadada (daddy)

Karabo : yeah , she keeps saying this . I can't let her go in there , I mean wouldn't that be disrespect ?

Is he in there as well ? Or maybe she just saw men and thought he's in there

My phone rings , I even want to
stay away from this phone
today

It's been enough this morning

I answer

Me : hello

Monga : why are you moody ?

I keep quite

Monga : I can hear my daughter
crying , bring her

He drops the call

Great !

Now he's angry at me like for
what ?

Me : Karabo take Lethabo to
her father

Karabo : where is he ? I don't
even know him

Me : just take Lethabo in there ,
or put her down she'll go to him

He walks out

I sit down on the bed , and the
damn phone again

Me : what ?

I say so annoyed

MaJoyce : Tshegofatso

Me : MaJoyce ?

I'm shocked to get her call

MaJoyce : you don't sound okay
, is this a bad time ?

Me : no ma , what's wrong ?

MaJoyce : I have some bad
news

And something just tells me it's
Katlego , like I can just feel it

MaJoyce : the police came here this morning , they found a body of a young woman outside Joburg . And they had asked me to go there and describe the body , because some people who were on the scene recognised her

Could this day get any worse ?

Me : noplease don't tell me that !

And tears just stream down my
face

MaJoyce : I'm so sorry my child ,
I just had to tell you . It seems
like she's been there for a few
days , her body was just badly
hurt .

Me : how....do they know how
she died ?

MaJoyce : she was stabbed

Oh lord !

This is enough !

Me : ma , please let me call you
later

I drop the call , and just cry

Voice : she's found

I lift my head and look at him

Karabo : what's wrong ?

Me : give me a few minutes , is she fine ?

Karabo : yeah , she found
Dadada (daddy)

Those two are dramatic , so it's
fine they're together

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Monga

She didn't waste time crawling
to me

And I don't know what's wrong
with Tshego , or what's eating
her up

Could be the fact that she said
Sean called her

And I didn't even think that these negotiations will go ahead , not knowing what he could have told her

But all is done , and everything went great . I have no complaints

Even the money I paid , I am not crying for anything

I paid for Tshego's bride price ,
and damages for my baby . Also
for her to be married to my
surname

All in all I just paid R250 000 , of
which my family paid on their
own

Placing a price themselves , so
I'm not complaining

But I don't appreciate my child crying like that , and I could hear she's crying for me

I'm here , so why must she cry for me like I'm not here ?

Nzuzo thought we were just too much , but he doesn't get the bond we have with each other

She's sitting on my lap now ,
and she's okay . All busy talking
things we don't understand

Her eyes still teary though , and
the cheeks are just red

Lethabo : Dadada (daddy)

Me : askies ne ba o llisa oukwa ?
(I'm sorry they were making you
cry)

Lethabo : eya (yes)

We laugh , she giggles

Her uncle passes , and I call him
over

Me : where is your sister ?

Karabo : in her room I think

Me : please call her for me

He walks away , and I get up .

Nzuzo : be nice

I just look at him

After a while she comes out ,
and she looks my way . She
clearly doesn't look okay either

She walks over , I turn heading
to my car outside the gate

She follows , we get in the back
seat and sit down . She finally
gets to us

Her eyes are bloodshot red , I
saw when she was called out by
the elders

That she wasn't okay

Me : I am going to ask what's wrong , because I don't want to think my wife is crying because of that idiot . So I'm going to ask you , and I expect an honest answer . Nothing else

She's leaning against the car door , and I'm just going to be as civil as I can be with her . Not throwing any accusations

Tshego : MaJoyce called , they
found her daughter this
morning outside of Joburg .
Stabbed to death

She tears up , I pick my baby
and move further in making
space

Me : get in

She gets in , I bring her head closer . She leans her head on my shoulder , I caress her back with my one hand

Me : I'm sorry , you're going to be okay , right ?

She nods

This is just crazy , she just got married she should be happy

But she seems to be carrying a heavy load

I won't bombard her , because I can tell there's more to this but she will talk before I leave here and head back to Joburg

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INSERT 42

Tshegofatso

Yesterday was just tiring

But I'm glad it's over , and even
though I was sad and all that

I was still happy , that
everything went well

That even neighbours ended up
being there , not Monga buying
drinks and alcohol for them

So they had a great time until
like very late

And as his family left , insisting
on driving back to Joburg

He stayed behind , and booked
at the hotel in town

I thought Mma Theo would stay
as well , but she left with the
uncles and Nzuzo

I'm going to go see him , I'm
only driving back to Joburg
tomorrow

We were busy cleaning in the morning , making sure the mess of yesterday is gone

Mom : you weren't yourself yesterday what happened ?

I'm sure most people saw that , but after spending time with Monga I felt a bit bitter

Me : remember Katlego ?

Mom : your friend ?

I nod

Mom : of course I remember
her

Me : she was found dead ,
stabbed to death . Her mother
called me yesterday , as I was
still in the room getting ready

Mom : oh baby !

Me : that's why I was off like that , I've been trying to call her for days . Because I wanted her to come with me here , I didn't want her to miss my day

Mom : I'm so sorry

I nod , and she gives me a hug

Me : it's okay , I'll be fine . I just have to , I'll go see MaJoyce as soon as I get back to Joburg

Karabo walks in with Lethabo

Karabo : here is Dadada's child

I laugh

Me : don't say that

Karabo : Lele defeated me yesterday , she knew who she wanted . And she just went to him , and he wasn't happy that she was crying like that . I thought he would slap me , his look was insane

I laugh , I'm not saying anything . It's very clear that Lethabo knows her father

And everything else , yes he
wasn't happy . He even gave me
hell about it

And of course I can't leave her
behind , so we're going
together to meet him in town

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Monga

I keep looking at her , and she's
looking at a sleeping Lethabo

We've barely said much to each other since they got here

We've just been entertaining Lethabo , because my princess is happy and she wants food she can feed herself with

She's being like a big Daddy's girls , who doesn't suck on milk anymore

Tshego said she got pills that dries the milk , because this one doesn't seem like she'll ever go back to breastfeeding

Tshego : what time are you leaving ?

Me : when are you leaving ?

Tshego : tomorrow

Me : I'll leave tomorrow too

She nods

Me : what did Sean say to you ?

I'm very capable of spotting things

I figured from yesterday , that she wasn't the way she was only because of the friend thing

Me : I asked a question

Tshego : a lot

Me : and you said to me you didn't talk to him , that you blocked him

Tshego : he called back with an office number

Me : what did he say ?

Tshego : that you're a criminal , a killer to be exact . That you're some second in command of some whatever criminal thing , called Force . You bring governments down , and kill high profile people . And that you're ranked very high , so killing is your thing . That's what you do , just hiding behind

expensive suits and the many
companies you have

I get up

Tshego : where are you going ?

Me : I'm getting a drink

Tshego : Theo I'm talking to you

Me : there's still more ?

She sighs getting up

Tshego : won't you even dispute
what he said , won't you even
say anything ?

Me : say what ? Did you ask me
something ?

She frowns

Me : I thought as much

I pour myself a glass of scotch ,
and down it in one go

Tshego : we should go

Me : stop with the drama , my
daughter is sleeping . You'll
leave once she's woken up , and
we've said goodbye to each
other .

She sighs

Me : I'm going back to Joburg

Tshego : you said you'll leave
tomorrow

Sean just has to be dead by
tomorrow , I'm beyond pissed
right now by him

Tshego : for your sake , I really hope Sean lied . And was just jealous , of seeing another man doing what he failed miserably to do . Wake me up when she's up

She takes her sneakers off , and gets on the bed

Was that a threat ?

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Tshegofatso

I look at him , as he's saying
goodbye to his daughter

And I can see he's leaving

He straps her in , and entertains
her for a bit

Me : you're really leaving ?

Monga : yes

Me : what changed ? Because you said you'll also leave tomorrow, it is because of Sean ?

Monga : Because of him , with what of his ?

Me : I meant because of what I said he said

Monga : he said it so what ?

I sigh

Me : and you're still not going to say anything about that ?

He chuckles

Monga : what's there to say ?

Me : don't you think I deserve
some kind of clarity ?

Monga : from me ?

Wow !

Me : so you're basically just
telling me to believe whatever I
was told , because you won't
validate nor even deny

Monga : you didn't ask me anything , you told me what that idiot say . Why would I go and dispute something , defend myself from accusations . Yet I haven't even been asked

He just looks at me

Me : bye

I get in the car , and drive off .

I take my phone , I'll probably regret this . I unblock his number and call him

Sean : Tshego

Me : do you have proof about any of the things you said ?

Sean : about ?

Me : about Monga

Sean : there's no proof tying him , or any of these Force members . But there's proof of murders , connected to Force . We just can't arrest any of them , until we make a connection to them being responsible

I sigh

Me : then how do I just trust your word ? You could just be lying , and telling me lies about my husband and

Sean : husband ?

He asks shocked

Me : Monga Theo is my husband

Sean : tell me you're joking
Tshego !

Me : you better not have lied to
me

Sean : seriously you're married
to that man ?

Me : yes

I must say I do feel like a wife now , with negotiations done

Sean : you have to leave that man , how are you even married to him ?

What kind of a question is that

Me : look , don't call me again unless you have proof of what you're talking about . This is my

marriage we're talking about ,
and I can't just walk away from
that . Especially because of
accusations that lack evidence

Sean : I will get you the
evidence if that's what will take
for you to leave him

Me : bye

I drop the call

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INSERT 43

Monga

Nzuzo : you can't kill him with
your own hands

I look at him

Me : can't ?

He laughs

Nzuzo : what I mean is , this
man is a cop . You know those

boys will be all over this , and that's risky

Me : and I look like care ?

Nzuzo : of course not , but let me do what I do best . He's in the restaurant now , I just need 2 minutes to place that bomb in his car . And I'll make sure it goes off , when he's amongst other cars . Just so he doesn't look like he was the direct

target , you know once that
thing goes off it'll go as far as 20
Km away from the scene

Me : bomb really?

He laughs

Nzuzo : I miss being in war , and
it won't hurt to just blow
something out in Pretoria

He gets up

Nzuzo : a seed was planted on your woman , if cops start coming after you . She'll pin his death to you , and you don't need that trouble . In this way , she'll have suspensions . But they'll remain exactly that

He gets up and walks out

I take my phone and call Tshego

Tshego : hi

Me : until I'm back to being
baby to you , please give my
daughter the phone . I know
she'll be very happy to talk to
me

Tshego : she's getting dressed ,
we have to leave

Me : two minutes won't kill anyone

Nzuzo comes back and sits down

Me : you don't want to ?

Tshego : call when We're on our way

She drops the call , all this
thanks to that stupid Sean

Nzuzo : we passed each other at
the door

Me : did he see you ?

Nzuzo : no

Me : give him 10 minutes

He nods looking at his wrist
watch

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Tshegofatso

It's after lunch as we arrive

Because it's a Monday , traffic
was a bit better

So I drove so much better ,
without any pressure . Even the
tiredness is so much better

I wanted to go home and drop Lethabo , but I don't know if Monga is at work or what

And going there , only not to find him . That would have been a hassle

I asked to meet MaJoyce , and she told me she's in CBD doing a few things

So we agreed to meet in a restaurant when she's done

I guess that's also good , cause I can't just take a baby to where there's a funeral

She's having a banana right now , just making a mess

But what can we do ? This is what she wants now

I lift my eyes as the waiter
brings my order , I thank her
and she walks away

Me : let's not fight over my food

She's already making noise like
it's complaints , but I'm not
entertaining this . I did not ask
her to stop breastfeeding , and
want food

I take my phone , and
something catches my eyes as I
log in on Facebook

A detectives car was burnt to
ashes this morning , with two
cars catching fire

But the other drivers survived ,
one just suffered a concussion

But the detective is dead , said
to be burnt down to ashes
along with the car

It's still uncertain as to what
happened , of course they've
opened an official investigation

But what catches my attention
even more , is the name of the
detective Sean Williams

Now I know I'm not crazy , it's
him

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Monga

She puts Lethabo down , and
tucks her in

I can see she's not okay

She just walks past me , and I
follow her to the kitchen

Me : will you tell me what I did
?

She looks at me

Tshego : did you kill Sean ?

I sigh

Me : ever since you started
talking about that fool , it's

becoming a daily thing . And it's actually annoying

Tshego : so you're not even going to say yes or no ?

Me : I said I'll deal with it , and I did

She pops her eyes

Tshego : ah ! So you killed him ,
because of what he told me
about you ?

Me : he told you , what's that
got to do with me ?

Tshego : you're not even going
to deny any of that ?

Me : did you ask me ? Or you
just told me what he said ?

She looks down

Me : That pathetic fool is dead ,
can we just not talk about him
ever again?

Tshego : leave

What the hell ?

Me : what ?

She lifts her head and she's
crying

Me : I hope you're not standing
here , crying for that fool

Tshego : what kind of a man did
I marry ?

Me : come on !

Tshego : how do you live with yourself ?

Well I live with myself perfectly so

Tshego : please leave , and don't come back

Don't come back , like for real ?

Do all men kicked out of their homes , when the wife is not pleased

Me : where am I supposed to go ?

Tshego : I don't care

Me : sweetheart

Tshego : Leave , or would you rather I take your daughter and go live with her on the streets ?

Yeah use that against me it's fine

Me : of course not , this is her home she's not going anywhere

Tshego : go

Me : well , let me wait until she's up so I can say goodbye to her first

Tshego : she's just fallen asleep , how long do you plan on waiting here ?

Me : for as long as it takes , I'm not going anywhere

The look she gives me , is
enough to get me away from
her

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Tshegofatso

He really stayed in the car , until
Lethabo woke up

They spent time together , she's
eating now

And we're standing outside ,
near his car

Monga : when can I come back
home ?

Me : come back for what ?

He sighs

He takes my hand , and gives
one tight grip to make sure I
don't pull away

Monga : sweetheart , I'm sorry

Me : sorry for what exactly ?

Monga : that I made you angry ,
nothing else

Me : you should

He shuts me up with a kiss , his
one hand grabbing on my waist

He deepens the kiss , and I feel
his crotch throbbing against my
lower stomach

Monga : I love you

He mumbles through the kiss

Monga : forgive me so I can
come home please , it'll be hell
without you two .

He slowly pulls out of the kiss

Monga : I'm going home to my
mother

He thinks I will actually feel pity
for him

Monga : at my age , it's a shame

Me : leave

He sighs

Monga : okay , take care of my
baby

I turn back

Monga : you don't have to be
this heartless , it's unnecessary

Me : says the one who kills in
cold blood

I look at him and he has a frown
on his face , I walk inside and
lock the door

And I'm welcomed by a mess ,
the cartoons on the tablet are
being fed

Me : how nice

She laughs

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INSERT 44

Monga

I call him , with the phone
connected to the Bluetooth
speaker

He answers

Nzuzo : honestly you can't be calling me this late , like you're my wife

Me : you idiot , I'm driving to a hotel right now

There was no way , I was going to my mother so she can give me a third degree . And she would side with Tshego

Nzuzo : hotel why ? Are we back to fucking hoes ?

Me : don't be stupid you fool , my wife kicked me out of the house

He laughs

Nzuzo : what did you do ?

Me : more like what you did , I didn't kill Sean but I'm out of my house just like that . All thanks to you

Nzuzo : and you actually left ?

He burst out laughing

Nzuzo : that tiny woman

Me : fuck off

Nzuzo : okay sorry , what you gonna do now ?

Me : sleep at a hotel

Nzuzo : okay don't mock me , you know exactly what I'm asking you

I chuckle

Me : beg what else , and you better pray that I'm back home in two days the most . Or else you're leaving your house , you'll go stay at a hotel until I'm back with my wife and daughter . This is your fucking problem , you're the one who decided to bomb the man in broad daylight

He chuckles

Nzuzo : it was actually morning

Me : go tell Tshego that
nonsense

Nzuzo : I became a saviour to
your family , just enjoy the hotel
man . See it as a mini something
, when was the last time you
slept at a hotel ? Be grateful

Me : you best believe that I'm
not kidding with you

This idiot drops the call on me

When this is actually his mess

I can't be held accountable for a
murder I didn't commit myself

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Tshegofatso

I laugh , and it's such a good
laugh . One that feels so good ,
after the mess of a weekend I
had

Not only did I wake up to a bank notification of R50 000

There's a bunch of flowers , not just any flowers but white roses

10 bouquets of white roses

Me : this is crazy

There's no peace here , and
he's surely buying white roses
asking for peace

His daughter is moody , I guess
it's because she hasn't seen him
today

She should have just left with
him , cause it's clear she would
rather see him than me . One
thing I know he didn't go home

His mother would have called
me I know

And she's going to Mma Theo , I
have to go to work . I do wish I
was taking a day off though

And I must go to MaJoyce , I
promised that I'll come today .
And just help where I can ,
Katlego was my friend

I take my phone and video call him , it doesn't even take even a few seconds and he answers

Monga : sweetheart

I just look at him , and give his daughter the phone

She screams , it's just insane

Lethabo : Dadada (daddy)

Oh my baby , it's such a shame .
And she goes on to speak , only
she knows what she's saying

They both laugh

Monga : Nana (baby)

I leave going to grab our bags ,
we're both ready to leave

I didn't even call Mma Theo , I don't know if she's home or if she even has time

I walk back down , and she's patting my phone . Like this is not on at all

And the way it is so wet , I'm sure she was busy giving kisses to daddy

This is crazy

Me : a re tsamaye (let's go)

I pick her up , and of course she cries . But there's nothing we can do

Monga : why are you making her cry ?

Me : I'm running late for work ,
bye

Monga : sweetheart wait , can
we just talk ?

Me : you heard me saying I'm
getting late ?

Monga : work can wait

Me : I don't know , that's my
pay check

I say as if , I didn't just bag 50k

I drop the call , grabbing my bag
and hers . As well as my car keys

We head out , I strap her in and
get on . I drive out to Mma
Theo's place

We arrive , and she welcomes us . Very happy to see the so called princess

Me : I'm sorry to just come unannounced like this

Mma Theo : is everything okay ?

Me : yes , I just need help with watching ...

She smiles already taking her
from me

Mma Theo : of course I would
love to help

Me : MaJoyce lost her daughter
, so I can't take Lethabo there .
And I have to go to work

I feel bad , we're slowly turning
her into a nanny now

Mma Theo : this is home now ,
and I'm all alone . So don't
worry

Me : thank you so much ma

Mma Theo : no need to thank
me , I have a friend now . I'm
keeping busy like all the other
women out there

We laugh

And now I have to go and meet
that killer Husband of mine

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Lina

Things haven't been that great

I'm having nightmares , like
every single night

Of a disgusting thing , well looks like a baby but obviously it hasn't formed

And it's just floating in a pool of blood

I feel like there's a shadow , that's just following me everywhere . Not only do I feel it , but I can even see it

I'm caught talking to myself ,
like out of nowhere

I feel like I'm loosing my mind

I have no one to talk to , I don't
know what to do

I can't talk to my mother ,
because she hasn't been very
welcoming

My dad has just been in and out of home as usual , we hardly see him

He did question my being home , and my mother said Monga is working too much

And I'm lonely at home most times alone , so I just came for a visit

I guess he bought that , because
he heard it from his wife

Dad : when are you leaving ?

I look at him , and I know that's
addressed to me

Me : am I being kicked out ?

Dad : I asked a simple question
?

I put my cup down

Dad : you've been here for far too long , and that boy hasn't even come to see you not even once

Me : is it really a must that I stay with Monga ? I mean we're not married yet

Mom : so what do you want to do ?

Me : maybeI can stay here at home , until the wedding

Dad : at your age ?

What does he mean ?

If he didn't spoil me much , I'm sure I would be independent

Dad : you should have your own home , that's where you should be . Not here

He gets up

Me : really mom !

Mom : he's right , go back to your fiancé . If you had your own house , you wouldn't be

here . You'll be at your house ,
waiting for that marriage khona
(there)

Some parents I have

If only they knew half the things
, that are happening to me

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INSERT 45

Tshegofatso

I open the door , and he just
stands at the doorway . He
looks so good

I look at him , and he just looks
at me as well

I sigh

Me : what do you want ?

Monga : I came to see you

Me : okay , you've seen me . So
you can leave

Monga : I mean you two

Shame

Me : get in

He smiles , and I don't know for what . He walks in

Monga : is she okay ?

Me : she's been grumpy

Probably because she hasn't
been held by him today

When I went to fetch her from
Mma Theo , she just wasn't
herself

She's not even playing much ,
about 30 minutes home . She
fell asleep

It's been about an hour now

Monga : I miss my daughter

Me : a grown man is not going
to sulk to me

Monga : but you kicked me out
of home

Me : and you should stay where
you are

Monga : can I go see her ?

I nod

And he goes up

I just look at him , going up the
stairs . And I wonder if he ate
today

Maybe I should have gotten him
food , for when he came back
from his meeting

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Monga

I gave my baby her bath , and
she's eating now

We're all in the kitchen

I just took some heart , and
came here . There was no way ,

I would be okay with not seeing them

I only saw Tshego for about 5 minutes at the office

When I was coming back from my meeting , she was leaving

She asked for a half day , so we barely even got time to talk to each other

Me : did you go see the rude woman ?

She lifts her eyes and nods

Me : you can use the card , take some money and help out

Tshego : thanks , that's very nice of you . I'm sure MaJoyce can use the help

We're back to the silence , just
listening to someone enjoying
her pumpkin and mash
potatoes

My baby is loving eating ,
there's no doubt about it

I'm sure she was damn tired ,
sucking milk hence she just
stopped

She wanted this mess with her hands , and feeding herself like this

Just taking chunks and chunks of food into her mouth , and the face is eating everywhere

Tshego : did you eat ?

Damn !

Is she about to offer me food ?

I had a sandwich that Nzuzo brought me , before I left the office

But I'm going to damn lie , because I won't miss a chance to just have more time with them

Me : no

Tshego : what would you like ?

This one still loves me like she did before yesterday , and the care is just still the same

Me : anything

She closes her laptop , and gets up . I just watch her as she

moves around the kitchen doing
her things

Tshego : you can come back
home

That comes out of nowhere

Me : I'm forgiven ?

Tshego : you'll use one of the
guestrooms

Guestroom ?

I guess that's better than a
couch right ?

We're getting somewhere , and
all it took was a night at a hotel
and playing hunger

Marriage is not so bad

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Tshegofatso

I didn't want to deal with a
grumpy Lethabo

So yesterday was enough

Monga took her to his mother's
house , and I started first to
going to see MaJoyce and give
her some money

She told me they didn't even
have a funeral policy

I was just glad that Monga
offered the help

It's just so sad , I wanted to do
something big for my friend and
thank her

But now here I am , planning
and paying for her funeral

Funny just how life is

Nothing is ever a guarantee ,
what is today might not be
tomorrow

Zara : how are you holding up ?

I told her , and she's just been
so sweet supporting me

Me : taking it one day at a time

Zara : of course , I know you'll
be okay

Me : I have to

He just stands next to us , and
poor Zara . I swear she'll never
get over what Monga said to
her

Monga : we need to talk

I want to tell him what not

But not in front of Zara , I just
can never

He takes my hand and we walk
together to the elevator

Me : what ...

He just pins me , and smashes
his lips against mine

His hands trail to my thighs , he
pulls my dress up pushing my
panty to the side

At his touch , I just react . And
it's a mess down there . And the
way my body just gives up , he
knows as well that he's gotten
his way just like that

He rubs on my clit with his thumb , sliding one finger inside of me

I let out a moan in his mouth , he deepens the kiss finger fucking me

I part my legs , giving him more access . But he just takes his

finger out and pulls my dress
down

He pulls out of the kiss abruptly

Honestly , I feel like slapping
him

Me : are you.....

The elevator stops , and it
opens . He drags me out with

my hand , as I wasn't keen on walking out

We head to the office , we get in and he closes the door

Me : seriously what is wrong with you ? How can you just do me like that ?

Monga : look at me

If only I could roll my eyes

I turn and face him , he's
leaning against the wall . He has
his dick out , ready and popping

He's stroking it with his hands

Monga : come here

He holds his one hand out , and
I take it as I walk closer to him

Monga : get on your knees

His eyes haven't left mine , my
clit is throbbing . I'm drenched ,
and in need

I slowly get on my knees , he
pulls my weave to the back

He lets go of his dick , I place my
hand on it . And stroke it , I play

with his balls using my other hand

He deep groans , cursing under his breath . I look at him , and he has an intense stare looking down at me

I lick the tip of his crotch , and he slides his dick inside of my mouth

And doesn't he just fuck the shit
out of my poor mouth

Like dude ! Never again

What punishment is this for ?

My eyes are doing the most
with tears , I'm gaging like
nobody's business

I literally feel this thing in my throat , and it's not nice okay

He has a tight grip on my head , there's no running away

I shall never give in to temptation of sex like ever again

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INSERT 46

Monga

She places her head on my neck

I place a kiss on her forehead ,
rubbing her back

Me : I love you so much

She clings her hands on my back

Me : this is a fucked up situation
, I didn't kill Sean

Tshego : stop

It comes out as a whisper

Me : I didn't kill him , but you
can say I'm responsible for it .
Just that the guy decided to be
over board with it

She sighs

Me : I'm a fucked up man , but I
don't fuck up with you and I

definitely don't fuck up with our daughter . Do I ?

She goes quite

Me : answer me sweetheart

Tshego : my...throat is painful ,
like really what was that all
about ?

Me : I got carried away , I'll get
you some syrup you'll be fine .
I'm sorry

She lifts her head pulling back ,
and she looks at me

Me : does it not matter that I
don't fuck up with you ? That I
do things that have nothing to
do with you , and I'll never hurt
you ?

Tshego : we have a daughter to think of , this thing whatever you're doing is very dangerous

Me : I can hold up my own

Tshego : you need to stop

Me : stop what ?

Tshego : this thing.... Whatever
that Force is

Me : sweetheart

Tshego : I care about our safety
, and I don't ever want to
explain to my daughter that her
father is dead because he was
busy killing people

Me : you don't think I'm
capable of keeping you two safe
?

Tshego : you're no super human
, are you ?

Me : we'll revisit this thing
another time

Tshego : all I'm asking you is to
stop

I rub her chin with my thumb ,
we lock eyes

Me : okay

Tshego : just like that ?

Me : now you want me to put a
fight with you ?

Tshego : you're lying

Me : it's better because you
know I am

She gets off me

Tshego : I'm going home

She picks her clothes and put
them on , and I'm just staring at
her

She grabs her bag and walks out

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

You don't just become
something , for years and years
. And then one day , you just
give it all up

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Tshegofatso

He walks in , and finds me in
bed

He sits down next to me ,
brushing the hair off my face

He smiles

Monga : feeling better ?

I just stare at him

Monga : your daughter is home
, she misses you I fetched her

Why is he lying ?

There's no way that girl misses me , just as long as she saw her father I know she's fine

Monga : okay , we're still angry .
Here I got you this , it'll help
with the pain on your throat .
Forgive me for that as well , you
know I'll never hurt you

I take the syrup because I need it , I drink with the bottle

And he laughs placing the spoon on the night stand

Monga : can I just come back to the master's bedroom ?

Me : no

He just stares at me , eventually
he gets up and takes his clothes
off

Leaving just his briefs , and I
don't want Monga anywhere
inside me

I think that was just punishment
for kicking him out of the house
, and sleeping at a hotel for a
whole night

Monga : scoot over , I wanna
cuddle you . I know you want to
be babied

Okay , this is not playing fair at
all

Me : get over

Monga : I want you on top of
me

I smile , moving over . He gets in
bed , and I get on top of him
laying my head on his chest

He cuddles me

Monga : I love you

Me : I love you baby

He chuckles

Yeah , he's got me where he
wants and that's fine

I hope we don't rock up dead
one day , because of him killing
people like fleas

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Monga

The tension is so there

It's like she's just torn , between
a man with morals I'll say

Or maybe one who holds a
civilized job , unlike me the real
thug

I'm sure now she thinks she was
so spot on with that thing of
hers

But at least I spent the night on
our bed , she let me touch her

And after what happened at the office , I didn't think it'll be too soon before I'm given any sex

But boy , was I wrong

Me : I'll be working from home

Tshego : great then ! You'll watch your daughter

Me : can we go out ?

Tshego : we ? I'm going to see
MaJoyce and finalize things for
the funeral

Me : I mean me and the
princess

She looks at me

And I don't get her look at all

Tshego : I hope I won't have to fight with you when you come back

Lesson learnt

Me : we're going shopping , we'll have snacks here and there . Some puffs you know

Tshego : mhm

I'm still in the dog box here

Me : call my mother and tell her
she's not coming

She sighs

Me : you're the one keeping her
, so you call and tell her

It's rough being a man in this
world

I'm still stuck on her , and I feel
one crazy pinch on my neck

Me : Nana Keng ? (Baby what is
it)

She goes again , and it's not
with fingers but it's the whole
damn tiny hand

Tshego : she's grabbing that
ugly tattoo

Oh ! It's ugly now

Just because I'm not her
favourite person at the moment

I pull the princess back , and she
moves forward aiming again

Like what the hell !

Me : baby , this tattoo has been here since forever . Why you grabbing on my neck like that ?

Of course she responds back , but of course we don't understand each other

Lethabo : aa (no)

And she's done

Tshego : she thinks it's a flower
let her be

Let her be....

Me : sweetheart , I understand
you're angry with me right now
. But please , don't turn us
against each other . You have
bouquets of roses in our living
room , she can go and indulge

on that . She's pinching me with her arm , and it's painful . Why are you being like this ?

She chuckles , and it's just mocking me

Tshego : good luck

She kisses her cheek , and grabs her car keys

Me : what about me ?

And she's gone

Me : I guess no kiss for me

It's a tough world

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INSERT 47

FOUR MONTHS LATER

Tshegofatso

She just looks at us like we're
insane , and out of our minds

It's safe to even say she's
annoyed maybe

And just then , she gets off the
chair and walks off to her dad

Who picks her up laughing

I don't know what's the sweet
sounds about , because the
camera was so ready for her to
at least blow the one candle

Or at least take a bite of the
cake

But she's not having it

Monga : y'all leave my princess alone , everything is just so pink it doesn't make sense . This cake is pink , it should have been Vanilla

We laugh

He's just being a father to this spoiled baby

Someone is finally a year old today , she's a big girl and a big sister to be

And it made sense , why she suddenly stopped breastfeeding out of nowhere . I only found out two months later

Monga walks with her to blow the candle , and they just do it together

But she's not a fan taking a bite
of the cake , even though it is
Vanilla cake

But once she sees daddy eating
, she eats removing the pink
colour

Zara : your daughter is dramatic

Me : well

I mean we all can see where this dramatic effect comes from

Zara : you should sit down and rest , the party is only starting now . It's gonna be a long day

Nzuzo is here with his wife and kids , Monga's cousins are also here

And Mma Theo of course , she's
the only one supportive of us
from his immediate family

My mother couldn't come , but
Karabo is here

He's visiting us , and it's just
been amazing having him
around

And Zara came with her
nephew

It's just a small beautiful
intimate thing

We walk to the lounge , leaving
everyone in the living room

Mma Theo walks in

Me : I thought of calling you

She laughs sitting down

Mrs Theo : we have the wedding in a week , now it's a party . We need to limit ourselves , so we're not too tired

Yes ! In a week , we'll be having the white wedding

I'm so excited , like I was so involved from the beginning even though we have a planner

I wanted everything to go my way , and just exactly how I want

I mean , the husband has given me the reigns to go wild

With a budget of....well no budget at all

And I'm only getting married once , it has to be one memorable day for us

Me : how are you holding up ?

She sighs

It's been a tough past months ,
and a lot has just gone so south

Those cheating tendencies ,
came out . And were all over
the papers

Mr Theo lost his share in his
company , it was just a mess

And she kicked him out of their home , he left . And as it is , we have no idea where he is

And then there's the Maatla saga , he's also gone missing

And no one knows where he is , no one has seen him

It's just a mess

And I feel like this poor woman
is just carrying a lot of her
shoulders

Mrs Theo : I am trying , I think
he's dead

Zara : ma , you can't lose hope

Mrs Theo : it's no use hoping ,
it's been 4 months . I don't
know , but I feel like my son is

no more . From the get go , I
was very worried . And they say
when you're a mother you
know

Me : I know it's been a while ,
but maybe once he's okay he'll
come back home . Maybe he
left because of everything that
was happening

She shakes her head

Mrs Theo : I'm slowly making peace , Maatla will never come back home ever again

This is just sad

I've asked Monga to use his underhanded ways to find his brother

But he told me to my face
straight , that he's not going to
do that

It's been a crazy past month for
us all to be honest

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Monga

She walks to me , I pick her up
and she lays her head on my
chest

Nzuzo : you're raising a daddy's girl

She's not even paying attention to all these babies here

She goes to them for a few minutes , and she comes back to me

I'm sure even her mother has forgotten that she has a child

Because she's just here , next to
me

Me : tell me something I don't
know

He laughs

There's no rest with this
princess

Lethabo : papa (daddy)

Me : mhm

She turns my face to look at her

I chuckle

Me : Keng ? (What)

She laughs

Lethabo : tetile ? (Are you done)

I don't even know with what

Since the speech has improved ,
I just hear things that don't
even make sense

But I always answer anyways

Me : eya (yes)

Lethabo : oho (okay)

She slides off me , I think she's leaving but she takes my hand

Lethabo : a reye (let's go)

Me : re ya kae ? (Where are we going)

And she just sulks , laying her
head on my knees

Tshego : what's wrong with
your child ?

She asks standing in front of me

Me : she wanted us to go , I
asked where and she just sulked

Tshego : well , I want us to talk
before your mother leaves

I sigh

Tshego : now would really be
nice

Okay !

I get up , picking this sulking one

We walk upstairs to our room

And I put Lethabo down , as her mother sits down she goes to her

She's obsessed with the baby bump okay , nothing else

She lays her head on it , placing both hands on the side

Lethabo : papa ke nana (daddy
it's the baby)

I laugh

Me : yeah

Tshego : I called you , not her

Me : okay , sweetheart . What is
it ?

Tshego : please just consider

I know where this is going , and
I'm not interested

Tshego : your mother is having
it hard

Me : I'm sure Maatla is dead
where he is

Tshego : not you too , she said
the same thing

Me : because it's no use
denying , and hoping that he'll
come back

Tshego : can you at least just
find him , whichever way you
can . If he's no more , then at
least your mother will have
some closure

Me : she'll have it either way

Tshego : Theo why do you have to be like this ?

Me : I know you mean well sweetheart , but can we please just stop . We have the doctors appointment in a few days , we have the wedding weekend . That's our priority right now ,

those are things we should be worrying about . Maatla is not a child , his father ran away from his problems and maybe just maybe they take after each other so much

She just stares at me , and I'm just like they need to let this nonsense go

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INSERT 48

Monga

She's staring so intensely at the
doctor , it's crazy

My princess is just something
else

Lethabo : papa ke nana (daddy
it's a baby)

We laugh

Me : ke nana wa mang ? (Who's
baby is it)

Lethabo : yee

She laughs

Lethabo : nana wa mama
(mommy's baby)

Tshego : mxm !

Yes

The baby is called hers , never mine or ours . It's always that it's mommy's baby

She's happy about the baby , I think

But it's mommy's baby , meaning she won't be willing to share daddy with the baby

Doc : would you like to know
the gender ?

Me : no

Tshego : yes

Me : what ?

She shrugs

Me : are you being serious ?

Tshego : yes

I thought we'll find at birth

Tshego : if you don't want to know , you can take your daughter out . And I'll find out on my own

Me : but that's not fair

Tshego : it's my baby after all

Women !

Tshego : so ?

Me : it's fine

Tshego : okay doc , you can tell
us

Doc : it's a boy

Tshego : oh my word !

Me : why.....why are you so
happy ?

Tshego : oh just wait and watch
, maybe I'll probably have my
own person who loves me and
doesn't wanna share me

Me : sweetheart

She laughs

Me : but we love you

Tshego : Nana (baby)

Lethabo : mama (mommy)

Tshego : o ya mobona nana
waka le papa ? (Do you see my
baby with daddy)

Lethabo : ake rate (I don't like it)

There's no doubt she's saying she doesn't like the baby

I laugh

Tshego : do you hear your daughter saying she doesn't like my baby

Why did she mention me ?

Clearly that's the problem

Despite the battle , I'm glad the boy is healthy and well

Now we can focus on our wedding day

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Lina

I keep looking at this post

And it's like my eyes are just
deceiving me

I just can't believe this , it's just
so hard to believe

Monga is getting married
tomorrow

After months and months of me
suffering and being all alone

My parents kicked me out of
the house

I tried reaching to Maatla , and
he wasn't reachable

I've even went to his place , so
many times . And the place just
looked abounded

Looking from the outside , it's
like he hasn't be there in
months

And I'm scared to go to his
parents home

I don't even know how I get a
hold of Monga , being scared to
go to his office

I've been suffering , so bad that
I'm worn down and out

After a two months being
kicked out of home , and I was
holding a waitress job doing just
fine

The damn nightmares , and the
shadow . It got so bad , I heard
a voice

More like a cry of a baby , and it
drove me insane

I've been in a mental institute
for two months

I just got out yesterday , I've
been hurting myself

And I wonder who my father
paid , that they get me out of
there

It didn't matter just banging my
head against the wall

I was so close to just being
chained on a bed

And this is what I come to

This wedding will happen over
my dead body

This woman will not have my
life , I will deal with her

She can forget about living my
life , with my man

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Tshegofatso

Was not my dream okay

To be walking down the isle
with a 4 months baby bump

But it is what it is , and I'm not letting this stop me from having my best wedding

Monga had no problem with just signing in court

Because there was no way he was waiting until the baby is born

And to wait for a bit after that ,
because I have to loose baby fat

When I mentioned all of that ,
he just said let's go to court and
sign

That was insane

I found it very hard that he
uttered those words , like just
like that

And knowing him , I just knew
right there and then

And I only have two options , I
sign in court . Or I get married
pregnant as I am

So this is happening

Lethabo : mama (mommy)

I look at her

Lethabo : ke ya ka ? (Is it mine)

Everything in this house is hers ,
so if I say no I might be wrong

So I keep quite

Lethabo : nka (take)

Me : Lethabo Theo !

She looks at me folding her tiny arms

Me : a re lwe (we're not fighting)

Lethabo : ke papa yena (it's daddy)

Me : o Theo aker lwena (you're also a)

Lethabo : papa (daddy)

I'm not doing this

My mother walks in , she
arrived yesterday very late

But I'm just glad that she's here

Mom : you two are fighting
again

I laugh

Me : she's always starting with
me

Mom : she can feel someone is
coming , her father let her get
away with not sharing him .
She's jealous

I laugh

Me : she said she doesn't like
the baby , we went for a scan
the day before yesterday

Mom : ah ! She will be a great
big sister , don't worry about
that

Me : it's a boy

She smiles

Me : you know at one point , I was worried about their relationship . Because I thought if we're having a boy , Monga might react somehow . And their relationship just might be ruined in a way , you know . But that man is just happy he's having a child , there's absolutely nothing suggesting otherwise . He's not reacting

the way I thought or rather
expected him to react

Mom : I guess I get where
you're coming from , you
thought having his own blood
child especially a son might
change how things are . But I
think you can be content , my
son in-law loves this girl more
than he loves anything . He
won't let the excitement of a
new baby come in between that

. I'm sure he's happy about having a son , but to who no one is replacing anyone . Both of them will have their special place in his heart

Me : I guess you're right , the adoption papers are left to be finalized .he's excited about that

Mom : it's about time , and this baby is already calling his surname

He didn't waste his sweet time getting that one done

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INSERT 49

Monga

He looks at me , I turn my head
behind him . It's just guests I
can see that

But I can't help the way I'm
feeling , and I'm sure this is not
nerves

There's no reason for those ,
and when you do what I do .
You know best never to let you
guard down , when you feel
anxious

And he just walks to where I am
, and I don't know why he's
looking around

Nzuzo : what's wrong ?

Me : who did you entrust with the security of this place ?

Nzuzo : our own men

Me : mhm

Nzuzo : will you tell me what's up ? The hotel offered their security , but I knew you'll want people you can trust

Me : something is wrong here

Nzuzo : you can't say such things , especially when your wife is about to walk out any moment . I can try and check out , but we can't be drastic we'll scare the guests off . But I'll check around

I nod

Me : whatever you do , just
make sure I marry this woman .
Don't take your eyes off my
princess , no matter what . I
don't want anything to happen
to her , and you don't give my
daughter to anyone unless I tell
you

Nzuzo : got it , but you're
scaring me right now . Get it
together , this is scary

I chuckle

People are busy taking their seats , so it's a bit of chaos . Not that insane

The pastor calls me over , and I walk over to him

Pastor : we shall start soon , the bride is ready

Me : okay

Pastor : I was starting to get worried , with the slight delay

Me : uhm.....it was nothing , she just cut her finger with a thorn from her bouquet

Pastor : oh ?

Me : yeah , not a big deal
though . Just that one of the
roses , got tainted by her blood
from the finger

He nods slowly , but seems to
be in some deep thought

Pastor : now that's something ,
a white rose from a bouquet
gets tainted by the brides blood
?

Is he trying to say something ?
He better not be , cause that
mistake could have happened
to anymore

I'm not interested in any
superstitious things

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Lina

Plans ruined !

After I stole such a lump sum of
money from my father's safe

To pay these people off

It wasn't easy getting in here ,
and posing as one of the stuff

And being a cleaner was the
best I could get

These people were just too greedy , and if I was able to handle food that would have been so much better and easier

I paid one of the hotel staff , and he said he had to pay other people just so I can be in without questions being asked

And getting me a cleaners uniform was the best they could do for me

Even after paying them so much money

But it doesn't matter I'm here now , and I'll go ahead with my plans

It won't be me crying this time around , it won't be me loosing and being all left out

I've been there , done that and
it wasn't nice

I didn't even deserve that ,
because not everyone was that
innocent as well

We three hurt each other

All I need is just a chance to get
that Tshegofatso alone

Thought my eyes were
deceiving me , she did look
pregnant on the magazine

But I didn't want to believe it ,
but standing here and seeing
her with my own eye

It's just fuelling my anger even
worse

That should have been me , I
should be the one pregnant
with Monga's child

I should be the one getting
married to him

All this , it should all be me .
The article mentioned her dress
came from the UK

Her ring custom made ,
especially just for her . A design
to one has but only her

All this money that Monga is
spending on her , it should be
me

I warned her , and she thought I
was crazy maybe

Now I'm really crazy , and I'll
show her what crazy is

The dress is just stunning , and
it's not even pure white . It's a
touch of cream

Not your usual wedding gowns ,
this is different and it suits her

Even her baby bump is just perfect in it , she's just the most pregnant bride I've ever seen

The venue is all you to the standards , nothing less than expensive taste

I'm the one who should be saying those vows , not her

The plan is just ruined , because I was supposed to get to her first . And be done with her right there and then , before she even walked down the isle

They weren't supposed to be married , but it doesn't matter . I'll still finish this

She stole my life , and she better enjoy this moment while it last

It won't be long , she will not
live to tell this tale

By sun set , Monga will mourn
her

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INSERT 50

Tshegofatso

I give her a kiss on her forehead

She smiles , brushing her tiny
hand over my baby bump

Monga : you're going to be the
best big sister ever , this little
dude is so blessed to have you

Isn't it crazy , that she'll laugh at
everything daddy says

As long as he says it with a smile
looking at her , she's at her
happiest

She'll laugh , even though she
doesn't understand

But because daddy said it

He takes her from me

Me : I need the bathroom

Monga : lets go

Me : I think I am fine on my own

He chuckles

Monga : I know you're fine , but
I just want to go with you

Me : clingy much ? What am I
missing ?

He laughs

Monga : nothing , but you're
officially and legally Mrs Monga
Theo now . I got an email from
the court , and someone else is

also my daughter legally now .
So she wears the Theo name
with pride , I'm just happy

I smile

Me : I love you

Monga : I love you too , so let's
go

We get up , he takes my hand

We're in the reception hall , and everyone is just having a good time

I swear this day turned out even better than I anticipated

I'm one happy wife right now , and I couldn't ask for anything more

Nzuzo : can I take her ?

He just comes from out of
nowhere

Monga : for what ?

She's gotten used to him , he's
uncle Nzuzo that's that

But he's called Lume

Nzuzo : you two are disappearing , and well you might just get kinky . Let me keep the baby

Wow !

Monga : don't be an idiot

Nzuzo : just give her to me anyways

Me : can you ?

It's no use going back and forth
, I want to go and release this
pee that's pressing me

Monga : okay but ...

He still wants to talk ?

I walk away from them ,
heading to the rest rooms

But I'm surprised when I get there , there's a sign that they're being used at the moment

Like are people here so crazy , that they'll use toilets like all of them ?

I leave heading to the room I was using for getting ready

I get it , and go to the bathroom
.

I hear the door closing , I'm sure
it's Monga following behind me

I do my business , but I'm
shocked why he's not walking in
the bathroom ?

Like he has that tendency of just walking in the toilet while I'm in there

And just watch me

I get up and wipe myself , and I walk out washing my hands

Me : I don't understand why

I stop on my tracks , as I
stumble upon this Lina woman

And she has one crazy huge
long knife in her hand

She walks closer slowly , aiming
the knife at me

And I'm like can he just walk in ,
like right now

Lina : you !

She points the knife at me

Lina : you thought you could take my life , and get to live freely . With my man , and enjoying what should have been mine ? I warned you didn't I ? I warned you , and I told you to stay away from him . But what did you do ? You got greet , and you just kept him all to yourself

She stops like literally , just
inches away from me

Tears just stream down my face

Lina : you will die , and I will be
there consoling that man . The
man who was always mine from
the beginning

She laughs

I swear I've never been this
scared ever in my entire life

Not even knowing my husband
is a trained professional killer ,
and I sleep next to him every
single night

Like the world has no problems
at all

Like he's not who he is

And life is just going on

This ! Comes nothing close to
that

Lina : do you know how rough
I've been having it ? With
Maatla choking me every single
night , haunting me because I
killed his child . Hearing those

cries of that child every single day , I was in a mental institute .
I wished death upon myself every single day , while you lived my life

Oh shit !

So a crazy woman is about to be done with me right now

What's taking Monga so long ?

Lina : it's over for you , it was nice while it lasted . At least you experienced it

She lifts the knife , I hold my scream as the door opens

She turns her head facing the door , I grab the knife off her hand

And as she turns looking at me ,
screaming her lungs out

I aim the knife to her , I use the
last stand of energy shoving the
knife with my both hands

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Monga

Lina let's out an excruciating cry
of pain

Tshego has her eyes closed ,
and silently crying

I close the door locking , and I
rush towards them

I drag Lina off Tshego , who
opens her eyes shocked looking
at the knife in her hands

I grab it , and throw it down on
the floor . With Lina still in my
arms

Blood coming out of her mouth
, her eyes moving back and
forth

I just snap her neck , and let her
body fall down

Tshego snaps , finally getting
over her shock . Her hands
shake like crazy

Tshego : ohmygod !

I want to comfort her , I want to pay attention to her

But we don't have time for that , time is something that we do not have

I take my phone out and call Nzuzo , it rings for a bit and he answers

Me : give your wife Lethabo ,
come to the room Tshego was
using right now

I drop the call

Me : sweetheart

She's crying , and her eyes are
stuck on Lina

The reality that just hit her ,
there's no way that this day is
continuing for us

Tshego : I kill.....

Me : no...no I killed her

She slides down the wall

She's not an idiot , she can see
just how far the knife is inside
Lina

And she went straight for the
heart , there was no way that
she was going to live

Her wedding dress , is tainted
with the blood . Her hands are
bloody

A knock comes at the door , and
I know it . So I go and open

He walks in , I close the door
back and lock

Nzuzo : oh shit !

Me : we don't have time

He looks at Tshego

Nzuzo : she's not herself

Of course , how can she be herself ?

Me : I need to get my wife and daughter out of here

Tshego : I'm going to jail

Over my dead body

Doesn't she just make this worse , placing her bloody hands on her head

Me : you get rid of these body , clear out this room . The jet better be ready in 30 minutes , I'm taking my wife out of here . She'll lose herself

He nods

I guess even he's also trying to understand how it got here

But I don't care about that

I walk to Tshego and help her up

Tshego : what have I done ?

Me : snap out of it , listen to me . You're going to take a shower ,

find something to wear and
we're getting away from here

Tshego : run away ? I can't run
away I've committed a crime

Crime my white ass

Me : I kill people for a living , do
you see me behind bars . Please
don't paint me kind a failure of
a husband , my kids need their

mother . You're not going to be held accountable for this

I look at Nzuzo

Me : get on with it

Nzuzo : sure

I take her hand and we walk to the bathroom , I take her wedding dress off her

And set the water in the shower

Me : please get in there and shower , we don't have time to stick around here

She walks in the shower , and I get out with the dress

Nzuzo : uhm.....Shane is at the airport . The jet is ready , he

was already on site for when
you leave for your honeymoon .

That was supposed to be a in a
week , but right now I'm getting
my family out of South Africa

Tshego is not herself , and being
around here is just a mess

She might just blurt out to anyone , about what happened in here

She needs to be far away from these people , and we'll deal with this

We'll come back , when she's okay and back to herself

Nzuzo : I'll get rid of these

He takes the dress and the knife

Nzuzo : what happened here ,
and what is she doing here ?

Me : it's very clear she bribed
someone to get in , and she
came with an aim . Tshego must
have had a first reaction , and
used the knife meant for her .
And she defended herself

For once even he doesn't know
what to say

It's a first seeing Nzuzo
speechless

I don't have time to be
processing my thoughts

I walk back to the bathroom ,
and heading to the shower it

doesn't even should like she's
bathing

I get in , fully clothed . And she's
sitting down on the floor ,
hugging her knees and she's
crying

There's still some bloody water ,
from the blood on her weave

I crouch down , and hold her

Tshego : I was....scared baby , I
thought she wasno !
No....she was going to kill me , I
just reacted

Her cries pains me

Me : I know , that's why I'll
protect you . And no one will
ever know about this , you're
going to be fine . We'll get

through this , I'm here , but now
we need to get out of here and
leave

I get up , and help her up . I
wash her myself , making sure
there's no traces of blood

We get out , I dry and lotion her
. I grab the bag she came with

And I find sweatpants , with a hoodie and sneakers

I give her and she dresses up

I take my clothes off , putting on a tracksuit with sneakers

It worked fine with her keeping the bags to herself

Her weave is wet , but there's
no time to get it all dry right
now

We walk out and Nzuzo has the
body covered

Nzuzo : we have to take the
back exist , I'll get Lethabo from
my wife

Me : make it fast , and don't
leave the bags with our clothes
in here when you're done

Nzuzo : alright

We walk out , and meet two of
our guys at the door

They get in , and we leave with
Tshego shaking . And tears just

streaming down her face one
way

We use the back exist heading
to the car , and after a few
minutes Nzuzo comes back with
Lethabo

Nzuzo : I'll drive you to the
airport fast , I asked Shane to
pick a few baby things right
there so you're covered

Me : thanks

I hold Lethabo against my chest
, but it's like she can feel it

She keeps turning her head and
looking at her mother

Who has her head looking
outside the window , and she's
crying

Nzuzo : we'll spin the parents a story

Me : sure

The whole drive we're just quite

We make it fine to be airport ,
and head out

Isn't it insane , as we walk inside
I pass that Cape woman

And she's still wearing the same
clothes as the first time I saw
her in the garage

Her : at least one thing did work
out fine , don't disappoint this
little child as you've done and
tainted this soul that knew
nothing

She says and we're both looking
at her , Tshego wipes her tears

And the woman slowly walks
away from us , and she doesn't
even look back

Nzuzo : guys !

He brings us to , and we walk
inside

But my mind is not even here

Like is this what she was talking about ?

Am I the cause of all this ?

Nzuzo : I'll take care of everything

We shake hands , and briefly
hug

Nzuzo : take care of her

Me : I will

We part ways as we head to the
jet , and Shane is already
waiting for us

She goes on to sit on her own ,
and the first few minutes we're
on the air

I'm just lost in thoughts , of the
words of that woman

Me : I will never disappoint you
ever , that one I can never do

I kiss her forehead , and I see
she's asleep

I put her down , making sure
she's secured

And I go sit next to my wife

I hate seeing her cry this much ,
her face is so read

She can't even hope her eyes
well

Me : I know this is hard , but
you have the life of our baby to
think of . I can't have you
loosing the baby because of
stress , that will tear you apart .
Please , it's enough with the
tears now . I can't bare seeing
you like this

She wipes her tears

Tshego : I'm sorry

I hold her

Me : this is all my fault , I'm so sorry . I should have dealt with this , I should have killed Lina when she was fucking my brother in my house . We wouldn't be here , none of this would have happened . I'm sorry you got your hands bloody all because of me

She lowers her head crying to
my lap

I don't know how we're going to
get past this , how do I make
her live with herself

And we move on from this

I really don't know

We'll stay away for as long as
we can , if that's what it'll take

She's not me , she's nothing like
me . In all this she was just an
innocent woman , and she will
never be the same ever again

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THE END